

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 area in question (Trough Springs) was evaluated as part of a much larger area (110,900 acres) in the 1979 Initial Wilderness Inventory (UT-060-143). Most of the discussion in that document concentrated on areas on the Hatch Point uplands managed by the Moab Field Office (MFO), with relatively little discussion of lands in Lockhart Basin managed by the Monticello Field Office (MtFO). The entire area was found to be unnatural due to existing roads, seismic lines and some evidence of past minerals activities and range improvements. The area was not recommended for intensive inventory.

The 1996-99 Utah wilderness inventory examined the southern portion of the proposed unit, and found it lacked wilderness character using the criteria of the then current Wilderness Inventory Handbook (subsequently withdrawn as part of the Leavitt-Norton agreement of 2003). The same inventory found an area south of the current proposal did possess wilderness character.

As part of its 2008 RMP effort, the MFO reexamined all areas then proposed by external groups for wilderness. On December 30, 2003, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) had presented a letter with the name of the proposed unit (a much larger unit known as Hatch Wash), 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. Until very recently, the MFO had not received any of this information. A Geographical Information System (GIS)-based map of the proposed unit was submitted to the Utah BLM State Office, and provided the basis for the area reviewed.

From August 15, 2001 through September 19, 2003, the MFO undertook 11 field trips to the area proposed for wilderness, including Trough Springs, and took 281 photos. A primary purpose of the 2001-2003 field trips was to verify the San Juan County road inventory as input into drafting alternatives for the MFO Travel Plan being prepared in conjunction with the ongoing Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision. As part of this review, the MFO undertook an on-the-ground verification of every route submitted by San Juan County east of Hatch Wash itself, and was able to verify the existence of each route. Additionally, the MFO was able to verify all routes east of Hatch Wash through a combination of field trips and aerial photography review.

In late 2006 and early 2007, the MFO used GIS information to identify potential impacts

on naturalness including county road data (previously verified as part of travel plan formulation), 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.

The MFO 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 MFO 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 both on their specialized resource expertise and their field knowledge. Based on input from this review, the MFO incorporated any necessary changes into its analysis.

The following specific documents and files were utilized:

1. San Juan County road inventory (GIS)
2. Hatch Wash, Windwhistle, and Kane Springs range allotment files
3. NAIP 2006 aerial photos (GIS)
4. Vegetative treatments (local GIS)
5. Range improvements (local GIS)
6. 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory file (Hatch Wash)
7. 2003 Wilderness Inventory revision document

Based on all of the above, the MFO determined that none of the acreage examined (above and beyond those lands determined to possess wilderness character in earlier inventories) possessed wilderness characteristics.

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s):

UT-060-143B (from initial inventory); (“B” added to distinguish from other proposals within larger 143 area)

Hatch Wash (from 1996-99 review)

Hatch/Harts/Lockhart (from 2007 review)

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Trough Springs/Dripping Springs Field Map; Dripping Spring/Lockhart WC additions; Trough Springs Wilderness Characteristics Review May, 2014

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: Trough Springs (UT-060-143B)

Total Acreage: 7,680

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes No

Description: On November 6, 2013, SUWA submitted new information to the MFO on 7,690 acres encompassed in the Trough Springs proposal. The information consisted of a narrative, map photographic documentation and GIS data in sufficient detail to meet the requirements of Manual 6310 (March, 2012). This acreage used designated travel plan routes and State Lands boundaries to define the unit. Since BLM cannot manage non-BLM lands for any resource, including wilderness characteristics, these state lands have been excluded from the analysis.

The MFO travelled to the area on March 12 and 26, and April 23, 2014. Based on these trips, the MFO determined that the boundaries submitted by SUWA, in general, adequately defined the edges of naturalness. Exceptions were two routes that SUWA had not excluded, but that the MFO had determined were wilderness roads (10 acres total). Removing these two roads from the proposal reduced the submitted acreage to 7,680 acres.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

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

In addition to the field checks undertaken by the MFO, staff members familiar with the area were queried as to the presence (or lack thereof) of impediments to naturalness as defined by Manual 6310.

From a purely aerial photo review, the area has numerous seismic lines and other evidence of past minerals activities. These potential impacts were noted in a GIS file for use in the field. On the ground, however, these linear features are not substantially noticeable to the average user, and therefore do not disqualify the area under the conditions of Manual 6310.

The area contains several routes identified as open to motorized and mechanized use in the MFO Travel Plan associated with the 2008 RMP. The majority of these have been excluded in the SUWA proposal, and two additional exclusions have been added by the MFO. The remaining routes lack one or more criteria of "wilderness roads", and are classified as "primitive roads". By the terms of Manual 6310, primitive roads are not considered wilderness boundaries, unless they constitute a substantially noticeable impact on naturalness.

(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

Although much of the proposal consists of relatively flat mesa tops, the area is bisected by deep canyons which provide these opportunities. In addition, the area receives very light visitation currently. The southern boundary of the unit borders an area determined to possess wilderness characteristics in an earlier MFO inventory. That inventory determined that this adjoining area possessed outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation.

(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 found primarily in the canyons which bisect the otherwise relatively flat uplands. A lightly used, but constructed, hiking trail (Trough Springs Trail) is located in the northern portion of the unit. The entire area receives very light visitation currently. The southern boundary of the unit borders an area determined to possess wilderness characteristics in an earlier MFO inventory. That inventory determined that this adjoining area possessed outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation.

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

Yes No N/A

The area is mostly within the Canyon Rims Special Recreation Management Area, noted for its outstanding scenic views of the lower elevation country which surrounds it.

Summary of Analysis

Area Unique Identifier: Trough Springs
(UT-060-143B)

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:

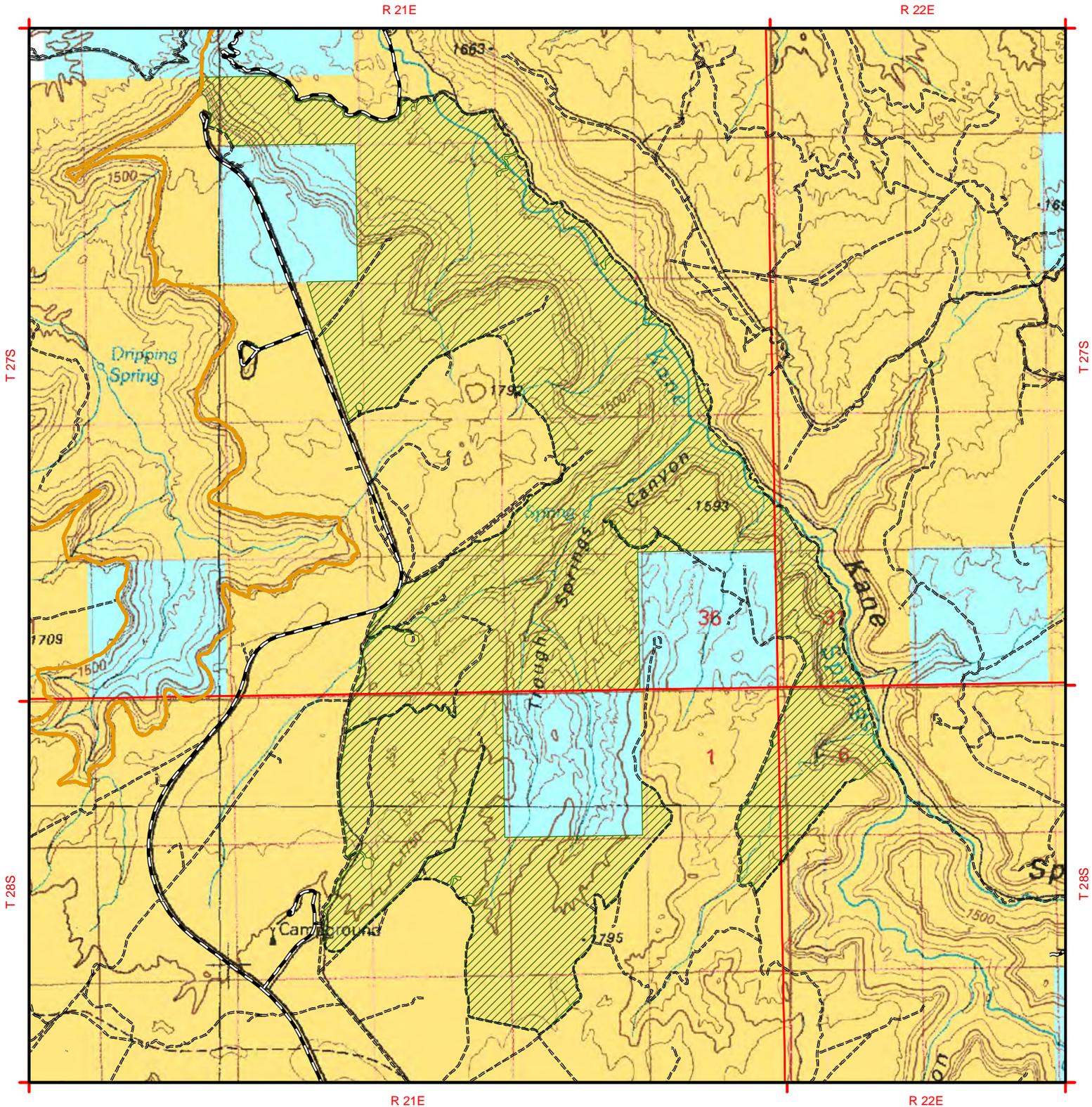
William P. Stevens
Outdoor Recreation Planner
May 13, 2014

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: Beth Ransel Title: Field Manager
Beth Ransel

Date: 1-21-2015

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.



Location Map
Utah BLM Field Office Boundaries



Date: 4/21/2015

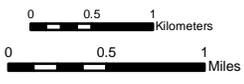
2015 Wilderness Character Review Findings

Wilderness Characteristics

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

Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- 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.