

LWC 27-MF Mountain, 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: Transwest EIS (AECOM-contractor)
 Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): CO-110-27
 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-110-27	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

(add rows as needed)

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

Area Unique Identifier CO-110-27 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 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 that meets the minimum standard for review as defined in BLM Manual 6310, the boundary for LWC Polygon 27 (MF Mountain) was re-evaluated using aerial photography, the new information provided, staff knowledge of the area, and GIS maps. It was determined that the northern boundary extended further north than previously mapped and consists of Moffat County Road 157, then around private property, then Moffat County Road 157 to the intersection with Moffat County Road 14, then south to the existing boundary of the northeast corner. It was also determined that the eastern boundary should be decreased to an unnumbered BLM Road that connects Moffat County Road 14 and BLM Road 1504. This changes the acreage for LWC Polygon 27 from 9,100 to 9,073. See attached map.

The other wilderness characteristics from the previous LWC inventory 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: **June 25, 2013**

Evaluator (name/title): _____ Date: _____

Evaluator (name/title): _____ Date: _____

3. Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: Wend E. Walter

Title: FIELD MANAGER

Date: 07/08/13



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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 027	Acreage: 8,553 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.):

Unit 027 is bounded on the west by a combination of Moffat County Roads 16 and 157 as well as some private land. The northern border is Moffat County Road 14 and some private land. The eastern boundary is a BLM road (unknown ID#) and private land. The southern boundary is Colorado Highway 40 and private land. The northern boundary (partially) is also the boundary between the BLM White River and Little Snake field offices. Out of 12 routes surveyed, only Route 01 was found to meet the definition of a Wilderness Inventory Road.

(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):

The unit is located in Moffat County immediately north of Colorado Highway 40, northeast of Massadona. The unit is located in Township 4 North, Range 99 and 100 West; and Township 5 North, Range 99 and 100 West (Ute Meridian). The unit has an irregular shape and is wholly owned by the BLM. With varied topography and vegetation, this unit is dominated on the northern half by pinyon-juniper forest covered mountains with limestone and red sandstone cliffs. On the southern half, large mountains transition to rolling hills, sagebrush flats, and eroded ravines with sagebrush and grasses mixed cover. The land is used for a variety of recreational uses (hunting, camping, hiking, mountain biking, and wildlife observation).



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(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):

On the northern section of this unit, rugged terrain and dense forest successfully isolate this area. Lack of road access enhances the quietness and, in turn, the solitude. Steep ridges and cliffs further divide and isolate the topography. However, the southeast arm of the unit lacks opportunity for solitude. Colorado Highway 40 and Moffat Country Road 6 can be seen and heard from the west side of the ridge that dominates this section.

(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 area is undeveloped and predominately covered in dense pinyon-juniper forest. Opportunities exist for hiking rugged and scenic terrain, hunting, climbing, and wildlife observation; the northern boundary is a BLM-marked mountain bike trail.

(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 unit has significant scenic value. High topographic relief in the form of red sandstone cliffs dominates the northern half of the unit and creates a striking viewshed. Less dramatic slopes are still relatively pleasing, and hikes to a majority of the high ridges yield panoramas of the surrounding Colorado wilderness.



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Summary of Analysis

Area Name and/or Number: White River Unit 027

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 027 is located in Moffat County immediately north of Colorado Highway 40, northeast of Massadona. The unit is located in Township 4 North, Range 99 and 100 West; and Township 5 North, Range 99 and 100 West (Ute Meridian). The unit has an irregular shape and is wholly owned by the BLM. With varied topography and vegetation, this unit is dominated on the northern half by pinyon-juniper forest covered mountains with limestone and red sandstone cliffs. On the southern half, large mountains transition to rolling hills, sagebrush flats, and eroded ravines with sagebrush and grasses mixed cover. The land is used for a variety of recreational uses (hunting, camping, hiking, mountain biking, and wildlife observation).

It is recommended to exclude the bottom of the southeast arm of the unit. This area has machine-graded roads and manmade trash. Colorado Highway 40 and Moffat Country Road 6 can be seen and heard from the west side of the ridge that dominates this section. With this portion excluded, the remaining area still meets the 5,000-acre size requirement.

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:



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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
Jennifer Ashlin	AECOM Geologist	9/12/2012
Nicole Peters	AECOM Natural Resource Specialist	9/12/2012

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by (District of Field Manager):

Name: *Thom St. Walter* Title: *FIELD MANAGER*
Date: *04/09/13*