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U.S Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

From BLM Manual 6310 – Conduction Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands
Manual Version 6-129 (03/15/2012)

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness 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 of those areas):

a) Inventory Source: N/A

b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s): N/A

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): N/A

2. BLM Inventory Finds 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: N/A

Area #/Name	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No

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FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Number/Name: White River Unit 002	Acreage: 5,205 acres

(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 ☐

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

Description (describe the boundaries of the area—wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.):
Unit 002 is bounded on the north by private lands (oil fields). A portion of the eastern boundary follows Rio Blanco County Road 25; the remainder is on private lands. The southern boundary is entirely private lands, and the western border is a combination of private lands with a portion on BLM Road 1234 along Whiskey Creek. This road was blocked by a locked gate for oil/gas personnel only. Imagery suggests that few routes enter the unit, but these seem to be used by hunters to access wilderness and would not take away from solitude or naturalness. No routes were surveyed in this 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):

Unit 002 exists in Rio Blanco and Garfield counties directly east of the Colorado/Utah state border. The unit is located in Township 4 South, Range 103 and 104 and West; and Township 5 South, Range 103 West (Ute Meridian). The unit is wholly owned by the BLM with most of the surrounding area as private lands, which posed serious access issues to getting into the unit. The only access point that does not cross private land is a small portion on Rio Blanco County Road 25. This unit has extremely steep topography further limiting easy access into the unit. The topography is high-relief with sandstone cliffs at the base of the unit that slope quickly up toward steep forested slopes and turn to 45-degree-angled ridges at the middle of the unit. Vegetation in

the lower elevations is sage and mixed grasses. As the elevation increases, dense forests covered the unit with spruce and pinyon-juniper. Major human uses observed in the unit include range improvements (cattle ranches) and oil and gas fields to the north.

(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):
Due to limited access and high-relief topography, it is easy to find solitude throughout the unit. Few routes into the unit were able to be seen on aerial imagery, further limiting access into the unit and thus creating ample 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):
Unique rock formations and sweeping, dense high-elevation forests with little to no human activity offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Hunting, camping, hiking, wildlife observation would be the most compelling activities in 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:
The scenic qualities of the unique topographical area add excellent value to the unit. There are also some outstanding geologic values, including the oils and gas fields adjacent to the unit.

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Summary of Analysis

Area Name and/or Number: White River Unit 002

Summary
(Note: explain the inventory findings for the entirety of the inventory unit. When wilderness characteristics have been identified in an area that is smaller than the size of the total inventory unit, explain why certain portions of the inventory unit are not included within the lands with wilderness characteristics (e.g. the inventory found that certain parts lacked naturalness).

Results of analysis:

Unit 002 exists in Rio Blanco and Garfield counties directly east of the Colorado/Utah state border. The unit is located in Township 4 South, Range 103 and 104 and West; and Township 5 South, Range 103 West (Ute Meridian). The unit is wholly owned by the BLM with most of the surrounding area as private lands, which posed serious access issues to getting into the unit. The only access point that does not cross private land is a small portion on Rio Blanco County Road 25. This unit has extremely steep topography further limiting easy access into the unit. The topography is high-relief with sandstone cliffs at the base of the unit that slope quickly up toward steep forested slopes and turn to 45-degree-angled ridges at the middle of the unit. Vegetation in the lower elevations is sage and mixed grasses. As the elevation increases, dense forests covered the unit with spruce and pinyon-juniper. Major human uses observed in the unit include range improvements (cattle ranches) and oil and gas fields to the north.

Survey of this unit found that all 5,205 acres of this unit possessed 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 of 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 Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

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☐ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

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(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by (District of Field Manager):

Name: Kent T. Walk **Title:** FIELD MANAGER

Date: 04/08/2013

Field Office: White River
Unit: 002

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PHOTO LOG

Field Office:	**WHITE RIVER**
Unit:	**002**

COLORADO

U.S Department of the Interior

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From BLM Manual 6310 – Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands

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Date	Photo Name/Frame #:	Photo Direction	UTM	Township	Range	Section
10/23/2012	MP6AWR002_001_SW	SW	12N 4464373.7129N 707275.8598E	TWN004N	RNG100W	Sec.18
10/23/2012	OP6AWR002_001_W	W	12N 4391426.2884N 672224.0582E	TWN005S	RNG103W	Sec.2
10/23/2012	OP6AWR002_002_S	S	12N 4390598.506N 672004.2309E	TWN005S	RNG103W	Sec.2
10/23/2012	OP6AWR002_003_S	S	12N 4387719.1193N 673702.5437E	TWN005S	RNG103W	Sec.17
10/23/2012	OP6AWR002_004_N	N	12N 4393061.4074N 671757.5293E	TWN004S	RNG103W	Sec.33
10/23/2012	OP6AWR002_005_SW	SW	12N 4393002.3103N 671603.2084E	TWN004S	RNG103W	Sec.33
10/23/2012	OP6AWR002_006_SW	SW	12N 4393058.2379N 671478.7702E	TWN004S	RNG103W	Sec.33
10/23/2012	OP6AWR002_007_E	E	12N 4392931.3292N 671535.8794E	TWN004S	RNG103W	Sec.33