

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS REVIEW

Date of Submission: *December 30, 2003*

Date(s) of Field Office Review: *December, 2006- February, 2007*

Submitter: *SUWA*

Name of Area to be Reviewed: *Coyote Wash*

BLM Field Office(s) Affected: *Moab*

EVALUATION

1.) Was new information submitted by a member of the public for this area?

YES _____. NO X .

2.) If new information was submitted, describe the submission. For example, did the submission include a map that identifies the specific boundaries of the area(s) in question; a narrative that describes the wilderness characteristics of the area and documents how that information differs from the information gathered and reviewed in prior BLM inventories; photographic documentation; etc?

The area reviewed was derived from a GIS Data Layer provided by the proponent. New information such as maps, photographs, or narratives were not included.

3. As a result of interdisciplinary review of relevant information (which may include aerial photographs, state and county road information, road maintenance agreements, documentation from prior BLM inventories, field observations, maps, master title plats, evidence presented as new information by a proponent, etc.), do you conclude:

X a) the decision reached in previous BLM inventories that the area lacks wilderness characteristics is still valid.

(or)

_____ b) some or all of the area has wilderness characteristics as shown on the attached map.

4. Describe your findings regarding specific wilderness characteristics and provide detailed rationale.

See attached narrative

5. Document all information considered during the interdisciplinary team review (e.g. aerial photographs, state and county road information, road maintenance agreements, documentation from prior BLM inventories, field observations, maps, master title plats, evidence presented as new information by a proponent, etc.)

During the course of the interdisciplinary team review, Moab BLM undertook the following steps:

In late 2006 and early 2007, BLM used GIS information to identify potential impacts on naturalness including county road data (previously verified as part of travel plan formulation), and local BLM GIS data on range improvements, oil and gas wells, vegetative manipulations (especially chainings), and community pits. Master Title Plat data available from the State Office GIS was examined for rights-of-way.

BLM Moab next undertook a detailed review of high resolution aerial photos from 2006 to both verify information from the GIS review, as well as to look for additional impacts not incorporated in GIS. These impacts could include such things as seismic exploration lines not included in the county road inventory and other disturbances from past minerals activities.

The above steps enabled Moab BLM to prepare a map showing what remaining areas were likely to possess naturalness. As described in the attached narrative, most of this unit acreage is marked by a large number of roads and other impacts, mostly from past uranium mining activities. The only lands in the unit appearing generally natural are located in the center of the unit, but are of insufficient size to possess wilderness characteristics.

Moab BLM convened an interdisciplinary review team meeting on January 11, 2007, to review the findings from the above steps. Team members were asked to provide information which either supported or refuted these findings, based on both specialized resource expertise and field experience. Based on input from this review, Moab BLM incorporated any necessary changes into its analysis.

The following specific documents and files were utilized:

- 1 San Juan County road inventory*
- 2 Lisbon range allotment file*
- 3 NAIP 2006 aerial photos (GIS)*
- 4 Vegetative treatments (local GIS)*
- 5 Range improvements (local GIS)*
- 6 UWC Proposed Wilderness GIS Data Layer (2005)*

6. List the members of the interdisciplinary team and resource specialties represented.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Resource(s) Represented</i>
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<i>Name</i>	<i>Resource(s) Represented</i>
<i>Bill Stevens</i>	<i>Wilderness, GIS, Recreation</i>
<i>Ann Marie Aubry</i>	<i>Hydrology, Soils</i>
<i>Brent Northrup</i>	<i>Minerals, RMP Team Lead</i>
<i>Chad Niehaus</i>	<i>Recreation</i>
<i>Daryl Trotter</i>	<i>Botany, NEPA coordinator</i>
<i>Donna Turnipseed</i>	<i>Cultural, Paleontology</i>
<i>Katie Stevens</i>	<i>Recreation, Planning</i>
<i>Lynn Jackson</i>	<i>Geology, Minerals, Associate FO Manager</i>
<i>Pam Riddle</i>	<i>Wildlife</i>
<i>David Williams</i>	<i>Range</i>
<i>Maggie Wyatt</i>	<i>Field Office Manager</i>

Field Office Manager /s/ Maggie Wyatt

Date 3/9/07

This determination is part of an interim step in BLM's internal decision-making process and does not constitute a decision that can be appealed.

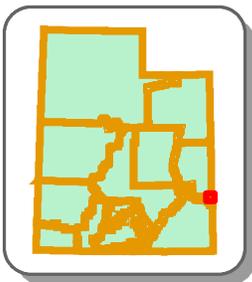
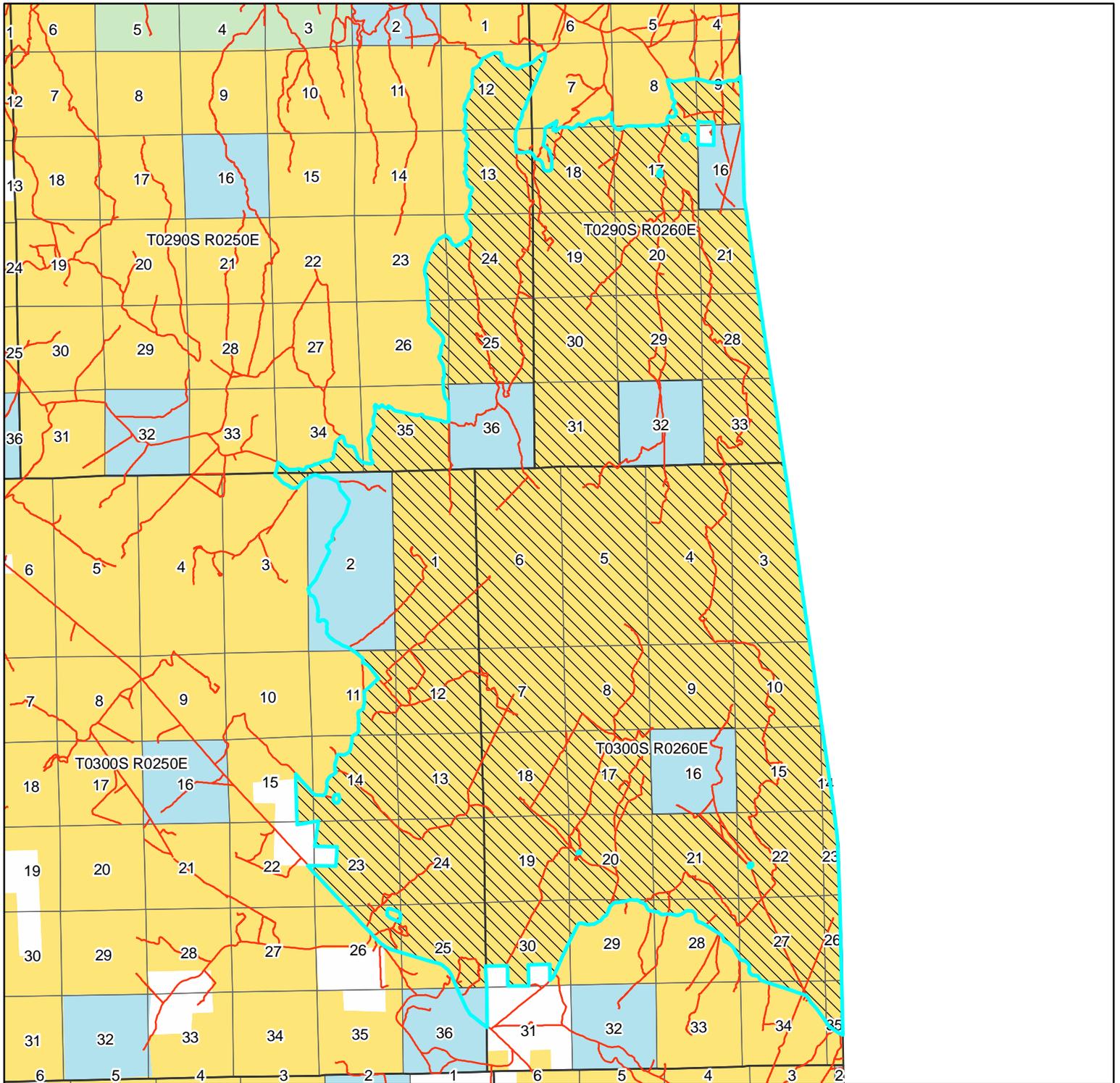
Analysis of Citizens' Proposals for Wilderness Characteristics

Coyote Wash

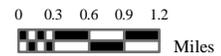
The Citizens' Proposal is a stand-alone unit along the Colorado state line; it is in the southeast corner of the Moab Field Office.

To possess wilderness characteristics, lands must possess naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. According to the 1964 Wilderness Act, these outstanding opportunities generally require a land mass of 5000 acres or more. An exception to this are those lands which adjoin other lands already judged to possess wilderness characteristics, as the opportunities need be present *somewhere* in the larger unit. In the case of Coyote Wash, the proposed area does not adjoin any other area evaluated as possessing wilderness characteristics. As such, it must possess such characteristics on its own.

Coyote Wash does not have wilderness characteristics. Coyote Wash includes lands that have been heavily impacted by past mining activities, especially during the uranium boom of the past century. The area is riddled with substantially noticeable mining routes, mining-associated disturbances, and seismic exploration lines. The San Juan County road inventory, verified by BLM, indicates approximately 76 miles of interior routes on public lands within the proposal area. Aerial photographs from 2006 indicate many more miles of constructed routes above and beyond the County inventory. The only portion of the area not completely bisected by substantially noticeable routes lies in the approximate center of the unit. As shown in the attached aerial photos, the areas encompassed by photos 1 and 2 show numerous impacts. Only a portion of the area encompassed in photo 3 appears natural, but this area is of insufficient size to manage as a stand-alone unit.



1:103,452



Legend

— San Juan Co Identified Routes

Wilderness Characteristics Review

▨ NWC

▨ WC

Land Status

- ▨ Bureau of Land Management
- ▨ Military Reservations
- ▨ BLM Wilderness Area
- ▨ State Lands
- ▨ National Forest
- ▨ Private Lands
- ▨ National Park Service
- ▨ Water
- ▨ Indian Lands

CAUTION:
 Land ownership data is derived from less accurate data than the 1:24000 scale base map. Therefore, land ownership may not be shown for parcels smaller than 40 acres, and land ownership lines may have plotting errors due to source data.

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for the use of the data for purposes not intended by the BLM.

