



## US Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management  
Grand Junction Field Office, Colorado

July 2012

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# Grand Junction Field Office Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Update

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS  
INVENTORY CONDITIONS**



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# Grand Junction Field Office Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Update

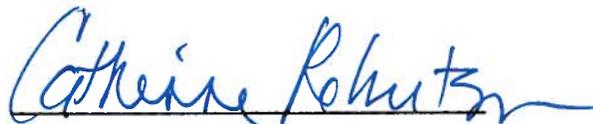
## DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

July 2012

Prepared by:

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Grand Junction Field Office

Reviewed By:



Catherine Robertson  
Grand Junction Field Manager  
Grand Junction, Colorado

This report documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

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## **II. Introduction**

The Bureau of Land Management, Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO), in accordance with the BLM “Policy on Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands” under Section 201 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), has updated its inventory of lands with wilderness character found within the GJFO. This document highlights the findings of this inventory.

The original wilderness characteristics Inventory was conducted in 1979, resulting in the establishment of current Wilderness Study Areas found in the GJFO. Some of the units analyzed as part of this inventory were part of the original inventory of 1979, or a supplemental inventory in 1999.

### **Process for Identifying Wilderness Character Inventory Units**

In an effort to conduct the most thorough analysis of lands with wilderness characteristics, the GJFO established a process for identification of wilderness character inventory units. This process included identification of units through three avenues. 1) Citizens’ Wilderness Proposals (CWPs), 2) Internal identification

- 1) Citizen’s Wilderness Proposals: Between 2001 and 2009, the Colorado Environmental Coalition submitted Citizens’ Wilderness Proposals for 14 units within the planning area. These proposals included inventory reports conducted by non-BLM personnel. Several organizations referenced these CWPs in their comments during scoping for the GJFO Resource Management plan revision. The portions of the CWP identified units that are not within existing Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) were carried forward for this inventory.
- 2) In addition to CWPs, GJFO staff identified areas that may possess wilderness characteristics based on their field knowledge. Then during the inventory process, the BLM Washington Office issued Instruction Memorandum (IM) 2011-154, Requirement to Conduct and Maintain Inventory Information for Wilderness Characteristics and to Consider Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in Land Use Plans. This guidance included a document titled “Policy on Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands”.

In accordance with the new policy document, the GJFO completed a spatial data analysis to identify all areas in the GJFO which hosted 5,000 or more roadless acres of land. This analysis used the GJFO route inventory data set. A comprehensive route inventory had been compiled through years of field inventory for use in travel management planning.

The analysis for identifying potential lands with wilderness characteristics utilized this data, seeking out certain route classes (not including single track or ATV trails) in determining the roadless areas. The initial boundaries of the units potentially containing wilderness characteristics were formed using land status and Route Inventory data. This process proved effective as evidenced by the fact that the results of the analysis pointed to all existing Wilderness Study Areas and all previously identified inventory units including CWPs as areas that may include over 5,000 roadless acres. The additional units identified by the spatial analysis provided the starting point for field inventory.

### **Process for conducting Wilderness Character Inventory**

The process defined above identified 31 units (in addition to existing WSAs), totaling approximately 400,000 acres to be inventoried for the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics. The inventory was conducted using the process identified in the BLM Policy on Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands (IM 2011-154). The field inventory identified the presence or absence of the following characteristics:

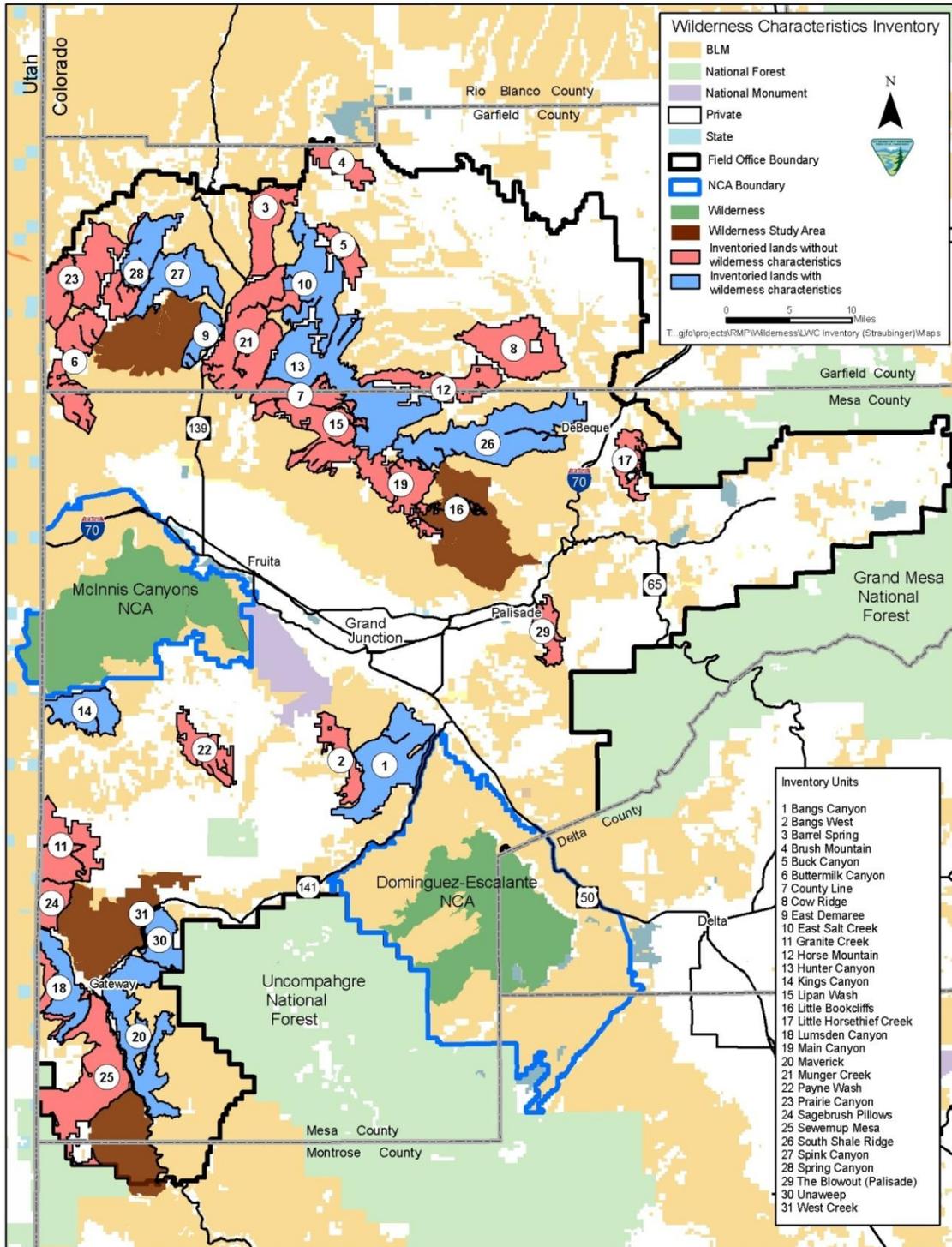
- size,
- apparent naturalness,
- opportunities for solitude,
- opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation, and
- supplemental values found for the unit.

The findings of past inventories (where applicable), including those provided in CWPs were compared to the current state of the units, analyzing changes in the landscape and levels of human impact, and were either confirmed or refuted based on the analysis. The inventory write up for each unit also included a summary of major human uses, including valid existing rights (e.g. fluid mineral leases, mining claims), which could affect wilderness characteristics in the future.

This inventory was conducted between 2009 and 2011, and in some cases involved validating previous inventories. Therefore specific descriptions (e.g. condition of a trail, acreage of the unit currently leased for fluid minerals, etc.) may no longer be exact, but offer a snapshot of conditions at the time of the inventory.

### III. Inventory Units

**Map 1 - All wilderness characteristics inventory Units in GJFO Planning Area**

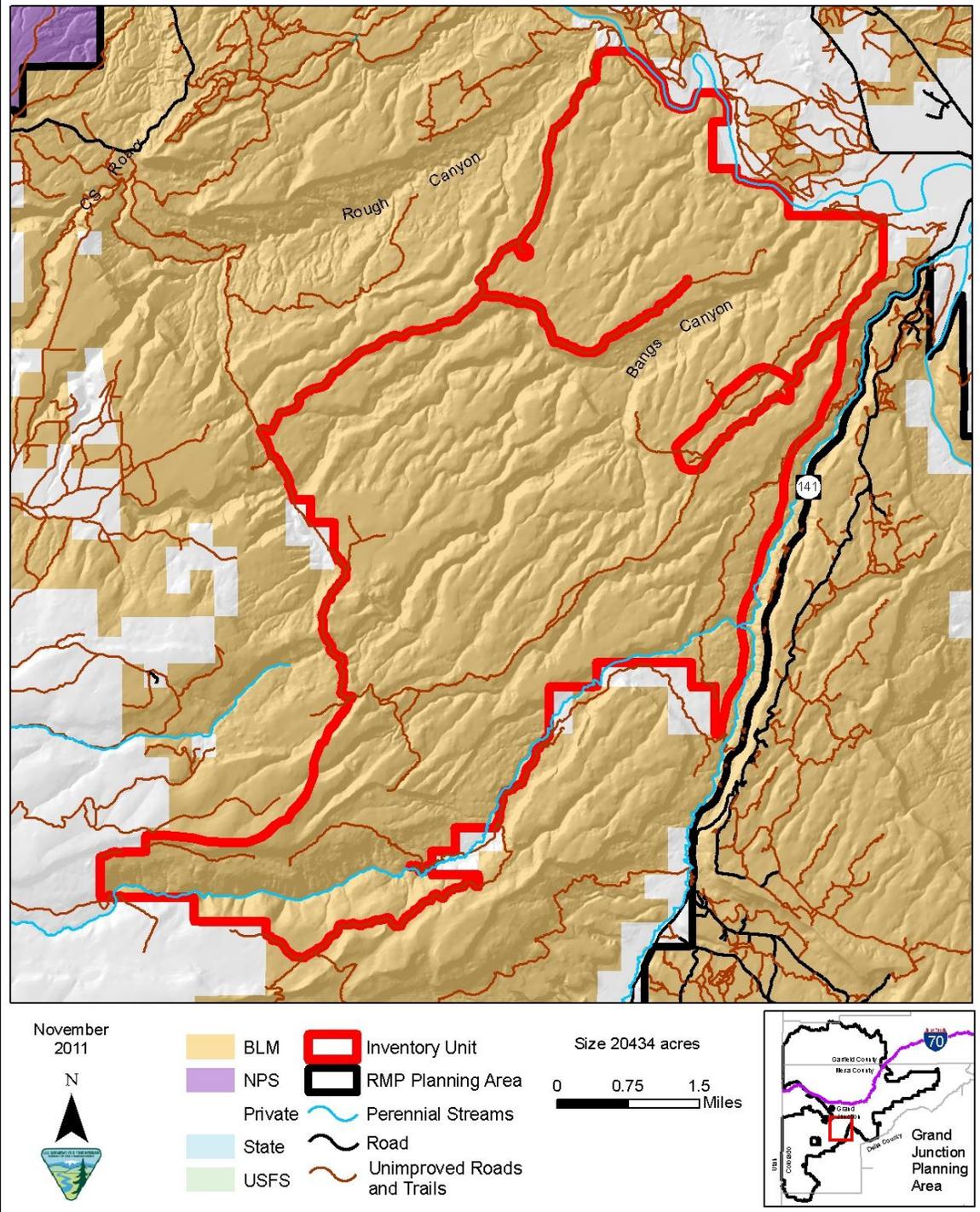


## Summary of Findings

Unit Identifier	Wilderness Character Inventory Unit (WCIU) Name	Total Acreage of WCIU	WCIU Identified by External Proponent	WCIU Identified by BLM	WCIU Found to have Wilderness Character	Acres Found to Have Wilderness Character
1	Bang's Canyon	20,434	•	•	•	20,434
2	Bang's West	6,879		•		
3	Barrel Spring	10,169		•		
4	Brush Mountain	5,310		•		
5	Buck Canyon	5,009		•		
6	Buttermilk Canyon	14,086		•		
7	County Line	7,380		•		
8	Cow Ridge	15,721	•			
9	East Demaree	4,796	•	•	•	4,796
10	East Salt Creek	18,303		•	•	17,008
11	Granite Creek	14,048	•			
12	Horse Mountain	10,303		•		
13	Hunter Canyon	32,700	•		•	32,228
14	Kings Canyon	9,606	•	•	•	9,606
15	Lipan Wash	15,373		•		
16	Little Bookcliffs WSA Expansion	1,580	•			
17	Little Horsethief Creek	5,732		•		
18	Lumsden Canyon	13,764		•	•	10,072
19	Main Canyon	12,613		•		
20	Maverick	20,401	•	•	•	20,401
21	Munger Creek	23,801		•		
22	Payne Wash	8,153		•		
23	Prairie Canyon	17,569	•			
24	Sagebrush Pillows	5,127	•			
25	Sewemup Mesa	23,551	•			
26	South Shale Ridge	27,540	•	•	•	27,540
27	Spink Canyon	13,081		•	•	13,081
28	Spring Canyon	14,009		•	•	8,848
29	The Blowout	5,105		•		
30	Unaweep	9,494	•	•	•	7,154
31	West Creek	111	•	•	•	111

# 1. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Bang's Canyon

## Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Bang's Canyon



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

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

No \_\_\_\_\_ (Go to Form 2) Yes  X  (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: Wilderness Inventory (1979, 1999)
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): Bang's Canyon
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): NA
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): Northwest/Grand Junction Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
Bang's Canyon	Yes 20,434 ac.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**Form 2**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes   X                        No           

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I. **Area Description:** The Bang’s Canyon inventory unit is located in Mesa County, approximately six miles south of Grand Junction. The Colorado National Monument lies four miles to the northwest, just beyond the intervening Rough Canyon. All 20,434 acres lands within the unit are public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.
  
- II. **Background:** This unit was included in a citizens’ wilderness proposal. An inventory was completed by the BLM in 1999 and no changes have occurred to alter the findings. The 1999 findings were validated in 2009 as no new routes; range improvements, rights-of –way or other ground disturbing activities were issued or constructed since the inventory was completed. The unit was also inventoried by the BLM in 1979.
  - A. **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The inventory unit boundary follows a combination of roads, private property lines, a powerline, the shoreline of the Gunnison River, legal subdivision lines, and topography. Several roads penetrate the area and are cherry-stemmed out of the unit. An old log cabin (dating from the early 1900’s) is located at the end of the cherry-stemmed road extending into the canyon bottom of North East Creek. This cultural feature, and the minor developments associated with it, is likewise cherry-stemmed from the unit. Other than State Highway 141, boundary roads are, for the most part, in poor condition, do not receive much use, and are only lightly bladed.
  
  - B. **Topography:** This inventory unit embraces a series of shallow to moderately deep canyons which drain northeasterly from the edge of Piñon Mesa (a part of the Uncompahgre Plateau) into the Gunnison River. Bang’s Canyon, West Bang’s Canyon, and the canyon of North East Creek are the unit’s predominant canyon features. These, along with several of their principal side canyons, provide more than 35 miles of canyon and riparian habitat within the unit. Bang’s Canyon and West Bang’s Canyon are rugged, steep-walled features varying in depth from 200 to more than 400 feet. Both of these canyons have numerous tributary side canyons, which vary in length from less than a half mile to more than two miles. Rock

overhangs and amphitheater-type formations, while not common, are present in the canyon landscape. Bedrock potholes occasionally dot canyon bottoms, while other erosional features appear scattered throughout - evidencing the physical forces of water runoff action. Intermittent streams flow in both Bang's and West Bang's Canyons. North East Creek, by comparison, is more typically a U-shaped canyon throughout its length with moderately gentle to steeply sloping canyon walls. Here, canyon depths vary from 600 feet to nearly 1,000 feet in the upper portion of the drainage and, where exposed, slickrock cliffs reach 150-200 feet in height. Unlike Bang's Canyon and West Bang's Canyon, the canyon of North East Creek supports a perennial stream, which flows into East Creek, a tributary to the Gunnison River.

The lower mesas share a characteristic northeast-to-southwest trending orientation, but range in size, with the largest being approximately one and a half miles wide by six miles long. These finger-like mesas lie below the high cliff faces and benchlands from which both Bang's and West Bang's Canyons originate. The highest mesas are those located just north of the upper portion of North East Creek. These mesas are more typically gently sloping plateaus or wide ridge areas extending off the northeastern edge of Piñon Mesa. Though limited in extent within unit boundaries, these high, relatively wide ridges vary in elevation from 7,400 feet to nearly 8,300 feet and are fairly level in scattered locations.

- C. Vegetation:** Vegetation in most of the unit consists of a pinyon and juniper woodland/desert shrub community. At higher elevations, the pinyon and juniper woodland occurs in relatively dense stands. Above the 7,000-foot level, Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, scrub oak, and isolated pockets of quaking aspen are prominent. Small stands of mature ponderosa pine occupy portions of the high ridge tops and are scattered in small pockets along their adjacent slopes. Pinyon and juniper woodland is often interspersed with these ponderosa pine. Also present in the high-elevation landscape are manzanita, oakbrush, and various grass species. Below the 6,500-foot level, the density of the pinyon and juniper woodland is markedly different from that growing at the higher elevations. Here, stand density varies greatly from very sparse at the lower elevations to more dense stands in upper canyon areas and on mesa tops. Island Mesa supports one of the denser pinyon and juniper stands within the inventory unit. The sparsely forested lower elevations are dominated by relatively large openings populated by a desert shrub plant community, typical to the regions semi-arid environment, consisting primarily of sagebrush, cactus, yucca, mountain mahogany, snakeweed, saltbush, rabbitbrush, and Indian ricegrass. Canyon bottoms support a more riparian-like habitat with scattered pockets of willow, tamarisk, and cottonwood trees hugging the bed and banks of intermittent and perennial streams. The canyon bottoms of North East Creek and several side canyons tributary to Bang's Canyon support particularly lush

riparian vegetative communities. Plants of interest found within the unit are the Colorado hookless cactus, Naturita milkvetch, false helleborine orchid, osterhout, catseye, kachina daisy, eastwood monkeyflower, and longflower catseye.

**D. Wildlife:** The diversity of wildlife communities found within the inventory units canyon-and-mesa elevational ranges provide shade, shelter, water, and food for a relatively wide variety of wildlife. Elk, mule deer, mountain lion, black bear, beaver, bobcat, wild turkey, and desert bighorn sheep inhabit the unit along with other regional endemic species. Animals of interest found within the unit are the canyon tree frog; fringed, Yuma and spotted bats; bald eagle; osprey; northern goshawk; peregrine falcon; flammulated owl; and gray vireo. Many bird species, including the canyon wren, pinyon jay, white-throated swift, rock wren, and hummingbird are common throughout the area. Rainbow trout and a population of dace thrive in the perennial flow of North East Creek.

### **III. Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities**

**Recreation:** Recreational activities occurring within unit boundaries include mountain biking, hiking, backpacking, hunting, driving off-highway vehicles, and horseback riding. A short segment of the 142-mile Tabeguache Trail, an extension of the Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail System, traverses the inventory unit. This particular segment is rated as difficult and is used by a relatively small number of mountain bike enthusiasts annually. This section of the Tabeguache Trail is also open to motorized vehicles and as with mountain bikes, the recreation use is relatively low.

**Grazing:** Thirteen stock reservoirs are found within the areas canyon system. There are currently portions of seven range allotments covering the unit, and livestock management continues with a few scattered range developments and access routes.

**Rights-of-way:** Record search through LR 2000 shows no rights-of-way.

**Oil and gas leasing:** No leasing has occurred within the unit.

**Road Maintenance:**

Four roads have been cherry-stemmed out of the inventory unit and one route (Tabaguache Trail) bisects the area. This route is an important route for access and connectivity for motorized and non-motorized recreation. These routes may receive maintenance depending on the purpose and need of the route, condition or access issues.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes   X              No                   N/A       

*If you check "No" above, check "N/A" (Not Applicable) in the remaining boxes below, and you need not provide additional evaluation for the unit or subunit. Use additional space as necessary.]*

Description:

The majority of the inventory unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature and retains its natural character. Human impacts are substantially unnoticeable and the unit's rugged, steep-walled canyons and surrounding mesa tops have not experienced much surface disturbance. The few isolated ways present on the mesa tops are widely scattered and have become substantially unnoticeable in the landscape. Today, most are little more than parallel tire-track routes. These ways do not substantially impact the overall naturalness of the area. Several factors contribute to this condition. First, minimal construction was used in their initial development. And second, they have received very limited use, show the effects of natural erosion, and are hidden by vegetative regrowth and/or screening. The Tabeguache Trail is one of these ways. Though readily apparent in its setting, it receives relatively light use and is not so obtrusive as to preclude the area from being considered natural appearing in the broad context of the larger landscape over which it traverses. Several livestock reservoirs and fences are widely dispersed and inconspicuous. The livestock reservoirs are all revegetating, which reduces greatly their visual impact. Several of these reservoirs were constructed so long ago that there is little indication of the original routes leading to them.

Substantially noticeable and extensive impacts exist on four specific areas within the inventory unit. These areas are unnatural in appearance due to the presence of livestock developments, continuously used roads/ways, historically used camping areas, or powerline poles/conductors. Starting at the unit's extreme eastern tip along State Highway 141 and East Creek and following the unit's boundary in a clockwise direction, the areas described below are unnatural in character.

- Along the unit's eastern side nearest Whitewater, a 207-acre area paralleling a portion of State Highway 141 and East Creek is heavily impacted by a combination of disturbances. Access routes, undeveloped/dispersed overnight camping and day-use sites, and loop routes regularly traveled by people driving off-highway vehicles are most noticeable. Soil compaction, loss of vegetative cover, erosion, fire rings, trash dumping, fuel wood cutting, and spray-painted graffiti on rock walls and outcrops all contribute to this settings unnatural appearance.

- In the east-central portion of the unit, major livestock developments and the access routes to them heavily impact a 280-acre rectangular-shaped area paralleling the lower portion of the Tabeguache Trail. Large and small livestock reservoirs, a catchment development with its associated pipelines and stock water troughs, fences and gates, and fuelwood cutting all contribute to this area's unnatural appearance.
- Along the unit's eastern side, a narrow 11-acre area paralleling State Highway 141 and the powerline is heavily impacted by utility poles, conductors and the access route built to install and service them.
- Along the unit's northwest side, a 5-acre area is heavily impacted by a livestock development which includes a functioning windmill and its associated fencing, pipeline, holding tank, stock troughs, cleared areas, and access route built to install and service them.

In conclusion, the natural-appearing portion of the inventory unit consists of several long, remote and seldom-visited canyons and their surrounding mesa tops. The upper ends of the canyons and their tributary side canyons appear entirely natural and pristine. Some of these appear to have never been grazed by livestock. To a great degree, the extreme topographic relief of this area has prevented past surface disturbance.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes   X                        No \_\_\_\_\_                      N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

The Bang's Canyon inventory unit offers visitors outstanding opportunities for solitude in many locations throughout the portion of the unit retaining its natural character. The varied topography, including 35 miles of steep-walled, frequently rugged, seldom visited, terrain within the unit's three main and tributary side canyons (Bang's Canyon, West Bang's Canyon, and the canyon of North East Creek), provides outstanding opportunities for visitors to find a secluded place and isolation. The area's overall size, the vegetative screening afforded by the mesa tops and uplands often dense pinyon and juniper woodland, and the riparian vegetation growing among the boulder-strewn canyon bottoms, all contribute to a visitor's ability to locate places where a perception/feeling of being totally alone or remote from others can be found.

(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?

Yes   X                        No \_\_\_\_\_                      N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

The Bang's Canyon inventory unit offers visitors outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in many locations throughout the portion of the unit retaining its natural character. The area's overall size, diversity of wildlife, lush riparian habitats in canyon bottoms, perennial stream flows, steep-walled and boulder-strewn canyon slopes, and other erosional features all contribute to opportunities for recreational activities that require an open, unconfined setting, and which do not demand developed facilities. Hiking, backpacking, camping, sightseeing, photography, and studying nature are primitive and unconfined activity opportunities considered outstanding within the inventory unit.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes   X              No                       N/A           

Description:

The Bang's Canyon inventory unit is described as critically sensitive from a cultural resource standpoint. The area was utilized as long ago as 10,000 years - first by the paleo Indian culture and successively by the cultures commonly referenced as the archaic, Fremont and Ute. Use was most likely temporal, seasonal, and spread throughout the area. The availability of water/springs and rock shelters in the unit's moderately deep canyons contributed to this use and habitation (considered probable during winter-month periods). The unit's mesas and canyons provided a main travel corridor from the high country of the Uncompahgre Plateau to the lowlands along the Gunnison River. Lithic source material is prevalent in the unit, and a solid quartzite quarry is also present.

From a botanical perspective, the Bang's Canyon inventory unit is home to a host of plants of interest. These include: 1) Colorado hookless cactus (federal listed, threatened); 2) Naturita milkvetch (BLM sensitive); 3) false helleborine (BLM sensitive); 4) osterhout (BLM sensitive); 5) catseye (BLM sensitive); 6) kachina daisy; 7) eastwood monkeyflower; and 8) longflower catseye. The State of Colorado is very interested in these plant species as a part of the Colorado Natural Areas Program. A remnant stand of old, very large pinyon and juniper trees is located at the end of the way extending into the unit on an upper bench of North East Creek.

From a wildlife perspective, the Bang's Canyon inventory unit is home to a host of animals of interest. These include: 1) canyon tree frog (sensitive, but not BLM sensitive); 2) desert bighorn sheep; 3) fringed myotis; 4) Yuma myotis; 5) spotted bat; 6) bald eagle (wintering only, and roosting up Bang's Canyon); 7) osprey (migratory only); 8) northern goshawk (nesting occurring); 9) gray vireo (a Partners in Flight priority species); 10) flamulated owl; and 11) peregrine falcon.

From a fish perspective, the Bang's Canyon inventory unit is home to healthy populations of rainbow trout and dace in the perennial flow of North East Creek. This is somewhat unique for a semi-arid area otherwise devoid of perennial streamflow and resident populations of fish.

The eastern portion of the Bang's Canyon inventory unit has a relatively large area of Morrison Formation exposed. This has the potential for additional fossil vertebrate dinosaur sites within the region.

### Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: Bang's Canyon

#### 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
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No  NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes  No  NA

#### Conclusion

##### Check One:

The area-or a portion of the area (**Entire Unit**) has wilderness character.

The area does not have wilderness character.

#### 1999 Inventory Prepared by:

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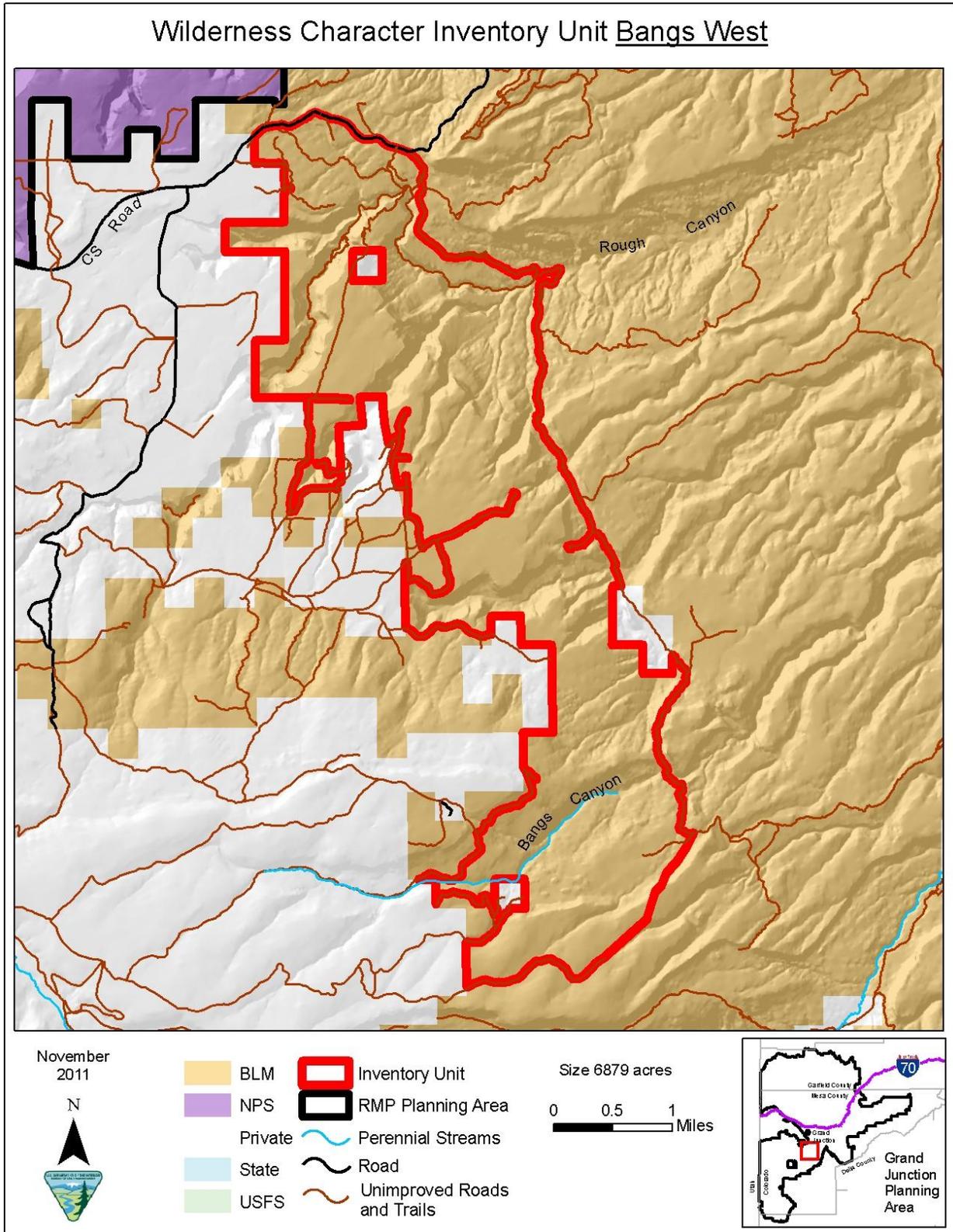
#### 1999 Inventory Validated in 2009 by:

Chris Ham

Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner

*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.*

2. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Bang's West



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics 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 for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: N/A
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): N/A
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): N/A

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## **Form 2**

Bang's West unit:

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes  X  No

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I. **Area Description:** The Bang's West unit is located in Mesa County. The unit is part of the Bang's Canyon Special Recreation Management Area, and is approximately 5 miles from Grand Junction, CO.
  
- II. **Background:** This unit was neither part of the BLM's Initial Wilderness Inventory process in 1979 nor was it identified in the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal. The unit is adjacent to the Bang's Canyon inventory unit and the Rough Canyon inventory unit from the 1979 inventory.
  - A. **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The Bang's West unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains approximately 6,879 acres. It is bounded on the west by private boundaries and on the north by Little Park Road. The eastern boundary is formed by the Tabeguache Trail and private boundaries. The southern portion of the unit is formed by the Bang's Canyon inventory unit boundary.
  - B. **Topography:** The Bang's West unit ranges in elevation from approximately 8,100 feet in the southwest portion of the unit to 5,400 feet where Rough Canyon meets the Tabeguache Trail. A large portion of the unit is a flat mesa, including part of Clarks Bench. Rough Canyon starts in the northern portion of the unit, winding approximately 3.8 miles before leaving the unit boundaries. A portion of Ladder Canyon also is found in the unit as it merges with Rough Canyon.
  - C. **Vegetation:** Vegetation in the unit is characterized largely by pinyon-juniper. Other occurring vegetation includes grass/forb rangeland and sagebrush. Ponderosa pine and Gambel oak can be found in the southwestern portion of the unit.
  - D. **Wildlife:** Many big-game species utilize the unit, including: elk, mule-deer, mountain lion, black-bear and other species. A portion of the unit sees a winter concentration of elk and mule-deer.

### III. **Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities**

**Recreation:** Recreation use is high in this unit. The proximity to Grand Junction brings significant numbers of visitors into the unit, particularly for hiking in Ladder Canyon (Mica Mine Trail) and Rough Canyon (Rough Canyon Trail). Also, OHV and mountain-bike use along the Tabeguache Trail which forms the eastern boundary is prevalent. A major trailhead is located just outside the boundaries off of Little Park Road.

**Grazing:** Grazing occurs in a majority of the unit. Eight range related springs, dams and reservoirs occur within or near the unit.

**Rights-of-way:** Four ROWs occur within the unit. These ROWs are for non-energy related roads.

**Oil and Gas Leasing:** No portion of the unit is currently leased for oil and gas development.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes  X  No

Description:

Overall, the unit appears to be in a natural condition. Evidence of human impacts includes roughly 380 acres of chaining on the mesa above Ladder Canyon, a few vegetation disturbances above Rough Canyon, and range facilities. While the chaining is certainly evident it is not detrimental to the overall natural character of the unit.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes   No  X  N/A

Description:

The areas in this unit which provide the best opportunities for solitude are Ladder Canyon and Rough Canyon. However, these canyons receive frequent travel by recreationists hiking to the Mica Mine in Ladder Canyon or hiking the Rough Canyon Trail. The frequent use jeopardizes one's chance of finding solitude in these areas. Solitude may be found on the flat mesa tops, but the typical vegetation (pinyon-juniper, sagebrush) and lack of topographical variety provide less than outstanding opportunities for solitude. The best opportunities for solitude exist in West Bang's Canyon and Bang's Canyon, which begin in this unit as they travel towards the Gunnison River. However, this unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

(4) Does the area have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?

Yes   No  X  N/A

Description:

Infrastructure for recreation, particularly hiking and horseback, exists inside and around the unit. Two trails, Mica Mine and Rough Canyon are frequently used and accessed by a large, developed trailhead and parking area. However, recreation is relatively confined to these corridors within the canyons, as access to the mesas above is limited. The mesas provide little in terms of quality recreation opportunities. A majority of the southern half of the unit is

narrow and characterized by extremely steep slopes elevating from the Tabeguache Trail (eastern boundary) to the mesa-tops.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  X

Units found to not meet the other criteria for wilderness characteristics were not assessed for supplemental values.

## Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: Bang's West

Results of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements?  X  Yes \_\_\_ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural?  X  Yes \_\_\_ No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? \_\_\_ Yes  X  No \_\_\_ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  X  N/A

Conclusion:

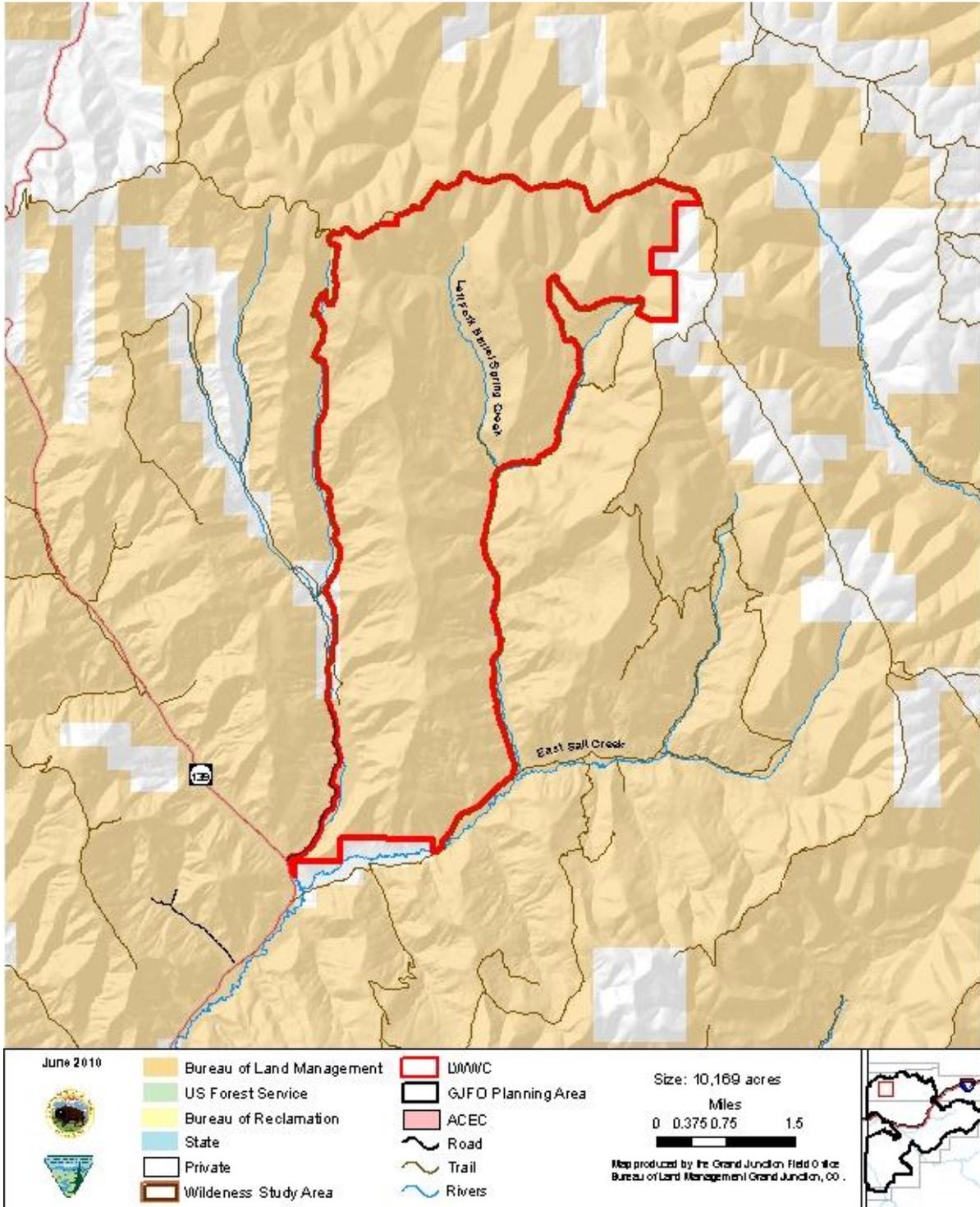
- \_\_\_ The area or a portion of the area has wilderness character  
 X  The area does not have wilderness character

**Prepared by:**

Adam M Straubinger  
Outdoor Recreation Planner (on contract) 2011

***This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.***

### 3. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Barrel Spring



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics 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 for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: N/A
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): N/A
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): N/A

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Form 2**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes   X                        No                   

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I. **Area Description:** The Barrel Spring unit is located in Mesa County, approximately 10 miles north of Fruita, Colorado and encompasses approximately 10,169 acres of BLM public lands.
  
- II. **Background:** This unit neither was part of the BLM’s Initial Wilderness Inventory process in 1979 nor was it identified in the Citizens’ Wilderness Proposal. It was determined to be essentially roadless through the current inventory process.
  - A. **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The Barrel Spring unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains 10,168 acres. It is bounded on the west by Calf Canyon and BLM Road 7686, while to the east Barrel Springs Creek and BLM Road 7690A create the boundary. The northern border follows Garfield County Road 256. Private lands occur at the extreme southern tip, which also make up the southern boundary of the unit. Private lands also exist as the northeast corner of the unit and a 3 mile long of the western border.
  
  - B. **Topography:** The Barrel Spring unit is located at the top of the Bookcliffs Range with a generally southern aspect and elevations range from approximately 8,500 feet at the top of the Bookcliffs to 6,000 feet at the southern end of the unit. The unit is bisected by both the Left and Right Forks of Barrel Springs Creek. Essentially, the unit is comprised by a single long ridge that runs south to north in bounded by Calf Creek and the Left Fork of Barrel Spring Creek.
  
  - C. **Vegetation:** Vegetation consists of sage brush and pinyon-juniper on the lower elevations, large expanses of gambel oak to pockets of Douglas fir, aspen and mountain mahogany on the higher elevations and north facing slopes. Additionally, two endangered plant species: the Piceance Bladderpod and Green River Bladderpod have been found in or adjacent to the unit.
  
  - D. **Wildlife:** The area serves as important habitat for numerous big game species including: elk, mule deer, mountain lion, black bear, grouse and many other non-game species.
  
- III. **Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities**
  - Recreation:** Recreation use in this area is generally related to fall big game hunting. Camping and off-highway vehicle use occurs off of 4 routes south of Garfield County Road 256 and along the periphery of the unit. Use is very low.

**Grazing:** Livestock grazing occurs throughout the unit, 5 water developments occur to support grazing operations – two are small retention dams while the remainders are small ponds. Approximately 3,800 feet of the Cliff Spring pipeline also supports water delivery to developments. Less than ¼ mile of fences also occurs within the unit. Two seeding projects have occurred encompassing approximately 200 acres mainly on the periphery of the unit.

**Rights-of-way:** Record search through LR 2000 shows 3 rights-of-way within the unit. There are 3 ROWs on record that would need additional verification on the ground to ensure any necessary boundary adjustments would occur if the area was designated. Current ROWs include uses that involve; pipelines and roads.

**Oil and gas leasing:** Approximately 6,850 acres or over 67% of the acreage of the unit is currently leased for fluid minerals and 11 wells exist near the boundary. The production pads would need additional verification on the ground to ensure any necessary boundary adjustments would occur if the area was to be managed to protect the wilderness characteristics.

**Road Maintenance:**

BLM Road 7690AA exists up the Right Fork of Barrel Springs road for approximately 3 miles but receives no regular maintenance.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes  No  N/A

*If you check "No" above, check "N/A" (Not Applicable) in the remaining boxes below, and you need not provide additional evaluation for the unit or subunit. Use additional space as necessary.]*

Description:

Only minor imprints of humans exist. These include old ways, several small reservoirs, fence lines and minor drainage work on the periphery of the unit. These imprints are small in scale and short in stature; they continue to be well screened by vegetation and are not noticeable to the casual observer.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

Due to its narrow configuration, flat topography of the ridge top and the very steep slopes which surround the ridge make seclusion difficult from the sights and sounds of others and the

visible activity in the surrounding area adjacent to the unit. The area is accessible easily from Colorado Highway 139 and therefore quite close in proximity to large population centers such as Grand Junction and Fruita. Finding solitude is difficult on the flat ridge top due to the lack of sufficient vegetative screening. The slopes on the unit are very steep and generally lacking in any substantial vegetation so seclusion from others or sights of the adjacent landscape make finding solitude challenging because of the constant remainder of human activity and impact. However, small pockets of solitude can be found throughout the unit if one is in a packet of dense Douglas Fir or in one of the gulches that fall away from the steep slopes around the periphery of the unit but they are not considered to be outstanding.

(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

The current use of the unit is primarily non-motorized. Though the overall size of the area may be conducive to primitive and unconfined types of outdoor recreation activities, the steep slopes and narrow configuration surrounded by private lands make movement in the unit difficult and inhibit travel throughout the unit. Although hunting and hiking occur within the unit, they are not considered to be outstanding in nature.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  X

Description:

No supplemental values are discussed as the unit was found to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation.

## Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: Barrel Spring

### 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
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No  NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes  No  NA

### Conclusion

#### Check One:

The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.

The area does not have wilderness character.

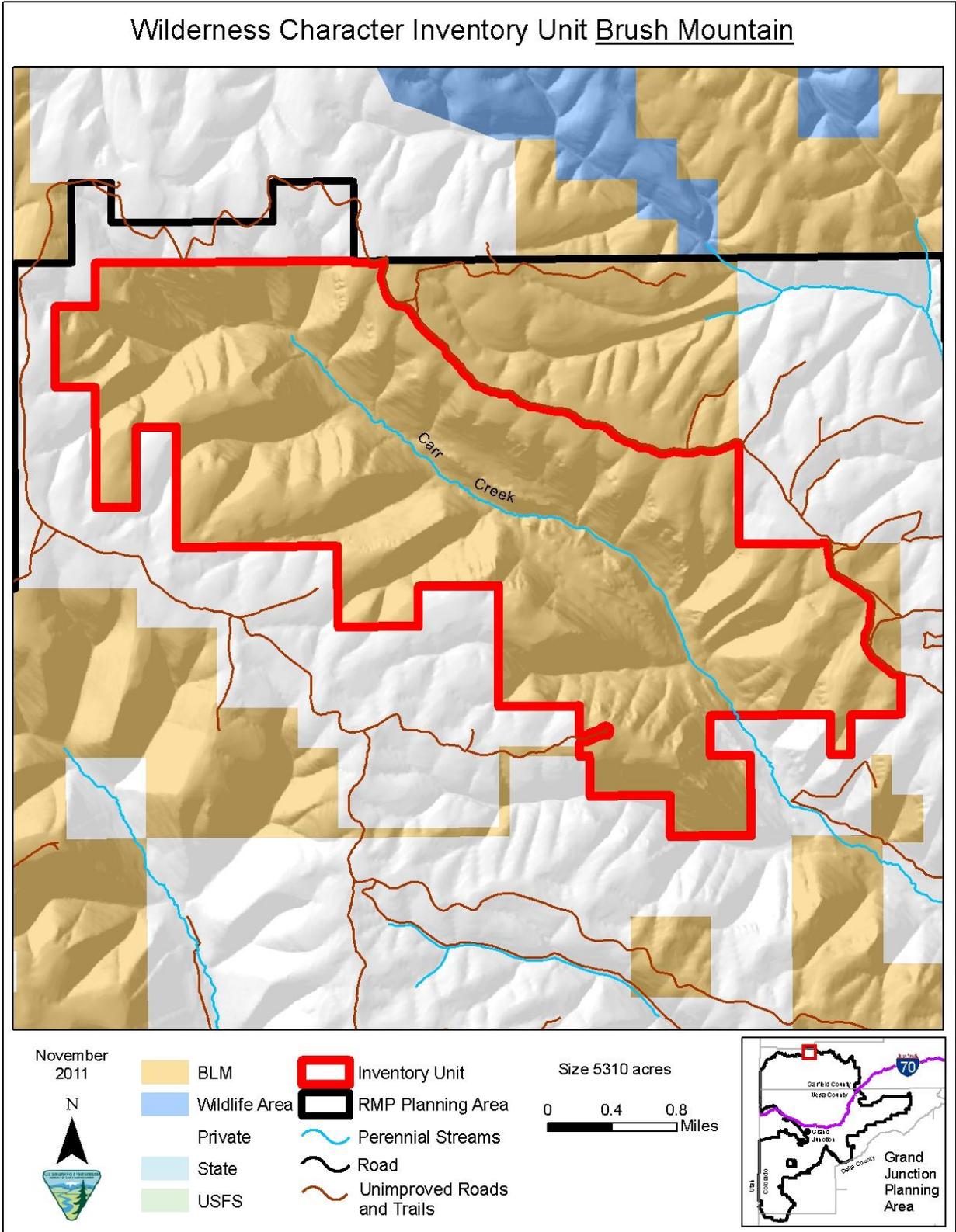
### Prepared by:

Chris Ham

Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner, 2009

***This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.***

4. **Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Brush Mountain**



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics 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 for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: N/A
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): N/A
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): N/A

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Form 2

Brush Mountain unit:

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

I. **Area Description:** The Brush Mountain unit is located in Garfield County. The unit is in the northern portion of the field office, adjacent to the Rio Blanco County line.

II. **Background:** This unit was neither part of the BLM's Initial Wilderness Inventory process in 1979 nor was it identified in the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal.

A. **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The Brush Mountain unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains approximately 5,310 acres. It is bounded almost exclusively by private land, with the eastern boundary formed by private boundaries and BLM 7,047 which runs atop Brush Mountain.

B. **Topography:** The Brush Mountain unit ranges in elevation from approximately 8,900 feet in the northwestern portion of the unit to 7,000 feet at the bottom of Carr Creek. The unit consists of steep slopes rising from Carr Creek towards Brush Mountain to the east and Upper Four A Mountain to the west.

C. **Vegetation:** Considering the higher elevation, this unit consists of differing vegetation compared to many of the other units in the region. Douglas fir and aspen make up a large portion of the unit. Gambel oak and Mesic mountain shrub mix are the other primary forms of vegetation.

D. **Wildlife:** Many big-game species utilize the unit, including: elk, mule-deer, mountain lion, black-bear and other species.

### III. **Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities**

**Recreation:** Recreation use is low in this unit, as the topography, orientation and overall character of the unit do not lend themselves to quality recreation experiences. Private land adjacent to the unit also makes access difficult. The recently developed Palisade Rim trail has increased use in the area. Trails in the area had some historic use, but new access agreements have allowed additional public to access the area.

**Grazing:** Livestock grazing occurs in a majority of the unit.

**Rights-of-way:** ROWs occur within the unit. These ROWs are for the Brush

Mountain Road.

**Oil and Gas Leasing:** 1,160 acres in the unit are currently leased for oil and gas development.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes  No

Description:

The unit is considered to be in a natural state. Approximately 350 acres within the unit atop Brush Mountain have been treated mechanically to reduce woody overstory. Overall, however, the unit appears to be in a natural state.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

Opportunities for solitude exist due to the remote nature of the unit, but are not outstanding. The smaller size, difficulty of access (bounded by private) and topography of the unit limits the area where visitors can travel, thereby limiting opportunities for solitude.

(4) Does the area have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

Recreation is relatively confined due to imposing boundaries formed by private land, and the rugged topography of lands within the unit. The slopes above the drainages leading into Carr Creek are steep and not ideal for cross country travel or any forms of primitive recreation. As seen with opportunities for solitude, the orientation of the boundaries and topographical layout of the unit make opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation less than outstanding.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes  No  N/A

Units found to not meet the other criteria for wilderness characteristics were not assessed for supplemental values.

## Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: Brush Mountain

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
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?                      Yes    No    N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values?              Yes    No    N/A

Conclusion:

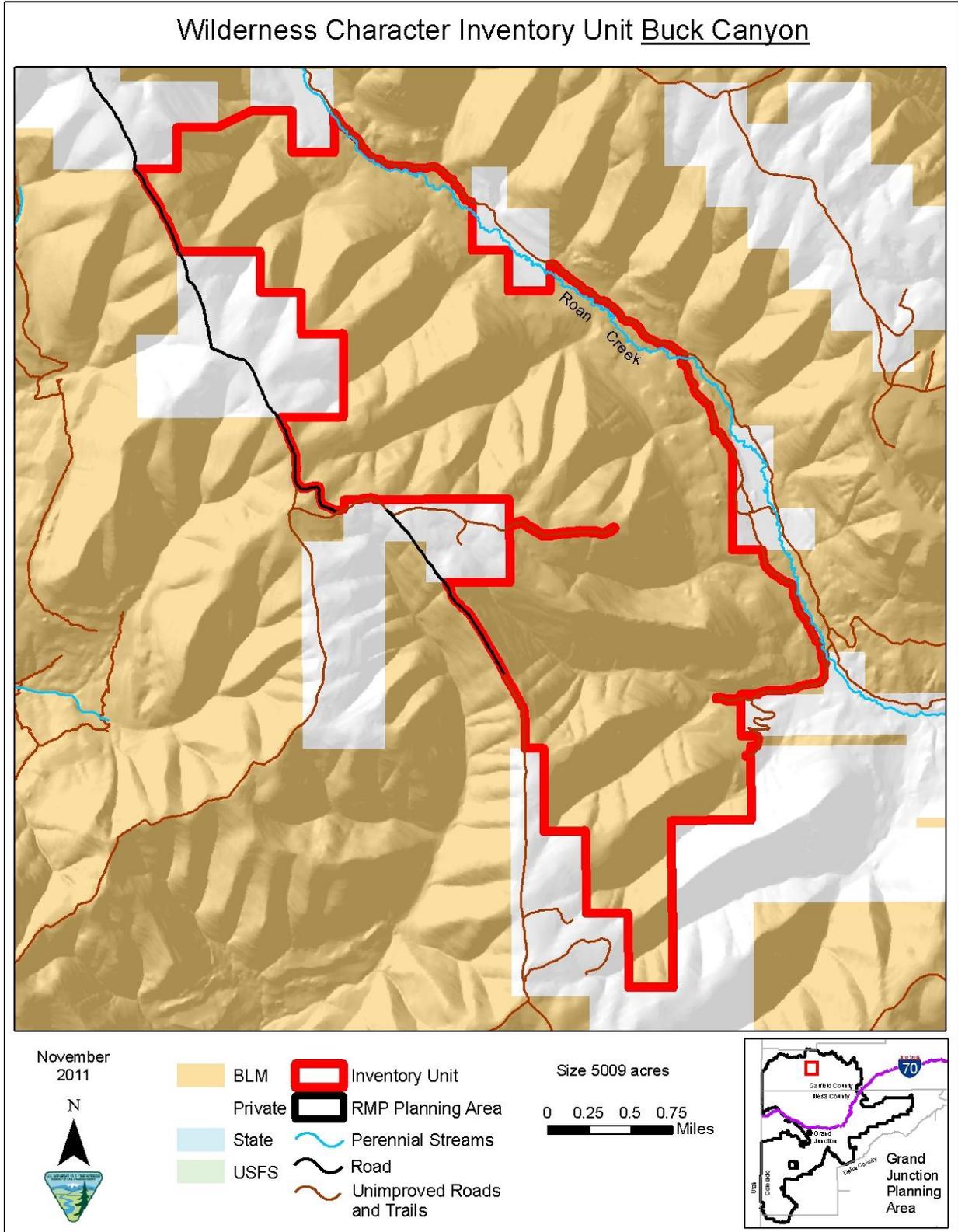
- The area or a portion of the area has wilderness character  
 The area does not have wilderness character

**Prepared by:**

Adam M Straubinger  
Outdoor Recreation Planner (on contract) 2011

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5. Wilderness Character Inventory unit Buck Canyon



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics 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 for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: N/A
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): N/A
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): N/A

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Form 2

Buck Canyon unit:

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I. **Area Description:** The Buck Canyon unit is located in Garfield County. The unit is in the northern portion of the field office, 6 miles from Rio Blanco County.
  
- II. **Background:** This unit was neither part of the BLM's Initial Wilderness Inventory process in 1979 nor was it identified in the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal.
  - A. **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The Buck Canyon unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains approximately 5,009 acres. It is bounded on the west by BLM Road 7591 and private boundaries and on the north by private boundaries. The eastern boundary is formed by a BLM road which parallels Roan Creek and private boundaries. The southern tip of the unit is formed by private boundaries.
  - B. **Topography:** The Buck Canyon unit ranges in elevation from approximately 8,850 feet in the west-central portion of the unit to 6,750 feet as the unit approaches Roan Creek. The unit consists of steep slopes rising from Roan Creek to a ridge running essentially north-south. A road atop this ridge marks the western boundary. Drainages bisect the slopes running east towards Roan Creek.
  - C. **Vegetation:** Considering the higher elevation, this unit consists of differing vegetation compared to many of the other units in the region. Douglas fir and Aspen vegetate a large portion of the unit, and are found on the north facing slopes. Gambel oak and mesic mountain shrub mix are the other primary forms of vegetation.
  - D. **Wildlife:** Many big-game species utilize the unit, including elk, mule-deer, mountain lion, black-bear and other species. The portion of the unit adjacent to Roan Creek sees a fall concentration of black bear and a winter concentration of elk. Roan Creek, which runs through a portion of the unit, is a perennial, fish bearing stream; Bluehead Sucker and Colorado River Cutthroat can be found in this creek.

### III. **Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities**

**Recreation:** Recreation use is low in this unit, as the topography, orientation and overall character of the unit do not lend themselves to quality recreation experiences. Private land adjacent to the unit also makes access difficult.

**Grazing:** Grazing occurs in the unit. Three range related springs and two miles of

fence occur within the unit.

**Rights-of-way:** Seven ROWs occur within the unit. These ROWs are for Oil and Gas pipelines and energy related roads.

**Oil and Gas Leasing:** Approximately 65% of the unit is currently leased for oil and gas development. Three wells are located near the unit boundaries.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes  No

Description:

The unit is considered to be in a natural state. Range related facilities are minimal in the unit and do not deter from the overall sense of naturalness.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

Opportunities for solitude exist in the drainages and slopes rising from them. The north facing slopes in this unit are well vegetated with Douglas Fir and Aspen, providing adequate screening. The south facing slopes are vegetated with lower lying plants, such as shrubs and Gambel Oak, and are steeper and more exposed. While solitude can certainly be found in this unit, the orientation of the unit makes these opportunities less than outstanding. The unit is relatively narrow, varying from 0.2 to 2.5 miles in width. The most ideal corridors for solitude run the width of the unit, and are limited by the boundaries. The orientation of the boundaries and topographical layout of the unit make opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

(4) Does the area have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

Recreation is relatively confined due to imposing boundaries formed by private land, and the rugged topography of lands within the unit. The slopes above the drainages leading into Roan Creek are steep and not ideal for cross country travel or any forms of primitive recreation. As seen with opportunities for solitude, the orientation of the boundaries and topographical layout of the unit make opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation less than outstanding.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes  No  N/A

Units found to not meet the other criteria for wilderness characteristics were not assessed for supplemental values.

## Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: Buck Canyon

### Results of Analysis:

5. Does the area meet any of the size requirements?      Yes \_\_\_ No
6. Does the area appear to be natural?                      Yes \_\_\_ No
7. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?                     \_\_\_ Yes  No \_\_\_ N/A
8. Does the area have supplemental values?             \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  N/A

### Conclusion:

- The area or a portion of the area has wilderness character  
 The area does not have wilderness character

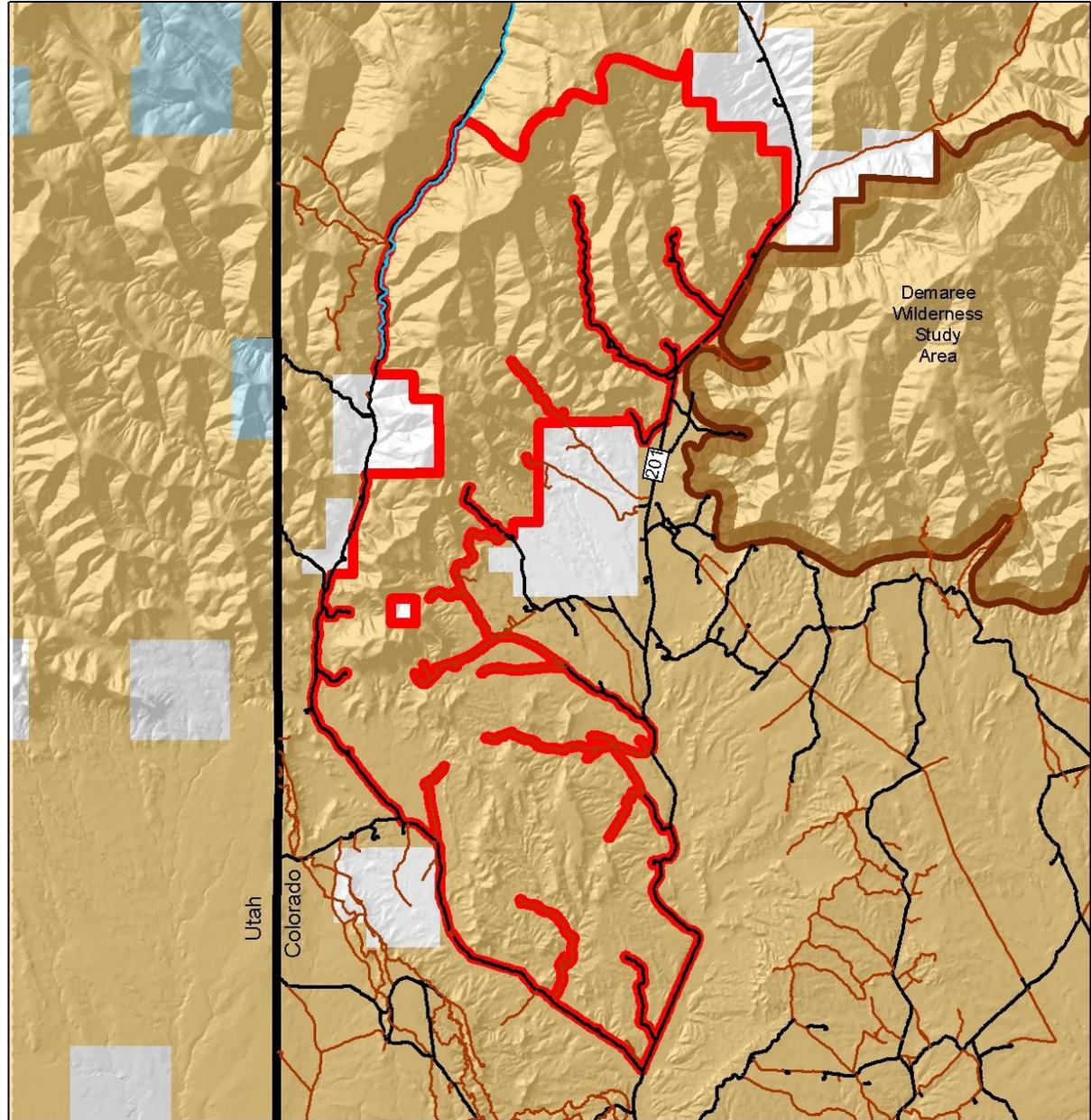
### Prepared by:

Adam M Straubinger  
Outdoor Recreation Planner (on contract) 2011

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6. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Buttermilk Canyon

Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Buttermilk Canyon

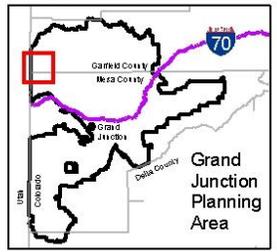


November 2011



- BLM
- Private
- State
- USFS
- Inventory Unit
- RMP Planning Area
- Perennial Streams
- Road
- Unimproved Roads and Trails

Size 14086 acres  
 0 0.5 1 1.5 Miles



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics 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 for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: N/A
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): N/A
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): N/A

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## **Form 2**

Buttermilk Canyon unit:

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes   X        No       

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I.     **Area Description:** The Buttermilk Canyon unit is located in Mesa and Garfield County, adjacent to the Demaree WSA to the east and near the Utah border to the west.
  
- II.    **Background:** This unit was neither part of the BLM’s Initial Wilderness Inventory process in 1979 nor was it identified in the Citizens’ Wilderness Proposal.
  - A.   **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The Buttermilk Canyon unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains approximately 14,086 acres. It is bounded on the West by Prairie Canyon Road and private property and on the north by a pipeline which defines the boundary of the Prairie Canyon unit. The eastern boundary is formed by County Road 201, BLM 7667, BLM 7628, 4 Road and private boundaries.
  - B.   **Topography:** The Buttermilk Canyon unit ranges in elevation from approximately 7,000 feet in the northern portion of the unit to 4,800 feet on the desert floor in the south of the unit. The southern half of the unit is open desert, consisting of rolling hills of Mancos shale. The northern half of the unit sees the rise of the Bookcliffs Range, with drainages running southwest into West Salt Creek, creating a series of ridges inside the unit.
  - C.   **Vegetation:** The southern half of the unit consists of desert-like terrain, vegetated primarily by saltbrush, juniper and snakeweed. Small communities of Greasewood are also found in the southern portion of the unit. The northern portion of the unit sees typical vegetation for the Bookcliffs: pinyon-juniper intermixed with steep talus slopes.
  - D.   **Wildlife:** Many big-game species utilize the unit, including: elk, mule-deer, mountain lion, black-bear and other species. The unit serves as a winter range for elk and mule-deer.

### III.    **Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities**

**Recreation:** Recreation use is low in this unit, as the topography and overall character of the unit do not lend themselves to quality recreation experiences. Most recreation in the unit is associated with hunting and OHV use.

**Grazing:** Grazing occurs within a majority of the unit. Six range related ponds,

and approximately 3.8 miles of fencing occur within the unit.

**Rights-of-way:** ROWs within the unit are abundant, typically following the boundary roads and cherry-stemmed roads. All ROWs are for energy related roads and pipelines.

**Oil and Gas Leasing:** Approximately 97% of the unit is currently leased for oil and gas development. Oil and gas developments are a major force in the area, with a multitude of active wells near the unit.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X

Description:

The unit is not considered to be in a natural state. Oil and gas related roads and developments dominate the landscape. An additional road was found within the unit (*Buniger Road – see Appendix C for Route Analysis*) along a high ridge paralleling Prairie Canyon. This road runs approximately 4 miles and supports numerous wells. The road is highly visible as it dominates the landscape. Oil and gas roads/developments extend into many of the major drainages, and while these roads and wells are excluded from the unit, they are cherry-stemmed deep into the unit. It is clear to the common observer that the area has been heavily manipulated by man, and is not considered to be in a natural condition.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  X

Description: N/A

(4) Does the area have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  X

Description: N/A

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  X

Units found to not meet the other criteria for wilderness characteristics were not assessed for supplemental values.

## Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: Buttermilk Canyon

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
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?                      Yes    No    N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values?                Yes    No    N/A

**Conclusion:**

- The area or a portion of the area has wilderness character  
 The area does not have wilderness character

**Prepared by:**

Adam M Straubinger  
Outdoor Recreation Planner (on contract) 2011

*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.*

**Buttermilk Canyon:**

Date: 8/3/2011 2:14 PM  
Lat: 39.432578    Lon: -109.020133



“Buniger Road” travels along the main ridge in the unit. (Appendix C for Route Analysis)

Date: 8/3/2011 2:50 PM  
Lat: 39.439758 Lon: -109.015381



Oil and gas facilities off Buniger Road.

Date: 8/3/2011 12:18 PM  
Lat: 39.358511 Lon: -109.023158



The southern end of the unit consists of open, exposed terrain. Oil and gas facilities are near the boundary.

Date: 8/3/2011 3:10 PM  
Lat: 39.443053 Lon: -109.007389



The larger drainages also have routes running through them.

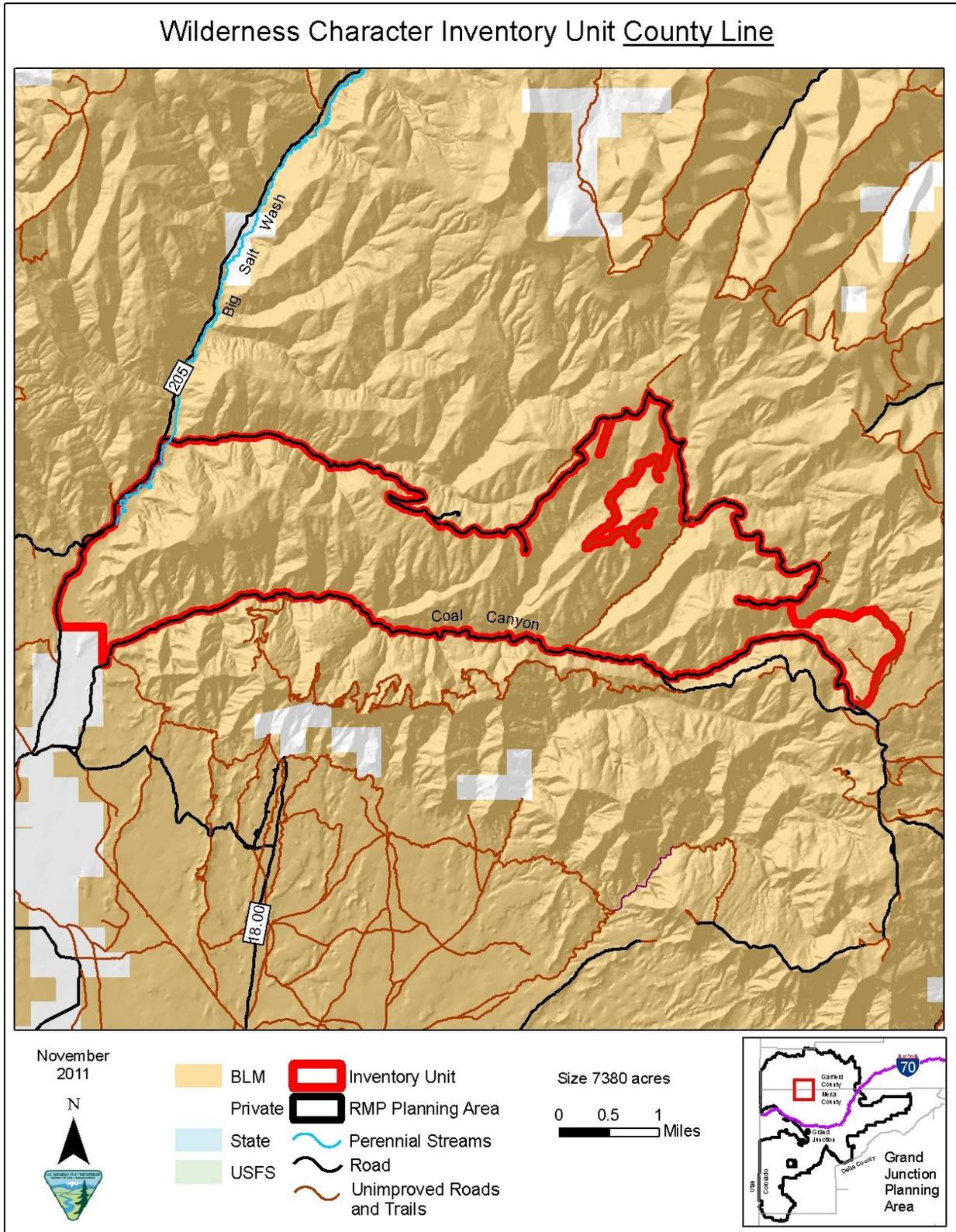
Date: 8/3/2011 3:10 PM  
Lat: 39.443011 Lon: -109.007389



Route running through drainage in east side of unit.

(See Appendix D for Photo Log)

7. **Wilderness Character Inventory Unit County Line**



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics 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 for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: N/A
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): N/A
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): N/A

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## **Form 2**

County Line unit:

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes   X        No       

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

I.     **Area Description:** The County Line unit is located in both Garfield and Mesa County, approximately 15 miles north of Fruita, CO.

II.    **Background:** This unit was neither part of the BLM's Initial Wilderness Inventory process in 1979 nor was it identified in the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal.

A.    **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The County Line unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains 7,380 acres. It is bounded on the west by 16 Road (CR 205), and on the north by BLM 7505 (Garvey Canyon Road). The eastern boundary is formed by BLM 7513A, and V.8 Road (Coal Gulch Rd.) creates the southern boundary of the unit.

B.    **Topography:** The County Line unit ranges in elevation from approximately 6,900 feet in the northwestern portion of the unit to 5,300 feet in the southeastern portion of the unit. The western half of the unit is characterized by slopes rising to a high ridge from Coal Gulch to the south and Garvey Canyon to the north. The eastern half is characterized by three ridges running north-south segregated by unnamed drainages.

C.    **Vegetation:** Vegetation consists primarily of a mix of pinyon-juniper and sagebrush. The steeper south-facing slopes are often characterized by talus slopes and rock outcroppings, sparsely vegetated with a pinyon-juniper and shrub mix. Cottonwood can be found in the major drainages.

D.    **Wildlife:** Many big-game species utilize the unit, including: elk, mule-deer, mountain lion, black-bear and other species. The unit serves as a winter range for elk and mule-deer.

### **III. Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities**

**Recreation:** Recreation in the unit is mostly associated with hunting and OHV use along the boundary roads.

**Grazing:** Grazing occurs within the unit. There are multiple livestock related reservoirs located within or near the unit boundary. Approximately 110 acres in the southeastern portion of the unit were subjected to chaining.

**Rights-of-way:** ROWs within the unit typically are adjacent to the boundary roads, mainly for energy related pipelines and roads.

**Oil and Gas Leasing:** Approximately 80% of the unit is currently leased for oil and gas development. 8 wells exist near the boundary of the unit.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes   X   No       

Description:

The unit is considered to be in a natural state. While range related facilities occur in the unit, such as reservoirs, they are not an overwhelming presence and do not impact the overall naturalness of the unit.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes        No   X   N/A       

Description:

Opportunities for solitude are present, mostly in the eastern portion of the unit which hosts three drainages running north-south. While visitors can certainly find solitude within the unit, the opportunities are limited to this portion of the unit and are not considered outstanding. These drainages are all less than two miles in length as they stretch between the northern and southern boundary roads. Much of the unit comprises of steep slopes which are sparsely vegetated and extremely exposed. Oil and gas facilities located near the boundaries are often poorly screened and have an impact on ones sense of solitude. In a regional context, this unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

(4) Does the area have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?

Yes        No   X   N/A       

Description:

Opportunities for primitive recreation are essentially limited to hiking in the north-south drainages. While opportunities exist in these drainages, they are not considered outstanding because of their lack of longevity, and regionally typical characteristics. The rest of the unit offers less than outstanding opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation due steep rocky slopes which are not ideal for foot or equestrian travel.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes        No        N/A   X  

Units found to not meet the other criteria for wilderness characteristics were not assessed for supplemental values.

## Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: County Line

### 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
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?                     \_\_\_ Yes  No \_\_\_ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values?             \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  N/A

### Conclusion:

- The area or a portion of the area has wilderness character  
 The area does not have wilderness character

### Prepared by:

Adam M Straubinger  
Outdoor Recreation Planner (on contract) 2011

*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.*

**County Line:**

Date: 8/9/2011 2:07 PM  
Lat: 39.366667 Lon: -108.672575



Date: 8/9/2011 12:42 PM  
Lat: 39.350153 Lon: -108.641211



Open, low lying vegetation effects opportunities for solitude.

Date: 8/9/2011 1:04 PM  
Lat: 39.367508 Lon: -108.656867



Oil and gas facilities near the unit boundaries are not well screened.

Date: 8/9/2011 1:23 PM  
Lat: 39.371222 Lon: -108.634375

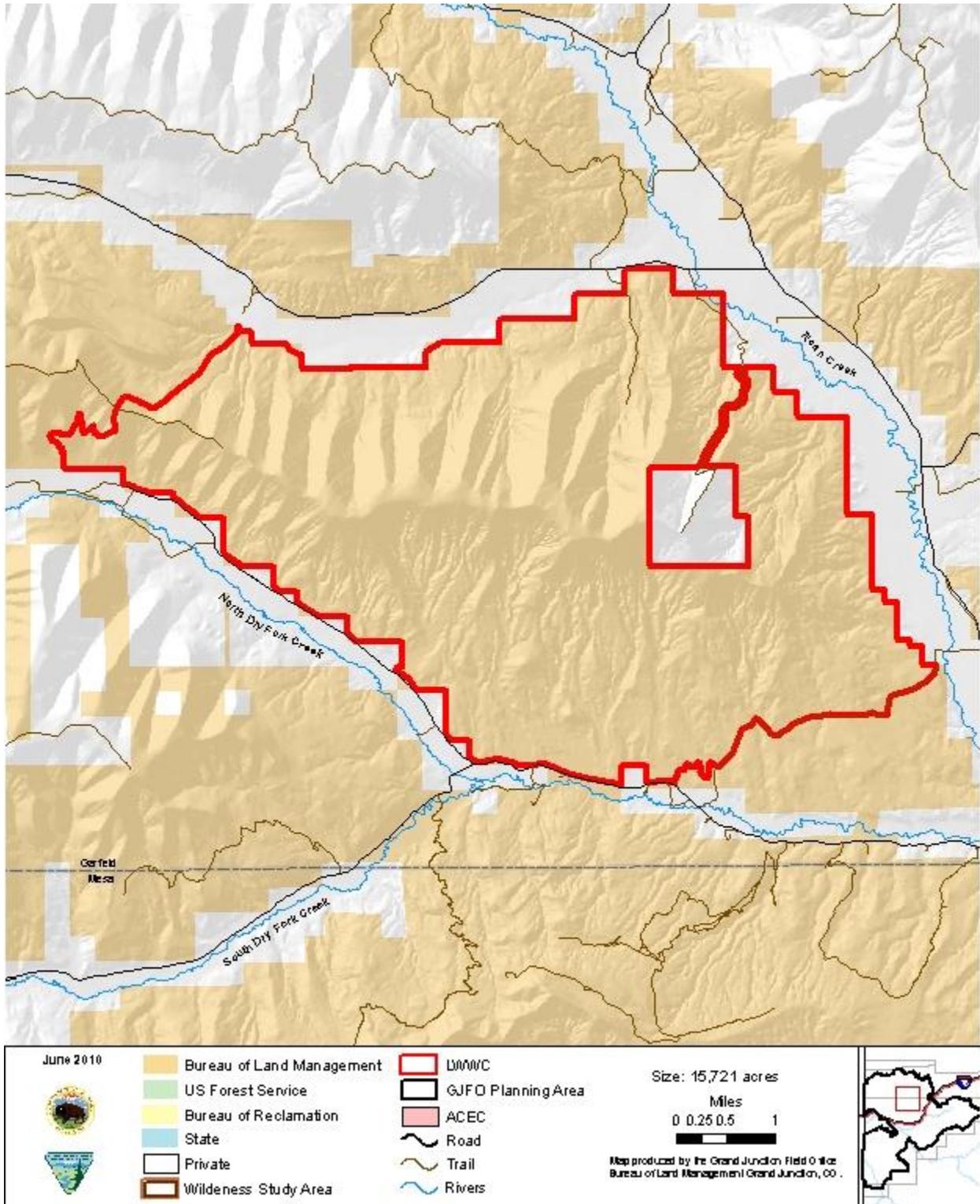


Date: 8/9/2011 1:14 PM  
Lat: 39.384544 Lon: -108.635025



(See Appendix D for Photo Log)

## 8. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Cow Ridge



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

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

No \_\_\_\_\_ (Go to Form 2) Yes   X   (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: Wilderness Inventory (1979)
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): Cow Ridge
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): Northwest/Grand Junction

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
Cow Ridge	Yes 15,721	Yes	No	No	N/A

**Form 2**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes   X              No \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I.     **Area Description:** The Cow Ridge unit is located in Mesa County, approximately 20 miles northeast of Grand Junction, Colorado. The Cow Ridge Citizens' proposed wilderness area encompasses 15,721 acres of BLM public lands.
  
- II.    **Background:** The Cow Ridge unit was part of the BLM's Initial Wilderness Inventory process in 1979 and was identified in the most recent Citizens' Wilderness Proposal.
  - A.   **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The Cow Ridge unit contains 15,721 acres of public lands and does not include a 600 acre private inholding and associated access road, which were removed from the wilderness inventory unit. The inholding is undeveloped at this time. The unit is bounded by private lands to the east, north and south in the Kimball Creek and Dry Fork Drainages.
  
  - B.   **Topography:** The Cow Ridge unit is the eastern end of a long east west running ridgeline. The eastern half of the ridge top is generally flat to rolling terrain with steep escarpments falling down to drainages to the north and south of the unit while the western half of the ridgetop is much narrower in its configuration. The southern half of the unit is comprised of flatter, rolling topography bisected by a number of small drainages.
  
  - C.   **Vegetation:** Vegetation types are driven primarily by topographical aspect in the Cow Ridge unit. The southern half of the unit is primarily sagebrush, grass and forb mix and the steep ridge face is generally unvegetated soil and rock. The northern facing slope of Cow Ridge is more heavily vegetated and contains a mix of Douglas fir, aspen, gambel oak and pinyon juniper. The unit is also known to contain several species of threatened or BLM sensitive plant species such as the Colorado Hookless Cactus and the Green River Bladderpod.
  
  - D.   **Wildlife:** The area serves as important habitat for numerous big game species including: elk, mule deer, mountain lion, black bear and other non-game species.
  
- III.   **Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities**
  - Recreation:** Recreation use in this area is generally related to fall big game hunting.

Camping and off-highway vehicle use occurs off of 4 routes south of Garfield County road 200 and along the southern periphery of the unit. Use is very low.

**Grazing:** Livestock grazing occurs in the unit, 3 small ponds occur to support grazing operations. 3.1 miles of fences also occur within the unit. Approximately 95 acres of Pinyon Juniper thinning occurred in the Dry Fork drainage.

**Rights-of-way:** Record search through LR 2000 shows three rights-of-way (ROWs) within the boundaries. They include a telephone line and roads. There are 2 ROWs on record that would need additional verification on the ground to ensure any necessary boundary adjustments would occur if the area was to be managed to protect the wilderness characteristics.

**Oil and gas leasing:** Currently the unit is entirely leased with the exception of approximately 370 acres. One abandoned well exists with the unit.

**Road Maintenance:**

Currently, no BLM system roads exist within the unit. There are approximately 4.8 miles of unmaintained primitive roads within the unit and appear to be used for recreational use as no range or other features exist along the routes.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes  No  N/A

*If you check "No" above, check "N/A" (Not Applicable) in the remaining boxes below, and you need not provide additional evaluation for the unit or subunit. Use additional space as necessary.]*

Description:

As described in the 1979 Wilderness Inventory; only minor imprints of humans exist. These include old ways, several small reservoirs, fence lines and minor drainage work on the periphery of the unit. These imprints continue to be well screened by vegetation and rolling topography and are not noticeable to the casual observer. There has been relatively little change since 1979 within this unit.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

According to the Colorado Environmental Coalition (CEC) the Cow Ridge Citizens' Proposed

Wilderness, Wilderness Inventory Report of December 10, 2008 concluded that Cow Ridge contains outstanding opportunities for solitude.

CEC found “outstanding opportunities for solitude in many places in the unit including the ridge top, the drainages and the mesas and ridges between the drainages along the flanks of the main ridge. Because the ridge top is difficult to access, very few people venture to the top of the ridge increasing opportunities for solitude. While the ridge is relatively flat it does roll and pitch enough to seclude the rare explorers from each other.”

The BLM finds the unit’s narrow configuration, flat topography of the ridge top, and the very steep slopes which surround the ridge make seclusion difficult from the sights and sounds of others and the visible activity in the surrounding area adjacent to the unit. Finding solitude is difficult on the flat ridge top due to the lack of sufficient vegetative screening.

The CEC also asserts:

“The north and south sides of the unit, below the cliffs of Cow Ridge, offer at least eight significant gulches with ample opportunities for seclusion. Many smaller gulches and side drainages also exist. The unit’s topography, configuration, or vegetation patterns do not impact solitude. In fact, the mix of vegetation and varying terrain create a landscape that enables one to escape others easily.”

The slopes on the unit are very steep and generally lacking in any vegetation. Therefore views of other people and the adjacent landscape provide a constant reminder of human activity and impact which makes finding solitude challenging. Small pockets of solitude can be found on the northern facing side of the unit if one is located within a dense stand of vegetation or in one of the gulches that fall away from the steep slopes around the periphery of the unit. However, these opportunities are not considered to be outstanding. This remains the same assessment of solitude as was rendered by the BLM in 1979.

(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No   X   N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

The current use of the unit is primarily non-motorized and lacks any developed recreation facilities.

CEC found “the cliffs to provide an excellent backdrop of unconfined recreation in the unit. The cliffs occupy a small portion of the unit leaving plenty of places to enjoy the area. These steep walls filled with alcoves and shale formations enhance the opportunities for scenic viewing while exploring the unit. Hiking, horseback riding,

hunting, photography, nature study are all unconfined activities one can enjoy within the unit and are of an outstanding nature”

Although the overall size of the area may be conducive to primitive and unconfined types of outdoor recreation activities, the BLM finds the steep slopes and narrow configuration surrounded by private lands continue to make movement in the unit difficult and inhibit travel throughout the unit as was described in the 1979 intensive inventory. Although hunting and hiking occur within the unit, they are not considered to be outstanding in nature.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

Due to its steep topography and open viewshed, the vistas from the unit are quite scenic with views of the surrounding rugged landscape of the Roan Plateau and views of Grand Mesa.

### Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: Cow Ridge

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
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No  NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes  No  NA

Conclusion

Check One:

- The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.
- The area does not have wilderness character.

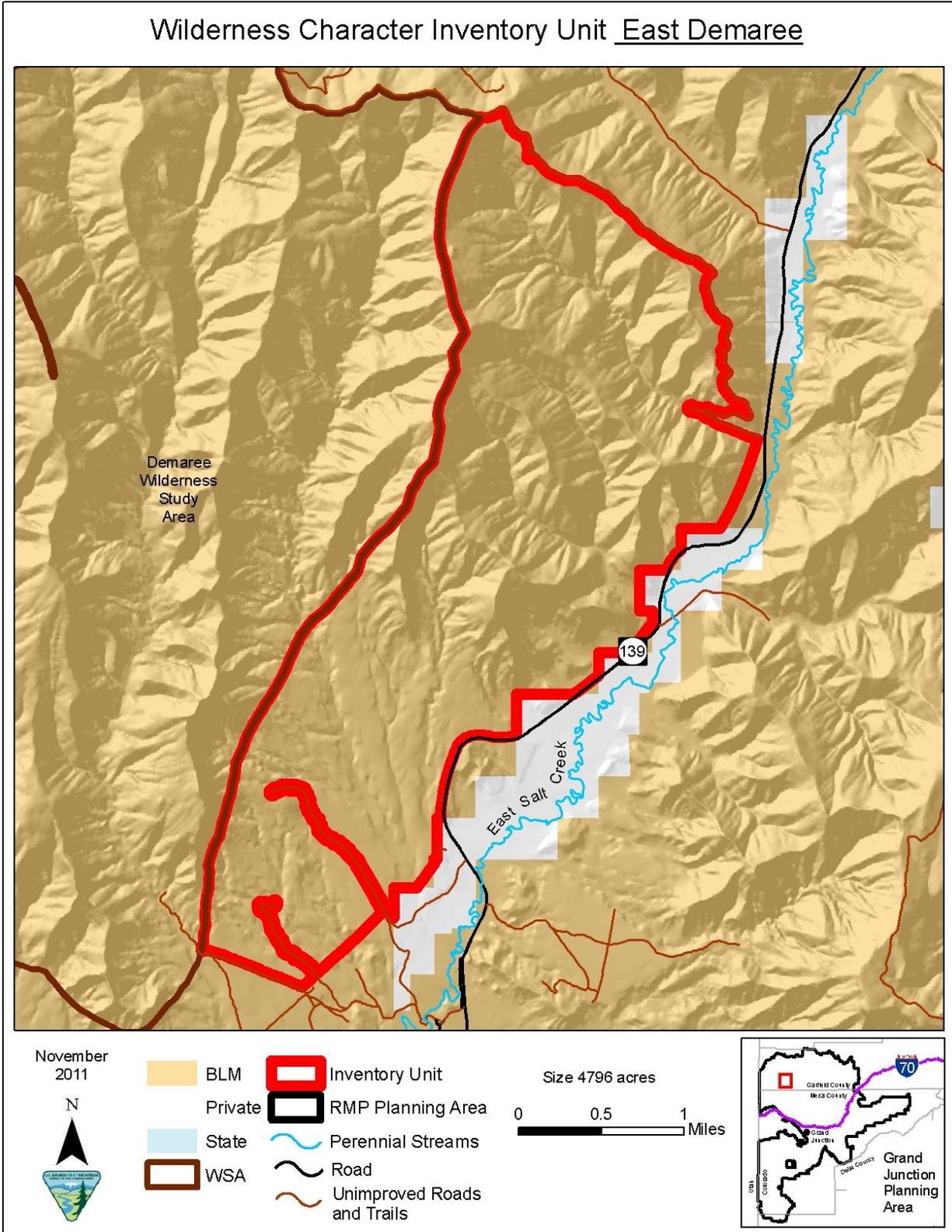
**Prepared by:**

Chris Ham

Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner 2009

*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.*

9. **Wilderness Character Inventory Unit East Demaree**



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

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

No \_\_\_\_\_ (Go to Form 2) Yes   X   (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: Wilderness Inventory (1979)
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): Demaree (Inventoried as part of 1979 Demaree unit, but excluded at that time)
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): Northwest/Grand Junction

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
Demaree	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Form 2**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes   X                        No                   

The East Demaree unit is contiguous with lands which have been formally determined to have wilderness or potential wilderness values (*i.e.* Demaree Canyon Wilderness Study Area) therefore the size criteria is met.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I.     **Area Description:** The East Demaree unit is located in Mesa County, approximately 10 miles north of Fruita, Colorado. The unit is 4,796 acres adjacent to the Demaree Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA).
  
- II.    **Background:** The East Demaree was part of the BLM’s initial wilderness inventory process in 1979 and was inventoried as a portion of the original Demaree Canyon wilderness inventory unit but this area was dropped from the recommended Demaree Wilderness Study Area due to “impacts from oil and gas activity.” The northern portion of this unit was included in the Demaree Canyon Citizens’ Wilderness Proposal (CWP). This CWP largely proposed the Demaree Canyon WSA be designated Wilderness.

**A. Land Ownership and Acreage:**

The East Demaree unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains 4,796 acres.

**B. Topography**

The East Demaree unit is dominated by three rugged deep V-shaped canyons with steep faces and rolling ridgetops. The drainages generally flow from the northwest to the southeast. Additionally, the southern 1/3 of the unit is rolling desert terrain with bisected by small drainages and small ridges.

**C. Vegetation**

Vegetation ranges from grasses, sage brush, saltbush and pinyon-juniper on the lower elevations to isolated pockets of gambel oak and serviceberry at higher elevations. A large portion of the unit is either rock or sparsely vegetated with sagebrush and pinyon-juniper.

**D. Wildlife**

The area serves as important habitat for numerous big game species including: elk, mule deer, mountain lion, black bear and many other non-game species. The prairie falcon has also been known to utilize this unit.

**III. Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities**

**Recreation:** Recreation use in this area is generally related to fall big game hunting and some off-highway vehicle use. Off-highway vehicle use occurs off of 6 routes in the southern third of the unit. Recreation use is very low for both types of recreation uses.

**Grazing:** Livestock grazing occurs in the unit, two small water developments occur to support grazing operations. 1.4 miles of fence also occur within the unit.

**Rights-of-way:** Record search through LR 2000 shows 8 rights-of-way (ROWs) within the unit. There are 5 ROWs on record that would need additional verification on the ground to ensure any necessary boundary adjustments would occur if the area was to be managed to protect the wilderness characteristics. Current ROWs include uses that involve; pipelines, power lines and telephone lines.

**Minerals:** No coal leases exist however, the 80% of the unit is suitable for coal development.

**Oil and gas leasing:** Currently leasing has occurred on approximately 2,270 acres and there are 4 abandoned wells within the southern 1/3 of the unit.

**Road Maintenance:**

Currently, no BLM system roads exist within the unit although there are approximately 2.5 miles of users created routes within the unit. No routes are receiving any maintenance.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

*If you check "No" above, check "N/A" (Not Applicable) in the remaining boxes below, and you need not provide additional evaluation for the unit or subunit. Use additional space as necessary.]*

Description:

Only minor imprints of humans exist. These include unmaintained ways, several small reservoirs and fence lines. These imprints are generally screened and are not noticeable to the casual observer.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

As this unit is adjacent to an existing Wilderness Study Area which has similar topography and vegetative screening and was found to have outstanding opportunities for solitude so the unit shares that assessment.

(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

The current use of the unit is primarily non-motorized and lacks any developed recreation facilities. The overall size of the area may be conducive to primitive and unconfined types of outdoor recreation activities. Although hunting and hiking do occur within the unit, the opportunities are not considered to be outstanding in nature.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

No supplemental values are discussed in this unit.

### Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: East Demaree

Summary

Results of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements?  X <sup>1</sup> Yes \_\_\_ No

<sup>1</sup>The unit alone is 4796 acres but as it contiguous with a Wilderness Study Area the size criteria is satisfied.

2. Does the area appear to be natural?  X  Yes \_\_\_ No

3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  X  Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ NA

4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes X No NA

Conclusion  
Check One:

The area-or a portion of the area (**Entire Unit**) has wilderness character.

The area does not have wilderness character.

**Prepared by:**

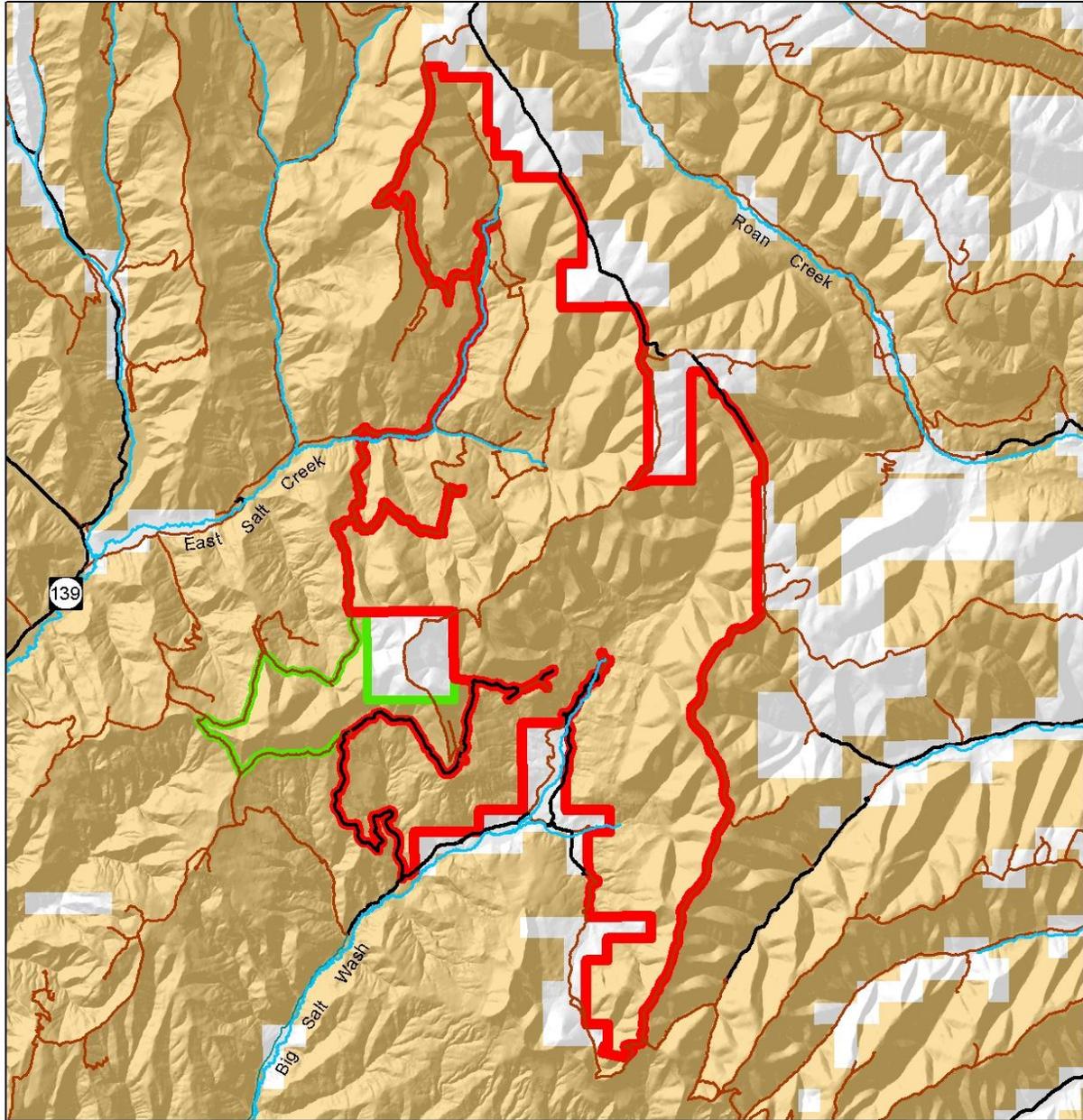
Chris Ham

Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner 2009

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10. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit East Salt Creek

Wilderness Character Inventory Unit East Salt Creek



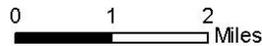
November 2011



- BLM
- Private
- State
- USFS
- RMP Planning Area

- Inventoried Area with Wilderness Character
- Inventoried Area w/o wilderness character
- Perennial Streams
- Road
- Unimproved Roads and Trails

Inventory: 18303 Acres  
LWVVC: 17008 Acres



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics 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 for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: N/A
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): N/A
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): N/A

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## **Form 2**

East Salt Creek unit:

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I. Area Description:** The East Salt Creek unit is located in Garfield County. The southern portion of the unit begins near the end of 16 Road, approximately 27 miles north of Fruita, CO. 18,303 acres were inventoried as a part of this unit, however 1,295 acres were removed from the unit to remove an area surrounding private lands bounded by roads. The 17,008 acre unit is comprised of public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.
- II. Background:** This unit was neither part of the BLM's Initial Wilderness Inventory process in 1979 nor was it identified in the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal.
- A. Land Ownership and Acreage:** The East Salt Creek unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains 16,982 acres. It is bounded on the west by Lapham Canyon Rd., BLM Road 7690B and 7690C, as well as a small portion of private land. BLM Road 7591, combined with private land boundaries, forms the eastern boundary of the unit. Northern and southern boundaries are formed by private land.
- B. Topography:** The East Salt Creek unit is located within the Bookcliffs Range with elevations ranging from approximately 8800 feet in the northern portion of the unit to 6200 feet in the East Salt Creek drainage. Two major creeks exist in the unit, East Salt Creek running east-west, and Big Salt Wash running north-south. Three canyons – Pole, Lapham and Corral are also found within the unit. Echo Lake, fed by Big Salt Wash, lies in the southern half of the unit.
- C. Vegetation:** Vegetation consists primarily of Gambel oak as well as a significant population of Douglas fir. Englemann spruce and aspen can also be found throughout the unit. Sagebrush and pinyon-juniper are also dispersed throughout the unit. Piceance bladderpod (*Lesquerella parviflora*), a BLM sensitive species, also occurs in the unit.
- D. Wildlife:** Many big-game species utilize the unit, including: elk, mule-deer, mountain lion, black-bear. A fall concentration of black bear can be found in the northern half of the unit. The unit also serves as a summer and winter range for both elk and mule-deer, with the southern portion seeing a high concentration of elk in the

winter. East Salk Creek is a fish bearing stream, hosting populations of blue head sucker and flannel mouth sucker.

### III. Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities

**Recreation:** Primarily, recreation in this area is associated with fall big-game hunting, as well as off-highway vehicle use. Recreation use is relatively low for this area, as access into the unit is difficult due to locked gates on private land.

**Grazing:** Livestock grazing occurs in the unit, with one catchment and multiple ponds existing in the unit. All ponds are along BLM Road 7591, which forms the eastern boundary. Approximately 2.5 miles of range related fencing exist in the unit.

**Rights-of-way:** Rights-of-way (ROWs) within the unit are found in the central portion of the unit and along the north-western boundary. These ROWs are for oil and gas pipelines.

**Oil and Gas Leasing:** Approximately 65% of the unit is currently leased for oil and gas development. Nine wells and associated access roads exist near the boundary.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes  No

Description:

Within the unit, there are very few human imprints. A primitive route enters the unit, but does not meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road and does not have a detrimental effect on the naturalness of the unit as a whole. An oil and gas related pipeline is also visible in the unit, but, as with the road, its presence does not preclude the entire unit from being considered natural.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

The combination of topography, vegetation, and size allow for outstanding opportunities for solitude. Canyons and creeks throughout the unit offer ample opportunity for concealed exploration, while the large stands of Douglas Fir not only make the unit stand out in a regional context, but also provide excellent screening from others within the unit. Gates blocking the main access route (BLM Road 7690 which follows East Salt Creek) improves the opportunities

for solitude as visitors must take a circuitous route to enter the northern half of the unit.

(4) Does the area have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

Hiking and hunting opportunities within the East Salt Creek unit are considered outstanding. There are multiple creeks and canyons suitable for hiking, and many of the slopes are not so steep as to eliminate climbing to high look-out points. East Salt Creek and Corral Canyon offer perennial streams, which enhance both the hiking and hunting opportunities for the unit. Big-game species are prevalent in the area, and human presence is minimal within the unit.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes  No  N/A

Piceance bladderpod (*Lesquerella parviflora*), a BLM sensitive species, occurs in the unit.

### Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: East Salt Creek

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
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No
4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes  No

Conclusion:

- The area or a portion of the area has wilderness character  
 The area does not have wilderness character

**Prepared by:**

Adam M Straubinger  
Outdoor Recreation Planner (on contract) 2011

*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.*

## East Salt Creek

Date: 9/22/2011 3:17 PM  
Lat: 39.511269 Lon: -108.683056



The unit's vegetative variety and topography offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Date: 9/22/2011 2:37 PM  
Lat: 39.513442 Lon: -108.674658



Looking towards the East Salt Creek drainage.

Date: 9/22/2011 3:08 PM  
Lat: 39.516625 Lon: -108.673078



Gentle slopes allow for outstanding cross country travel opportunities.

Date: 9/22/2011 3:02 PM  
Lat: 39.527453 Lon: -108.666975

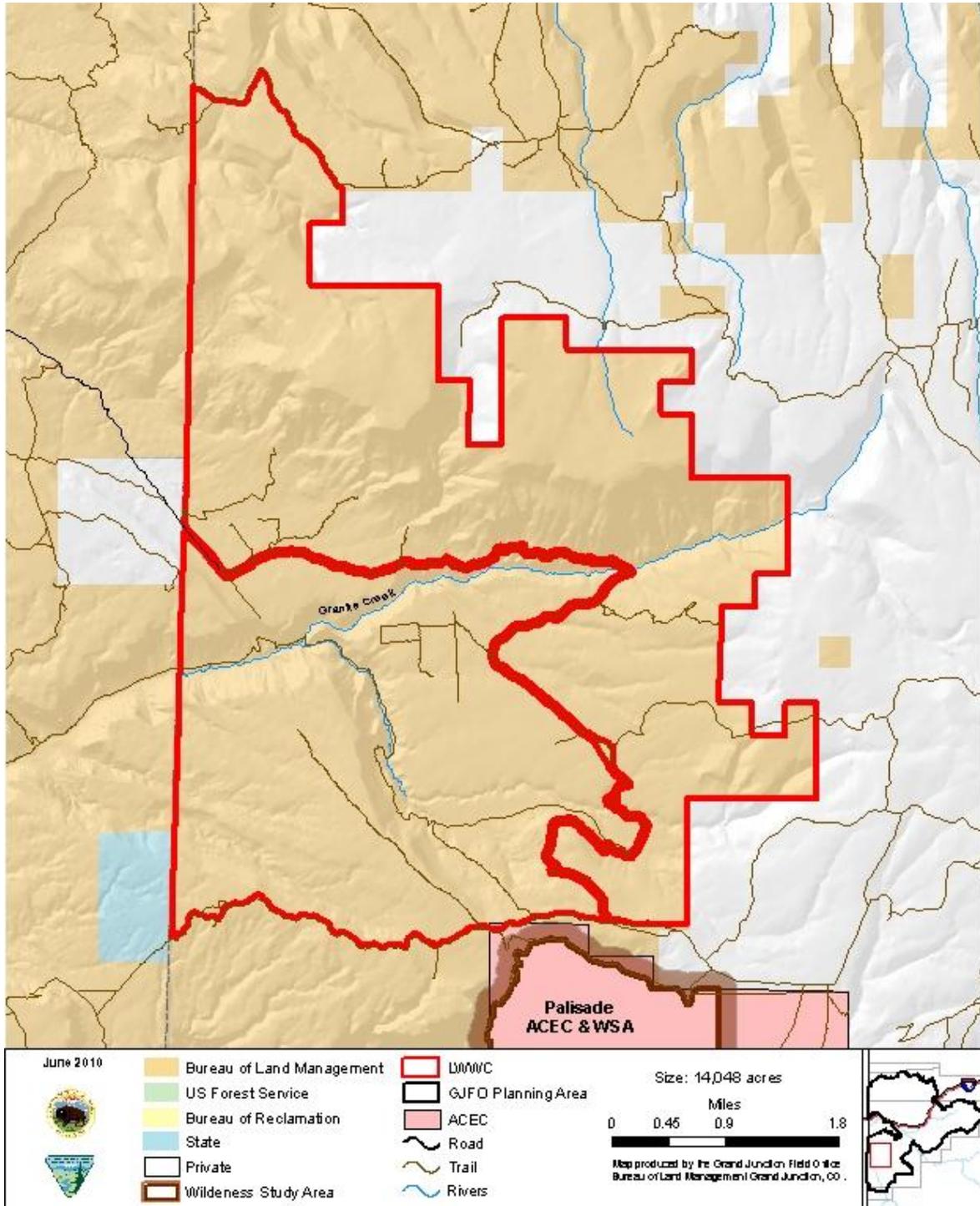


Date: 9/22/2011 3:13 PM  
Lat: 39.508003 Lon: -108.682419



(See Appendix D for Photo Log)

## 11. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Granite Creek



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

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

No \_\_\_\_ (Go to Form 2) Yes  X  (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: Wilderness Inventory (1979)
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): Granite Creek, Renegade Creek
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): Northwest/Grand Junction

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
Granite Creek	Yes	Yes	No	No	N/A
Renegade Creek	Yes	Yes	No	No	N/A

**Form 2**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes   X                        No                   

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I. **Area Description:** The Granite Creek unit is located in Mesa County, approximately 30 miles southwest of Grand Junction, Colorado. The Granite Creek Citizens’ proposed wilderness area encompasses 14,048 acres of BLM public lands within Colorado, although; the Citizens’ unit extends into Utah under the jurisdiction of the BLM Moab Field Office (MFO).
  
- II. **Background:** In the BLM wilderness inventory of 1979, the current Granite Creek unit was inventoried as two separate units –Granite Creek and Renegade Creek. The 1979 inventory found neither of the units contained outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive recreation. In this inventory, the unit was assessed as depicted in the Colorado Environmental Coalition Citizen’s Wilderness Proposal. However, the current unit is bisected by Mesa County Road MS.00 and maintained BLM roads 7100 and 7100B. These routes cross through the unit in Lost Horse Basin to the south and traverse through the basin, cross Granite Creek ultimately to Ryan Park. The MFO approved a new resource management plan in October of 2008 and chose not to manage any of the Granite Creek citizen’s wilderness proposals to afford any specific protections concerning wilderness character.
  - A. **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The Granite Creek unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains 14,048 acres. The western boundary is the Utah state line. The northern boundary is BLM Road 7125, the eastern boundary follows private lands and the southern boundary is BLM Road 7101.
  
  - B. **Topography:** The Granite Creek unit varies in topographic features from canyons, upland mesas and mountain slopes. The primary feature is Granite Creek Canyon which meanders approximately 7 miles through the unit. The canyon is approximately 1 mile wide as it reaches Utah and is generally a wide canyon. Several additional drainages exist such as Renegade Creek which flows from uplands adjacent to Renegade Point as well as a large tributary to Granite Creek from Lost Horse Basin which intersects Granite Creek about 1 mile west of the Utah state line. The mesa uplands can be found on the northern periphery of the unit and reach elevations of over 8,700 feet. Large basins and parks can be found adjacent to the north and south of Granite Creek proper which slope into Granite Creek Canyon.

- C. Vegetation:** Granite Creek Canyon vegetation consists of riparian fords, grasses and saltbush in the canyon bottom. The majority of the basin (Lost Horse Basin and Ryan Park) is pinyon-juniper with a mix of sagebrush and grass understory. Pockets of Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir and aspen stands exist in higher elevations along the top of Renegade Point.
- D. Wildlife:** The area serves as important habitat for numerous big game species including: elk, mule deer, mountain lion, black bear. Brook trout are known to inhabit the lower reaches of Granite Creek.

**III. Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities**

**Recreation:** Recreation use in this area is generally related to fall big game hunting. Camping and off-highway vehicle use occurs off of a number of routes south of Mesa County Road MS.00 and along other BLM roads in the unit. Jeeps and OHVs utilize the route that follows Granite Creek into Utah. Recreation use is thought to be low.

**Grazing:** Livestock grazing occurs in the unit, 17 water reservoirs occur to support grazing operations. Four fences also occur within the unit for a total of 2.8 miles. Recently, large vegetations treatments have been completed in Lost Horse Basin area which totals several hundred acres in size.

**Rights-of-way:** A record search in LR 2000 shows no rights-of-way (ROWS) within the boundaries.

**Oil and gas leasing:** Currently no leasing has occurred and no wells have been constructed within the unit.

**Road Maintenance:**

Currently, several routes exist within the unit though no regular maintenance occurs with the notable exceptions of Mesa County Road MS.00 and maintained BLM roads 7100 and 7100B. These routes cross through the unit in Lost Horse Basin to the south and traverse through the basin, cross Granite Creek ultimately to Ryan Park. These have been removed from the inventory unit and cherry-stemmed.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes   X              No                   N/A       

Description:

Impacts to naturalness include recently completed large vegetation treatments (e.g. removal and grinding of pinyon-juniper encroachment into sagebrush areas) as well as a number of routes and several small reservoirs. A motorized route down Granite Creek proper and its main

tributary from Lost Horse Basin do exist though neither are maintained.

As described in the 1979 wilderness inventory, although imprints exist, the area generally appears to be primarily affected by nature.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

The following findings are similar to those described in the 1979 wilderness inventory: "Opportunities for solitude exist but are less than outstanding. Though the units have been combined, a route bisects the unit creating two narrow units which adversely affect outstanding opportunity for solitude."

According to the Colorado Environmental Coalition (CEC) the Granite Creek Citizens' Proposed Wilderness, Wilderness Inventory Report of February 1, 2008 concluded that Granite Creek contains outstanding opportunities for solitude.

"The rugged topography, mix of vegetation, and landforms offer many pockets that provide outstanding solitude. The pinion juniper woodlands, sagebrush meadows, mountain brush and riparian zones along Granite Creek, provide good visual screening throughout the area that help shield visitors from one another."

Whereas the BLM finds the openness of much of the terrain makes vegetative screening also less than outstanding. The CEC indicates:

"The canyon system, which twists and turns, separates users from each other and offers visitors opportunities to get away from each other."

The BLM finds the eastern portion of Granite Creek is relatively wide and straight, with a route running down the center. Broad mesas overlook the narrow strip between the route and the steep canyon walls, further limiting opportunities for solitude. The western portion of Granite Creek Canyon is generally less than 1/2 mile in width with scattered riparian vegetation limiting screening opportunities. Within the Renegade Creek area, the steep mountainsides will likely force visitors into area with flatter terrain limiting opportunities for solitude. Further, encountering users in Renegade Creek Canyon is likely due to the openness and lack of available vegetative screening.



View looking east inside Granite Creek Unit – very open, low vegetation screening

(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are less than outstanding. Although hiking, hunting, and fishing do occur within the unit the units narrow configuration would in general constrain recreation use.

The CEC concludes Granite Creek outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because “portions of Granite Creek are suitable for fishing” and “the various uplands, piñon covered mesas and broad slopes along Renegade Creek offer outstanding places to take photographs, and wander the landscape. As such, hiking, backpacking, camping, horseback riding, scenic viewing, photography and nature study are of an outstanding nature within the area.”

Backpacking in the unit would likely occur in the western portion of Granite Creek Canyon but it is short in extent. Hunting and fishing both occur in the unit but are considered less than

outstanding as the presence of these recreation pursuits are not unique in the area. In addition, much of the use is motorized in nature ranging from recreationalists using the route down Granite Creek to explore to hunters searching for and gathering harvested game. These findings are consistent with earlier findings of the 1979 wilderness inventory.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  X \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

No supplemental values are discussed as the unit was found to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation.

### Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: Granite Creek

Summary

Results of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements?  X Yes  No
2. Does the area appear to be natural?  X Yes  No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  X No  NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes  No  X NA

Conclusion

Check One:

The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.

X The area does not have wilderness character.

**Prepared by:**

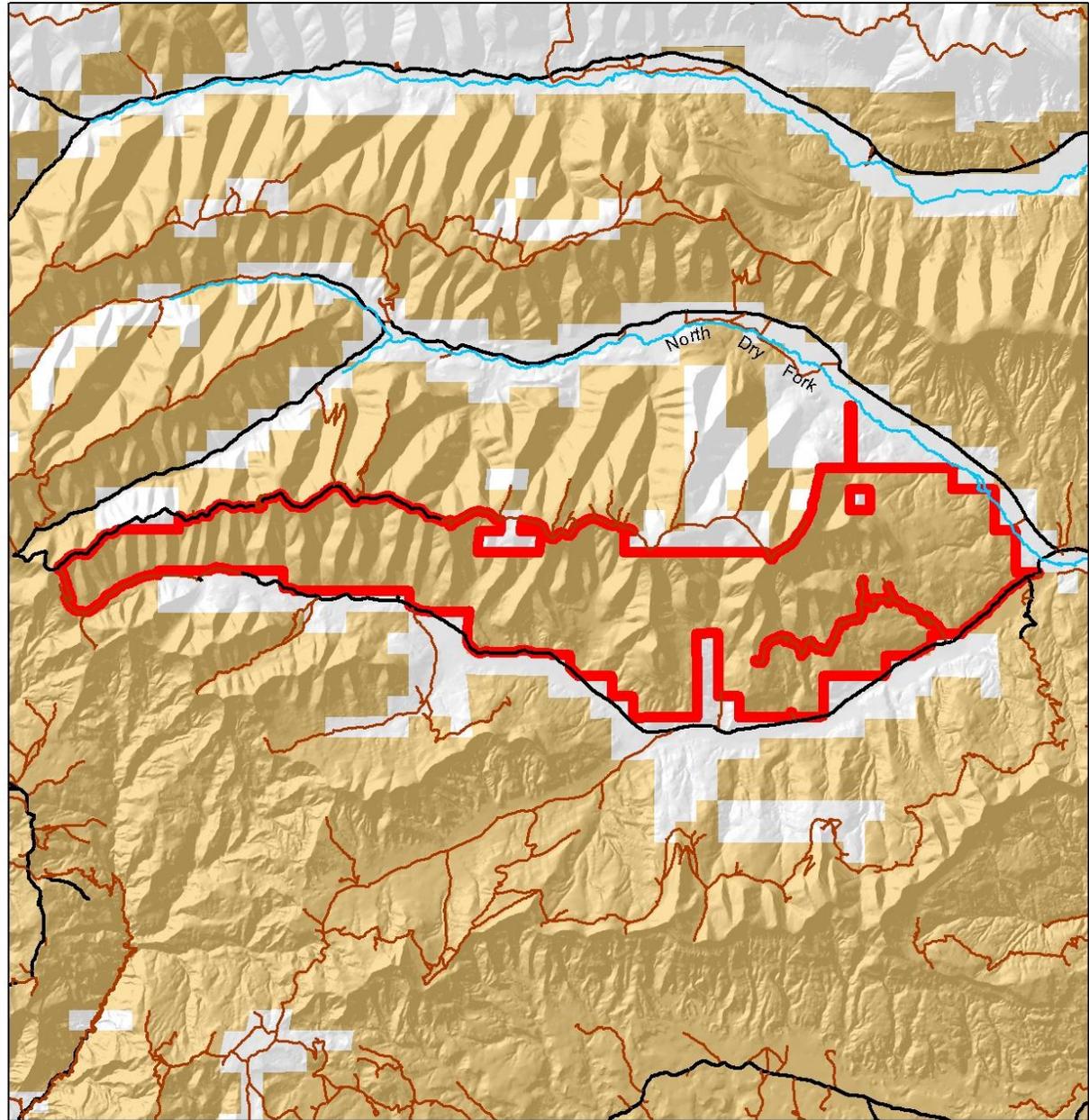
Chris Ham

Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner 2009

*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.*

## 12. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Horse Mountain

### Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Horse Mountain

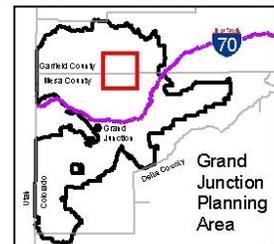
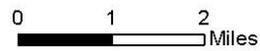


November  
2011



- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  BLM     |  Inventory Unit              |
|  Private |  RMP Planning Area           |
|  State   |  Perennial Streams           |
|  USFS    |  Road                        |
|   |  Unimproved Roads and Trails |

Size 10303 acres



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics 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 for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: N/A
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): N/A
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): N/A

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## **Form 2**

Horse Mountain unit:

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes   X        No       

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I.     **Area Description:** The Horse Mountain unit is located in both Garfield and Mesa County, approximately 14 miles northwest of DeBeque, CO.
  
- II.    **Background:** This unit was neither part of the BLM’s Initial Wilderness Inventory process in 1979 nor was it identified in the Citizens’ Wilderness Proposal.
  - A.   **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The Horse Mountain unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains 10,303 acres. It is bounded on the west by BLM Road 7721B, and on the north by BLM Road 7721 and private boundaries. The eastern boundary is formed by private land and County Road 222, private land creating the southern boundary of the unit.
  - B.   **Topography:** The Horse Mountain unit ranges in elevation from approximately 8,300 feet in the northern portion of the unit to 6,000 feet in the southern portion of the unit. The unit is characterized by steep slopes leading to the Horse Mountain ridge.
  - C.   **Vegetation:** Vegetation consists primarily of a mix of pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and grass/forb. Douglas fir, Gambel oak and Aspen can be found in some of the larger drainages running north-south from Horse Mountain. The steepest portions of the slopes are comprised of loose soils and rock, and lack vegetation entirely.
  - D.   **Wildlife:** Many big-game species utilize the unit, including: elk, mule-deer, mountain lion, black-bear and other species. The unit serves as a summer range for elk and mule-deer, and a portion of the unit seeing a fall concentration of black bear.

### **III. Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities**

**Recreation:** Recreation use is extremely low in this unit, as the topography and overall character of the unit do not lend themselves to quality recreation experiences. Travel along boundary roads is also limited because of locked gates on private land.

**Grazing:** Grazing occurs within the unit. A retention pond is located off BLM 7725

**Rights-of-way:** ROWs within the unit are associated with telephone lines in the eastern portion, energy related roads in the northern portion (BLM 7721) and oil

and gas related pipelines along the southern border.

**Oil and Gas Leasing:** The entire unit is currently leased for oil and gas development. Six wells exist near the southern boundary of the unit.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes  X  No

Description:

The unit is considered to be in a natural state. Imprints of man, such as the retention dam, are minimal and do not affect the overall natural character of the unit.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes   No  X  N/A

Description:

Opportunities for solitude are present but are not considered outstanding. While rugged topography and dense vegetation provide adequate screening, these qualities are not outstanding in a regional context as such characteristics can be found in much of the surrounding region. Additionally, the topographical makeup, combined with the narrow nature of the unit, limit visitors to travel in certain corridors, increasing the chance of encountering others.

(4) Does the area have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?

Yes   No  X  N/A

Description:

Opportunities for primitive recreation are present but not outstanding. Cross country hiking and horseback riding is possible, as no recreation facilities, such as trails or primitive roads extend into the unit. While cross-country travel through the unit is possible, it is typically confined to drainages as the remainder of the unit is often characterized by steep slopes or dense vegetation. Opportunities for unconfined recreation are present, but neither ideal nor outstanding due to the difficulty of travel through the unit.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes   No   N/A  X

Units found to not meet the other criteria for wilderness characteristics were not assessed for supplemental values.

## Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: Horse Mountain

### 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
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No  N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes  No  N/A

### Conclusion:

- The area or a portion of the area has wilderness character  
 The area does not have wilderness character

### Prepared by:

Adam M Straubinger  
Outdoor Recreation Planner (on contract) 2011

***This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.***

### Horse Mountain:

Date: 8/23/2011 9:37 AM  
Lat: 39.376233 Lon: -108.372119



Cherry-stemmed route leading into southeast section of unit. Horse Mountain is in the background.

Date: 8/23/2011 10:17 AM  
Lat: 39.37785 Lon: -108.397133



Steep slopes and low lying vegetation impact opportunities for solitude and primitive/and unconfined recreation.

Date: 8/23/2011 11:37 AM  
Lat: 39.376233 Lon: -108.404883



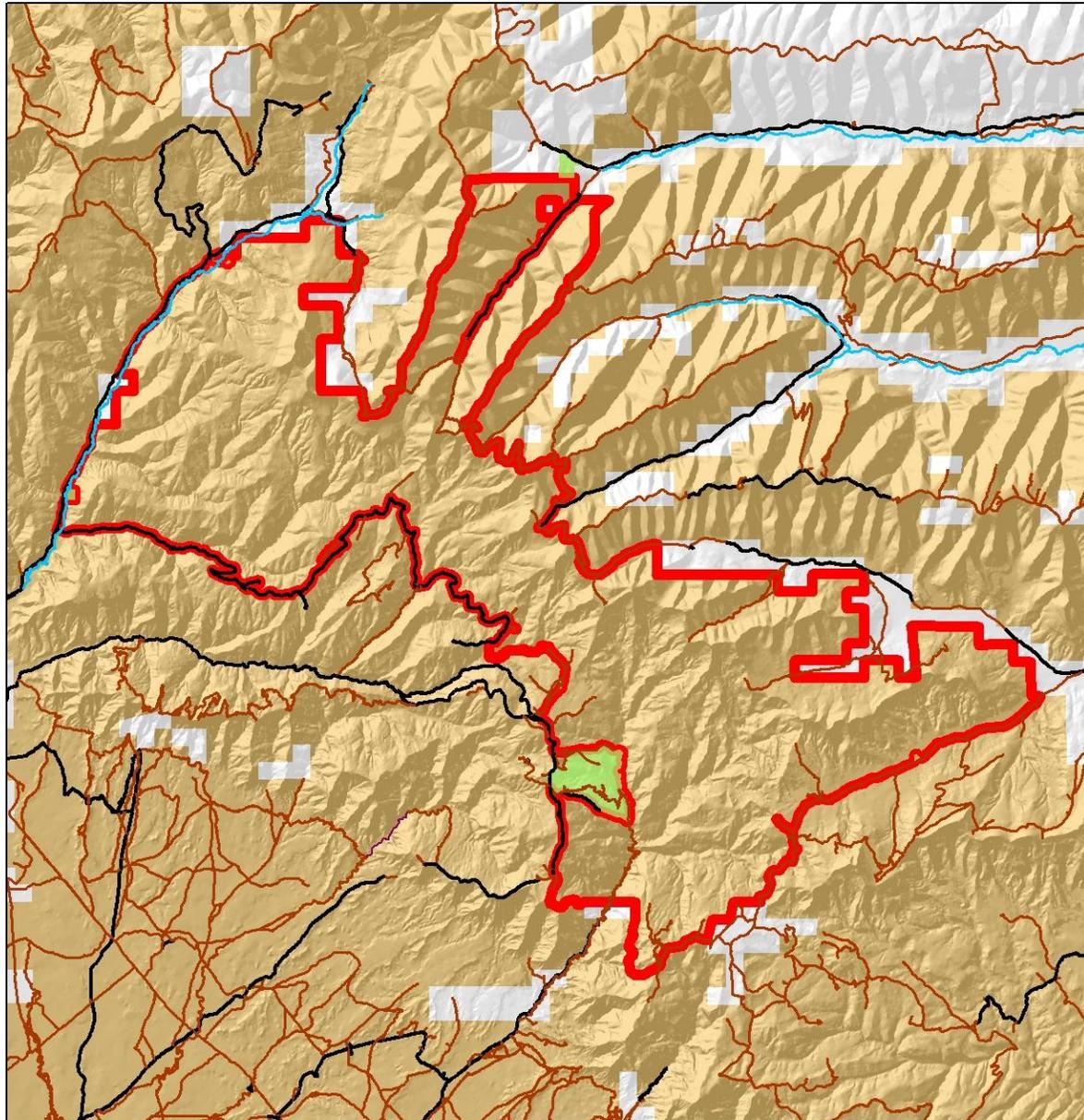
Date: 8/23/2011 12:57 PM  
Lat: 39.365283 Lon: -108.417886



(See Appendix D for Photo Log)

### 13. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Hunter Canyon

#### Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Hunter Canyon



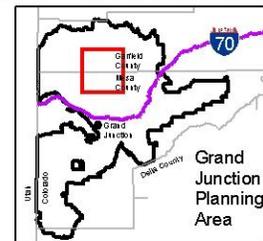
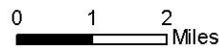
November 2011



- BLM
- Private
- State
- USFS
- RMP Planning Area

- Inventoried Area with Wilderness Character
- Inventoried Area w/o wilderness character
- Perennial Streams
- Road
- Unimproved Roads and Trails

Inventory: 32,700 acres  
Acres  
LWWC: 32,228 acres  
Acres



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

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

No \_\_\_\_ (Go to Form 2) Yes  X  (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: Wilderness Inventory (1979)
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): Hunter Canyon, Garvey Canyon
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): Northwest/Grand Junction

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
Hunter Canyon	Yes	Yes	No	No	N/A
Garvey Canyon	Yes	Yes	No	No	N/A

**Form 2**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes   X                        No                   

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I. **Area Description:** The Hunter Canyon unit is located in Mesa County, approximately 10 miles northwest of Grand Junction, Colorado. Approximately 32,700 acres were inventoried however 504 acres were removed from the unit where rock crawling is popular and reduces naturalness and outstanding opportunities. The Hunter Canyon Citizens’ unit encompasses 32,228 acres of BLM public lands.
  
- II. **Background:** In the BLM wilderness inventory of 1979, the current Hunter Canyon unit was inventoried as two separate units –Hunter Canyon and Garvey Canyon. The 1979 inventory found neither of the units contained outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive recreation. In this inventory, the unit was assessed as depicted in the Colorado Environmental Coalition Citizen’s Wilderness Proposal, which includes portions of both the Hunter Canyon and Garvey Canyon units inventoried in 1979. BLM cherry-stemmed the road in the bottom of Kimball Creek which contains 2 producing gas wells that are still maintained.
  - A. **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The Hunter Canyon unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains 32,228 acres. It is very irregularly shaped and the boundary follows roads and privates lands. The western border of the unit is Garfield County road 205 (Salt Creek Road and Mesa County 16) and north to private lands in Deep and East Creek, then follows BLM Road 7591 to private lands in Kimball Creek. From Kimball Creek, the boundary follows Myers Gulch south and follows BLM Road 7720AA and a pipeline right-of-way across the heads of Sawmill Gulch and Middle Dry Fork. It then traverses south of private lands in McKay Fork and South Dry Fork. At the junction of South Fork Dry Creek the boundary then heads southwest in Corcoran Wash north of Mesa County Road 0.90 to private lands on Bronco Flats. Traveling west across Hunter Canyon, the boundary then follows Mesa County road V.80 to Garfield Mesa. Continuing west, the boundary the follows BLM Road 7505 (Garvey Canyon road) until it intersects again with Mesa County Road 16 in Salt Creek.
  
  - B. **Topography:** Like much of the Bookcliffs, the Hunter Canyon unit varies in topographic features from rugged steep canyons in the middle of the unit, with the forces of nature evident in the cliffs of the Green River formation. The unit’s elevation ranges from 6,200 feet to over 8,200 feet. A number of side canyons branch off of Hunter Canyon proper and much of the unit is bisected by numerous canyons of varying degrees of ruggedness. Kimball Creek valley is flanked by two large flat topped ridges. Dozens of drainages and ridge systems exist along the southern half of the unit.

- C. Vegetation:** Due to its size, various aspects and elevation differences, the Hunter Canyon unit has a broad range of vegetation types. On the southern aspects sage brush communities, pinyon juniper and mountain shrub mixes may be found while the more northerly and higher elevations portions of the unit have large stands of gambel oak, aspen and Douglas fir. Willow stands may be found along some of the larger stream. Rare plants may also be found in the area such as the Green River Bladderpod and DeBeque Milkvetch.
- D. Wildlife:** The area serves as important habitat for numerous big game species including: elk, mule deer, mountain lion, black bear and many other non-game species.

### III. Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities

**Recreation:** The predominant use within the area is rock crawling in the lower Hunter Canyon area about one mile north of the southern boundary, with visitor use exceeding 10,000 visitors per year according to BLM maintained traffic counters in the area. Other use in this area is generally related to fall big game hunting. Camping and off-highway vehicle use occurs off of some of the main roads encompassing the area routes.

**Grazing:** Livestock grazing occurs throughout the unit, three water developments occur to support grazing operations though many water developments are adjacent to the boundary. 1.3 miles of fence in two short section fences also occur within the unit.

**Rights-of-way:** Record search through LR 2000 shows a three right-of-way (ROWS) for a road used by a coal exploration company near Post Canyon on the far west end of the unit (since been reclaimed) and a pipeline. There are several ROWs on record that would need additional verification on the ground to ensure any necessary boundary adjustments would occur if the area was to be managed to protect the wilderness characteristics.

**Minerals:** No coal leases exist however, 90% of the unit is suitable for coal development. A small community gravel pit does occur along the western boundary in Salt Creek. The pit is less than 5 acres in size.

**Oil and gas leasing:** The unit is currently leased with the exception of 640 acres; two producing wells are shown in the Hunter Canyon area that would need additional verification on the ground to ensure any necessary boundary adjustments would occur if the area was to be managed to protect the wilderness characteristics. Of the gas leases, 2,461 acres in the eastern side of the unit are suspended per Civil Action 06-cv-00296-MSK-MEH.

**Road Maintenance:**

Currently, no maintained roads exist within the unit. Approximately 2.6 miles of primitive roads do exist within the area such as Hunter Canyon rock crawling route but do not receive any BLM approved maintenance.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes  No  N/A

*If you check "No" above, check "N/A" (Not Applicable) in the remaining boxes below, and you need not provide additional evaluation for the unit or subunit. Use additional space as necessary.]*

Description:

Only minor imprints of humans exist. These include old ways, several small reservoirs, fence lines and minor drainage work on the periphery of the unit. These imprints continue to be well screened by vegetation and are not noticeable to the casual observer. The existing right-of-way for coal exploration has been well reclaimed and though it may be noticeable to the casual observer, its impact is very limited to a small portion of the unit.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

The unit encompasses a variety of topography and vegetation varying from winding canyon systems to gambel oak, covered ridge tops to sage brush and grassy meadows as well as large stands of Douglas fir and aspens. The number of large and small side canyons provides many opportunities to escape those other visitors which may be in the area. The terrain is generally traversable, vegetative and other screening is available in addition to the units large size provides the area with outstanding opportunities for solitude.

(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

The current use of the unit is primarily non-motorized and lacks any developed recreation facilities with the exception of some of the lower portions of Hunter Canyon proper where a user created motorized route occurs. The increased overall size created by combining the Hunter Canyon and Garvey Canyon units in one unit is conducive to primitive and unconfined types of outdoor recreation activities. Although hunting and hiking occur within the area and the areas size and configuration is conducive to a primitive and/or unconfined type of recreation it is not considered outstanding in nature in a regional context.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes  No  N/A

**Description:**

The geology of the area which is developed into the form of colorful and interestingly shaped hoodoos are considered to be a supplemental value as they have been given special visual resource management consideration in the current (1987) Resource Management Plan.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

Unit Name: Hunter Canyon

**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
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No  NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes  No  NA

**Conclusion**

**Check One:**

The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.

The area does not have wilderness character.

**Prepared by:**

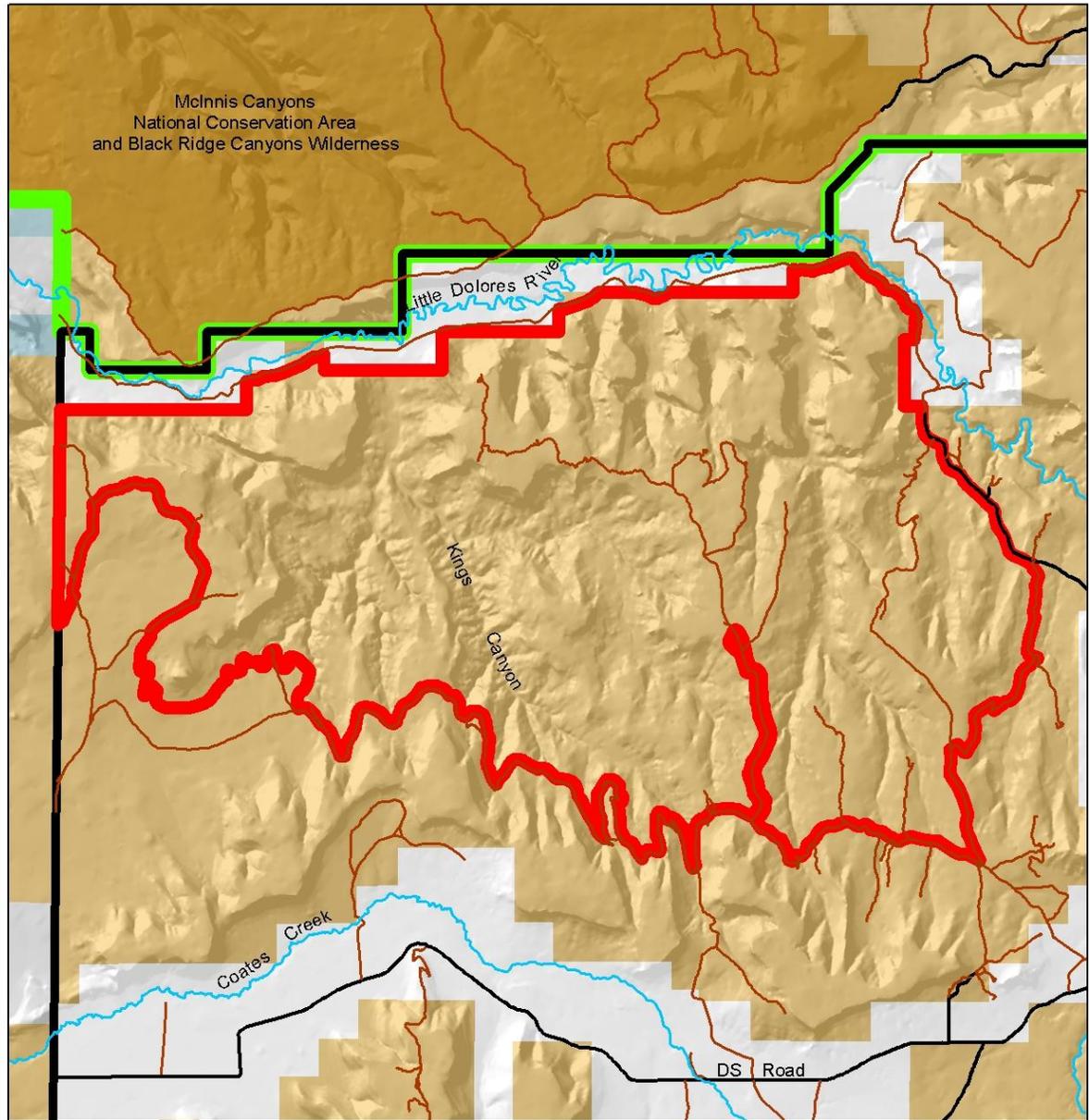
Chris Ham

Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner 2009

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14. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit King's Canyon

Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Kings Canyon

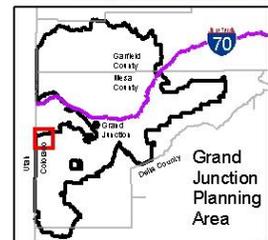
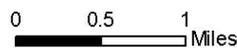


November 2011



- BLM
- Private
- State
- USFS
- NCA
- Wilderness
- Inventory Unit
- RMP Planning Area
- Perennial Streams
- Road
- Unimproved Roads and Trails

Size 9606 acres



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

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

No  X  (Go to Form 2) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: N/A
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): N/A
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): N/A

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Form 2**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes   X                        No                   

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I. **Area Description:** The King’s Canyon unit is located in Mesa County, approximately 20 miles southwest of Grand Junction, Colorado ½ mile south of the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area. The unit’s western boundary is contiguous with the Westwater Wilderness Study Area managed by the BLM Moab Field Office. The unit is also approximately ¼ mile south of Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness.
  
- II. **Background:** The unit was not inventoried during the BLM intensive wilderness inventory in 1979 because it was dismissed in the initial wilderness inventory phase due to the imprints of man with respect to large Pinyon-Juniper chainings within the unit. The King’s Canyon unit is a citizen’s wilderness proposed area encompassing 9,606 acres (according to our GIS data) of BLM public lands within Colorado.
  - A. **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The King’s Canyon unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains 9,606 acres. It is bounded on the north by private lands in the Little Dolores River corridor by Mesa County road A.20 and BLM Road 7130BA to the east and BLM Road 7130 on the south. A cherry stem was created west of Tom’s Canyon on BLM Road 7130D for 1.3 miles to accommodate existing large water developments.
  - B. **Topography:** The King’s Canyon sits at an elevation of approximately 6,500 feet and varies in topographic with small canyon systems, such as Tom’s and King’s with numerous smaller side canyons with interesting rock formations and associated upland benches and ridges separating the canyons. The canyon topography in this unit is characterized by smaller canyon walls which are not so steep as to be impenetrable.
  - C. **Vegetation:** Primarily the unit consists of open sage brush parks on the western portion of the unit with pinyon juniper woodlands draping the tops of the mesas and into the canyon systems. Saltbrush and small riparian plant communities can also be found in isolated pockets throughout the area. No known rare plant species exist in the area.
  - D. **Wildlife:** The area serves as important habitat for numerous big game species including: elk, mule deer, mountain lion, black bear and many other non-game species. Gunnison sage grouse habitat also exists in the area.

### III. Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities

**Recreation:** Recreation use in this area is generally related to fall big game hunting and spring mountain lion hunting. Some OHV and camping use associated with hunting occurs in the unit. Use is very low.

**Grazing:** Livestock grazing is the primary use in the unit, 7 water developments occur to support grazing operations most in the form of small reservoirs. Minor fences also occur within the unit. All large livestock facilities, such the large reservoir west of Tom's Canyon on BLM Road 7130D have been cherry-stemmed out of the unit. Vegetation treatments in the form of prescribed fires, chainings and reseeding have occurred in East Tom's canyon and Fish Park.

**Rights-of-way:** Record search through LR 2000 shows one right-of-way (ROWs) within the boundaries for a telegraph line in the Little Dolores River corridor. Other ROWs exist along the boundary of the east side of the unit that may need additional verification on the ground to ensure any necessary boundary adjustments would occur if the area was to be managed to protect the wilderness characteristics.

**Oil and gas leasing:** No leasing has occurred within the unit and no wells occur.

**Road Maintenance:** Currently, approximately 6 miles of routes exist in two separate occurrences east and west of Tom's Canyon which are associated with past range and vegetation treatment activities within the unit and no maintenance occurs.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

Although imprints exist, such as old routes in the Tom's Draw vicinity, the area generally appears to be primarily affected by nature. The previous findings of the BLM in 1979 with respect to large vegetative treatments (pinyon juniper chainings) that may have been substantially noticeable over 25 years ago no longer dominate the view of a casual observer. The area has returned to a naturally appearing state.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

The topographic screening coupled in the form of moderate to rugged relief in numerous large and small canyon systems allows users to screen or physically separate themselves from one another. Additionally, the vegetative cover is generally very good in the form of solid pinyon-juniper woodlands. The unit is located where the sights and sounds of others are infrequent and the unit is not near any population center. Although some routes do exist in the eastern portion of the unit, they do not inhibit a visitor from secluding themselves from those routes and users of those routes. When in one of the many canyons, it is not difficult for a visitor to imagine they are very far from civilization due to the quiet surroundings. Opportunities for solitude exist and some are considered outstanding.

(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are considered outstanding. Hiking and hunting likely occur here and there is uniqueness related to the canyons, which are large enough to travel through but not challenging enough to travel around. This is unusual in this type of terrain where cliffs generally are impenetrable barriers to travel and therefore outstanding opportunities are usually precluded. That is not the case in this unit. In addition, the unit shares a boundary with the Westwater Wilderness Study Area in Utah which would provide for additional opportunities for primitive travel and recreation in a larger wilderness setting.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

The unit includes portions of the Glade Park/Pinyon Mesa Area found to contain the relevance and importance criteria for management as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) for fish, wildlife, and plants. Gunnison Sage grouse habitat is included in the unit.

## Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: King's Canyon

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
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?             Yes    No    NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values?             Yes    No    NA

Conclusion  
Check One:

The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.

The area does not have wilderness character.

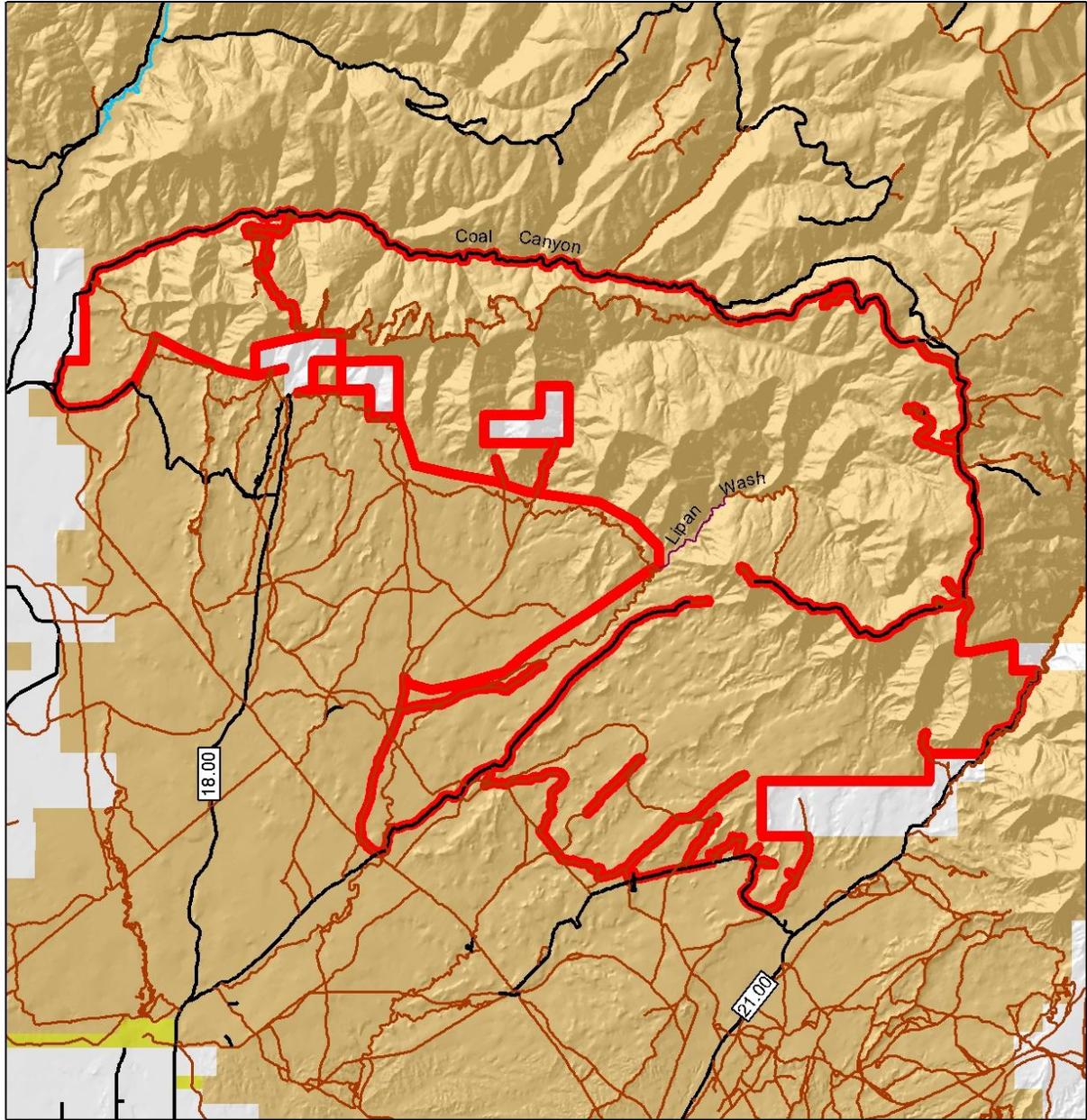
**Prepared by:**

Chris Ham  
Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner 2009

***This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.***

15. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Lipan Wash

Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Lipan Wash

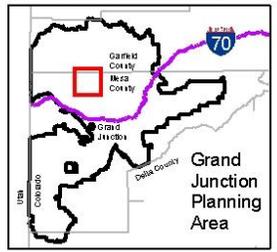


November 2011



- BLM
- BOR
- Private
- State
- Inventory Unit
- RMP Planning Area
- Perennial Streams
- Road
- Unimproved Roads and Trails

Size 15373 acres  
 0 0.5 1 Miles



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics 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 for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: N/A
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): N/A
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): N/A

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Form 2**

Lipan Wash unit:

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I. **Area Description:** The Lipan Wash unit is located in Mesa County, encompassing the a section of the North Fruita Desert Special Recreation Management Area and the Bookcliffs Range.
  
- II. **Background:** This unit was neither part of the BLM’s Initial Wilderness Inventory process in 1979 nor was it identified in the Citizens’ Wilderness Proposal.
  - A. **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The Lipan Wash unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains approximately 15,373 acres. It is bounded on the West by V.8 Road, private boundaries, BLM 7523 and the Bicycle Emphasis Area – which includes a dense system of trails, a large campground and restroom facilities. The northern boundary is formed by V.8 Road. The eastern boundary is formed by V.8 Road, 21 Road and private boundaries.
  
  - B. **Topography:** The Lipan Wash unit ranges in elevation from approximately 7,300 feet in the western portion of the unit to 5,000 feet on the desert floor in the south of the unit. The southeastern half of the unit (approx. 4,800 ac.) is in the North Fruita Desert, consisting of rolling hills of Mancos shale. The remainder of the unit sees the rise of the Bookcliffs Range, with Lipan Wash and Layton Wash offering the main drainage features. The northern boundary of the unit follows is adjacent to Coal Gulch for around 6.5 miles. In the western portion of the unit, the land rises from Coal Gulch to a ridge before descending into the desert. The eastern boundary of the unit is located atop Ross Ridge. Heading west from this boundary, the unit dips into Lipan Wash, rises again and then descends into Lipan Wash. These washes drain into the North Fruita Desert.
  
  - C. **Vegetation:** The southeastern half of the unit consists of desert-like terrain, vegetated primarily by saltbrush, sagebrush, juniper and disturbed rangeland. The slopes rising from the desert are sparsely vegetated, mostly characterized by talus slopes and rock outcroppings. The rest of the unit consists of a mix of pinyon-juniper and sagebrush communities. Cottonwood can be found in Layton and Lipan Washes.
  
  - D. **Wildlife:** Many big-game species utilize the unit, including: elk, mule-deer, mountain

lion, black-bear and other species. The unit serves as winter range for elk and mule-deer.

### III. Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities

**Recreation:** Recreation use is moderate to high in the portion of the unit encompassing the North Fruita Desert Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). As the unit enters the Bookcliffs however, recreation use is significantly less.

**Grazing:** Grazing occurs in the unit. Eight range related ponds, retention dams and guzzlers, and approximately 4 miles of fencing occur within the unit.

**Rights-of-way:** ROWs within the unit are located along boundary roads, associated with pipelines. The ROWs are located along Ross Ridge and in the North Fruita Desert.

**Oil and Gas Leasing:** Approximately 55% of the unit is currently leased for oil and gas development. Six active wells are located near the eastern boundary along Ross Ridge

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes  X  No  \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

Human imprints are seen through both range and oil and gas facilities. Linear disturbances, likely old routes were observed both in the field and from aerial photography. However, even the combination of these features does not prove detrimental to the naturalness of the unit as a whole, especially given the conditions in Lipan and Layton Washes.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes  \_\_\_\_\_  No  X  N/A  \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

The opportunities for solitude are not considered outstanding for this unit. The portion of the unit in the desert (approx. 4,800 ac.) clearly lack opportunities for solitude due to a combination of inadequate screening and levels of use. The western half of the unit is similar in its lack of outstanding opportunities, as it is characterized by low hills of Mancos shale which give way to steeper slopes that are extremely exposed. As these slopes descend towards Coal Gulch, they become more vegetated, providing more opportunities for screening, but overall not offering any sort of outstanding opportunities. The primary opportunities for solitude exist in the two washes (Lipan and Layton), which each extend roughly 3 miles into the unit, with

side drainages also providing opportunities for solitude. These drainages are not outstanding in a regional context. The opportunities for solitude in the unit are both limited and less than outstanding.

(4) Does the area have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

Opportunities for primitive recreation in this unit are less than outstanding. A majority of the unit either offers steep talus slopes or desert terrain, neither ideal for any forms of primitive recreation. Opportunities for hiking are available in the two washes. Cross country travel is extremely limited, and in areas where cross-country travel is possible, it is often across exposed hills with loose soils.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A X

Units found to not meet the other criteria for wilderness characteristics were not assessed for supplemental values.

### Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: Lipan Wash

Results of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? X Yes \_\_\_ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? X Yes \_\_\_ No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? \_\_\_ Yes X No \_\_\_ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No X  
N/A

Conclusion:

- \_\_\_ The area or a portion of the area has wilderness character  
X The area does not have wilderness character

**Prepared by:**

Adam M Straubinger  
Outdoor Recreation Planner (on contract) 2011

*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.*

**Lipan Wash:**

Date: 8/4/2011 2:37 PM  
Lat: 39.348136 Lon: -108.734667



The western portion of the unit is exposed, consisting of rolling hills of Mancos shale at the base of the Bookcliffs.

Date: 8/4/2011 11:50 AM  
Lat: 39.345986 Lon: -108.648583



Layton Wash provides opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation, but the opportunities are not considered outstanding.

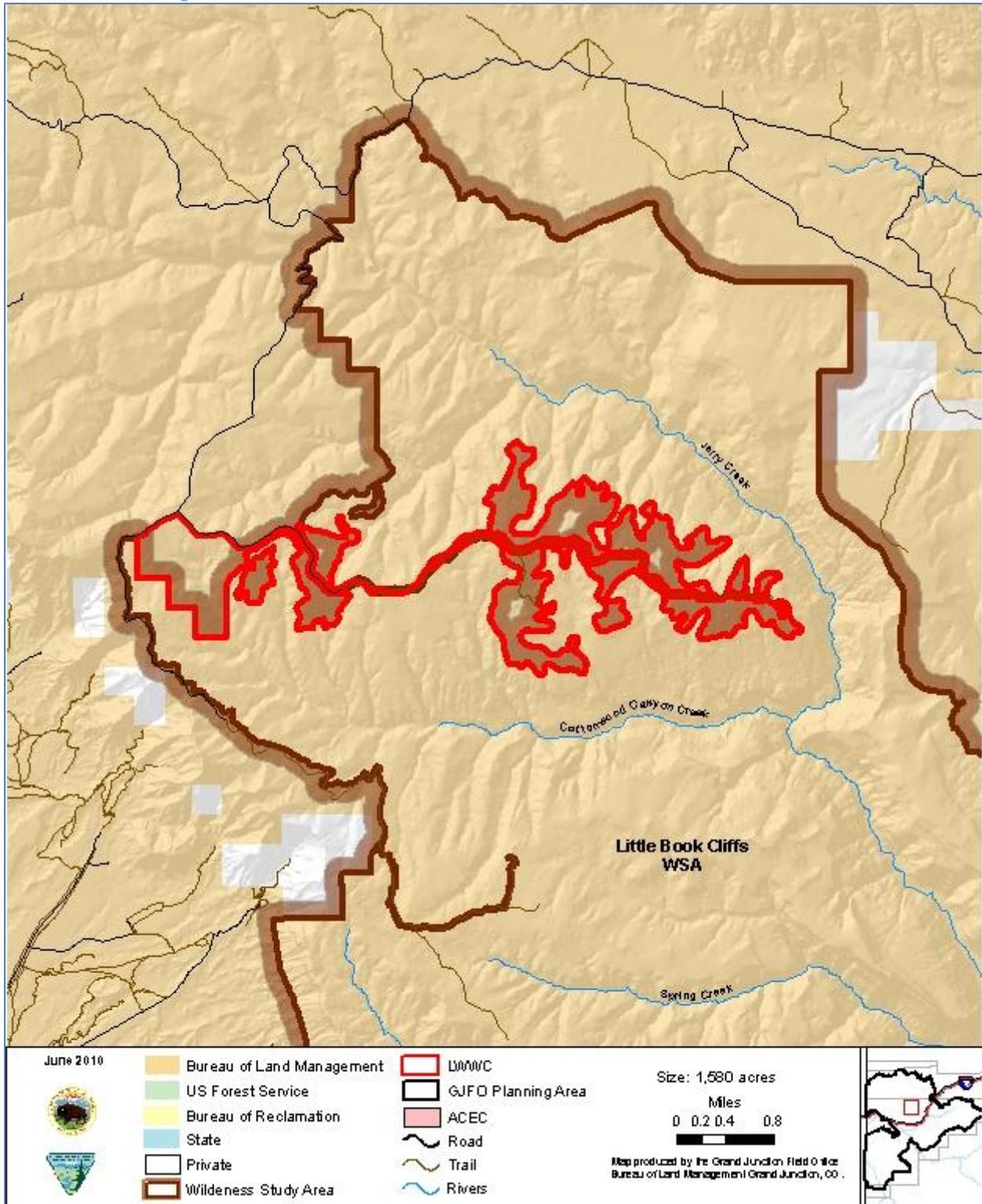
Date: 8/4/2011 1:35 PM  
Lat: 39.331969 Lon: -108.588344



Looking west across the unit.

(See Appendix D for Photo Log)

## 16. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Little Bookcliffs WSA Expansion



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics 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 for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: N/A
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): N/A
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): N/A

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Form 2**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes   X                        No                   

The Little Bookcliffs WSA Expansion unit is contiguous with lands which have been formally determined to have wilderness or potential wilderness values (*i.e.* Demaree Canyon Wilderness Study Area) therefore the size criteria is met.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I.     **Area Description:** The Little Bookcliffs WSA Expansion unit is located adjacent to existing Little Bookcliffs Wilderness Study Area about 5 miles northeast of Grand Junction in the Round Mountain area.
  
- II.    **Background:** The Little Bookcliffs WSA Expansion unit consists of a parcel that was not inventoried in the intensive wilderness inventory carried out by BLM in 1979 as this area was cherry stemmed out of the larger Little Bookcliffs WSA due to large vegetative treatments such as chainings and prescribed fire being highly noticeable. This unit was part of a Citizens' wilderness proposal.
  - A.   **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The Little Bookcliffs WSA Expansion unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains approximately 1,580 acres.
  
  - B.   **Topography:** This unit sits astride Mesa County Road Q (Round Mountain road) on a flat ridge/mesa top at an elevation of approximately 6,600 feet.
  
  - C.   **Vegetation:** Vegetation consists of sagebrush communities and intermixed Pinyon-Juniper. No known rare plants exist in the unit.
  
  - D.   **Wildlife:** Many big-game species utilize the unit, including: elk, mule-deer, mountain lion, black-bear, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and other non-game species. Wild horses also use the area.
  
- III.   **Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities**
  - Grazing:** Wild horse grazing occurs in the unit, 10 water developments occur to support wild horse management activities. Three stretches of fences in the Low Gap area occur within the unit. Large scale vegetation management treatments have occurred within the unit such as chainings and prescribed fires.
  
  - Rights-of-way:** Record search through LR 2000 shows no existing rights-of-way (ROWS) within the unit.

**Oil and gas leasing:** Currently leasing has occurred; and approximately 60% of this unit is leased. Three wells are shown in the unit that would need additional verification on the ground to ensure any necessary boundary adjustments would occur if the area was to be managed to protect the wilderness characteristics.

**Road Maintenance:**

Currently, approximately 1 mile of primitive roads exists within the unit primarily in the Round Mountain area. These routes do not receive any BLM maintenance.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes \_\_\_ No X N/A \_\_\_\_\_

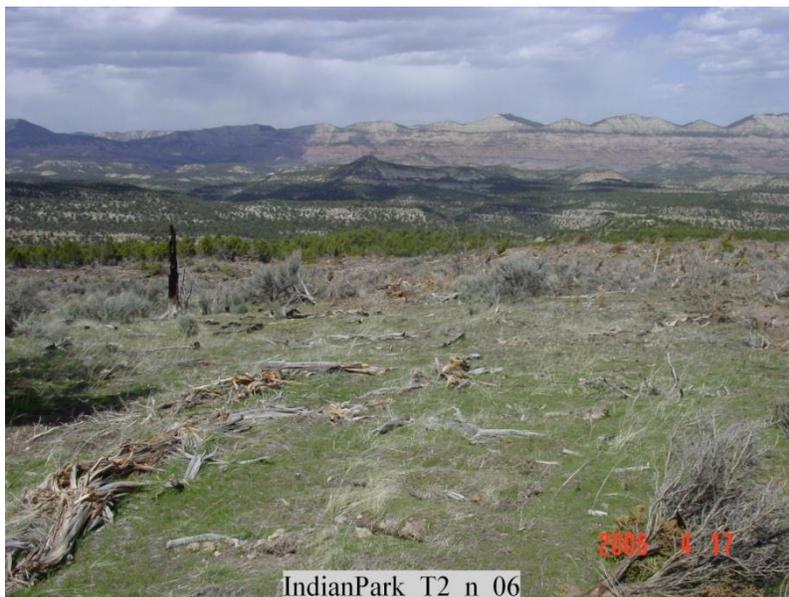
*If you check "No" above, check "N/A" (Not Applicable) in the remaining boxes below, and you need not provide additional evaluation for the unit or subunit. Use additional space as necessary.]*

**Description:**

The CEC states

“Citizens do not however agree with the current exclusion from the WSA of the top of Round Mountain, a decision the BLM made on the basis of existing chainings. That said the chainings were completed a long time ago and have since healed. In 2000 citizens found the chainings to be substantially unnoticeable”

The BLM finds due to the ongoing vegetative treatments and water developments for wild-horse management, the unit does not appear to be primarily affected by the forces of nature and the human influence is currently quite visible to a casual observer.



Looking North from Round Mountain to South Shale Ridge – roller chopping clearly visible.



Rolling chopping remnants – looking south towards road (note white vehicle)

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_ X \_\_\_

Description:

As wilderness character is premised on naturalness as the foundational wilderness characteristic, if the unit lacks naturalness, no further review of additional characteristics will be necessary.

(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_ X \_\_\_

Description

No further review is necessary as the area is not natural in appearance.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_X\_\_\_

Description:

No supplemental values are discussed as the unit was found to lack naturalness.

### Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: The Little Bookcliffs WSA Expansion

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
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No  NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes  No  NA

Conclusion

Check One:

The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.

The area does not have wilderness character.

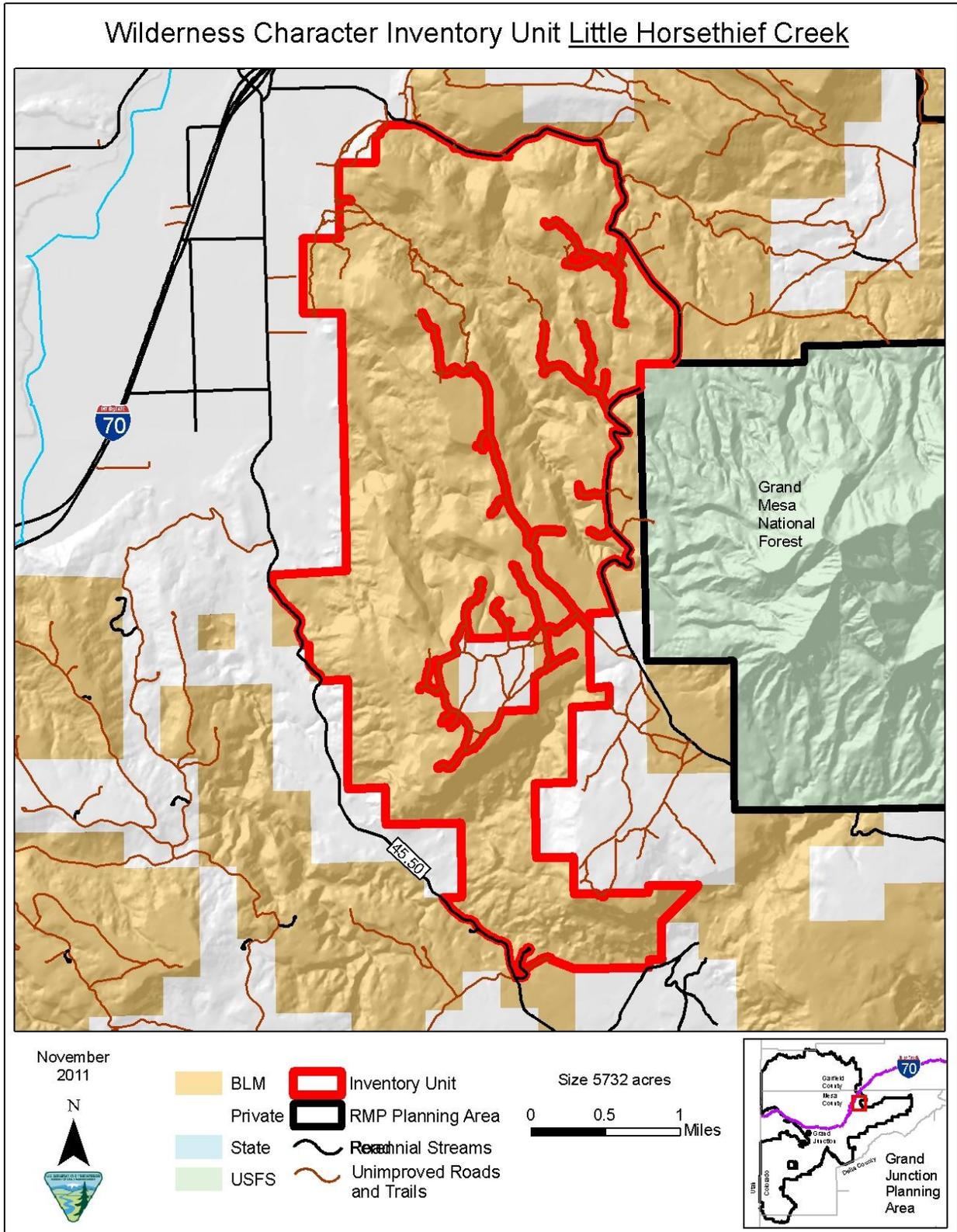
**Prepared by:**

Chris Ham

Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner 2009

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17. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Little Horsethief Creek



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics 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 for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: N/A
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): N/A
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): N/A

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Form 2

Little Horsethief Creek unit:

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I. **Area Description:** The Little Horsethief Unit is located in Mesa County, southeast of DeBeque, CO.
- II. **Background:** This unit was neither part of the BLM's Initial Wilderness Inventory process in 1979 nor was it identified in the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal.
- E. **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The Little Horsethief Creek unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains 5,732 acres. It is bounded on the west by private land and 45.5 Road, and on the north by V Road. The eastern boundary is formed by private land and V Road, with private land forming the southern boundary.
- F. **Topography:** The Little Horsethief Creek unit ranges in elevation from approximately 6,000 feet in the eastern portion of the unit where the slopes top out at the mesa, to 5,000 feet in the western portion of the unit. The unit is characterized by steep slopes rising to mesas. The unit is bisected by Little Horsethief Creek and Ashmead Draw.
- G. **Vegetation:** Vegetation consists primarily of a mix of pinyon-juniper and sagebrush along the slopes, with large sagebrush communities and pinyon-juniper found where the topography flattens out in the western portion of the unit. Little Horsethief Creek drainage contains greasewood and exotic riparian shrubs. The steeper slopes are typically characterized by sparse pinyon-juniper and shrubs intermixed with rock.
- H. **Wildlife:** Many big-game species utilize the unit, including: elk, mule-deer, mountain lion, black-bear and other species. Elk and mule-deer are known to winter in the area, with a high concentration of elk wintering in the northwestern portion of the unit.

### III. **Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities**

**Recreation:** Recreation use is extremely low in this unit, as the topography and overall character of the unit do not lend themselves to quality recreation experiences.

**Grazing:** Livestock grazing occurs in the unit, with four range related ponds and over a mile of fencing located inside the unit.

**Rights-of-way:** Rights-of-way encompass approximately 1100 acres of the unit. Most ROWs are associated with power lines which bisect the unit.

**Oil and Gas Leasing:** Approximately 40% of the unit is currently leased for oil and gas development. Three wells and associated access roads exist near the boundary.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X

Description:

Human imprints seem inescapable in the unit. Large, obtrusive power transmission structures bisect the unit in a north-south direction, a persistent presence detrimentally affecting the area's naturalness. Sights and sounds of human development adjacent to the unit, such as Interstate 70, agricultural development and multiple cherry-stemmed roads also impact the naturalness of the unit as such sights/sounds are often unavoidable from within the unit. It is evident that, overall, this unit is not in a natural state and has been influenced by man.

*See Appendix C for Route Analysis*

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  X

Description: N/A

(4) Does the area have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  X

Description: N/A

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  X

Units found to not meet the other criteria for wilderness characteristics were not assessed for supplemental values.

## Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: Little Horsethief Creek

Results of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements?  X  Yes \_\_\_ No

2. Does the area appear to be natural?                    \_\_\_ Yes  X  No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?                    \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  X  N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values?                    \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  X  N/A

Conclusion:

- \_\_\_ The area or a portion of the area has wilderness character
- X  The area does not have wilderness character

Prepared by:

Adam M Straubinger  
Outdoor Recreation Planner (on contract) 2011

*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.*

**Little Horsethief:**

Date: 7/18/2011 2:50 PM  
Lat: 39.294339 Lon: -108.163378



Power lines bisecting the unit.

Date: 7/18/2011 12:45 PM  
Lat: 39.276036 Lon: -108.170278



Human presence is persistent in the unit

Date: 7/18/2011 1:09 PM  
Lat: 39.299933 Lon: -108.183869

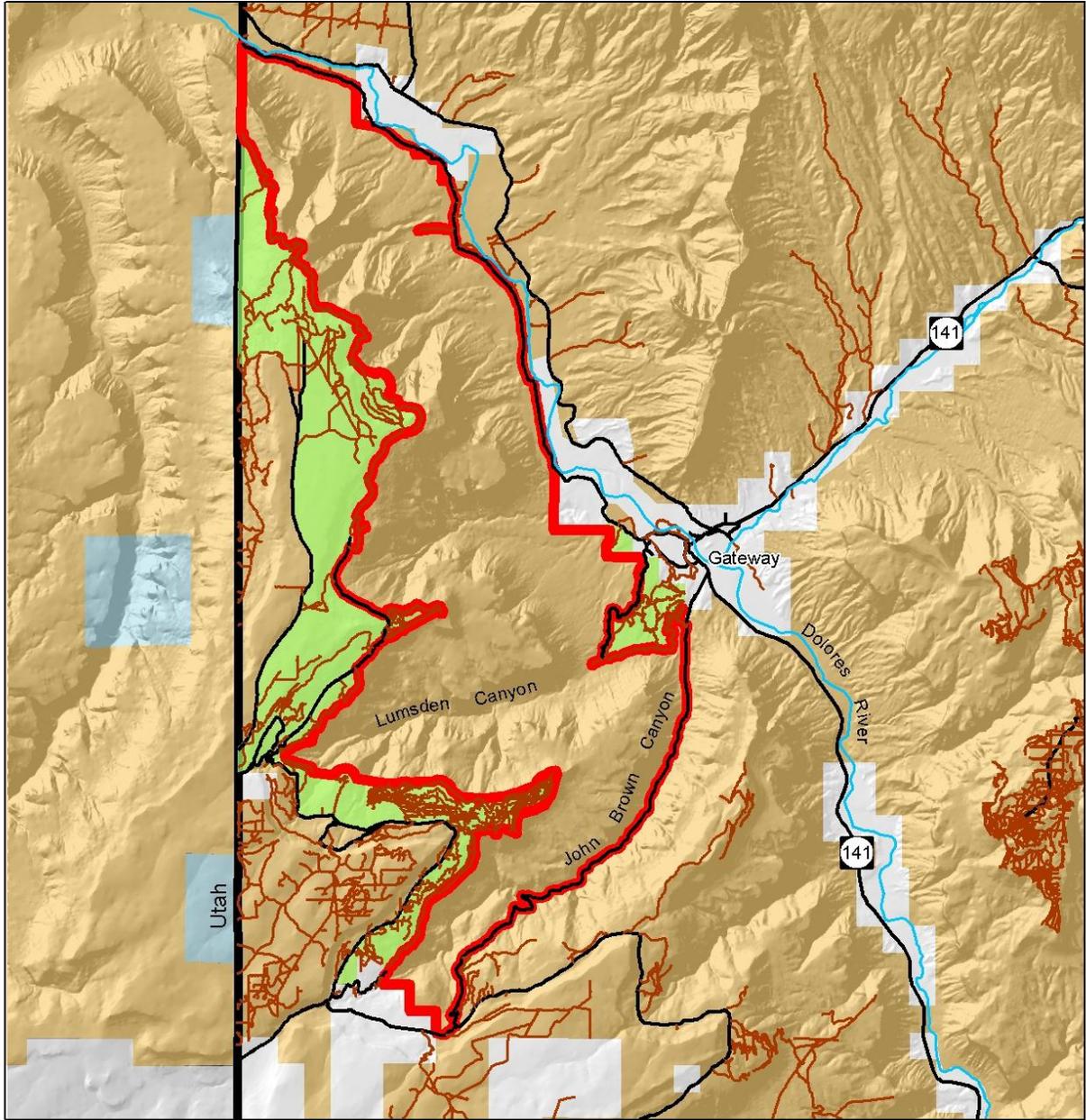


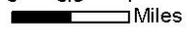
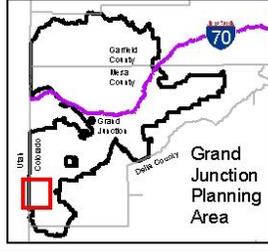
Human impacts highly noticeable adjacent to the unit.

(See Appendix D for Photo Log)

18. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Lumsden Canyon

Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Lumsden Canyon



November 2011  	 BLM	 Inventoried Area with Wilderness Character	Inventory: 13764 acres LWWVC: 10072 acres 	
	 Private	 Inventoried Area w/o wilderness character		
	 State	 Perennial Streams		
	 USFS	 Road		
	 RMP Planning Area	 Unimproved Roads and Trails		

**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics 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 for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: N/A
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): N/A
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): N/A

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## **Form 2**

Lumsden Canyon unit:

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes   X        No       

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I. Area Description:** The Lumsden Canyon unit is located in southern Mesa County, just west of the town of Gateway and Highway 141. The unit encompasses a system of canyons which rise above the Dolores River. Initially, 13,764 acres were identified for inventory. The western portion of the unit where the canyons top out onto Dolores Point, and lands adjacent to Gateway Canyons Resort were originally included in the inventory unit. These areas have been heavily manipulated for uranium mining, a landing strip, an airplane hangar, and a bike trail system. These factors deterred from the naturalness of the unit, and were removed.
- II. Background:** This unit was neither part of the BLM's Initial Wilderness Inventory process in 1979 nor was it identified in the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal.
- A. Land Ownership and Acreage:** The Lumsden Canyon unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains 10,072 acres. The eastern and northern boundary is formed by 4.1 Road and private land. The southern boundary is John Brown Road, and the western boundary is essentially the mesa top, which has been heavily manipulated due primarily to mineral extraction and exploration.
- B. Topography:** Elevation in the Lumsden Canyon unit ranges from approximately 7,000 feet where the canyons reach the mesa to 4,600 feet in the eastern portion of the unit near the Dolores River. John Brown, Lumsden, and Gateway Canyons offer impressive Entrada Sandstone formations.
- C. Vegetation:** Vegetation consists primarily of a mix of pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and saltbrush communities. John Brown and Lumsden Canyon host a few stands of Ponderosa Pine at around the 7,000 foot level. Gambel oak and grass and forb mix are also present in the unit. BLM sensitive species in the area include Fisher milkvetch, Horseshoe milkvetch, Dolores River skeletonplant and Osterhout's cryptantha.
- D. Wildlife:** Many big-game species utilize the unit, including: elk, mule-deer, mountain lion, black-bear and other species. The eastern portion of the unit sees a fall concentration of black bear. Peregrine falcon, bald eagle and golden eagle are also found in the unit.
- III. Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities**

**Recreation:** Recreation use within the unit is low. The presence of Gateway

Canyons Resort just outside of the unit contributes to recreation use in the surrounding area, but such use is typically confined to established recreation facilities such as roads or trails – none of which enter the unit. The initial inventory boundary included a dense trail system, used primarily by resort guests for mountain biking and hiking. The Lumsden Canyon unit was redrawn to exclude this highly developed trail system as it was seen to impact both the naturalness and opportunities for solitude.

**Grazing:** There are five grazing allotments within the boundaries of this unit. Approximately 0.4 miles of range related fencing exist in the northern portion, but no other range facilities exist inside the boundaries, as most are located on the mesa top outside of the unit.

**Rights-of-way:** Seven rights-of-way (or a portion of the ROW) lie inside the unit. 5 of the ROWs are located along John Brown Road, and the other two are located outside of Gateway Canyons Resort. All ROWs are for telephone lines.

**Oil and Gas Leasing:** Approximately 20% of the unit is currently leased for oil and gas development. There are currently no oil and gas facilities in the unit.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

Within the unit, there are few imprints of humans. Radio towers are located just outside the boundaries at the end of the point separating Lumsden and John Brown Canyons. However, the towers are outside the unit and are not a pervasive presence, and therefore not detrimental to the unit's naturalness.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

Opportunities for solitude are provided chiefly by the multiple canyons which reach into the unit. Lumsden Canyon provides the best opportunity for solitude, stretching three miles from the mesa top to the high desert floor, offering multiple side canyons for further opportunities for solitude. John Brown and Gateway Canyons also provide outstanding opportunities for solitude as the steep walls of the canyon rise, enveloping visitors in a natural surrounding. The eastern portion of the unit is more exposed compared to the canyons, and is characterized by lower lying vegetative communities. Opportunities for solitude still exist in this portion, but are not considered outstanding. However, the overall character of the unit is defined by the striking canyons which provide ample opportunities for solitude.

(4) Does the area have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?  
Yes  No  N/A

This area provides outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation, specifically hiking. The canyons, most notably Lumsden, offer easy travel corridors along the drainages and side drainages. Hiking in the canyons is confined to the main drainages and major side canyons. From the bottom of the canyons, the steep slopes rise, often giving way to walls of Entrada Sandstone, restricting one's ability for cross-country travel.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?  
Yes  No  N/A

This unit offers geologic, scenic and ecological supplemental values. Geologic formations such as Entrada Sandstone help characterize this unit. The scenic views of the Palisade and scenery within the canyons supplement the qualities of the unit. BLM sensitive species in the area include Fisher milkvetch, Horseshoe milkvetch, Dolores River skeletonplant and Osterhout's cryptantha.

### Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: Lumsden Canyon

#### 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
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No
4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes  No

#### Conclusion:

- The area or a portion of the area has wilderness character  
 The area does not have wilderness character

#### Prepared by:

Adam M Straubinger  
Outdoor Recreation Planner (on contract) 2011

***This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.***

**Lumsden Canyon:**

Date: 7/28/2011 3:51 PM  
Lat: 38.7216 Lon: -109.021564



**View into unit from 4.1 Road**

Date: 7/20/2011 11:50 AM  
Lat: 38.645714 Lon: -109.009



Looking north across the unit, Lumsden Canyon in foreground

Date: 7/20/2011 12:02 PM  
Lat: 38.650492 Lon: -109.053611



Looking down into Lumsden Canyon.

Date: 7/28/2011 12:47 PM  
Lat: 38.659892 Lon: -109.003042



At the mouth of Lumsden Canyon

Date: 7/28/2011 1:14 PM  
Lat: 38.658569 Lon: -109.013036



Date: 7/28/2011 1:46 PM  
Lat: 38.65765 Lon: -109.019253



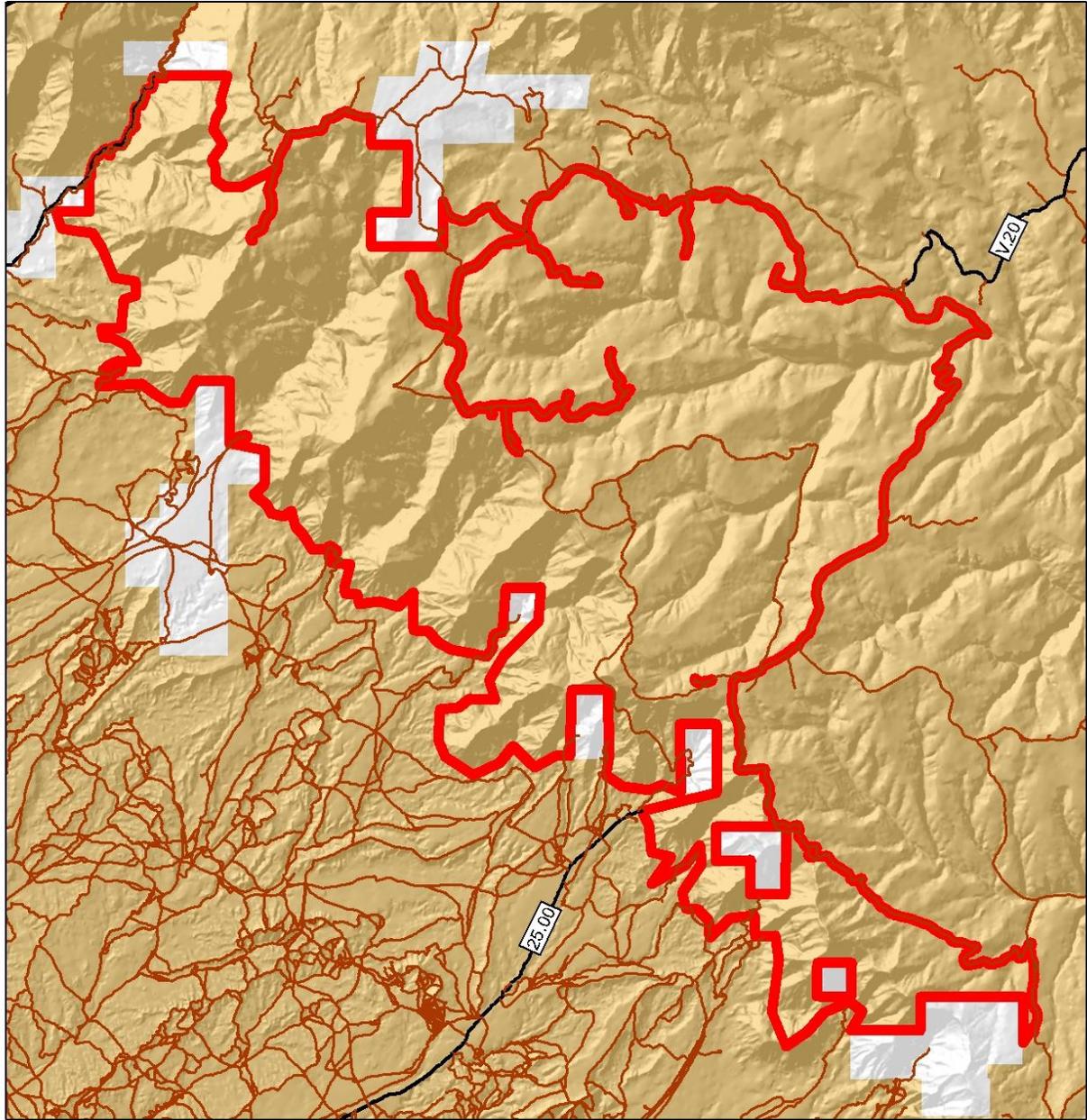


Date: 7/28/2011 1:28 PM  
Lat: 38.657161 Lon: -109.018

(See Appendix D for Photo Log)

19. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Main Canyon

Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Main Canyon

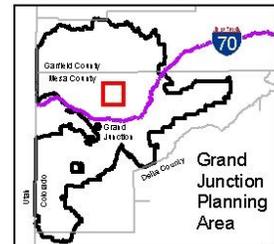
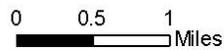


November  
2011



- |   |         |   |                             |
|---|---------|---|-----------------------------|
|  | BLM     |  | Inventory Unit              |
|  | Private |  | RMP Planning Area           |
|  | State   |  | Perennial Streams           |
|  | USFS    |  | Road                        |
|   |         |  | Unimproved Roads and Trails |

Size 12613 acres



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics 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 for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: N/A
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): N/A
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): N/A

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Form 2

Main Canyon unit:

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I. **Area Description:** The Main Canyon unit is located in Mesa County, adjacent to the northwest boundary of the Little Bookcliffs WSA. The unit is approximately 12 miles north of Grand Junction, CO.
  
- II. **Background:** This unit was neither part of the BLM's initial wilderness inventory process in 1979 nor was it identified in the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal.
  - A. **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The Main Canyon unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains approximately 12,613 acres. It is bounded on the west 21 Road, and on the north by V 6/10 Rd., O 9/10 Rd. and private boundaries. The eastern boundary is formed by V 2/10 Rd. and private land. The southern boundary lies where the Bookcliffs rise from the desert.
  - B. **Topography:** The Main Canyon unit ranges in elevation from approximately 7,400 feet in the northwestern portion of the unit to 5,500 feet where the slopes meet the desert. The unit is characterized by steep slopes rising from the desert, reaching a plateau 1,500 feet above. Adobe Creek, Main Canyon and Lane Gulch cut into the unit, providing topographical relief along with smaller, unnamed drainages.
  - C. **Vegetation:** The most consistent form of vegetation in the unit is pinyon-juniper and sagebrush. The slopes rising from the desert are characterized by sparsely vegetated talus slopes and rock outcroppings. The more significant drainages host communities of cottonwood and willow. Gambel oak is found in portions of the unit with higher elevations.
  - D. **Wildlife:** Many big-game species utilize the unit, including: elk, mule-deer, mountain lion, black-bear and other species. The unit serves as a summer range for elk and mule-deer, with a portion of the unit seeing a concentration of black bear in the fall and elk in the winter.

### III. **Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities**

**Recreation:** Recreation use is low in this unit, as the topography and overall character of the unit do not lend themselves to quality recreation experiences. Most recreation in the unit is associated with hunting and OHV use.

**Grazing:** Grazing occurs within the unit. Multiple range related fences, catchments, retention ponds and springs are located within the unit.

**Rights-of-way:** ROWs within the unit follow the boundary roads in the north and western portions of the unit. All ROWs are for energy related roads and pipelines.

**Oil and Gas Leasing:** Approximately 70% of the unit is currently leased for oil and gas development. Six wells exist near the boundary of the unit.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X

Description:

The unit is considered to be in a natural state. There are imprints of man where the unit flattens out in northern half, such as 650 acres of chaining and range facilities. Oil and gas facilities, though excluded from the boundaries, are not well screened and visible from certain areas inside the unit. The slopes and drainages have not been manipulated by man and retain their natural state. Once the slopes reach a plateau, the vegetation becomes more abundant but is characterized by shrubs, grasses and pinyon-juniper which do not provide outstanding screening.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

Opportunities for solitude are present but are not considered outstanding. The slopes rising from the desert are extremely exposed, and while their rugged nature may offer topographical screening, an outstanding sense of solitude is not offered. Opportunities for solitude are probably best found in Main Canyon, which starts in this unit and enters into the Little Bookcliffs WSA and eventually drains into the Colorado River. The portion of Main Canyon in this unit pales in comparison to the drastic, steep cliffs the canyon assumes as it progresses towards the river. Oil and gas facilities existing outside the unit are often unscreened and visible from areas of higher elevation, and can hinder one's sense of solitude. Opportunities for solitude exist in the unit, but are not considered outstanding in a regional context.

(4) Does the area have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

Opportunities for primitive recreation are present but not outstanding. The slopes leaving the desert and marking the start of the Bookcliffs are essentially not traversable, and the drainages segmenting these slopes offer less than ideal primitive recreation opportunities due to their extreme exposure, rugged terrain and lack of water. The drainages in the remainder of the unit

are more ideal for primitive recreation, mostly hiking and horseback riding. The opportunities for such recreation are average compared the similar opportunities in the region, and are therefore not considered outstanding.

The topographical nature confines recreation to the northern portion of the unit, where cross-country travel is more appropriate, but not considered outstanding as the drainages are relatively shallow and slopes and ridges are vegetated by the typical pinyon-juniper and sagebrush mix.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A X

Units found to not meet the other criteria for wilderness characteristics were not assessed for supplemental values.

### Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: Main Canyon

Results of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? X Yes \_\_\_ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? \_\_\_ Yes X No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? \_\_\_ Yes X No \_\_\_ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No X N/A

Conclusion:

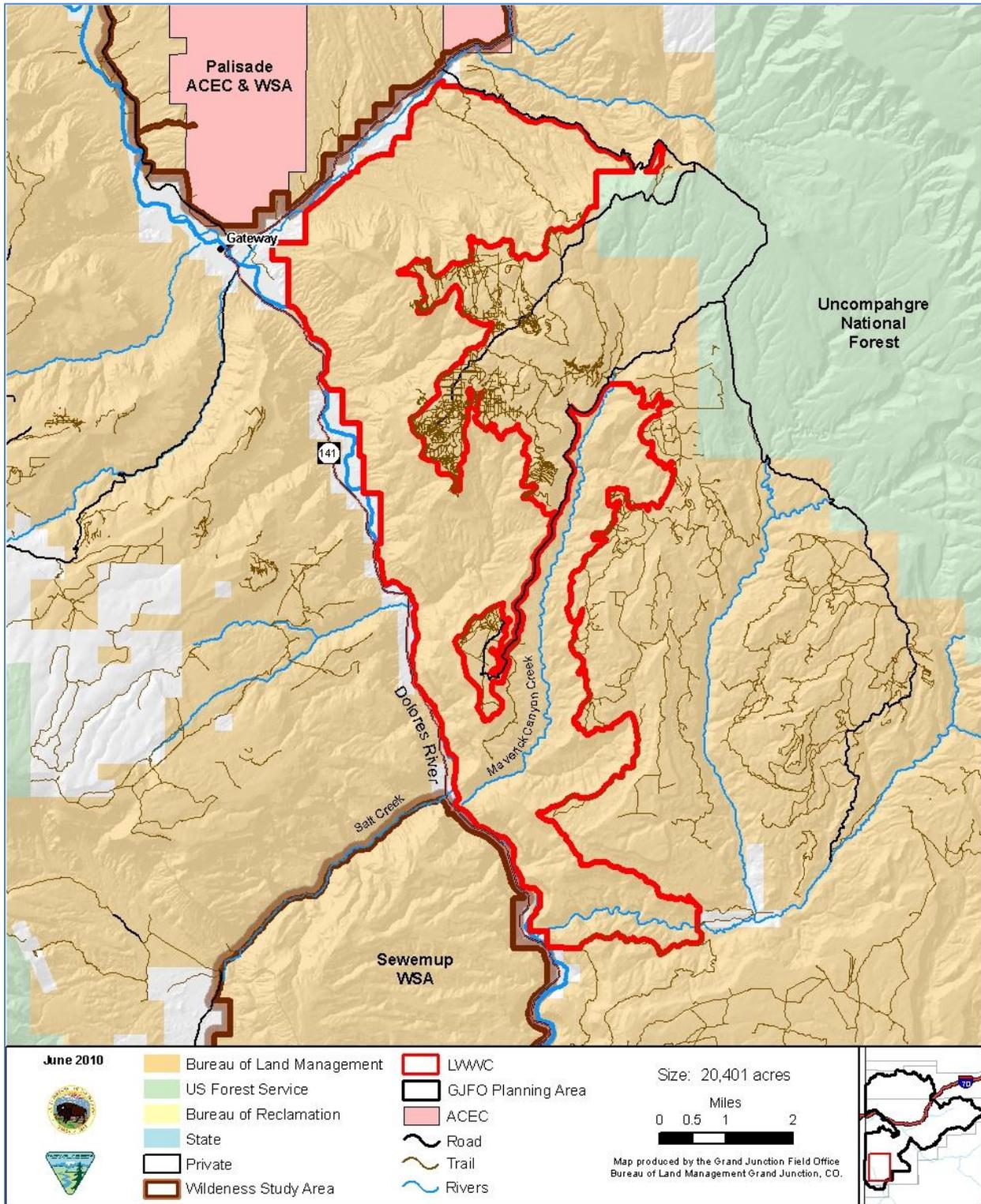
- \_\_\_ The area or a portion of the area has wilderness character  
X The area does not have wilderness character

**Prepared by:**

Adam M Straubinger  
Outdoor Recreation Planner (on contract) 2011

***This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.***

## 20. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Maverick Canyon



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics 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 for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: N/A
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): N/A
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): N/A

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Form 2**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes   X                        No                   

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

I. **Area Description:** The Maverick Canyon unit is located in Mesa County, approximately 25 miles southwest of Grand Junction, Colorado. The Maverick Canyon unit encompasses 20,401 acres of BLM public lands within Colorado.

II. **Background:** The Maverick Canyon unit not was part of the BLM’s initial wilderness inventory process in 1979. The Maverick Canyon unit is a citizen’s proposed wilderness area.

**A. Land Ownership and Acreage:**

The Maverick Canyon unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains 20,401 acres. The unit is bounded by private lands on the northern sides of the unit, private lands and the Dolores River on the west while the east side of the unit follows the rims of the various canyons that occur within the unit. Five major canyon systems exist within the unit: Larsen, Bull, Maverick, Little Maverick and Blue Creek.

**B. Topography**

The Maverick Canyon unit includes several towering red-rock canyons including Maverick Canyon, Larson Canyon and Blue Creek which all cut deeply into the Uncompahgre Plateau to the east. Many side canyons also exist off on main canyon stems. Sloping slick rock benches above the canyons form a “rim” around the top of the unit. The unit’s elevation varies from about 4,800 feet on the Dolores River to almost 6,000 feet. The canyons are over 1,000 feet in depth where they intersect with the Dolores River corridor. Juanita Arch, in Maverick Canyon, is the largest natural bridge in the State of Colorado.

**C. Vegetation**

The vegetation varies from sage brush, mixed pinyon-juniper woodlands and riparian systems containing cottonwoods and willow. The Dolores River corridor contains a very large riparian system though Tamarisk exist along the Dolores River. No known rare or endangered plants inhabit the unit.

**D. Wildlife**

The area serves as important habitat for numerous big game species including: elk, mule deer, mountain lion, black bear, grouse and many other species. Peregrine falcons are known to inhabit this unit as well as a number of fish species such as brown, brook, rainbow

and Colorado River cutthroat trout.

### III. Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities

**Recreation:** Recreation use in this area is generally related to Dolores River use and canyoneering. Juanita Arch is a popular hike and is completed by hundreds of visitors per year. Additionally, with the Gateway Canyons Resort adjacent to this unit, use will likely increase along the Dolores River in the form of boating as well as the number of visitors exploring the numerous canyons.

**Wild and Scenic Rivers:** Both Blue Creek and Maverick Canyon Creek have been found to be eligible for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

**Grazing:** Livestock grazing occurs in the unit, no water developments occur. Four sections of fence exist within the unit with a total length of ½ mile.

**Rights-of-Way:** Record search through LR 2000 shows no rights-of-way (ROWs) within the boundaries.

**Oil and gas leasing:** Approximately 5,800 acres (25%) of the unit is currently leased for fluid minerals. No wells have been drilled within the unit.

**Minerals:** Mining claims overlap approximately 9,000 acres of the unit. Additional research will be completed should the area be managed to protect the wilderness characteristics.

**Uranium:**

The US Department of Energy has oversight of uranium leasing at the head of Larsen Canyon (approximately 100 acres of a lease does overlap the inventory unit in South Larsen Canyon).

**Road Maintenance:**

No motorized routes exist in the unit.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

No imprints of man occur within the unit. It appears to be primarily affected by nature.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

The Maverick Canyon proposed unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. The areas variety of canyons, ample bench lands and pinyon juniper forest offer plenty of places to experience solitude by providing vegetative screening as well as numerous canyons and bench lands to explore without seeing another user. One does not need to travel very far up the canyons east of the Dolores River to immediately experience solitude.

(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

The Maverick Canyon unit provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The area's size, configuration, varied terrain, diverse vegetation combined offer outstanding recreational opportunities. The area's pinyon juniper forests, drainages and canyons provide excellent places for hiking, backpacking, photography, hunting, camping and many other activities. For example, a hike to visit the Juanita Arch would be an outstanding adventure. In regional context, the hiking, photography and wildlife viewing opportunities are considered outstanding.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

The Maverick Canyon unit contains Juanita Arch, which is geologically a natural bridge and one the only of its kind in Colorado.

## Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: Maverick Canyon

Summary

Results of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements?  X  Yes \_\_\_ No

2. Does the area appear to be natural?                     Yes    No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?                     Yes    No    NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values?                     Yes    No    NA

Conclusion  
Check One:

The area-or a portion of the area (**Entire Unit**) has wilderness character.

The area does not have wilderness character.

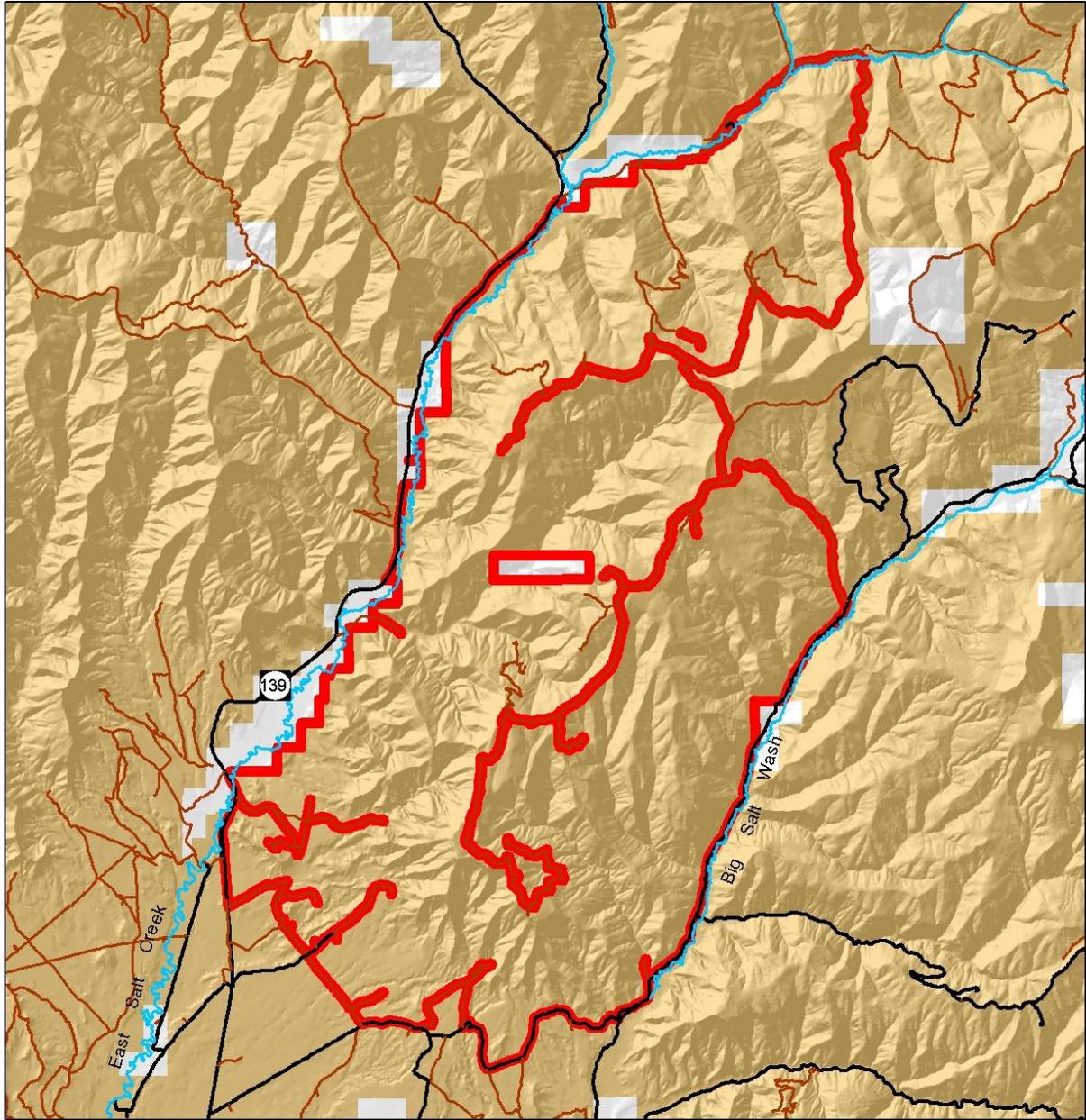
**Prepared by:**

Chris Ham  
Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner 2009

*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.*

21. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Munger Creek

Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Munger Creek

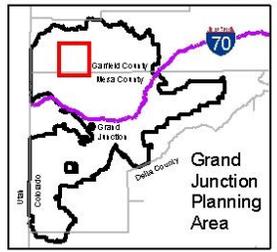


November 2011



- BLM
- Private
- State
- USFS
- Inventory Unit
- RMP Planning Area
- Perennial Streams
- Road
- Unimproved Roads and Trails

Size 23801 acres  
 0 0.5 1 1.5 Miles



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics 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 for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: N/A
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): N/A
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): N/A

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Form 2

Munger Creek Unit:

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I. **Area Description:** The Munger Creek unit is located in Garfield County, part of the Bookcliffs Range. The unit is approximately 14 miles north of Fruita, CO.
- II. **Background:** This unit was neither part of the BLM's Initial Wilderness Inventory process in 1979 nor was it identified in the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal.
  - A. **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The Munger Creek unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains approximately 23,801 acres. It is bounded on the west by Highway 139 and private land and on the north by BLM 7690 and private boundaries. The eastern boundary is formed by 16 Road, BLM 7500 and BLM 7690B. The southern boundary is formed by X Road and BLM 7649A.
  - B. **Topography:** The Munger Creek unit is characterized by a high ridge rising above East Salt Creek to the west and Big Salt Wash to the east. Stove Canyon and Buniger Canyon are major drainages running from the main ridge to Big Salt Wash, with Munger Creek running from the ridge to East Salt Creek. The unit ranges in elevation from approximately 7,650 feet at the cliffs above Munger Creek to 5,200 feet where the slopes meet the desert.
  - C. **Vegetation:** The most consistent form of vegetation in the unit is pinyon-juniper and sagebrush, though much of the unit is characterized by sparsely vegetated talus slopes and rock outcroppings. Gambel Oak and small stands of Douglas Fir are present in the northern portion of the unit. A portion of the unit is scarred from fire and is undergoing regrowth and rehab.
  - D. **Wildlife:** Many big-game species utilize the unit, including: elk, mule-deer, mountain lion, black-bear and other species. The unit serves as a winter range for elk and mule-deer, with a portion of the unit seeing a concentration of black bear in the fall and elk and mule-deer in the winter.
- III. **Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities**

**Recreation:** Recreation use is moderate in this unit. Post Canyon provides a

challenging OHV route, and the route system bounding the unit offers access for fall big-game hunting.

**Grazing:** Grazing occurs within the unit. 16 range related ponds and retention dams are located in the unit, near boundary roads or cherry-stemmed roads. 5 miles of fencing runs along the cherry-stemmed route atop the main ridge.

**Rights-of-way:** ROWs within the unit follow roads and are for energy related roads and pipelines cherry stemmed out of the unit.

**Oil and Gas Leasing:** Approximately 13% of the unit is currently leased for oil and gas development. Four wells exist near the southern boundary of the unit.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes  X  No

Description:

The unit is considered to be in a natural state. Small human imprints, such as grazing related ponds and fencing exist, mainly along the major ridge line. A 75 acre area atop the main ridge has been roller chopped, but this is not so prevalent as to cause detriment to the overall naturalness of the unit. This ridge also features a cherry-stemmed route which runs along the top of the ridge for approximately 8 miles, coming  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile from the southern boundary. The unit was inventoried as a whole, while holding the idea that the unit may be split into units east and west of this road if they were found to differ in the presence or absence of wilderness character. In terms of naturalness, the unit as a whole was found to retain its natural character. Imprints of man exist, but are escapable and not an overwhelming force.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes   No  X  N/A

Description:

Opportunities for solitude are present but are not considered outstanding. The desert and slopes rising from the desert occupy approximately 4,000 acres in the southern part of the unit, and are extremely exposed and rugged. While their rugged nature may offer topographical screening, an outstanding sense of solitude is not offered. Opportunities for solitude in the eastern portion of the unit are probably best found in Buniger and Stove Canyons. Buniger and Stove Canyon essentially run parallel to each other, separated by a ridge, each extending 2.5 – 3 miles into the unit. These canyons offer solitude, but such canyons are a typical characteristic in this region, and neither their depth nor length set them apart in a regional context. The remainder of the eastern portion of the inventory unit is characterized by relatively steep slopes vegetated by a mix of pinyon-juniper and sagebrush, which provide less than outstanding opportunities for solitude. While the two canyons provide an opportunity for

solitude, the unit is not considered to offer outstanding opportunities.

The western portion of the unit is characterized by slopes leading down from the main ridge towards East Salt Creek and Munger Creek (which feeds East Salt Creek). These slopes are highly exposed, as they are characterized by talus slopes and rock outcroppings, and much of the vegetation found on the slopes in the southern half is recovering from a fire. Therefore, quality opportunities for solitude almost exclusively exist in the Munger Creek drainage and Bear Canyon. Munger Creek extends approximately 4.7 miles into the unit. Side drainages feeding Munger Creek are short and steep. Bear Canyon is located in the northern tip of the unit, running approximately 2 miles. Where it drains into East Salt Creek, the canyon is relatively wide and exposed, also near Highway 139 which parallels East Salt Creek. Opportunities for solitude in the western portion of the inventory unit are limited, as the slopes which characterize a majority of this unit are typically rocky and exposed with limited vegetation, or burned. While opportunities do exist, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

(4) Does the area have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

Opportunities for primitive recreation are present but not outstanding. Primitive forms of recreation, mainly hiking, are limited to travel along linear features such as ridges or canyons. Cross country travel is extremely difficult in a majority of the unit as the steep, rocky slopes confine travel to certain corridors.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  X

Units found to not meet the other criteria for wilderness characteristics were not assessed for supplemental values.

### Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: Munger Creek

Results of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements?  X  Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural?  X  Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  N/A

Conclusion:

- The area or a portion of the area has wilderness character  
 The area does not have wilderness character

**Prepared by:**

Adam M Straubinger  
Outdoor Recreation Planner (on contract) 2011

*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.*

**Munger Creek:**

Date: 8/17/2011 11:10 AM  
Lat: 39.383494 Lon: -108.757744



The southern portion of the unit: exposed slopes as the Bookcliffs rise from the desert.

Date: 8/12/2011 11:09 AM  
Lat: 39.390478 Lon: -108.746336



### Stove Canyon

Date: 8/17/2011 10:09 AM  
Lat: 39.439428 Lon: -108.722508



Route along the main ridge in the unit. Lack of vegetation and topography here impacts opportunities for solitude.

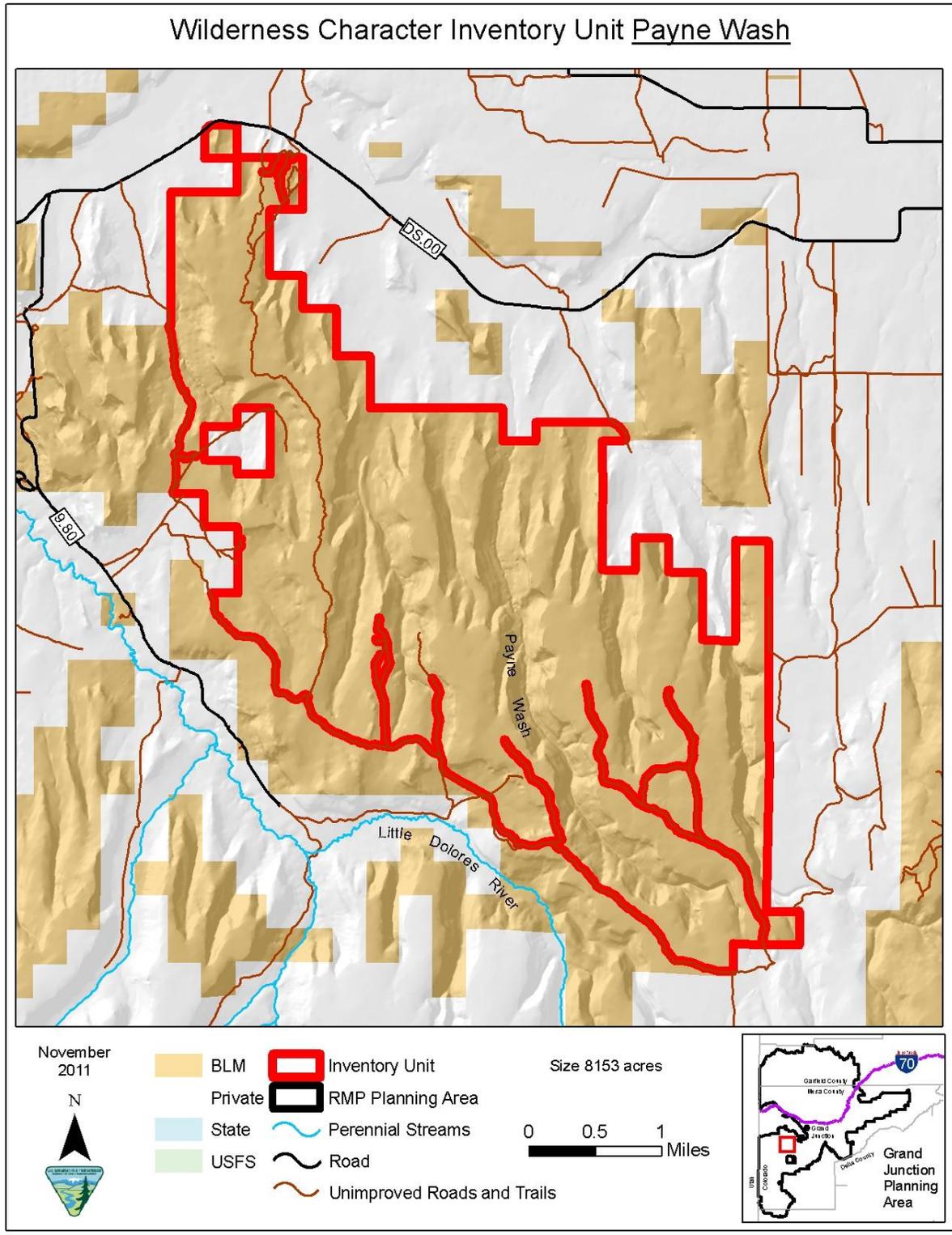
Date: 8/16/2011 2:50 PM  
Lat: 39.451964 Lon: -108.760561



Human impacts outside of the unit are often visible from west-facing slopes.

(See Appendix D for Photo Log)

22. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Payne Wash



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

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

No  X  (Go to Form 2) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: N/A
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): N/A
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): N/A

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## **Form 2**

Payne Wash unit:

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I. **Area Description:** The Payne unit is located in Mesa County. The unit is approximately 4 miles southwest of Glade Park, CO.
- II. **Background:** This unit was neither part of the BLM's Initial Wilderness Inventory process in 1979 nor was it identified in the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal.
- A. **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The Payne Wash unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains approximately 8,153 acres. It is bounded on the west by private boundaries and bladed roads. The eastern boundary is formed by private boundaries.
- B. **Topography:** The Payne Wash unit ranges in elevation from approximately 7,900 feet in the southeast portion of the unit to 6,610 feet in the northern tip of the unit. The unit consists of open mesas segmented by multiple drainages running north-south.
- C. **Vegetation:** Vegetation in the unit is dominated by pinyon-juniper and sagebrush. Other occurring vegetation includes saltbrush and Ponderosa pine.
- D. **Wildlife:** Many big-game species utilize the unit, including: elk, mule-deer, mountain lion, black-bear and other species. Elk and mule-deer winter in a portion of the unit.
- III. **Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities**

**Recreation:** Recreation use is low in this unit. Access to the unit is mostly blocked by private land.

**Grazing:** Grazing occurs in a majority of the unit. Two range related reservoirs and 3 miles of fencing occur within the unit.

**Rights-of-way:** A portion of two ROWs occur within the unit. These ROWs are for irrigation facilities.

**Oil and Gas Leasing:** No portion of the unit is currently leased for oil and gas development.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes  No

Description:

Overall, the unit appears to be in a natural condition. Evidence of human impacts such as range facilities are limited. Cherry-stemmed routes that extend onto the exposed mesas impact the naturalness, but they are not a persistent presence throughout the unit and therefore non-detrimental to the naturalness of the unit as a whole.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

The unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The mesa tops, which make up over half of the unit, are sparsely vegetated with low-lying sagebrush, leaving visitors along these mesas highly exposed to others with limited screening. The drainages provide better opportunities for solitude as they are vegetated with a mix of sagebrush and pinyon-juniper, providing better screening but not considerably outstanding.

(4) Does the area have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

Recreation is limited to linear travel along the drainages or highly exposed travel on the mesa tops, neither of which offer outstanding provisions for primitive or unconfined recreation. The slopes from the mesas down to the drainages are relatively steep and not conducive to outstanding cross-country travel.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes  No  N/A

Units found to not meet the other criteria for wilderness characteristics were not assessed for supplemental values.

## Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: Payne Wash

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
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?                     \_\_\_ Yes  No \_\_\_ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values?             \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  N/A

Conclusion:

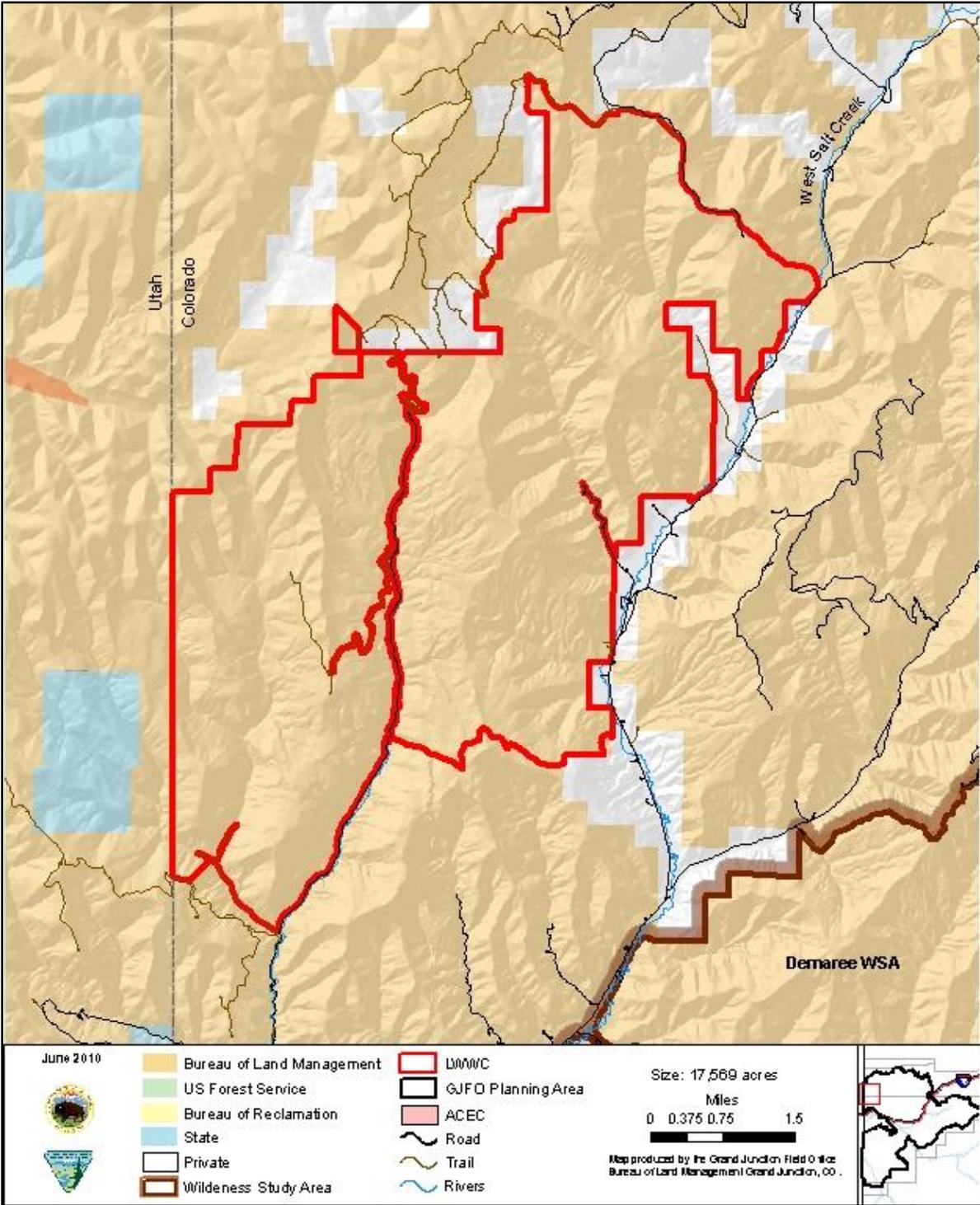
- \_\_\_ The area or a portion of the area has wilderness character  
 The area does not have wilderness character

**Prepared by:**

Adam M Straubinger  
Outdoor Recreation Planner (on contract) 2011

***This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.***

23. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Prairie Canyon



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

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

No \_\_\_\_\_ (Go to Form 2) Yes   X   (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: Wilderness Inventory (1979/Utah)
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): Prairie Canyon
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): Moab Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
Prairie Canyon	Yes	Yes	No	No	N/A

**Form 2**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes   X                        No                   

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I. **Area Description:** The Prairie Canyon unit is located in Mesa County, approximately 35 miles northwest of Grand Junction, Colorado. The Prairie Canyon is a citizen’s proposed wilderness area encompassing 17,569 acres of BLM public lands on the east and west sides of Prairie Canyon Road. Additionally, the citizens had identified the unit as crossing into Utah as the Hell’s Hole unit – Moab BLM found their portion to contain wilderness characteristics but chose ultimately to manage for other uses within the unit in their 2008 RMP/ROD.
  
- II. **Background:** The western half of this unit was inventoried for wilderness character during an accelerated review process due to pending oil and gas conflicts in 1979 by BLM Utah. The outcome of this review by the Utah State Director was the area did not have outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive recreation and therefore was dropped from further wilderness study. It is unclear which portions of this unit in Colorado were inventoried by Utah BLM.
  - A. **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The Prairie Canyon unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains 17,569 acres. The boundary for the unit is the Utah state line to the west, private lands to the north and follows a BLM road and pipeline right-of-way into Salt Creek. Heading south in Salt Creek the unit boundary follows private lands until it heads west using a pipeline corridor until it intercepts Prairie Canyon Road and travels up Hell’s Hole Canyon until the Utah state line.
  
  - B. **Topography:** The topography of the unit includes the southern face of the Bookcliffs and further north the terrain gets very rugged and steep. The major portion of the unit consists of a series of northwest-southeast trending ridges branching from a central spine ridge in the northern part of the unit (County Line Ridge) separated “V” shaped valleys characterized by buff colored sandstone benches. Topographic variation ranges over 2,000 feet from canyon bottoms to top. The canyons average 600-800 feet in depth and can vary in width from several hundred feet to ½ mile. The drainages south of County Line Ridge form two major and two minor canyon systems: Hell’s Hole, Prairie, Spring and West Canyons. Hell’s Hole intersects Prairie Canyon while West and Spring Canyon intersect Salt Creek.
  
  - C. **Vegetation:** Vegetation ranges from canyon bottoms to ridge tops. Canyon bottom vegetation is dominated by sagebrush and rabbitbrush. Box elder trees in pockets within some of the canyons. A major part of the slopes and ridges are covered with pinyon juniper

woodlands. Serviceberry and gambel oak are also found on the hillsides and below ridgetops. Douglas fir can occur at the heads of some north slopes at higher elevations. Mountain brush including serviceberry, mountain mahogany and gambel oak characterize vegetation in the higher elevations of the northern part of the unit. No known rare or endangered plants are known to inhabit the unit.

- D. Wildlife:** The area serves as important habitat for numerous big game species including: elk, mule deer, mountain lion, black bear, grouse and many other non-game species. No known rare fauna is known to occur in this unit.

### III. Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities

**Recreation:** Recreation use in this area is generally related to fall big game hunting. Use is very low.

**Grazing:** Livestock grazing occurs throughout the unit; 6 reservoirs/ponds occur to support grazing operations. One minor fence also occurs within the unit in Hells Hole Canyon. Vegetation treatments in the form of a 230 acre prescribed fire and reseeding in Prairie and Hells Hole Canyons while 310 acres of roller chopping at the mouth of West Canyon where it intercepts Salt Creek.

**Rights-of-way:** Record search through LR 2000 indentifies 26 rights-of-way (ROWS) within the boundaries though most are adjacent to the boundary and are related to oil and gas development. However, one pipeline ROW traverses from Salt Creek up Bittermilk Canyon though the middle of the unit and intercepts Prairie Canyon. These ROWs on record would need additional verification on the ground to ensure any necessary boundary adjustments would occur if the area was managed to protect the wilderness characteristics.

**Oil and gas leasing:** Currently leasing has occurred on approximately 9,600 acres of the unit. Four plugged and abandoned wells and 6 approved but not drilled locations exist within the unit.

**Road Maintenance:**

Currently, two primitive roads exist in the unit; one exists on the ridge between Hells Hole Canyon and Prairie Canyon. The primitive roads once serviced well pads but both locations have since been plugged and abandoned.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes   X              No                   N/A       

*If you check "No" above, check "N/A" (Not Applicable) in the remaining boxes below, and you need not provide additional evaluation for the unit or subunit. Use additional space as necessary.]*

Description:

Across the landscape of the unit only minor imprints of humans exist. These include unmaintained ways, several small reservoirs and fence lines. These imprints are well screened by vegetation and are not noticeable to the casual observer. This finding is similar to that of the 1979 accelerated wilderness inventory.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description: Due to its split configuration and the very steep slopes which define the canyons make seclusion difficult from the sights and sounds of others and the visible activity from oil and gas operations in the surrounding area adjacent to the unit.

The CEC's Prairie Canyon Wilderness Inventory Report of September 28, 2006 states "the varied topography, mix of vegetation, and landforms offer many pockets that provide outstanding solitude."

While some spatial solitude is available on high ridge tops which afford some long views of the unit while more intimate solitude can be found in canyon bottoms on side slopes in pinyon juniper woodlands or isolated Douglas fir stands; however, topography and vegetative screening in general permits views into canyons, onto ridges and along canyon bottoms and ridge tops. Opportunities for solitude are characteristic of the Bookcliffs region and are therefore not outstanding.

(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

The BLM finds the current recreation use of the unit is primarily non-motorized and lacks any developed recreation facilities.

In the case of primitive and unconfined recreation the CEC asserts "The various side canyons off of Prairie Canyon offer great exploring opportunities. Moreover, these canyons are easily accessible due to the road up Prairie Canyon, which will remain open.

The ridge tops within the units are wonderful places to explore and enjoy the views of surrounding landscapes.”

Though the BLM agrees that the unit’s overall size may be conducive to primitive and unconfined types of outdoor recreation activities, the deep canyons, steep walls and split configuration surrounded by roads make movement in the unit difficult and inhibit travel throughout the unit. Although hunting does occur within the unit, the opportunities are not considered to be outstanding in nature due to the fact it is generally similar to recreation opportunities throughout the Bookcliffs.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  X

Description:

No supplemental values are discussed as the unit was found to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation.

## Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: Prairie Canyon

### 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
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No  NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes  No  NA

### Conclusion

#### Check One:

The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.

The area does not have wilderness character.

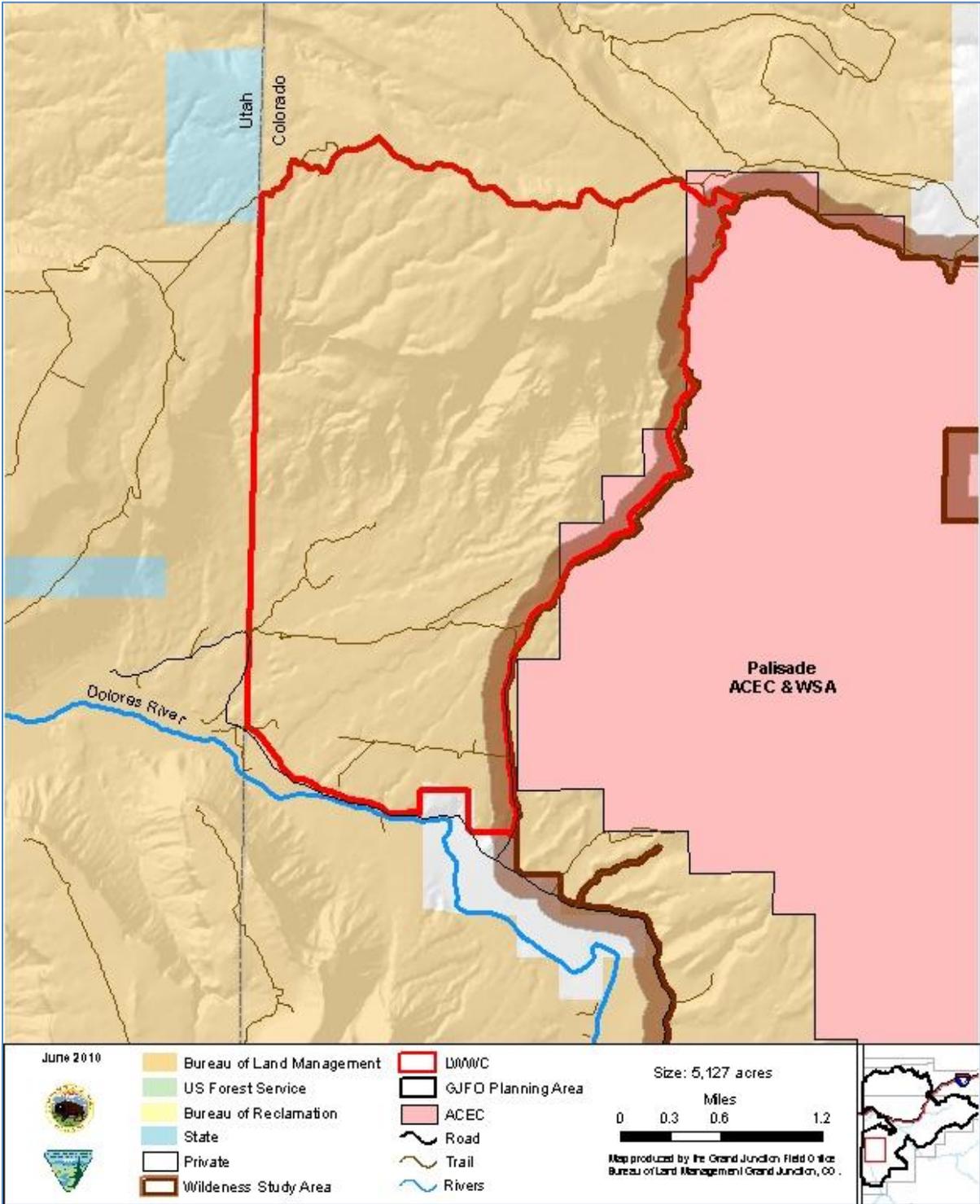
### Prepared by:

Chris Ham

Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner 2009

***This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.***

24. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Sagebrush Pillows



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

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

No  X  (Go to Form 2) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: N/A
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): N/A
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): N/A

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Form 2

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes   X                        No           

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I.     **Area Description:** The Sagebrush Pillows unit is located in Mesa County, approximately 25 miles southwest of Grand Junction, Colorado and encompasses approximately 5,127 acres of BLM public lands.
- II.    **Background:** This unit was not part of the BLM’s Initial Wilderness Inventory process in 1979. Sagebrush Pillows is a citizen’s proposed wilderness. The area is contiguous with the Beaver Creek Wilderness Inventory Area that was assessed by the Moab Field Office in 2008. The portion of the Beaver Creek Wilderness Inventory Area that was contiguous with the Sagebrush Pillows unit was found to not possess wilderness characteristics.
- A. Land Ownership and Acreage:** The Sagebrush Pillows unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains 5,126 acres. It is bounded by the west by the Utah state line, the north by maintained BLM Road 7101, to BLM Sheep Creek Road to the east and Mesa County Road 4.2 to the south.
- B. Topography:** The Sagebrush Pillow unit has three basic topographic divisions: 1) the mesa top uplands to the north, 2) the steep escarpment which rolls further south in the unit to, 3) the virtually flat lowlands which trends gently towards the Dolores River. Small arroyos run from the escarpment south towards the Dolores River.
- C. Vegetation:** Primarily the unit consists of sparse sagebrush and Pinyon Juniper shrub mix in the lowlands, generally barren land on the escarpment and Pinyon Juniper woodland on the mesa top uplands. A small stand of Ponderosa pine also exists on the mesa top. No known rare plants exist within the unit.
- D. Wildlife:** The area serves as important habitat for numerous big game species including: elk, mule deer, mountain lion, black bear, and many other non-gamespecies.
- III.   **Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities**

**Recreation:** Recreation use in this area is generally related to fall big game hunting. Use is very low.

**Grazing:** Livestock grazing occurs in the unit, a single water developments occurs on the mesa upland to support grazing operations. Approximately 1,400 feet of fence exists in the southwest corner of the unit in addition to a fenced enclosure in the southeast corner.

**Rights-of-way:** Record search through LR 2000 shows no rights-of-way (ROWs) within the boundaries.

**Minerals:** Approximately 585 acres of the unit coincide with two placer gold claims along the southern boundary.

**Oil and gas leasing:** Approximately 3,150 acres of the unit are under lease; no wells have been drilled.

**Road Maintenance:** Currently, several roads exist within the unit in the lowlands which appear to be bladed though no regular maintenance occurs.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

Although imprints exist, such as old routes, the area generally appears to be primarily affected by nature.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

The BLM finds opportunities for solitude exist but are less than outstanding. In Sagebrush Pillows Wilderness Inventory Report of February 01, 2008 The CEC states:

“The rolling terrain on the lower portion of the unit allows for individuals to find solitude while exploring the sage meadows and drainages. The upper portion of the unit has vegetative cover and several drainages that allow for ample opportunities for solitude. When one adds the addition of 43,000 acres in Utah, opportunities for solitude expand exponentially!”

The BLM affirms the lack of any topographic screening and gently sloping terrain with few other

topographic features make finding solitude very difficult. The uplands do offer some vegetative screening in the form of pinyon-juniper stands but is considered less than outstanding in a regional context. Additionally, the adjacent Beaver Creek unit in Utah was found not to have wilderness character and is therefore also not contiguous with the Sagebrush Pillows inventory unit.

(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No   X   N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are less than outstanding. However, the

CEC indicates that “hiking, backpacking, camping, scenic viewing, photography and nature study are of an outstanding nature within the Sagebrush Pillows CWP. The diverse landscape, both lowlands and uplands, offer many opportunities to explore. In addition the contiguous 43,000 acres Beaver Creek area in Utah adds ample opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.”

The BLM concludes that although hiking and hunting likely occur here there is nothing unique relative to the surrounding area that could be described as outstanding. Generally, the unit is very open with the exception of the cliff band which bisects the unit further confining any recreation. Additionally, no adjacent unit in Utah exists to support a contiguous larger unit.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A   X  

Description:

No supplemental values are discussed as the unit was found to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation.

## Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: Sagebrush Pillows

### 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
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No  NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes  No  NA

### Conclusion

#### Check One:

The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.

The area does not have wilderness character.

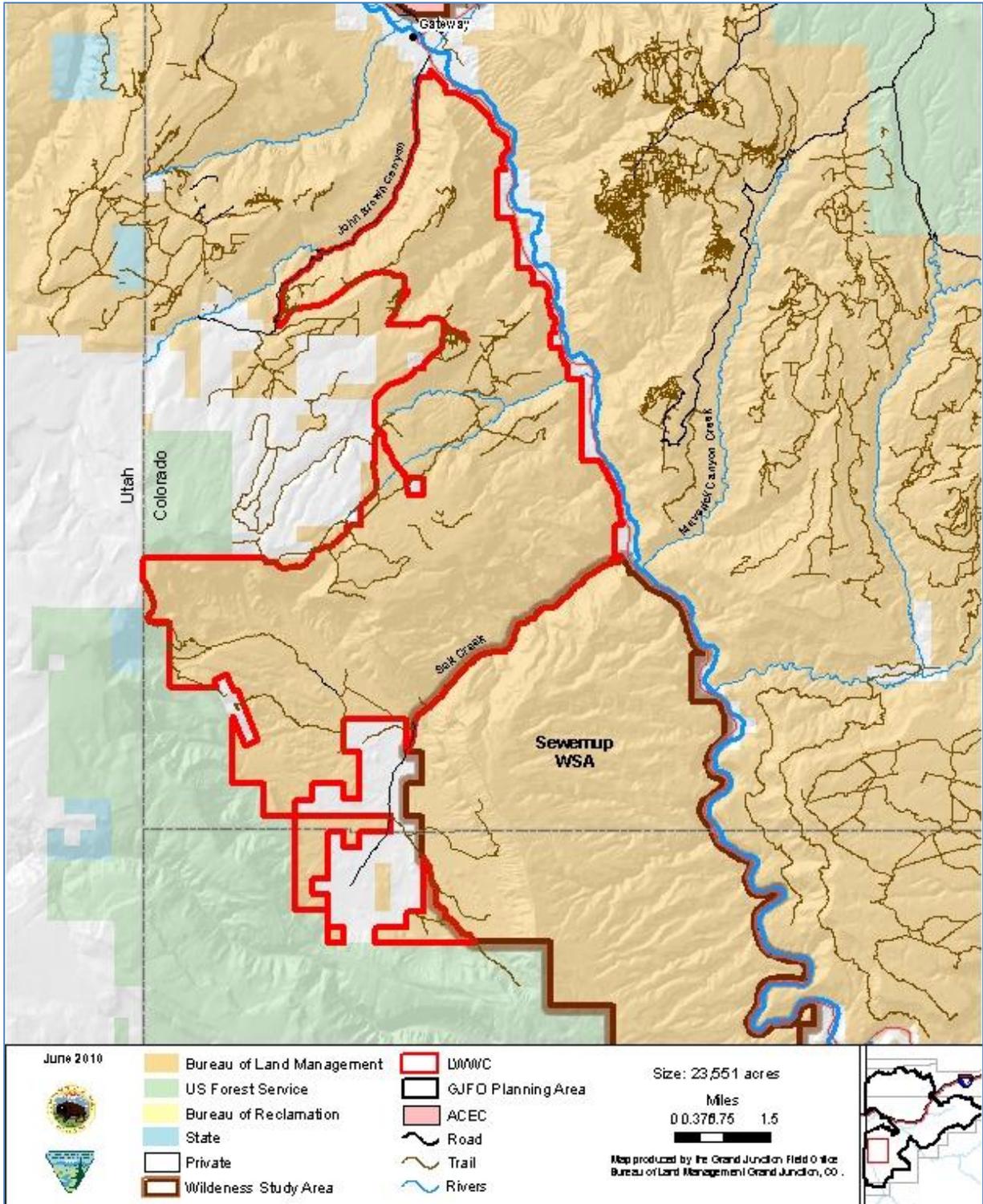
### Prepared by:

Chris Ham

Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner 2009

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25. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Sewemup Mesa



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics 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 for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: N/A
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): N/A
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): N/A

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Form 2**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes   X                        No                   

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I. **Area Description:** The Sewemup Mesa unit is located in Mesa County, approximately 35 miles southwest of Grand Junction, Colorado. The Sewemup Mesa is a Citizens’ proposed wilderness area that encompasses 23,551 acres of BLM public lands within Colorado. As much of the Citizens’ proposed Sewemup Mesa unit exists on public lands that are not under the jurisdiction of the Grand Junction Field Office they were not included in this inventory. The unit inventoried for this effort was north of Salt Creek, north of Sinbad Valley including the lands surrounding Cone Mountain.
  
- II. **Background:** The unit was not inventoried during the intensive wilderness inventory in 1979 because of the BLM described to many affronts to naturalness due to chainings, livestock water developments, fences and many routes. It has a contiguous boundary with the Roc Creek roadless area on the Manti-La Sal National Forest.
  - A. **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The Sewemup Mesa unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains 23,551 acres. The boundaries for this unit are Mesa County Road 4.40 (John Brown Canyon road) to the north, Mesa County Road Z2.40 (Cone Mountain Road), continuing south following private property and the southern boundary of Manti- La Sal National Forest to the Utah State line, traversing further south on the eastern boundary of Manti-La Sal National Forest which forms the top of Sinbad Ridge to a point at the headwaters of Salt Creek adjacent to Sewemup Mesa Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The boundary follows the north side of Salt Creek east to its intersection with the Dolores River corridor, then heads north along private property until it intersects with Mesa County Road 4.40 (John Brown Canyon road) once again.
  
  - B. **Topography:** The Sewemup Mesa unit involves broad mesa tops, a portion of extreme western Sinbad Valley broad mesa tops, several canyon systems such as Cave and Cottonwood and associated benches, and soaring escarpments of the Dolores River corridor and northern Sinbad Valley. Elevations range from approximately 6,750 feet on top of Cone Mountain to 4,200 feet at the mouth of John Brown Canyon.
  
  - C. **Vegetation:** The vegetation varies from ponderosa pines at high elevations such as Cone Mountain to large sage parks and pinyon-juniper woodlands.

- D. Wildlife:** The area serves as important habitat for numerous big game species including: elk, mule deer, mountain lion, black bear, grouse and many other non-game species. Peregrine falcons may inhabit this unit.

**III. Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities**

**Recreation:** Recreation use in this area is generally related to use of the Dolores River and canyoneering, hiking and OHV driving. Additionally, with the development of the Gateway Canyons Resort, use will likely increase from John Brown Canyon. Recreation use is low within the unit at this time.

**Grazing:** Livestock grazing occurs in the unit, 16 water developments occur to support grazing operations. Many fences and exclosures also occur within the unit. Approximately 700 acres of scattered vegetative treatments have occurred at the headwaters of Cottonwood Creek.

**Rights-of-way:** Record search through LR 2000 shows no rights-of-way (ROWs) within the boundaries.

**Oil and gas leasing:** Approximately 4,500 acres of the unit is under lease. No wells have been drilled.

**Minerals:** Approximately 450 acres of the unit coincides with mining claims. Additional research will be completed should the area be managed to protect the wilderness characteristics.

**Road Maintenance:** Mesa county Roads Z9.00 in northern Sinbad Valley and Z2.40 Road east of Cone Mountain are within the unit. These routes continue as respective BLM roads 7465 and a system of routes traversing the Cone Mountain area of the unit. Additionally, many routes exist at the head of Cottonwood Canyon, to and around the former Nielsen Mine north of Cottonwood Creek. Many other routes exist within the unit that is likely related to uranium prospecting similar to that of Calamity and Blue Mesas and around the top of Lumsden Canyon.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

Many human imprints exist on the tops of the mesa outside of the Sewemup Mesa WSA and are so numerous that cherry-stemming would basically preclude all but the steep sides of the canyons for inventory. The CEC describes many of these imprints in their Sewemup Mesa Citizens' Wilderness Inventory Report of December 10, 2008 (such as routes, fences, mines and

associated structures) but then states that the impacts are “substantially unnoticeable” or screened by vegetation. The BLM finds that although much of the unit is likely in natural condition, the overall look of the area is one that has many human imprints that are at this time too numerous to discount.



View from road below Nielsen Mine



Road descending below Nielsen Mine



Road descending into Cottonwood Canyon – typical road in this unit

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  X

As wilderness character is premised on naturalness as the foundational wilderness characteristic, if the unit lacks naturalness, no further review of additional characteristics will be necessary.

(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  X

No further review is necessary as the area is not natural in appearance.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  X

Description:

No supplemental values are discussed as the unit was found to lack naturalness.

## Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: Sewemup Mesa

### 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
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No  NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes  No  NA

### Conclusion

#### Check One:

The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.

The area does not have wilderness character.

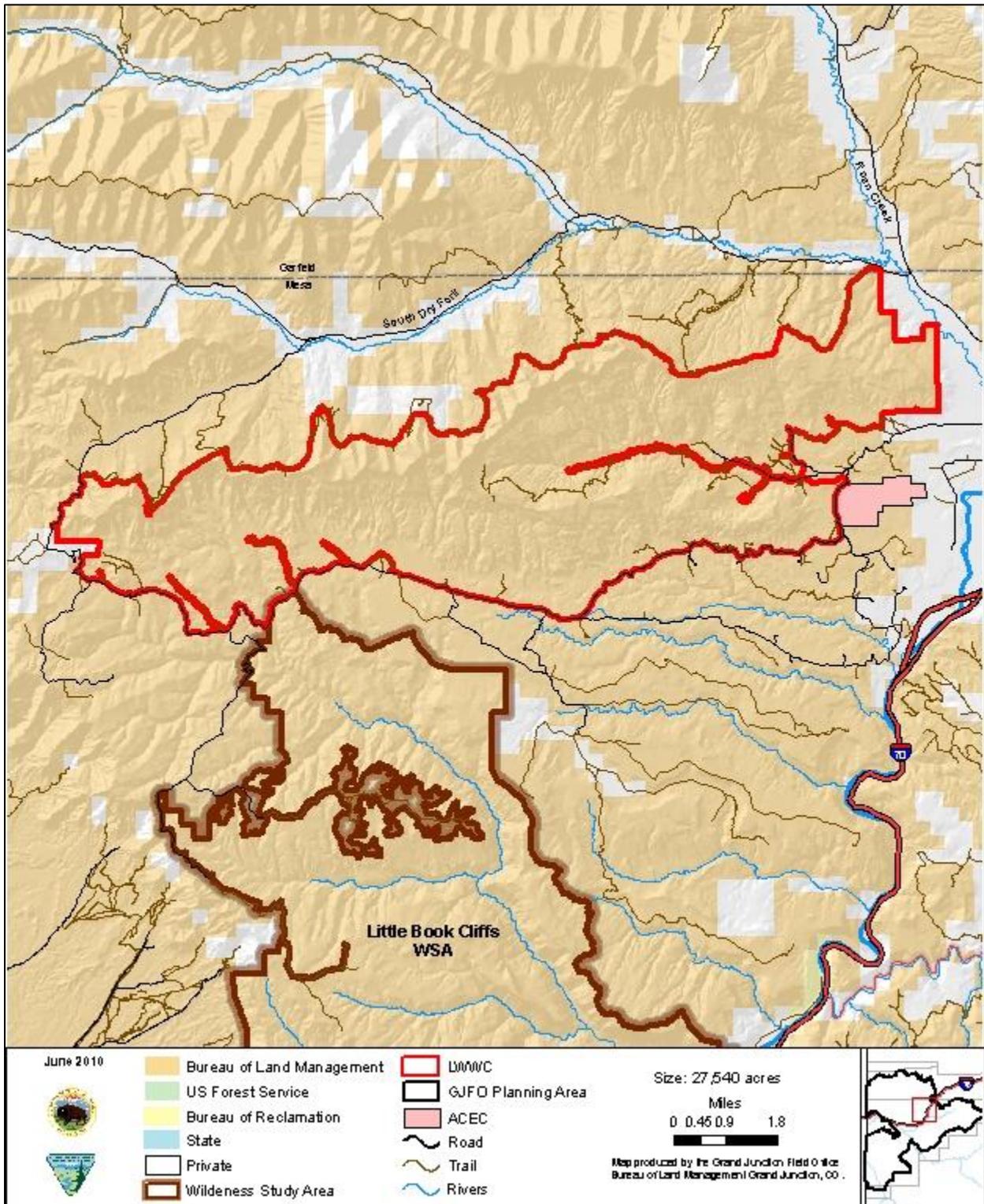
### Prepared by:

Chris Ham

Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner 2009

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26. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit South Shale Ridge



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

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

No \_\_\_\_\_ (Go to Form 2) Yes   X   (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: Wilderness Inventory (1999)
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): South Shale Ridge
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): Northwest/Grand Junction

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
South Shale Ridge	Yes 27,540	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**Form 2**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes   X                        No                   

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I. **Area Description:** The South Shale Ridge inventory unit is located in northern Mesa and southern Garfield Counties, approximately two miles west of DeBeque and the Colorado River. All lands within the unit are public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.
  
- II. **Background:** This inventory was completed in by the BLM in 1999 and no changes have occurred to alter the findings. The 1999 findings were validated in 2009 as no new routes; range improvements, rights-of-way (ROWs) or other ground disturbing activities were issued or constructed since the inventory was completed.
  - A. **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The South Shale Ridge unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains 27,540 acres. The inventory unit boundary follows a combination of roads and private property lines. Eleven roads penetrate the area and are cherry-stemmed out of the unit. Where livestock developments and gas production facilities lie adjacent to these cherry-stemmed roads, their respective areas of disturbance are likewise cherry-stemmed out of the unit.
  
  - B. **Topography:** The inventory unit contains the entire length and breadth of the top of South Shale Ridge, a narrow, heavily eroded, eight-mile long feature of the Wasatch and Green River Formations. This prominent, east-west trending ridgeline occupies most of the unit’s northern side. The southern face of South Shale Ridge is a very steep-sloping, multi-colored and highly scenic shale escarpment visible from many locations outside of the unit. Elevations within the area vary from 5,000 feet in its eastern portion to nearly 8,100 feet at the summit of Corcoran Peak in the unit’s extreme western end. Twin Peaks, at an elevation of nearly 7,500 feet, anchors the ridgeline’s eastern end. Colorful badlands and unusual geologic features stretch across much of the unit’s southern and western sides. Purplish-brown, grayish-yellow, and pinkish-colored layers exposed by erosional forces characterize much of this area. The head of Pine Gulch and the extreme upper reaches of the Hunter Canyon drainage on Corcoran Peak’s west flank are notably colorful landscapes. Here, too, is located the “Goblins” geological feature, a small collection of ghostly white and gray hoodoos easily available to public viewing. Numerous north-south trending canyons and valleys radiate from South Shale Ridge. The canyons leading from the ridgeline to the northern boundary are short, narrow and rugged near the ridge, but open up into broader

valleys near the boundary. Several fairly level bench areas occur between the unit's lower south-facing slopes and the southern boundary. Coon Hollow, a five-mile long valley extending east from the inventory unit's interior, drains directly into the Colorado River just south of DeBeque. This drainage is canyon-like in its upper two-and-a-half miles, and more valley-like in its lower section. Many short, narrow, steep-walled, tributary side canyons branch north and south from it. Taken together, the main ridgeline of South Shale Ridge and the short, narrow, canyons and valleys extending north and south from it combine to make a topographically varied and thoroughly rugged inventory area.

- C. Vegetation:** In the western portion of the unit, the vegetation along the undulating, narrow ridgeline consists of pinyon and juniper woodland and sagebrush. Douglas fir stands, in scattered, confined pockets, grow in the higher-elevation draws of north and northeast-facing slopes, particularly near Corcoran Peak. The valleys and drainages extending south from the ridgeline are sparsely vegetated in their upper reaches, although two distinctive benches in the bowl-shaped area at the very head of Coon Hollow support a moderately dense pinyon and juniper stand. At lower elevations, near Coon Hollow and the southern boundary, relatively sparse stands of pinyon and juniper occur, though hilltops in this area tend to be more densely covered. In the eastern portion of the unit, the pinyon and juniper woodland is moderately dense near the ridge tops, and several flat park-like areas support a thick growth of grass. The south-facing slopes here are sparsely vegetated, except on the more level benchlands near the southern boundary. Plants of interest found within the unit are the Colorado hookless cactus, Naturita milkvetch, DeBeque phacelia, DeBeque milkvetch, piceance twinpod, eastwood lomatium, and large-flowered bread root.
- D. Wildlife:** Elk, mule deer, mountain lion, black bear, and wild turkey inhabit the unit along with other regional endemic species. Animals of interest found within the unit are the bald eagle (eastern side) and, occasionally, wild horses (western side).

### III. Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities

**Recreation:** Recreational activities occurring within unit boundaries include hunting, sightseeing, OHV riding, hiking, and horseback riding. Other than visitation associated with hunting and sightseeing, public use of the inventory area is relatively light.

**Grazing:** There are currently portions of seven range allotments covering the unit, and livestock management continues with a few scattered range developments and access routes.

**Rights-of-way:** Record search through LR 2000 shows three ROWs within the unit in the Coon Hollow area. These ROWs on record would need additional verification on the ground to ensure any necessary boundary adjustments would occur if the area was

managed for wilderness characteristics. Current ROWs include pipelines and roads.

**Oil and gas leasing:** The unit is 100% leased for fluid minerals. At present, there are 12 gas wells capable of production within the inventory unit, and another 13 wells that have been plugged and/or abandoned. Of the fluid mineral leases, 16,557 acres in the unit are suspended per Civil Action 06-cv-00296-MSK-MEH.

**Road Maintenance:**

Eleven roads have been cherry-stemmed out of the inventory unit and no routes with the unit receive BLM maintenance.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes   X   No        N/A       

*If you check "No" above, check "N/A" (Not Applicable) in the remaining boxes below, and you need not provide additional evaluation for the unit or subunit. Use additional space as necessary.]*

**Description:**

The majority of the inventory unit (27,540 acres) appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature and retains its natural character. Human impacts are substantially unnoticeable in this portion of the unit and, for the most part, the unit's rugged eight-mile long ridgeline and steep slopes, canyons and valleys extending north and south from it have not experienced much surface disturbance. Several livestock reservoirs and fencelines, and the ways leading to or along them, are widely dispersed and inconspicuous. Their cumulative impact within this portion of the inventory unit is minimal and their presence does not detract from the natural appearing character of the landscape.

Substantially noticeable and extensive impacts exist on four specific areas within the inventory unit. These areas are unnatural in appearance due to the presence of gas wells and their associated structures, machinery and equipment, continuously used roads/ways, and livestock developments. Starting on the unit's northern side below Twin Peaks and following the unit boundary in a clockwise direction, the areas described below are unnatural in character.

- Along the unit's northern side below Twin Peaks, a 4,692-acre area is heavily impacted by a combination of disturbances. Gas well development, along with the access roads and ways leading to them, are very apparent in the landscape. Well heads, pipelines, tanks, buildings, dehydration towers, fences, and other associated production facilities and equipment are heavily concentrated in this area. Livestock developments, including reservoirs, developed springs with pipelines and troughs, fencelines, and gates/cattle guards are scattered among the gas production infrastructure which dominates much of the landscape.
- Along the unit's eastern side, just north of the point where the cherry-stemmed road up

Coon Hollow begins, a 53-acre area is heavily impacted by a combination of disturbances. Gas well development, along with the access roads and ways leading to them, are very apparent in the landscape. A major livestock reservoir is also located in this area.

- A 15-acre area extending south from the cherry-stemmed road up Coon Hollow, is heavily impacted by a pair of livestock reservoirs and the access road leading to them.
- A two-acre area, at the head of the draw lying due east of Corcoran Peak, is heavily impacted by a catchment development for livestock watering facilities located outside the inventory unit boundary to the northeast.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

The South Shale Ridge inventory unit offers visitors outstanding opportunities for solitude in many locations throughout the portion of the unit retaining its natural character. The varied topography of South Shale Ridge and the many frequently rugged, seldom-visited canyons extending north and south from it provide outstanding opportunities for visitors to find a secluded place and isolation. Particularly noteworthy locations to find these opportunities are the narrow canyons at the upper end of Coon Hollow, on the two distinctive benches in the bowl-shaped area located above the head of Coon Hollow, along portions of South Shale Ridge's long, narrow, and heavily eroded ridgeline, and on the intermittent benchlands lying between the southern boundary and the ridge's south-facing slopes. Steep and narrow canyons, stands of moderately dense pinyon and juniper woodland on benchlands, pockets of Douglas fir in Corcoran Peak's draws, and the long, undulating ridgeline of South Shale Ridge itself all contribute to a visitor's ability to locate places where a perception/feeling of being totally alone or remote from others can be found.

(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

The South Shale Ridge inventory unit offers visitors outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in many locations throughout the portion of the unit retaining its natural character. Although the unit has a relatively narrow 16-mile linear configuration, this does not, of and by itself, preclude outstanding opportunities for visitors to participate in activities that require an open, unconfined setting, and do not demand developed facilities. The unit's overall size, erosional features, and steep, rugged topography all contribute to the availability of these outstanding opportunities. Primitive and unconfined recreation activity opportunities

considered outstanding within the inventory unit include sightseeing, photography, and hiking.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes  No  N/A

**Description:**

The South Shale Ridge inventory unit is known for its exceptionally colorful scenery, particularly along the unit’s southwestern boundary. Purplish-brown, grayish-yellow, and pinkish-colored layers, exposed by erosional forces wearing down the Wasatch Formation, characterize much of this area. Many brightly colored rock pinnacles and uniquely shaped rock features have been carved by the forces of erosion.

From a botanical perspective, the South Shale Ridge inventory unit is prime habitat for a host of “plants of interest”. These include: 1) Colorado hookless cactus (federal listed, threatened); 2) Naturita milkvetch (BLM sensitive); 3) DeBeque phacelia (BLM sensitive); 4) DeBeque milkvetch (BLM sensitive); 5) piceance twinpod (BLM sensitive); 6) eastwood lomatium (BLM sensitive); and 7) large-flowered bread root (state sensitive, but not BLM sensitive). The State of Colorado is very interested in these plant species as a part of the Colorado Natural Areas Program. The BLM-administered Pyramid Rock Research Natural Area (RNA)/Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) is located adjacent to the southeastern boundary of the unit - separated only by the unsurfaced road providing access to Winter Flats further west. Due to proximity and similar site conditions, many of the unique botanical values found within the Pyramid Rock RNA/ACEC have also been found/documented within the inventory unit.

From a wildlife perspective, the South Shale Ridge inventory unit provides critical mule deer winter range, and is an important north-to-south migration route for mule deer and, increasingly, for elk. The unit supports a good population of elk, and the northern side of the ridge is a known elk calving area. Bald eagles use the area (wintering only, and roosting in the unit’s eastern end). A wild turkey population is expanding in the unit’s western end, in the vicinity of Corcoran Peak. And, wild horses are known to occasionally drift into the flats and benchlands on the southwestern portion of the unit.

### Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: South Shale Ridge

**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
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?                     Yes    No    NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values?                     Yes    No    NA

Conclusion  
Check One:

- The area-or a portion of the area (**Entire Unit**) has wilderness character.
- The area does not have wilderness character.

**1999 Inventory Prepared by:**

Team Members

David Lehmann  
Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist  
Grand Junction Field Office, Colorado

Russ von Koch  
Recreation/Cultural Resource Advisor  
Moab Field Office, Utah

Team Leader

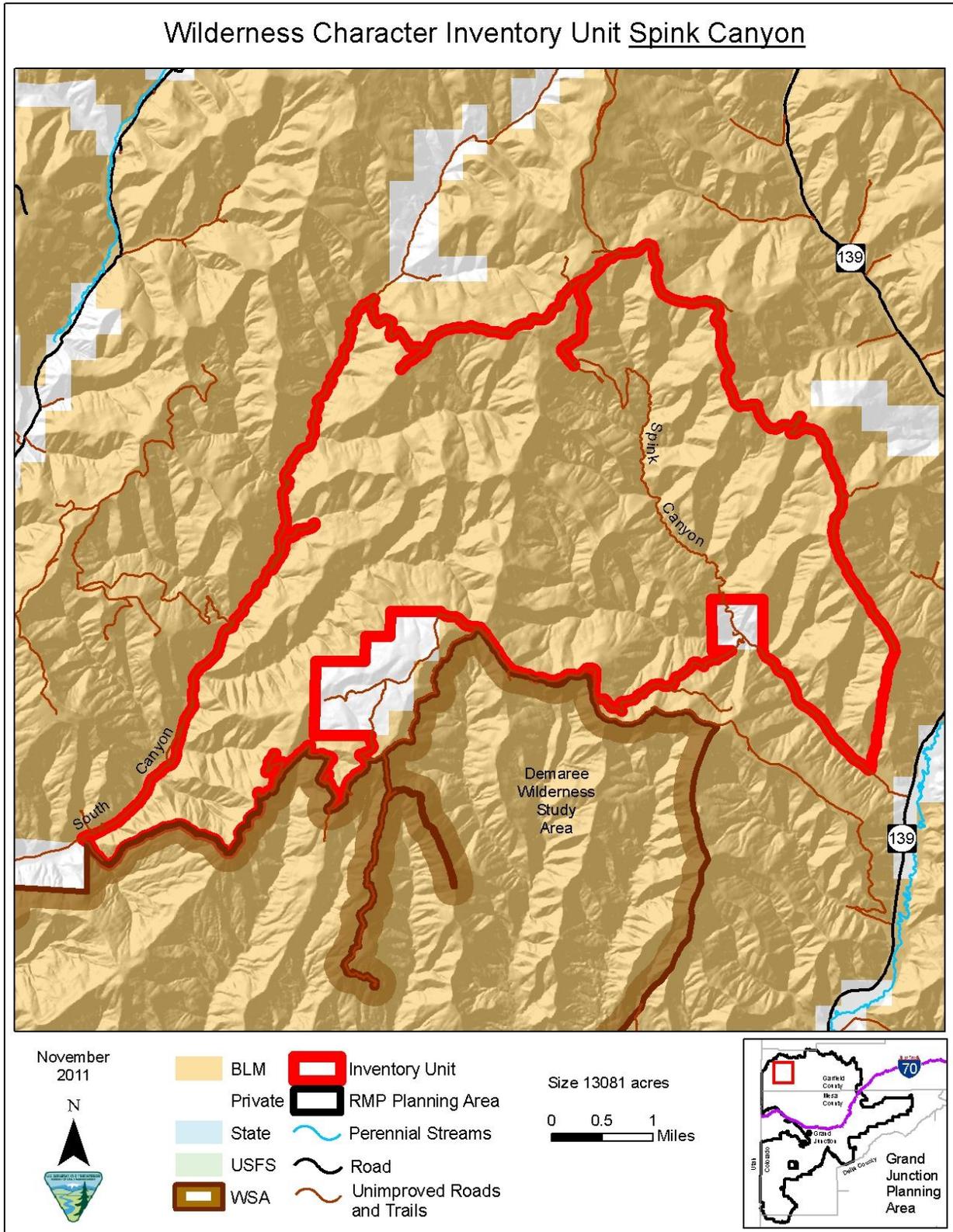
Scott S. Abdon  
Natural Resource Staff Administrator  
Salem District, Oregon

**1999 Inventory Validated in 2009 by:**

Chris Ham  
Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner

*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.*

27. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Spink Canyon



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics 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 for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: N/A
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): N/A
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): N/A

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Form 2

Spink Canyon Unit:

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I. **Area Description:** The Spink Canyon Unit is located in Garfield County, approximately 25 miles north of Loma, CO. The 13,081 acre unit is adjacent to the Demaree Wilderness Study Area, which bounds a portion of the unit to the south. BLM identified two roadless units of over 5,000 acres in this area (called North Demaree and Spink Canyon), divided by a route down Spink Canyon proper. Field visits and route analysis revealed that the route up Spink Canyon did not qualify as a road, therefore BLM combined the two units and named the combined units Spink Canyon. The entire unit is comprised of public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.
- II. **Background:** This unit was neither part of the BLM's Initial Wilderness Inventory process in 1979 nor was it identified in the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal.
  - A. **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The Spink Canyon unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains 13,081 acres. It is bounded on the west by South Canyon, and to the east by BLM 7689D, with the boundary extending south from the end of this road and following the ridge down to Spink Canyon. The northern boundary is formed by a bladed road which connects BLM 7689D to South Canyon Road. The southern boundary of the unit is formed by the following BLM roads: 7670A, 7685B, 7685C, and 7685CA along with two private parcels.
  - B. **Topography:** The Spink Canyon unit is located within the Bookcliffs Range with elevations ranging from approximately 7,800 feet in the northern portion of the unit to 5,600 feet at the bottom of Spink Canyon in the Southern portion of the unit. Three major drainages enter the unit, Hell's Hole Canyon and Long Canyon running east-west, and Spink Canyon running north-south. Multiple other side drainages link with these larger canyon. The unit features many rock outcroppings on the slopes leading down to larger drainage features.
  - C. **Vegetation:** Vegetation consists primarily of pinyon-juniper, mountain shrub mix, and gambel oak. Douglas fir can be found in the northern part of the unit, primarily above the 7,000-foot level. Sagebrush community is found in the southwestern portion of the unit near South Canyon.

**D. Wildlife:** Big-game wildlife found in the unit includes elk, black bear, mountain lion and mule deer. The entire unit serves as winter range for elk, with a high concentration of elk in the southeast portion of the unit.

### III. Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities

**Recreation:** Primarily, recreation in this area is associated with fall big-game hunting, as well as off-highway vehicle use. Recreation use is relatively low in this area.

**Grazing:** Livestock grazing occurs in the unit with 6 retention dams existing in the unit.

**Rights-of-way:** Rights-of-way (ROWs) within the unit are found almost exclusively along the western border of the unit. These ROWs are along South Canyon Road, and include pipelines and roads servicing oil and gas facilities.

**Oil and Gas Leasing:** Approximately 75% of the unit is currently leased for oil and gas development. Five wells and associated access roads exist near the boundary.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

Within the unit, there are very few human imprints. An old route leading down into Spink Canyon is noticeable from certain points, but is not detrimental to the naturalness of the unit as it is mostly well screened and in the process of naturalizing.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

The combination of topography, vegetation, and size allow for outstanding opportunities for solitude. The larger canyons, such as Hell's Hole, Long and Spink are relatively deep, but wide enough to allow for ease of travel, offering the visitor a strong sense of solitude while remaining traversable. Side drainages leading into these canyons also provide additional opportunities for finding solitude. The slopes leading down to the drainages are well vegetated with Gambel oak, pinyon-juniper woodlands and a few stands of Douglas Fir, providing adequate screening. The unit is located 25 miles north of Loma, CO, the closest town, enhancing the feeling of solitude for visitors. The area receives infrequent use, and encounters with other humans within the unit would be a rare occurrence.

(4) Does the area have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?  
Yes  No  N/A

While no recreation facilities exist within the unit, the opportunities for primitive recreation, particularly hiking and hunting, are outstanding. Much of the unit, specifically the canyons and side canyons, are easily traversable allowing for cross-country travel throughout much of the unit. The slopes leading down into the canyons often include rock outcroppings, so navigation into the canyons can be difficult in some areas, but these issues are not persistent enough to impede cross-country travel. Due to the remote nature of the unit, wildlife is abundant, offering outstanding hunting opportunities with high ridges providing high-visibility, ideal for scouting.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?  
Yes  No  N/A

### Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: Spink Canyon

#### 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
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No
4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes  No

#### Conclusion:

- The area or a portion of the area (**Entire Unit**) has wilderness character  
 The area does not have wilderness character

#### Prepared by:

Adam M Straubinger  
Outdoor Recreation Planner (on contract) 2011

*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.*

## **Spink Canyon**

Date: 8/31/2011 10:44 AM  
Lat: 39.513981 Lon: -108.829542



## **Spink Canyon Overlook**

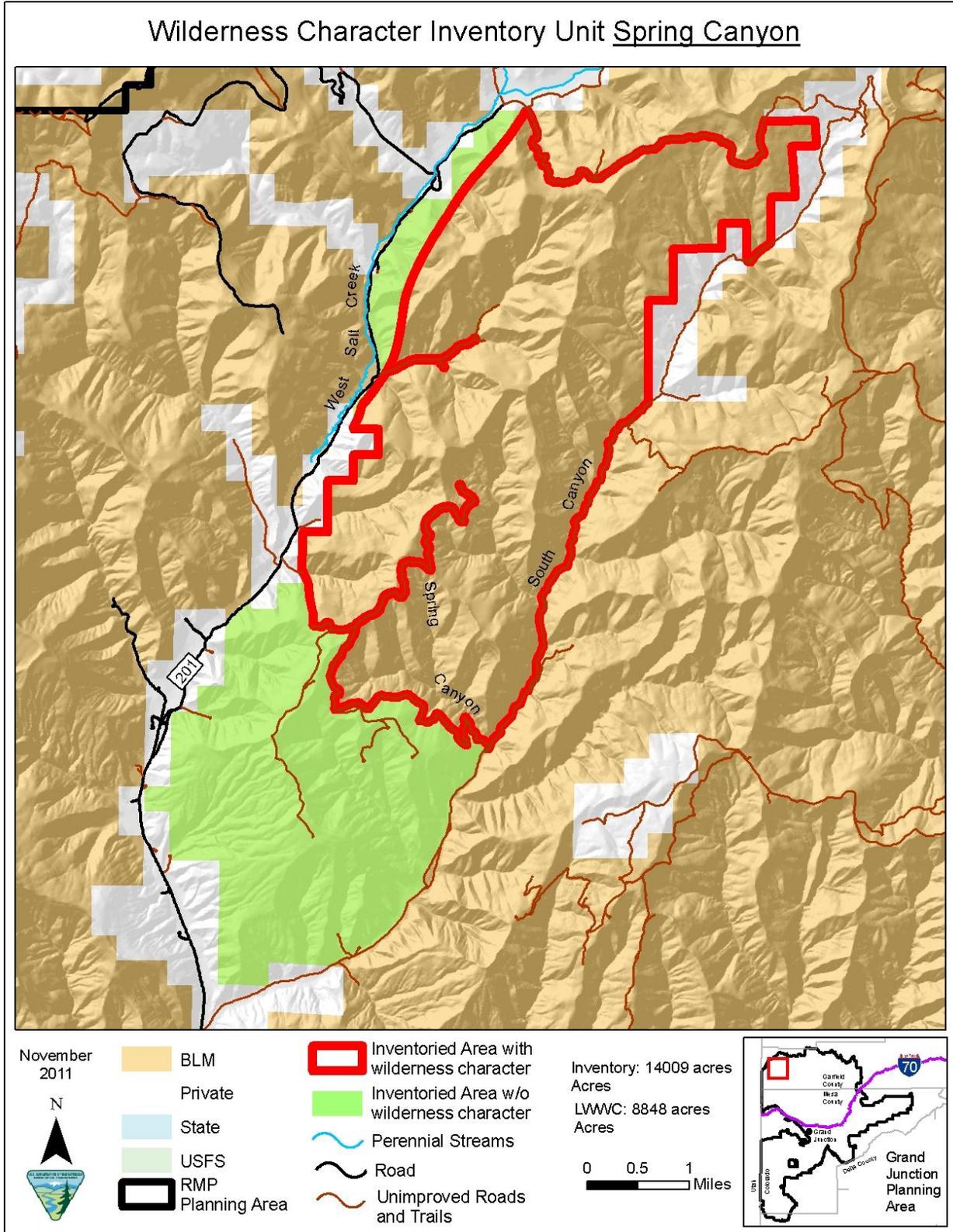
Date: 8/31/2011 11:20 AM  
Lat: 39.511331 Lon: -108.826708



At the bottom of Spink Canyon, opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are outstanding.

(See Appendix D for Photo Log)

28. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit Spring Canyon



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics 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 for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: N/A
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): N/A
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): N/A

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Form 2

Spring Canyon unit:

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I. **Area Description:** The Spring Canyon unit is located in Garfield County, 25 miles north of Mack, CO between South Canyon Road and Baxter Pass Road. The unit is part of the Bookcliffs Range. BLM initially identified 14,009 acres for inventory; however there were several roads in the southern portion that detracted from the naturalness of 4,625 acres, and an existing utility corridor that disqualified an additional 536 acres as unnatural. After removing those acres, the remaining unit contains 8,848 acres.
- II. **Background:** This unit was neither part of the BLM's Initial Wilderness Inventory process in 1979 nor was it identified in the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal.
  - A. **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The Spring Canyon unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains 8,848 acres. It is bounded on the west by CR-201 (Baxter Pass Rd.) and private land, and on the north by BLM Road 7689B. The eastern boundary is formed by private land and South Canyon Road (BLM 7636A). BLM Road 7669 forms the southern boundary.
  - B. **Topography:** The Spring Canyon unit is located within the Bookcliffs Range with elevations ranging from approximately 8,100 feet in the northern portion of the unit to 5,900 feet in the southeastern portion of the unit along South Canyon. Spring Canyon and Coal Canyon run west-east in the southeastern portion of the unit. A number of other smaller drainages cut into the unit, creating topographical variety as the slopes rise and fall from the drainages.
  - C. **Vegetation:** Vegetation consists primarily of a mix of pinyon-juniper, mountain shrub mix, serviceberry and Gambel oak. Talus slopes and rock outcroppings are prevalent in the unit due to the steep topography. As the elevation increases in the northern section of the Spring Canyon unit, Douglas fir becomes present.
  - D. **Wildlife:** Many big-game species utilize the unit, including: elk, mule-deer, mountain lion, black-bear and other species. Elk are known to winter in the area, and the northern part of the unit sees a fall concentration of black bears.

### III. Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities

**Recreation:** Primarily, recreation in this area is associated with fall big-game hunting, as well as off-highway vehicle use. Recreation use is relatively low for this area.

**Grazing:** Livestock grazing occurs in the unit, with three range related ponds and two springs located inside or near the unit.

**Rights-of-way:** Rights-of-way (ROWs) within the unit are found mostly along the boundary of the unit, extending over 0.5 miles into the unit at times. These ROWs are for oil and gas pipelines and roads.

**Oil and Gas Leasing:** Approximately 99% of the unit (all but 100 acres) is currently leased for oil and gas development. Nine wells and associated access roads exist near the boundary.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes  No

Description:

Within the unit, there are very few human imprints. While the area surrounding the unit is highly developed for oil and gas facilities, such infrastructure has been excluded from the unit and lies outside the boundaries. The heart of the unit remains undeveloped and natural; and human imprints outside the unit are not a pervasive presence.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

The combination of topography, vegetation, and size allow for outstanding opportunities for solitude. Canyons and creeks bisecting the unit provide various areas to find solitude. The area is visited infrequently considering it is far removed from any areas of dense population. The vegetation in the unit is also dense enough to provide screening, particularly in the drainages and in the northern sections. Encountering others inside the unit would be a rare occurrence, and the topographical character of the unit allows one to avoid contact with others quite easily.

(4) Does the area have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

The area offers outstanding opportunities for hiking and hunting. The unit offers high ridges providing scenic views good for scouting, and multiple canyons, side canyons and other drainages which provide outstanding hiking opportunities. Cross-country, unconfined travel through the unit is possible, though difficult in some areas due to steep, rocky slopes.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X N/A \_\_\_\_\_

No supplemental values were found for this unit.

### Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: Spring Canyon

Results of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? X Yes \_\_\_ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? X Yes \_\_\_ No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? X Yes \_\_\_ No
4. Does the area have supplemental values? \_\_\_ Yes X No

Conclusion:

- X The area or a portion of the area has wilderness character  
\_\_\_\_\_ The area does not have wilderness character

**Prepared by:**

Adam M Straubinger  
Outdoor Recreation Planner (on contract) 2011

***This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.***

## Spring Canyon

Date: 9/16/2011 12:13 PM  
Lat: 39.520692 Lon: -108.907356



Date: 9/16/2011 12:17 PM  
Lat: 39.517289 Lon: -108.906575



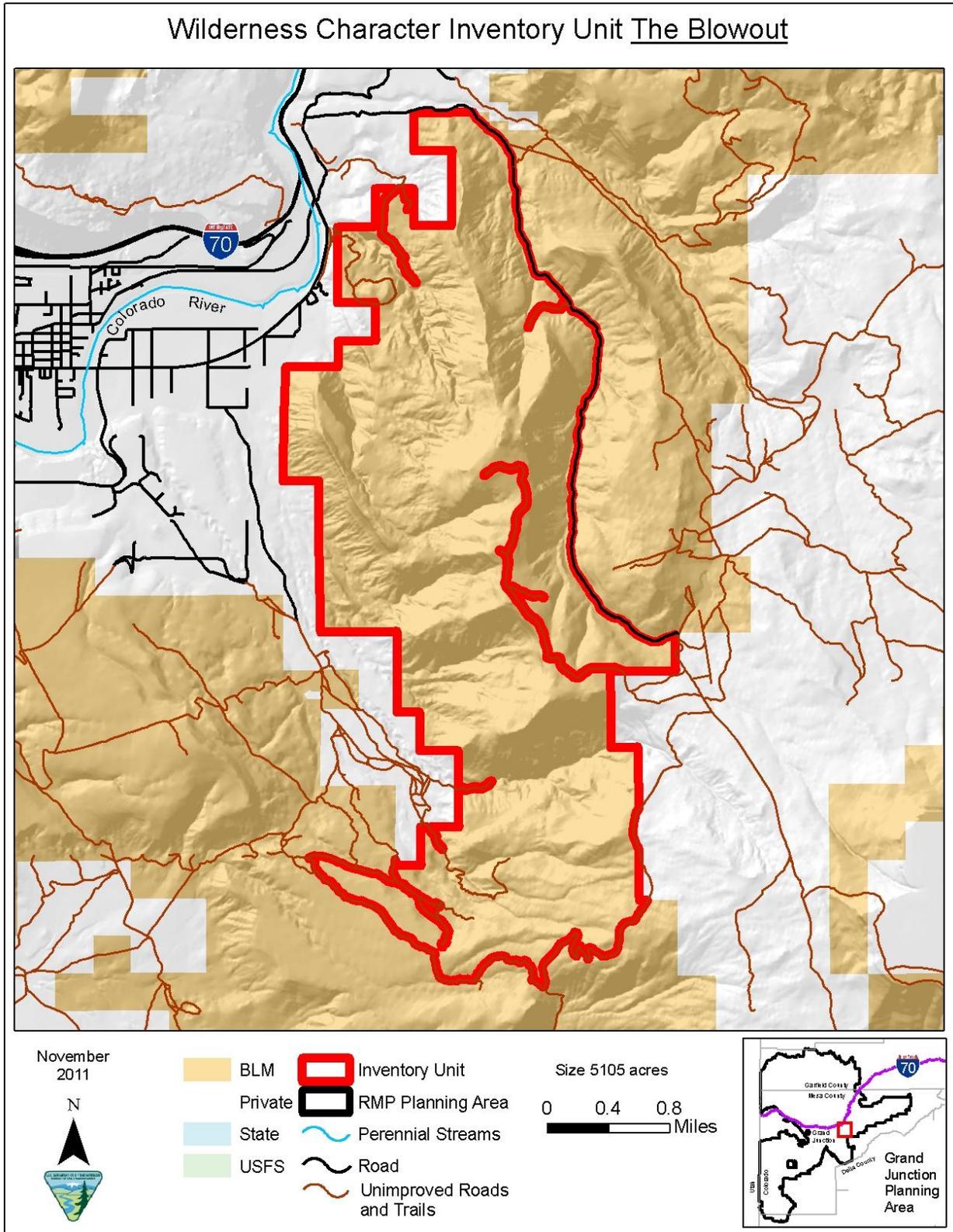
Opportunities for solitude provided by topographical and vegetative screening.

Date: 9/16/2011 11:26 AM  
Lat: 39.490514 Lon: -108.916292



(See Appendix D for Photo Log)

29. **Wilderness Character Inventory Unit The Blowout**



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

3. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics 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 for those areas):

e) Inventory Source: N/A

f) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): N/A

g) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A

h) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): N/A

4. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Form 2

The Blowout unit:

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I. **Area Description:** The Blowout unit is located in Mesa County, east of Palisade, CO. The unit is located on what it regionally known as the Grand Mesa Slopes
  
- II. **Background:** This unit was neither part of the BLM's Initial Wilderness Inventory process in 1979 nor was it identified in the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal.
  - A. **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The Blowout unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains 5,105 acres. It is bounded on the west by private land and 45.5 Road, and on the north by V Road. The eastern boundary is formed by private land Cottonwood Creek Road, with BLM 7265 and 7820EB forming the southern boundary.
  - B. **Topography:** The Blowout unit ranges in elevation from approximately 7,800 feet in the southeastern portion of the unit to 5,000 feet in the western portion of the unit. The unit is characterized by a ridge running north-south, with steep slopes descending to the valley floor to the west and Cottonwood Creek to the east. A majority of the unit consists of talus slopes and rock outcroppings on the slopes leading down to the valley floor. A unique geological formation, known as the Blowout, is partially included in the unit.
  - C. **Vegetation:** Vegetation consists primarily of a mix of pinyon-juniper and sagebrush along the slopes, and along the ridge. The steep slopes leading down to the valley floor are sparsely vegetated. Douglas fir and Gambel oak are found in the southeastern portion of the unit.
  - D. **Wildlife:** Many big-game species utilize the unit, including elk, mule-deer, mountain lion, black-bear and other species. Elk and mule-deer are known to winter in the area.

### III. **Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities**

**Recreation:** Recreation use is extremely low in this unit, as the topography and overall character of the unit do not lend themselves to quality recreation experiences.

**Grazing:** A majority of the unit is allotted for grazing, with range related fencing found minimally in the unit.

**Rights-of-way:** Rights-of-way within the unit are associated with power transmission lines and structures.

**Oil and Gas Leasing:** Approximately 5% of the unit is currently leased for oil and gas development. No wells exist within or near the unit.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

Description:

The human imprints are noticeable in this unit. A large system of power transmission lines running east-west bisects the center of the unit. There are also multiple large plots of vegetation manipulation, likely for range related purposes. Between the power lines and multiple areas of noticeable human interference (chaining), this area does not meet the naturalness requirement. While these features do not encompass the entire unit, their presence is highly noticeable and detrimental to the naturalness of this unit. Therefore, the unit as a whole is not considered to be in a natural state.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A X

Description: N/A

(4) Does the area have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A X

Description: N/A

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A X

Units found to not meet the other criteria for wilderness characteristics were not assessed for supplemental values.

### Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: The Blowout

Results of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? X Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes X No

3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?      \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  X  N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values?      \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  X  N/A

Conclusion:

- \_\_\_ The area or a portion of the area has wilderness character
- X  The area does not have wilderness character

**Prepared by:**

Adam M Straubinger  
Outdoor Recreation Planner (on contract) 2011

*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.*



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

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

No \_\_\_\_\_ (Go to Form 2) Yes   X   (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: Wilderness Inventory (1979)
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): West Unaweep
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): Northwest/Grand Junction

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
West Unaweep	Yes 7,154	Yes	No	No	N/A

**Form 2**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes   X                        No           

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I. **Area Description:** The Unaweep unit is located in Mesa County, approximately 25 miles southwest of Grand Junction, Colorado and just northeast of Gateway, Colorado. The Unaweep unit encompasses acres of BLM public lands within Colorado.
  
- II. **Background:** The unit was intensively inventoried in 1979 as the West Unaweep unit. The BLM found the unit did not have outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive recreation. The Unaweep Citizens’ proposed wilderness area encompasses 9,494 acres of BLM public lands within Colorado. The Citizens’ proposed wilderness unit of 39,392 includes lands managed by the US Forest Service as well as lands managed by the BLM that are cut off from the majority of the unit by a road up Turner Gulch, these lands were removed from the unit. The resulting acreage is 7,154 acres.
  - A. **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The Unaweep unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains 7,154 acres. The boundaries follow Colorado Highway 141 (with an additional setback due to a power line corridor on the south side of the highway), Mesa County Road 8.40 on the ridge south of the Ute Creek drainage, Mesa County road 6.30 (the Niche Road), the US Forest Service boundary north to west side of Turner Gulch and back downhill to intersect with Colorado Highway 141.
  
  - B. **Topography:** The Unaweep unit varies in topographic features from sheer granite cliffs of Unaweep Canyon, to the 1,000 foot deep Ute Creek Canyon as well as steep side canyons draining the gently sloping Uncompahgre Plateau to the east.
  
  - C. **Vegetation:** The vegetation varies from sage brush, pinyon-juniper woodlands in the southwest flanks at lower elevations, riparian vegetation such as cottonwoods and willow in Ute Creek Canyon and Ponderosa pine, gambel oak and snowberry and other mesic species at the highest elevations. No known rare plants inhabit the unit.
  
  - D. **Wildlife:** The area serves as important habitat for numerous big game species including: elk, mule deer, mountain lion, black bear, grouse and many other species. Peregrine falcons and golden eagles are known to inhabit this unit and Ute Creek supports speckled dace fish species.

**III. Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities**

**Grazing:** Livestock grazing occurs in the unit, and two small water developments on the mesa top occur to support the operation. No fences occur in the unit.

**Rights-of-way:** Record search through LR 2000 shows rights-of-way (ROWs) within the boundary located adjacent to highway 141 in the Unaweep Canyon proper. The ROWs will need to be researched in further detail but do not impact the overall unit.

**Oil and gas leasing:** Currently leasing has occurred on 100 acres in the southwest corner of the unit.

**Road Maintenance:** No routes exist in the unit.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

No human imprints are evident within the unit. It appears to be primarily affected by nature. This finding concurs with that of the 1979 intensive inventory.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

Ute Creek canyon, a challenging hiking route following the Ute creek to the top of the mesa as well as the mesa top itself provide ample screening from any traffic noise or other visitors that may visit the unit. Vegetation in Ute Creek is very robust and it is difficult to see a person a few meters away. The previous inventory in 1979 identified that the canyons acted as an "echo chamber" funneling all the noise from Highway 141 up the canyons throughout the unit. Although one can hear the traffic the first 100 meters up Ute Creek Canyon the noise ceases beyond that point. The Unaweep unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude.

(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

The UnawEEP unit provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The areas size, configuration, varied terrain, diverse vegetation combined offer outstanding recreational opportunities. The areas pinyon juniper forests, drainages and canyons provide excellent places for hiking, backpacking, photography, hunting, camping and many other activities. Ute Creek contains some of the most remote fly-fishing opportunities which are very unique in this region.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

No supplemental values are known in this unit.

### Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: UnawEEP

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
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values? \_\_\_ Yes  No \_\_\_ NA

Conclusion

Check One:

The 7,154 acre shown on the map has wilderness character.

The area does not have wilderness character.

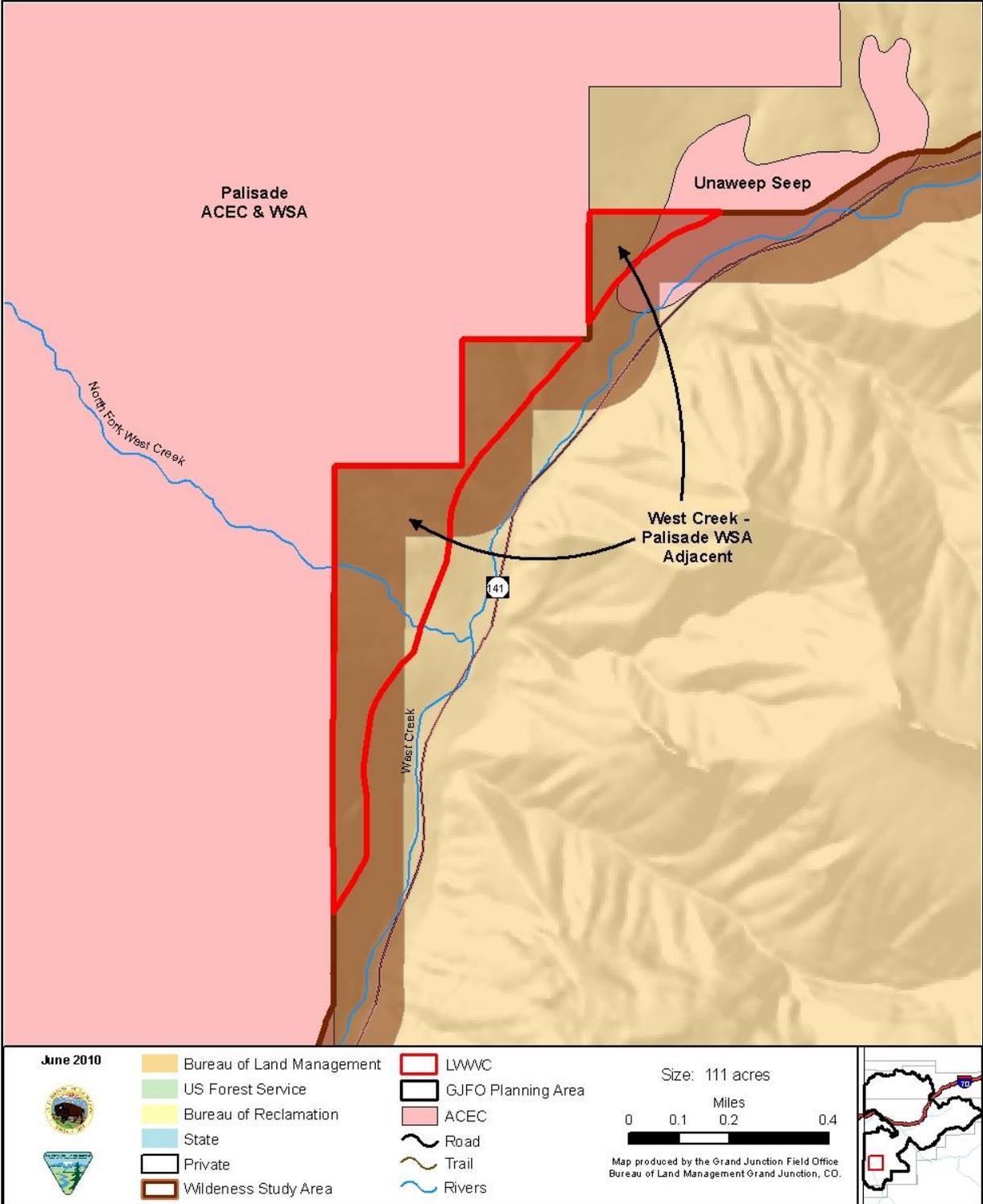
**Prepared by:**

Chris Ham

Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner 2009

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### 31. Wilderness Character Inventory Unit West Creek - Palisade Wilderness Study Area Adjacent



**Form 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Character Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics 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 for those areas):

- a) Inventory Source: N/A
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): N/A
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Offices(s): N/A

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive and Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Form 2**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes   X                        No                   

The West Creek unit is contiguous with lands which have been formally determined to have wilderness or potential wilderness values (*i.e.* Palisade Wilderness Study Area) therefore the size criteria is met.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

- I.     **Area Description:** The West Creek unit is located adjacent to existing Palisade Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and the Palisade Outstanding Natural Area (ONA) about 35 miles southwest of Grand Junction, Colorado.
  
- II.    **Background:** The unit consists of a parcel that was not inventoried in the intensive wilderness inventory carried out by BLM in 1979 as it was not in BLM ownership at the time. This unit is included within The Palisade Citizens' Wilderness Proposal submitted by Colorado Environmental Coalition. That CWP largely proposed The Palisade WSA to be designated as Wilderness.

The entire West Creek inventory unit was 111 acres in size. The unit begins 1/8 mile northeast of the highway/powerline, where naturalness is no longer impaired by these man-made features.

- A.    **Land Ownership and Acreage:** The West Creek unit is exclusively BLM public lands and contains 111 acres. It is a very small unit that is 1/8 mile north of Colorado Highway 141.
  
  - B.    **Topography:** The West Creek unit is adjacent to the larger and existing Palisade Wilderness Study Area (WSA).
  
  - C.    **Vegetation:** Vegetation is predominately mixed pinyon juniper and sagebrush with the exception of the riparian vegetation along Northwest Creek which bisects this small unit.
  
  - D.    **Wildlife :** The area serves as habitat for numerous big game species including: elk, mule deer, mountain lion, black bear, and many other species. Peregrine falcons are known to inhabit this unit as well as a number of fish species such as brown, brook, rainbow and Colorado River cutthroat trout.
- III.    **Summary of Major Human Uses/Activities**  
      **Grazing:** Livestock grazing occurs in the unit but no facilities exist.

**Rights-of-way:** Record search through LR 2000 shows no existing rights-of-way within the unit. There is an existing powerline adjacent to Highway 141 just outside the inventory unit. Future additional ROWs in this corridor could encroach into the unit.

**Oil and gas leasing:** The unit is not currently leased for fluid mineral development.

**Road Maintenance:** Currently, no roads exist within the unit.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes  No  N/A

*If you check "No" above, check "N/A" (Not Applicable) in the remaining boxes below, and you need not provide additional evaluation for the unit or subunit. Use additional space as necessary.]*

Description:

The unit appears to be only affected by natural processes.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

As the unit is adjacent to an existing Wilderness Study Area, the area has similar characteristics.

(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation?

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

As the unit is adjacent to an existing Wilderness Study Area, the area has similar characteristics.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

A portion of the Unit is within the Unaweep Seep ACEC, which contains unique hydrologic features and a rare species of butterfly.

## Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name: West Creek

### Summary

#### Results of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? <sup>1</sup> Yes  No

<sup>1</sup>The unit alone is 111 acres but as it contiguous with a Wilderness Study Area the size criteria is satisfied.

2. Does the area appear to be natural?  Yes  No

3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No  NA

4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes  No  NA

### Conclusion

#### Check One:

The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.

The area does not have wilderness character.

### Prepared by:

Chris Ham

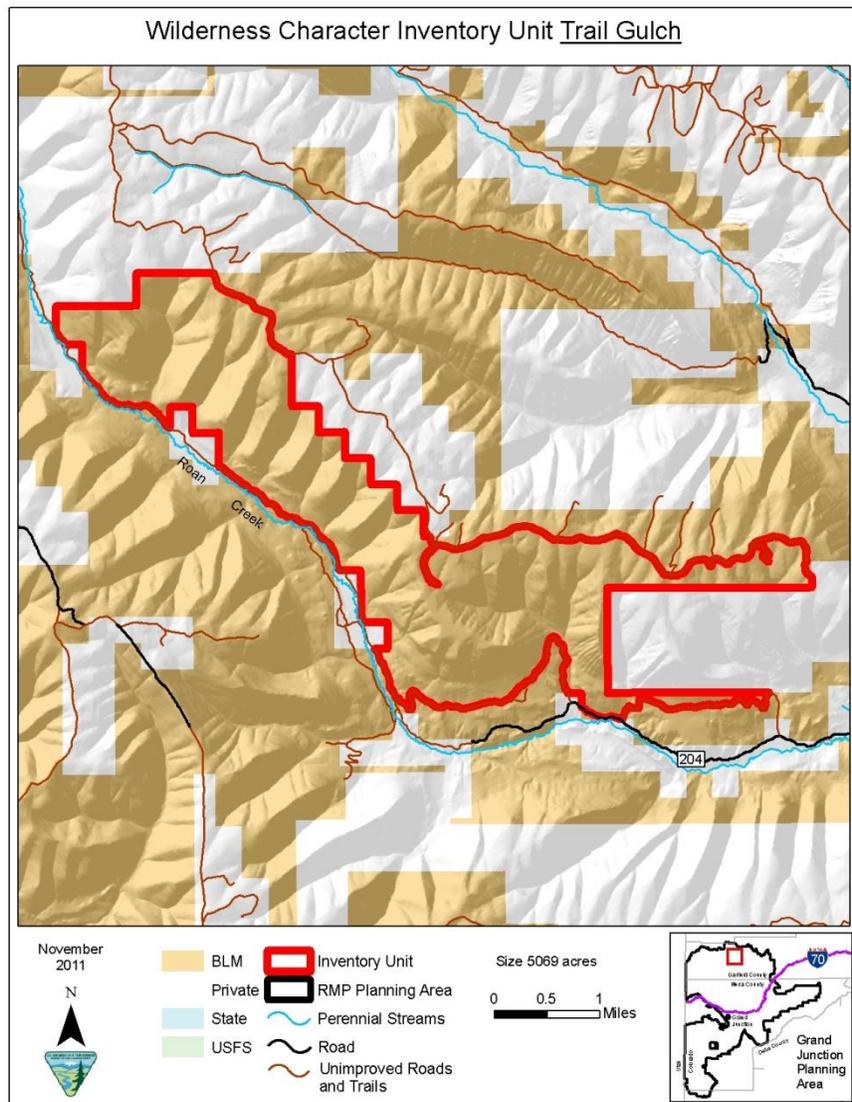
Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner 2009

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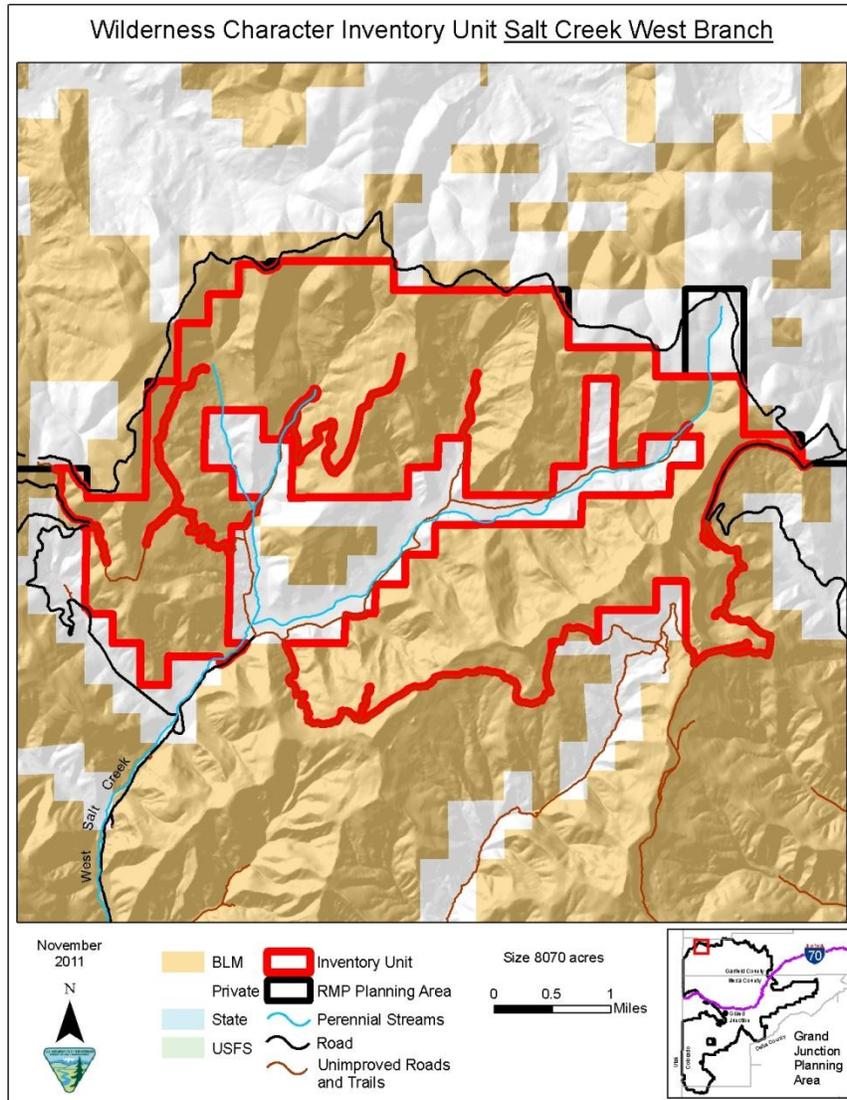
#### IV. Units not Inventoried for Wilderness Characteristics

The following units were identified through the GIS analysis, but were dismissed due to obvious lack of wilderness characteristics.

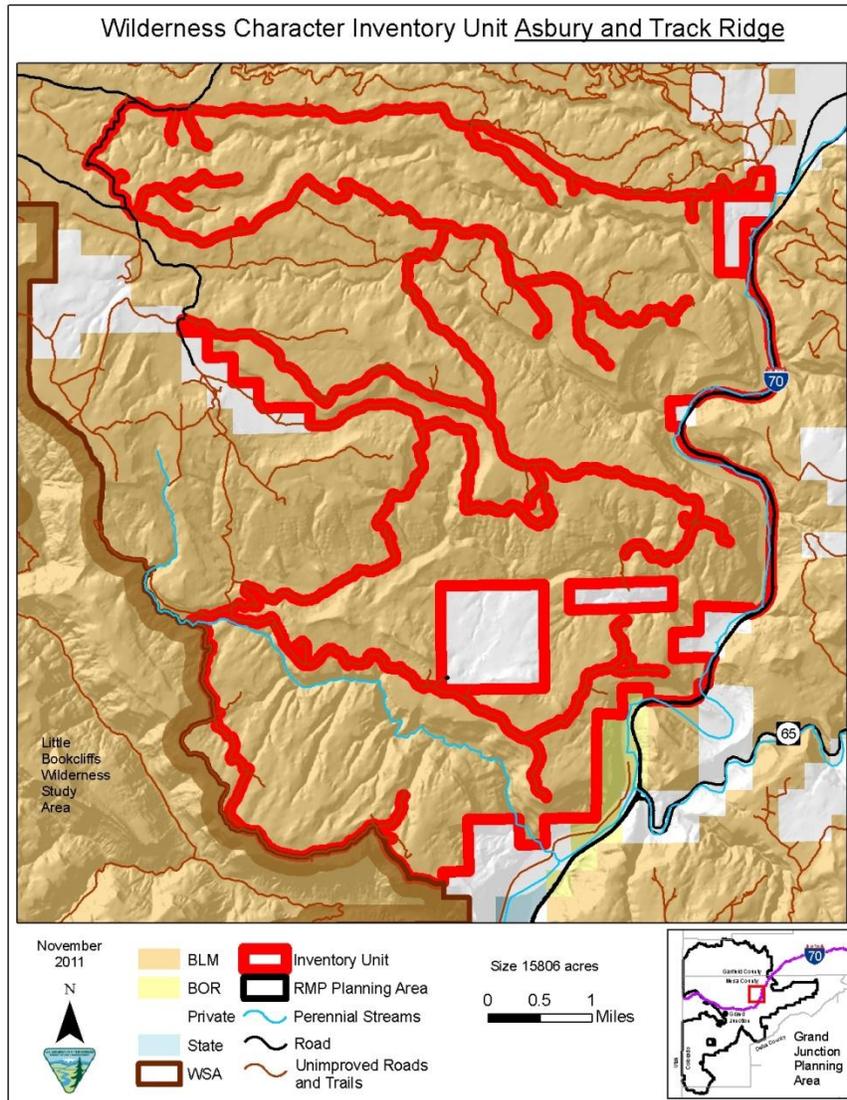
**Trail Gulch:** This unit is extremely narrow and barely meets the size requirement (5,069 acres). It is characterized by extremely steep, rugged slopes that essentially make this unit inaccessible. An intrusion caused by private land makes an odd configuration in the eastern portion of the unit, creating two extremely narrow fingers of land included in the unit, with only 200 feet between the boundaries at some points. The exclusion of these fingers would reduce the size of the unit to under 5000 acres, and given its remaining characteristics, it was determined that no further analysis of the unit was necessary.



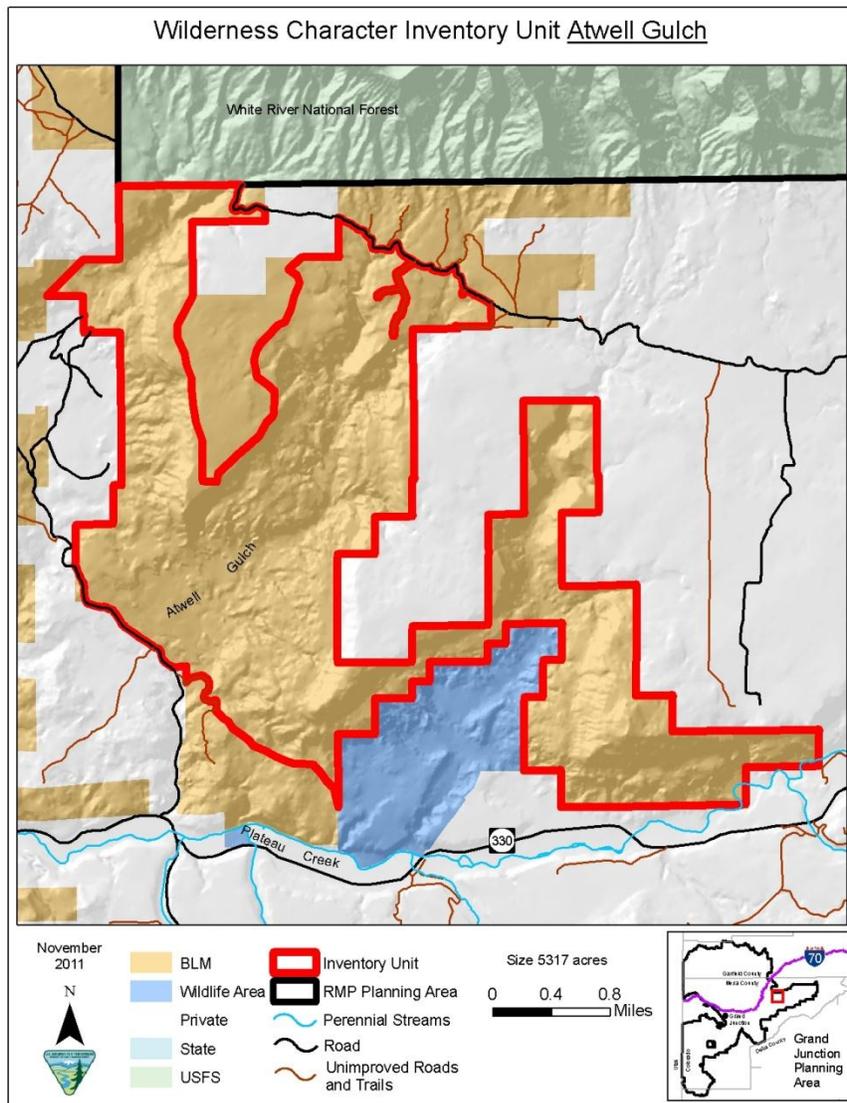
**Salt Creek West Branch:** The odd configuration of this unit caused by private boundaries excluded it from further analysis. The unit is of adequate size (8,070 acres) but is configured almost in a horseshoe around developed private land. At times, boundaries are separated by just over 1000 feet, and many cherry-stemmed routes leading to oil and gas developments intrude into the unit. Therefore, given a lack of congruent boundaries, coupled with apparent human intrusions noted from aerial photographs and internal oil and gas data, this unit was not inventoried any further.



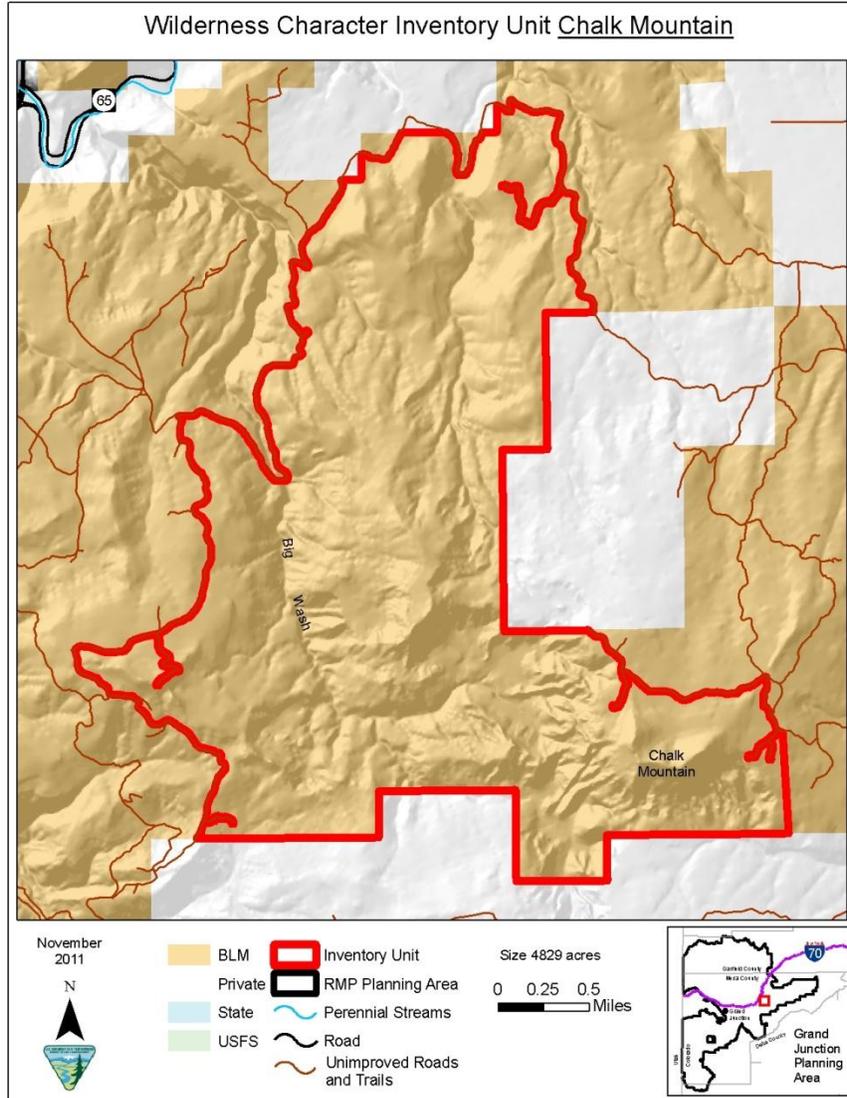
**Asbury & Track Ridge:** This unit bounded on the east by Interstate 70 which runs adjacent to the Colorado River. The unit includes an extensive system of cherry-stemmed routes which come as close as 700 feet from bisecting the unit, which would reduce the size. These routes are also abundant enough to deter from the naturalness of the unit. Also, large pockets of private land exist inside the unit.



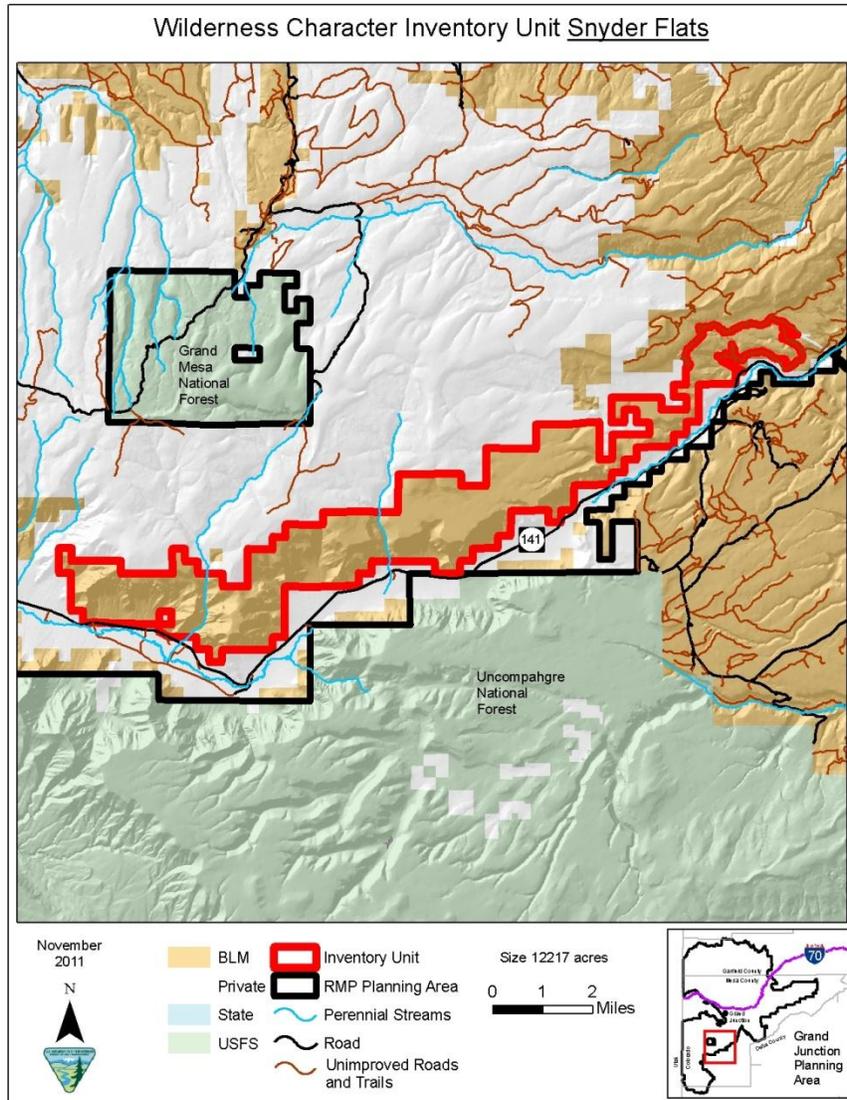
**Atwell Gulch:** This unit is a 5,317 acre parcel located in the Mesa Slopes region of the field office. Initially, a small finger of land (0.2 miles across) connected this unit with the Little Horsethief Creek unit, and for inventory reasons they were separated. The resulting unit, Atwell Gulch, has an odd, “W” shaped configuration. Twice the unit narrows to only 0.1 miles across. If this section were to be the new boundary line, it would decrease the size of the unit by 1500 acres and it would no longer meet the size requirements. The boundaries of this unit are extremely skewed and do not lend themselves to conducting a consistent analysis of their characteristics, as extremely narrow corridors confine both the analysis of qualities within the unit, as well as opportunities for travel.



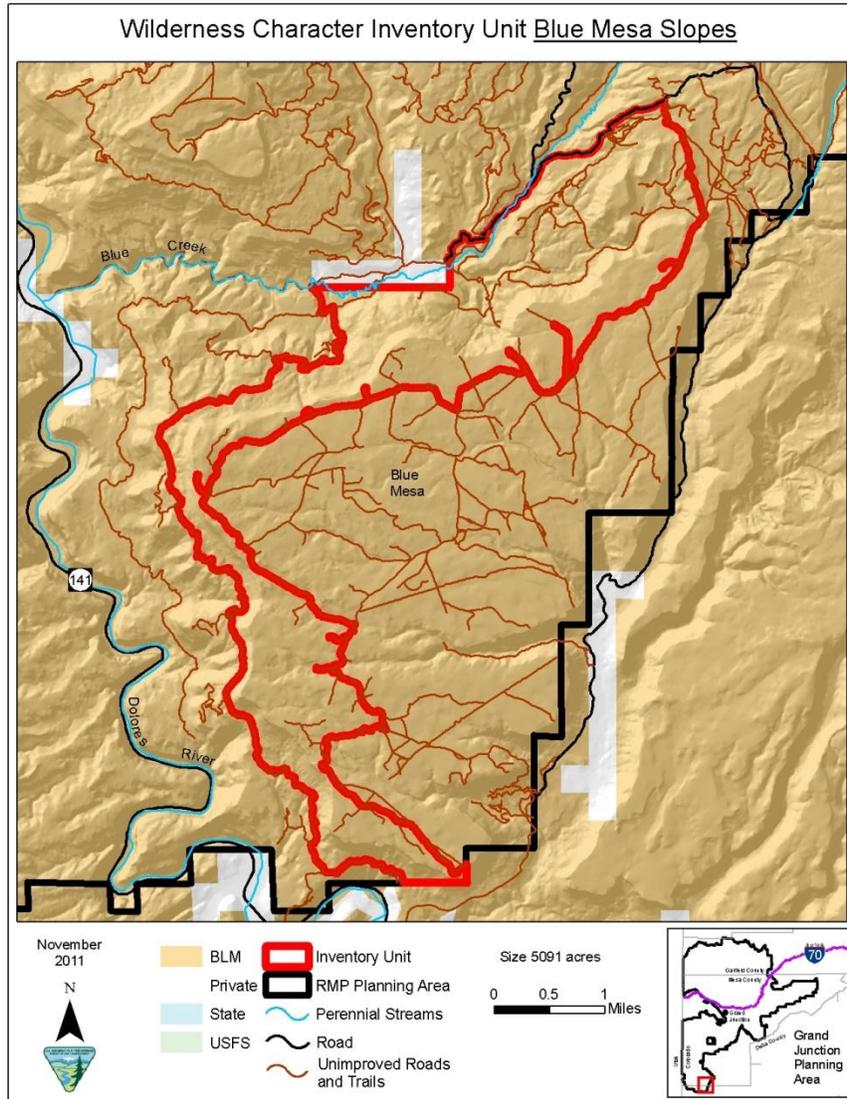
**Chalk Mountain:** While this unit initially met the size requirement, the boundary was redrawn to exclude a large power line system bisecting the unit. This resulted in the size of the unit being reduced to under 5000 acres and no longer meeting the size criteria.



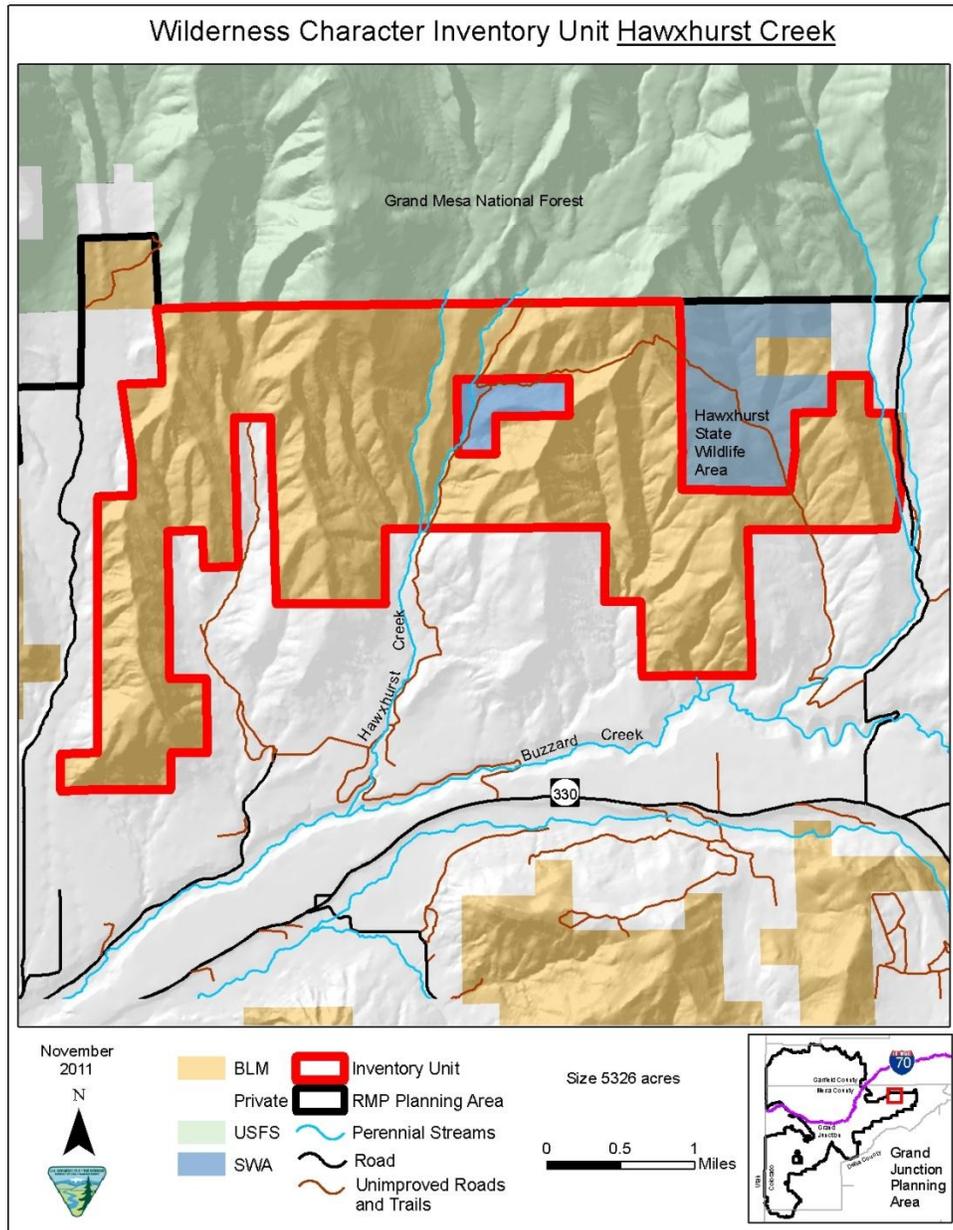
**Snyder Flats:** Snyder Flats is a long, consistently narrow unit along on the mesa above Unaweep Canyon and Highway 141. The unit is 2 miles wide at its widest point, and 0.2 miles at its narrowest. The unit is characterized by either relatively exposed mesas or steep, exposed cliffs leading down to a major Highway. It is surrounded almost completely by private land, and has a system of jeep trails inside the unit that deter from naturalness. No further inventory was conducted on this unit, as its configuration and topographical character do not allow for the presence of wilderness characteristics.



**Blue Mesa Slopes:** Blue Mesa Slopes is a narrow, C-shaped unit consisting almost exclusively of steep slopes rising towards Blue Mesa above Highway 141 and the Dolores River. The unit is 5,091 acres, and 0.2 miles across at its narrowest point and 1.5 miles at its widest. Aerial photography shows substantial human impacts, especially atop the mesa. This, coupled with the topography and awkward configuration, resulted in no further inventory of the unit.



**Hawxhurst Creek:** The Hawxhurst Creek Unit met the size criterion, however upon further analysis, it is clear that primitive roads trisect the unit. These roads are routinely used to access the state wildlife area inholdings as well as a natural gas well and irrigation reservoirs on national forest land. The roads and the use of the roads would impact naturalness and when trisected, the unit no longer meets the size criterion, and was therefore not inventoried in the field.



## GJFO WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

### Appendix A – Route Analysis

*(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road<sup>1</sup> for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes.)*

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **Buttermilk Canyon**

Route or Route Segment<sup>2</sup> Name and/or Identifier: **Buniger Road**

(Include Transportation Plan Identifier, if known, and include route number supplied by citizen information, when available.)

#### I. LOCATION:

Describe: **Route located along ridge above Prairie Canyon Road. GPS location, Lat: 39.4 N, Lon: -109.0 W.**

#### II. ROUTE CONTEXT

- A. Current Purpose<sup>3</sup> (if any) of Route: (Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Recreation, Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment)).

Describe: **The purpose of the route is for access to oil and gas facilities along the ridge.**

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**1** Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road

- a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.
- b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.
- c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

**2** If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria

**3** The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does provide context for factors on which such a determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by BLM when the need arises.

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

1. Is there a ROW associated with this route?

Yes  No  Unknown

2. If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW? Energy related roads

3. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?

Yes  No  Unknown or N/A

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA

A. Evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means:

Yes  (if either A.1 or A.2 is checked "yes" below) No  (if both A.1 and A.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Construction: (Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?) Yes  No

Examples: Paved  Bladed  Graveled  Roadside Berms  Cut/Fill  Other

Describe: **The road is bladed and clearly built in to the slope.**

2. Improvements: (Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?) Yes  No  If "yes": by Hand Tools  by Machine

Examples: Culverts  Hardened Stream Crossings  Bridges  Drainage  Barriers   
Other

Describe: **No evidence of maintenance of any kind was noted during field work**

B. Maintenance: (Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure *relatively* regular and continuous use?):

Yes  (if either B.1 or B.2 is checked "yes" below) No  (if both B.1 and B.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?  
Yes  No  If "yes": by Hand Tools  by Machine

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_ **NA** \_\_\_\_\_

2. If the route or route segment is in good<sup>4</sup> condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable?  
Yes  No

Explain: **The route is currently in good condition, but given any issues with the route, maintenance would be authorized as it is used to access active oil and gas facilities.**

- C. Relatively regular and continuous use: (Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?)  
Yes  No

Describe evidence (e.g., direct, vehicles or vehicle tracks observed, or indirect, evidence of use associated with purpose of the route such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a *relatively* regular basis (i.e., regular and continuous use relative to the purpose(s) of the route).<sup>5</sup>

**The route is regularly used to access the facilities it serves.**

#### IV. CONCLUSION:

Does the route or route segment<sup>6</sup> meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road (i.e., are items III.A and III.B and III.C all checked yes)?

Yes  = Wilderness Inventory Road No  = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

Explanation<sup>7</sup>: **The route was constructed and is currently in use. Maintenance would be authorized if it became impassible.**

Evaluator(s): **Adam Straubinger**

Date: **8/3/2011**

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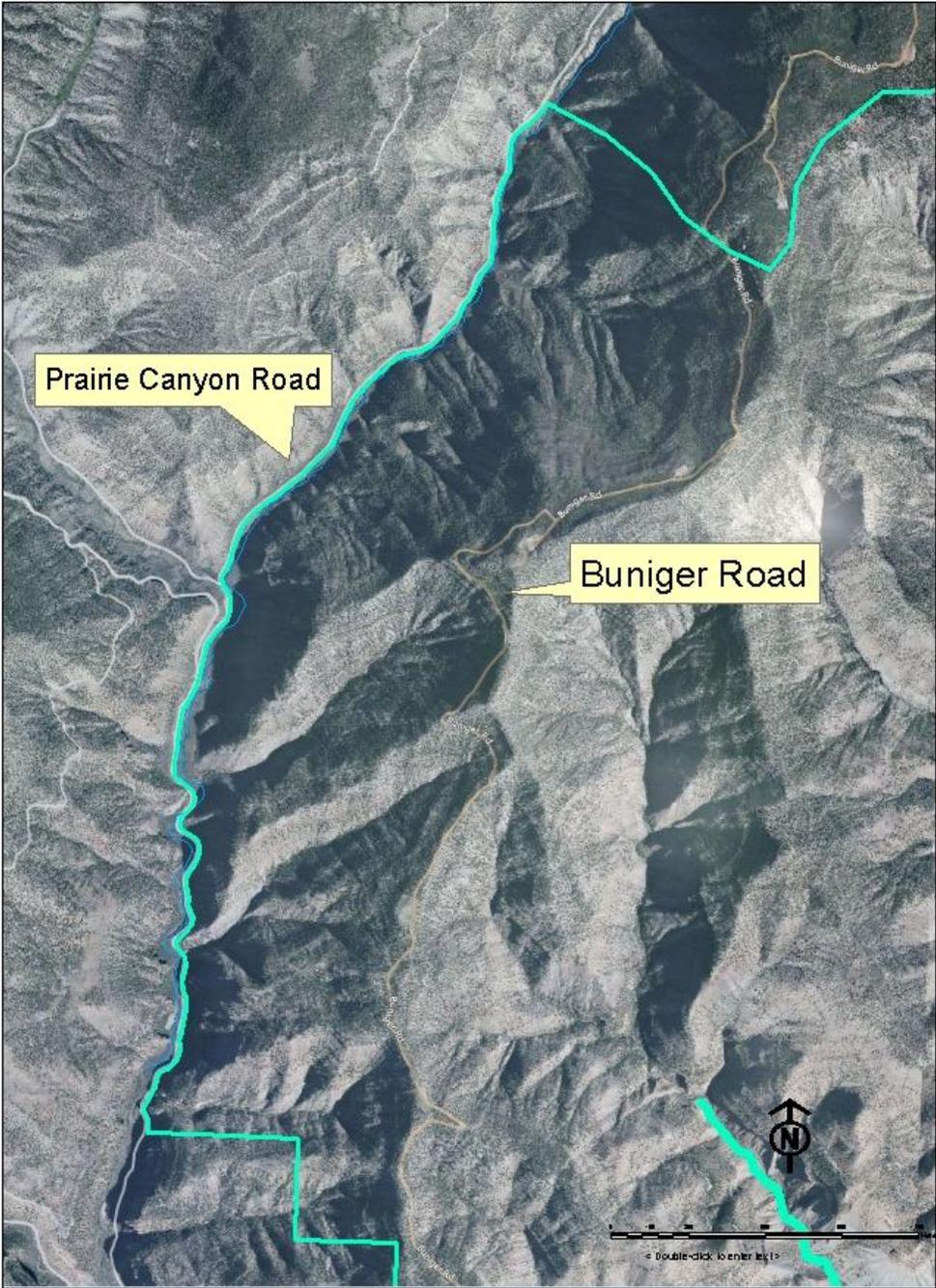
<sup>4</sup> Good condition would be a condition that ensures regular and continuous use relative to the purposes of the route. Consider whether the route can be clearly followed in the field over its entire course and whether all or any portion of the route contains any impediments to travel.

<sup>5</sup> Include estimate of travel rates for the stated purposes, e.g., trips/day or week or month or season or year or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases.

<sup>6</sup> If part of the route meets the wilderness inventory road definition and the remainder does not, describe the segment meeting the definition and any remaining portion not meeting the definition and why.

<sup>7</sup> Describe and explain rationale for any discrepancies with citizen proposals.

# Buniger Road



Photos:

Date: 8/3/2011 2:14 PM  
Lat: 39.432578 Lon: -109.020133



Route running along top of ridge.

Date: 8/3/2011 2:50 PM  
Lat: 39.439758 Lon: -109.015381



Route accessing oil and gas facilities.

Date: 8/3/2011 3:19 PM  
Lat: 39.446369 Lon: -109.007389



Continuous use is evident through tire tracks. Evidence of cut and fill, blading.

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **Little Horsethief**

Route or Route Segment<sup>8</sup> Name and/or Identifier: **CTMP Object ID 5051**

(Include Transportation Plan Identifier, if known, and include route number supplied by citizen information, when available.)

I. LOCATION: See map below

Describe: **The route is located off BLM 7803, heading down hill initially then paralleling Little Horsethief Creek. The route narrows out approximately half a mile from where it leaves 7803, and is likely only passable by motorbikes.**

## II. ROUTE CONTEXT

- A. Current Purpose<sup>9</sup> (if any) of Route: (Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Recreation, Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment)).

Describe: **The purpose of the route is unknown.**

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

1. Is there a ROW associated with this route?

Yes \_\_\_ No  Unknown \_\_\_

2. If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW? NA

3. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Unknown or N/A

Explain: NA

## III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA

- A. Evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means:

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<sup>8</sup> If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria

<sup>9</sup> The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does provide context for factors on which such a determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by BLM when the need arises.

Yes  (if either A.1 or A.2 is checked "yes" below) No  (if both A.1 and A.2 are checked "no" below)

3. Construction: (Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?) Yes  No

Examples: Paved  Bladed  Graveled  Roadside Berms  Cut/Fill  Other

Describe: **Construction is evident (see photo 3).**

4. Improvements: (Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?) Yes  No  If "yes": by Hand Tools  by Machine

Examples: Culverts  Hardened Stream Crossings  Bridges  Drainage  Barriers  Other

Describe: **No evidence of maintenance of any kind was noted during field work**

- B. Maintenance: (Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure *relatively* regular and continuous use?):

Yes  (if either B.1 or B.2 is checked "yes" below) No  (if both B.1 and B.2 are checked "no" below)

3. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery? Yes  No  If "yes": by Hand Tools  by Machine

Explain: NA

4. If the route or route segment is in good<sup>10</sup> condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable? Yes  No

Explain: **The route is not in good condition and there are no livestock improvements along or at the end of the route.**

- C. Relatively regular and continuous use: (Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?)

Yes  No

Describe evidence (e.g., direct, vehicles or vehicle tracks observed, or indirect, evidence of use associated with purpose of the route such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other

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<sup>10</sup> Good condition would be a condition that ensures regular and continuous use relative to the purposes of the route. Consider whether the route can be clearly followed in the field over its entire course and whether all or any portion of the route contains any impediments to travel.

rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a *relatively* regular basis (i.e., regular and continuous use relative to the purpose(s) of the route).<sup>11</sup>

**Evidence of vehicular traffic noticed only where route leaves BLM 7803. It is likely this route is explored a few hundred feet before turning around, as evidence of use was not found after approximately a quarter-mile. Use is not regular or continuous.**

#### IV. CONCLUSION:

Does the route or route segment<sup>12</sup> meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road (i.e., are items III.A *and* III.B *and* III.C all checked yes)?

Yes \_\_\_\_ = Wilderness Inventory Road No **X** = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

Explanation<sup>13</sup>: **The route appears to have been constructed; however, there was no evidence of maintenance and little of vehicle use. There are no permitted uses associated with the route other than livestock trailing.**

Evaluator(s): **Adam Straubinger**

Date: **7/18/2011**

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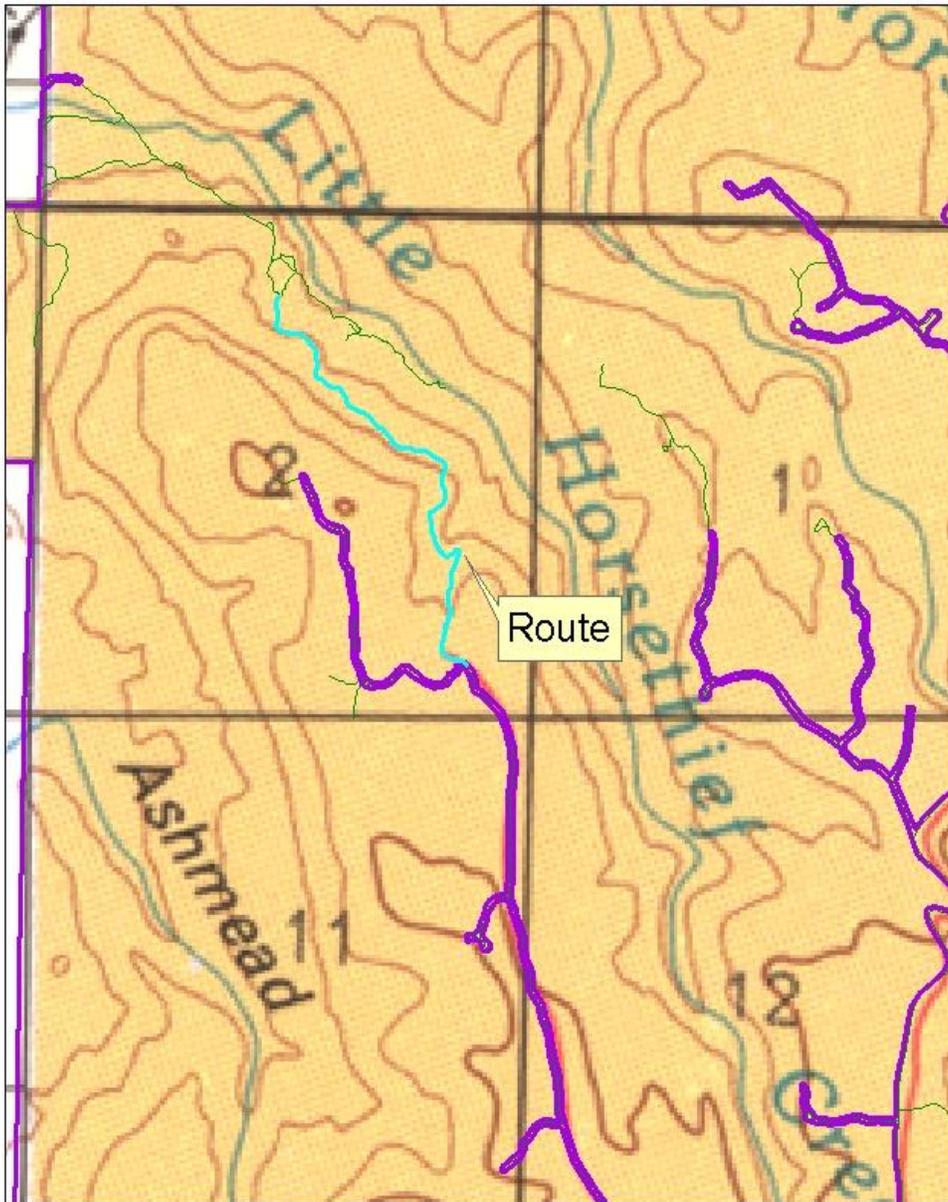
11 Include estimate of travel rates for the stated purposes, e.g., trips/day or week or month or season or year or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases.

12 If part of the route meets the wilderness inventory road definition and the remainder does not, describe the segment meeting the definition and any remaining portion not meeting the definition and why.

13 Describe and explain rationale for any discrepancies with citizen proposals.

Map:

### Little Horsethief Route



Photos:

Date: 7/18/2011 2:02 PM  
Lat: 39.296947 Lon: -108.179183



Evidence of use where route leaves BLM 7803.

Date: 7/18/2011 2:04 PM  
Lat: 39.297297 Lon: -108.180061



Route narrows out not far after leaving the road, no longer any evidence of use. Evidence of corridor clearing.

Date: 7/18/2011 2:06 PM  
Lat: 39.297811 Lon: -108.179947



Evidence of cut/fill.

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **Spink Canyon**

Route or Route Segment<sup>14</sup> Name and/or Identifier: **BLM 7689**

(Include Transportation Plan Identifier, if known, and include route number supplied by citizen information, when available.)

I. LOCATION: See map below

Describe: **The route connects Spink Canyon to the ridge above, where it accesses Lookout Mountain Road.**

## II. ROUTE CONTEXT

- A. Current Purpose<sup>15</sup> (if any) of Route: (Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Recreation, Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment)).

Describe: **The purpose of the route is unknown. The route is no longer in use.**

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

1. Is there a ROW associated with this route?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No **X** Unknown \_\_\_\_

2. If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW? \_\_\_\_ **NA** \_\_\_\_\_

3. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ Unknown or N/A **X** \_\_\_\_

Explain: \_\_\_\_ **NA** \_\_\_\_\_

## III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA

A. Evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means:

Yes **X** (if either A.1 or A.2 is checked "yes" below) No \_\_\_\_ (if both A.1 and A.2 are checked "no" below)

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<sup>14</sup> If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria

<sup>15</sup> The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does provide context for factors on which such a determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by BLM when the need arises.

5. Construction: (Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?) Yes  No

Examples: Paved  Bladed  Graveled  Roadside Berms  Cut/Fill  Other

Describe: **The route is almost completely naturalized, especially down in the canyon. In a few places, there is evidence of construction, typically cut/fill.**

6. Improvements: (Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?) Yes  No  If "yes": by Hand Tools  by Machine

Examples: Culverts  Hardened Stream Crossings  Bridges  Drainage  Barriers   
Other

Describe: **No evidence of maintenance of any kind was noted during field work**

- B. Maintenance: (Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure *relatively* regular and continuous use?):  
Yes  (if either B.1 or B.2 is checked "yes" below) No  (if both B.1 and B.2 are checked "no" below)

5. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?  
Yes  No  If "yes": by Hand Tools  by Machine

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_ **NA** \_\_\_\_\_

6. If the route or route segment is in good<sup>16</sup> condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable?  
Yes  No

Explain: **The route is not in good condition, almost non-existent and there are no livestock improvements or oil and gas facilities along or at the end of the route.**

- C. Relatively regular and continuous use: (Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?)  
Yes  No

Describe evidence (e.g., direct, vehicles or vehicle tracks observed, or indirect, evidence of use associated with purpose of the route such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other

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<sup>16</sup> Good condition would be a condition that ensures regular and continuous use relative to the purposes of the route. Consider whether the route can be clearly followed in the field over its entire course and whether all or any portion of the route contains any impediments to travel.

rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a *relatively* regular basis (i.e., regular and continuous use relative to the purpose(s) of the route).<sup>17</sup>

**Field work only noted wildlife signs and tracks along the route. There was no evidence of vehicle use.**

#### IV. CONCLUSION:

Does the route or route segment<sup>18</sup> meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road (i.e., are items III.A and III.B and III.C all checked yes)?

Yes \_\_\_\_ = Wilderness Inventory Road No **\_X\_** = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

Explanation<sup>19</sup>: **The route was constructed at one time; however, there is no evidence of maintenance or vehicle use. There are no permitted uses associated with the route and a majority of the route is blended with its natural surroundings. Evidence of the route is best seen on the slopes as it descends into the canyon. Once in the canyon, the route is completely naturalized.**

Evaluator(s): **Adam Straubinger**

Date: **September, 2011**

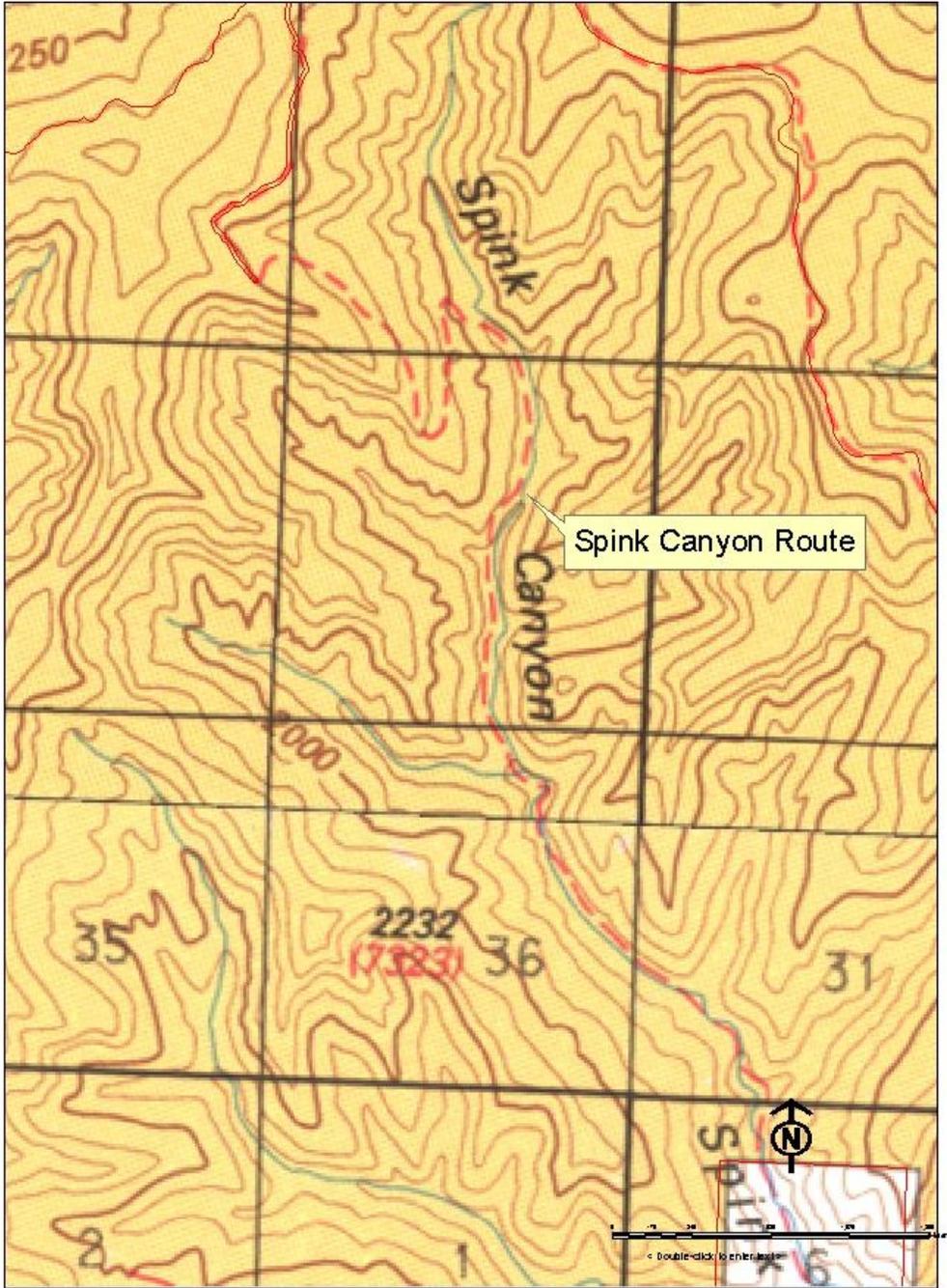
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<sup>17</sup> Include estimate of travel rates for the stated purposes, e.g., trips/day or week or month or season or year or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases.

<sup>18</sup> If part of the route meets the wilderness inventory road definition and the remainder does not, describe the segment meeting the definition and any remaining portion not meeting the definition and why.

<sup>19</sup> Describe and explain rationale for any discrepancies with citizen proposals.

# Spink Canyon Route (BLM 7689)



Photos:

Date: 8/31/2011 1:34 PM  
Lat: 39.515036 Lon: -108.830678



Evidence of construction, no evidence of use.

Date: 8/31/2011 1:39 PM  
Lat: 39.517003 Lon: -108.831283



Old route line, currently naturalizing.

## GJFO Wilderness Characteristics Inventory

### Appendix B – Photo Log

Photographer(s): Adam Straubinger

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: Buttermilk Canyon

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Photo #
8/3/11		SSW	Buniger Road atop ridge	Lat: 39.433 Lon: - 109.020	1
8/3/11		SSW	Oil and Gas Facilities	Lat: 39.440 Lon: - 109.015	2
8/3/11		N	Southern portion of unit, taken from Prairie Canyon Road	Lat: 39.359 Lon: - 109.023	3
8/3/11		SE	Routes up major drainages	Lat: 39.4431 Lon: - 109.0074	4
8/3/11		E	Close up of route in drainage	Lat: 39.4430 Lon: - 109.0074	5

Photographer(s): Adam Straubinger  
 Inventory Area Unique Identifier: County Line

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Photo #
8/9/11		WSW	Looking across unit	Lat: 39.3667 Lon: -108.6726	1
8/9/11		NE	Low lying vegetation decreases opportunities for solitude	Lat: 39.3502 Lon: -108.6412	2
8/9/11		S	Oil and Gas facilities proximate to boundary	Lat: 39.3675 Lon: -108.6569	3
8/9/11		S	Range pond	Lat: 39.3845 Lon: -108.6350	4
8/9/11		NW	Imprints of man proximate to boundary impact sense of solitude	Lat: 39.3712 Lon: -108.6343	5

Photographer(s): Adam Straubinger  
 Inventory Area Unique Identifier: East Salt Creek

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Photo #
9/22/2011		S	Vegetative and topographic variety	Lat: 39.5113 Lon: -108.6831	1
9/22/2011		E	East Salt Creek Drainage	Lat: 39.5134 Lon: -108.6747	2
9/22/2011		SE	Gentle slopes allow for outstanding unconfined recreation	Lat: 39.5166 Lon: -108.6731	3
9/22/2011		SE	Scenic view of unit	Lat: 39.5275 Lon: -108.6670	4
9/22/2011		S	Douglas fir, geologic features	Lat: 39.5080 Lon: -	5

Photographer(s): Adam Straubinger  
 Inventory Area Unique Identifier: Horse Mountain

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Photo #
8/23/2011		N	Cherry-stemmed route, horse mountain in background	Lat: 39.3762 Lon: -108.3727	1
8/23/2011		W	Cherry-stemmed route, poor vegetative screening	Lat: 39.3779 Lon: -108.3971	2
8/23/2011		E	Limited vegetative screening.	Lat: 39.3762 Lon: -108.4049	3
8/23/2011		N	Steep slopes, loose soils of Horse Mountain	Lat: 39.3653 Lon: -108.4179	4

Photographer(s): Adam Straubinger  
 Inventory Area Unique Identifier: Lipan Wash

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Photo #
8/4/11		NE	Western portion of the unit is exposed, consisting of rolling hills of Mancos shale at the base of the Bookcliffs.	Lat: 39.3481 Lon: -108.7347	1
8/4/11		SW	Layton wash	Lat: 39.3460 Lon: -108.6486	2
8/4/11		W	Looking west across unit	Lat: 39.3320 Lon: -108.5883	3

Photographer(s): Adam Straubinger  
 Inventory Area Unique Identifier: Little Horsethief

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Photo #
7/18/2011		S	Powerlines bisecting the unit	Lat: 39.2943 Lon: -108.1634	1
7/18/2011		NNW	Imprints of man	Lat: 39.2760 Lon: -108.1703	2
7/18/2011		W	Human impacts outside the unit	Lat: 39.2999 Lon: -108.1839	3

Photographer(s): Adam Straubinger  
 Inventory Area Unique Identifier: Lumsden Canyon

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Photo #
7/28/2011		W	View into unit from 4.1 Road	Lat: 38.7216 Lon: -109.0216	1
7/20/2011		N	Looking across the unit, Lumsden Canyon in foreground	Lat: 38.6457 Lon: -109.009	2
7/20/2011		E	From the top of Lumsden Canyon	Lat: 38.6505 Lon: -109.0536	3
7/28/2011		W	From the mouth of Lumsden canyon	Lat: 38.6600 Lon: -109.0030	4
7/28/2011		SE	Lumsden Canyon drainage	Lat: 38.6586 Lon: -109.0130	5
7/28/2011		W	Lumsden Canyon	Lat: 38.6578 Lon: -109.0193	6
7/28/2011		NW	Unique geological features are prevalent in this unit	Lat: 38.6572 Lon: -109.018	7

Photographer(s): Adam Straubinger  
 Inventory Area Unique Identifier: Munger Creek

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Photo #
8/17/2011		W	View of North Desert towards Utah from southern portion of unit	Lat: 39.3835 Lon: -108.7577	1
8/17/2011		NW	Stove Canyon	Lat: 39.3905 Lon: -108.7463	2
8/17/2011		S	Road along main ridge of unit	Lat: 39.4394 Lon: -108.7225	3
8/16/2011		SW	Human impacts noticeable from west-facing slopes	Lat: 39.4520 Lon: -108.7606	4

Photographer(s): Adam Straubinger  
 Inventory Area Unique Identifier: Spink Canyon

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Photo #
8/31/11		S	Looking into Spink Canyon	Lat: 39.5140 Lon: -108.8295	1
8/31/11		S	At the bottom of Spink Canyon	Lat: 39.5113 Lon: -108.8267	2

Photographer(s): Adam Straubinger

Inventory area Unique Identifier: Spring Canyon

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Photo #
9/16/2011		N	Opportunities for solitude	Lat: 39.5207 Lon: -108.9074	1
9/16/2011		E	Opportunities for solitude provided by topographical and vegetative screening	Lat: 39.5172 Lon: -108.9066	2
9/16/2011		N		Lat: 39.4905 Lon: -108.9163	3