

Name: Cherokee Creek East Fork WY-030-12N93W5-2012

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?

No X Yes _____ (if yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas):

a) Inventory Source: _____

b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s): _____

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): _____

d) BLM District (s)/Field Office(s): _____

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:

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Number/Name **Cherokee Creek East Fork WY-030-12N93W5-2012** Acreage
17,039.51

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes X No

Describe the boundaries of the area (roads, property lines, etc.). If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check “Yes” and describe the exception. If more than one inventory area is involved, list the acres in each and evaluate each area/sub-area separately. In completing steps (1) – (5), use additional space as necessary.

The unit is bound on the north by BLM Road 3318 a.k.a. Shell Creek Truck Trail. The unit is bound to the west by a Class 4 Unimproved Road which was previously graded and maintained by repeated use. The unit is bound on the east by Carbon County Rd. 700. The unit is bound on the south by a Class 4 Unimproved Road which was previously graded and is currently maintained by mechanical equipment.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The Cherokee Creek East Fork area under consideration is 17039.51 acres of BLM public land. It is located within the following townships:

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION
t12n	r93w	8	t13n	r94w	34
t12n	r93w	7	t13n	r94w	33
t12n	r94w	12	t13n	r94w	32
t12n	r94w	11	t13n	r94w	31
t12n	r94w	10	t13n	r93w	28
t12n	r94w	9	t13n	r93w	29
t13n	r94w	8	t13n	r93w	30
t12n	r93w	3	t13n	r94w	25
t12n	r93w	4	t13n	r94w	26
t12n	r93w	5	t13n	r94w	27
t12n	r93w	6	t13n	r94w	28
t12n	r94w	1	t13n	r94w	29
t12n	r94w	2	t13n	r94w	30
t12n	r94w	3	t13n	r93w	20
t12n	r94w	4	t13n	r93w	19
t13n	r94w	5	t13n	r94w	24
t12n	r94w	6	t13n	r94w	23

t13n	r93w	33	t13n	r94w	22
t13n	r93w	32	t13n	r94w	21
t13n	r93w	31	t13n	r94w	20
t13n	r94w	36	t13n	r94w	19
t13n	r94w	35	t13n	r94w	13

The dominant vegetation cover is sagebrush-grassland. The primary land uses are for oil & gas exploration and livestock grazing. The primary, dispersed recreational activities in the area are hunting and hiking.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

Description: The 50.7 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) detract from the unit's naturalness. Examples of these primitive routes are demonstrated in photos 1-4 and 6-13. When hiking across the Cherokee Creek East Fork Unit, the casual observer cannot escape the constant view of primitive routes. These primitive routes create noticeable linear intrusions and disturbances that interrupt the experience of any wilderness character briefly encountered in areas untrammled by the works of man.

The area contains 27 oil and gas wells throughout the Cherokee Creek East Fork Unit (see locations in unit map). When examining the status of the oil and gas wells, all of these wells were permanently abandoned or have had expired permits between 1964 and 2006 (the 2006 well pad was never constructed before the permit expired). All of these 27 wells have been reclaimed and were not found to detract from the naturalness or to be substantially noticeable to the casual observer.

The Cherokee Creek East Fork Unit also contains four man-made reservoirs (see locations on unit map and examples in photos 16-17). When the casual observer encounters these man-made borrow pits and impounded reservoirs, the linear and textual contrast on the landscape attracts the attention of the observer to this modification constructed with mechanized equipment.

The casual observer is often attracted to bodies of water while hiking. Water adds interest and diversity to the landscape. When arriving at any of the four reservoirs, the casual observer would notice that it is not a natural lake and that they have encountered an impounded, muddy borrow pit. The hiker seeking refreshment from clean water, would quickly notice that this "reservoir" is designed for cattle operations where the water is unfit for human consumption or swimming. The numerous range improvements, including four reservoirs, two springs, 13.19 miles of fence, and three water wells, were constructed, primarily, for commercial grazing operations. These improvements give the casual observer a perception that they are visitors to a cattle range rather than a wilderness untrammled by the works of man. While the presence of cattle is compatible with a natural landscape for wilderness inventory purposes, the noticeable presence of numerous grazing-related developments in this unit is not.

In sum, the cumulative impacts on naturalness including the primitive routes and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the Cherokee Creek East Fork Unit to a level that is incompatible with the definitions of wilderness provided in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (incorporated in FLPMA 1976):

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

(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:

(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

Description:

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

Yes No N/A

Description:

Summary of Analysis

Area Name and/or Number: Cherokee Creek East Fork WY-030-12N93W5-2012

Summary

Results of analysis:

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:

_____ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

___X___ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

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Team members:

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Date: _____