

Figure 2 – Trickle Mountain

TRICKLE MOUNTAIN



Photo Point TM3 – From E Looking W to Trickle Mountain



Photo Point TM2 – From NE Looking SE to Alexander Mountain



Photo Point TMI – From N Looking SW to Trickle Mountain

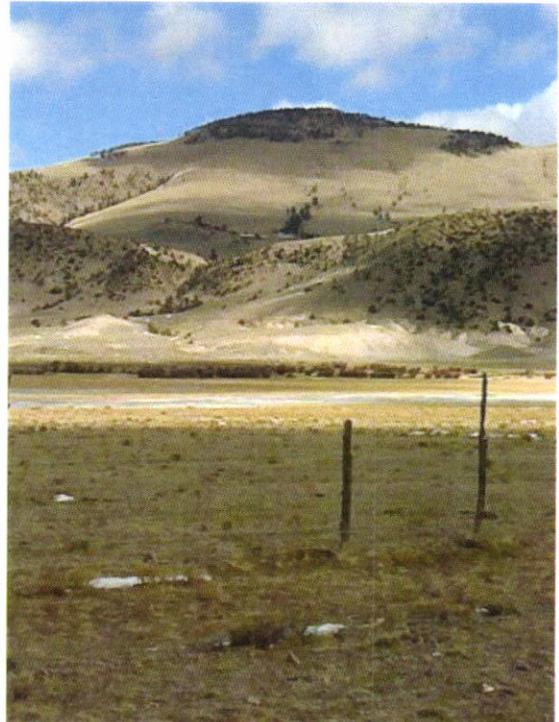


Photo Point TM4 – From SW Looking NE to Trickle Mountain

**Form 1 – Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings
from Previous Inventory on Record**

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

No (Go to Form 2) **Yes** _____ (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas):

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

Area Unique Identifier: Trickle Mountain

Acreage: 5,052

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below)

Yes **No**

Description (describe the boundaries of the area – wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.):

The Trickle Mountain inventory area is located entirely on BLM lands within the Trickle Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), and is located approximately 12 miles west of the Town of Saguache in Saguache County, CO. It is bordered by Colorado Highway 114 on the south, BLM roads 5255 and 5216 on the east and northeast, and BLM road 5247 and 5251S on the northwest and west. There are 2 active grazing leases and 2 mining claims in the Trickle Mountain Unit.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes **No** **N/A**

Note: If "No" is checked, the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities):

The Trickle Mountain inventory area is located entirely on BLM lands within the Trickle Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), and is located west of the Town of Saguache on the north side of Colorado Highway 114. Access to the unit is readily available directly from Colorado Highway 114, a single county road stemming from the highway, and subsequent BLM open system roads.

The Trickle Mountain unit is typified by relatively open, rolling hills approaching the summit of Trickle Mountain proper, which is largely un-forested on the south side and densely forested on the north side. Lands within the Trickle Mountain unit are classified primarily as Inter-Mountain Basins Semi-Desert Grassland, Inter-Mountain Basins Montane Sagebrush Steppe, Southern

Rocky Mountain Piñon-Juniper Woodland, and Rocky Mountain Dry-Mesic and Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland.

Local area residents and visitors (especially during the fall big game hunting seasons) also utilize the area recreationally for such purposes as; OHV and backcountry driving, hunting and horseback riding. Several ways exist throughout the area, as well as two mechanized trails and one foot and horse trail, but are considered minor imprints of man due to their generally low visibility throughout the broader landscape. Throughout the Trickle Mountain landscape, the obvious and visible remains of a Civilian Conservation Corps soil conservation project from the 1930's in the form of uniformly spaced contour terraces extending the length of the mountain, represents a significant imprint of man within the Trickle Mountain area. However, the presence of those terraces is less obvious in the inventory unit than in other parts of the ACEC and does not dramatically affect the naturalness of the unit.

(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

N/A

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

Because of the popularity of Trickle Mountain for off-highway vehicle recreation (the LWC inventory unit is also designated in the SLVFO Travel Management Plan as the Trickle OHV subunit) during the summer camping months and during the very busy fall big game hunting seasons, and despite the scale of the Trickle landscape, visitors are frequently exposed to the sights and sounds of motorized recreation. Similarly, the unit's popularity with firewood collectors also exposes visitors to the frequent sounds of chainsaws used for that activity.

The unit is known for its backcountry experience, however, because of a lack of cover necessary to screen visitors from each other, with only a small, finite area covered by timber, opportunities for solitude exist within the unit, however, they cannot be considered 'outstanding.'

(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

N/A

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4, the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

The primary recreational use throughout the Trickle Mountain area is by motorized vehicle. Primary activities include; driving for pleasure, camping, firewood collecting, and hunting. Access to Trickle Mountain is through a combination of OHV's, foot, horse, and bike, with frequent off-

road incursions into the area, primarily from ATV use related to hunting. There are 3 trails in the area, but no other recreational facilities. All use is self-directed and requires moderate backcountry skills, such as map-reading or GPS familiarity, and basic survival skills. Similar to 'solitude', opportunities exist for primitive and unconfined recreation, however, they cannot be considered 'outstanding.'

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

Yes No N/A

Description:

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS*

Area Unique Identifier: Trickle Mountain

Results of analysis:

Of the 5,052 acres analyzed, 0 acres have wilderness characteristics.

The Trickle Mountain unit is characterized in the lowlands by mostly open, rolling hills and a forested north slope of Trickle Mountain itself. Despite its generally natural appearance, the terrain lacks the vegetative diversity and density necessary to screen visitors from each other, and the unit's primary human activities ensure that visitors are essentially never free from the sights, sounds and works of man. Though the area is known for its backcountry experience, primarily related to big game hunting habitat, and the setting offers opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation, those experiences cannot be considered 'outstanding.'

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No N/A

Check one:

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

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

Sean Noonan, BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner

Clayton Davey, BLM Recreation Assistant

Heather Salaz, BLM Recreation Assistant

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: _____

Andrew Holt

Title: _____

Field Manager

Date: _____

3 July 2012

***This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.**