

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS REVIEW

Date of Submission: *December 30, 2003*

Date(s) of Field Office Review: *March, 2003; December, 2006- February, 2007*

Submitter: *SUWA*

Name of Area to be Reviewed: *Duma Point*

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:

Anticipating that Duma Point would be an area which SUWA would propose for wilderness, Moab BLM personnel undertook a series of field trips to the area in March, 2003. These trips identified numerous impacts to naturalness, primarily in the form of roads, and past mineral exploration activities. The resulting maps, logs and photos are available in the administrative record.

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), motorcycle-route maps (also previously verified), county-provided 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. These remaining areas were measured using ArcMap 9.1 tools to determine if the size criterion for naturalness was met (5000 acres or more). In the case of Duma Point, this criterion was not met (see attached narrative).

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. *Grand County road inventory (GIS)*
2. *Grand County intrusion data (GIS)*
3. *Ruby Ranch, Little Grand, Ten Mile Point range allotment files*
4. *NAIP 2006 aerial photos (GIS)*
5. *Vegetative treatments (local GIS)*
6. *Range improvements (local GIS)*
7. *Duma Point field inventory file*

8. *Bookcliff Rattlers OHV trail map (GIS)*
9. *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>
<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.

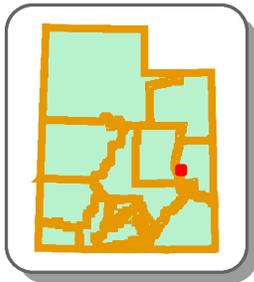
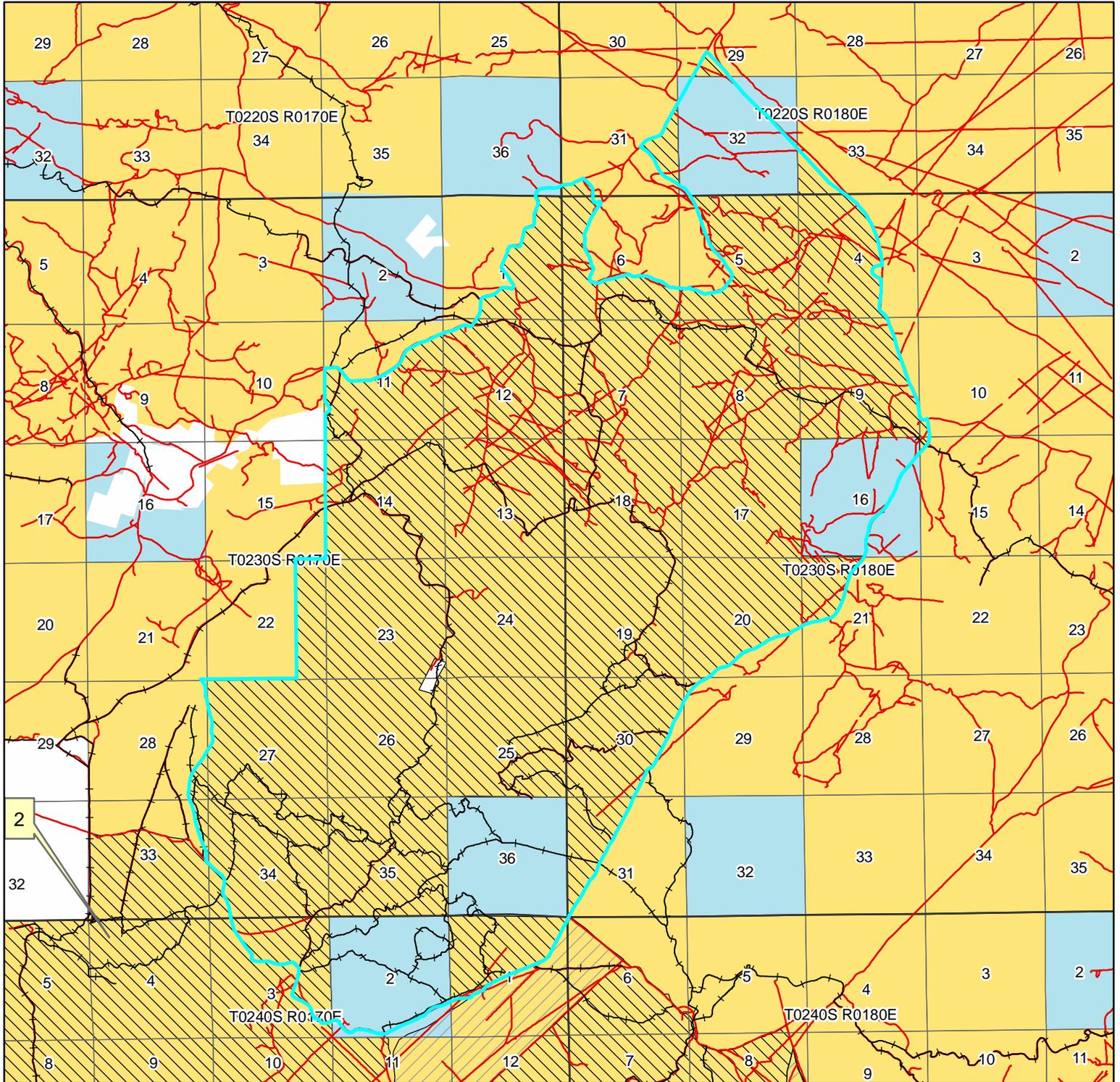
Analysis of Citizens' Proposals for Wilderness Characteristics

Duma Point

The Citizens' Proposal is a 14,368 acre stand-alone unit approximately 30 miles northwest of Moab.

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 Duma Point, the proposed area does not adjoin any other area evaluated as possessing wilderness characteristics. As such, it must possess such characteristics on its own.

Duma Point does not have wilderness characteristics. Duma Point includes lands that have been heavily impacted by past mining activities, especially manganese mining prior to World War II. The Grand County road inventory, verified by BLM, indicates approximately 60 BLM acres per mile of interior routes within the proposal area. (By comparison, the corresponding figures for Wilderness Study Areas and Wilderness Inventory Areas with wilderness characteristics (1999 inventory) are 4374 acres/mile and 898 acres/mile, respectively, with higher numbers indicating a lower route density.). A permitted Jeep Safari route bisects the unit. The area is also popular with motorcyclists, and contains over 20 miles of marked routes. In March, 2003, BLM undertook a comprehensive field check of the proposal area, and documented many of the above impacts with 84 photos (available in the administrative record). The cumulative effects of the above impacts have rendered much of the area unnatural. A few areas in the center and west portions of the unit remain natural, but are too small to meet the size requirement for stand-alone units.



Legend

— Grand Co Identified Routes

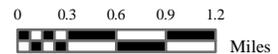
1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory

- WC
- WC isolated by State
- NWC

Wilderness Characteristics Review

- NWC
- WC
- Verified motorcycle/ATV routes

4-72-567



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.

