



## Lands with Wilderness Characteristics: Polygon 26



**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 26** Acreage **7,805**

(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 corner of LWC Polygon 26 begins at the point 26-001. From there the road is the boundary beyond the gate at the point 26-006. From there the road is followed to the private property. After the east end of the private property is reached the border of Willow Creek WSA is followed to a State Land Trust section. This serves as the southern boundary until it returns to the Willow Creek WSA. At that point a desk top analysis was done to complete the eastern boundary with Willow Creek WSA and private property. Continuing north, then east, private property borders LWC Polygon 26 until a State Land Trust section is reached at that point, the boundary follows that until private property is reached again. Private property is then followed to the point 26-011, where a road is followed back to Moffat County Road 161. Before Moffat County Road 161 is reached the eastern border runs south back to the point 26-001.**

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 naturalness of LWC Polygon 26 is affected by stock ponds, a telecom site, and some fencing within the unit. Aside from those developments, the area has grassy meadows hillsides covered with shrubs. Some Aspen stands were seen within this area. Small cliffs were seen and displayed in the point 26-003. A fence for grazing management was also seen and is shown in the photo 26-004. With these exceptions the area appeared to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. Mostly shrubs and grasses were seen during the inventory. Stands of aspen were also seen and are shown in the pictures 26-004 and 26-005.**



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):

**The Moosehead Mountain Restricted Travel Area allows foot, horse, and mechanized traffic (bicycle) only. This provides a quiet setting where the sounds of human travel are greatly reduced or removed from most of this landscape. Solitude can be found throughout this polygon in the rolling gentle draws, the thick forested areas, or along the ridge lines. The sights of human presence are rare and limited to some fence and campfire scars.**

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 ample opportunities for primitive recreation that do not require the use of mechanized or moralized.

**During this inventory two parties were seen hiking cross country through the area. The opportunities for hunting, wildlife viewing, and birding are present. Users could also cross country ski or snowshoe in the winter or horseback ride during the spring summer and fall months. During the fall month’s photography of fall aspen color changes would be outstanding.**

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

Yes  No  NA

Description:

**The small cliff formations shown in the pictures 26-006 and 26-003 are unique and offer supplemental value. The aspen stands present could also give supplemental value in the fall months.**



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): **Clint Mitchell**

Date: **06/13/2013**

Evaluator (name/title): **Brendan Grady**

Date: **06/13/2013**

Evaluator (name/title): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: Thant T. Walker

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 26**  
Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: **001**

**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:

Describe: **A dirt road with a BLM kiosk that has parking areas before reaching a gate, shown in photo 26-006. From the gate a two track continues to a stock pond and a telecom site.**

**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 for stock ponds shown in pictures 26-004 and 26-003. The track then continues to a telecom site.**

**B. Right-of-Way (ROW):**

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

Yes  No  Unknown

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

**A possible ROW will allow access for ranching operations as well as access to the telecom site.**