

Name: **Four Mile Ridge WY-030-27N82W20-2012**

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: 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):

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Number/Name: **Four Mile Ridge WY-030-27N82W20-2012** Acreage 16,902.78

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes 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 private and state land. The unit is bound on the south by private and state land. The unit is bound on the east by Carbon County Rd. 103 a.k.a. Dry Creek Rd. The unit is bound on the west by a Class 4, 4WD Road that has been previously graded as well as state and private land.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The Four Mile Ridge area under consideration is 16902.78 acres of BLM public land. The unit contains the following townships:

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION
t26n	r81w	5	t27n	r83w	24
t26n	r81w	6	t27n	r81w	18
t27n	r81w	32	t27n	r81w	17
t27n	r81w	31	t27n	r82w	13
t27n	r82w	36	t27n	r82w	14
t27n	r82w	34	t27n	r82w	15
t27n	r82w	33	t27n	r82w	17
t27n	r82w	32	t27n	r82w	16
t27n	r82w	31	t27n	r82w	18
t27n	r83w	36	t27n	r83w	13
t27n	r81w	29	t27n	r81w	8
t27n	r81w	30	t27n	r81w	7
t27n	r82w	25	t27n	r82w	11
t27n	r82w	26	t27n	r82w	12
t27n	r82w	27	t27n	r82w	10
t27n	r82w	28	t27n	r82w	9
t27n	r82w	29	t27n	r82w	8
t27n	r82w	30	t27n	r82w	7
t27n	r83w	25	t27n	r83w	12

t27n	r81w	20	t27n	r81w	5
t27n	r81w	19	t27n	r81w	6
t27n	r82w	24	t27n	r82w	1
t27n	r82w	23	t27n	r82w	2
t27n	r82w	22	t27n	r82w	3
t27n	r82w	21	t27n	r82w	4
t27n	r82w	19	t27n	r82w	5
t27n	r82w	20			

The topography consists, primarily, of drainages surrounding Four Mile Ridge which flow into the Wolf Canyon, North Wolf Canyon, Alkali Creek, Horse Springs Draw, and Cave Creek. Elevation ranges from 7615 feet on the tops of the mountains above the drainages to, approximately, 6800 feet at the bottom of the drainages. The primary land use is recreational hunting, camping, and OHV riding. The primary, dispersed recreational activity in the area is hunting.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

Description: The 66.91 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) and .21 miles of wilderness inventory roads (i.e., well access roads) detract from the unit's naturalness. Examples of these primitive routes and wilderness inventory roads are demonstrated in photos 1-2, 9, and 13-15. When hiking across the Four Mile Ridge 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 untrammelled by the works of man.

The area contains three oil and gas wells throughout the Four Mile Ridge Unit (see locations in unit map). When examining the status of the oil and gas wells, all three of these wells were permanently abandoned between 1971 and 1983. These wells have been fully reclaimed and were not found to detract from the naturalness or to be substantially noticeable to the casual observer.

The Four Mile Ridge Unit also contains 15 substantially noticeable, man-made, reservoirs. These reservoirs have been constructed as borrow pits which have been impounded with dikes (see photos 3-6). When the casual observer encounters these borrow pits, the linear and textual contrast on the landscape attracts the attention of the observer to this obvious man-made 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 reservoirs within the unit, the casual observer would notice that these are not natural lakes or ponds 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 casual observer would encounter a similar experience when seeking to replenish water supplies from other wells and reservoirs within this unit. The numerous range improvements, including one water well, 19.86 miles of fence, 15 reservoirs, and three springs, are also impacted by commercial grazing operations giving the casual observer a perception that they are visitors to a cattle range rather than a wilderness untrammelled 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 numerous primitive routes, wilderness inventory roads, and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the Four Mile Ridge 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: Four Mile Ridge WY-030-27N82W20-2012

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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