

Name: McCune Spring-Dry Creek Rim WY-030-28N82W13-2012

**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: **McCune Spring-Dry Creek Rim WY-030-28N82W13-2012** Acreage 5,030.82

(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 west by private and state land. The unit is bound on the north by BLM Road 3129 a.k.a. McCune Spring-Dry Creek Rim Rd as well as state and private land. The unit is bound on the northeast and east by Carbon County Road 103, a.k.a. Dry Creek Rd. The unit is bound on the south by private and state land.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The McCune Spring-Dry Creek Rim area under consideration is 5,030.82 acres of BLM public land. The unit contains the following townships:

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION
t28n	r81w	29	t28n	r82w	14
t28n	r81w	30	t28n	r82w	15
t28n	r82w	25	t28n	r82w	12
t28n	r82w	26	t28n	r82w	11
t28n	r81w	20	t28n	r82w	10
t28n	r81w	19	t28n	r82w	9
t28n	r82w	24	t28n	r82w	1
t28n	r82w	23	t28n	r82w	2
t28n	r81w	18	t28n	r82w	3
t28n	r82w	13	t28n	r82w	4

The topography consists, primarily, of the McCune Spring and Dry Creek Rim. Elevation ranges from 7,400 feet on the tops of the mountains above the drainages to, approximately, 6,800 feet at the bottom of the drainages including South Fork Canyon Creek and North Fork Creek. The dominant vegetation cover in the unit is Mountain Big Sagebrush on the slopes and uplands of the unit and wet meadow cover along creeks and draws. 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 27.84 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) and 3.08 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 and 5-7. When hiking across the McCune Spring-Dry Creek Rim 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 McCune Spring-Dry Creek Rim contains one meteorological tower (46,97872.92, 36,7639.47) which is substantially noticeable to the casual observer. The bright orange and yellow safety colors create a stark contrast against the surrounding scenery, which consists primarily of sagebrush and wheat grass. This man-made modification was found to detract from the naturalness of the unit.

The McCune Spring-Dry Creek Rim Unit also contains one man-made reservoir (see example in Photos 3-4). When the casual observer encounters this man-made borrow pit and impounded reservoir, the linear and textual contrast on the landscape attracts the attention of the observer to these modifications 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 each of the 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 range improvements, including the one reservoir, one water well, and 6.97 miles of fence, 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 numerous primitive routes, wilderness inventory roads, and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the McCune Spring-Dry Creek Rim 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 untrammled 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: McCune Spring-Dry Creek Rim WY-030-28N82W13-2012**

### 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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**Reviewed by:**

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Dennis Carpenter, Field Manager

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_