



Lands with Wilderness Characteristics: Polygon 20



May 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 **LWC Polygon 20** Acreage **13,676**

(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.):

The southwestern boundary of LWC Polygon 20 is BLM Road 1736. This portion of the border travels between point 18-003 at the intersection of Rio Blanco County (RBC) Road 96 and BLM Road 1736 and the intersection of BLM Roads 1736, 1735, and 1737. From that intersection, the border road turns into BLM Road 1735 which travels to the edge of Kenney Reservoir. From the end of BLM 1735 the eastern border follows the boundary of the reservoir to BLM Road 1738. From BLM 1738 the border travels north and west along the edges of Scullion Gulch and around the Deserado Mine to BLM Road 1739 at point 20-002. From 20-002, BLM Road 1739 acts as the northern border until it intersects RBC Road 96. At point 20-015 the border is "cherry-stemmed" to point 20-010 to accommodate access to a communications tower. The last portion of the northern boundary is comprised of RBC Road 96 until the county road intersects BLM Road 1736 at point 18-003.

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):

To the average visitor, LWC Polygon 20 appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. Signs of past human activity are minimal, consisting mainly of abandoned and deteriorating livestock fences and minimally used, deteriorating BLM roads/vehicle routes. An example of a deteriorating BLM road is BLM 1736 which has become eroded and overgrown; nearly reclaimed by the forces of nature. Another example of a deteriorating vehicle route starts at point 20-007 and continues through points 20-008 and 20-009 down the side of a hill. The route was originally constructed by mechanical means but since has fallen into disrepair to such an extent that it has almost been reclaimed by the forces of nature. Both of the previous examples lie off of the northern boundary of the LWC Polygon with the southern looking north appearing completely affected by the forces of nature. The western portion has several fence lines running through it, primarily along inventory Route 5 (BLM 1736). Given more time, these routes will be reclaimed by the forces of nature and the area will again appear fully natural.

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):

Throughout LWC Polygon 20 high cliff bands and resulting low valleys abound. All of these topographic features provide the opportunity for a person lose themselves in nature and find outstanding solitude. Many unique aspen groves can be found around springs in side canyons throughout the area. There are also dense Pinyon and Juniper forests in the higher elevated sections in the polygon to seclude oneself from the rest of humanity.

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):

The area provides outstanding opportunities for primitive activities such as horseback riding, cross-country hiking and backpacking, rappelling from cliffs, primitive camping, and there’s potential for climbing on boulders and cliffs. The many cliffs and drainages give the area potential to be an excellent area to do one to two day hikes and to camp in beautiful locations. If a wildlife enthusiast should decide to visit the area there would be ample opportunity to view a variety of avian species as well as large game in their chosen environments. LWC Polygon 20 offers many opportunities for primitive recreation in many forms, catering to many demographics of outdoor enthusiasts.

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

Yes No _____ NA _____

Description:

During inventory there were an exceptional amount of raptors spotted with one sighting of an owl. There are unique aspen groves to be found in the bottom of draws where water collects during runoff or where natural springs exist.

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 No _____
- Does the area appear natural? Yes No _____ NA _____

- Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No NA

Check one:

- 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): Brendan Grady, Recreation Intern Date: 05/23/13
 Evaluator (name/title): Clint Mitchel, Recreation Intern Date: 05/23/13
 Evaluator (name/title): _____ Date: _____

8. Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: Thom C. Walter
 Title: FIELD MANAGER
 Date: 06/28/13

Form 3: Route Analysis:

The Route Analysis includes factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. For the purposes of this analysis, use the following definition of a "road". This definition is drawn from and the FLPMA legislative history and historic BLM inventory direction.

Road: An access route which has 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.

- 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, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings.

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **LWC Polygon 20**
 Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: **20-001; Route 1. BLM 1736**

I. LOCATION:

Refer to attached map and BLM corporate data (GIS). List photo point references (where applicable) or reference attached photo log:

Map Title: **LWC Polygon 20**

Map Date: **06/12/2013**

Describe:

BLM 1736 (Coal Rim)

II. ROUTE CONTEXT

The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does provide context for factors on which such a determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by BLM when the need arises.

A. Current Purpose (if any) of Route: (Examples: rangeland/livestock improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), mine site, concentrated use site (camp site), recreation, utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment)).

Describe:

Access to a stock pond from BLM 1737 (Dead Dog Draw) or CR 96 (Blue Mtn East)

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

B.1. Is there a ROW associated with this route?

Yes ___ No ___ Unknown **X**

If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW?

B.2. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?

Yes ___ No ___ Unknown or N/A **X**

Explain:

III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA

A. Is there evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means?

Yes, if either III.A.1 or III.A.2 is checked "yes" below _____

No, if both III.A.1 and III.A.2 are checked "no" below _____

A.1. Construction: Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?

Yes **X** No _____

Examples (partial list):

Paved ___ Bladed ___ Graveled ___ Roadside Berms ___ Cut/Fill **X** Other _____

Describe:

A cut bank is present near the intersection with BLM 1737 and BLM 1738

A.2. Improvements: Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?

Yes ___ If "yes", improvements by? Hand Tools ___ by Machine _____