

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: *Diamond Canyon*

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), county intrusion data, 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. Several smaller units within Diamond Canyon were cut off from the larger WSA or WIA by roads, other impacts or state lands. These were dropped from further consideration because they lacked sufficient size to possess wilderness characteristics as stand-alone units. In the case of Diamond Canyon, several parcels appear generally natural in appearance, but possess wilderness characteristics only in association with the larger WIA and/or WSA.

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 field experience and specialized resource knowledge. Based on input from this review, Moab BLM incorporated any necessary changes into its analysis.

The following specific documents and files were utilized:

1. Grand County road inventory (GIS)
2. Grand County intrusion data (GIS)
3. Cisco, Cisco Mesa, San Arroyo allotment files
4. NAIP 2006 aerial photos (GIS)
5. Vegetative treatments (local GIS)
6. Range improvements (local GIS)
7. 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory files (Coal Canyon, Spruce Canyon, Flume Canyon)
8. 2003 Wilderness Inventory revision document
9. UWC Proposed Wilderness GIS Data Layer (2005)

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

Name	Resource(s) Represented
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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 3/21/07

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

Diamond Canyon

The Citizens' Proposal to be reviewed for this area includes acreage contiguous to three Wilderness Study Areas (Coal Canyon, Spruce Canyon and Flume Canyon), and wilderness inventory areas (WIAs) associated with these WSA. The WIAs were inventoried in the *1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory*, and will not be reassessed here. For purposes of analysis, the lands to be reviewed are separated into a number of smaller units, as shown on the accompanying map. These units are either non-contiguous or bisected into smaller units by roads, other impacts and/or state lands.

To possess wilderness characteristics, lands must possess naturalness and either outstanding opportunities for solitude and/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.

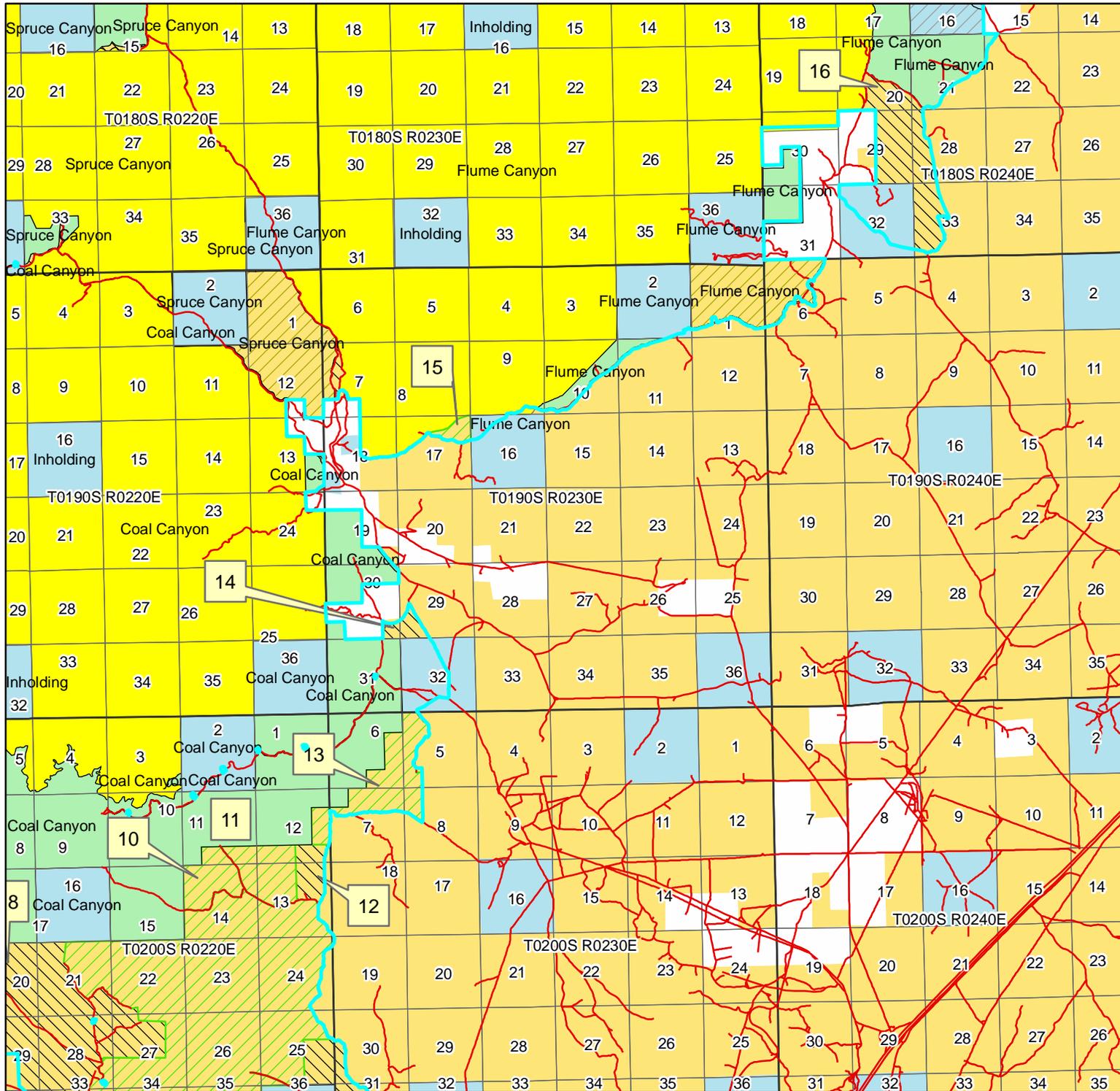
Units 1-4, 8, 12, 14 and 16 are separated from the WSAs or WIAs with wilderness characteristics by roads, other substantially noticeable impacts, or state lands, and are of insufficient size to possess wilderness characteristics as stand-alone units.

Units 5 and 6 are almost completely separated from the WSAs or WIAs with wilderness characteristics by roads; additionally, aerial photo review shows a large number of impacts from past minerals activities within these units. Unit 8 also shows impacts from past exploration activities, especially seismic lines; this unit also has several authorized stock ponds in the interior of the unit. Unit 6 is almost completely cut off from the Coal Canyon WIA by roads and state lands.

The remaining units (7, 9-11, 13, and 15) appear generally natural and are contiguous to either WSAs or WIAs with wilderness characteristics. With the exception of unit 9, these units are small and possess opportunities for primitive recreation or solitude only in association with the WIA or WSA.

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

Unit 7:	618 acres
Units 9-11:	6256 acres
Unit 13:	636 acres
Unit 15:	71 acres
Total:	7681 acres



1:119,458



Legend

- Grand Co Identified Routes
- Wilderness Study Area

1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory

- WC
- WC isolated by State
- NWC

Wilderness Characteristics Review

- NWC
- WC

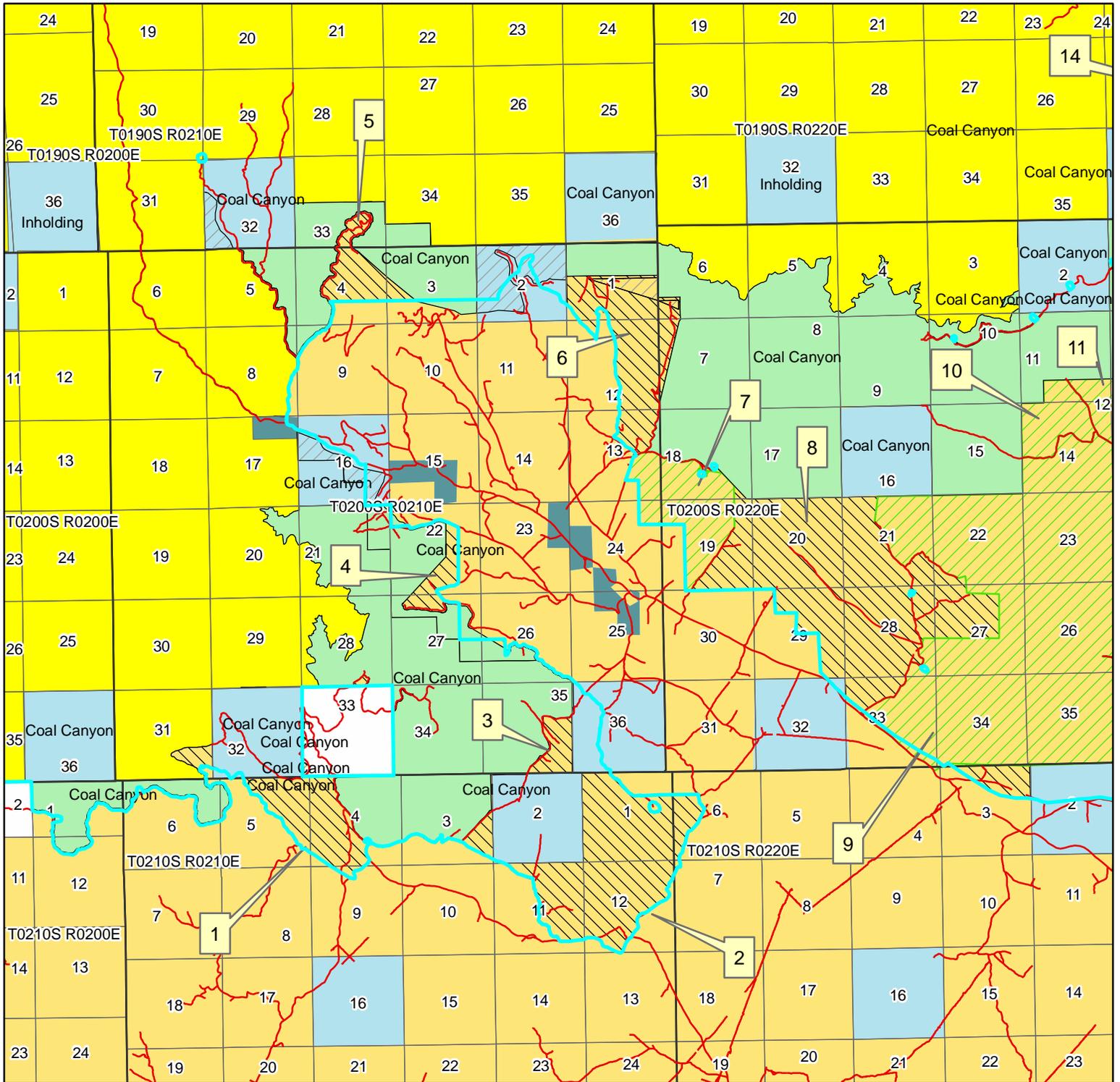
Land Status

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

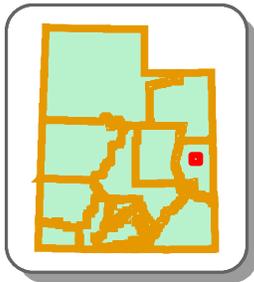
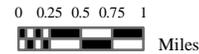
CAUTION:
Land ownership data is derived from less accurate data than the 1:24000 scale base map. Therefore, land ownership may not be shown for parcels smaller than 40 acres, and land ownership lines may have plotting errors due to source data.

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





1:96,980



Legend

- Grand Co Identified Routes
- Wilderness Study Area

1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory

- WC
- WC isolated by State
- NWC

Wilderness Characteristics Review

- NWC
- WC

Land Status

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