

WORKSHEET 1 – Wilderness Qualities or Attributes
Evaluating the Effects of Project Activities on Wilderness Attributes

Date:	09/05/2014
Roadless Area:	The following descriptions of effects on conducting gather activities apply to each of the following IRAs within the gather area. IRAs include: Devils Gate, South Fork Quinn, East Fork Quinn, Staunton Ridge, Steward Basin, Chicken Springs and Groundhog.

Description of Project Activity or Impact to Roadless Area:
Fort McDermitt Horse Removal Project Use of Helicopter and mounted riders to herd domestic horses to traps and remove them to holding facilities off NFS lands.

Effect to Wilderness Quality or Attributes			
Wilderness Quality or Attribute (Note: delete attribute descriptions after data is entered to save space if desired.)	Is there an effect? Yes or No	Which direction is the effect? Improving, Stable or Degrading?	Describe the actual effect. Use descriptive terms that discuss the effect, not the activity. May use GIS layers (ROS, SMS, Roads, etc...) to quantify effects.
<p>Untrammeled This quality monitors modern human activities that directly control or manipulate the components or processes of ecological systems inside wilderness. In summary, <i>wilderness is essentially unhindered and free from modern human control or manipulation.</i> A measure of the actions taken to hinder, manipulate, or control the long-term natural ecological processes of the area. Address this attribute by describing the management actions included in your project activities that would alter the natural processes in the area.</p>	Yes, short-term	Stable	Helicopter operations will be managed off NFS lands (fueling, staging) and any vehicle operations would be kept to existing roads and motorized trails. There will be two short-term trap sites/holding pastures located on the boundary of Devils Gate IRA. These sites will consist of temporary corrals which will be removed following gather activities. The presence of this facility would change the untrammeled character of the IRAs in the short-term only. Once gather activities are concluded, no evidence of the activity will remain to permanently alter the untrammeled character of the IRAs.
<p>Natural This quality monitors both intended and unintended effects of modern people on ecological systems inside wilderness since the time the area was designated. In summary, <i>wilderness ecological systems are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization.</i> A measure of past and proposed activities on the natural conditions of the area. It describes the extent to which human</p>	No	Stable	Gather activities across the IRAs will not alter the apparent naturalness of the IRAs. No ground disturbing activities are involved with the gather, and its ecological systems are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization. This site will consist of temporary corrals which will be removed following gather activities.

<p>influences alter natural processes and conditions away from what one would otherwise expect. This is a measure of the degree of environmental modification that will occur because of your project. Address this attribute by describing the extent of modification that will occur in the wilderness area Consider existing scenic integrity and ROS layers.</p>				
<p>Undeveloped This quality monitors the presence of structures, construction, habitations, and other evidence of modern human presence or occupation. In summary, <i>wilderness is essentially without permanent improvements or modern human occupation.</i> A measure of the present day physical indicators such as the presence and development level of trails, campsites, structures and facilities as well as the use of motorized equipment, mechanical transport, landing of aircraft, etc. used for administrative purposes. It is an indicator of what the visitor will experience in a setting that is removed from the sights and sounds of civilization and mechanization located inside the wilderness. Address this attribute by describing the extent of modification (i.e. structures required, motorized equipment use, etc.) that will occur during the projects duration or resulting after the project is finished. Consider using ROS maps layers.</p>	No	Stable	Effects are similar as to what was described for the Untrammelled characteristic. There are no permanent improvements or structures. Once gather activities are concluded and the temporary trap sites removed, no evidence of the activity will remain to permanently alter the undeveloped character of the IRAs.	
<p>Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation This quality monitors conditions that affect the opportunity for people to experience solitude or primitive, unconfined recreation in a wilderness setting, rather than monitoring visitor experiences <i>per se</i>. In summary, <i>wilderness provides outstanding opportunities for people to experience solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, including the values of</i></p>	<p>Solitude - Described as opportunities to experience solitude, or the isolation from the sights and sounds of management activities inside wilderness, the presence of others. . Solitude is measured by considering the presence of screening, distance from impacts to the rest of the area, mitigation measures such as the timing of disturbances. Address solitude by discussing how the project activities affect the ability of a visitor to escape project impacts on solitude within the area. Consider linking to ROS mapping for size and remoteness criteria for Primitive and SPMN.</p>	Yes, short-term	Stable	Solitude will be affected in the short-term by the use of helicopters and truck traffic along roads on the edge of or within any of the IRA's.
	<p>Opportunities for Primitive Recreation -A measure of the experiences available without the developments and to feel a part of nature, with a high degree of challenge and</p>	Yes, short-term	Stable	Because helicopter operations will occur anywhere within the gather area, this proposed action would have the potential to affect an individual's perception of the opportunity for primitive recreation while helicopter operations are being conducted in airspace above or near the IRAs. This effect would be of short duration, and cease once helicopter operations leave the airspace above/near the IRAs.

<p><i>inspiration and physical and mental challenge</i></p>	<p>reliance on outdoor skills rather than facilities. Address this attribute by describing how the project activities might affect, the number and type of opportunities available, the challenge of the opportunities, and the addition or absence of facilities.</p>			
<p>Special Features (Ecological, Geologic, Scientific, Educational, Scenic or Historical Values) An attribute that recognizes that wilderness may contain other values of ecological, geologic, scientific, educational, scenic or historical or cultural significance. Unique fish and wildlife species, unique plants or plant communities, potential or existing research natural areas, outstanding landscape features, and significant cultural resource sites should all be considered as types of values that might exist. Identify any of these values that exist within the project area. Address this attribute by describing the effect proposed activities would have on these values.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>There have been no special features identified in any of the IRAs; therefore, gather activities will have no effect to special features.</p>	
<p>Manageability (as Wilderness) A measure of the ability to manage an area to meet the size criteria (5,000 + acres), the resulting configuration of the potential wilderness, and the interaction of the other elements above. Changes in the shape of the Inventoried Roadless Area may have significant consequences to its wilderness potential. Consider also boundary management impacts such as changing wilderness boundaries to different terrain features or for how access would be provided if project activities cause adjustments in the Inventoried Roadless Area. Address this attribute by discussing how the proposed activities may affect the boundary location, the size, the shape, and the access to the area. Consider ROS mapping.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Taken as a whole, gather activities will have no lasting effect on any of the wilderness attributes, and will not alter the overall manageability of these IRAs</p>	

<p>Summary</p>	<p>Will the proposed project affect the areas suitability for wilderness designation?</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>If Yes, Explain how the project would affect wilderness suitability</p>
		<p>No</p>		<p>No. None of the IRAs, with the exception of a portion of the South Fork Quinn IRA was determined to be eligible for wilderness designation. Any effects will be short-term as described.</p>

WORKSHEET 2 – Roadless Area Characteristics
Evaluating the Effects of Project Activities on Roadless Area Characteristics

Date:	09/05/2014
Roadless Area:	The following descriptions of effects of conducting gather activities apply to each of the following IRAs within which the gather area lies. These IRAs include: Devils Gate, South Fork Quinn, South Fork Quinn, East Fork Quinn, Staunton Ridge, Steward Basin, and Groundhog. Where there are effects that apply to only specific IRA(s) that is noted.

Description of Project Activity or Impact to Roadless Area:
Fort McDermitt Horse Removal Project Use of Helicopter and mounted riders to herd domestic horses to traps and remove them to holding facilities off NFS lands.

Effect to Roadless Characteristics			
Roadless Characteristics	Is there an effect? Yes or No	Which direction is the effect? Improving, Stable or Degrading?	Describe the actual effect. Use descriptive terms that discuss the effect, not the activity. Explain if the proposal would Alter or Modify the landscape.
Soil, water and Air resources Identify any unique or critical watershed resources. Describe how the project will affect these key resources areas and the habitats that depend on them.	Yes	Vegetative vigor should improve. Soil cover should improve, particularly around water sources.	The only gather activity that has the potential to effect soil and water resources is the temporary trap sites that may be located on the boundary of Devils Gate IRA. If needed, these sites will consist of temporary corrals which will be removed following gather activities. Use of this facility would have a temporary negative effect on soil and water resources at that site. In the long run, soil and water resources should benefit from the removal of unauthorized horses and eliminating their overuse of the rangeland resources.
Sources of public drinking water Identify any public drinking water systems or sources within the project area or that would be affected by the project. Describe how the project would affect water quality and quantity of the public drinking water source.	No	Not applicable	There are no sources of public drinking water within any of the IRAs.

<p>Diversity of plant and animal communities Discuss the diversity of plant and animal communities. Identify any unique plant and animal communities within the area. Describe effects to the diversity of communities and impacts to populations in the areas.</p>	Yes	Improving for both vegetation and soils.	Gather activities will have no effect on resources. The removal of unauthorized horses from the landscape will have a beneficial effect on vegetation, soils, and habitat for riparian/sage dependent species as well as sage grouse.
<p>Habitat for TES and species dependent on large undisturbed areas of land Identify any TES or sensitive species within the Roadless area. Describe how the project would affect the habitats or populations and whether this effect is significant across the normal range and distribution of these habitats and populations.</p>	Yes	Improving	<p>The removal of domestic horses will improve the habitat for these species dependent on large undisturbed areas of land.</p> <p>Sage grouse</p> <p>Bighorn sheep</p> <p>LCT</p>
<p>Primitive and semi-primitive classes of recreation Describe current recreation opportunities within the Roadless area. Identify the effects of your project of the area and these activities. Describe the effect in terms of availability for similar experiences in surrounding areas or within the region of use. Consider link to ROS mapping.</p>	<p>Yes, short term</p> <p>No, long term</p>	degrading short-term	<p>Because helicopter operations may well occur anywhere within the gather area, this proposed action would have the potential to effect an individual's perception of the opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation while helicopter operations are being conducted in airspace above or near the IRAs. This effect would be of short duration, and cease once helicopter operations leave the airspace above/near the IRAs.</p> <p>South Fork Quinn has 1,420 acres (4%) of 35,504 acres as the only IRA with Primitive ROS setting. This IRA has remote areas with steep challenge and risk to obtain dispersed camping, packing, and hiking opportunities. No trailheads are identified on the forest visitor map for all IRA's, so it's probable that only local recreationists know of these dispersed opportunities.</p> <p>The other IRA's have a close percentage mixture of SPM and SPNM acreage. OHV trails are prominent throughout these remaining IRA's.</p>
<p>Reference landscapes for research study</p>	No	Not applicable	<p>No reference landscapes have been identified in the Devils Gate IRA. Gather activities will have no effect on this situation. South Fork Quinn,</p>

<p>or interpretation Describe the landscape that is present. Describe any unique reference landscapes that exist within the Roadless area. Describe how the project activities might affect the reference landscape values of the Roadless area. Consider how the landscapes within the Inventoried Roadless area fits within the broader landscape and if the project creates any overall change. Consider landscape character descriptions in SMS.</p>			<p>East Fork Quinn, Staunton Ridge, and Steward Basin 1-04, and Groundhog 1-05 IRAs have been altered by invasive species and frequent fires; there are no reference landscapes within them. Gather activities will have no effect on this situation.</p>
<p>Landscape character and integrity Describe the current scenic quality and character of the area. Describe project effects to the scenic integrity of the area and changes to the character of the area. Consider existing scenic integrity.</p>	Yes	Improving	<p>Gather activities will not alter the scenic quality of any of the IRAs. Removal of unauthorized horses should result in improved vegetative and soil cover. Water sources currently being overused, resulting in bare ground, will recover over time once the overgrazing by horses ceases. The scenic integrity will be restored over time in these areas.</p>
<p>Traditional cultural properties and sacred sites Identify generically any significant cultural resources within the Roadless area and describe the effect of the project on these resources. Typically mitigation will be designed to prevent significant effects to these resources.</p>	No	Not applicable	<p>No traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been identified within any of the IRAs. Consequently, there will be effect to such properties or sites.</p>
<p>Other locally unique characteristics Identify any locally unique characteristics and describe how the project would affect these values.</p>	No	Not applicable	<p>Gather activities will have no effect on any locally unique characteristics, as none of the IRAs have any locally unique characteristics. The IRAs are typical of the surrounding landscape.</p>