

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: *Yellow Bird*

BLM Field Office(s) Affected: *Moab*

EVALUATION

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

YES . 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?

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)

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. The areas reviewed were the new non-WIA lands only.

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-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. As described in the attached narrative, much of the new acreage is cut off from the larger WIA by roads, other impacts, lands found in earlier reviews (1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory and 2003 Revision) and/or state lands. This acreage, regardless of naturalness, failed to meet the size criteria and was dropped from further consideration. The remaining acreage was judged generally natural in appearance, but possessed wilderness characteristics only in association with the WIA or the NPS lands 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 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. *Grand County road inventory (GIS)*
2. *Grand County intrusion data (GIS)*
3. *Highlands range allotment file*
4. *NAIP 2006 aerial photos (GIS)*
5. *Vegetative treatments (local GIS)*
6. *Range improvements (local GIS)*
7. *1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory file (Lost Spring)*
8. *2003 Wilderness Inventory revision document*
9. *Arches National Park wilderness recommendation (GIS)*

10. 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 3/9/07

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

Yellow Bird

The Citizens' Proposal lies just north of the Lost Spring Wilderness Inventory Area (WIA), which it adjoins.

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 5,000 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 Yellow Bird, no unit would be large enough to potentially qualify as a stand-alone unit; it could possess outstanding opportunities only by association with wilderness character lands in the adjoining Lost Spring WIA.

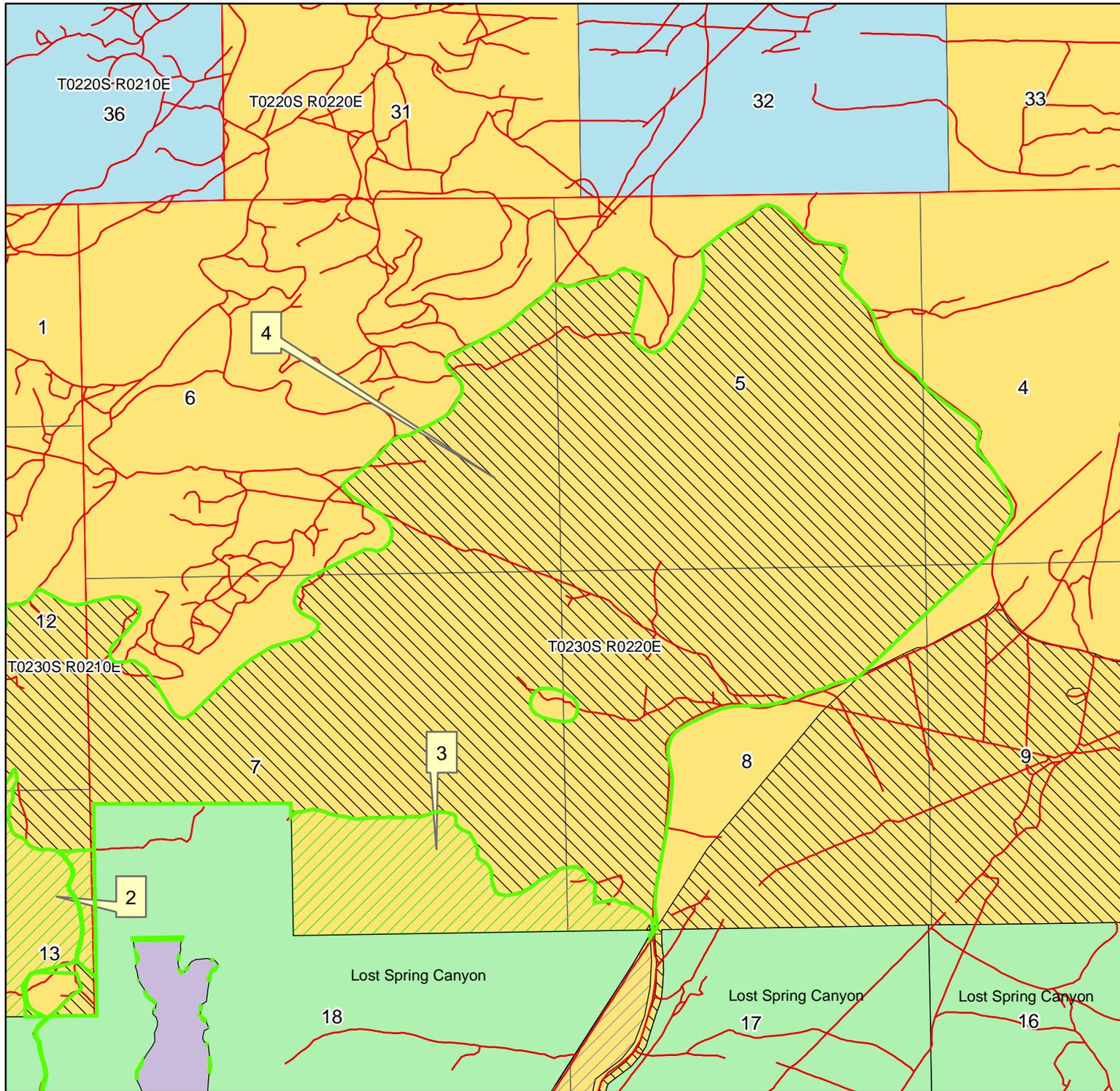
Although proposed as a single unit, routes and other substantially noticeable impacts actually divide this proposal into four distinct areas (see accompanying maps)

Units 1-3 appear generally natural, and possess opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation in association with the contiguous Lost Spring WIA. Unit 2 is split by a road, but both halves adjoin the WIA.

Unit 4 lacks wilderness characteristics as it is largely unnatural due to a large number of inventoried motorized travel routes and other impacts, primarily from past mining activities. Unit 4 is separated from Units 1-3, which are natural, by these substantially noticeable impacts.

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

Unit 1:	54 acres
Unit 2:	162 acres
Unit 3:	141 acres
Unit 4:	0 acres
Total:	357 acres



Legend

- Grand Co Identified Routes
- BASELINE**
 - State
 - WC
 - WC isolated by State
 - NWC
- wiinv99r_ut24 polygon**
- wcr_ut24Wiinv99rFINAL**
- FINDINGS**
 - NWC
 - WC
 - Township, Range & Section

1:24,250



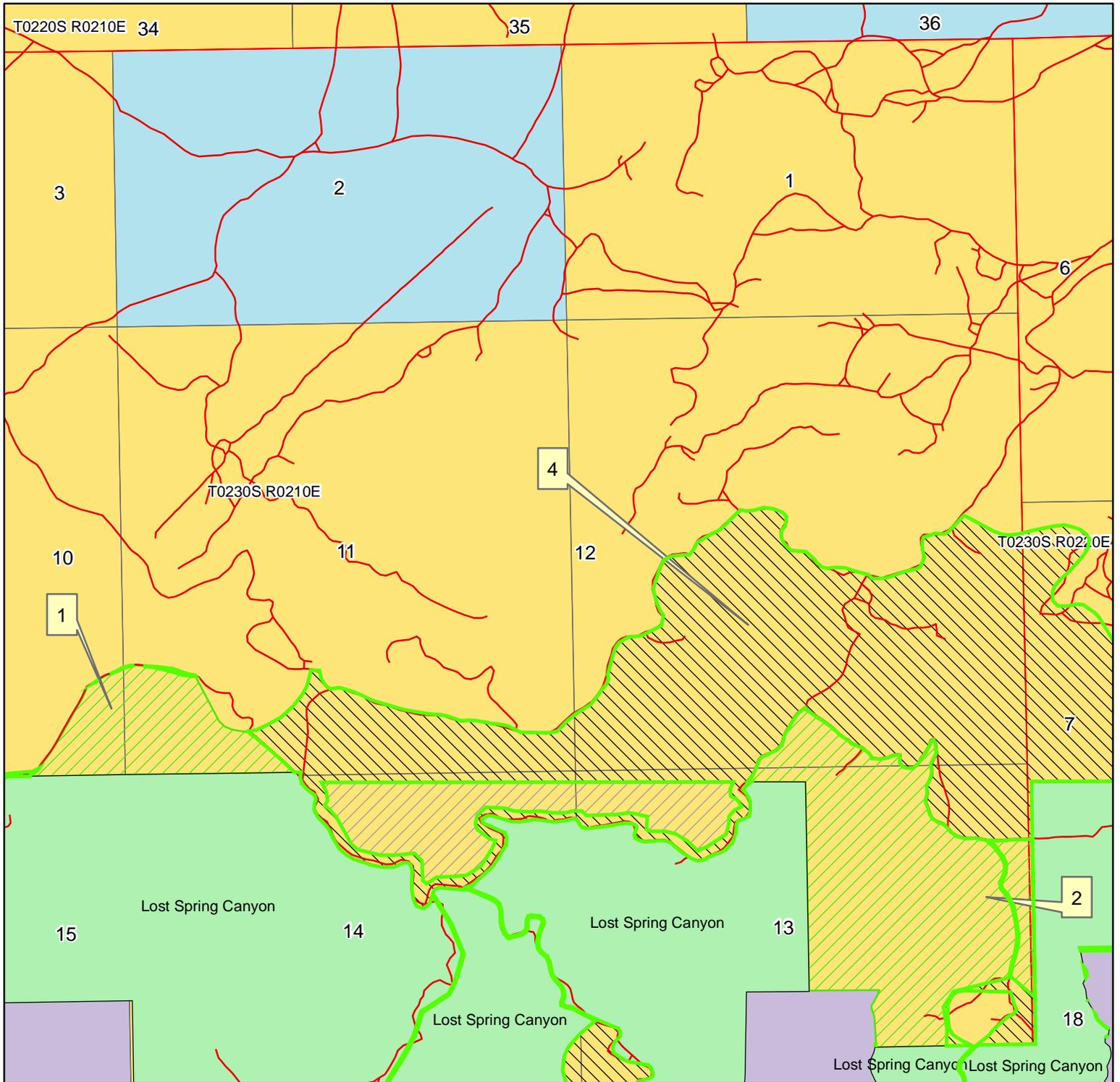
Land Status

- 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.





Legend

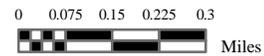
Grand Co Identified Routes

wiinv99r_ut24 polygon

wcr_ut24Wiinv99rFINAL

	Grand Co Identified Routes	BASELINE
	State	
	WC	
	WC isolated by State	
	NWC	
	NWC	FINDINGS
	WC	
	Township, Range & Section	

1:19,400



Land Status

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | Bureau of Land Management | | Military Reservations |
| | BLM Wilderness Area | | State Lands |
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