

SAN LUIS VALLEY FIELD OFFICE WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY: 2012 UPDATE

INTRODUCTION

As part of BLM's requirement to maintain an updated inventory of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWCs), the San Luis Valley Field Office (Field Office) assessed public lands within the Field Office in 2012 to determine whether wilderness characteristics are present outside of existing wilderness study areas (WSAs), and the congressionally-designated Rio Grande Natural Area. The BLM reviewed original 1980 wilderness inventories, as well as lands identified by BLM staff and lands proposed by the public, in order to identify lands with potential wilderness characteristics. Of the eleven areas identified through the review, one was found to possess wilderness characteristics.

BLM Authority and the Land Use Planning Process

Land use plans identify broad-scale decisions to guide future land management actions and subsequent site-specific implementation decisions. The BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (1601-1) provides guidance to BLM employees for implementing BLM land use planning requirements. In addition, Appendix C, Section I.K of BLM Handbook 1610-1 (Wilderness Characteristics) directs BLM Field Offices to identify decisions to protect or preserve wilderness characteristics (including sufficient size, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation). Specific guidance for assessing wilderness characteristics is provided through Washington Office Instructional Memorandum 2011-154.

While BLM authority to conduct wilderness reviews and establish new wilderness study areas under FLPMA Section 603 expired in 1993, the BLM has authority under FLPMA sections 102 and 201 to maintain a current inventory of all public lands and their resources, including wilderness characteristics. Through the land use planning process, the BLM must consider all available information to determine the mix of resource use and protection that best serves the FLPMA multiple-use mandate.

The management of areas found to possess wilderness characteristics is addressed through the development of a range of RMP (or RMP amendment) alternatives. Within each alternative, the BLM identifies appropriate portions of land and develops effective management strategies (including management prescriptions, stipulations, and allowable uses).

The three existing WSAs within the Field Office (San Luis Hills, Papa Keal and Black Canyon) will continue to be managed to protect their wilderness characteristics under the BLM Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review (H-8550-1) until Congress designates them as wilderness or releases them for other uses.

Scope of Assessment

The BLM considered and evaluated wilderness characteristics for all BLM lands within the Field Office outside of existing WSAs and the Rio Grande Natural Area. The assessment did not include adjacent National Forest System, National Park Service, or Colorado State lands.

FLPMA requires that the BLM maintain a current inventory of conditions and resources on public lands, including wilderness characteristics. The last inventory of wilderness characteristics was completed more than thirty years prior to this 2012 update to the inventory. This update of the San Luis Valley Field Office (SLVFO) wilderness characteristics inventory takes into consideration the possibility that conditions on the ground may have changed during this interval.

In performing this assessment, the SLVFO:

- 1) Reviewed the 1980 BLM Intensive Wilderness Inventory and updated information when necessary to ensure that information was current and accurate.
- 2) Reviewed proposals to inventory and protect BLM lands with wilderness characteristics submitted by the public.
- 3) Assessed potential lands in the Field Office identified through BLM staff and public wilderness proposals.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

BLM Manual 6300-1 defines wilderness characteristics as consisting of: 1) sufficient size, 2) naturalness, 3) outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, and 4) supplemental values. To have wilderness characteristics, an area must meet each of the first three criteria as described below.

Sufficient Size

The area is roadless and has over 5,000 acres of contiguous BLM lands, or is of sufficient size to make practicable its use in an unimpaired condition. Areas adjacent to wilderness areas or WSAs that are less than 5,000 acres may have wilderness characteristics. State or private lands are not included in making this acreage determination.

Roadless Definitions

For purposes of conducting wilderness characteristics inventories, the BLM uses definitions found on page 17 of House Report 94-1163 (May 15, 1976), released prior to the enactment of FLPMA. In the report, roadless refers to:

...the absence of roads which have 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.

The BLM adopted the following sub-definitions of words and phrases related to roads:

- 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.
- Mechanical means: Use of hand or power machinery or tools.
- 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, which

may entail lengthy return intervals for this purpose; access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims.

A route established or maintained solely by the passage of vehicles would not be considered a road, even if it is used on a relatively regular and continuous basis. Vehicle routes constructed by mechanical means but that are no longer being maintained by mechanical methods are not roads. Sole use of hands and feet to move rocks or dirt without the use of tools or machinery does not meet the definition of "mechanical means." Roads need not be "maintained" on a regular basis but rather "maintained" when road conditions warrant actions to keep it in a usable condition. A dead-end (cherry-stem) road can form the boundary of an inventory area and does not by itself disqualify an area from being considered "roadless."

Naturalness

Lands and resources exhibit a high degree of naturalness when affected primarily by the forces of nature and where the imprint of human activity is substantially unnoticeable (BLM IM 2003-275).

The naturalness of an area may be influenced by the presence or absence of roads and trails, fences or other developments; the nature and extent of landscape modifications; the presence of native vegetation communities; and the connectivity of habitats. The presence and diversity of wildlife species are recognized as an indicator of naturalness.

Examples of human-made features that may be considered substantially unnoticeable in certain cases are: trails, trail signs, bridges, fire towers, fire breaks, fire pre-suppression facilities, pit toilets, fisheries enhancement facilities, fire rings, hitching posts, snow gauges, water quantity and quality measuring devices, research monitoring markers and devices, radio repeater sites, air quality monitoring devices, fencing, spring developments, overgrown and barely visible two-track ways, and small reservoirs.

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation

Solitude

Visitors may have outstanding opportunities for solitude when the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people are rare or infrequent, or where visitors can feel isolated, alone or secluded from others.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Visitors may have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation where the use of the area is through non-motorized, non-mechanical means, and where no or minimal developed recreation facilities are encountered.

Supplemental Values

The area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Supplemental values may be present within the inventory units but are not a required component of wilderness character; they will be described but not used as a mechanism to impact a final finding.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In accordance with BLM policy outlined in IM-2011-154, the BLM assessment team:

- Analyzed GIS data to identify blocks of BLM land (1) greater than 5,000 acres or adjacent to a WSA, designated wilderness, or the Rio Grande Natural Area and (2) that do not contain improved and maintained BLM roads, county roads, or highways (wilderness inventory roads).
- Consulted with field staff familiar with assessment areas to elicit additional information related to identified or proposed inventory areas.
- Conducted field visits in order to verify preliminary findings and complete inventories for qualifying areas.
- The primary assessment team consisted of the San Luis Valley Field Office Outdoor Recreation Planner (with a background in wildland recreation, natural resources management, parks and recreation management, and experience with wilderness management of both the Sangre de Cristo and La Garita Wilderness areas), and two Recreation Assistants (one with experience as a wilderness ranger for the U.S. Forest Service and wildland recreation management, and the other with experience in rangeland management and invasive species management as well as wildland recreation management). The team regularly consulted with various other members of the Field Office in such disciplines as: Archaeology and Heritage, Lands and Realty, Minerals and Geology, Biological Sciences and Natural Resources Management.

Assessment Tools

The BLM assessment team utilized the following tools in evaluating areas for consideration and in completing the wilderness characteristics assessment:

Past Wilderness Inventories

The BLM reviewed the 1980 BLM Intensive Wilderness Inventory, Final Wilderness Study Areas report and maps for areas that had been assessed for the presence of wilderness characteristics, but were not included within a WSA. Because the original report documentation was not available, all aspects of an area were considered in this assessment, making it more comprehensive than a simple update.

This review enabled the BLM to determine whether any new information is available that was not considered as part of the original inventories. As the larger landscape experiences population growth and increased development, perceptions regarding what constitutes solitude and outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation change. Interest in arid and low elevation environments has also increased. Therefore, some information related to social values submitted by the public was considered “new information” based on changed physical conditions of the land and social perceptions of wilderness characteristics that may have occurred over time.

Public Wilderness Proposals

External groups advocate for wilderness designation through legislation and participation in the land use planning process. The BLM considered the most recent proposals for protection of

wilderness characteristics submitted by the Colorado Wilderness Network, The Wilderness Society, and Rocky Mountain Wild (all located in the San Luis Hills area of the Field Office).

Other Documents and Data

The following information sources were considered in drafting the assessment:

- Field investigation notes
- Range improvement records (SLVFO Range Management Specialist and GIS – Incomplete Range Improvement Inventory, especially in the southern half of the Field Office)
- Colorado Natural Heritage Program databases (including cover types and associated wildlife, potential conservation areas, rare plants, natural plant communities, raptors, etc.)
- Colorado Wilderness Network proposed wilderness GIS data layer (2007)
- BLM LR2000 databases (including rights-of-way, mining claims, and oil and gas leasing)
- SLVFO Travel Management Plan (2009)
- SLVFO road maintenance records
- SLVFO range allotment management records
- SLVFO cultural database
- SLVFO oil and gas lease and mining claim GIS data sets
- SLVFO travel and transportation GIS data sets

ASSESSMENT AREAS

The wilderness characteristics assessment describes known valid existing rights, grandfathered uses, and public land investments within the survey areas. BLM staff verified new information during field surveys.

Table I below and **Figure I** on page 6 identify the Field Office lands detailed within this assessment.

Table I
Field Office Lands Assessed for Wilderness Characteristics

Name	Total Inventoried Acreage	Acreage with Wilderness Characteristics	Acreage without Wilderness Characteristics
Trickle Mountain	5,502	0	5,502
Middle Creek	6,188	0	6,188
Vista Grande	7,260	0	7,260
Alexander Mountain	6,805	0	6,805
Greenie Mountain	11,011	0	11,011
Mogote North	7,563	0	7,563
Mogote Middle	8,820	0	8,820
Mogote South	5,503	0	5,503

Flat Top*	8,080	0	8,080
San Luis Hills WSA*	10,784	10,784	0
Rio Grande*	10,242	0	10,242

*Reflects total BLM acreage within the Field Office submitted by the Colorado Wilderness Network, The Wilderness Society, and Rocky Mountain Wild through citizen wilderness proposals, including acreage within existing WSAs. Acreages generated through GIS mapping may vary due to rounding inconsistencies and different mapping techniques.

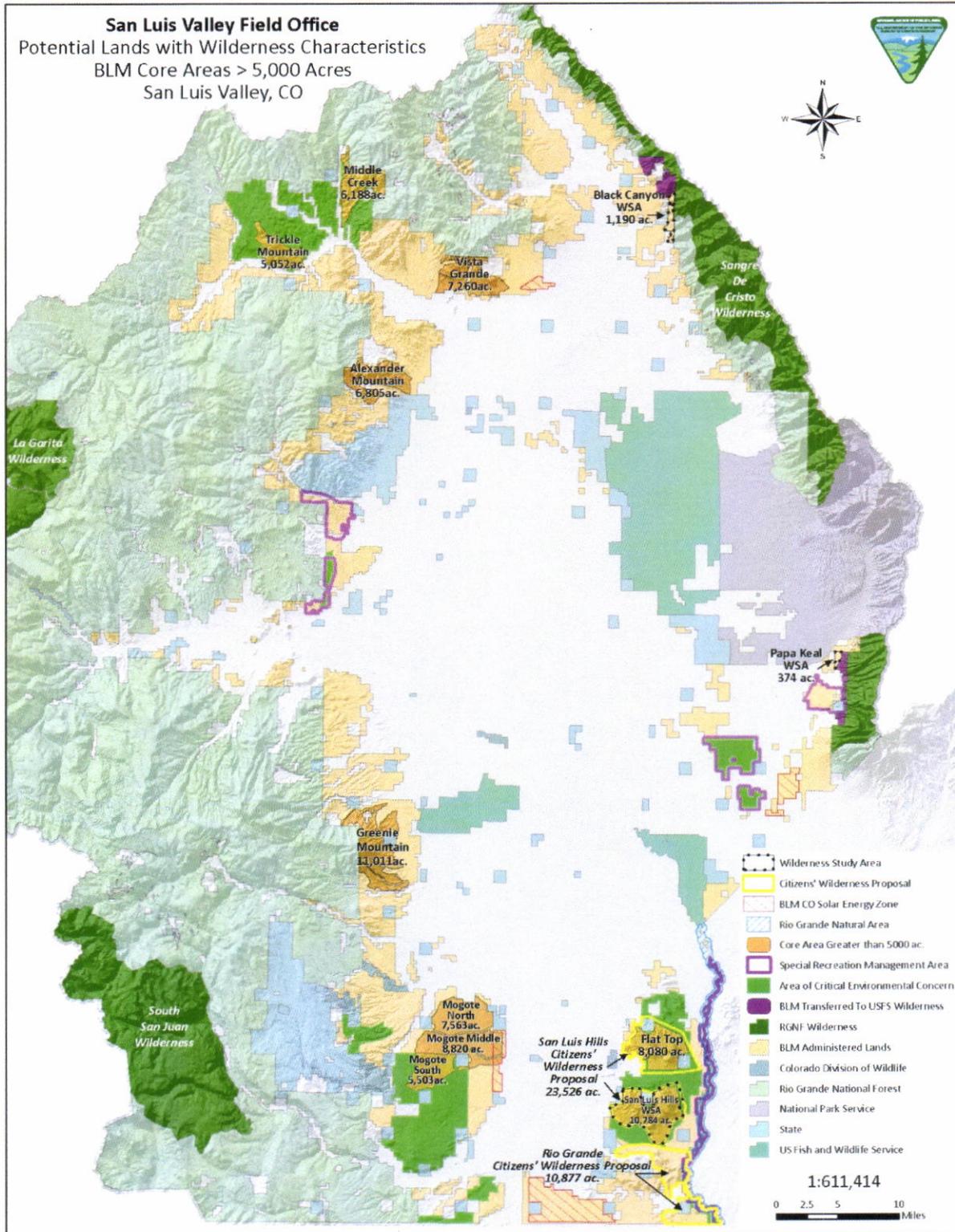


Figure I – Overview of Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Areas

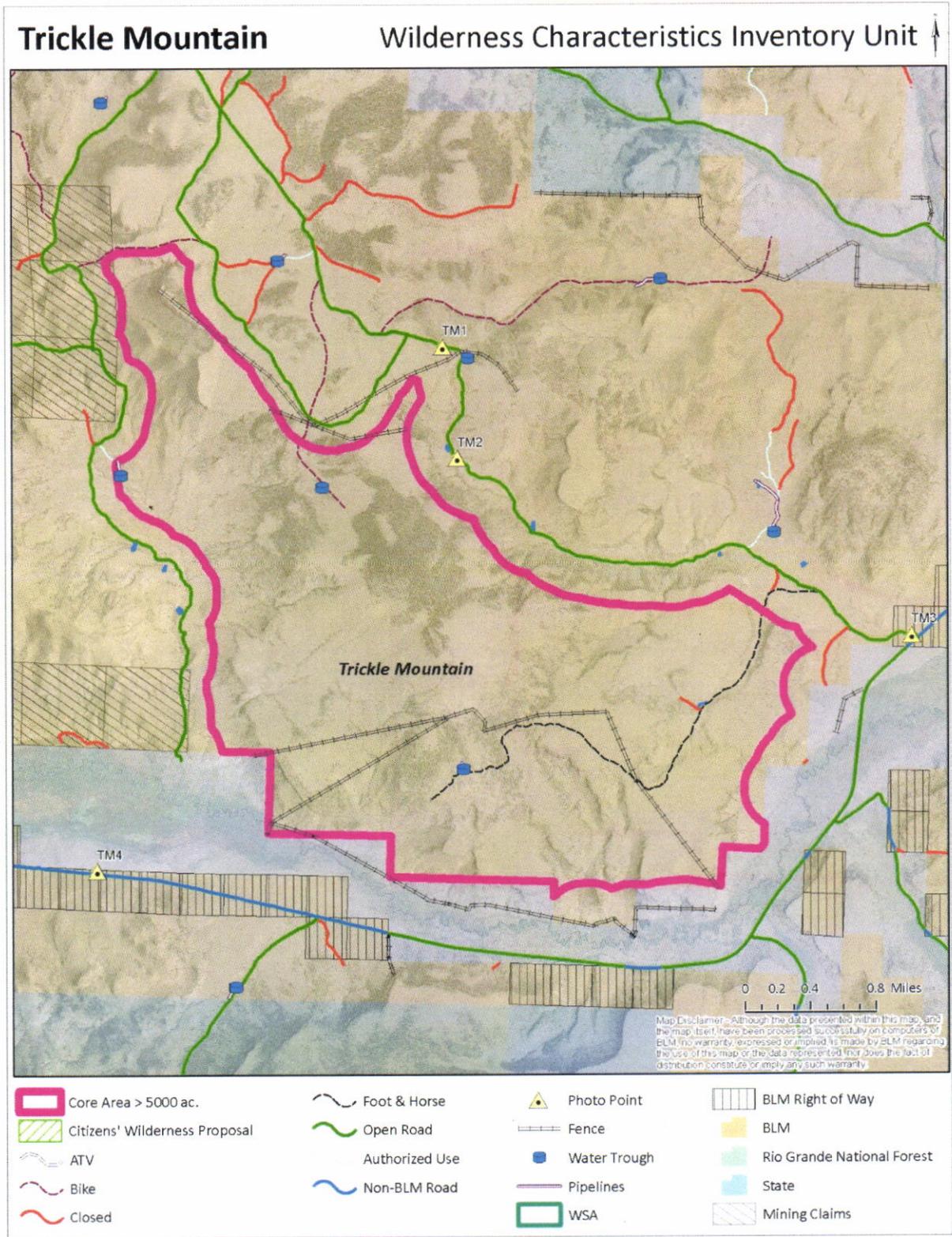


Figure 2 – Trickle Mountain

TRICKLE MOUNTAIN



Photo Point TM3 – From E Looking W to Trickle Mountain



Photo Point TM2 – From NE Looking SE to Alexander Mountain



Photo Point TM1 – From N Looking SW to Trickle Mountain

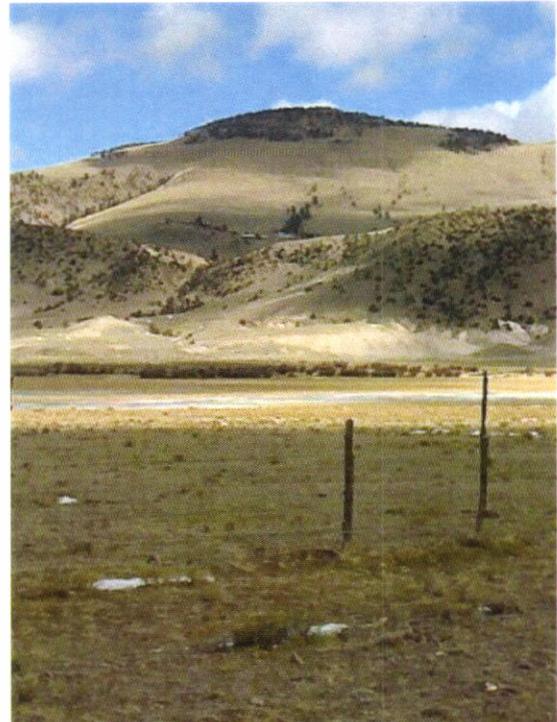


Photo Point TM4 – From SW Looking NE to Trickle Mountain

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 Hunt

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.**

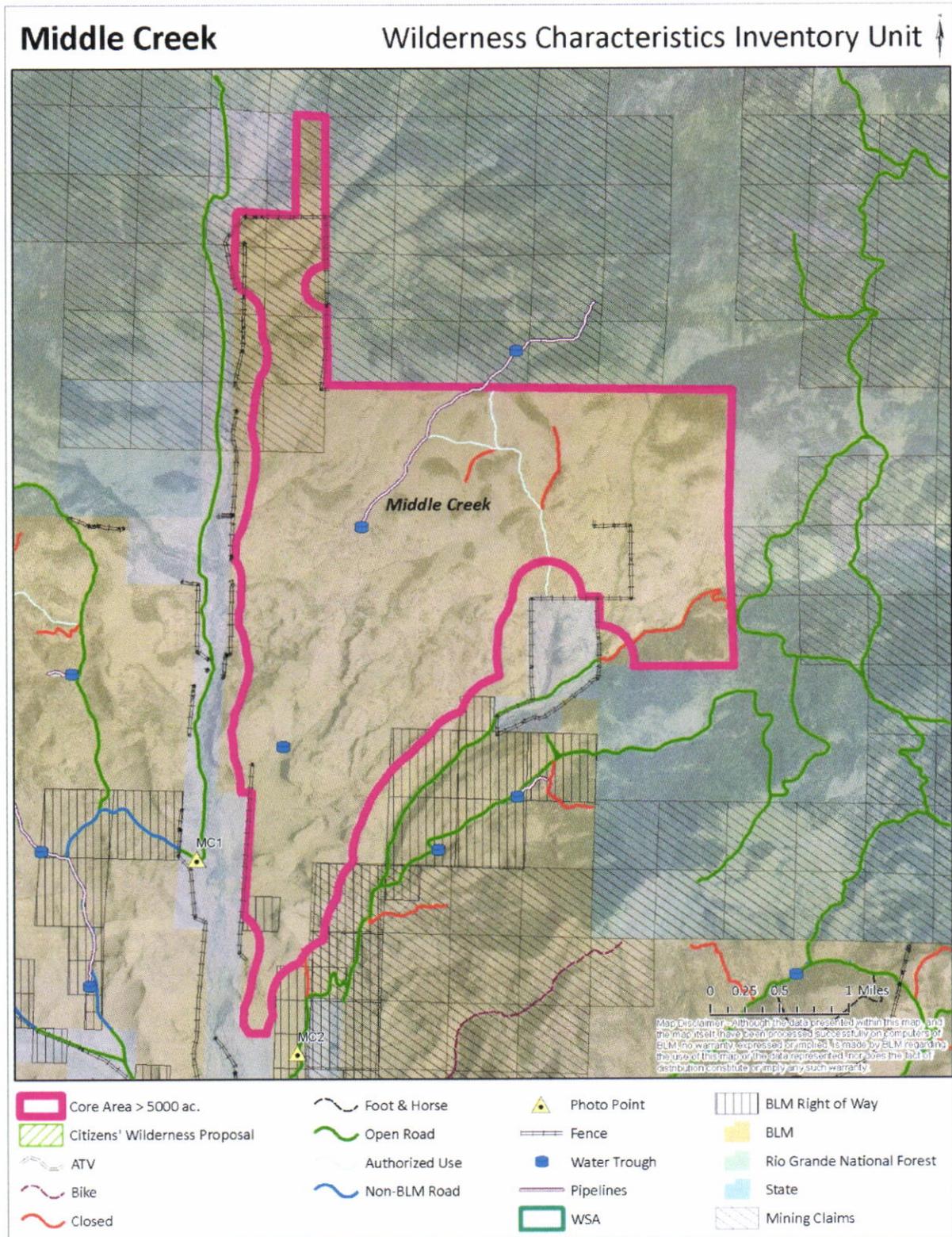


Figure 3 – Middle Creek

MIDDLE CREEK



Photo Point MCI – From SW Looking NW



Photo Point MC2 – From S Looking NNW

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: Middle Creek

Acreage: 6,188

(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 Middle Creek inventory unit is located entirely on BLM lands mostly 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, Saguache County Road 38FF on the west, National Forest System lands on the north and northeast, and an un-numbered BLM road (Ford Creek) on the east and southeast. There are 2 active grazing leases and 9 mining claims in the Middle Creek 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 Middle Creek inventory area is located entirely on BLM lands and mostly 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, and subsequent BLM open system roads.

The Middle Creek unit is part of the larger Trickle Mountain landscape and shares the same terrain and vegetative cover types as the Trickle Mountain wilderness characteristics inventory unit. The Middle Creek unit is typified by relatively open, rolling hills that are sparsely forested, primarily on the north side of hill-tops. Lands within the Middle Creek 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.

(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 the Middle Creek unit 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 (which Middle Creek belongs to), visitors are frequently exposed to the sights and sounds of motorized recreation, firewood collecting, and camping and hunting with mechanized and motorized equipment.

The unit is known for its backcountry experience, however, because of a lack of cover necessary to screen visitors from each other, 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 in the Middle Creek unit is fall big game hunting. Other activities include driving for pleasure, camping, and firewood collecting. Access to Middle Creek is through a combination of OHV's, foot, and horse, with frequent off-road incursions into the area, primarily from ATV use related to hunting. There are no trails or recreational facilities in the area. 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: Middle Creek

Results of analysis:

Of the 6,188 acres analyzed, 0 acres have wilderness characteristics.

The Middle Creek unit is characterized by mostly open, rolling hills and sparsely forested hillsides. 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 Archuleta Title: Field Manager
Date: 3 July 2012 

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Vista Grande

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Unit

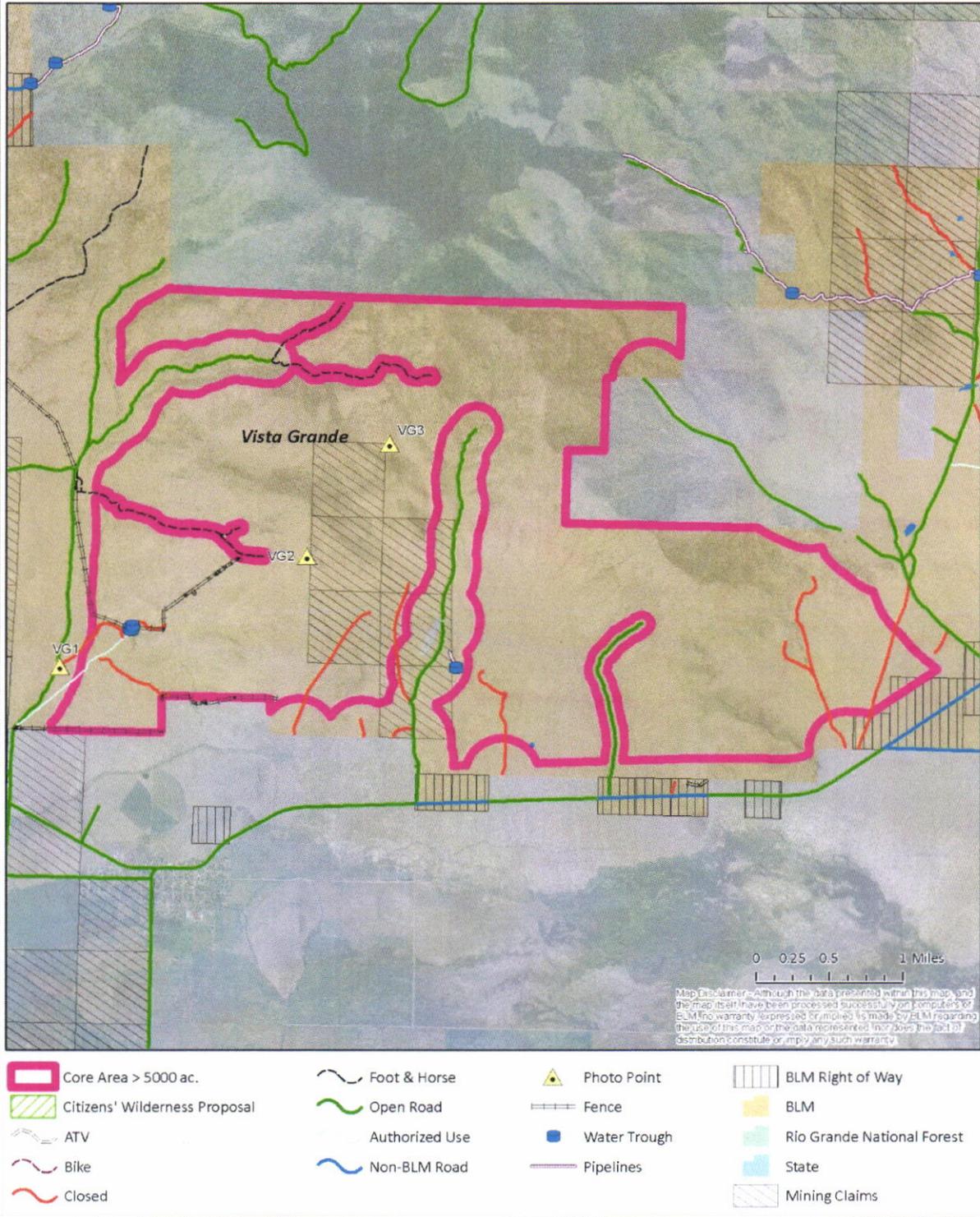


Figure 4 – Vista Grande

VISTA GRANDE



Photo Point VG2 – From Middle Looking N



Photo Point VG1 – From SW Looking E

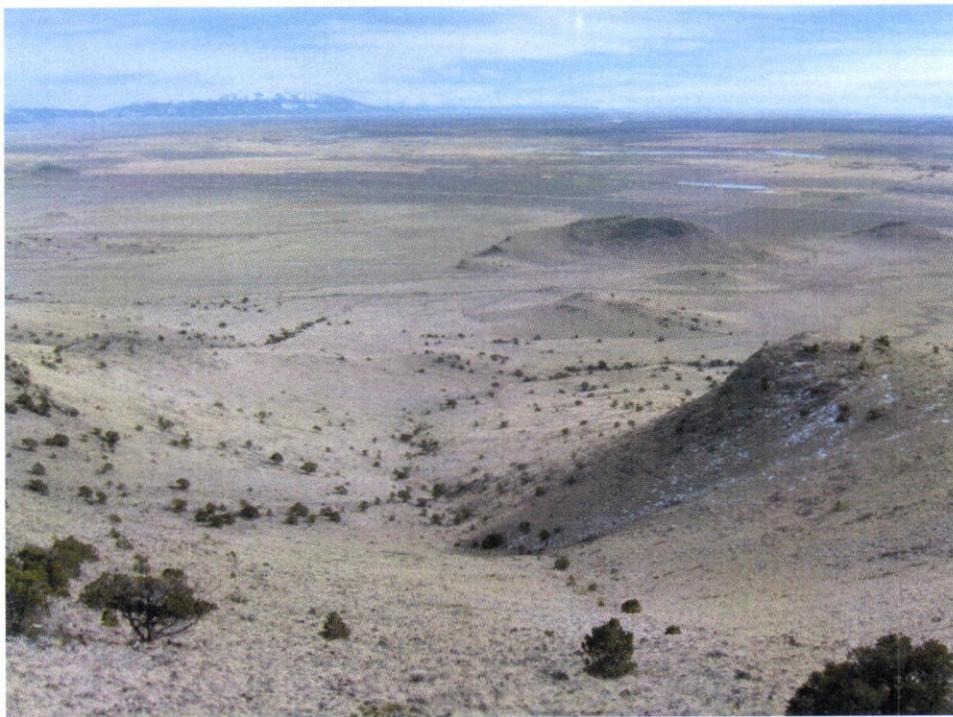


Photo Point VG – From North-Central Looking SE Toward Blanca Peak

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: Vista Grande

Acreage: 7,260

(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 Vista Grande inventory area is located entirely on BLM lands adjacent to the Town of Saguache in Saguache County, Co. It is bordered by Colorado Highway 114 on the south, BLM Road 5295 on the west, National Forest System and private lands on the north and an un-numbered BLM road on the east. There are 3 active grazing leases and 5 mining claims in the Vista Grande 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 Vista Grande unit is located entirely on BLM lands, just to the north of the Town of Saguache. Access to the unit is readily available via Colorado Highway 114 (which represents the southern boundary on BLM lands) and subsequent BLM open system roads.

The unit is typified by open, sparsely vegetated terrain that continually rises to the north toward Saguache Peak on National Forest System lands. Lands within the Vista Grande unit are classified primarily as Inter-Mountain Basins Semi-Desert Shrub Steppe, Inter-Mountain Basins

Semi-Desert Grassland, Southern Rocky Mountain Piñon-Juniper Woodland, and Rocky Mountain Dry-Mesic and Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland.

The principal human activities and imprints of man within the Vista Grande unit include livestock grazing and related facilities, such as water improvements and fences. Local area residents and seasonal visitors also utilize the area recreationally for such purposes as OHV and backcountry driving, hunting and horseback riding.

As part of a cooperative effort with the Town of Saguache to develop a community recreation area, BLM is currently planning for the development of a singletrack mechanized trail system throughout 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 close proximity to the Town of Saguache and major highways in the San Luis Valley, as well as increasing popularity among mountain bikers, in addition to more traditional uses of this area (which include driving for pleasure, camping, firewood collecting and hunting), combined with the area's minimal 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. The area's higher, more forested elevations offer more screening and a greater sense of solitude; however, at essentially no time is a visitor to this landscape free from the sights, sounds and works of man.

(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 Vista Grande unit is currently motorized use related to traditional activities, such as: hunting, firewood collecting, and camping. Mechanized use is increasing in the area, though, relative to current planning efforts for the mechanized trail system. There are 2 trails currently associated with the unit and no other recreational facilities. 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: Vista Grande

Results of analysis:

Of the 7,260 acres analyzed, 0 acres have wilderness characteristics.

The Vista Grande unit is characterized by open, uniform terrain that lacks vegetative diversity and density necessary to screen visitors from each other, has numerous user-created roads throughout, as well as range improvements for livestock operations. The unit is easily accessible by motorized vehicle and heavily utilized by local citizens and seasonal hunters for OHV recreation, hunting and firewood collecting, and increasingly for mountain biking. The lack of 'outstanding' opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation decisively prevents this unit from possessing wilderness characteristics.

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 Anhalt 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.**

Alexander Mountain

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Unit

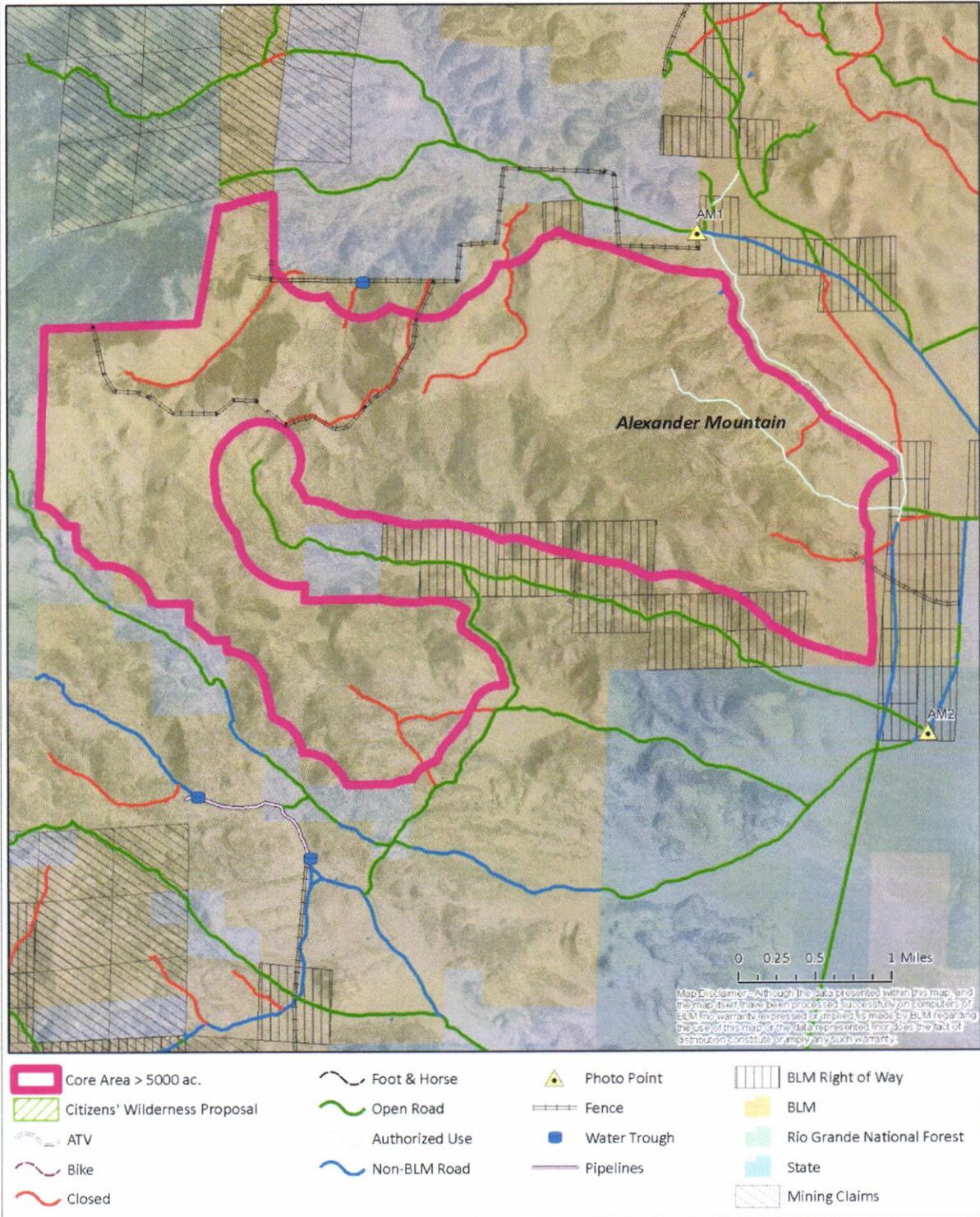


Figure 5 – Alexander Mountain

ALEXANDER MOUNTAIN



Photo Point AM1 – From NE Looking SW to Alexander Mountain



Photo Point AM2 – From SE Looking W to Alexander Mountain



Photo Point AM2 – From SE Looking NW to Alexander 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: Alexander Mountain

Acreage: 6,805

(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 Alexander Mountain inventory area is located entirely on BLM lands approximately halfway between the towns of La Garita and Saguache in Saguache County, CO. It is bordered by Saguache County Road T45.5 on the northeast and north and by the private land boundary of Lime Creek Estates. The unit is bordered on the west by National Forest System lands, the south by Saguache County Road R44.8 and a BLM system road, and on the east by Saguache County Roads 47V and T. Unlike the other inventory units on the Field Office, the Alexander Mountain unit wraps around a private inholding and system roads, which are in the middle of the unit. There are 2 active grazing leases, 7 Rights-Of-Way, and one mining claim in the Alexander 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 Alexander Mountain unit is located entirely on BLM lands. It is located approximately halfway between the towns of La Garita and Saguache in Saguache County on the west side of US Highway 285. Access to the unit is readily available via 3 county roads from nearby US Highway 285 and subsequent BLM open system roads.

The Alexander Mountain unit is typified by open, relatively flat, terrain approaching Alexander Mountain proper, which is an intermittently forested hillside, primarily consisting of the Piñon-Juniper cover type (see photos). Lands within the Alexander Mountain unit are classified primarily as Inter-Mountain Basins Semi-Desert Shrub Steppe, Inter-Mountain Basins Semi-Desert Grassland, Southern Rocky Mountain Piñon-Juniper Woodland, and Rocky Mountain Dry-Mesic and Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland.

The principal human activities and imprints of man within the Alexander Mountain unit include livestock grazing and related facilities, such as water improvements and fences. Local area residents and visitors also utilize the area for recreational purposes, primarily during the fall big game hunting seasons.

(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 for most of the year (with the notable exception of increased visitation throughout the length of the fall big game hunting seasons, which can be significant at times), opportunities for solitude do exist within the Alexander Mountain area, however, they cannot be considered 'outstanding.' With the lowland area's minimal 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. The area's higher, forested elevations offer more screening and a greater sense of solitude; however, at essentially no time is a visitor to this landscape free from the sights, sounds and works of man.

(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 unit is seasonal big game hunting. Access to Alexander Mountain is through a combination of foot and horse and OHV, with constant off-road incursions into the area, primarily from ATV use related to hunting. There are no trails, and no recreational facilities in the area. 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: Alexander Mountain

Results of analysis:

Of the 6,805 acres analyzed, 0 acres have wilderness characteristics.

The Alexander Mountain unit is characterized in the lowlands by open, uniform terrain that lacks topographic and vegetative diversity and intermittently forested areas in the uplands of the unit. The area is generally natural in appearance; however, 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 fairly typical 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 Schubert 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.**

Greenie Mountain

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Unit

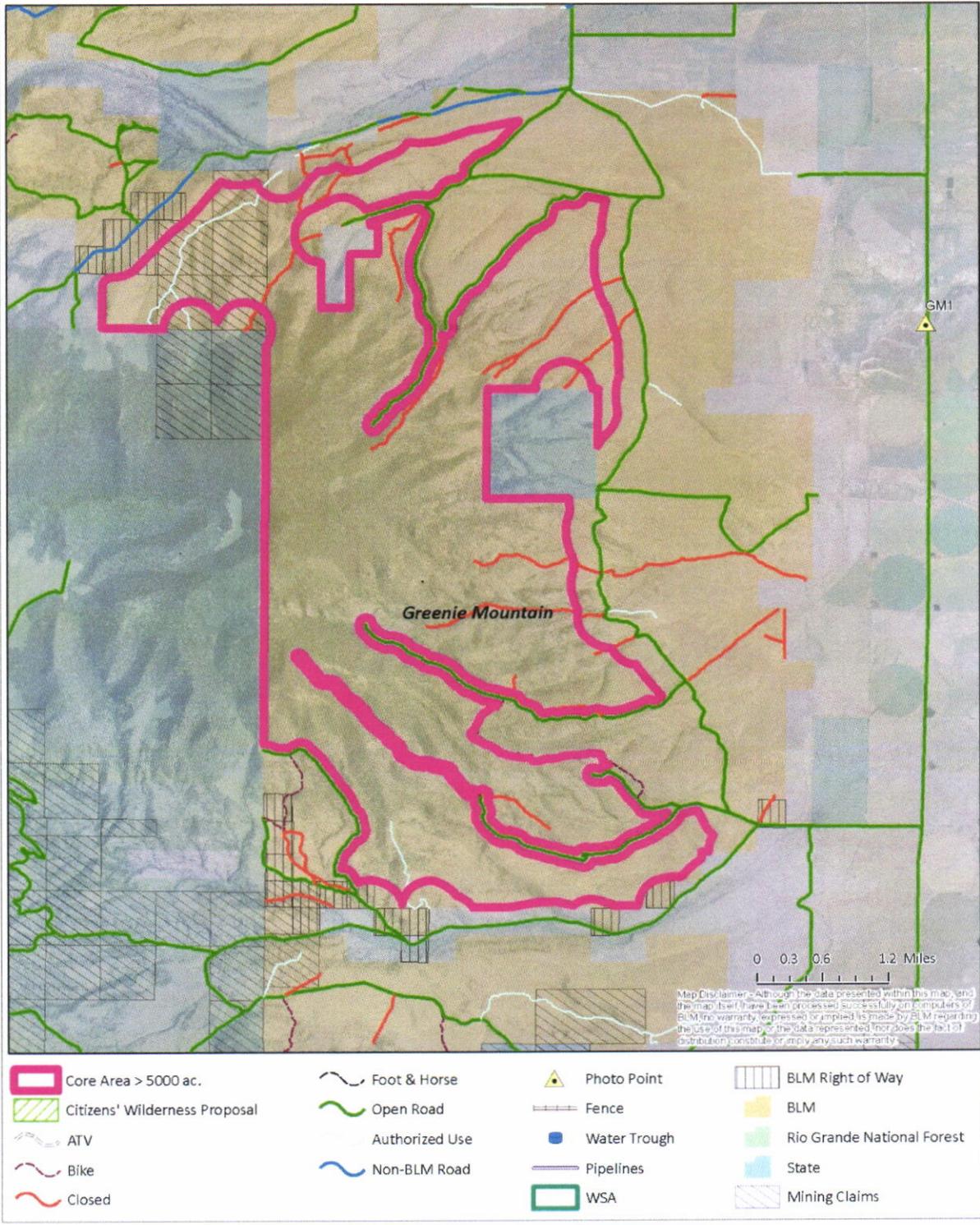


Figure 6 – Greenie Mountain

GREENIE MOUNTAIN

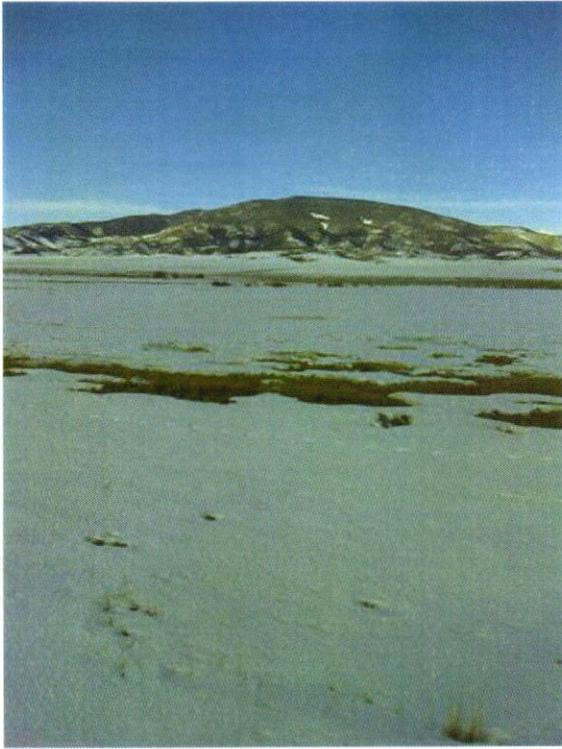


Photo Point GMI – From E Hwy 15 Looking W to Greenie Mountain

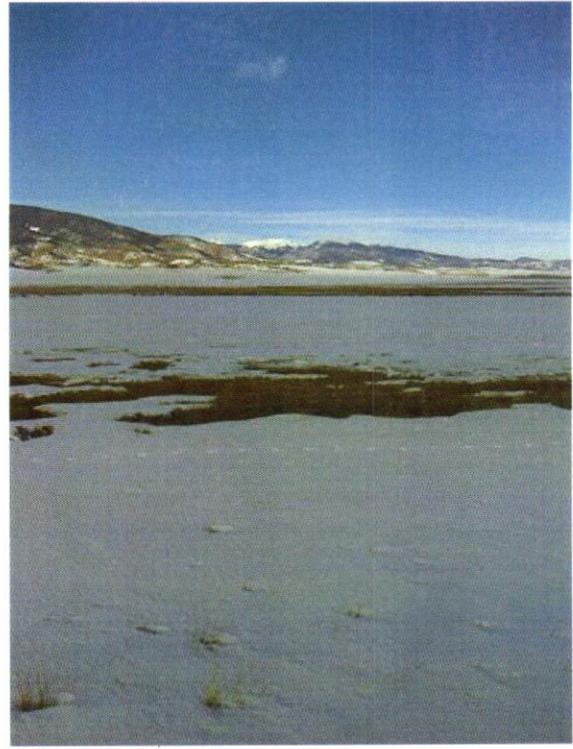


Photo Point GMI – From E Hwy 15 Looking NW

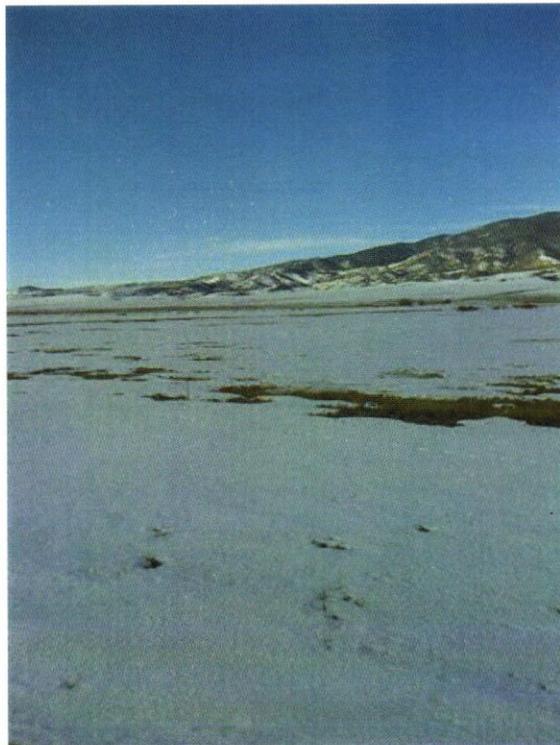


Photo Point GMI – From E Hwy 15 Looking SW

**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: Greenie Mountain

Acreage: 11,011

(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 Greenie Mountain inventory area is located entirely on BLM lands west of the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge and approximately 6 miles SSW of the City of Monte Vista. It is bordered by Rio Grande County Road 28 on the north and northwest and by a mixture of private, BLM and State lands. The unit is bordered on the west by National Forest System lands, Rio Grande County Road 250 and private lands on the south, and BLM lands and one State section on the east. There are 3 active grazing leases, 3 Rights-Of-Way (one is pending), and 5 mining claims in the Greenie 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 Greenie Mountain unit is located entirely on BLM lands. At its northeastern most tip, the Greenie Mountain unit is located about 6 mi south of the town of Monte Vista, which is located at the junction of Colorado Highway 15 and US Highway 285 in Rio Grande County, CO. Access to the unit is readily available via 2 county roads from nearby Colorado Highway 15 and subsequent BLM open system roads.

Greenie Mountain is a large inventory unit typified by open, relatively flat, terrain approaching Greenie Mountain proper, which is a prominent, forested hillside (see photos). Lands within the Greenie Mountain unit are classified primarily as Inter-Mountain Basins Semi-Desert Shrub Steppe, Inter-Mountain Basins Semi-Desert Grassland, Southern Rocky Mountain Piñon-Juniper Woodland, and Rocky Mountain Dry-Mesic and Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland.

The principal human activities and imprints of man within the Greenie Mountain unit 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. Increasingly, however, the unit is substantially (if not primarily) used for mountain biking (one of the fastest growing sports world-wide) and the BLM is currently analyzing citizen proposals for a mechanized, singletrack trail system in this same area. In the upper, forested section of Greenie Mountain, a hydro-axe thinning project was recently conducted in May 2012. Because of its proximity to some of the major population centers of the San Luis Valley (Monte Vista, Alamosa and Del Norte) and US Highways 160 and 285, and the area's popularity with motorized recreationists and hunters, a number of user-created roads noticeably exist across the 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 close proximity to population centers and major highways in the San Luis Valley, as well as increasing popularity among mountain bikers, in addition to more traditional uses of this area (which include driving for pleasure, camping, firewood collecting and hunting), combined with the lowland area's minimal 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. The area's higher, forested elevations offer more screening and a greater sense of solitude; however, at essentially no time is a visitor to this landscape free from the sights, sounds and works of man.

(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 Greenie Mountain unit is currently a toss-up between motorized and mechanized uses. Primary activities include driving for pleasure, mountain biking, hunting, firewood collecting, and camping. There are several mechanized trails and a relatively high road density within the unit.

(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: Greenie Mountain

Results of analysis:

Of the 11,011 acres analyzed, 0 acres have wilderness characteristics.

The Greenie Mountain unit is characterized in the lowlands by open, uniform terrain that lacks topographic and vegetative diversity or relief and has numerous system and user-created roads throughout, as well as range improvements for livestock operations. The forested uplands of the unit are easily accessible by motorized vehicle and heavily utilized by mountain bikers, OHV enthusiasts, hunters and firewood collectors, among others. It could be argued that the unit is not sufficiently natural to warrant wilderness character suitability, however, the lack of 'outstanding' opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation decisively prevent this unit from possessing wilderness characteristics.

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 Archibut

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.**

Mogote North

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Unit

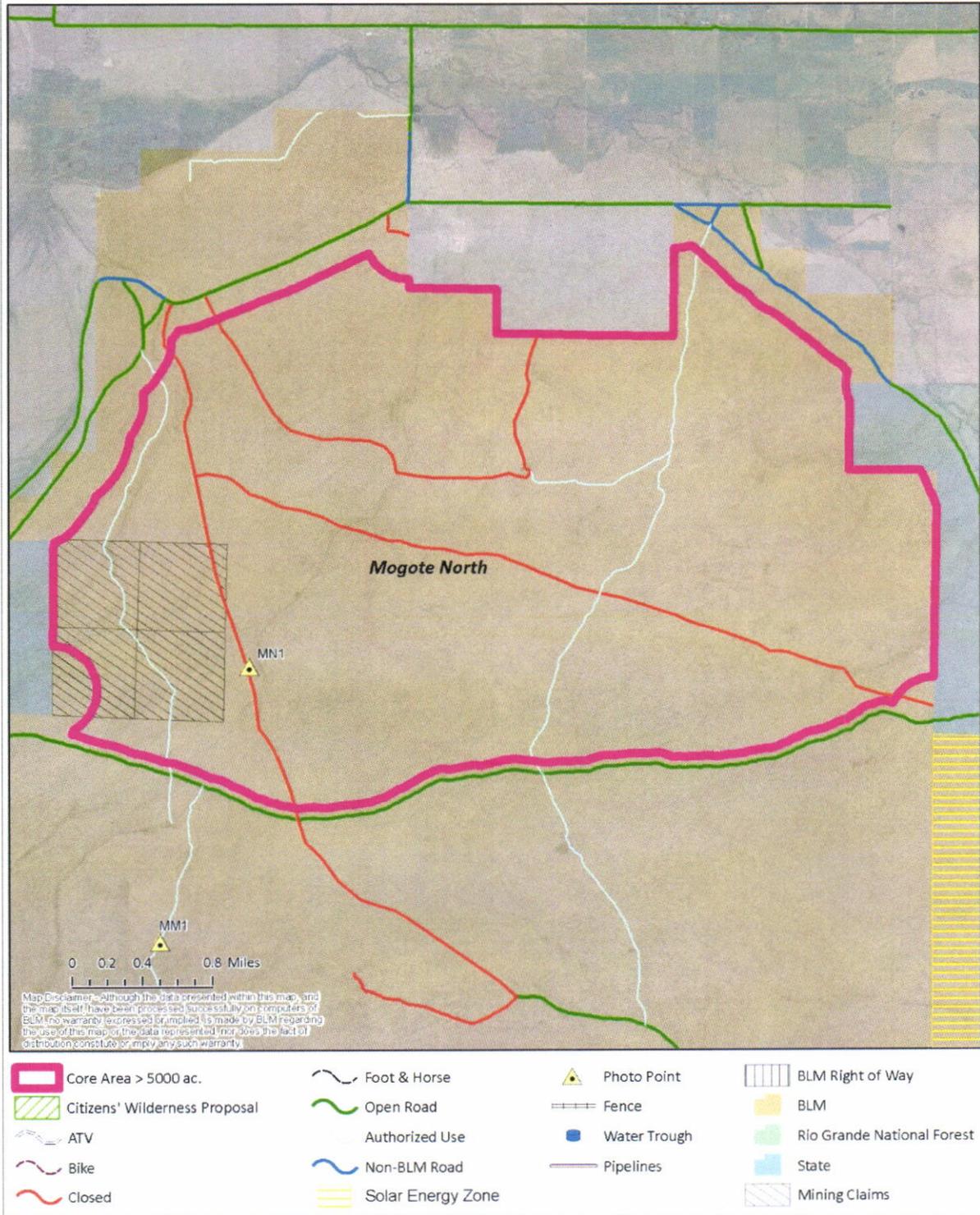


Figure 7 – Mogote North

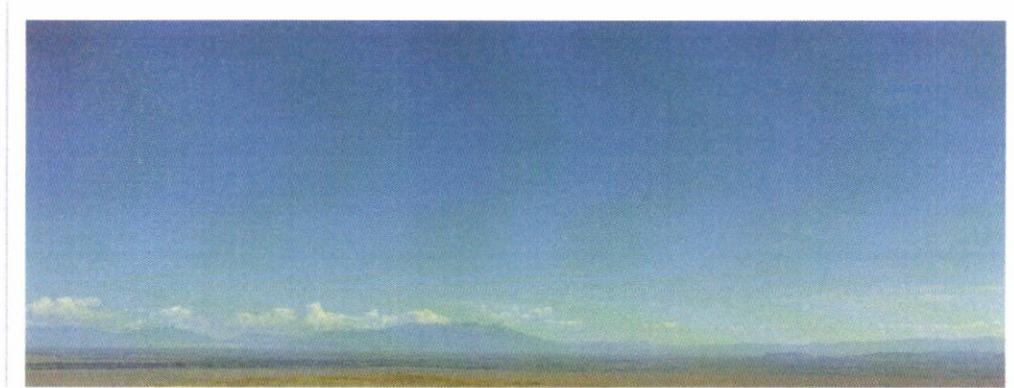
MOGOTE NORTH

Photo Point MNI – From W Looking NW Toward Blanca Peak

**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 **Yes** _____ (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 North

Acreage: 7,563

(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 North inventory area is located entirely on BLM lands south of the community of Capulin in a landscape-level area generally referred to as 'Los Mogotes.' It is bordered on the north and west by private lands, BLM system road 5055 and a portion of a section of State land, on the north and east by Conejos County Road 12 and a parcel of State land, and on the south by BLM system road 5059. There is one active grazing lease and 4 mining claims in the Mogote North 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):

At its northernmost tip, the Mogote North unit is located about one mile south of the town of Capulin, which is located at the junction of Conejos County Road 8 and Colorado Highway 15 in Conejos County, CO. Mogote North is generally surrounded on all sides except the south by private lands that have mostly been developed for irrigated agriculture. Home sites are also scattered throughout the adjacent area. 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 illegal trash dumps exist primarily along the northern part of the area, related to the proximity of the town of Capulin and its outliers. 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 North 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 North

Results of analysis:

Of the 7,563 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):

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 Schultz 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.**

Mogote Middle

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Unit

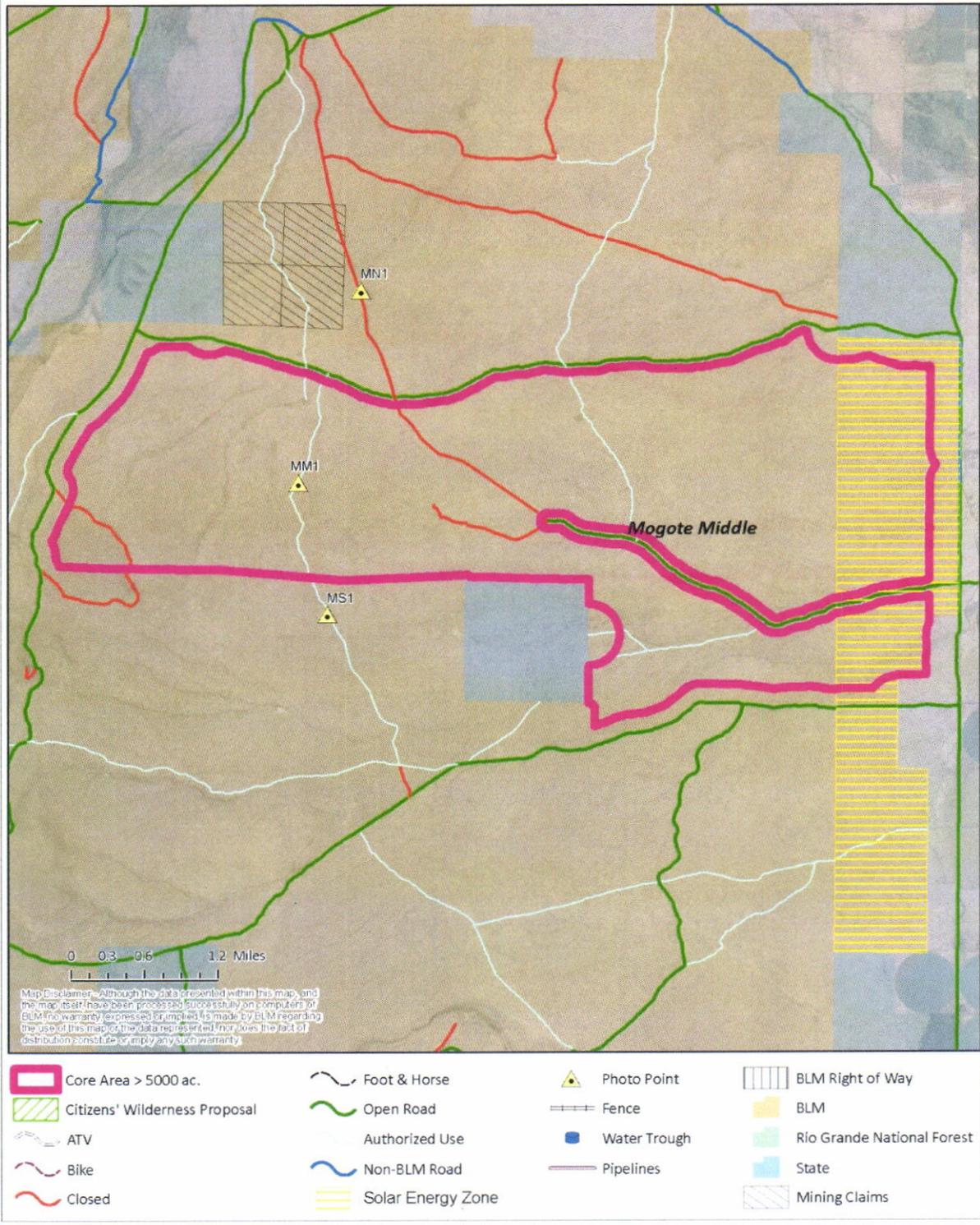


Figure 8 – Mogote Middle

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):

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 Aubert 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.**

Mogote South

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Unit

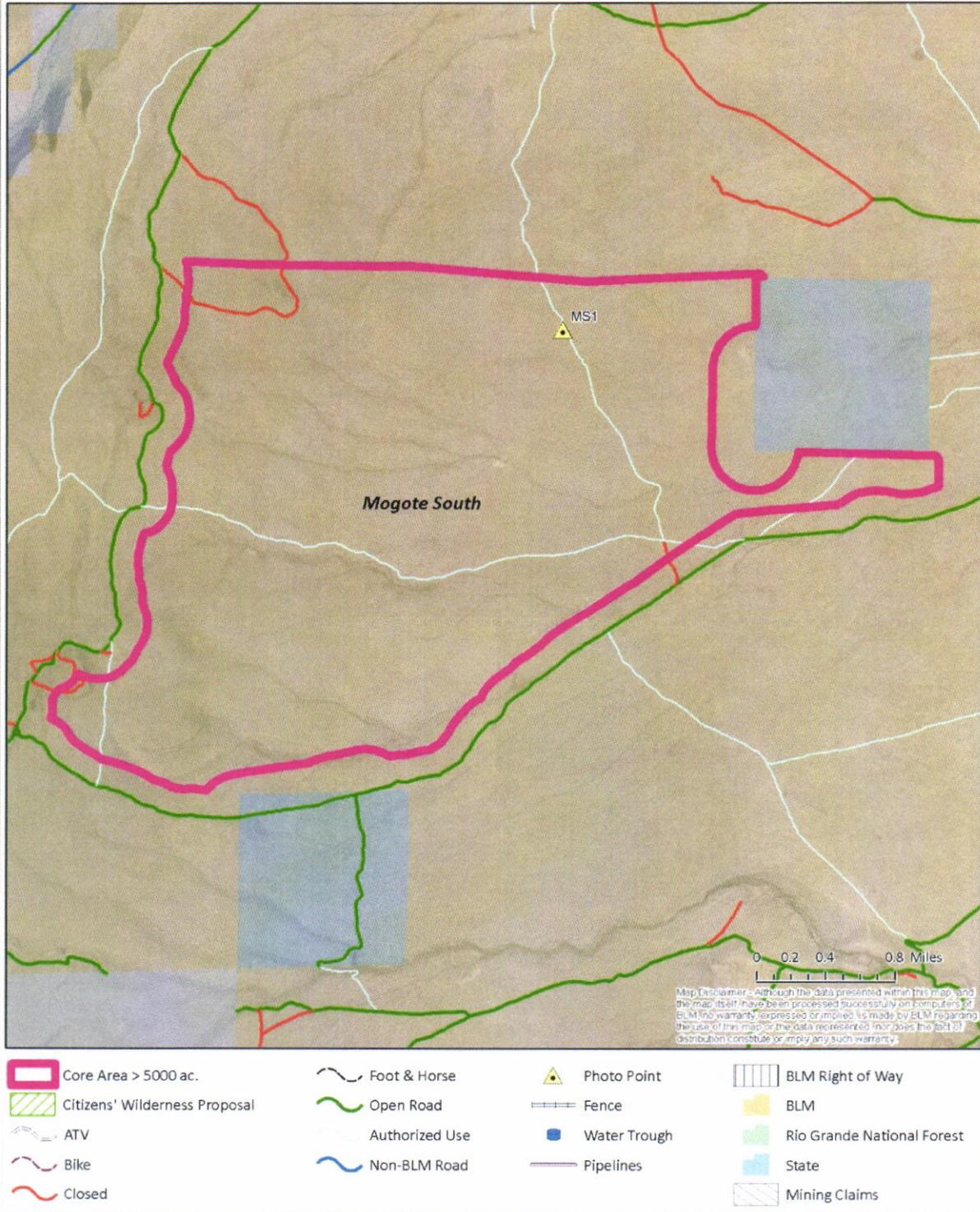


Figure 9 – Mogote South

MOGOTE SOUTH

Photo Point MSI – From N Looking S Towards San Antonio 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: Mogote South

Acreage: 5,503

(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 South inventory area is located entirely on BLM lands west of the community of Romeo in a landscape-level area generally referred to as 'Los Mogotes.' It is bordered on all sides by BLM lands, as well as a section of State land on the southernmost portion of the unit and a section of State land on the northeast corner of the unit. The unit boundaries are encompassed by the administrative boundary of the Los Mogotes Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) on the north, BLM system road 5055 on the west, south and east. There are 4 active grazing leases in the Mogote South 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 South unit is entirely BLM and is also located entirely within the Los Mogotes ACEC, which was established for critical winter and birthing habitat for big game and special status plant species. Several small towns (Capulin, Romeo, Conejos, etc.) and their associated rural communities surround the BLM on the north, east and south sides of the Mogotes. The Mogote South unit is located in the very middle of the larger Mogote landscape and somewhat equidistant to all of those communities. Access to the Mogote South unit is readily available via county roads from Colorado Highway 15 in the north, U.S. Highway 285 to the east, Colorado Highway 17 to the south 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. 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 South 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 South

Results of analysis:

Of the 5,503 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):

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 Asholt

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.**

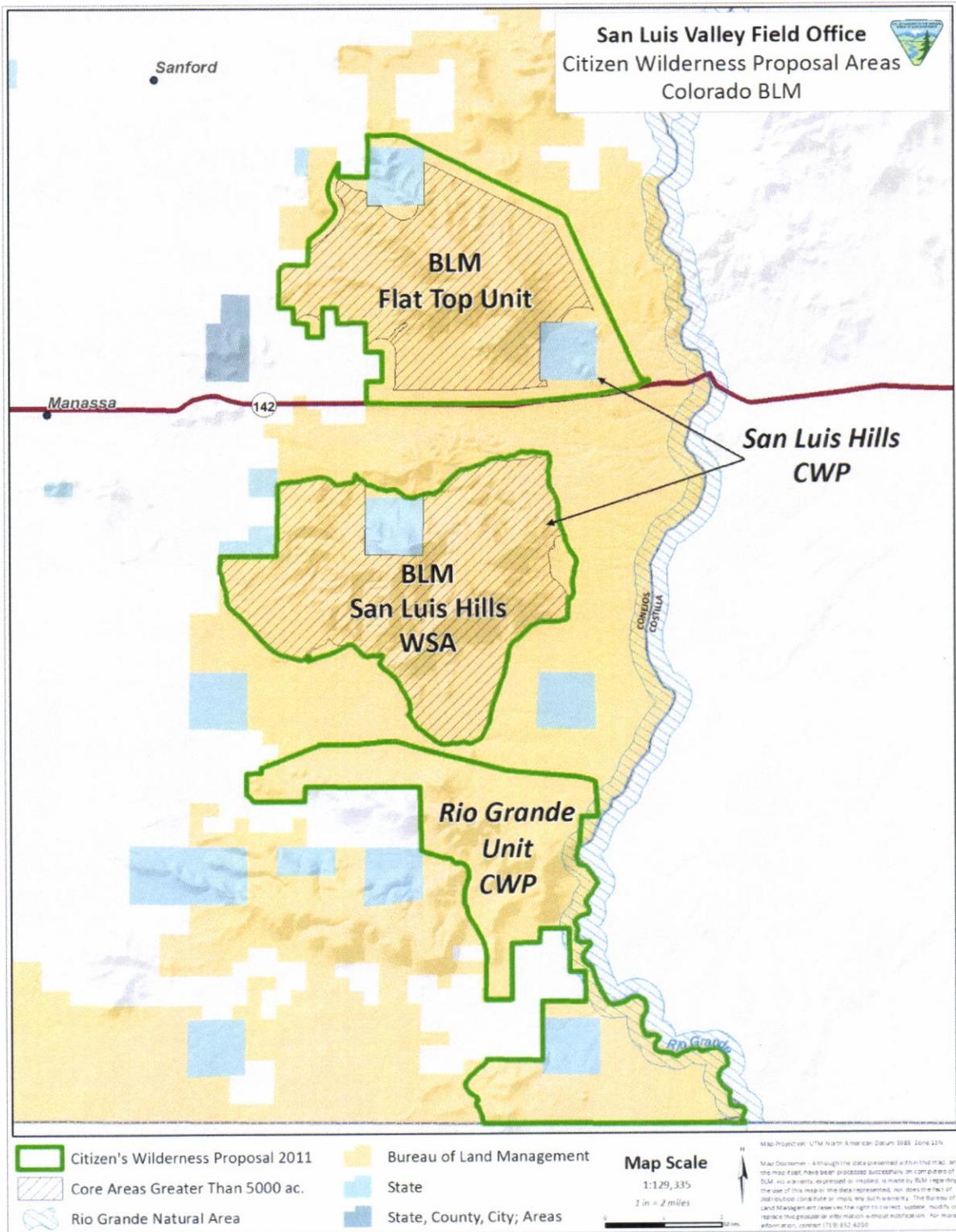


Figure 10 – Citizen Wilderness Proposal Areas

Flat Top

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Unit

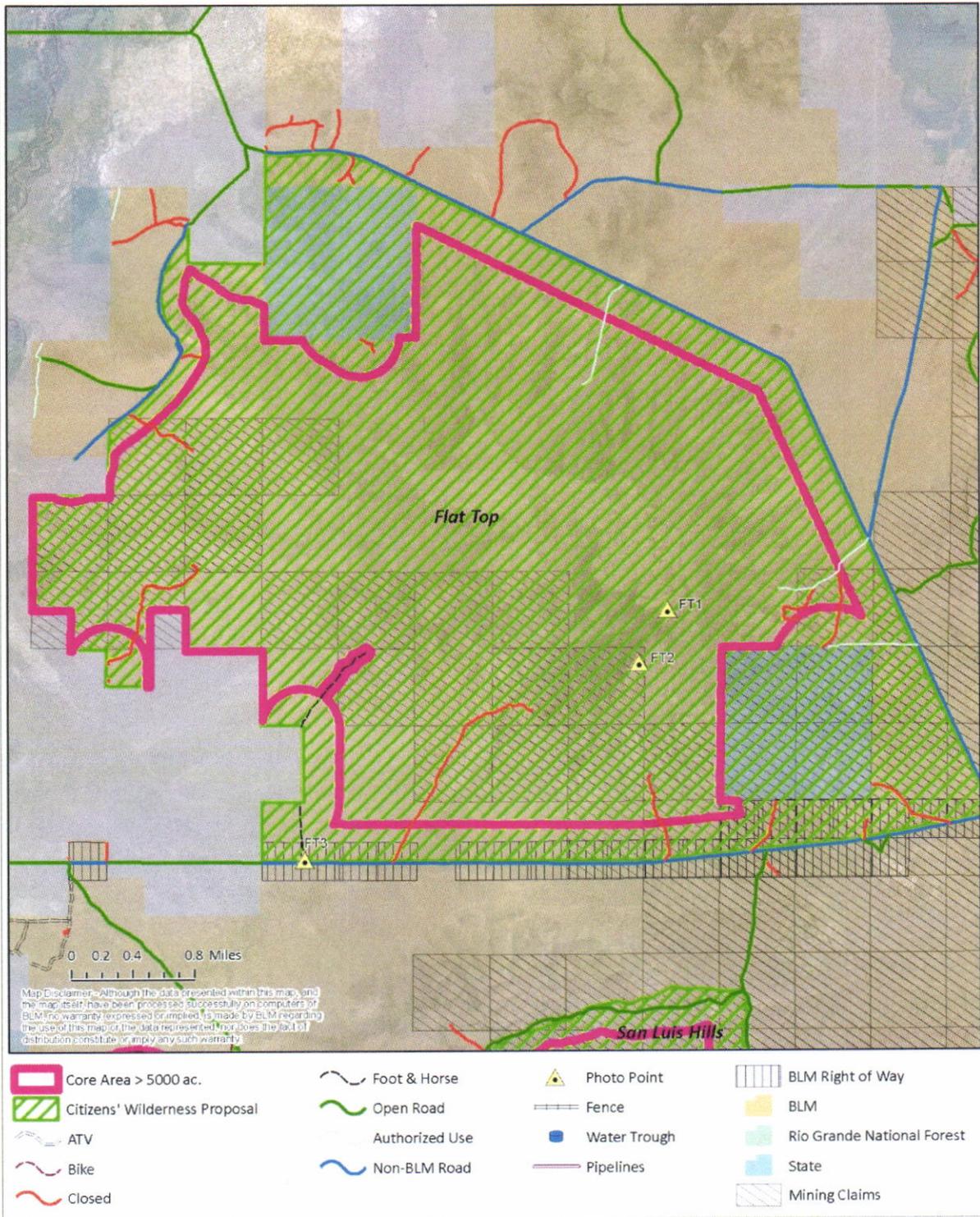


Figure 11 – Flat Top

FLAT TOP

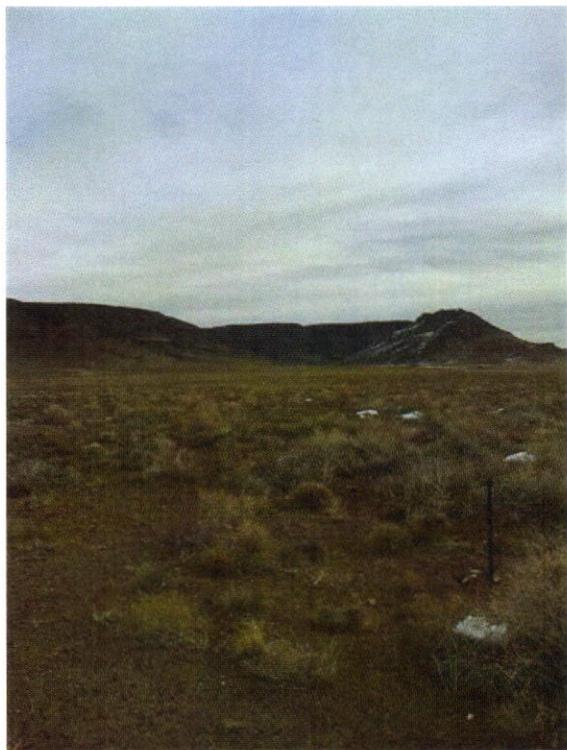


Photo Point FT3 – From SW Hwy 142 Looking NE

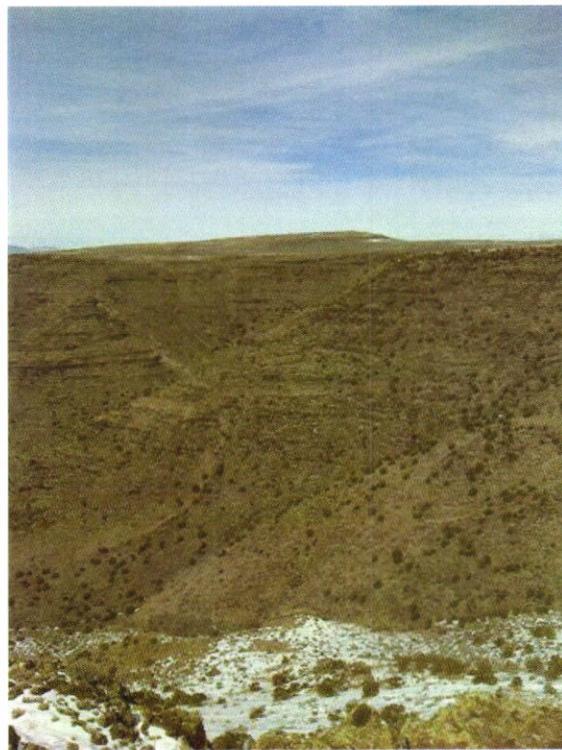


Photo Point FT2 – From SE Mesa Top Looking W

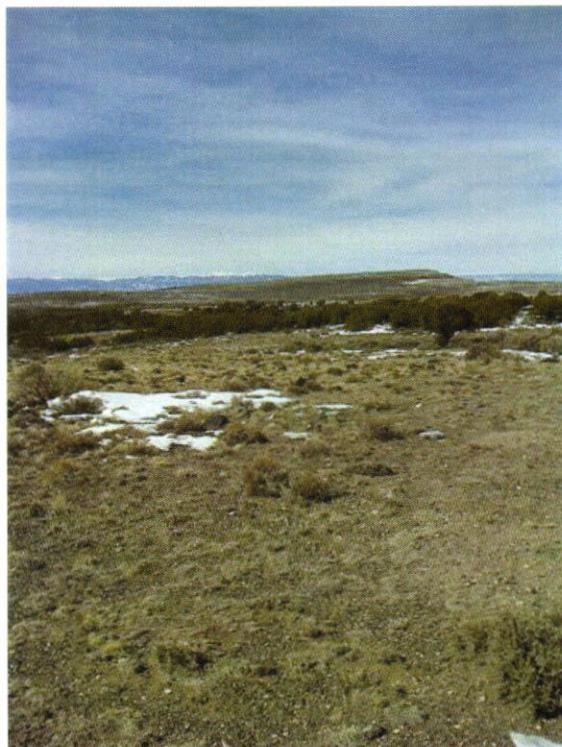


Photo Point FT1 – View of Mesa Top Looking WSW

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 **X** (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas):

a) **Inventory Source:** 1980 BLM Colorado Intensive Wilderness Inventory

b) **Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s):** Flat Top CO-050-140

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** Flat Top, p.322 1980 Inventory

d) **BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):** Cañon City District, San Luis Resource Area

(2) BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

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):

Inventory Source: 1980 BLM Colorado Intensive Wilderness Inventory.

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
CO-050-140	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

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

Area Unique Identifier: Flat Top CO-050-140

Acreage: 8,080 (includes nearly all BLM lands in the Colorado Wilderness Network proposal (Colorado's Canyon Country Wilderness Proposal), primarily excluding 2 sections of State land included in the Citizen Wilderness Proposal not analyzed by BLM.

(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.):

Same as the original 1980 inventory, with the following exceptions: there are now 3 active grazing leases instead of 1, 1 Right-Of-Way, and there are precisely 17 mining claims.

(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):

Same as the original 1980 inventory, with the following exception: the 2012 re-evaluation of the Flat Top unit identified discrepancies in the naturalness of the area compared to the 1980 inventory’s assessment, due to the obvious and noticeable removal of essentially all Rocky Mountain Juniper trees mostly from the first half of the last century. This was common practice in many other areas of the San Luis Valley at that time, especially related to fencing, many of which still stand to this day. During a thorough search conducted during the inventory, the evaluation team found only one small juniper hidden from plain view that managed to escape. In that sense, it is inaccurate to portray the area as a Piñon-Juniper vegetative type, when only Piñon trees exist there. The stumps of harvested trees are common throughout the unit and represent a fairly significant imprint of man. From a distance, though, the stumps are essentially unnoticeable.

(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):

Same as the original 1980 inventory.

(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):

Same as the original 1980 inventory.

(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: Flat Top CO-050-140

Results of analysis:

Of the 8,080 acres analyzed, 0 acres have wilderness characteristics.

The Flat Top unit was originally evaluated in the 1980 BLM Colorado Intensive Wilderness Inventory and was not found to possess wilderness characteristics at that time. BLM re-evaluated this area in 2012 because it met the criteria as a core roadless area of 5,000 acres or greater, and also because the unit was included as part of a citizen's wilderness proposal. The evaluation team and consultants concurred with BLM's original findings from the 1980 inventory, which found the unit to not possess wilderness characteristics.

The 2012 re-evaluation characterizes the Flat Top unit as a sparsely vegetated mesa flanked on all sides by open, uniform terrain transitioning to fairly steep slopes that lead to the flat mesa top. The unit's lack of sufficient topographic and vegetative diversity, and proximity to the sights and sounds of man relative to Colorado Highway 142, prevent the area's solitude or primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities from being considered 'outstanding'. Additionally, the noticeable removal of essentially all Rocky Mountain Juniper trees from the first half of the last century represents an obvious imprint of man and raises doubts about the naturalness of the unit as well.

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 Ahlert

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.**

San Luis Hills

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Unit

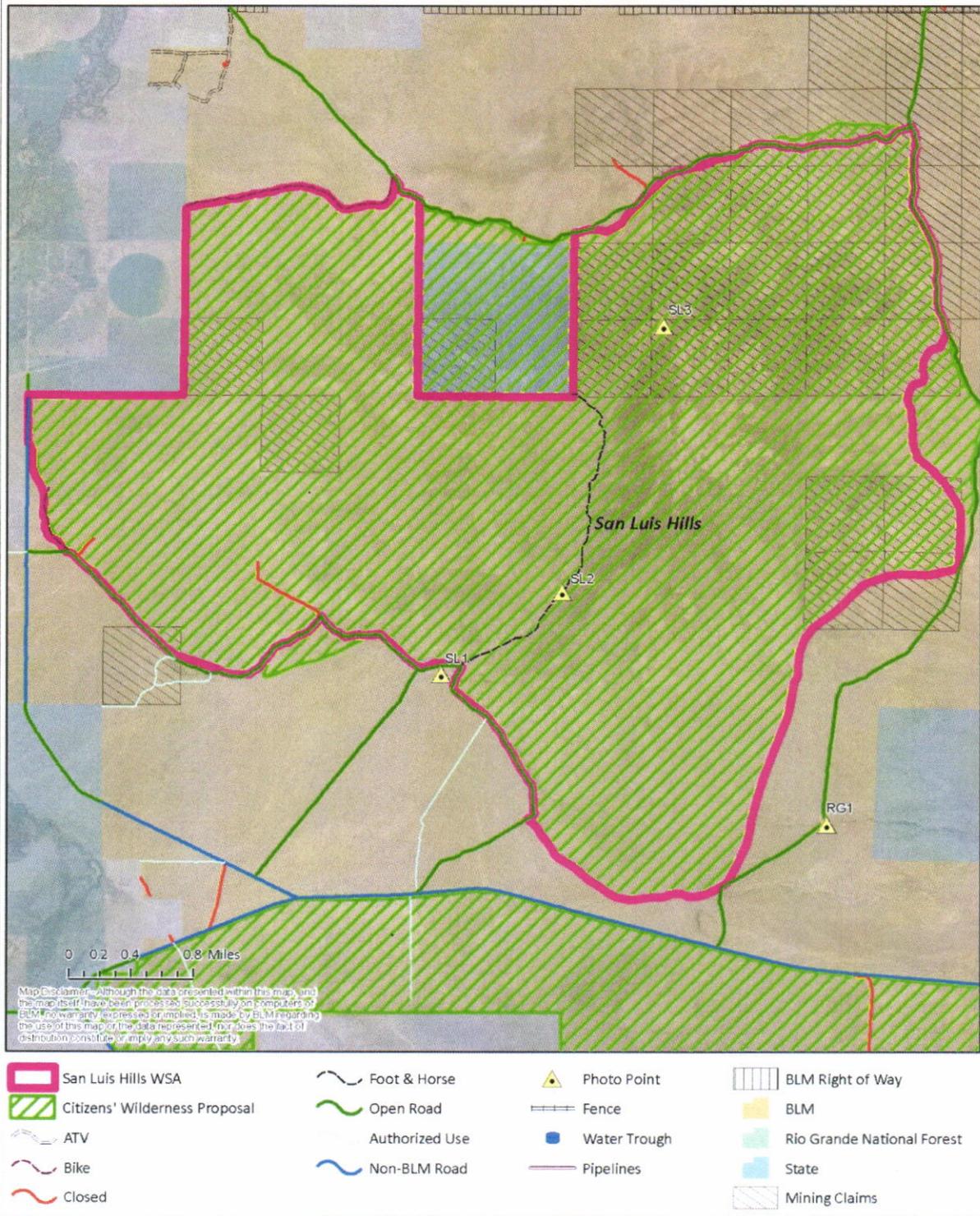


Figure 32 – San Luis Hills

SAN LUIS HILLS



Photo Point SL3 – From N Looking SE
Toward Sangre de Cristo Range



Photo Point SL1 – From S Looking E

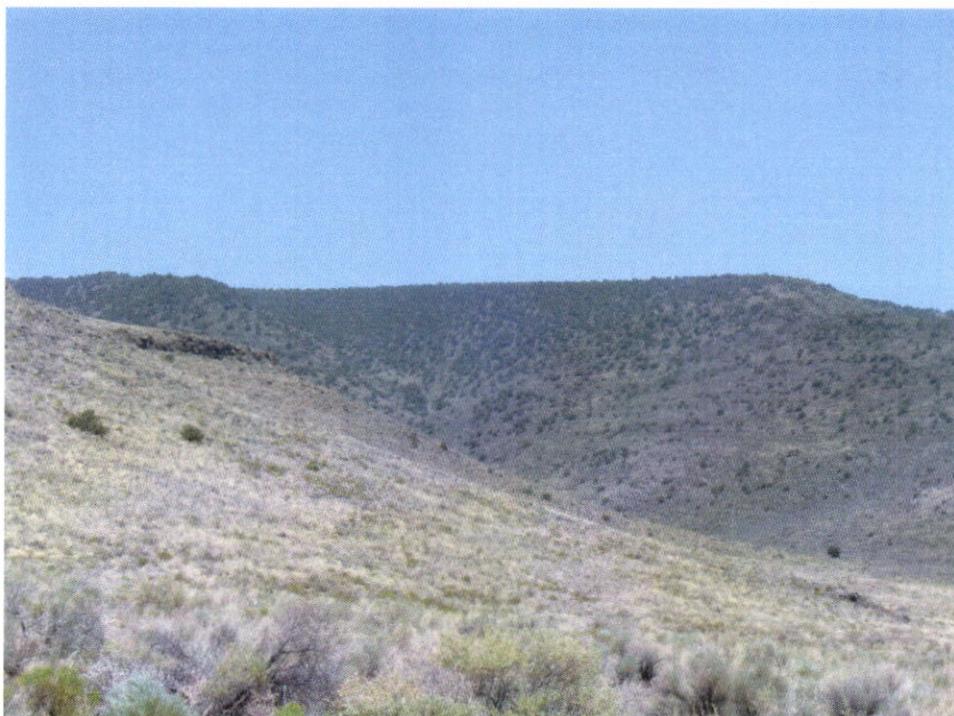


Photo Point SL2 – From S Looking N

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** **X** (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas):

a) Inventory Source: 1980 BLM Colorado Intensive Wilderness Inventory

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): San Luis Hills CO-050-141

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): San Luis Hills, p.308 1980 Inventory

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Cañon City District, San Luis Resource Area

(2) BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

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):

Inventory Source: 1980 BLM Colorado Intensive Wilderness Inventory.

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
CO-050-141	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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

Area Unique Identifier: San Luis Hills CO-050-141

Acreage: 10,784 (represents the existing San Luis Hills WSA, which includes nearly all BLM lands in the Colorado Wilderness Network proposal (Colorado’s Canyon Country Wilderness Proposal), and primarily excludes a section of State land included in the Citizen Wilderness Proposal not analyzed by BLM.

(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.):

Same as the original 1980 inventory.

(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):

Same as the original 1980 inventory.

(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):

Same as the original 1980 inventory.

(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):

Same as the original 1980 inventory.

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

Yes No N/A

Description:

Same as the original 1980 inventory.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS*

Area Unique Identifier: San Luis Hills CO-050-141

Results of analysis:

Of the 10,784 acres analyzed, 10,784 acres have wilderness characteristics.

The San Luis Hills unit was originally evaluated in the 1980 BLM Colorado Intensive Wilderness Inventory and was found to possess wilderness characteristics at that time and was recommended as a Wilderness Study Area, which it remains to this day. BLM manages and monitors to preserve the wilderness character of the San Luis Hills WSA in accordance with the Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review (H-8550-1), until Congress either designates the WSA as wilderness or releases it for other uses.

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 Schubert Title: Field Manager

Date: 3 July 2012

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Rio Grande CWP

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Unit

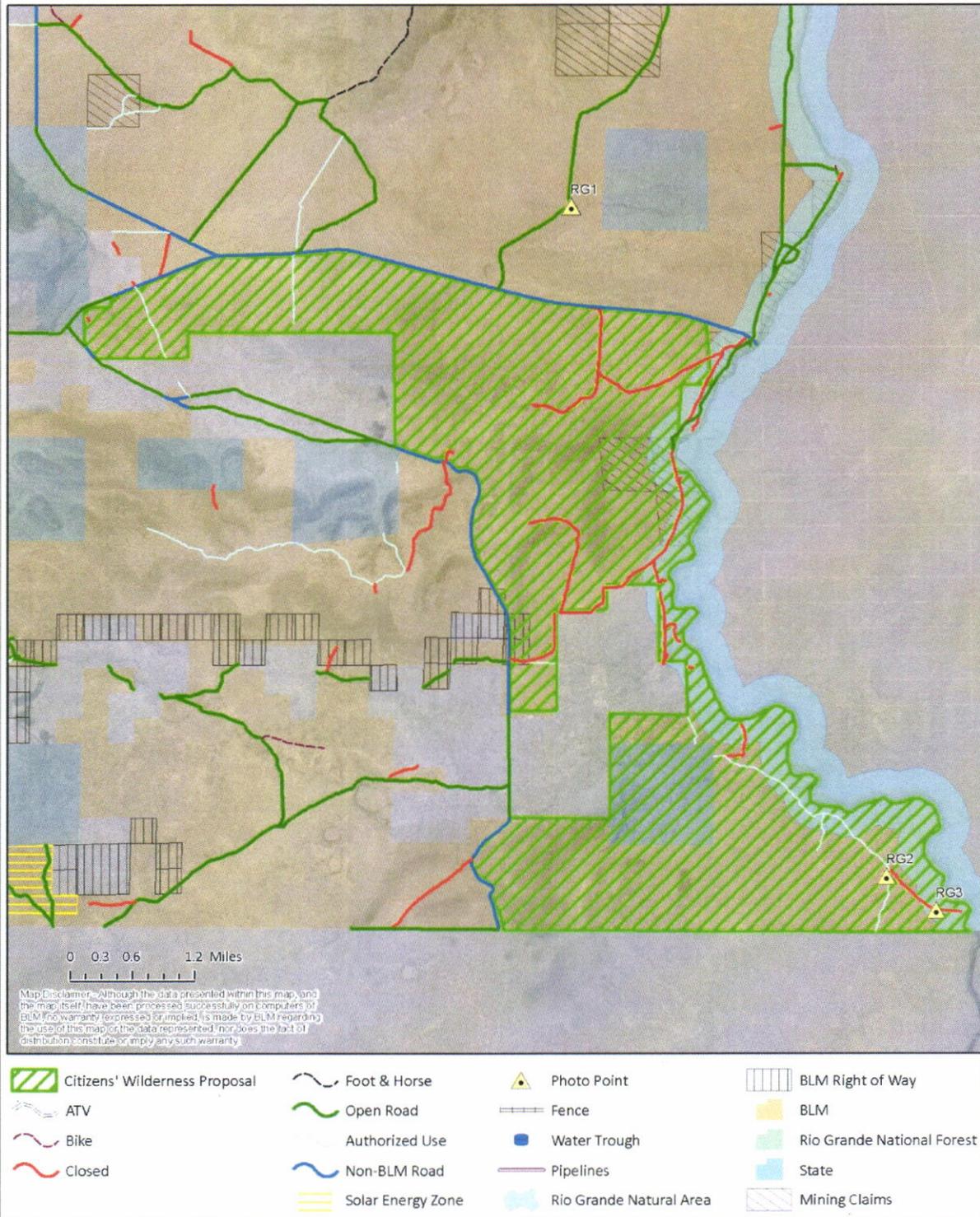


Figure 13 – Rio Grande

RIO GRANDE



Photo Point RG1 – From the N Side of Proposed Area Looking SE



Photo Point RG1 – From the N Side of Proposed Area Looking S

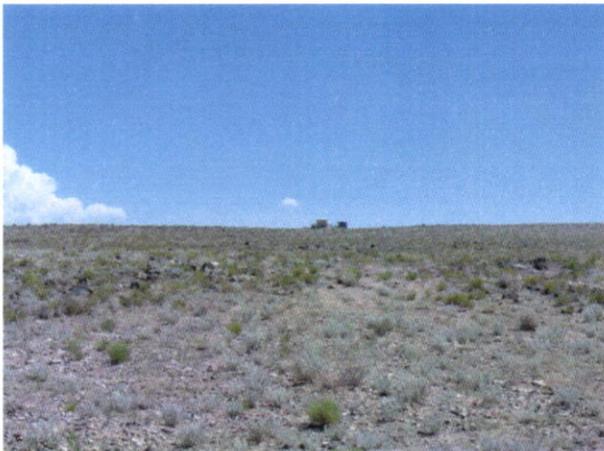


Photo Point RG2 – From the SE Side of Proposed Area Looking S



Photo Point RG3 – From the SE Side of Proposed Area Looking W

**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):

a) Inventory Source: 1980 BLM Colorado Intensive Wilderness Inventory

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): Twin Peaks CO-050-142

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Twin Peaks, p.326 1980 Inventory

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Cañon City District, San Luis Resource Area

(2) BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

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):

Inventory Source: 1980 BLM Colorado Intensive Wilderness Inventory.

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
CO-050-140	Yes	No	No	No	No

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

Area Unique Identifier: Rio Grande (Twin Peaks CO-050-142)

Acreage: 10,242. Proposed Area = 10,877 acres (includes BLM lands in the Colorado Wilderness Network proposal (Colorado's Canyon Country Wilderness Proposal) beyond the original acreage of the Twin Peaks Wilderness Inventory from 1980) plus one section of State land dropped from analysis.

(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.):

While the proposed area is well within the size requirement to consider for wilderness character, it is not located within any area that BLM recognizes as 'roadless' containing 5,000 acres or more (see overview map above). Furthermore, the proposed area actually consists of 2 parcels; a north and south parcel divided in the middle by lands that are located in the already congressionally-designated Rio Grande Natural Area. The proposed area also includes a section of State land within it not analyzed by BLM.

The Rio Grande inventory area is located on BLM lands (and one section of State land dropped from analysis) immediately west of the Rio Grande Natural Area from approximately the Lobatos bridge to the New Mexico border on the east, Conejos County Road G on the north, Conejos County Road F on the west (omitting private lands) and the New Mexico State line on the south. There are 5 active grazing leases and 3 mining claims in the Rio Grande 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):

Besides not being located in an area that BLM recognizes as roadless containing 5,000 acres or more, the original assessment of naturalness by BLM in the 1980 Intensive Wilderness Inventory for the Twin Peaks unit (southern half of proposed area) remains valid in 2012. The north half of the proposed area can be considered unexceptional and lacks suitable topography and vegetation to warrant consideration as having 'outstanding' opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Substantial imprints of man are also present in the northern half of the proposed unit, including range improvements and the scars of past mining activities, as well as numerous user-created roads.

(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):

(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):

(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: Rio Grande (Twin Peaks CO-050-142)

Results of analysis:

Of the 10,242 acres analyzed, 0 acres have wilderness characteristics.

The Twin Peaks unit (southern half of the Rio Grande citizen's proposed unit) was originally evaluated in the 1980 BLM Colorado Intensive Wilderness Inventory and was not found to possess wilderness characteristics at that time. BLM re-evaluated this area in 2012 as part of a citizen's wilderness proposal. The evaluation team and consultants concurred with BLM's original findings from the 1980 inventory (as well as similar findings for the northern half of the proposed area), which found the unit to not possess wilderness characteristics.

The 2012 re-evaluation characterizes the Rio Grande unit as a sparsely vegetated area upland from the Rio Grande river that lacks sufficient naturalness, lacks the topographic and vegetative diversity necessary to attain outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, and is located outside of any area that BLM recognizes as being roadless and containing at least 5,000 acres.

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 Schubert

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.**

San Luis Valley Field Office
Citizen Wilderness Proposal Areas
Colorado BLM



Sanford

Manassa

142

BLM
Flat Top Unit

San Luis Hills
CWP

BLM
San Luis Hills
WSA

Rio Grande
Unit
CWP

CONEJOS
 COSTILLA

Rio Grande

Citizen's Wilderness Proposal 2011

Core Areas Greater Than 5000 ac.

Rio Grande Natural Area

Bureau of Land Management

State

State, County, City; Areas

Map Scale

1:129,335

1 in = 2 miles



Map Projection: UTM North American Datum 1983, Zone 13N

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