### Uncompahgre Field Office

## Wilderness Study Area Monitoring

Observer Name: Melanie Rees

Date of Observation: 4.11.22 Time of Day (approx.): noon – 2:30

Name of Unit (circle one): Adobe Badlands WSA; Camel Back WSA; Dolores River Canyon WSA; Sewemup Mesa WSA; Needle Rock WSA; Tabeguache Area;

Type of Patrol: [ ]  vehicle (boundary road) [x]  hiking/horse

Point of Access (e.g. along Devil’s Thumb road; from Bedrock boat ramp):

Roubideau Canyon Rd.

How Much Was Monitored? (e.g., two miles of the western boundary of Adobe Badlands WSA along Alkali Basin Road, Roubideau Canyon from parking area to private parcel in Camelback WSA, ¼ mile of the rim of Wray Mesa overlooking Dolores River Canyon WSA, etc.):

Roubideau, Winter Mesa and Potter Creek trailheads. Creeks flow too high/swift for safe crossing.

CPW staff reported that the gate leading up Roubideau Canyon to the Winter Mesa Trail was still closed and locked!

General Observations:

Vehicles are disturbing additional terrain and expanding the parking area approaching Potter Canyon trailhead. Measures to contain use to a smaller, more defined area, through perhaps through signs, boulders or fencing contain damage while still providing ample space for parking, turning around and camping.

Far less trash was found compared to April 2021.

The impacts of cattle are significant in the riparian area along Potter Creek.

Number of People/Vehicles Observed: people 15 vehicles \_\_\_7\_\_\_ Figures include 9 members of Great Old Broads for Wilderness and two CPW staff who were conduction research in Roubideau Creek just upstream of its confluence with Potter Creek.

Boundary Signs Present? Yes [x]  No [ ]  Sign Condition (if present): good; fair; poor; damaged

Location of sign (description or coordinates):

The boundary sign at the Potter Creek trailhead was lying face down on the pile of rocks that secures it. The sign was replaced but installation of a post to secure the sign is suggested.

Problem(s) Present? Yes [x]  No [ ]  Not sure [ ]

Description of Problem (trash dump, vehicle intrusion, recent wood cutting, etc.):

The carpet and carpet padding that had been dumped near the Potter Creek trailhead prior to the Feb 20th monitoring (photos previously provided) were still there.

Vehicles had traveled up the Potter Creek trail a short distance past the down boundary sign but had been stopped by impassable terrain.

Observed Damage to Cultural Resources or T&E Species? Yes [ ]  No [x]  Not sure [ ]

If “yes” or “not sure,” please describe:

Email photos of violations or other notable observations, preferably with GPS coordinates, date, direction photo was taken, and written description of what is in the photo to rlewis@blm.gov, along with monitoring form.