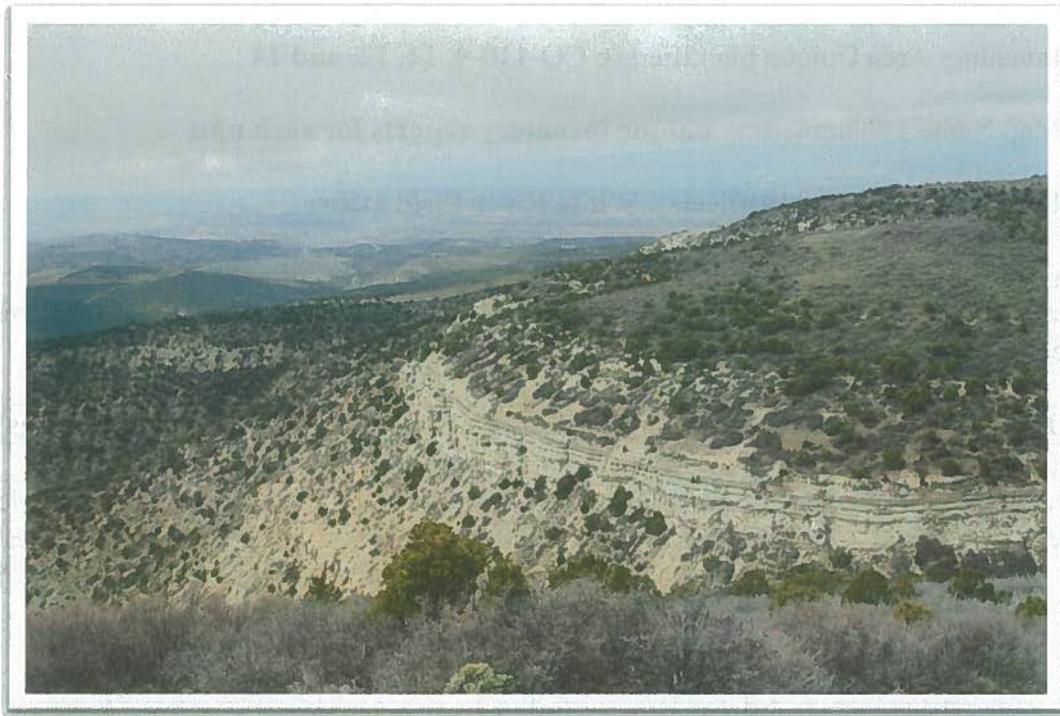




Lands with Wilderness Characteristics: Polygon 13



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: **LWC Polygons 9, 12 and 14: AECOM (Transwest EIS Project 2012) LWC Polygon 11: BLM-WRFO (Michels Team-Oil Shale EIS Project 2011)**

Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): **CO-110-9, 11, 12, and 14**

Map Name(s)/Number(s): **unique inventory reports for each unit**

BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): **White River Field Office**

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)
9	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
11	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
12	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
14	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

(add rows as needed)

*** Based on additional inventory work, including new route verifications, it was determined that LWC Polygons 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14 are all one LWC Polygon now referred to as LWC Polygon 13. The above listed LWC inventories are kept as part of LWC Polygon 13 record file and supplements information provided in this inventory. Information provided in the above listed LWC inventories for Polygons 9, 11, 12, and 14 is still considered valid except where there are discrepancies with this inventory. Several routes used for the boundaries which originally separated Polygons 9, 11, 12, 13, and 14 were determined to be "ways"**

during this most recent inventory and therefore these polygons have been combined into one polygon known as LWC Polygon 13.

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

Area Unique Identifier: **CO-110-013** Acreage: **Approximately 36,864 acres**

(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.):

LWC Polygon 13 is located approximately 25 miles west of Meeker, CO on the south side of State Highway 64. General geography of this vast unit consists of Blair Mesa, lower Yellow Creek, Barcus Creek, Greasewood Creek, and Calamity Ridge. The southern boundary follows CR 122 (Calamity Ridge) beginning at the intersection with BLM road 1036 (Monument Gulch). The border then travels northeast along BLM road 1832 (Barcus Creek) until it reaches BLM 1287 (Yellow Creek). This border has a cherry stem around a portion of BLM 1033 (N Barcus Creek) up to where BLM 1832 turns into CR 88 (Barcus). At Yellow Creek the border follows CR 88 until it reaches Piceance State Wildlife Area where the border travels to BLM 1103. This continues to an intersection with a power line traveling northwest. Where BLM 1103 intersects the power line the border is brought to the inside of the powerline and continues along that road until intersecting with the power line again. Then at CR 89 the border continues south until the intersection with BLM 1250. CR 89 has two cherry stems to access private land, one following Greasewood Creek and the other continuing along CR 89. The border continues to travel northwest until reaching BLM 1035 (Greasewood). This then brings the border south west to the intersection with BLM 1036 (Monument Gulch). From this point BLM 1036 (Monument Gulch) returns to the intersection with CR 122 (Calamity Ridge).

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):

LWC Polygon 13 has large areas without permanent human development with oil and gas development outside the area that is visible from some viewpoints. The area has a many ridges, draws, valleys and plateaus present. Vibrant riparian areas are found in low areas and surrounding rivers; examples are lower Yellow Creek, Barcus Creek, and Greasewood Gulch. Dominant vegetation is Pinyon-Juniper, mountain shrubs, and sage brush at higher

elevations with mountain shrubs and grasses at lower elevations. Landscape fire scars were seen; these had a high variation of regeneration. With the variation in fire severity and burn age, it is evident that there have been several fires in LCW Polygon 13 over many different years. There were a few fences and many routes identified as ways within Polygon 13. The west side of the polygon contains the higher elevations and provides sweeping views of a largely natural landscape within LWC polygon 13. There are three parcels of private property within this polygon. These privately owned areas are largely undeveloped with “cherry stemmed” roads or ways providing access. There is minimal signage for route navigation within this polygon that consists of small 12”x18” aluminum or 3’ high by 4” wide brown fiberglass BLM signs. Overall, this polygon appears primarily affected by the forces of nature and contains the characteristic of naturalness as defined in BLM Manual 6310.

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):

LWC Polygon Unit 13 contains many low lying areas due to the existence of several drainages, as well as more elevated areas below ridgeline that could easily provide opportunity for seclusion from others. The topography of the unit allows for both views of the surrounding landscape and the ability to feel surrounded by the natural landscape. There is little development throughout the unit, providing for the ability to escape from everyday human existence including any unnatural sights and sounds. During the one-day inventory survey of this polygon there were no human encounters or other people seen in the area of this vast polygon. With such a large expanse of land being encompassed by the borders of Unit 13, solitude can be achieved in many areas within many different types of landscapes from the lower elevations along Yellow Creek to the high ridgelines leading up to Calamity Ridge. Visitors can explore numerous square miles within LWC polygon 13 without sights, sounds, or evidence of other people in the area. Overall, LWC polygon 13 has outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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 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):

This unit provides ample opportunities for activities that provide dispersed, undeveloped recreation which don't require facilities, motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or mechanized transport. Examples of these primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include but are not limited to; hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, photography, bird watching, and sightseeing. While use of the area is evident along the perimeter, it is vastly out sized by the untouched areas within the polygon. The challenge of conquering the undeveloped areas of the unit through means of primitive recreation are apparent, as well as the risk associated with taking on these challenges given the isolation of the area. This area contains outstanding opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and backpacking numerous miles in the bottoms of the drainages or along the winding ridgelines. Elk and deer were seen during the inventory and this area has outstanding opportunities for hunting remote areas away from roads. Photography and sightseeing along Calamity Ridge include outstanding opportunities for viewing a vast landscape surrounding the polygon. Overall, LWC polygon 13 contains outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

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

Yes No NA

Description:

This 46,000 acre LWC polygon varies in elevation from 5,600' in lower Yellow Creek to 8,300' along the top of Calamity Ridge. Also, due to the abundance of wildlife, geologic features and distinct ecosystems, the unit possesses high scenic value. Wild horses, as well as big game animals such as deer and elk thrive within the unit. Many unique geologic formations can be seen throughout the unit as well. Riparian ecosystems existing in Yellow, Barcus and Greasewood Creeks provide a distinct contrast to the higher upland landscape typical of the area.

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

LWC Polygon 13 is located approximately 25 miles west of Meeker, CO on the south side of State Highway 64. General geography of this vast unit consists of Blair Mesa, lower Yellow Creek, Barcus Creek, Greasewood Creek, and Calamity Ridge. The unit appears natural; very few signs of human encroachment are visible or audible. Due to its varying topography of ridges and valleys and dense vegetation in some places, solitude is very easy to find. By hiking a short distance into the polygon the experience of feeling very alone and seemingly far from any human activity can be easily attained. Primitive recreation opportunities are abundant in the unit. Evidence of camping existed throughout in various flat grassy areas along the ways. Large tracts of untouched land allow for excellent cross-country hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding. The unit's wealth of big game also allows for excellent hunting prospects. The small creeks in the area provide an educational and scientific value to the area due to their riparian areas that exist in such an arid climate. Overall, the 46,000 acre size of this polygon combined with varying topography, vegetation and habitats, provides widespread and consistent characteristics of naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude and outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

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"*).

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

_____ Evaluator (name/title): Aaron Grimes, Outdoor Recreation Planner	Date: 05/08/2013
_____ Evaluator (name/title): Chad Schneckenburger, Section Supervisor	Date: 05/08/2013
_____ Evaluator (name/title): Marcia deChadenedes, CO BLM-NLCS	Date: 05/08/2013
_____ Evaluator (name/title): Eric Allen, GIS Specialist	Date: 05/08/2013
_____ Evaluator (name/title): Cody Niehus, Recreation Intern	Date: 05/08/2013
_____ Evaluator (name/title): Ty Skoe, Recreation Intern	Date: 05/08/2013
_____ Evaluator (name/title): Brendan Grady, Recreation Intern	Date: 05/08/2013
_____ Evaluator (name/title): Clint Mitchell, Recreation Intern	Date: 05/08/2013

6. Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: Ken F. Walter
 Title: FIELD MANAGER
 Date: 06/20/13

1. The first part of the report is a general introduction to the project. It describes the objectives of the study and the methods used. The second part is a detailed description of the results. This includes a discussion of the data collected and the analysis performed. The third part is a conclusion and a list of references.

2. The second part of the report is a detailed description of the results. This includes a discussion of the data collected and the analysis performed. The third part is a conclusion and a list of references.

3. The third part of the report is a conclusion and a list of references.

4. The fourth part of the report is a conclusion and a list of references.

Year	Value
1990	100
1991	105
1992	110
1993	115
1994	120
1995	125
1996	130
1997	135
1998	140
1999	145
2000	150

5. The fifth part of the report is a conclusion and a list of references.

LWC 9

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 Polygon 9 Acreage 8,384

(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 boundary for this polygon is Rio Blanco County road (RBC) 88 on the east, RBC 122 to the south and BLM road 1033 to the north and west.

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 polygon is BLM and bordered by BLM and some private land. The vegetation on the ridges is pinyon and juniper woodlands in the lower elevations with mountain mahogany in the upper elevations. In the drainage bottoms and in some of the open areas on the ridge tops mountain big sagebrush and basin big sagebrush is present with a native grass understory. In the fire scars the vegetation ranges from rabbit brush and some sagebrush in the older fire scars. The vegetation in the newer scars has cheat grass in the areas that are impacted by grazing activity from possibly wild horses and cattle but the rest of the scar where there is no grazing is covered with vegetation and it appears that indian rice grass is the dominant grass. The major human activity in the polygon is hunting and grazing.

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): Little development is visible and there is no ease of motorized access.

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): **There are opportunities for hiking, hunting, horseback riding, GEO Caching, and as the area is difficult to access there is little contact with other land users. Example is that on the same day the team was inventorying this polygon a WRFO range management specialist was in the same area only 1 to 2 miles away and we both had no idea we were in the same area until contacting the home unit on status of return time.**

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

Yes No NA

Description: **Geological and possibly paleontological.**

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): _____ Date: _____

Evaluator (name/title): _____ Date: _____

Evaluator (name/title): _____ Date: _____

8. Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____



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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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Bureau of Land Management

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

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Number/Name: White River Unit 014	Acreage: 5,616 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.):

The northwestern boundaries for this unit are defined by a maintained Rio Blanco County Road 89 and private property; the southern boundary is a Wilderness Inventory Road along Yellow Creek, as well as Rio Blanco County Road 88; and the northern and northeastern boundaries are Wilderness Inventory Roads that are unnamed. A portion on the northern boundary follows Williams Natural Gas Pipeline. The eastern boundary is state-owned land associated with the Piceance Wild Herd Management Area. Out of ten routes survey, four were found to meet the definition of a Wilderness Inventory Road. These routes include Route 02, 03, 06, and 10.

Wilderness Inventory Road Route 02 cuts off a small portion on the central eastern border. The piece cut off by the road is less than 5,000 acres, so therefore it does not meet the size requirement. The remaining area of the unit is greater than 5,000 acres.

(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 014 is located in Rio Blanco County and is east of Rangely. The unit is located in Township 1 North, Range 98 West; and Township 2 North, Range 97 and 98 and West (Ute Meridian). The unit is wholly owned by the BLM with private land “fingers” extending into the unit. The majority of the unit is natural; the only exception is the far northwestern corner around

Field Office: White River
Unit: 014



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From BLM Manual 6310 – Conduction Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands
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the private land, utility corridor, and where Rio Blanco County Road 64 can be seen and heard. The exclusion is based on the lack of solitude and naturalness. The unit’s dominant feature is Blair Mountain; Blair Mountain and Blair Mountain Mesa are mainly east/west in nature with Yellow Creek flowing southeast/northwest on the southwestern side of the mountain. Yellow Creek confluences with the White River just north of the unit on the north side of Colorado Highway 64. The entire unit offers high-relief topography with numerous ridges and drainages. All the land to the east and south are part of the state-owned Piceance Wild Herd Management Area. The only relatively flat areas on this unit are located at the northern toes of slopes and in the Yellow Creek floodplains. Dense pinyon-juniper forest covers all the hill slopes and high elevations. Steep slopes and mid slopes give way to sagebrush and other shrubs. The toe of slope and floodplain areas are a mix of sage, shrubs, and medium mixed grasses. Human uses in the unit include recreational activities (camping, hiking, horseback riding, and wildlife observation). Signs posted on the metal pipes upon entering the property indicate that the unit is a “No Hunting Area”. No hunters were observed on a weekend day during hunting season, so it is assumed that this sign is accurate.

(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’s unique topography along with its dense forests offers outstanding opportunities for solitude everywhere besides the exception area in the northwest. The multitude of drainages and ridges allow one to remove themselves at any time from another section of the unit. There are no manmade land uses visible unless you are on the highest ridge looking down at the White River; even then, removal from humanity can still be achieved.

(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 visually stunning with sweeping views of the White River valley to the north and beautiful resistant cliff-forming rocks. Many concentrated use sites were observed. Wildlife



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observation, hiking, and horseback riding can also be enjoyed throughout the unit. Fishing opportunities could potentially be available in Yellow Creek.

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

Yes No N/A

Description:

Unique topography and the high-relief cliffs, combined with resistant cliff-forming rocks, offer countless spectacular scenic vistas. Views of the White River valley and surrounding areas are stunning when considering scale and distance.



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Summary of Analysis

Area Name and/or Number: White River Unit 014

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 014 is located in Rio Blanco County and is east of Rangely. The unit is located in Township 1 North, Range 98 West; and Township 2 North, Range 97 and 98 and West (Ute Meridian). The unit is wholly owned by the BLM with private land “fingers” extending into the unit. The unit’s dominant feature is Blair Mountain; Blair Mountain and Blair Mountain Mesa are mainly east/west in nature with Yellow Creek flowing southeast/northwest on the southwestern side of the mountain. Yellow Creek confluences with the White River just north of the unit on the north side of Colorado Highway 64. The entire unit offers high-relief topography with numerous ridges and drainages. All the land to the east and south are part of the state-owned Piceance Wild Herd Management Area. The only relatively flat areas on this unit are located at the northern toes of slopes and in the Yellow Creek floodplains. Dense pinyon-juniper forest covers all the hill slopes and high elevations. Steep slopes and mid slopes give way to sagebrush and other shrubs. The toe of slope and floodplain areas are a mix of sage, shrubs, and medium mixed grasses. Human uses in the unit include recreational activities (camping, hiking, horseback riding, and wildlife observation). Signs posted on the metal pipes upon entering the property indicate that the unit is a “No Hunting Area”. No hunters were observed on a weekend day during hunting season, so it is assumed that this sign is accurate.

The majority of the unit is natural; one exception is the far northwestern corner around the private land, utility corridor, and where Rio Blanco County Road 64 can be seen and heard. The exclusion is based on the lack of solitude and naturalness. Wilderness Inventory Road Route 02 cuts off a small portion on the central eastern border. The piece cut off by the road is less than 5,000 acres, so therefore it does not meet the minimum size requirement. With these portions excluded, the remaining area still meets the 5,000-acres size requirement.

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No

Field Office: White River
Unit: 014



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- 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	10/22/2012
Jonathan Price	AECOM GIS Specialist	10/22/2012

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by (District of Field Manager):

Name: *Therese E. Walter* Title: *FIELD MANAGER*
Date: *04/08/2013*



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

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Number/Name: White River Unit 012	Acreage: 11,932 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 012 is located in Rio Blanco County east of Rangely, Colorado. This unit is owned by the BLM with some private property surrounding the unit. The northern boundary of the unit is BLM Road 1136; the southern boundary is Rio Blanco County Road 88; the eastern boundary is BLM Road 1101; and the western boundary is BLM Road 1036. Out of ten routes surveyed, three were found to meet the definition of a Wilderness Inventory Road. These routes include Routes 08, 09, and 10.

(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 012 is located in Township 1 North, Range 98 and 99 and West; and Township 2 North, Range 98 and 99 and West (Ute Meridian). The topography of the unit includes two ridges that run east/west; one is on the southern boundary and the other on the northern boundary creating a small valley in the center. The northeastern portion contains a series of high ridges and plateaus. The vegetation is mainly pinyon-juniper with some tall scrub/shrubs intermixed. Human uses within the unit include recreational activities (camping, hunting, hiking, 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):

This unit offers excellent opportunities for solitude throughout; the location limits human use and the topography allows for both views of the surrounding landscape and the feeling of solidarity. The wildlife sighted in the unit also adds to the feeling of removal from human influence.

(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):

Unit 12 is a large unit that can support several primitive activities, such as hunting and camping, which are already evident.

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

Yes No N/A

Description:

This area is mostly undisturbed and has high scenic and visual appeal.



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Summary of Analysis

Area Name and/or Number: White River Unit 012

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 012 is located in Rio Blanco County east of Rangely. The topography of the unit includes two ridges that run east/west; one is on the southern boundary and the other on the northern boundary creating a small valley in the center. The northeastern portion contains a series of high ridges and plateaus. The vegetation is mainly pinyon-juniper with some tall scrub/shrubs intermixed. Human uses within the unit include recreational activities (camping, hunting, hiking, and wildlife observation). The unit is undeveloped, and has moderate to high scenic value.

There are very few routes in this unit and the majority of them are ¼ - ½ mile in length. There are only three wilderness inventory roads within this site that lie on the western portion. It is possible with recent fire damage within the last ten years that some of these routes were created by equipment in conjunction with the fire.

On site hunters and livestock were not observed. However, recent activity was evident by tracks, and recent campsites and livestock evidence. Livestock probably graze on this site seasonally. Recreation for this site is mainly associated with hunting activities such as camping, OHV use, and wildlife observation. Wildlife was seen sporadically throughout the site as well.

Survey of this unit found that all 11,932 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

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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
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Meagan Jones	AECOM Environmental Scientist	10/24/2012
Drew Parker	AECOM GIS Specialist	10/24/2012
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(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by (District of Field Manager):

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

Date: *04/08/2013*

