



Lands with Wilderness Characteristics: Polygon 35



June 2013

Form 1: Document Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings on Record

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

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

Inventory Source: _____
 Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): _____
 Map Name(s)/Number(s): _____
 BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): _____

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

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

(add rows as needed)

Form 2: Current Conditions: Presence Or Absence Of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier CO-110-35 Acreage 8,213
(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

1. Is the area of sufficient size? (If area meets an exception to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception):

Yes No (If "no" is checked, the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions)

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

LWC Polygon 35 has two separate polygons, located adjacent to Oil Spring Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA), both referred to as LWC Polygon 35. The larger of the two polygons is located northeast of Oil Spring Mountain Wilderness Study Area. This polygon is bounded by BLM Road 1211 on the south which also serves as the WSA northern boundary. This road is receiving regular use on the western side for the first 1-2 miles but is deteriorated and naturalized after this area, and does not connect through to BLM Road 1063. Therefore, this LWC polygon is contiguous with the WSA. The east boundary is BLM Road 1064 with some oil and gas development west of Texas Mountain, was removed from the LWC polygon due to lack of naturalness and Wilderness Inventory Roads leading to the oil and gas well pads. The northern boundary is made up of BLM Road 1064 and Rio Blanco County Road 109 (Missouri Creek). The other smaller polygon is located on the southwest side of Oil Spring Mountain WSA which forms the northwest boundary of this polygon. The southwest border is formed by BLM Road 1062 (Missouri Creek).

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No NA (If "no" is checked, the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions)

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

Based on new information provided to the White River Field Office that meets the minimum standard for review as defined in BLM Manual 6310, LWC Polygon 35 (Wild Rose) was evaluated using aerial photography, staff knowledge of the area, the Oil Spring Mountain WSA inventories, and GIS maps. Based on this information LWC Polygon 35 was found to be primarily affected by the forces of nature. Signs of human-made features which are substantially unnoticeable include minor range improvements such as spring developments, reclaimed roads and oil and gas well pads, and sign of camping. Overall, this remote landscape is in a natural condition with a large eastern tributary of the South Fork of Texas Creek forming an incised landscape that appears

entirely nature and is centrally located in this polygon. Many developed roads surround this polygon but do not affect the naturalness within LWC Polygon 35. During June of 2013 a lightning-caused wildfire called the Wild Rose Fire burned over 1,000 acres on the west side and down slope from Texas Mountain within LWC polygon 35. Suppression tactics resulted in the area still largely appearing natural after the fire was put out. No impacts to the naturalness of the landscape were identified as needing rehabilitation post fire.

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

Yes No NA (If "no" is checked, the area may still have wilderness characteristics – see question 4)

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

Because of topographic screening, such as the a large eastern tributary of the South Fork of Texas Creek which forms an incised landscape that appears entirely nature and is centrally located in this polygon, opportunities for solitude are readily found in LWC Polygon 35. Through staff experience in this area, encounters with other people seem to be rare throughout the year with some big game hunting encounters possible during the fall months. Largely any visitor to this area will have outstanding opportunities to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people and obtain 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 NA (If "no" is checked, the area may still have wilderness characteristics; if "No" is checked for both questions 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):

Outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation include: hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding along the valley bottoms of the South Fork of Texas Creek, hunting throughout the polygon, camping along some of the relatively flat benches along the South Fork of Texas Creek, and general sightseeing and photography. LWC Polygon 35 not only provides opportunities for these primitive activities but also provides an excellent setting for these experiences. These primitive recreation

opportunities and exceptional settings combined provide and create the outstanding opportunity for these recreational activities in LWC polygon 35.

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

Yes _____ No _____ NA X

Description:

It is unknown at this time full extent and significance of various supplemental values in this polygon. There is a moderate to high density of cultural sites and important habitat for various wildlife in this polygon. Additional inventories and verifications may be needed to fully examine the supplemental values of this polygon.

6. Summary of Analysis to document information that constitutes the inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. This does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision, and does not represent a decision in regard to how the area will be managed or address impacts of management decisions. Explain the inventory findings for the entirety of the inventory unit. When an LWC has been identified that is smaller than the size of the total inventory unit, explain why certain portions of the inventory unit are not included in the LWC (e.g. the inventory found that certain parts lacked naturalness).

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

Check one:

- X The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as land with wilderness characteristics (*all 3 bullets must be answered "yes"*).
- _____ The area does not have wilderness characteristics (*one or more of the bullets is answered "no"*).

7. Prepared by (list team members, titles, date, signatures; add lines as needed):

Evaluator (name/title): Aaron Grimes, Outdoor Recreation Planner Date: June 26, 2013
Evaluator (name/title): _____ Date: _____
Evaluator (name/title): _____ Date: _____

8. Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____