

**Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Report:
Horseshoe Mtn. Adamic 2
Lower Grape Creek WSA
COF-020-031**

Section 201 of FLPMA requires the BLM to maintain on a continuing basis an inventory of all public lands and their resources and other values, which includes wilderness characteristics. It also provides that the preparation and maintenance of the inventory shall not, of itself, change or prevent change of the management or use of public lands. Regardless of past inventory, the BLM must maintain and update as necessary, its inventory of wilderness resources on public lands. In some circumstances, conditions relating to wilderness characteristics may have changed over time, and an area that was once determined to lack wilderness characteristics may now possess them. BLM Manual 6310 ‘Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands’ is the policy that provides guidance on conducting this inventory process.

Following BLM guidance the Royal Gorge Field Office conducted an inventory in 2013 and found the unit did not meet the criteria for having wilderness characteristics. Per policy, the public has the opportunity to provide new information regarding wilderness characteristics that the BLM must evaluate and consider. New information was submitted by Wild Connections on May 6, 2015 contending that 74.18 acres meet the criteria. Information submitted includes a detailed map. Photographs were not submitted. A detailed description was not provided due to lack of public access. Wild Connections contends that since the BLM did not provide photo point or geo-referenced data and they were not able to access the unit at least portions of the unit contain wilderness characteristics. Despite not meeting the minimum standard for review the BLM has evaluated the information provided in their report. This document is an updated inventory based upon the submitted information and additional review by BLM staff. This report reflects an updated inventory that combines BLM’s 2013 findings and an evaluation of the data submitted by Wild Connections.

Inventory Effort	Acreage Inventoried	Wilderness Characteristics Acreage
BLM 2013 Inventory	74.2	0
Wild Connections Inventory	74.2	74.2
BLM 2015 Evaluation Conclusions	74.18	50.6

**Form 1: Document Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings on Record
(Refers to Original 1980's Inventory Effort)**

Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

NO (If no, go to Form 2)
 YES If yes, and if the area has subunits within the broader area, list the unique identifiers for each of those subunits:

Inventory Source: _____
 Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): 325 001
 Map Name(s)/Number(s): _____
 BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Front Range District/ Royal Gorge Field Office

BLM Inventory findings on record: Document existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Document BLM Wilderness Characteristics Findings on Record (Historic Findings)					
Inventory Source Document:					
Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? (YES/NO & acres)	Naturalness (YES/NO)	Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude (YES/NO)	Outstanding opportunities for primitive & unconfined recreation (YES/NO)	Supplemental Values? (YES/NO)

(add rows as needed)

Form 2: Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: COF-020-031

Acreage: 74.18 acres

1. Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes X No _____

The land is smaller than 5,000 acres but is contiguous with the BLM Lower Grape Creek Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (managed by the Royal Gorge Field Office BLM) meeting the size exception 2.a.i.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The south edge is bounded by BLM Lower Grape Creek WSA;
- The north, west, and east edges are bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
- No wilderness inventory roads were identified within the unit.

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes X No _____ NA _____

The unit CO-020-031 is located west of Cañon City, Colorado, less than 15 miles away (driving miles). The unit contains 74.18 acres of public land.

The topography is hilly composed primarily of Piñon-Juniper woodlands and open grasslands.

The man-made features found within the unit include 2 ways. These were found to not be wilderness inventory roads since they were not constructed or recently improved. The ways are both used for range improvement projects and private access. It is assumed motorized use occurs on the ways occasionally from the adjacent private land owners. According to aerial imagery the route in the north/eastern portion of the unit appears to receive more use and is located in sparse vegetation and open grasslands where it more readily noticeable. Following BLM policy this 23.58 acre area was excluded from the unit. The second route is barely noticeable in aerial imagery not impacting the overall naturalness of the unit. The remainder of the unit appears natural.

3. Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes No NA

The unit is contiguous with Grape Creek WSA which has ample opportunities for solitude. This unit would contain those same opportunities.

4. Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes No NA

Grape Creek WSA contains outstanding opportunities for fishing, backpacking, hiking, horseback riding and hunting which this unit is contiguous with. This unit would contain those same outstanding opportunities.

5. Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes No NA

- The unit is located within elk winter range and mule deer severe winter range as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Summary of Analysis:

Unique Identifier: COF-020-031

Acreage: 74.18 acres

Results of Analysis:

The updated inventory excluded 23.58 acres of significantly noticeable man-made impacts from the original 74.18 acre unit. It was found that the remaining 50.60 acres do have wilderness characteristics. Although a second route was identified within the unit it appears to receive very little use, is not readily noticeable, and does not impact the overall naturalness of the unit.

The unit is bounded as follows:

- The south edge is bounded by BLM Lower Grape Creek WSA;
- The north, west, and east edges are bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
- The north and east edges of the unit are partially bound by a man-made feature (road).
- It is found in parts of the section listed in the following township;
 - o T. 19 S. R. 71 W. Sec. 8

- Does the area meet size requirements or exceptions? Yes X No _____
- Does the area appear natural? Yes X No _____ NA _____
- Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes X No _____ NA _____
- Does the area have supplemental value? Yes X No _____ NA _____

Check one:

X The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as land with wilderness characteristics.

____ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

This does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision, and does not represent a decision in regard to how the area will be managed or address impacts of management decisions.

Prepared by:

Evaluator: Janine Prout/Recreation Technician

Date: May 31, 2013

Evaluator: Christine Cloninger/ Rangeland Management Specialist

Date: July 24, 2013

Evaluator: Matt Rustand/Wildlife Biologist

Date: Sept 11, 2013

Evaluator: Kalem Lenard/Recreation Planner

Date: Dec. 4, 2015

Form 3: Route Analysis:

The Route Analysis includes factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. For the purposes of this analysis, use the following definition of a “road”. This definition is drawn from and the FLPMA legislative history and historic BLM inventory direction.

Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

- a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.
- b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.
- c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherry stem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings.

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area Unique Identifier: COF-020-031

Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: CO-020-031-A and B

I. LOCATION:

Refer to attached map and BLM corporate data (GIS). List photo point references (where applicable) or reference attached photo log:

Map Title: Unit COF-020-031, Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Map

Map Date: 2013

Describe:

The map shows the parcel inventoried for wilderness characteristics and routes collected by GPS

II. ROUTE CONTEXT

The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does provide context for factors on which such a determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by BLM when the need arises.

A. Current Purpose (if any) of Route: (Examples: rangeland/livestock improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), mine site, concentrated use site (camp site), recreation, utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment)).

Describe:

CO-020-031-A and B are used as a rangeland/livestock improvements route.

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

B.1. Is there a ROW associated with this route?

Yes ___ No X Unknown ___

If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW?

There is no ROW for the routes, CO-020-031-A and B

B.2. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?

Yes ___ No ___ Unknown or N/A X

Explain:

N/A

III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA

A. Is there evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means?

Yes, if either III.A.1 or III.A.2 is checked "yes" below ___

No, if both III.A.1 and III.A.2 are checked "no" below X

A.1. Construction: Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?

Yes ___ No X

Examples (partial list):

Paved ___ Bladed ___ Graveled ___ Roadside Berms ___ Cut/Fill ___ Other ___

Describe:

It is assumed that the routes have been user created.

A.2. Improvements: Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?

Yes ___ If "yes", improvements by? Hand Tools ___ by Machine ___

No X

Examples (partial list):

Culverts ___ Built Stream Crossings ___ Bridges ___ Drainage ___ Barriers ___

Describe:

No improvements of the routes were noticed during inventory.

B. Maintenance: Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure *relatively* regular and continuous use?

Yes, if either III.B.1 *or* III.B.2 is checked "yes" below ___

No, if both III.B.1 *and* III.B.2 are checked "no" below X

B.1. Is there evidence or documentation of maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes ___ If "yes", maintenance by? Hand Tools ___ by Machine ___

No X

Explain:

No evidence of maintenance on the routes

B.2. If the route or route segment is in good condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable? "Good condition" would be a condition that ensures regular and continuous use relative to the purposes of the route. Consider whether the route can be clearly followed in the field over its entire course and whether all or any portion of the route contains any impediments to travel.

Yes ___ No X

Explain:

BLM would not improve the routes if became impassable.

C. Relatively regular and continuous use: Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?

Yes ___ No X

Explain: Describe evidence (e.g., direct: vehicles or vehicle tracks observed; or indirect: evidence of use associated with purpose of the route such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a *relatively* regular basis (regular and continuous use relative to the purpose(s) of the route). Include estimate of travel rates for the stated purposes (e.g., trips per day, week, month, season, year, or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases).

Full size vehicle use and all-terrain vehicle use was observed.

IV. CONCLUSION:

Does the route or route segment meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road (i.e., are items III.A *and* III.B *and* III.C all checked yes)? If part of the route meets the wilderness inventory road definition and the remainder does not, describe the segment meeting the definition and any remaining portion not meeting the definition and why. Also, describe and explain rationale for any discrepancies with citizen proposals.

Yes = Wilderness Inventory Road

No = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

Explain:

The routes are used for range purposes; they are not maintained for continuous use.

Evaluator: Janine Prout/ Recreation Technician

Date: June 14, 2013

PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s): _____

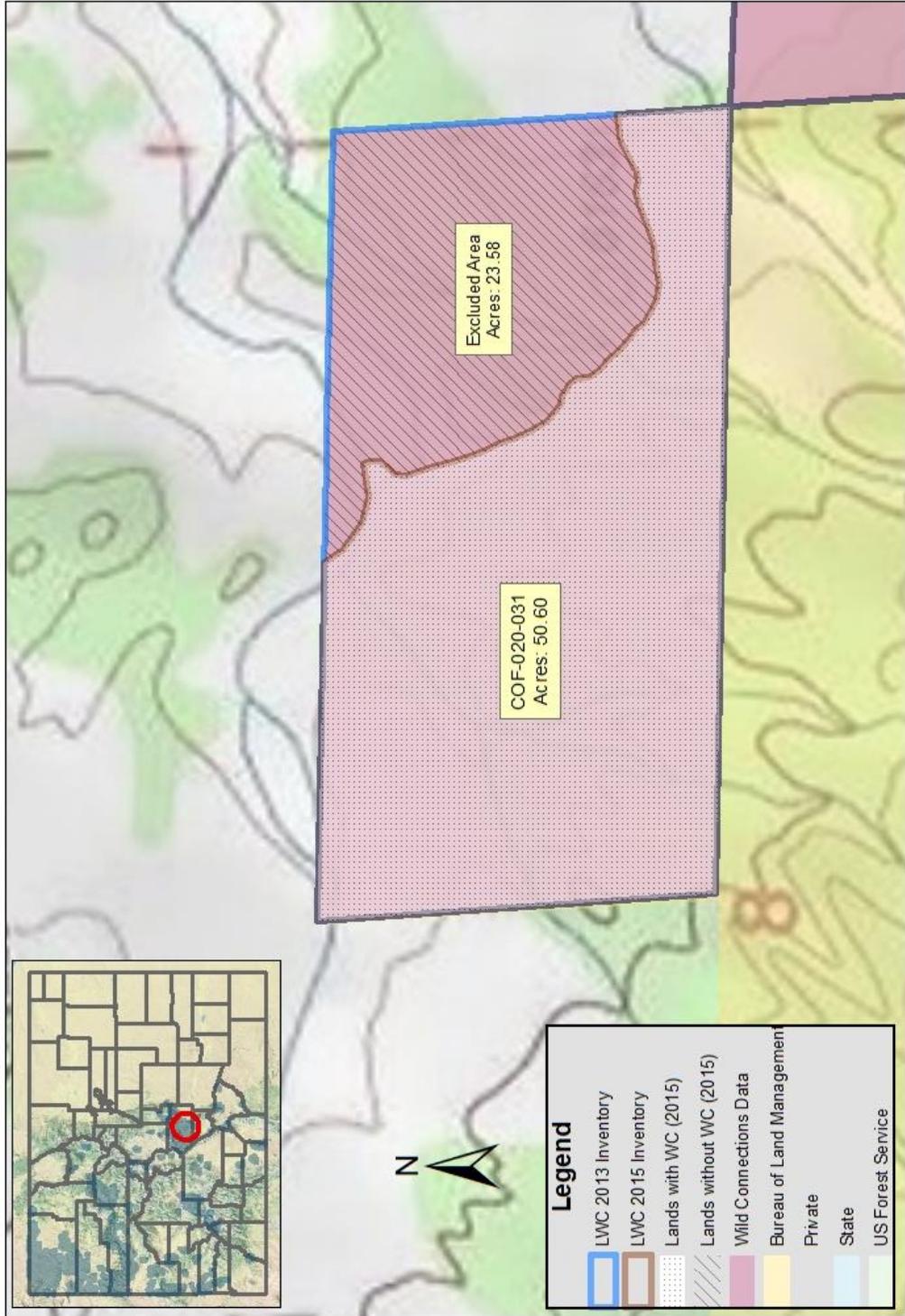
Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-031**

Date	Frame #	Camera Direc.	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #

(add rows as needed)

Photos not included

Map 1 Lower Grape Creek parcel



NOTE TO MAP USERS
 No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked for current status on any specific tract of land.

Prepared by P. Chapman 12/15/2015

**COF-020-031, Lower Grape Creek
 Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Map**



Map 2 Lower Grape Creek routes within parcel

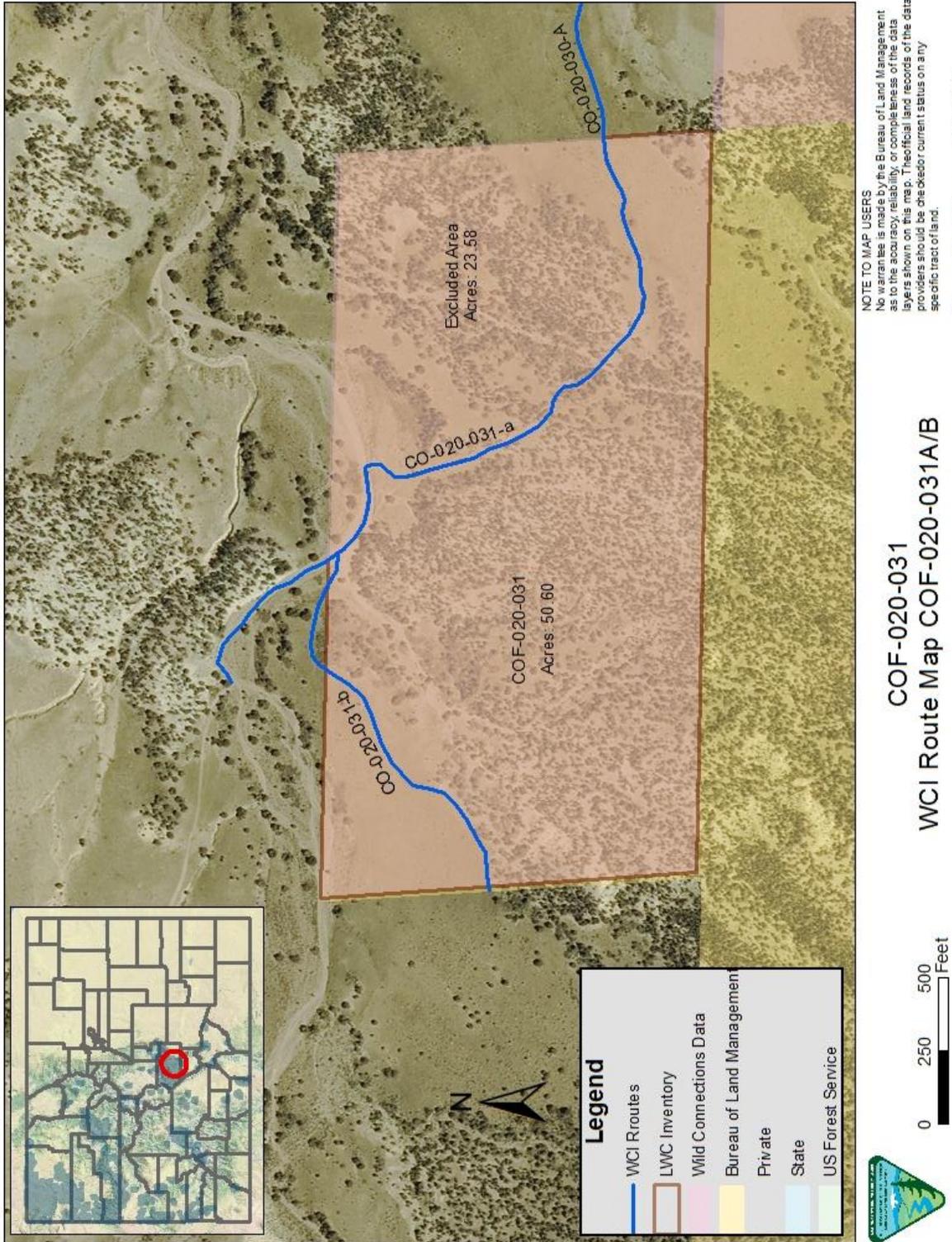
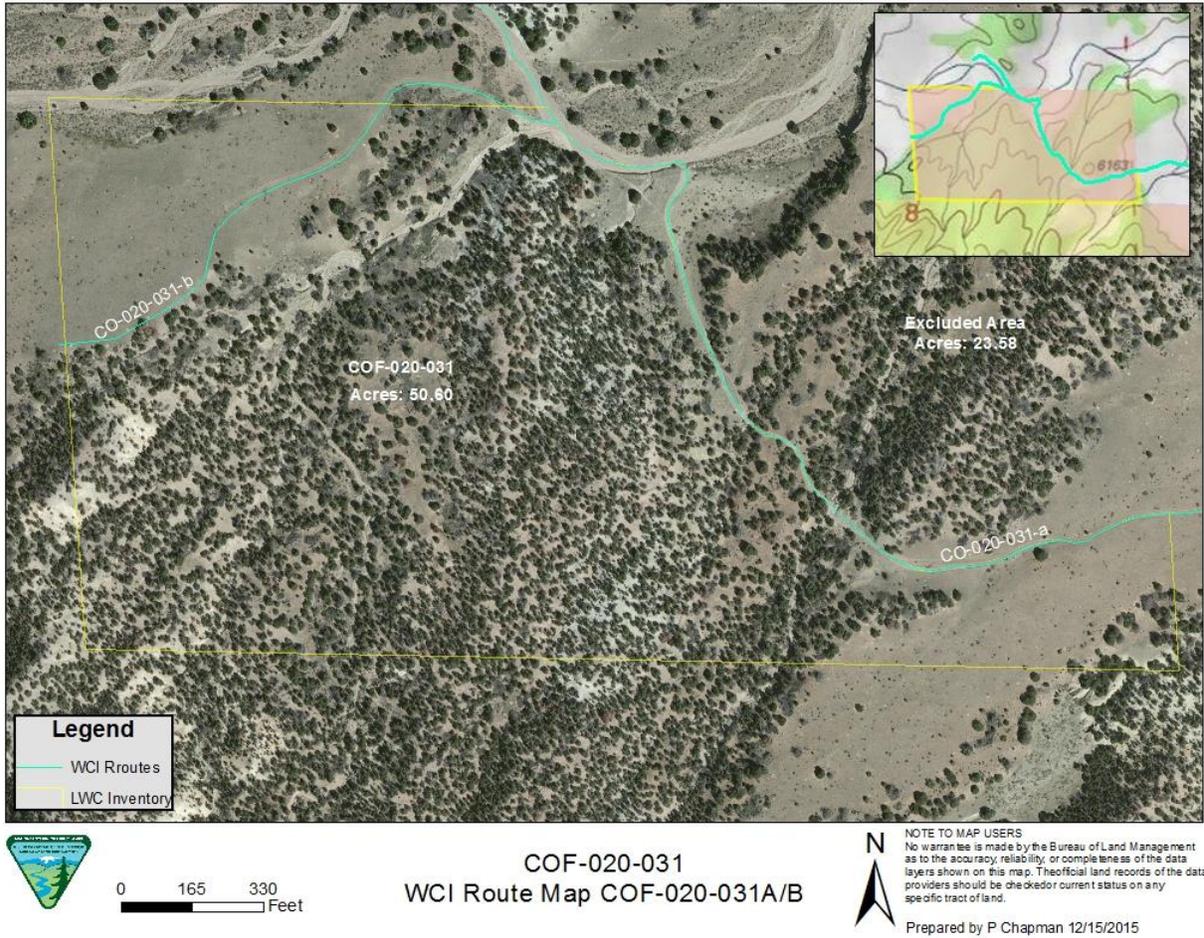


Figure 1 Aerial photo of Lower Grape Creek



Royal Gorge Field Office Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Inventory, 2015: Evaluation of new information

Assessment and Determination

The BLM Royal Gorge Field Office followed manual 6310 in the performance of inventory for lands with wilderness characteristics. In response to new information submitted in May, 2015 by Wild Connections, the 2013 inventory was re-evaluated. A final review was made by comparing existing data and when needed additional field trips were taken to collect data by GPS, inventory forms, and photo points. Resource specialists were also consulted to determine if the conclusion reached in the 2013 inventory remains valid, or whether changes should occur. The above report documents those findings for the following area(s):

Unit ID	Unit Name	Total BLM acreage inventoried	Acreage with Wilderness Characteristics	Acreage without Wilderness Characteristics
COF-020-031	Horseshoe Mtn. Lower Grape Creek	74.18	50.6	23.6

Review:

I have reviewed the inventory results, reports, photos, and maps for the above Lands with Wilderness Characteristics and concur with the findings as submitted.



James Kalem Lenard
Outdoor Recreation Planner, Royal Gorge Field Office

Date: 2/22/16



Keith E. Berger
Field Manager
Royal Gorge Field Office

Date: 2/24/16