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 X If yes, and if the area has subunits within the broader area, list the unique identifiers for each of those subunits:

Inventory Source: BLM 1978 Philadelphia Creek Wilderness inventory
Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): CO-010-24a
Map Name(s)/Number(s): Philadelphia Creek
BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):Craig District

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: 1979 Wilderness Intensive Inventory					
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-010-24a	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes

(add rows as needed)

Inventory Source: 2002 Colorado Environmental Coalition Wilderness Inventory
Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): CO-010-24a
Map Name(s)/Number(s): Big Ridge
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: 2002 Colorado Environmental Coalition Wilderness Inventory					
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-010-24a	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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

Area Unique Identifier **29**_____ Acreage_**24,952**_____
(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.): **Western boundary parallels Hwy. 139 along bottom of West Douglas Creek. Philadelphia Creek Road generally delineates the southern boundary. The eastern boundary runs along private property, BLM Road 1040 and a series of other unnumbered BLM roads. The northern boundary is defined by County Road 138 and other unnumbered BLM roads.**

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

   Yes_**X**____ 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):
   All in all, the area appears to be primarily affected by the forces of nature. The area contains Big Ridge on the eastern edge, with drainages running west to Douglas Creek. The area contains varied topography hosting a primarily Pinion Juniper forest cover with other native shrubs and forbs. The area is also home to a variety of small and big game wildlife. The only visible signs of human impacts encountered by the team were one old reclaimed oil and gas road and well pad; a couple minor motorized (OHV) incursions and a few signs of cattle grazing, including an old stock development (corral). Generally the area contains steep topography that makes motorized access difficult.

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_X____ 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 polygon is very large and vast in nature providing numerous opportunities for solitude. The**

numerous drainages within the unit allow for visitors to largely achieve a backcountry experience and free themselves from the sights and sounds of man. The diversity of topography and substantial vegetation also contribute to screening visitors from the unlikely event they would encounter other visitors in the area.

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_**X**____ 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 size of Polygon 29 as well as the diverse terrain and vegetation provide visitors with a unique opportunity for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. **Generally the topography does not easily allow for motorized access. This provides opportunities for primitive backcountry activities, such as hunting, hiking, backpacking and nature viewing, to be at its best. The numerous drainages also allow for exploring and their associated rock crags provide opportunities for rock climbing.**

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

   Yes_**X**____ No_____ NA_____

   Description: Big Ridge overlaps in portions with the Canyon Pintado National Historic District. Much of Big Ridge has not been inventoried for archeological resources, however it can be assumed, due to the proximity to Canyon Pintado, undiscovered resources may exist. The area also contains scenic resources of high value with an inventory classification of VRI II.

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_X____ No_____
   - Does the area appear natural? Yes_X____ No_____ NA_____
   - Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes__X___ No_____ NA_____

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").*

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

Evaluator (name/title): Chad Schneckenburger – Outdoor Recreation Planner Date: 7/23/2011
Evaluator (name/title): Joseph Ramierez – Archeologist Date: 7/23/2011
Evaluator (name/title): Jacob Davidson - Botanist Date: 7/23/2011
Evaluator (name/title): Zoe Miller - Ecologist Date:7/23/2011

8. Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):
   Name: Kent T. Walter
   Title: Field Manager
   Date: 04/24/13