Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Process
BLM-White River Field Office

In December of 2010, the WRFO began the process of identifying and inventorying potential lands with wilderness characteristics within its administrative boundaries. BLM Manual 6310-Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands, provided guidance throughout the inventory process. The first step in this process was to conduct a GIS analysis to identify 5,000 acre roadless parcels. The six WSAs in the Planning Area were removed from this analysis as they are managed under the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS). The identification of the 5,000 acre parcels was accomplished by running a query using all roads within WRFO as polygon boundaries. All the polygons created by road boundaries were then queried to identify those that were a minimum of 5,000 acres or greater. Those polygons greater than 5,000 acres in size were identified for refined analysis.

The refined analysis was accomplished by visually comparing the remaining individual polygons with aerial imagery, as well as oil and gas, pipeline, power line, transportation and roads layers to determine if they meet other minimum standards for lands with wilderness characteristics. They were also examined as to whether or not they could be modified (reduced in size) and still meet the minimum standard or were adjacent to a WSA. This process was conducted by WRFO staff with extensive on-the-ground local knowledge of the resource area to aid in verifying the suitability of individual polygons to be considered as lands with wilderness characteristics.

There were three separate LWC inventories efforts completed in 2011, 2012, and 2013 resulting in a complete comprehensive inventory for lands with wilderness characteristics in the BLM WRFO. These three efforts include the 2011 LWC inventory as a result of a court settlement related to the 2008 Oil Shale and Tar Sands Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) ROD, the 2012 LWC inventory as part of the TransWest Express (TWE) and Energy Gateway South (EGS) EIS projects, and the 2013 LWC inventory to complete inventories for any remaining un-inventoried areas, and therefore provide a comprehensive inventory for the field office. Interdisciplinary teams were assembled and appointed the task of conducting the inventories. The ID teams were composed of a mix of resource specialists representing a range of subject area expertise. The general results and determinations of the three inventory efforts are described in more detail in the following attachments.