

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

No (Go to Form 2) Yes X

a) Inventory Source: The initial inventory of this area was undertaken as part of the 1978-79 Utah Statewide Initial Wilderness Inventory, and consisted of several subunits (UT 146, 147, 148 and 149). Based on that review, the area in question was not forwarded for intensive inventory, citing an overall lack of naturalness. Subsequently, as part of the Moab FO RMP process, an interdisciplinary review team undertook an in-office review of the Coyote Wash proposal as gleaned from the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) website, and included in that year's version of the Congressional Red Rock wilderness bill. The original SUWA proposal (and still part of the Red Rock wilderness legislation proposed in Congress) encompassed 31,392 acres. No information other than a web-based map was provided by SUWA to BLM that would indicate that BLM's original findings were incorrect.

Based on the in-office review, Moab BLM concluded that the area in question was sufficiently bisected by roads and other impacts to naturalness to preclude a determination that the area possessed wilderness characteristics. (At the time of this determination, BLM's Wilderness Inventory Manual had been withdrawn, and the only available guidance was IM 275-Change 1).

In response to a proposed oil and gas lease sale, SUWA provided Moab BLM with new information which follows the requirements of Manual 6310, consisting of a map, a detailed narrative and photographic documentation. The new proposal was a greatly reduced (in acreage) version of the proposal reviewed in 2007. Moab BLM determined that the new proposal (which eliminates many of the most egregious impacts noted in BLM's 2007 review) merited an on-the-ground inventory.

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): UT 060-146-149 ("Coyote Wash" based on SUWA name). For purposes of this review, BLM has divided the proposal into 3 subunits, each of which has its own separate report:

1. Coyote Wash West WC
2. Coyote Wash East WC
3. Coyote Wash East NWC

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Coyote Wash Wilderness Characteristics Review-Field Maps A-D, SUWA proposal 2-15-13, Coyote Wash photo points, Coyote Wash Route Map, Coyote Wash Inventory Findings

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Canyon Country District/Moab Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record: see discussion under 1 (a), above

FORM 2: Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: Coyote Wash West WC

Acreage 14768

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes X No

Description: The starting point for the acreage considered for wilderness characteristics inventory consisted of the map and shapefile provided by SUWA. These materials included a proposal of 17,541 acres. Based on BLM's inventory, the original proposal was subdivided into three parcels, two of which were determined to possess wilderness characteristics. This acreage excluded several "cherry-stems" to account for several travel routes and several exclusions along boundary routes (including along the aforementioned cherry-stem routes) to exclude roadside impacts to naturalness. The current BLM inventory also excluded those areas which were not in the amended SUWA proposal.

Prior to undertaking field checks, BLM scrutinized aerial photos (NAIP, 2011) to identify potential impacts to naturalness. These potential impact points were added to GIS, and used in the field. The aerial photos showed numerous seismic line impacts; many of these, however, had been cherry-stemmed by SUWA in their proposal. Many of the others, given their age and current condition, were not impacts generally noticeable by the average visitor, in BLM's opinion.

Based on four field trips undertaken by the BLM, additional acreage was removed from the acreage asserted to possess wilderness characteristics. These exclusions are justified by impacts, primarily from past and present minerals activity that renders certain areas unnatural in appearance to the average observer. These exclusions are:

- A) An area in the NW corner of the SUWA proposal (107 acres). In this area, Route 6 closely parallels the western SUWA boundary. Route 6 receives moderate use and is almost continuously visible from the western boundary road.
- B) An area in the southwest corner of the SUWA proposal (10 acres). A recently constructed water pipeline (and associated ROW) in this area renders this area too small to stand alone as a wilderness characteristics unit.
- C) A larger area along the eastern boundary of the SUWA proposal (2704 acres). This area is cut off from the larger area by Route 1 and by the Utah/Colorado border. The northern half of this area contains numerous impacts from past minerals exploration, including access routes, drill pads and seismic exploration lines. Although none of these are on the MFO travel plan, and would not be considered "Wilderness Roads", the overall impact to naturalness is substantial. This area is discussed separately under the heading Coyote Wash East NWC.

The southern half of Area C, however, is largely natural. This area is discussed

separately under the heading Coyote Wash East WC.

D) BLM determined that several routes not cherry-stemmed by SUWA in their proposal either qualified as Wilderness Roads, or constituted sufficient impacts to naturalness to be cherry-stemmed. These are routes 7-9, 17-18 and 20 on the accompanying maps.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A (after exclusions described in Part 1, above)

Although aerial photo review shows numerous scars from past mining activities, most of these are substantially unnoticeable on the ground to the average user. As such, they meet the definition of naturalness as described in Manual 6310. That manual indicates that linear features (such as seismic lines) may be considered part of a natural landscape if they are not substantially noticeable to the average user.

The mesa tops typically have existing roads, usually on a relatively straight line to the edge of the mesa. These have been "cherry-stemmed" by SUWA. The canyon bottoms are substantially natural in appearance.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes No N/A

These opportunities are present primarily in the canyon bottoms, rather than on the mesa tops. The canyon bottoms themselves are of sufficient acreage and topographical variations to provide these opportunities.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes No N/A

These opportunities are present primarily in the canyon bottoms, rather than on the mesa tops. The canyon bottoms themselves are of sufficient acreage and topographical variations to provide these opportunities.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes No N/A

Summary of Analysis

Area Unique Identifier: Coyote Wash West
WC

Summary

Results of analysis: See discussion under 1 (a) in Form 1

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by: William P. Stevens, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Moab BLM, June 10, 2014

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: Beth Ransel Title: Field Manager
Beth Ransel

Date: 7/14/14

This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

BLM MANUAL Rel. No. 6-129 Supersedes Rel. 6-126 Date: 03/15/2012

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

No (Go to Form 2) Yes X

a) Inventory Source: The initial inventory of this area was undertaken as part of the 1978-79 Utah Statewide Initial Wilderness Inventory, and consisted of several subunits (UT 146, 147, 148 and 149). Based on that review, the area in question was not forwarded for intensive inventory, citing an overall lack of naturalness. Subsequently, as part of the Moab FO RMP process, an interdisciplinary review team undertook an in-office review of the Coyote Wash proposal as gleaned from the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) website, and included in that year's version of the Congressional Red Rock wilderness bill. The original SUWA proposal (and still part of the Red Rock wilderness legislation proposed in Congress) encompassed 31,392 acres. No information other than a web-based map was provided by SUWA to BLM that would indicate that BLM's original findings were incorrect.

Based on the in-office review, Moab BLM concluded that the area in question was sufficiently bisected by roads and other impacts to naturalness to preclude a determination that the area possessed wilderness characteristics. (At the time of this determination, BLM's Wilderness Inventory Manual had been withdrawn, and the only available guidance was IM 275-Change 1).

In response to a proposed oil and gas lease sale, SUWA provided Moab BLM with new information which follows the requirements of Manual 6310, consisting of a map, a detailed narrative and photographic documentation. The new proposal was a greatly reduced (in acreage) version of the proposal reviewed in 2007. Moab BLM determined that the new proposal (which eliminates many of the most egregious impacts noted in BLM's 2007 review) merited an on-the-ground inventory.

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): UT 060-146-149 ("Coyote Wash" based on SUWA name). For purposes of this review, BLM has divided the proposal into 3 subunits, each of which has its own separate report:

1. Coyote Wash West WC
2. Coyote Wash East WC
3. Coyote Wash East NWC

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Coyote Wash Wilderness Characteristics Review-Field Maps A-D, SUWA proposal 2-15-13, Coyote Wash photo points, Coyote Wash Route Map, Coyote Wash Inventory Findings

d) **BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):** Canyon Country District/Moab Field Office

2. **BLM Inventory Findings on Record:** see discussion under 1 (a), above

FORM 2: Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: Coyote Wash East WC

Acreage 1609

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes X No

Description: The starting point for the acreage considered for wilderness characteristics inventory consisted of the map and shapefile provided by SUWA. These materials included a proposal of 17,541 acres. Based on BLM's inventory, the original proposal was subdivided into three parcels, two of which were determined to possess wilderness characteristics. This acreage excluded several "cherry-stems" to account for several travel routes and several exclusions along boundary routes (including along the aforementioned cherry-stem routes) to exclude roadside impacts to naturalness. The current BLM inventory also excluded those areas which were not in the amended SUWA proposal.

Prior to undertaking field checks, BLM scrutinized aerial photos (NAIP, 2011) to identify potential impacts to naturalness. These potential impact points were added to GIS, and used in the field. The aerial photos showed numerous seismic line impacts; many of these, however, had been cherry-stemmed by SUWA in their proposal. Many of the others, given their age and current condition, were not impacts generally noticeable by the average visitor, in BLM's opinion.

Based on four field trips undertaken by the BLM, additional acreage was removed from the acreage asserted to possess wilderness characteristics. These exclusions are justified by impacts, primarily from past and present minerals activity that renders certain areas unnatural in appearance to the average observer. These exclusions are:

- A) An area in the NW corner of the SUWA proposal (107 acres). In this area, Route 6 closely parallels the western SUWA boundary. Route 6 receives moderate use and is almost continuously visible from the western boundary road.
- B) An area in the southwest corner of the SUWA proposal (10 acres). A recently constructed water pipeline (and associated ROW) in this area renders this area too small to stand alone as a wilderness characteristics unit.
- C) A larger area along the eastern boundary of the SUWA proposal (2704 acres). This area is cut off from the larger area by Route 1 and by the Utah/Colorado border. The northern half of this area (1095 acres) contains numerous impacts from past minerals exploration, including access routes, drill pads and seismic exploration lines. Although none of these are on the MFO travel plan, and would not be considered "Wilderness Roads", the overall impact to naturalness is substantial. This area is discussed separately under the heading Coyote Wash East NWC.

Although too small (1609 acres) to qualify as a stand-alone wilderness characteristics area, the southern half of (C), above, adjoins an area determined by the Tres Rios, Colorado, FO to

possess wilderness characteristics. The southern half of Area C, therefore, possesses wilderness characteristics because it adjoins the WC area in Colorado. The WC area in Colorado, in turn, possesses WC only because it adjoins a Wilderness Study Area.

The non-matching shapes of the areas in Utah and Colorado are due to the two Field Offices using different procedures to determine wilderness characteristics. (The Tres Rios FO made its determination prior to the issuance of Manual 6310).

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A (after exclusions described in Part 1, above)

After redrawing the boundaries of the subunit to exclude the impacts present in Coyote Wash East NWC (discussed separately), the area appears substantially natural and shares the overall naturalness of the adjoining area in Colorado.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes No N/A

The subunit possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude only in association with the adjoining acreage found to possess WC by the Tres Rios FO.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes No N/A

The subunit possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude only in association with the adjoining acreage found to possess WC by the Tres Rios FO.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes No N/A

Summary of Analysis

Area Unique Identifier: Coyote Wash East WC

Summary

Results of analysis: See discussion under 1 (a) in Form 1

- 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No N/A
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No N/A
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by: William P. Stevens, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Moab BLM, June 10, 2014

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: Beth Ransel Title: Field Manager
Beth Ransel

Date: 7/14/14

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Based on the in-office review, Moab BLM concluded that the area in question was sufficiently bisected by roads and other impacts to naturalness to preclude a determination that the area possessed wilderness characteristics. (At the time of this determination, BLM's Wilderness Inventory Manual had been withdrawn, and the only available guidance was IM 275-Change 1).

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d) **BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):** Canyon Country District/Moab Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record: see discussion under 1 (a), above

FORM 2: Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: Coyote Wash East NWC

Acreage 1095

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes No

Description: The starting point for the acreage considered for wilderness characteristics inventory consisted of the map and shapefile provided by SUWA. These materials included a proposal of 17,541 acres. Based on BLM's inventory, the original proposal was subdivided into three parcels, two of which were determined to possess wilderness characteristics. This acreage excluded several "cherry-stems" to account for several travel routes and several exclusions along boundary routes (including along the aforementioned cherry-stem routes) to exclude roadside impacts to naturalness. The current BLM inventory also excluded those areas which were not in the amended SUWA proposal.

Prior to undertaking field checks, BLM scrutinized aerial photos (NAIP, 2011) to identify potential impacts to naturalness. These potential impact points were added to GIS, and used in the field. The aerial photos showed numerous seismic line impacts; many of these, however, had been cherry-stemmed by SUWA in their proposal. Many of the others, given their age and current condition, were not impacts generally noticeable by the average visitor, in BLM's opinion. An exception to this is discussed below under the heading Coyote Wash East NWC.

Based on four field trips undertaken by the BLM, additional acreage was removed from the acreage asserted to possess wilderness characteristics. These exclusions are justified by impacts, primarily from past and present minerals activity that renders certain areas unnatural in appearance to the average observer.

A larger area along the eastern boundary of the SUWA proposal (1095 acres) was determined by BLM to be largely unnatural in character, and is cut off from Coyote Wash East WC by a substantially noticeable route originating in Colorado. Although not on the travel plan for Moab BLM, the route is heavily constructed and receives regular use. Coyote Wash East NWC is cut off from the larger Coyote Wash West NWC by Route 1, which BLM has determined is a Wilderness Road. Finally, the area is bordered by the Colorado state line. The lands in Colorado are managed by the Uncompahgre FO, and are in an open OHV category. They have not been identified as possessing wilderness characteristics.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

The northern half of this area contains numerous impacts from past minerals exploration, including access routes, drill pads and seismic exploration lines. Although none of these are on the MFO travel plan, and would not be considered "Wilderness Roads", the overall impact to naturalness is substantial. Regardless of naturalness or lack thereof, the unit is too small to possess wilderness characteristics as a stand-alone unit.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

Summary of Analysis

Area Unique Identifier: Coyote Wash East
NWC

Summary

Results of analysis: See discussion under 1 (a) in Form 1

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes ___ No X
2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes ___ No ___ N/A X
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes ___ No ___ N/A X
4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes ___ No ___ N/A X

Check one:

 The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

 X The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by: William P. Stevens, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Moab BLM, June 10, 2014

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name:  Title: Field Manager
Beth Ransel

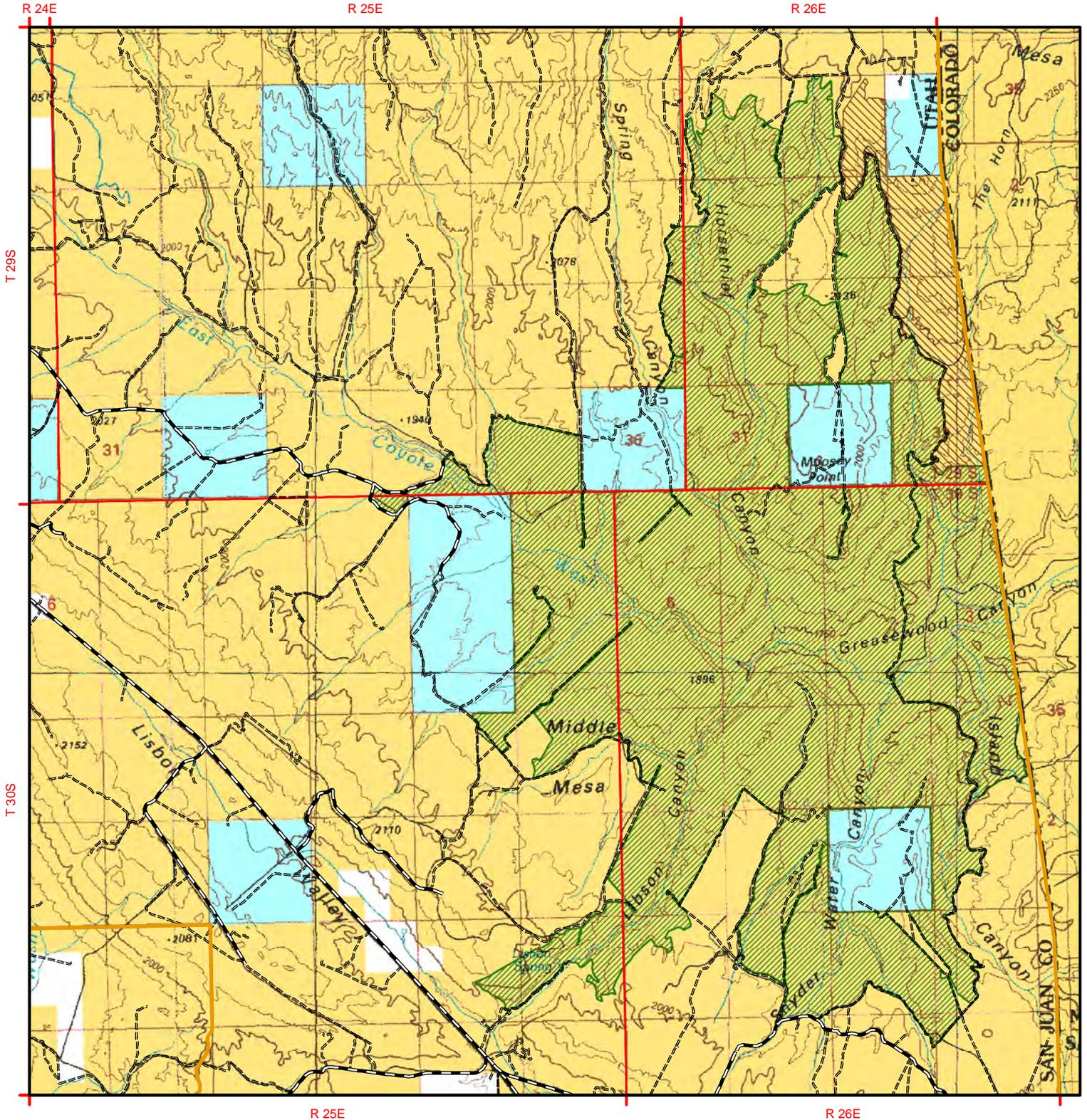
Date: 7/14/14

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BLM MANUAL Rel. No. 6-129 Supersedes Rel. 6-126 Date: 03/15/2012

Coyote Wash Wilderness Characteristic Review - 2014

Bureau of Land Management
Moab Field Office



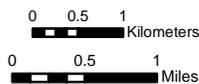
Location Map
Utah BLM Field Office Boundaries



Date: 4/21/2015

2014 Wilderness Character Review Findings

- Wilderness Characteristics
- No Wilderness Characteristics



- B Roads (Maintained)
- D Roads (Unmaintained)
- Township and Range
- Field Office Boundary

Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Private
- State



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.