The intent of this report is to present objective data to illustrate that the area in question qualifies as Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC), in accordance with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Manuals 6310 and 6320. The information presented in this report meets the minimum standards for review of new information per Manual 6310, and accordingly BLM must review this information and make its findings and documentation of the review process available to the public as soon as practicable.
Lands with Wilderness Characteristics:
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon

BLM Royal Gorge Field Office, Front Range District
BLM Unit Identifier: CO-020-019 (Echo Canyon)

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Overview

The Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC) unit consists of approximately 31,600 contiguous acres in central Colorado. This unit is located in Bighorn Sheep Canyon, directly north of the Arkansas River and US Highway 50 in Fremont County. This unit ranges from an elevation of approximately 9,500 feet atop the Table Mountain mesa to below 6,000 feet at the southern drainages. The expansive proposed LWC is quite diverse, bolstered by ecosystems consisting of high elevation mixed forests, montane grasslands, steep rocky mid-elevation woodlands, and riparian drainages.

The Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC lies within Bighorn Sheep Canyon, approximately 11 miles west of Cañon City, CO and 32 miles east of Salida, CO. The Union Pacific Railroad separates this unit from the Arkansas River and defines the majority of the southern boundary, along with the Parkdale State Trust Land block and private property to the southeast. The western boundary consists entirely of BLM designated routes. The northern and eastern boundaries are nearly completely bounded by private property, with the exception of a right-of-way road that serves as the northern boundary in the northeast unit.

This unit supports a diversity of plant and wildlife habitats, due to its topographic variety and varying ecosystems. Montane grasslands are common in this unit, supporting an array of wildflowers, shrubs, and native grasses. The high elevation areas also consist of mixed forests of Douglas fir, aspen, and ponderosa pine Colorado blue spruce and quaking aspen, with bristlecone pine mixing in at the higher elevations. A pinyon-juniper woodland and Gambel oak scrubland make up the rugged lower elevation areas. Creeks, tributaries and gulches – including East Gulch, Hindman Gulch, Sulpher Gulch, Spike Buck Gulch, and Bootlegger Gulch – drain the unit.

The proposed LWC has extraordinary biological values. Much of this unit aligns with BLM’s Arkansas Canyonlands Area of Critical Environment Concern (ACEC), a nearly 24,000 acre area recognized for outstanding recreation, scenic views, and critical and valued species. This ACEC extends south to encompass the northern portion of BLM’s McIntyre Hills Wilderness Study Area (WSA), a nearly 16,000 acre protected area that shares similar values to the Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC, and is separated only by the Union Pacific Railroad Right-of-way (ROW), Arkansas River, and US Highway 50. The Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC also contains the High Mesa Grassland Research Natural Area atop Table Mountain. BLM made this 680 acre natural area, also known as Sommerville Table, an Instant Study Area (ISA) that supports 17 species of native grass.

The Conservation Science Partners (CSP) recognizes 7,641 acres of Table Mountain, overlapping the High Mesa Grassland ISA, as a core area possessing conservation values: important
ecologically based indicators of high biodiversity, resilience to climate change, and landscape connectivity. This is one of only six core conservation areas that CSP identified in the RGFO region.

High habitat and range values for many wildlife species can be found in the Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC, including Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, black bear, elk, mule deer, pronghorn, mountain lion, and Gunnison’s prairie-dog. Valued bird species identified in this area include the bald eagle, peregrine American falcon, Mexican spotted owl, scaled quail, great blue heron, Canadian goose, and wild turkey.

Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are abundant in the 31,600 acre contiguous roadless area that forms the proposed Table Mountain LWC. The rolling hills and steep ridges, mid-elevation forests, vegetated gulches, and montane grasslands provide extensive opportunity for solitude in the forms of isolation, remoteness, lack of visitation and vegetative and topographic screening. Primitive recreation is also available in all seasons, including hunting, backpacking, hiking, wildlife viewing, bird watching, and photography. Additionally, with the proximity of the Arkansas River to this unit, it provides a scenic natural viewscape for gold medal fly-fishing and world-class white water rafting.

The BLM inventoried this unit (delineated by the green line in the above map) in 2013, identified as unit COF-020-019 (Echo Canyon). In their report, the BLM identified an area of 31,918 acres (delineated by the green line in the above map) and did not find wilderness characteristics due to the affected naturalness of cumulative man-made impacts. These impacts consist of administrative routes, rangeland improvement projects, vegetation treatment projects, historic mining activity, and other man-made disturbances such as a wildlife exclosure, historic homesteads, corrals, stock tanks, earthen dams, and a water encatchment. The BLM did not inventory for wilderness characteristics beyond naturalness.

While the Table Mountain LWC does have the above minor human impacts within the unit, these are diffused throughout an expansive area and do not affect the natural integrity or the apparent naturalness of the unit overall (BLM Manual 6310, p 6-7). Much of the administrative routes are revegetated and not visible throughout the unit. The portions that require regular (administrative) use have been removed from the unit as cherrystems. The rangeland improvement projects – spring developments, stock tanks, and fences – do not affect the natural character of the unit, as reported by the BLM. The vegetative treatment projects are few – mechanical chopping isolated to a small portion in Echo Canyon/Devils Hole and hand trimming atop Table Mountain – and are not visible unless one is nearby due to the topographic variety of the unit. The historic mining sites are few as well and isolated to Echo Canyon/Devils Hole. The BLM claims that the mining is a visual impact to the landscape, but also notes that it is not a dominating feature in the unit. These sites are only visible in select locations in Devils Hole, which only accounts for a portion of the greater 31,600 acre proposed area. Furthermore, the BLM did not provide and photo or geo-referenced data to support their claim.

The other impacts referenced by the BLM are minor and do not affect the naturalness of the overall unit. Much if it aligns with rangeland improvement – corrals, stock tanks, earthen
dams, and the water encatchment – which the BLM stated do not affect the natural character of the unit. The historic homesteads referenced add supplemental value to the proposed LWC. In sum, there are minor human impacts within the unit. However given the very large contiguous area of the unit, it’s natural integrity is not jeopardized as these minor impacts are spread over 31,600 acres.

BLM’s Manual 6310 states that the boundary delineation for a LWC unit “is generally based on the presence of Wilderness Inventory Roads” but can also be based on property lines between different types of land ownership or on developed rights of way (Manual 6310, p 4). These were the parameters Wild Connections used to define the boundaries of the Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC. Only after the true boundaries of the contiguous roadless unit are identified can an objective and thorough assessment of that unit’s wilderness characteristics be made.

In the spring of 2013, Wild Connections produced a preliminary boundary delineation for this unit based on the size and contiguity requirements stated in Manual 6310 (p 6). During the spring and summers of 2013 and 2014, Wild Connections’ mapping teams visited the Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC several times to conduct in-depth, on-the-ground (and aerial) inventories of this unit. Our goal was to assess this area for wilderness characteristics, based on BLM’s Manual 6310, and report our findings to the BLM’s Royal Gorge Field Office in efforts to identify potential wilderness areas to expand “wildlands” corridors in central Colorado. Additionally we have reviewed the 2013 BLM RGFO inventory and boundaries and have made assessments and adjustments based on our in-depth field inventories.

Wild Connections’ report offers new in-depth data and information, including photo, narrative, and geo-referenced data, supporting the Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC. The boundary delineations and narratives describing the wilderness characteristics found within this unit are detailed below. Waypoints (many with photos) are referenced throughout this report; the photos with geo-data, time and date stamp, description, and page number can be found at the end of the report, akin to the one shown below.
Discussion of Wilderness Characteristics including Boundary Delineations

1. The Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC meets the minimum size criteria for roadless lands.

The Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC comprises approximately 31,600 contiguous roadless acres, well surpassing the minimum size criteria of 5,000 acres to qualify for wilderness, as specified in BLM’s Manual 6310 (p 6). With regard to route determination, this manual states that a "way" maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a "road" for purposes of inventorying wilderness characteristics. A "way" that is used on a continuous and regular basis still does not constitute a road. Additionally, a vehicle route that was constructed by mechanical means, but is no longer being maintained by mechanical methods is also not a road. By comparison, a Wilderness Inventory Road (WIR) is a vehicle road that has "been improved and maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use" (Manual 6310, p 11). Wild Connections' inventory of this area assesses routes that are or are not considered WIRs based on the above definitions from Manual 6310. Routes that did meet the criteria for WIRs were removed from the unit as cherrystems.

BLM’s boundaries for COF-020-019 (Echo Canyon) appear to be largely accurate for the Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC. The western boundary of the unit is completely defined...
by BLM designated routes and begins just north of Texas Creek at Waypoint 1, defined by BLM 6060 at the Union Pacific Railroad, which serves as much of the southern boundary.

A short distance onto BLM 6060 is a junction at Waypoint 2 for BLM designated route T6065, open to ATVs, motorcycles, and non-motorized use. T6065 ends atop a hill approximately one and a half miles into the unit. This route does not appear to have been constructed by mechanical means and is a minimal visual impact to the landscape. However given that this route is in the Arkansas River Travel Management Plan (TMP), it will be considered a WIR and be removed from the unit as a cherrystom. A small section north of BLMT 6065, and west of BLM 6060, will be removed from the unit as well to eliminate a parking lot, facilities, and a congregated series of designated and undesignated motorized routes.

BLM 6060 comes to another junction at Waypoint 4 in Bull Gulch, for the BLM designated route T6061A, open to motorized use (ATVs and motorcycles) and non-motorized use. BLM T6061A becomes the western boundary as BLM designated 6060 extends a short distance up a valley into the unit to Waypoint 9, ending at a BLM “No Motor Vehicles” carsonite sign. BLM 6060 will be removed from the unit as a WIR cherrystom to this point. This route presumably once accessed a prospecting site just north of the end of the route. There is a rugged route that leads toward the old prospecting site from BLM 6060, however neither the route or site provides much visual impact as indicated in Waypoint 10, taken at the end of this route. This route and site will be removed from the unit, as an extension of BLM 6060.

A short distance before the end of BLM 6060 is a junction at Waypoint 8 for a closed route with boulders and a BLM “Closed Road” carsonite sign. This route appears to have been constructed by mechanical means, however is heavily revegetated given its closure and will remain within the unit as a way. There is a similar closed route with boulders and BLM sign just south of here on the east side of BLM 6060 at Waypoint 7. This route does not appear to have been constructed by mechanical means, is revegetated, and dissipates a short distance into a meadow. This route will remain within the unit as a way.

Just after the junction of boundary road T6061A and BLM 6060 is another junction at Waypoint 5, for a private mine inholding. As viewed in the photopoint, this route is locked and gated, inaccessible to the public. The inholding and route leading to it will be removed from the unit.

BLM designated routes make up the remainder of the western boundary. BLM T6061A extends northwest from BLM 6060, and becomes BLM 6040, open to all vehicles. BLM 6040 comes to a junction for BLM 6040A at Waypoint 12, which heads north as the remainder of the western boundary until it reaches private property that serves as the northern boundary. There is one very short motorized route that extends into the northwestern portion of the unit. At Waypoint 11, BLM 6040 meets BLM 6040C, which extends approximately one-half mile to an overlook. This route is designated in the Arkansas River TMP and will be removed from the unit as a cherrystom.

The northern portion of the unit is primarily bounded by private property, however there are administrative routes that extend into the unit. The westernmost of these routes enters the unit at Waypoint 46, a right-of-way (ROW) route to access a communications site atop Table Mountain.
This route was inventoried by the BLM as CO-020-019-D, originally bladed and maintained approximately every five years to access the communications tower. This route is heavily vegetated and does not show regular or continuous use. Waypoint 47 views this route descending from private property, only discernible by the linear feature through the scrub oak. The route shows even less use and is nearly unnoticeable as it traverses the montane grasslands, as evidenced in Waypoint 49 where this route enters a fence line via a barbed wire gate and in Waypoint 56 just north of the communication tower located at Waypoint 57. The route leading to the tower will be removed as a WIR cherrystem, along with the communications tower. The route is essentially unnoticeable and the tower is not that tall, only visible in the near vicinity, and thus does not impact the overall naturalness of the unit. The BLM inventoried this route continuing past the communications tower, however the route is overgrown as a barely visible two-track as evidenced in Waypoint 58, and will remain within the unit as a way.

The BLM inventoried routes branching off of the communications route CO-020-019-D: one west into Echo Canyon/Devils Hole/Big Hole and two east toward Little Hole. Note Echo Canyon, Devils Hole, and Big Hole all refer to the same area. The route west is more discernible, as it is an administrative route (inventoried as CO-020-059-E) that was originally bladed, at least until it enters Echo Canyon. The route begins from the communications tower route at Waypoint 53. Waypoint 55 views this route descending into Echo Canyon from atop Table Mountain nearby, illustrating that it is not a noticeable linear feature. This route leads to the “Big Hole Wildlife – Livestock Exclusion” 10 ft fence line, as viewed in Waypoint 39. Waypoint 40 views the route nearby: it appears to be bladed but shows little signs of use. The BLM reported that this route receives “no frequent use by full size vehicles, used by ATVs frequently.” ATV use was not observed on-the-ground and there are not any public entrances for ATV recreationalists to access Echo Canyon, Little Hole, or Table Mountain. This route begins to show no signs of mechanical construction once it enters Echo Canyon/Devils Hole and is heavily revegetated as observed in Waypoint 38 and Waypoint 42 (right). Given its lack of regular and continuous use, this route will remain within the unit as a way.

The BLM inventoried multiple routes in Echo Canyon/Devils Hole, however many of these are indiscernible as they follow natural features such as gulches, or are completed revegetated due to lack of use and/or not being mechanical construction. Waypoint 38 views a route junction from CO-020-059-E just south of the livestock exclusion area, however both routes are barely visible on the ground.
The route heading north-northwest, BLM inventoried CO-020-059-J, is no longer regular and continuous, as evidenced in Waypoint 35 and in Waypoint 26 as it heads south on the west side of Echo Canyon. The BLM inventoried spur routes off of CO-020-059-J, however these were mostly unnoticeable on the ground, as viewed in Waypoints 32, 36, and 37. Another route was observed ascending north from a grassland near CO-020-059-J at Waypoint 28. This route shows evidence of mechanical construction, however is revegetated with grasses and shrubs and has not seen use in quite some time. This route leads to a scenic overlook of the Echo Canyon/Devils Hole basin at Waypoint 31. Waypoint 30 views the western side of Echo Canyon from this route. Note that there are no linear or man-made features observable in the vast interior of the Echo Canyon/Devils Hole basin and surrounding areas.

CO-020-059-J does show signs of mechanical improvement further south as viewed in Waypoint 25 and Waypoint 24 south of there. However these routes have not seen use in a long time and are overgrown with grasses, shrubs, and small trees.

The BLM inventoried a couple routes south of CO-020-059-J in western Big Hole, however these routes were not observable. Waypoint 21 and Waypoint 22 were taken on these BLM inventoried routes, though on the ground they appear as natural gulches as viewed in the photopoints.

All of the routes in Echo Canyon will remain within the unit as ways. As documented above, these routes have not seen motorized (or non-motorized) use in quite some time, with all routes heavily overgrown. These old routes do not compromise the natural integrity of the unit overall, as the man-made features are only noticeable when one is directly on them, at best. As noted in Waypoints 30 and 31, there are no linear features observed in Echo Canyon/Devils Hole from a high vantage point in northern Echo Canyon. This is further supported in Waypoint 48 and Waypoint 52, taken from Table Mountain, offering additional views of the overall naturalness viewed in the Echo Canyon/Devils Hole basin.

As referenced, there are a couple of BLM inventoried routes that spur east from the communications tower route (CO-020-019-D). However both of these routes are heavily overgrown, with the only evidence of use being a faint two-track in the grass as viewed in Waypoint 51 and Waypoint 54 where they each intersect with CO-020-019-D.

There is another administrative route (BLM inventoried CO-020-059-C) that enters Table Mountain from the north at Waypoint 77, which joins and extends the BLM inventoried routes in Little Hole atop Table Mountain. This route is closed to the public, with BLM signs for “Closed Road to Motor Vehicles” and Closed for Wildlife Protection.” This route may have initially been bladed, and shows signs of improvement such as the cattle guard in Waypoint 73, however it is heavily revegetated and shows no signs of regular or continuous use. It is essentially unobservable on the ground where it meets up with the communications tower route at Waypoint 51.

There are a couple spur routes off of CO-020-059-C that appear to have been originated for rangeland management. The first route junction from CO-020-059-C is at Waypoint 71, a revegetated cut-and-fill route that leads to a spring and water trough. A short distance thereafter
is another juncture at Waypoint 70 for a route with a cattle guard. However as evidenced in the photopoint, this route no longer receives use as the route itself is indistinguishable past the cattle guard.

This is the case for all of the routes that descend into the Little Hole area: heavily revegetated routes that likely lead to rangeland management features such as springs, water troughs, earthen dams, or the like. These minor human impacts will be documented in the following section. Nevertheless these features, along with the routes that lead to them, are minor human impacts that go largely unnoticed in the unit, even in the immediate area. Wild Connections inventoried the BLM inventoried routes and found them very difficult to find on the ground. Waypoints 62, 63, and 64 provide examples of these “routes,” and Waypoint 61 of an intersection, on the ground. As evidenced, they are all non-mechanically constructed routes showing heavy revegetation to the point that the linear features blend into the naturalness of the surrounding landscape.

The naturalness of Little Hole and the surrounding area is only exemplified when viewing this area from a larger scope. Waypoint 75 views Little Hole from the Table Mountain ridge top to the north. The routes are so overgrown that they are not even visible from above. Waypoint 69 views Little Hole from the west and Waypoint 66 (right) views Little Hole and Table Mountain from one of the overgrown routes to the south, both capturing the overall naturalness and scenic beauty of this area. So while there are minor human impacts located in Little Hole, it is safe to say that they do not impact the overall naturalness of the area. Due to the lack of observed use on these routes in Little Hole, they will all remain within the unit as ways, with the exception of the aforementioned communications tower road.

There is one more administrative route (BLM inventoried CO-020-059-B) from the north, entering the unit at Waypoint 70. As evidenced in the photopoint, this route was originally constructed by mechanical means, however it shows a lack of regular or continuous use. This is further exemplified a short distance along the route at Waypoint 79 where it becomes nearly indiscernible atop Table Mountain. Nevertheless, this is an administrative route to access the High Mesa Grasslands Instant Study Area (ISA) and will be removed as a cherrystem to the ISA located at Waypoint 80. The ISA is denoted by a fence line and BLM marker that states “Table Protection Fence.”
CO-020-059-B continues east-southeast from the High Mesa Grassland ISA, following the descent of the Table Mountain ridgeline. However, the route continues to show no signs of use or construction, as evidenced in Waypoint 87 and Waypoint 95, and will remain within the rest of the unit as a way. As this route descends easterly, it shows evidence of mechanical construction, however has not been maintained or seen regular or continuous use as evidenced in Waypoint 98 and Waypoint 99. The route exits BLM at Waypoint 100 to private property, the Parkdale Quarry. There is no public access to this route from the southeast, nor could it support motorized use in its current condition.

CO-020-059-B comes to a junction at Waypoint 90 for a route (BLM inventoried CO-020-019-O) heading south to the Parkdale State Trust Land block. However, this route is heavily overgrown as exemplified in Waypoint 91 and disappears altogether before it reaches the stand land block. It will remain within the unit as a way.

BLM designated roads form portions of the northern boundary of the northeast unit. Waypoint 101 marks the beginning of the westernmost of the northern boundary roads (BLM inventoried CO-020-019-A), at a barbed wire fence and gate for a route to access private property to the east. This route is open to the public. This route continues for approximately one-half mile where it meets the private property boundary. This route is not maintained and does not appear regular and continuous, however, given its ROW status to access private property, it is removed from the unit as a boundary road.

A BLM designated road, 5895, continues as the northern boundary east of the private property at Waypoint 105. BLM 5895 continues as the northern boundary to Waypoint 110 where it ends into a barbed wire gate at a fence line. The remaining boundary to the west follows the natural drainage on the other side of the fence line southwest where it soon exits the unit.

A couple of routes enter the unit south from BLM 5895. There is a juncture at Waypoint 108 for a route that follows a natural drainage for approximately one-half mile to a private property inholding at Waypoint 109. This route appears to be maintained and shows regular and continuous use. It will be removed from the unit as a cherrystem, along with the private property inholding.

A route also heads south at the end of BLM 5895, inventoried by the BLM as CO-020-059-P. Waypoint 111 views this route near its beginning; it was not constructed by mechanical means and does not show regular or continuous use. This is further evidenced along the route at Waypoints 113 and 116 as the route enters a natural drainage. This route exits private property at Waypoint 117 at a barbed wire gate and fence line. Wild Connections assessment of this route is concurrent with BLM’s report and it will remain within the unit as a way.

A route extends west as well from the private property where the above route ends. Waypoint 118 views this route west. It was not constructed by mechanical means, is not regular and continuous, and disappears a short distance along it as evidenced in Waypoint 119. This route will also remain within the unit as a way.
The remainder of the northern and eastern portions of the unit is bounded by private property. The entirety of the southern portion of the unit is bordered by the Union Pacific Railroad, with the exception of the Parkdale State Trust Land block to the southeast. The Union Pacific Railroad separates the unit from the Arkansas River, which parallels the railroad boundary just to the south.

II. The Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC is primarily affected by the forces of nature.

The Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC is primarily affected by the forces of nature, with human impacts considerably unnoticeable within the unit. Motorized public access to the unit is limited to boundary roads and a couple short cherrystems in the western portion of the unit. Other routes found within the unit showed a lack of motorized use and an overall apparent lack of regular use, with the forces of nature reclaiming many of the former routes. Human impacts that were observed in the proposed LWC were minor and will be detailed at the end of this section.

The proposed LWC offers a diversity of ecosystems, due to the topographic variety and vast expanse of the unit. A pinyon-juniper-woodland, Gambel scrub oak shrubland dominates much of the unit, particularly the lower elevation areas. This is exemplified in Waypoint 106, looking up at Table Mountain from the northeast unit. Waypoint 13, taken in Hindman Gulch, views the same vegetation amid the steep rocky terrain common in the southern portion of the unit.

As the elevation increases in the unit, the vegetation becomes denser, as viewed in Waypoint 96 of the rocky upslope leading to Table Mountain. Other conifers were observed blending into the vegetation as well at higher elevations. Waypoint 94 (right) views the dense vegetation leading up Table Mountain, with ponderosa pine and Colorado blue spruce mixing in. The north facing slopes appear more forested, consisting of Colorado blue spruce and Douglas fir, as illustrated in Waypoint 102, which views the north side of Table Mountain.

The shrubland, woodland, and forests give way to montane grassland in the higher elevation areas of the unit where Table Mountain plateaus. Waypoint 62, taken along one of the revegetated routes in Little Hole, provides an excellent example of the montane natural grasslands that blanket Table Mountain.
Mountain. High elevation meadows can be found elsewhere in the unit as well. Waypoint 27 views the Sangre de Cristo Mountains over a large montane meadow at the northern end of Big Hole.

This unit also offers many riparian areas, supporting a number of gulches, tributaries, and creeks that drain the interior canyonlands. East Gulch, viewed in Waypoint 6 and Waypoint 45, is one of the largest drainages in the unit, entering the unit at its western boundary and draining to the Arkansas River via Echo Canyon. There are many other gulches that drain this unit – Hindman Gulch, Sulpher Gulch, Spike Buck Gulch, and Bootlegger Gulch – south to the Arkansas River. Waypoint 16 views Hindman Gulch, which like most of the gulches is predominantly dry in late fall.

The northeast portion of the unit also offers dense riparian ecosystems with Tallahassee Creek and Currant Creek flowing through the unit. Waypoint 104 views Tallahassee Creek and its cottonwood, willow, conifer vegetation. Waypoint 114 takes a closer look at the aquatic vegetation – watercress, willow, and cottonwoods – in Currant Creek.

Wild Connections’ exploration in the Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC revealed naturalness characteristics, however there were some minor human impacts observed as well. Most of the human impacts found in this unit are non-mechanically constructed routes, serving rangeland management. Assessment of these routes can be found in the above section. Given that these routes are not accessible to the public, the observed motorized use on the routes was very limited, with the forces of nature reclaiming many of the former routes.

Most of the rangeland management features were observed in the Little Hole area. A water trough and small water tank was observed at Waypoint 76, off of the CO-020-059-C administrative route in the northern portion of the unit. This route leads into Little Hole, where a water trough and spring was observed at Waypoint 72, a water trough and spring at Waypoint 68, Little Hole Reservoir and earthen dam at Waypoint 50, Little Hole Reservoir 2 and earthen dam at Waypoint 60, and an unnamed earthen dam at Waypoint 65. The revegetated routes in Little Hole also access a small mullein vegetation project at Waypoint 59. However the routes leading to these features are barely visible and the rangeland features themselves are not visible until in the immediate proximity due to their scant size as well as the topographic and vegetative screening of the unit. Some of the routes are only identifiable by a gate or cattle guard on the ground (Waypoints 49, 70, and 73).

The most notable feature associated with the Little Hole area of the unit is the communications tower located at Waypoint 57. However this impact has been excluded from the unit, along with the revegetated administrative access route leading to it. Furthermore, the communications tower is only visible in a small section of the unit and therefore does not affect the natural integrity of the unit overall. While there appear to be a few minor human impacts in the Little Hole area, these are spread out and not visible except when viewed nearby. For example, Waypoints 66, 69 and 75 overlook Little Hole from a higher vantage point, with untrammeled naturalness the common theme for the area overall. Waypoint 82 views Little Hole and much more of the interior unit from the High Mesa Grassland ISA atop Table Mountain, gain capturing solely naturalness features.
The Echo Canyon/Devils Hole/Big Hole area also has some minor human impacts worth noting. Waypoint 39 views the “Big Hole Livestock – Wildlife Exclusion” area in northeast Echo Canyon off of route CO-020-059-E. However this merely represents a (10 ft) fence line and is a suitable minor human impact with regard to naturalness. Evidence of roller chopping for vegetation treatment was observed further south off of CO-020-059-E at Waypoint 41. However, this vegetation treatment took place in 2003 and as indicated in the photopoint, the treated area presently appears as a natural grassland break in the woodland. It does not hinder the natural integrity of the unit.

Prospecting once took place in the Echo Canyon/Devils Hole area as well. A pit was observed in northern Echo Canyon at Waypoint 34, at the end of a revegetated route. However as viewed in the photopoint, this prospecting pit is largely unnoticeable and goes unseen unless one is in the immediate proximity. There are no doubt more prospecting sites in Echo Canyon, however given the revegetation of the routes they were difficult to find on-the-ground and are not visible nearby due to the vegetative and topographic screening in Echo Canyon/Devils Hole. Furthermore, the BLM did not provide any evidence (photo or geo-reference) of prospecting in the area, despite claiming, “The impacts of mining are visible throughout the unit. Tailing piles and prospecting pits located on the hillsides are highly visible” (p 3). However, Wild Connections does have evidence to the contrary. For example, Waypoints 30 and 31 overlook the Echo Canyon/Devils Hole/Big Hole section of the proposed LWC from northern Echo Canyon, Waypoints 48 and 52 (right) from Table Mountain, and Waypoint 18 from a southern overlook. In sum, naturalness is the predominant theme in Echo Canyon as the forces of nature have reclaimed any noticeable human impacts.

A couple of minor human impacts in the form of rangeland management were observed atop Table Mountain, south of the High Mesa Grassland ISA. Waypoint 85 views a small earthen dam with a BLM marker for “Table CD2” reservoir. The route atop Table Mountain is completely reclaimed by nature in both directions from the earthen dam. Another earthen dam was observed at Waypoint 92, off of the spur route south toward the Parkdale State Trust Land block. The route is also depicted in this photopoint, however largely unnoticeable due to heavy revegetation. There was one other rangeland management feature observed in the unit, at Waypoint 14 in the southern portion of the unit in Hindman Gulch, for an old water trough with vegetation growing out of it that has not seen use in years. However these are minor human impacts, and as the BLM stated in their report, “The range use within the unit does not affect the natural character to the unit” (p 3).
Larger human impacts were observed in or near the unit as well, however they have been removed from the unit so they do not impact the natural integrity or apparent naturalness of the unit overall (BLM Manual 6310, p 6-7). The prospecting pit located at the end of BLM 6060 (Waypoint 10) will be removed from the proposed LWC along with the cherrystem road. There is a larger mine, a private inholding that is also excluded from the northwest section of the unit off BLM 6060. Waypoint 3 views this private mine site, as well as the naturalness in the surrounding unit.

Waypoint 107 views the New Hope Amethyst Claim for the Cañon City geology club located off of boundary road BLM 5895 in the northeast unit. This amethyst claim will be removed along with the boundary road so that it does not affect the overall naturalness of the unit.

The southeast unit has been essentially untouched by man, offering many acres of untrammeled naturalness. This is supported in Waypoint 86, which provides an aerial view of the vast untouched southeast section of the Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC. Spike Buck Gulch is the predominant natural feature in view, which drains to the Arkansas River, bounded by US Highway 50 also in view.

In sum there are human impacts within the Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC, however the majority of them are minor impacts, consistent with BLM Manual 6310, which do not affect the natural integrity or the apparent naturalness of the unit overall (p 6-7). As demonstrated in the above waypoints, these impacts are not visual throughout the unit, with most not visible unless in the immediate vicinity. Additionally, the larger human impacts within the unit were removed so that they do not affect to overall naturalness of the proposed LWC.

III. The Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

The Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC offers numerous opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The topographic variety, few entry points, lack of trails (motorized and non-motorized), and observed lack of overall use, provide ample opportunity for solitude. East Gulch provides a great place to find seclusion and is easily accessible from cherrystem road BLM 6060 near the western boundary. Waypoint 19 views a section of East Gulch that opens up into a valley, however still provides topographic and vegetative screening. The route to Table Mountain provides plenty of vegetative screening as well, with an overall lack of use to the point vegetation has completely taken over the route as exemplified in Waypoint 95. Furthermore, the observed lack of visitation to the unit overall provides outstanding opportunities for respite and remoteness just about anywhere in the proposed LWC.

Consisting of near 31,600 acres of contiguous unroaded wilderness land, the proposed LWC offers a variety of primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities as well. There are outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, camping, rock climbing, hunting, wildlife viewing, bird watching, horseback riding, and photography. The many high vantage points within the unit, particularly atop the Table Mountain plateau, provide excellent opportunities for sightseeing and
photography. Waypoints noting such can be found in the following section under scenic values. Excellent opportunities for hiking, backpacking, and camping are also readily available within the unit. Waypoint 112 in the northeast unit and Waypoint 16 in Hindman Gulch in the southern portion of the unit provide a couple examples of the outstanding opportunities for hiking in the proposed LWC. Waypoint 67 views a primitive campsite in Little Hole, an excellent backpacking destination.

Gold medal fly-fishing and world-class white-water rafting are also available just south of the unit at the Arkansas River, which parallels the Union-Pacific southern boundary. The nearby LWC provides an incredible natural viewshed and enhances the primitive recreation on the river. Additionally there are excellent opportunities for hunting within this unit; high value animal species and habitat are documented in the section below.

IV. The Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC has supplemental values that would enhance the wilderness experience and should be recognized and protected.

Wild Connections’ inventory of the Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC supports the existence of numerous supplemental values that contribute to the overall experience of visiting this area and provide additional evidence that this unit’s unique qualities should be recognized and protected. The majority of these values relate to the area’s regional ecological importance and rich biodiversity. The supplemental values presented below are not intended to be exhaustive, rather a summarization of some of the widely known significant values for which basic data was available to complement our on-the-ground inventory.

The proposed LWC is part of a greater core area of species’ connectivity with extraordinary biological values. Most of the Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC aligns with BLM’s Arkansas Canyonlands Area of Environment Concern (ACEC). The ACEC, representing almost 24,000 acres, is recognized for outstanding recreation, scenic views, critical and valued species, and the High Mesa Grassland Research Natural Area (RNA). BLM designated the 680 acre High Mesa Grassland as an Instant Study Area (ISA) that supports 17 species of native grasses. The ISA is known locally as Sommerville Table. Waypoint 81 (right) views the High Mesa Grassland ISA atop Table Mountain.
The Arkansas River ACEC also encompasses the northern portion of the 15,910 acre McIntyre Hills Wilderness Study Area (WSA) to the south of the Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC. The McIntyre Hills WSA is directly south of the proposed LWC and Arkansas River, separated only by the Union-Pacific Railroad ROW and US Highway 50. The Table Mountain, Echo Canyon area, which shares many of the same values as the McIntyre Hills WSA, was also inventoried for wilderness characteristics by the BLM in consideration as a WSA. The BLM’s 1970s wilderness inventory of the area revealed a large private property inholding (approximately 200-300 acres) with associated routes in Echo Canyon, which was a large reason why the area was not proposed as a WSA. However the BLM acquired this inholding in a land exchange in the 1990s. The land and routes have now had over 20 years of rewilding with little to no use. The Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC is now very similar to the nearby designated McIntyre Hills WSA, however with more geological and ecological diversity.

The Conservation Science Partners (CSP) recently concluded an extensive study on unprotected roadless BLM land in the West that possess important ecologically based indicators of high biodiversity, resilience to climate change, and landscape connectivity. The indicators used include species richness, vegetation community diversity, surface water availability, topographic complexity, landscape naturalness, landscape permeability, and eco-regional protection. The results of CSP’s approach are to quantify conservation value of BLM lands. CSP’s computations recognizes a large area atop Table Mountain, consisting of 7,641 roadless contiguous acres that overlaps BLM’s High Mesa Grassland ISA, to be a core area possessing these conservation values, one of only six areas identified in the entire RGFO region.

The Colorado National Heritage Program (CNHP) recognizes two very high biodiversity areas in the unit as Potential Conservation Areas (PCA). Much of the southern portion of the unit is encompassed within CNHP’s biodiversity assessment of a greater 20,600 acre area identified as McIntyre Hills that extends south the Arkansas River and Texas Creek. This area has high biodiversity values and is a Potential Conservation Area due to the inclusion of many globally imperiled and vulnerable plant species, including the Arkansas Canyon Stickleaf (Nuttallia densa), Degener beardtongue (Penstemon degeneri), Fendler cloak-fern (Argyrochosma fendleri), and jeweled blazingstar (Nuttallia speciosa). The Arkansas Canyon Stickleaf is endemic to this region, with this PCA representing the largest known concentration in the world.

CNHP also recognizes a 6,200 acre PCA, East Gulch at Bull Ridge, that overlaps with much of the northwest unit. This PCA offers high biodiversity significance due to an excellent to good occurrence of a globally vulnerable riparian natural community, narrowleaf cottonwood / river birch (Populus angustifolia / Betula occidentalis) woodland and a good occurrence of the globally vulnerable narrowleaf cottonwood -Douglas-fir (Populus angustifolia - Pseudotsuga menziesii) woodland. It also has an excellent to good occurrence of the apparently globally secure narrowleaf cottonwood / coyote willow (Populus angustifolia / Salix exigua) woodland and a good occurrence of the globally secure coyote willow / mesic graminoids (Salix exigua - mesic graminoids) shrubland.

High habitat and range values have been identified for many wildlife species in the Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC. Rocky Mountain Wild’s (RMW) Assessment of Biological Impact (ABI) documented the following mammals and associated values within the unit: Rocky
Mountain bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis Canadensis*) production area, overall range, summer range, winter range, severe winter range, winter concentration, summer concentration; black bear (*Ursus americanus*) overall range, summer range, winter range; elk (*Cervus Canadensis*) overall range, summer range, winter range; mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) overall range, summer range, winter range, severe winter range, winter concentration area; pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*) overall range, winter range, severe winter range, winter concentration; mountain lion (*Puma concolor*) overall range; Brazilian free tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) overall range; Gunnison’s prairie-dog (*Cynomys gunnisoni*) overall range.

Gunnison’s prairie-dog is noteworthy as it is listed as a species of most concern by the US Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program’s (WCRP) Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS), as well as listed as Colorado BLM sensitive. The Brazilian free tailed bat is a Colorado state ranked critically imperiled species.

Many critical and valued bird species have also been identified in the proposed LWC. Of note, this unit provides winter forage, winter range, winter concentration and roost sites for the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), which is listed as Colorado BLM Sensitive, CWCS Species of Most Concern, and Partnership in Flight Priority Bird. This area also provides nesting sites for the American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), a bird that is Colorado BLM Sensitive, CWCS Species of Most Concern, and a Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) endangered species. Additionally this unit provides proposed critical habitat for the Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*), which is a CPW endangered species, a CWCS species of most concern, and Partnership in Flight Priority Bird. There is overall range for the scaled quail (*Callipepla squamata*), also a CWCS species of most concern, and Partnership in Flight Priority Bird.

RMW also identifies wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) overall range, winter range, winter concentration area, and roost sites; great blue heron (*Ardea Herodias*) foraging area and nesting area; and Canadian goose (*Branta Canadensis*) brood concentration area, foraging area, production area, winter concentration, and winter range.

Animal species or indications of species were observed in the Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC. A couple of young mule deer were observed at Waypoint 33 in Echo Canyon. Deer tracks, scat, and antler shed were also observed within the unit. Evidence of beaver (*Castor canadensis*) chewed lumber was observed in the northeast unit at Waypoint 103.

Several reptilian species were observed within the unit as well. Waypoint 20 views a large docile rattlesnake (*Crotalus Linnaeus*) observed in East Gulch in Echo Canyon. An uncommonly seen smooth greensnake (*Opheodrys vernalis*) and an eastern fence lizard (*Sceloporus undulatus*) were observed atop Table Mountain at Waypoint 89 and Waypoint 93 respectively. A very interesting pink color morph coachwhip snake (*Masticophis flagellum*) was observed in the northeast unit at Waypoint 115. This snake adapted its unique color to blend in with the regional Pikes Peak granite.
There are exceptional scenic views from within the proposed LWC, given the high elevation of the unit and surrounding landscape. There are outstanding views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountain range to the south, as exemplified in Waypoint 84 atop Table Mountain looking over Little Hole and the unit interior, Waypoint 27 in Echo Canyon over an interior montane grassland, and in Waypoint 17 over Hindman Gulch in the southern portion of the unit. The Wet Mountain Range can also be viewed to the south. Pikes Peak can be seen to the northeast from Table Mountain, as viewed in Waypoint 97 (right). The iconic Royal Gorge can also be viewed from Table Mountain, as seen in Waypoint 88.

Table Mountain itself is a distinguishable scenic feature, given the large high elevation plateau that extends well above the surrounding area, as profiled from Table Mountain in Waypoints 74 and 83, and Little Hole in Waypoint 66.

There are historical buildings and structures in the proposed LWC as well, adding supplemental value to the unit. In Echo Canyon, there is a historic corral located at Waypoint 43. Note the adult pinyon pine that has grown in the middle of a historic rail cart in the forefront of this photopoint. Just south of here in Echo Canyon is a historic cabin at Waypoint 44.

The 31,600 acre proposed LWC is also noteworthy for its disparate geological features. Much of the unit is comprised of some of the oldest rock in Colorado – granite and granodiorite – from the Early (and Middle) Proterozoic Eon. A unique geological feature – a large pronounced granite dome – can be viewed in Waypoint 15, where Hindman Gulch opens up in the southern portion of the unit. The southern and western portions of the unit introduce felsic gneiss and mafic gneiss, also from the Early Proterozoic Eon.

However much of Table Mountain, Echo Canyon, and Little Hole represent a much younger geological age, from the Tertiary period. Echo Canyon is primarily comprised of sandstone and conglomerate. Waypoint 23 views a rare ash deposit from a gulch in Echo Canyon. Volcanic rock begins to dominate the upper portions of Echo Canyon, as well as the majority of Table Mountain and Little Hole. Hoodoos and pinnacles in the volcanic canyon rock can be viewed in northern Echo Canyon, as exampled in Waypoint 29. This section primarily consists of andesite and tuff, which also makes up most of Little Hole and areas leading up to Table Mountain on both sides – north and south. Otherwise Table Mountain is made up of ash-flow tuff, basalt, and tuff.

The easternmost section of the proposed LWC introduces completely different geology – sandstone, mudstone, shale, limestone, and clastic – from the Cretaceous and Jurassic periods.
The very easternmost portion of the LWC also reveals gravel and alluvium from the Quaternary period, the youngest and most recently recognized geological periods. The above geological data was obtained from the United States Geological Survey’s (USGS) Mineral Resources on-line spatial data, selected for Colorado’s geology.

Summary Conclusion

Based on Wild Connections’ extensive on-the-ground inventories, the Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC qualifies as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC) in accordance with BLM’s Manual 6310. This unit far exceeds the 5,000 contiguous roadless acreage minimum as the proposed LWC offers more than 31,600 contiguous roadless acres, the largest BLM contiguous roadless area in the Royal Gorge Field Office (RGFO) region. Given the size of the unit, lack of significant human impacts, disparate topography, diverse ecosystems, and abundant wildlife, the Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC offers outstanding wilderness characteristics - including apparent naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. This unit is also supported by several supplemental values that contribute to designating it Land with Wilderness Characteristics.

The boundaries identified by the BLM generally align with Wild Connection’s inventory. As documented in the boundary delineation section, Wilderness Inventory Roads (WIR) have been designated boundary roads or removed from the unit as cherrystem roads. Larger human impacts – prospecting sites, concentrated motorized use areas, and the communications tower – have also been excluded from the unit so as not to affect the natural integrity of the overall unit.

Wild Connections’ inventories revealed that this unit does possess wilderness characteristics, as opposed to the BLM report, which discounted it due to the accumulation of minor human impacts affecting naturalness. The BLM inventory report however did not provide sufficient evidence to support these claims, nor took into account the vast 31,600 contiguous acre unit as a whole, neglecting to acknowledge the overwhelming naturalness features that dominate the majority of the unit.

As documented in this report, much of the proposed LWC consists of untrammeled wilderness, with the minor human impacts largely out of view. As documented, vegetated routes, fences, gates, signs, rangeland management, vegetative treatment projects, and historical structures were observed within the unit. These are minor human impacts, consistent with BLM Manual 6310, as the natural integrity and the apparent naturalness of the proposed LWC in total are not compromised.

Wild Connections’ on-the-ground (and aerial) inventory has documented the necessary boundaries as well as the wilderness characteristics within the unit. This overview provides new information, including narrative, photo, and geo data, and supporting maps, documenting that the approximately 31,600 acre Table Mountain, Echo Canyon proposed LWC meets wilderness criteria. This area possesses Lands with Wilderness Characteristic status and its wilderness

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values should be protected and preserved. It is imperative that the BLM recognize and protect these values in their land management decisions, so that these unique and abundant wilderness qualities are sustained.
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon Proposed LWC Waypoints

The following photographs correspond with the numbered Waypoints on the above Table Mountain map and may be referred to in the report narrative describing the wilderness characteristics. The direction of view (16 point Cardinal) is indicated in the bolded caption. Below this is a short description of the photo, with the referenced page number(s) in parenthesis.

The photos are also watermarked with the direction (degrees and cardinal) in the top right, date and time in the bottom right, elevation in the bottom center, and the latitude and longitude in the bottom left.

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (1) - N
Southwest boundary, BLM 6060 at Union Pacific Railroad (p. 8)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (2) - N
BLM 6060 at cherrystem road BLM T6065 (p. 8)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (3) - NE
Naturalness of western unit, private mine site excluded from unit (p. 16)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (4) - NNW
BLM 6060 at BLM T6061A in Bull Gulch; T6061A becomes western boundary (p. 8)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (5) - N
Private mine road, locked and gated, off of BLM 6060; private road and mine are removed from unit (p. 8)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (6) - NW
Densely vegetated East Gulch in western unit (p. 14)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (7) - S
Closed route being reclaimed by nature, off cherrystem road BLM 6060 (p. 8)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (9) - N
End of cherrystem BLM 6060 at “No Motor Vehicles” sign (p. 8)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (8) - SW
Closed route at cherrystem road BLM 6060 (p. 8)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (10) - SW
Old prospecting site and route at end of BLM 6060, will be removed with BLM 6060 cherrystem road (p. 8, 16)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (12) - NNW
BLM 6040 at BLM 6040A on West Table Mountain, 6040A becomes western boundary (p. 8)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (13) - NNW
Pinyon-juniper woodland, oak scrubland in steep rocky Hindman Gulch, common topography and vegetation in southern unit (p. 13)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (14) - E
Old water trough now filled with vegetation, in Hindman Gulch (p. 15)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (15) - NNW
Unique geological feature, pronounced granite dome, from Hindman Gulch (p. 20)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (16) - NNW
Outstanding opportunity for hiking in Hindman Gulch (p. 14,17)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (17) - SSW
Scenic view of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains over Hindman Gulch in the southern unit (p. 20)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (18) - NNE
View of Table Mountain and Echo Canyon from southern overlook (p. 15)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (19) - SE
Excellent opportunity for solitude in East Gulch, vegetative and topographic screening (p. 16)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (20) - SSW
Large docile rattlesnake observed in East Gulch in Echo Canyon (p. 19)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (21) - N
BLM inventoried route appears as natural gulch on the ground (p. 10)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (22) - NNW
BLM inventoried gulch appears natural in Echo Canyon (p. 10)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (23) - NE
Unique geological feature, rare ash deposit in Echo Canyon (p. 20)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (24) - NNE
Revegetated former route in Echo Canyon (p. 10)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (25) - NNW
Former route in Echo Canyon shows indications of blading (p. 10)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (26) - NNE
Route CO-020-059-J dissipates in northern Echo Canyon (p. 10)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (27) - SSW
Sangre de Cristo Mountains over interior montane grassland in northern Echo Canyon (p. 14,20)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (28) - NNW
Revegetated route north from grassland in Echo Canyon (p. 10)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (29) - NW
Unique geological features, volcanic rock hoodoos and pinnacles in northern Echo Canyon (p. 20)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (30) - S
View of naturalness in western Echo Canyon from lookout in northern unit (p. 10,15)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (31) - S
View of naturalness in Echo Canyon and unit interior from lookout in northern unit (p. 10,15)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (32) - NNE
Revegetated junction at CO-020-059-J (p. 10)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (33) - S
Two young mule deer observed in Echo Canyon (p. 19)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (34) - SW
Former prospecting pit at end of revegetated route in Echo Canyon (p. 15)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (35) - SSE
BLM inventoried CO-020-059-J almost completely recaptured by nature (p. 10)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (36) - N
Revegetated junction at CO-020-059-J
(p. 10)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (38) - NNE
CO-020-059-E shows considerable revegetation once it enters Echo Canyon (p. 9)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (37) - NW
Nature has reclaimed route north from BLM inventoried CO-020-059-J (p. 10)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (39) - N
“Big Hole Livestock – Wildlife Exclusion” area in northeast Echo Canyon off of route CO-020-059-E
(p. 9,15)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (40) - NNE
CO-020-059-E administrative route from Table Mountain to Echo Canyon (p. 9)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (41) - S
Indications of former vegetative treatment – roller chopping – in Echo Canyon (p. 15)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (42) - S
CO-020-059-E nearly recaptured by nature in Echo Canyon (p. 9)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (43) - SE
Historic corral in Echo Canyon; pinyon pine growing amid historic rail cart (p. 20)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (44) - S
Historic cabin provides supplemental value in Echo Canyon (p. 20)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (45) - SSE
Riparian vegetation in East Gulch in Echo Canyon (p. 14)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (47) - NNE
CO-020-019-D, administrative route atop Table Mountain, from private property (p. 9)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (48) - WSW
View of Echo Canyon and interior unit from Table Mountain (p. 10,15)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (49) - SW
CO-020-019-D revegetated atop Table Mountain at fence line (p. 9, 14)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (50) - NNW
Little Hole Reservoir and earthen dam at CO-020-019-D (p. 14)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (51) - ESE
Revegetated intersection at CO-020-019-D (p. 10)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (52) - WSW
View of overall naturalness in Big Hole and unit interior, from Table Mountain (p. 10, 15)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (54) - ESE
Route junction at CO-020-019-D being reclaimed by naturalness (p. 10)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (55) - NNW
View of route CO-020-059-E descending into Echo Canon from Table Mountain (p. 9)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (56) - ESE
Route CO-020-019-D completely dissipates shortly before communications tower (p. 9)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (57) - WSW
Communications tower in Little Hole, removed with route CO-020-019-D (p. 9,14)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (58) - SW
Route reclaimed by nature past the communications tower (p. 9)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (59) - SSE
Small vegetation project atop Table Mountain in Little Hole (p. 14)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (60) - E
Little Hole Reservoir 2 and earthen dam in Little Hole (p. 14)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (61) - SSW
Intersection reclaimed by nature in Little Hole (p. 11)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (62) - SE
Revegetated route in Little Hole, montane grassland common on Table Mountain (p. 11,13)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (64) - ESE
BLM inventoried route completely recaptured by nature in Little Hole (p. 11)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (63) - ENE
Route reclaimed by nature in Little Hole, view of Table Mountain plateau and unit interior (p. 11)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (65) - SSW
Unnamed earthen dam in Little Hole (p. 14)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (66) - E
View of Table Mountain, Little Hole, and unit interior, displaying overwhelming naturalness (p. 11,14,20)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (67) - NW
Primitive campsite in Little Hole; excellent opportunity for backpacking (p. 17)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (68) - SE
Water trough and spring at BLM inventoried CO-020-059-C (p. 14)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (69) - SE
View of naturalness found in Little Hole and unit interior (p. 11,14)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (70) - E
Revegetated route junction with cattle guard at BLM inventoried CO-020-059-C (p. 11,14)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (71) - NNW
Junction for revegetated cut-and-fill spur route at CO-020-059-C (p.10)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (72) - N
Water trough and spring from CO-020-059-C spur route (p. 14)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (73) - SW
Cattle guard on CO-020-059-C, descending into Little Hole from Table Mountain (p. 10,14)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (74) - E  
Profile of Table Mountain plateau  
(p. 20)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (76) - SW  
Small water tank and trough off 
CO-020-059-C in northern unit (p. 14)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (77) - S  
Northern administrative access for BLM 
CO-020-059-C from private property (p. 10)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (75) - SSE  
View of naturalness in Little Hole and interior unit 
from atop Table Mountain (p. 11,14)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (78) - E
Administrative route CO-020-059-B, cherrystem route from private property (p. 11)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (80) - WSW
BLM High Mesa Grasslands Instant Study Area, Route CO-020-059-B removed from unit to ISA (p. 11)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (79) - SE
CO-020-059-B does not show regular or continuous use atop Table Mountain (p. 11)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (81) - ESE
View of BLM High Mesa Grasslands (aka "Sommerville Table) Instant Study Area atop Table Mountain (p. 17)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (82) - S
View of Little Hole, unit interior, and the Arkansas Canyonlands from the High Mesa Grasslands ISA (p. 14)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (83) - SE
Scenic view of Table Mountain plateau and the Arkansas River Canyonlands (p. 20)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (84) - SSW
Scenic view of Sangre de Cristo Mountains over Little Hole and the proposed LWC (p. 19)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (85) - S
Small earthen dam – “Table CD2” – atop Table Mountain (p. 15)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (86) - SSE
Aerial view of the vast untouched SE section of the proposed LWC (p. 16)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (87) - WNW
Route east from ISA shows a complete lack of use, and substantial revegetation (p. 12)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (88) - NNW
Scenic view of the iconic Royal Gorge, from east Table Mountain (p. 20)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (89) - NE
Uncommonly seen smooth greensnake observed on Table Mountain (p. 19)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (90) - ESE
Route junction for BLM inventoried CO-020-019-0 south toward Parkdale State Land Trust block (p. 12)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (91) - NNE
CO-020-019-0 has almost completely been reclaimed by nature (p. 12)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (92) - SSE
Earthen dam observed off of revegetated route CO-020-019-0 (p. 15)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (93) - N
Eastern fence lizard observed on a boulder on Table Mountain (p. 19)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (94) - ESE
Dense vegetation leading to Table Mountain, ponderosa pine and Colorado blue spruce begin to mix into the woodland-scrubland vegetation (p. 13)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (95) - WNW
Outstanding opportunity for solitude on revegetated route leading up Table Mountain (p. 12,16)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (96) - W
The rocky upslopes become more vegetated as elevation increases, as evidenced leading up to Table Mountain (p. 13)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (97) - NNE
Scenic view of Pikes Peak to the northeast, from Table Mountain (p. 20)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (98) - ESE
Route east from ISA is heavily overgrown and recaptured by nature (p. 12)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (99) - WSW
Route to Table Mountain and ISA shows considerable revegetation shortly from private property (p. 12)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (100) - E
Route to Table Mountain at eastern boundary, Parkdale Quarry private property (p. 12)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (101) - SE
Begin northern boundary, BLM inventoried CO-020-019-A, at northeast unit (p. 12)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (102) - SW
High elevation mixed forests are common on Table Mountain’s N facing slopes (p. 13)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (103) - ESE
Beaver chewed lumber in northeast unit (p. 19)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (104) - NE
Dense vegetation in Tallahassee Creek in northeast unit (p. 14)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (106) - S
Pinyon-juniper woodland – oak scrubland cover much of the unit’s lower elevations (p. 13)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (107) - SSE
New Hope Amethyst Claim at northern boundary road BLM 5895, removed from unit (p. 16)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (109) - SSW
Unmarked route to private property, removed from unit as a cherrystem (p. 12)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (110) - SSE
End boundary road BLM 5895 at a barbed wire fence line with gate in northeast unit (p. 12)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (111) - SW
Route CO-020-059-P south from BLM 5895 (p. 12)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (112) - S
Excellent opportunity for hiking in the northeast proposed LWC (p. 17)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (113) - SSE
CO-020-059-P has almost completely been reclaimed by nature (p. 12)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (114) - WSW
Aquatic vegetation in Currant Creek in northeast unit (p. 14)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (115) - SSE
Unique pink color morph coachwhip snake, adapted color to blend in with Pikes Peak granite (p. 19)
Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (116) - NNE
BLM CO-020-059-P reclaimed by nature (p. 12)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (117) - SE
BLM CO-0202-059-P at eastern boundary fence line and gate for Parkdale Quarry private property (p. 12)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (118) - SW
Route west from private property gate (p. 12)

Table Mountain, Echo Canyon (119) - WNW
Route west disappears shortly into naturalness of interior unit (p. 12)