

LWC 7-Bluejay Creek, 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-110-07
 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-110-07	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

(add rows as needed)

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

Area Unique Identifier CO-110-07

Acreage 9,895

(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.):

Based on new information provided to the BLM-White River Field Office that meets the minimum standard for review as defined in BLM Manual 6310, the boundary for LWC polygon 7 (Bluejay Creek) was re-evaluated using aerial photography, staff knowledge of the area, and GIS maps. It was determined that the western boundary is Evacuation Creek with two "cherry stemmed" roads coming off of Rio Blanco County Road 25. It was also determined that the eastern boundary is Missouri Creek. This changes the acreage for LWC polygon 7 from 8,370 to 9,895 acres.

The other wilderness characteristics from the previous inventory remain unchanged and are still considered valid.

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"*).

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: *Hunt E. Walter*

Title: *FIELD MANAGER*

Date: *07/10/13*



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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 007	Acreage: 8,370 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 007 is bounded on the north by Rio Blanco County Road 109, on the east by BLM Road 1062, and on the west and south by a combination of BLM Road 1225 and private oil field lease land. Rio Blanco County Road 109, BLM Road 1062, and BLM Road 1225 are all constructed, maintained dirt roads with moderate to heavy use. Land east of the unit is a designated BLM Wilderness Study Area. Out of four routes surveyed, only Route 03 was found to meet the definition of a Wilderness Inventory Road. This route is currently being used to access a natural gas well (Federal 12-31-3S-103W, Lease # COC 8037, API 05-103-08597).

(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 007 is located in Rio Blanco County, up against the Colorado/Utah state border, close to the White River/Grand Junction Field Office boundary. The unit is located in Township 3 South, Range 103 and 104 and West; and Township 5 South, Range 103 and 104 West (Ute Meridian). This unit is wholly owned by the BLM with a designated Wilderness Study Area to the east. Natural gas leases may exist. This unit is in a mountainous region with moderate to high relief cliffs and hills made of horizontally-bedded tan sandstones. Vegetation in ravines and channels is scrub/shrub dominated by large sagebrush. Ridges and upper slopes have pinyon-juniper forest cover. Tree and vegetation cover increases to the north. Major human uses include oil



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and gas wells (several natural gas wells were observed) and recreational activities (hunting, camping, hiking, off-road driving, and wildlife observation).

(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):

Visually unique, high relief sandstone cliffs isolate the landscape visually from outside industrial/mining uses. Rugged terrain physically isolates the bulk of the unit from motorized vehicle travel. Landscape was very quiet. With the exception of a few natural gas wells, no other human use or development was directly observed.

(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 unique topography is suitable for hiking, camping, hunting, bicycling, wildlife observation, and other non-motorized outdoor activities.

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

Yes No N/A

Description:

Horizontally-bedded tan and reddish sandstones form visually distinctive and unique cliff formations. The area may contain geological value for natural gas extraction (wells observed immediately west of unit and on north section of unit).



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Summary of Analysis

Area Name and/or Number: White River Unit 007

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 007 is located in Rio Blanco County, up against the Colorado/Utah state border, close to the White River/Grand Junction Field Office boundary. The unit is located in Township 3 South, Range 103 and 104 and West; and Township 5 South, Range 103 and 104 West (Ute Meridian). This unit is wholly owned by the BLM with a designated Wilderness Study Area to the east. Natural gas leases may exist. This unit is in a mountainous region with moderate to high relief cliffs and hills made of horizontally-bedded tan sandstones. Vegetation in ravines and channels is scrub/shrub dominated by large sagebrush. Ridges and upper slopes have pinyon-juniper forest cover. Tree and vegetation cover increases to the north. Major human uses include oil and gas wells (several natural gas wells were observed) and recreational activities (hunting, camping, hiking, off-road driving, and wildlife observation).

Survey of this unit found that all 8,370 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
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	9/23/2012
Nicole Peters	AECOM Natural Resource Specialist	9/23/2012

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by (District of Field Manager):

Name: *Ken C. Walter* Title: *FIELD MANAGER*
Date: *04/08/13*