

LWC 15-Hammond Draw, July 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 X If yes, and if the area has subunits within the broader area, list the unique identifiers for each of those subunits:

Inventory Source: Transwest EIS (AECOM-contractor)
 Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): CO-110-15
 Map Name(s)/Number(s): _____
 BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): CO NW District- White River FO

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)
CO-110-15	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

(add rows as needed)

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

Area Unique Identifier CO-110-15 Acreage 5,750
 (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 X 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.):

Based on new information provided to the BLM-WRFO that meets the minimum standard for review as defined in BLM Manual 6310, the boundary for LWC polygon 15 (Hammond Draw) was re-evaluated using aerial photography, on-the-ground field work, staff knowledge of the area, and GIS maps. Based on this information, it was determined that the northeast boundary exclude a power line running east/west across the original boundary. The northwest boundary should also exclude the same power line and follow an unnumbered primitive route to remove a portion where naturalness that is affected by the power line, a few unnumbered primitive routes, some signage, and a small area adjacent to State Highway 64. The other change to the northern boundary includes adding a portion of land that that is bounded by a Wilderness Inventory Road and not a primitive route as previously mapped. On the west side of LWC polygon 15 the boundary was modified to follow BLM Road 1038 to a eastern branching unnumbered BLM primitive route south and back to BLM Road 1038 and south to where it meets BLM Road 1100 (Boise Creek). These boundary adjustments better reflect direction in BLM Manual 6310 and incorporate new information to the existing inventory. See attached map for details.

The other wilderness characteristics from the previous LWC inventory for polygon 15 remain unchanged and are still considered valid.

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"*).

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

Evaluator (name/title): **Aaron Grimes, Outdoor Recreation Planner** Date: **July 15, 2013**
Evaluator (name/title): _____ Date: _____
Evaluator (name/title): _____ Date: _____

3. Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: Hunt T. Walter
Title: FIELD MANAGER
Date: 07/16/13



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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 015 Revised Jan 2013	Acreage: 5,120 acres
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(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.):

The western boundary of the unit is an improved unnamed oil and gas pipeline access road; the eastern boundary is an unnamed Wilderness Inventory Road. Both of these roads head south from Colorado Highway 64 outside of Angora, Colorado. The southern boundary is private land owned by Rim Rock Outfitters. The two northern fingers of the unit are unnamed Wilderness Inventory Roads; both are unimproved.

Of 15 routes analyzed, seven were found to meet the definition of a Wilderness Inventory Road. These routes include Routes 01, 05, 06, 08, 09, 10, and 12. Routes 01, 05, 06, 08, and 12 isolate sections of the unit that are all less than 5,000 acres, so these areas are recommended for exclusion from the 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 015 is located in Rio Blanco County northeast of Rangely. The unit is located in Township 1 North, Range 100 West; and Township 2 North, Range 100 West (Ute Meridian). The unit is wholly owned by the BLM with private property surrounding the unit.

Field Office: White River
Unit: 015



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The unit is dominated by high-relief topography with the elevation change trending from high elevation to lower elevation in a southeast/northwest fashion. A series of streams and drainages transect the unit in a similar manner, eventually draining into the White River. High elevations are covered in pinyon-juniper forests; hillsides are very dense at times on the less-steep slopes. The steep slopes are very rocky and do not hold much vegetation. The intermediate plateaus are dominated by sagebrush, mixed medium grasses, and other low-lying brushes. The valley bottoms and stream channels are dominated by mixed grasses and sage.

The entire unit is used for recreational activities, predominately hunting, camping, and hiking (at least five groups were observed), and the many routes offer ample opportunities for game scouting. The area is also heavily used for rangeland improvements. At least twenty stock/berm ponds were observed throughout the unit. Many fence lines were also observed on the eastern portion 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):

The area has outstanding opportunities for solitude with the exception of the areas that were excluded previously. The contrasting topography offers solitude throughout the remainder of the unit and shields the areas from outside human activities.

(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 unique topography allows outstanding opportunities for hunting, camping, hiking, horseback riding, and many other primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities. A network of four-wheel drive roads and trails offers the ability to access these areas to non-motorized users.

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



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Yes No N/A

Description:

The area has distinctive scenic value with a variety of ridges and valleys, dominated by Calamity Ridge to the east. The unique resistant cliff-forming rocks also create a spectacular visual appeal. The area also serves as a wild horse preserve with ecological importance.

Field Office: White River
Unit: 015



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Summary of Analysis

Area Name and/or Number: White River Unit 015

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 015 is located in Rio Blanco County northeast of Rangely. The unit is located in Township 1 North, Range 100 West; and Township 2 North, Range 100 West (Ute Meridian). The unit is wholly owned by the BLM with private property surrounding the unit. The unit is dominated by high-relief topography with the elevation change trending from high elevation to lower elevation in a southeast/northwest fashion. A series of streams and drainages transect the unit in a similar manner, eventually draining into the White River. High elevations are covered in pinyon-juniper forests; hillsides are very dense at times on the less-steep slopes. The steep slopes are very rocky and do not hold much vegetation. The intermediate plateaus are dominated by sagebrush, mixed medium grasses, and other low-lying brushes. The valley bottoms and stream channels are dominated by mixed grasses and sage. The entire unit is used for recreational activities, predominately hunting, camping, and hiking (at least five groups were observed), and the many routes offer ample opportunities for game scouting. The area is also heavily used for rangeland improvements. At least twenty stock/berm ponds were observed throughout the unit. Many fence lines were also observed on the eastern portion of the unit.

While the bulk of this unit appears natural, a significant suite of exceptions exist. Land in the northwest portion of the unit is used for utility maintenance and should be excluded for lack of solitude due to the noise associated with Colorado Highway 64. The same exception applies to the northeastern area where utilities and Highway 64 create a lack of solitude. The central western portion of the unit is excluded since it is separated from the bulk of the unit by a Wilderness Inventory Road created by Routes 05 and 06. This separated piece is less than 5,000 acres. The southern portion of the unit is excluded due to proximity to the oil and gas fields and heavily-traveled boundary road. The boundary for the excluded southern portion was assigned as Route 15, a route lacking the characteristics of a Wilderness Inventory Road

The remaining area of the unit meets the size requirement, at 5,120 acres.



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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).

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

Name	Title	Date
Drew Parker	AECOM GIS Specialist	10/20/2012
Jonathan Price	AECOM GIS Specialist	10/20/2012

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by (District of Field Manager):

Name: *Kent C. Walter* Title: *FIELD MANAGER*

Date: *04/24/13*