



Lands with Wilderness Characteristics: Polygon 01



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 **LWC Polygon 1** Acreage **14,523**

(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 1 is located near Douglas Pass along the southern boundary of the BLM's White River Resource Area. The polygon elevation varies between 6,300 feet and 9,000 feet and lies in both Garfield and Rio Blanco Counties. The polygon is bordered on the west by BLM 1242 and Garfield County Road 255; on the south by Garfield County Road 256; on the east by private lands and BLM roads 1203, 1203A, and 1016; and on the north by Rio Blanco County Road 27 and private land. Numerous parcels of private lands accessed by the cherry-stemmed Rio Blanco County Road 27 and lie along East Douglas Creek and are not included in the polygon. BLM 1199 and connecting oil and gas pads are cherry-stemmed as well, with the boundaries of the polygon draw around these areas of disturbance.

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 01 has been affected primarily by the forces of nature with a few exceptions. The largest exception is a hydro axe vegetation cut and abandoned grazing enclosure displayed in the photos at the points 03-007, 03-008, 03-009, and 03-010. Other exclusions from naturalness are due to oil and gas operations. Some pads have been cherry stemmed and other abandoned sites have just been noted. The abandoned or capped oil sites are on their way toward being reclaimed by the natural processes that primarily affect the majority of LWC Polygon 01. To the average visitor the area inventoried would appear natural. Many capped drill sights would not be visible without the marker present and are largely not noticeable except within close proximity.

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

Area Unique Identifier **LWC Polygon 1** Acreage **12,166**

(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 1 is located near Douglas Pass along the southern boundary of the BLM's White River Resource Area. The polygon elevation varies between 6,300 feet and 9,000 feet and lies in both Garfield and Rio Blanco Counties. The polygon is bordered on the west by BLM 1242 and Garfield County Road 255; on the south by Garfield County Road 256; on the east by private lands and BLM roads 1203, 1203A, and 1016; and on the north by Rio Blanco County Road 27 and private land. Numerous parcels of private lands accessed by the cherry-stemmed Rio Blanco County Road 27 and lie along East Douglas Creek and are not included in the polygon. BLM 1199 and connecting oil and gas pads are cherry-stemmed as well, with the boundaries of the polygon draw around these areas of disturbance.

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 01 has been affected primarily by the forces of nature with a few exceptions. The largest exception is a hydro axe vegetation cut and abandoned grazing enclosure displayed in the photos at the points 03-007, 03-008, 03-009, and 03-010. Other exclusions from naturalness are due to oil and gas operations. Some pads have been cherry stemmed and other abandoned sites have just been noted. The abandoned or capped oil sites are on their way toward being reclaimed by the natural processes that primarily affect the majority of LWC Polygon 01. To the average visitor the area inventoried would appear natural. Many capped drill sights would not be visible without the marker present and are largely not noticeable except within close proximity.

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):

Large, dense pine forests mixed with aspen groves combined with high ridges and low lying draws provide outstanding opportunities for solitude throughout LWC Polygon 1. Hiking or horseback riding into the area provides endless opportunities to isolate oneself from humanity in a deep valley or high on a ridge enjoying a natural view of a sweeping valley provides a way to experience the wildness of the landscape and experience oneness with the natural world.

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):

Within LWC Polygon 01 hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities appear to be outstanding. During the inventory process a large amount of deer were seen along with many birds, raptors, and a black bear. Many campsites were seen along the southern boundary that had been accessed by vehicles from CR 256 (Four A Ridge Road). Many of these campsites indicated that they received heavy use during hunting season. A handful of these sights offered good views of roadless areas without extensive human development. These areas overlooked offer opportunities for hiking or backpacking.

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

Yes No NA

Description:

Cliff bands, dense forests, natural springs, and the creeks in the LWC Polygon provide great scenery and unique settings to experience solitude and primitive recreation activities. The dense Douglas fir forest is somewhat limited in the White River Resource Area and this polygon provides excellent examples of this habitat. Wildlife sightings during inventory include; numerous birds and raptors, many deer, elk, and two sightings of black bears. This polygon is located on a significant ridge (Pike Ridge) that separates the White River drainage from the Colorado River drainage

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 M. Grady, Recreation Intern**

Date: **06/11/2013**

Evaluator (name/title): **Clint Mitchell, Recreation Intern**

Date: **06/11/2013**

8. Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: Hunt 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: **LWC Polygon 01**

Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: **001-001; 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:

Map Date: **06/10/2013**

Describe: **BLM 1203 from the intersection with BLM 1203A to private land.**

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 multiple stock ponds, an active oil or gas site, and multiple abandoned oil or gas sites.**