

## 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: *Dead Horse Cliffs*

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:

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

(or)

X 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 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. In the case of Dead Horse Cliffs, several small parcels appear generally natural in appearance, but possess wilderness characteristics only in association with the larger WIA and/or NPS unit administratively endorsed for wilderness.*

*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, based on field and resource knowledge, which either supported or refuted these findings. 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 (GIS)*
2. *Potash, Big Flat-Ten Mile range allotment files*
3. *NAIP 2006 aerial photos (GIS)*
4. *Vegetative treatments (local GIS)*
5. *Range improvements (local GIS)*
6. *Canyonlands NP AE lands (GIS)*
7. *1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory file (Shafer Canyon)*
8. *UWC Proposed Wilderness GIS Data Layer (2005)*
9. *1999 Inventory Supplemental Files*
10. *2003 Revision Document*

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

<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, Planning</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 4/18/07

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

### Dead Horse Cliffs

The Citizens' Proposal for this area reviewed here involves acreage contiguous to the Shafer Canyon Wilderness Inventory Area (WIA) which was inventoried in the *1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory* or to National Park Service (NPS) lands administratively endorsed for wilderness.

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 Dead Horse Cliffs, no unit would be large enough to potentially qualify as a stand-alone unit; it could possess outstanding opportunities only by association with lands with wilderness character in the contiguous WIA or National Park.

The lands under consideration can be divided into 4 units (see accompanying map). Unit 3 adjoins that portion of the Shafer Canyon WIA found by BLM to lack wilderness characteristics in its 1999 inventory, and is not large enough to possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation when considered as a stand-alone unit. Unit 1, although containing several substantially noticeable routes, is contiguous with NPS-managed public lands that have been administratively endorsed for wilderness by the NPS. Therefore, the unit possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation in conjunction with NPS lands. Unit 2 appears natural in character and is contiguous to lands determined to have wilderness characteristics in the *1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory*. Therefore, Unit 2 has been determined to have wilderness characteristics.

Units 3 and 4 lack wilderness characteristics because they are separated from the rest of the unit by a substantially noticeable route (in the case of unit 3), and lands found to lack wilderness characteristics in the 1999 inventory (unit 4). Neither unit is large enough to possess wilderness characteristics as a stand-alone unit.

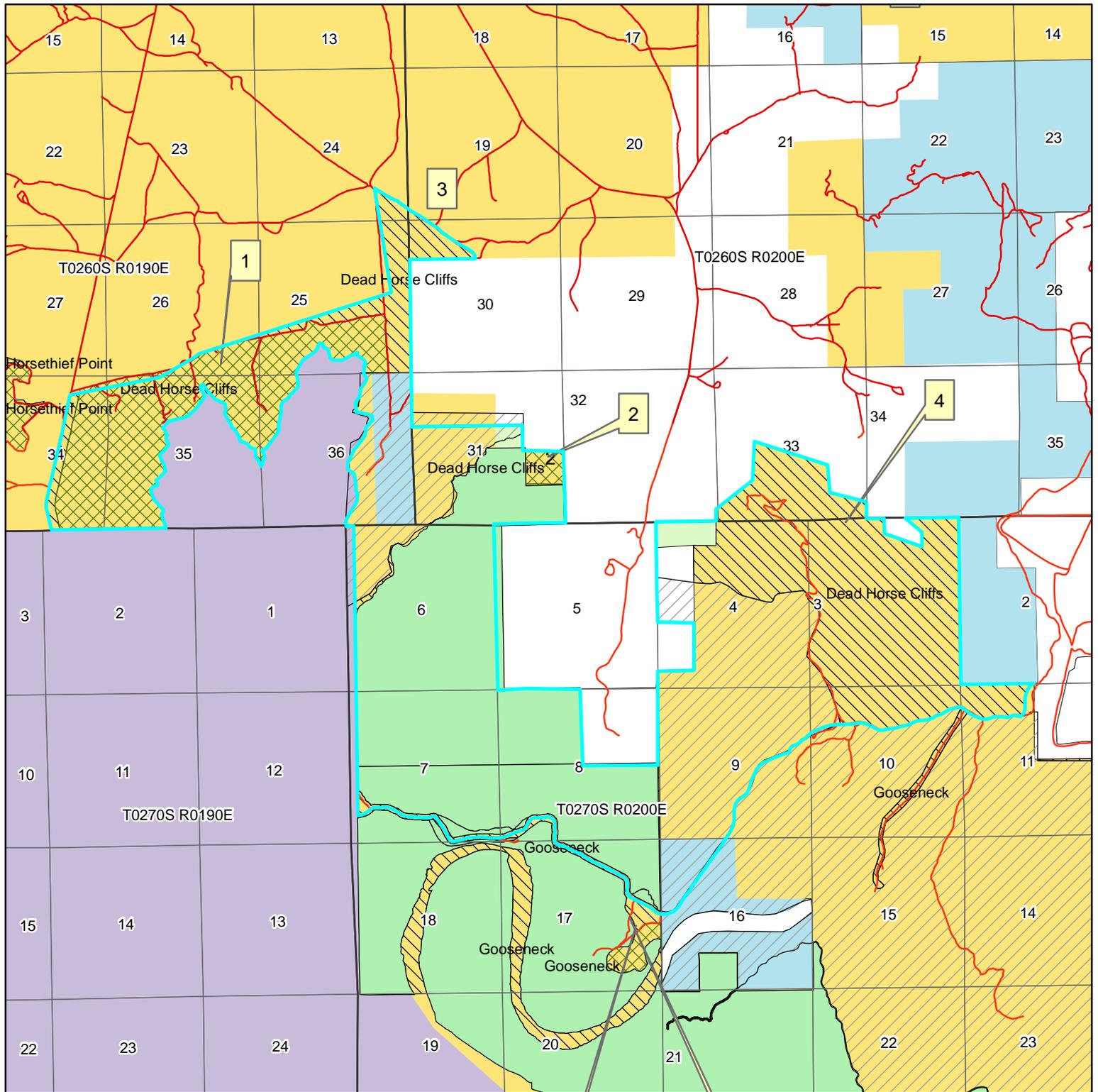
The following is a list by unit of acres of lands with wilderness characteristics:

Unit 1: 761 acres

Unit 2: 36 acres

Total: 797 acres

# Dead Horse Cliffs WCR Review



**Legend**

Grand Co Identified Routes	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	National Park Service (NPS)	State
Wilderness Characteristics Review	US Forest Service (USFS)	Indian Reservation (IR)	Private
NWC	WC	San Juan Co Identified Routes	1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory
Area under review	WC isolated by State	NWC	



United States Department of the Interior  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 Moab Field Office  
 Map created on Feb 22, 2007



**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.