

## WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS REVIEW

Date of Submission: N/A

Date(s) of Field Office Review: 02/06/2007

Submitter: N/A

Name of Area to be Reviewed: Tin Cup Mesa

BLM Field Office(s) Affected: Monticello

### 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 Utah Wilderness Coalition (UWC). Additional Materials 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.

**Size:**

*The Tin Cup Mesa inventory unit (8,000 acres) was inventoried by BLM in 1979 (UT-060-233). The area proposed by the UWC is inclusive of the 1979 inventory acreage, plus an additional 7,897 acres, for a total of 15,897 acres. The reviewed proposal consists of GIS digital data only. Though the proposal is larger than the 1979 BLM Inventory Area, this is not considered to be new information because no other inventory information has been provided. The area as proposed does meet the size requirements for wilderness management.*

**Appearance of Naturalness:**

*BLM's 1979 Initial Wilderness Inventory determined that this area did not possess wilderness character due to numerous intrusions, a large acreage of chaining, bladed seismic lines, a number of roads and oil and gas developments, and it was dropped from intensive inventory.*

*The ID team reviewed the area using GIS data layers, which included recent aerial photography (August 2006), San Juan County Road Data, og-wells GIS Layer, range allotment files, and Reasonable Foreseeable Development (RFD) Data. The ID Team 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. ID Team members have visited this area over several years while administering their respective resources, and have noted that with increased Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use, oil and gas leasing, and related development and exploration, the impacts identified in the 1979 inventory have not diminished and, in fact, have increased.*

*Because the area was found to not possess natural character, further analysis for Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation was not required.*

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.)

*Utah Wilderness Coalition (UWC) GIS Data Layer Proposal (2005)*

*Bug Squaw, Cross Canyon, Squaw Canyon, and Cave Canyon Allotment Files  
Master Title Plats*

*Law Enforcement Patrol Logs:*

*GIS Aerial Photography (NAIP 2006: San Juan County north and south)*

*GIS Oil and Gas Data (og-wells)*

*Reasonable Foreseeable Development Scenario for Oil and Gas (2005)*

*Mineral Potential Report (2005)*

*BLM Utah Final Initial Wilderness Inventory (1979)*

*San Juan Resource Area Management Plan (1991)*

*Analysis of the Management Situation (2005)*

**Attachments:**

- *Map of Tin Cup Mesa Unit*

6. List the members of the interdisciplinary team and resource specialties represented.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>RESOURCE (S) REPRESENTED</b>
Gary Torres	Planner, NEPA Coordinator
Brad Colin	Recreation, OHV, Wilderness
Jed Carling	Range
Maxine Deeter	Lands, VRM
Marie Tuxhorn	Law Enforcement
Doug Paul	Fire, Fuels
Nick Sandberg	Range, Assistant Field Manager
Sandra Meyers	Field Manager
Brian Quigley	Recreation
Tammy Wallace	Wildlife
Nancy Shearin	Cultural, Paleontology
Jeff Brown	Oil and Gas, Hazardous Materials
Ted McDougall	Minerals
Paul Curtis	Range, Riparian, Soils, Vegetation
Dave Mermejo	BLM Utah State Office
Paul Leatherbury	GIS

Field Office Manager \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_.

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.