

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 ___ Yes X

a) Inventory Sources: Utah Initial Wilderness Inventory, 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory, 2007 Moab Field Office (MFO) Wilderness Characteristics Review. The latter two findings applied because all or part of the area in question bordered lands previously determined to possess wilderness characteristics by either BLM or the National Park Service (NPS). All three of the units were not identical in coverage, although they all share some lands in common.

The area included in the current review (Dead Horse Cliffs Additions) was evaluated as part of a larger area in the 1979 Initial Wilderness Inventory. The area was found to be unnatural due to existing roads, and some evidence of past minerals activities and range improvements. The area was not recommended for intensive inventory.

As part of the 1999 Utah wilderness inventory, the MFO examined an area smaller in size than that inventoried in 1979. The 1999 inventory referred to the area as Shafer Canyon, based on a Utah Wilderness Coalition proposal. The 1999 inventory determined that 1,900 acres (out of 3,100) possessed wilderness characteristics, but only in association with lands administratively endorsed for wilderness by the National Park Service (NPS).

As part of its 2008 Resource Management Plan (RMP) effort, the MFO reexamined all areas then proposed by external groups for wilderness. On December 30, 2003, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) presented a letter with the name of the proposed unit (a somewhat larger unit labelled Dead Horse Cliffs), 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, and nothing in time for the 2008 Resource Management Plan (RMP). A Geographical Information System (GIS)-based map of the proposed unit was submitted to the Utah State Office (UTSO), and provided the basis for the area reviewed.

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, and community pits. Master Title Plat data available from the UTSO 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 above steps enabled the MFO to prepare a map showing what remaining areas were likely to possess naturalness. As described in the narrative contained in the RMP's administrative record, some of the new acreage was cut off from the larger otherwise adjoining wilderness characteristics by roads and other impacts. This acreage, regardless of naturalness, failed to meet the size criteria and was dropped from further consideration.

The MFO convened an interdisciplinary review team meeting 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. Shafer Canyon range allotment files
3. NAIP 2006 aerial photos (GIS)
4. Vegetative treatments (local GIS)
5. Range improvements (local GIS)
6. 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory (Shafer Canyon)
7. 2003 Wilderness Inventory revision document

Based on all of the above, the MFO determined that an additional 797 acres possessed wilderness characteristics in conjunction with a larger area found to possess such by the MFO in the 1999 inventory.

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): UT060-085, Shafer Canyon, Dead Horse Cliffs (Entire area hereafter referred to as "Dead Horse Cliffs Additions")

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Wilderness Inventory State of Utah, Shafer Canyon (1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory), Dead Horse Cliffs (MFO Resource Management Plan (RMP))

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

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
UT060-085	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Shafer Canyon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dead Horse Cliffs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

See also discussion under 1(a), above.

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

Area Unique Identifier: Dead Horse Cliffs Additions

Total Acreage (all units): 2,555

Subunits:

Subunit A: 2,170 acres

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes X No__

Description: On March 19, 2014, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) submitted new information to the Bureau of Land Management Moab Field Office (MFO) on the 2,555 acres encompassed in the Dead Horse Cliffs Additions 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). The individual subunits (A,B,C, D) were defined by SUWA in their narrative and accompanying map. This acreage used designated travel plan routes and State Lands boundaries to define subunit A. In addition, SUWA excluded several stock ponds along the County "B" road to the south, a road within the subunit, and a very noticeable abandoned drill pad at the end of the excluded road. SUWA's subunit A proposal totaled 2,170 acres.

The MFO travelled to the subunit in question on June 27 and June 30, 2014. The visit on June 27 was to the northern end of the proposed unit, which also afforded good views into the entire canyon basin. The June 30 trip was to the basin itself. The subunit possessed sufficient size only in association with the adjoining acreage found to possess wilderness characteristics by the MFO in earlier inventories. In the 2008 MFO Resource Management Plan (RMP), the wilderness characteristics acreage in question was identified to be managed for resources other than wilderness characteristics. The RMP also applied No Surface Occupancy (NSO) stipulation for surface disturbing activities, and placed most of the area in Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class 1. These measures render any development of the area identified earlier as possessing wilderness characteristics unlikely.

In addition to the field checks undertaken by the MFO, 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. Staff members knowledgeable with the area were queried prior to the MFO inventory field trips, as well as after completion of the trips. The information gleaned consisted primarily of information on range and wildlife improvements present in the area.

Subunit A adjoins BLM lands of a similar appearance to the west of Dead Horse Point State Park. These lands were determined to possess wilderness characteristics in the 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory (Shafer Canyon). Shafer Canyon itself lacked sufficient size in itself to possess wilderness characteristics, but adjoining lands in Canyonlands National Park administratively endorsed for wilderness by the National Park Service

(NPS). Similarly, subunit A is of sufficient size because it adjoins the Shafer Canyon area previously determined to possess wilderness characteristics.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

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

To the average visitor, subunit A appears in a natural state. Most of the unit consists of a broad canyon basin surrounded by high cliffs. In addition to the SUWA and the MFO exclusions described above, the unit contains one barely visible primitive route, a barely noticeable mining prospect and two unmaintained stock ponds. None of these would be detriments to apparent naturalness from the perspective of the average visitor.

Based on these two field trips, the MFO determined that 1,073 acres of subunit A possessed naturalness, but the eastern portion of the unit lacked sufficient size. In addition to SUWA's exclusions, the MFO concluded that the excluded road to the drill pad should be extended to the mining impacts below the rim. Although the last segments of this route are not on the MFO travel plan, they constitute a substantial impact on apparent naturalness. The mining impacts themselves, as well as the MFO wildlife guzzler located on an old mining access route, are very noticeable from the rim (itself part of subunit A) above these impacts, as well as from the canyon floor. Excluding these impacts on naturalness extends the boundary of naturalness to the State lands above the rim, and cuts off the eastern portion of subunit A from the western portion of the unit adjoining lands previously determined by the MFO to possess wilderness characteristics.

(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

Subunit A possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude only in association with the adjoining acreage to the west (Shafer Canyon) found to possess wilderness characteristics by the MFO in the 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory.

(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

Subunit A possesses outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation only in association with the adjoining acreage to the west (Shafer Canyon) found to possess wilderness characteristics by the MFO in the 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory.

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

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

Subunit A possesses supplemental values only in association with the adjoining acreage to the west (Shafer Canyon) found to possess wilderness characteristics by the MFO in the 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory. Those values include scenery, wildlife and petrified wood deposits.

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

Area Unique Identifier: Dead Horse Cliffs Additions

Total Acreage (all units): 2,555

Subunits:

Unit B: 379

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes X No__

Description: On March 19, 2014, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) submitted new information to the Bureau of Land Management Moab Field Office (MFO) on the 2,555 acres encompassed in the Dead Horse Cliffs Additions 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). The individual subunits (A, B, C, D) were defined by SUWA in their narrative and accompanying map. Subunit B boundaries consist of designated travel plan routes, National Park Service lands, State Lands boundaries, and BLM lands previously determined to possess wilderness characteristics. SUWA's subunit B proposal totaled 379 acres.

The MFO travelled to the subunit in question on June 27, 2014. The visit on June 27 was to the northern end of the proposed unit, which also afforded good views into the entire canyon basin. The subunit possessed sufficient size only in association with the adjoining acreage found to possess wilderness characteristics by the MFO in earlier inventories. In the 2008 MFO Resource Management Plan (RMP), the wilderness characteristics acreage in question was identified to be managed for resources other than wilderness characteristics. The RMP also applied No Surface Occupancy (NSO) stipulation for surface disturbing activities, and placed most of the area in Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class 1. These measures render any development of the area identified earlier as possessing wilderness characteristics unlikely.

In addition to the field checks undertaken by the MFO, 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. Staff members knowledgeable with the area were queried prior to the MFO inventory field trips, as well as after completion of the trips. The information gleaned consisted primarily of information on range and wildlife improvements present in the area.

Subunit B adjoins acreage previously determined by BLM to possess wilderness characteristics (Shafer Canyon), as well as acreage in Canyonlands National Park administratively endorsed for wilderness. Subunit B possesses the wilderness characteristic of adequate size only in conjunction with the adjoining BLM and NPS lands to the west and south.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

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

To the average visitor, subunit B appears in a natural state. Most of the unit consists of the canyon rim and mesa top adjoining a deep canyon basin surrounded by high cliffs. The canyon basin lying below and to the south and east of subunit B consist of lands determined to possess wilderness characteristics in the 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory (Shafer Canyon). The small size of Unit B means that most of the observed naturalness lies in the area previously determined by the MFO to possess wilderness characteristics (Shafer Canyon).

Based on the June 27 field trip, the MFO determined that 378 acres of subunit B possessed naturalness, except for an extension of SUWA's excluded road and an exclusion of a heavily impacted camping area at the end of this route.

(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

Subunit B possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude only in association with the adjoining acreage to the south (Shafer Canyon) found to possess wilderness characteristics by the MFO in the 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory, and the adjoining lands to the west administratively endorsed for wilderness by NPS.

(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

Subunit B possesses outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation only in association with the adjoining acreage to the south (Shafer Canyon) found to possess wilderness characteristics by the MFO in the 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory, and the adjoining lands to the west administratively endorsed for wilderness by NPS.

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

Yes No N/A

Subunit B possesses supplemental values only in association with the adjoining acreage to the west (Shafer Canyon) found to possess wilderness characteristics by the MFO in the 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory. Those values include scenery, wildlife and petrified

wood deposits.

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

Area Unique Identifier: Dead Horse Cliffs Additions

Total Acreage (all units): 2,555

Subunits:

Unit C: 4.98

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes X No

Description: On March 19, 2014, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) submitted new information to the Bureau of Land Management Moab Field Office (MFO) on the 2,555 acres encompassed in the Dead Horse Cliffs Additions 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). The individual subunits (A, B, C, D) were defined by SUWA in their narrative and accompanying map. Subunit C is bounded by designated travel plan routes and National Park Service lands. SUWA's subunit C proposal totaled 4.98 acres.

The MFO travelled to this small subunit on June 30, 2014. The subunit possessed sufficient size only in association with the adjoining acreage administratively endorsed for wilderness by the U.S. National Park Service (NPS). In addition to the field checks undertaken by the MFO, 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. Staff members knowledgeable with the area were queried prior to the MFO inventory field trip, as well as after completion of the trip. The information gleaned consisted primarily of information on any range and wildlife improvements present in the area.

Subunit C is separated from other BLM lands by roads, but adjoins acreage in Canyonlands National Park administratively endorsed for wilderness. Subunit C possesses the wilderness characteristic of adequate size only in conjunction with the adjoining NPS lands to the west.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes X No N/A

To the average visitor, all 4.98 acres of subunit C appears in a natural state. The unit consists of a cliff topped by a small mesa top. The canyon basins lying below and above subunit C consist of lands determined to possess wilderness characteristics in the 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory (Shafer Canyon), but are separated from subunit C by roads. The small size of subunit C means that most of the observed naturalness lies nearby in the areas previously determined by the MFO to possess wilderness characteristics (Shafer Canyon), and the areas endorsed for wilderness by NPS.

(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

Subunit C possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude only in association with the adjoining NPS lands to the west.

(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

Subunit C possesses outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation only in association with the adjoining NPS lands to the west.

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

Yes____ No____ N/A X

The NPS's wilderness endorsement process does not include a discussion of supplemental values.

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

Area Unique Identifier: Dead Horse Cliffs Additions

Total Acreage (all units): 2,555

Subunits:

Unit D: 1

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes X No

Description: On March 19, 2014, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) submitted new information to the Bureau of Land management Moab Field Office (MFO) on the 2,555 acres encompassed in the Dead Horse Cliffs Additions 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). The individual subunits (A, B, C, D) were defined by SUWA in their narrative and accompanying map. SUWA's subunit D proposal totaled less than one acre, is related to whether a short route (0.55 miles) previously excluded from wilderness characteristics by the MFO constitutes a "Wilderness Road" in the context of Manual 6310.

The area in question possesses sufficient size only in conjunction with the lands which it traverses, which were previously determined by the BLM to possess wilderness characteristics (Dead Horse Cliffs, 2007). Dead Horse Cliffs itself possessed wilderness characteristics, including size, only in association with NPS lands to the south administratively endorsed by NPS for wilderness.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes X No N/A

On November 20, 2014, the MFO visited the area in question. To the average visitor, subunit D appears in a natural state. The unit itself consists solely of a vehicle route excluded by the MFO as part of its 2007 wilderness characteristics review. At that time, the MFO had no formal guidance on what constituted wilderness characteristics or the appearance of apparent naturalness to the average visitor. In the seven years since the 2007 review, the route in question has received little use, and has largely reclaimed. The intersection itself with the boundary route is almost invisible, although an experienced observer can see the original route in the distance as it travels through the pinyon-juniper forest canopy. The very small size of Unit D means that most of the observed naturalness lies in the area previously determined by the MFO to possess wilderness characteristics (Dead Horse Cliffs).

(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

Subunit D possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude only in association with the surrounding acreage (Dead Horse Cliffs) found to possess wilderness characteristics by the MFO in its 2007 wilderness characteristics review.

(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

Subunit D possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude only in association with the surrounding acreage (Dead Horse Cliffs) found to possess wilderness characteristics by the MFO in its 2007 wilderness characteristics review.

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

Yes____ No____ N/A X

The NPS's wilderness endorsement process does not include a discussion of supplemental values.

Summary of Analysis

Area Unique Identifier: Dead Horse Cliffs
Additions

Summary

Results of analysis:

- 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
November 24, 2014

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: Beth Ransel Title: Field Manager

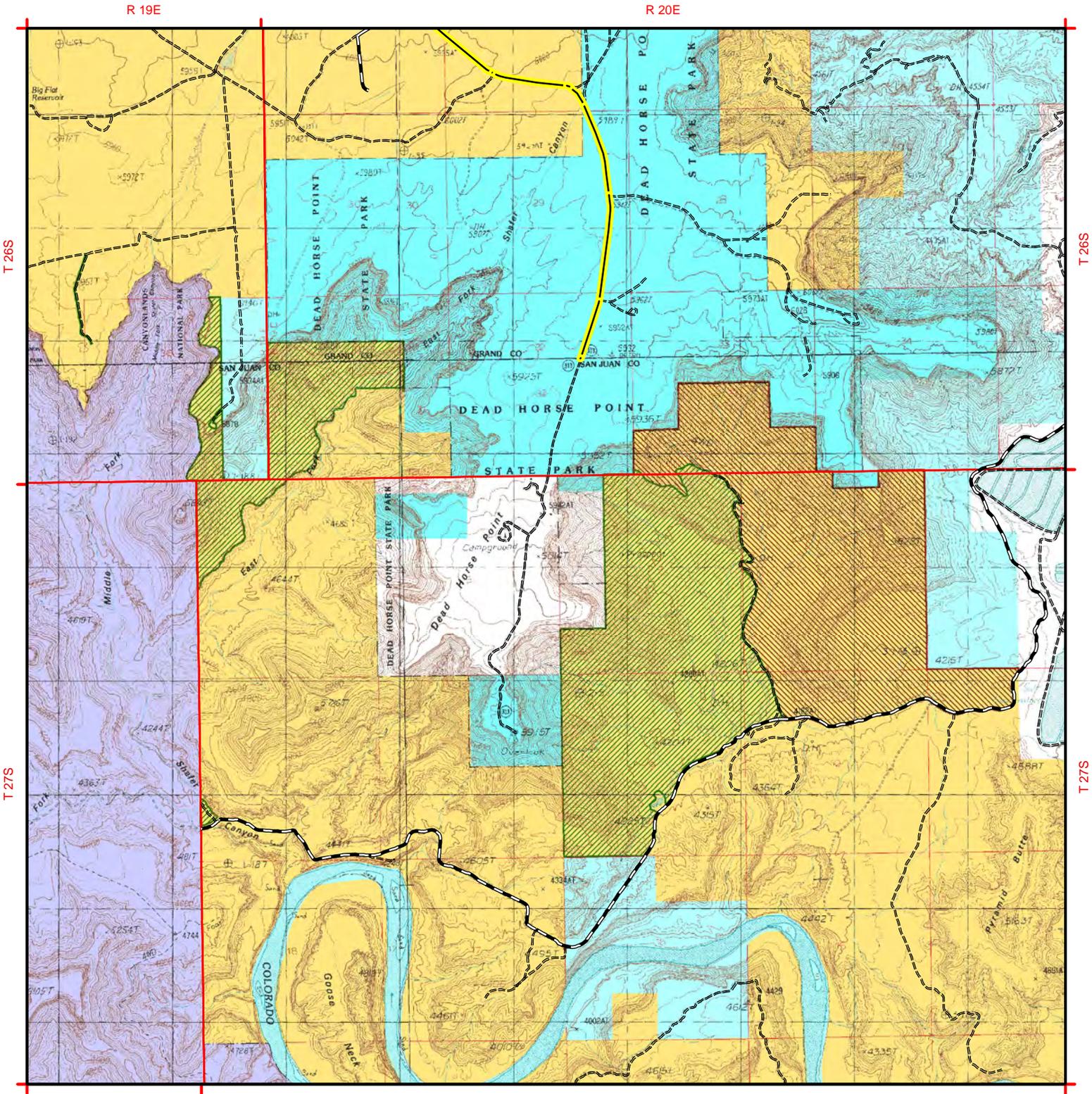
Beth Ransel

Date: 4/10/15

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

Dead Horse Cliffs Additions Wilderness Characteristic Review - 2015

Bureau of Land Management
Moab Field Office



R 19E

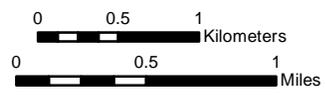
R 20E

Location Map
Utah BLM Field Office Boundaries



2015 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
- State Parks and Recreation
- National Park Service



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.

Date: 5/1/2015