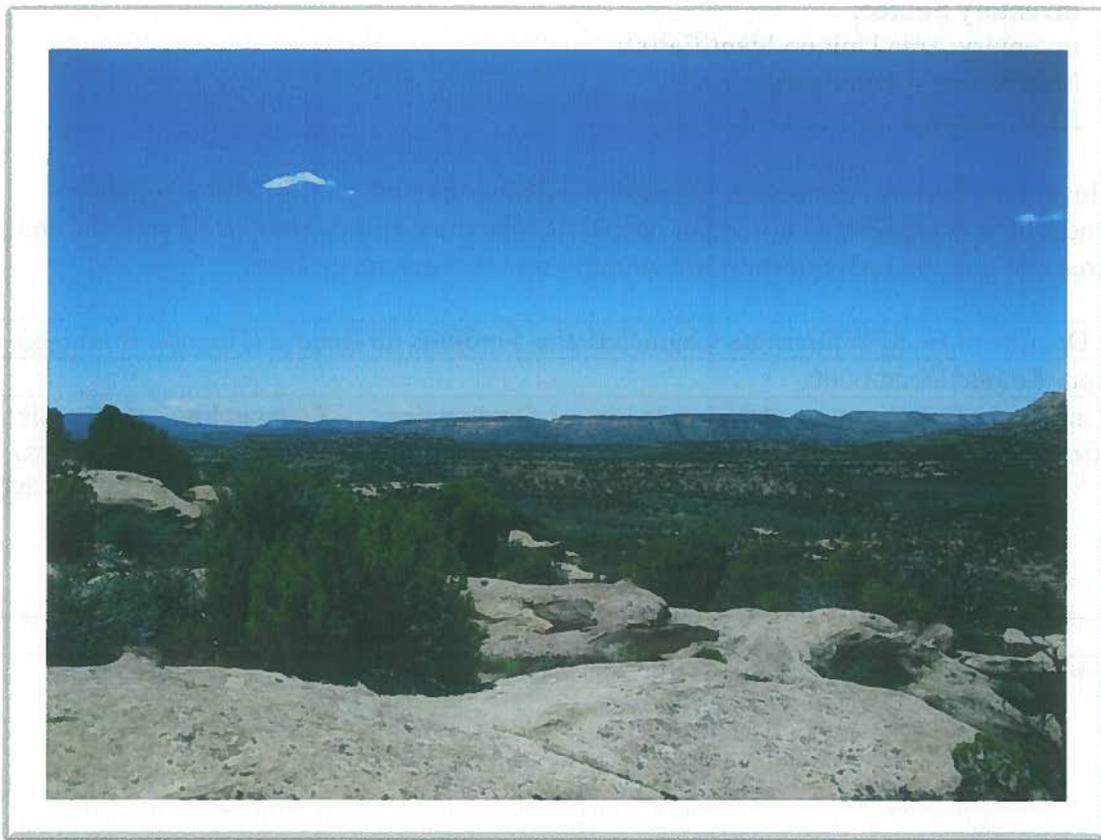




Lands with Wilderness Characteristics: Polygon 10



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-110-010** Acreage **15,190**

(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 western boundary of the unit is BLM 1071, a well maintained road that provides access to oil and gas well pad locations. An unnamed BLM motorized route connects BLM 1071 and Rio Blanco County (RBC) Road 23 to form the southern edge of the boundary. The south western boundary of the unit is a developed pipeline ROW that runs on the northwest side of RBC Road 23. The boundary then turns north and follows BLM 1072, the boundary then turns west / southwest along an unnamed motorized BLM road until it connects with BLM 1112. The boundary then follows BLM 1112 north until the road intersects with a major power line that runs east/west, the boundary following that power line west then reconnects with a road at point 10-031. The boundary then follows the well pad road south until it junctions with BLM 1113, then turns northwest. There is a newly constructed unnamed road heading west from BLM 1113 and accesses several oil and gas developments until the route junctions again with BLM 1071, completing the boundary. See attached map for details.

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):

The entire unit is managed by the BLM and is bordered on nearly all sides by BLM lands. On both the northern and southern boundaries, oil and gas developments exist, however they do not have a negative effect on the naturalness of the unit. The major feature of the unit is Shavetail Wash, a large ravine with impressive cliffs. It is bordered by Shavetail Peak, a flattop mesa on one side and another unnamed mesa on the other. It is a typical high desert landscape comprised of sagebrush and pinyon junipers. Within the unit, historic range activities existed, as evidenced by a fence, but they are substantially unnoticeable. There are several oil and gas developments that will be "cherry-stemmed" from the unit. Overall the unit is primarily affected by the forces of nature.

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

Area Unique Identifier: **CO-110-010** Acreage

(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 western boundary of the unit is BLM 1071, a well maintained road that provides access to oil and gas well pad locations. An unnamed BLM motorized route connects BLM 1071 and Rio Blanco County (RBC) Road 23 to form the southern edge of the boundary. The south western boundary of the unit is a developed pipeline ROW that runs on the northwest side of RBC Road 23. The boundary then turns north and follows BLM 1072, the boundary then turns west / southwest along an unnamed motorized BLM road until it connects with BLM 1112. The boundary then follows BLM 1112 north until the road intersects with a major power line that runs east/west, the boundary following that power line west then reconnects with a road at point 10-031. The boundary then follows the well pad road south until it junctions with BLM 1113, then turns northwest. There is a newly constructed unnamed road heading west from BLM 1113 and accesses several oil and gas developments until the route junctions again with BLM 1071, completing the boundary. See attached map for details.

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):

The entire unit is managed by the BLM and is bordered on nearly all sides by BLM lands. On both the northern and southern boundaries, oil and gas developments exist, however they do not have a negative effect on the naturalness of the unit. The major feature of the unit is Shavetail Wash, a large ravine with impressive cliffs. It is bordered by Shavetail Peak, a flattop mesa on one side and another unnamed mesa on the other. It is a typical high desert landscape comprised of sagebrush and pinyon junipers. Within the unit, historic range activities existed, as evidenced by a fence, but they are substantially unnoticeable. There are several oil and gas developments that will be "cherrystemmed" from the unit. Overall the unit is primarily affected by the forces of nature.

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):

Due to its highly variable topography, the unit has excellent opportunities for solitude. The unit is very large and visitors can easily isolate themselves from the outside world. The chances of encountering another visitor are very slim.

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):

Many prominent rock formations offer excellent climbing opportunities. The area, though its topography is highly variable, offers excellent hiking and horseback riding opportunities. From Shavetail Peak, expansive views of the unit and the neighboring LWC unit 30 polygon reward the visitor. Many signs of big game were seen in the higher elevations of the unit evidencing prime hunting prospects.

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

Yes No NA

Description:

The unit itself has excellent scenic viewpoints and from any higher elevation within the unit, visitors are rewarded with spectacular views of the surrounding area.

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): **Ty Skoe, Recreation Intern** Date: **6/10/13**

Evaluator (name/title): **Cody Niehus, Recreation Intern** Date: **6/10/13**

8. Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: Kent E. Walter
 Title: FIELD MANAGER
 Date: 06/20/13

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.

- a. 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.
- b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.
- c. 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: **CO-110-010**

Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: **LWC-10-Route 1**

I. LOCATION:

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

Map Title: **Area 10**

Map Date:

Describe:

This route is BLM 1072 and travels southwest from Rio Blanco county road 2 until its junction with an unnamed BLM road; it then turns south towards county road 23. From point 10-001 north until 10-055.

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),