

# Mogote Middle

# Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Unit

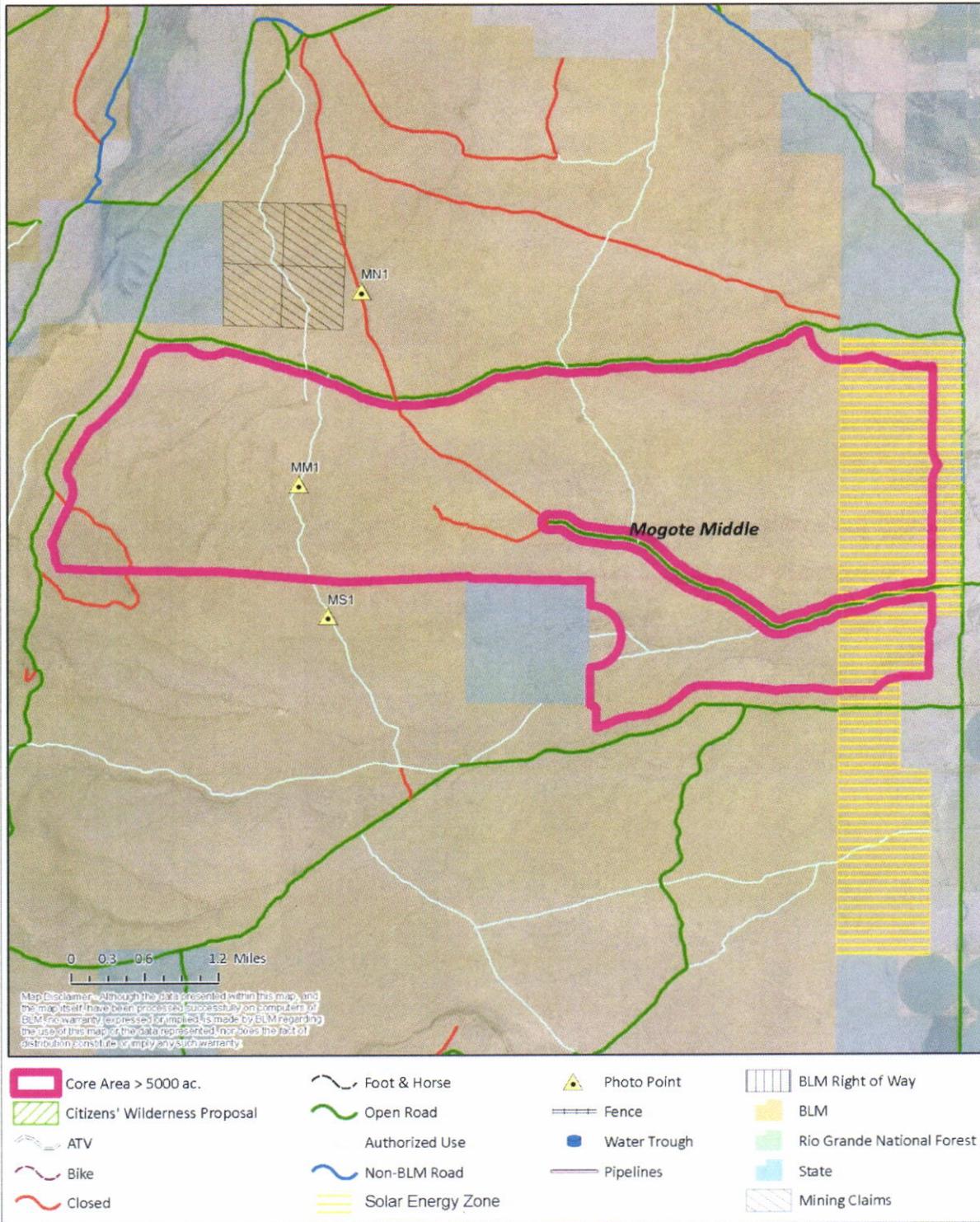


Figure 8 – Mogote Middle

**MOGOTE MIDDLE**

Photo Point MMI – From W Looking E Toward San Luis Hills

**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:** Mogote Middle

**Acreage:** 8,820

**(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 Mogote Middle inventory area is located on BLM lands west of the community of Romeo in a landscape-level area generally referred to as 'Los Mogotes.' It is bordered on the north, south and west by BLM lands, and private lands on the east. The unit boundaries are encompassed by BLM system roads 5059 in the north, 5055 on the west, the administrative boundary of the Los Mogotes Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and a section of State land on the south, and the BLM boundary to private lands on the east. The eastern portion of the unit is also identified as the Los Mogotes Solar Energy Zone. There are 3 active grazing leases in the Mogote Middle 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 landownership of the Mogote Middle unit is entirely BLM. The southwest boundary of the unit is adjacent to the northern edge of the Los Mogotes ACEC, which was established for critical winter and birthing habitat for big game and special status plant species. From its eastern edge, the Mogote Middle unit is located about 3 mi west of the town of Romeo, which is located at the junction of US Highway 285 and Colorado Highway 142. With the exception of the town of Romeo, private lands on the east of the unit are almost exclusively agricultural. Access to the Mogotes is readily available via three county roads from nearby U.S. Highway 285 and subsequent BLM open system roads.

The terrain throughout the Mogotes is essentially uniform, open, relatively flat and lacks topographic and vegetative variation (see photos). Lands within the Mogotes are classified primarily as Inter-Mountain Basins Semi-Desert Shrub Steppe. Additional cover types within the Mogotes include Inter-Mountain Basins Semi-Desert Grassland, Inter-Mountain Basins Mixed Salt Desert Scrub, and Inter-Mountain Basins Greasewood Flat.

The principal human activities and imprints of man within the Mogotes include livestock grazing and related facilities, such as water improvements and fences. Local area residents also utilize the area recreationally for such purposes as; OHV and backcountry driving, hunting and horseback riding. A number of significant trash dumps exist along the eastern edge of the unit, related to the proximity of the towns of Romeo, Manassa, Capulin and their associated rural community. Several ways exist throughout the area, but are considered minor imprints of man due to their generally low visibility throughout the broader landscape.

**(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 rural nature of this part of the San Luis Valley, with small populations of year-round residents and typically low itinerant visitation (combined with a large, naturally appearing landscape) opportunities for solitude do exist within the Mogote Middle area, however, they cannot be considered 'outstanding.' With the area's low topographic relief, lack of vegetation suitable for screening, open terrain, and easy vehicular access throughout the area, *outstanding* opportunities for solitude do not exist in this unit.

**(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 Mogotes is by motorized vehicle. Primary activities include driving for pleasure and hunting. There are no trails, and no recreational facilities in the area. All use is self-directed and requires few backcountry 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:** Mogote Middle

### Results of analysis:

Of the 8,820 acres analyzed, 0 acres have wilderness characteristics.

The Mogotes are characterized by open, uniform terrain that lacks topographic and vegetative diversity or relief, and does not offer visitors any screening from other visitors in an area used primarily for recreational motorized vehicle use and livestock grazing.

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):**

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**(Name, Title, Date)**

**Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):**

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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.**