

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS REVIEW

Dates of Submissions: *January 22, 2002, December 30, 2003*

Date(s) of Field Office Review: *February, May, August-September 2002; December, 2006- February, 2007*

Submitter: *SUWA*

Name of Area to be Reviewed: *Dome Plateau*

BLM Field Office(s) Affected: *Moab*

EVALUATION

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

YES X . NO .

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?

Moab BLM first received new information from SUWA on January 22, 2002, which included maps, photos and a narrative. On December 30, 2003, BLM received a letter with the name of the proposed unit, and reference to America's Redrock Wilderness Act, proposed in Congress. No other information was presented; SUWA's submission said that specific information, including maps, photographs and analysis would be forthcoming. To date, Moab BLM has not received any of this information. A GIS-based map of the proposed unit was submitted to Utah BLM SO, and provides the basis for the area reviewed. This map differs from the January, 2002, submission in that it excludes the Yellow Bird proposed wilderness, which had been included in the earlier submission. The current map includes not only new acreage, but WSA and WIA acreage as well. Only the new acreage will be analyzed here; lands in the Yellow Bird proposal will be treated in a separate document under that name.

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 February, 2002, Moab BLM addressed only the acreage in Dome Plateau potentially affected by a proposed seismic project, but did not address specifically acreage lying outside the relatively small project area. Over the next several months, Moab BLM personnel undertook several field trips to examine the rest of the unit, anticipating that such a review would become necessary at some future time. The results of these trips (maps, logs, and photos) are in the administrative record, and are incorporated in this document by reference. (A summary of these findings is included in the attached narrative). The field trips enabled Moab BLM to prepare a rough map of the areas in Dome Plateau likely to possess wilderness characteristics.

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 an updated map showing what remaining areas were likely to possess naturalness. As described in the attached narrative, much of this unit acreage is marked by a large number of roads and other impacts, mostly from past minerals exploration. Some lands were cut off from the larger WIA, WSA or NPS/AE lands by roads, other impacts or state lands, and lacked sufficient size as stand-alone units 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 based on both 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. Grand County road inventory (GIS)*
- 2. Grand County intrusion data (GIS)*
- 3. Highlands, Taylor, North River, Squaw Park range allotment files*
- 4. NAIP 2006 aerial photos (GIS)*
- 5. Vegetative treatments (local GIS)*
- 6. Range improvements (local GIS)*
- 7. Dome Plateau field inventory file*
- 8. 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory file (Lost Spring)*
- 9. 2003 Wilderness Inventory revision document*
- 10. Arches National Park wilderness recommendation (GIS)*

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, RMP Team Lead</i>
<i>Chad Niehaus</i>	<i>Rrecreation</i>
<i>Daryl Trotter</i>	<i>Botany, NEPA coordinator</i>
<i>Donna Turnipseed</i>	<i>Cultural, Paleontology</i>
<i>Katie Stevens</i>	<i>Recreation, Pplanning</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 Dome Plateau

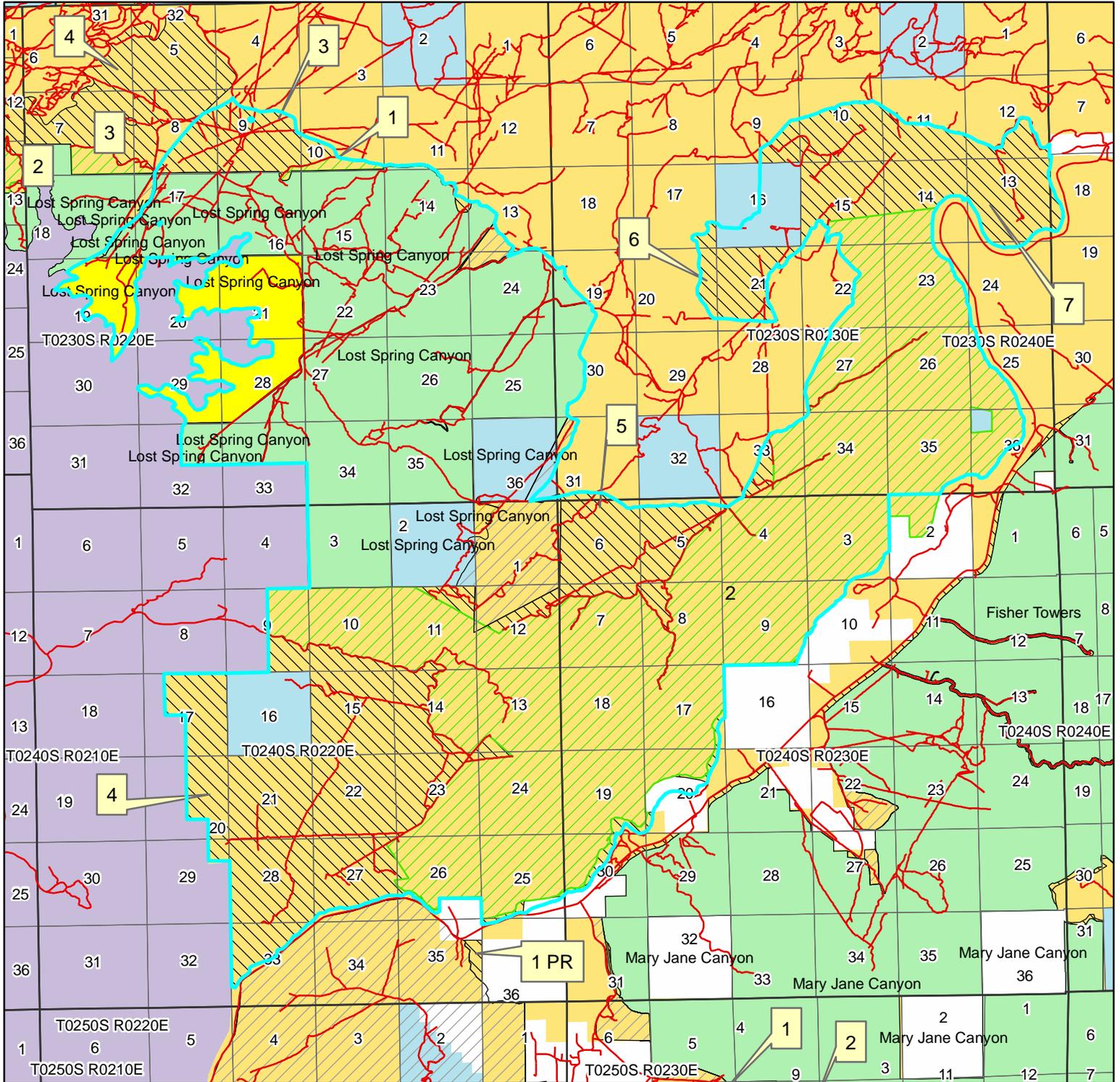
On January 22, 2002, SUWA presented new information to the BLM regarding the presence of wilderness characteristics on 36,000 acres in the area known as the Dome Plateau. The area so referred to includes most of the Lost Spring Canyon Wilderness Inventory Area (WIA) that was inventoried in the *1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory*, as well as the entire acreage of the Lost Spring Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The acreage examined in this document comprises the non-WSA, non-WIA lands, which total 25,818 acres. This new information was provided in response to a proposed seismic project commonly known as the Yellowcat Project. The BLM undertook a field trip to the area affected by the project on February 27, 2002. As a result of this site visit, BLM concluded that the 381 acres directly affected by the project lack naturalness, due to the presence of a large number of seismic lines and roads. The BLM conclusion only applied to the 381 acres affected by the project acres; these acres are not reanalyzed in this document.

In order to review the remaining 25,437 acres, BLM undertook three more field trips (May 22, August 30, September 22, 2002), documented 39.5 miles of motorized travel routes (above and beyond those routes identified in the original February, 2002, inventory) and numerous seismic lines, and took 105 photos. Interior routes result in numerous bisected units, resulting in almost the entire unit being within 0.5 miles of a substantially noticeable route. These trips were supplemented with aerial photograph review and interdisciplinary consultation among BLM staff in the Moab Field Office. The field review involved comprehensive wilderness inventory procedures, mapping roads, vehicle ways and other impacts, and taking numerous photos and detailed field notes. This was done in order to accomplish a comprehensive review of the entire SUWA proposal in preparation for the Moab RMP revision. On January 11, 2007, an interdisciplinary review team from Moab BLM met and reviewed these findings. As a result of this review, BLM concluded that approximately 14,207 acres of the SUWA proposal were likely to possess wilderness characteristics. The remaining 11,230 acres were determined to lack naturalness due to the presence of roads, seismic exploration lines, and other impacts. The attached map indicates the areas that BLM believes have wilderness characteristics. A complete file is available for public inspection.

As depicted on the attached map, Units 1 and 2 appear generally natural, although only Unit 2 is of sufficient size to possess wilderness characteristics as a stand-alone unit. Unit 2 possesses wilderness characteristics in association with the adjoining WIA. Unit 3 is characterized by a large number of substantially noticeable routes and other impacts, primarily from past mineral exploration activities, and has lost its natural character. Unit 4 is almost entirely separated from Unit 2 by substantially noticeable routes, and is bisected by other routes, and has lost its natural character. Units 5 and 6 are separated from Unit 2 by substantially noticeable routes or state lands, and are of insufficient size to meet the size requirement for stand-alone units. Unit 7 is the area that Moab BLM concluded lacked wilderness character in its earlier 2002 review.

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

Unit 1:	77 acres
Unit 2:	14,130 acres
Unit 3:	0 acres
Unit 4:	0 acres
Unit 5:	0 acres
Unit 5:	0 acres
Unit 6:	0 acres
Unit 7:	0 acres
Total:	14,207 acres



1:104,910



Legend

Grand Co Identified Routes	1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory
Wilderness Study Area	WC
	WC isolated by State
	NWC
	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.

