

A READER'S GUIDE TO THE CHAPTER 3 SUPPLEMENT

The Vernal Field Office Draft RMP/Draft EIS (DRMP/DEIS) was released for public review and comment in January 2005. Chapter 3 of the DRMP/DEIS, entitled "Affected Environment" describes the Vernal Field Office planning area and the existing environmental conditions that would be affected by the proposed alternatives. This chapter is organized by resource, resource use, and special designations, including social and economic conditions.

The DRMP/DEIS provides the full context for this Chapter 3 Supplement. Section 3.14.5, Non-WSA Lands With or Likely to Have Wilderness Characteristics, has been separated from Section 3.14, Special Designations, and a new Section 3.22, Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, has been created. In all other respects, Chapter 3 of the DRMP/DEIS remains the same. Only those portions of the DRMP/DEIS Chapter 3 that are being modified are presented here.

Section 3.22 of the Supplement reflects updated information that guides the planning process for non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Section 3.22.2 has been added to describe, in further detail, the planning area profile for non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Table 3.22.1 of this Supplement has been included to portray the names and acreages of all non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics based on updated wilderness characteristics inventory findings. It also reflects those areas evaluated and found not to have wilderness characteristics. Table 3.22.2 has been included to present cumulative data on lands throughout Utah that are currently being managed to protect wilderness characteristic values. Figure 20e has been included with this Supplement to display all non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

In the DRMP/DEIS, public lands outside of existing WSAs that have wilderness characteristics were referred to as *Non-WSA Lands with or Likely to Have Wilderness Characteristics*. The document also used other variations of that name, like *Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics* and *Non-WSA Lands Likely to Have Wilderness Characteristics*. Further, you may have seen or heard other terms like wilderness inventory areas, reasonable probability determination areas, or simply, areas with wilderness characteristics. All of these terms refer to the same lands: those public lands outside of existing WSAs that the BLM has determined to have wilderness characteristics and that will be considered for management of those characteristics in this planning effort. For consistency and to minimize confusion, these lands will be referred to as *non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics* throughout this Supplement.

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CHAPTER THREE-AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

See Section 3.14 of the DRMP/DEIS with the following changes.

3.14 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

NOTE TO READER: Section 3.14.5, Non-WSA Lands with or Likely to Have Wilderness Characteristics has been deleted from Section 3.14, Special Designations. A new section, 3.22, Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, has been added to the DRMP/DEIS to include a description of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

3.22 NON-WSA LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

3.22.1 Overview

Since wilderness study areas (WSAs) were established in the 1980s, designation of wilderness in Utah has become a prominent national issue. For more than 20 years, the public has debated which lands have wilderness characteristics and should be considered by Congress for wilderness designation. As a result of the debate (and a significant passage of time since BLM's original inventories), in 1996 the Secretary of the Interior directed BLM to take another look at some of the lands in question. In response to the direction of the Secretary, BLM inventoried these lands, and approximately 2.6 million acres of public land statewide (outside of existing WSAs) were found to have wilderness characteristics (1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory). Refer to the definition of *Wilderness Characteristics* in the glossary in the DRMP/DEIS.

In September 2005 the BLM and the State of Utah, the Utah School and Institutional Trust Land Administration (SITLA), and the Utah Association of Counties (collectively "Utah") reached an agreement negotiated to settle a lawsuit originally brought in 1996 by Utah, challenging the BLM's authority to conduct new wilderness inventories. The settlement stipulated that the BLM's authority to designate new WSAs expired no later than October 21, 1993. The BLM, however, does have the authority to conduct inventories for characteristics associated with the concept of wilderness (FLPMA Section 201; 43 U.S.C. §1711) and to consider management of these values in its land-use planning process (FLPMA Section 202; 43 U.S.C. §1712). The BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1) states that decisions on whether or not to protect areas with wilderness characteristics are to be considered during planning.

3.22.2 Planning Area Profile

There are nine areas in the VPA (approximately 102,938 acres) outside of existing WSAs that were determined by BLM in the 1999 inventory to have the wilderness characteristics of size, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. In addition to the lands found to have wilderness characteristics in the 1999 inventory, other lands in the VPA have been proposed for wilderness as a part of legislation before Congress (America's Red Rocks Wilderness Act). A BLM interdisciplinary team evaluated a variety of sources of information, including information provided by the public about these areas, their on-the-ground knowledge

of these areas, information in case files and field notes/files, master title plats, aerial photos, GIS data layers, and field inspections, and the team determined that all or parts of these areas have wilderness characteristics. Of the 34 areas evaluated, a total of 25 areas outside of existing WSAs totaling about 277,596 acres were found to have wilderness characteristics. These areas are identified in the table below (Table 3.22.1; See Figure 20e). These non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics have been carried through the land use planning process to assess the impacts of management options on these lands and to determine how their wilderness characteristics will be managed. Many of the inventoried lands were found to lack wilderness characteristics, and these are also identified in the table below (Table 3.22.1; see Figure 20e).

Detailed information about non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics is part of the administrative record for the DRMP/DEIS. The following records are available for public review at the Vernal Field Office: (1) 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory; (2) 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory Revision Document for the Vernal Field Office; (3) 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory case files for the Vernal Field Office; (4) Reasonable Probability Determinations for the Vernal Field Office; and (5) Documentation of Wilderness Characteristics Review for the Vernal Field Office.

TABLE 3.22.1 NON-WSA LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS IN THE VPA			
Name	Acres with Wilderness Characteristics (WC)	Acres with No Wilderness Characteristics (NWC)	Contiguous Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
Beach Draw	898	9	Beach Draw is contiguous to Dinosaur National Monument lands recommended by the Park Service for wilderness designation. The contiguous lands total more than the required 5,000-acre size.
Bitter Creek	33,488	8,816	
Bourdette Draw	13,335	2,174	
Bull Canyon	2,483	32	Bull Canyon is contiguous to BLM's Bull Canyon WSA, located in Utah and Colorado. The contiguous lands total more than the required 5,000-acre size.
Cliff Dweller Canyon	0	14,604	
Cold Spring Mountain	8,764	4,412	Cold Spring Mountain is contiguous to BLM's West Cold Spring WSA, located in Utah and Colorado. The contiguous lands total more than the required 5,000-acre size.

TABLE 3.22.1 NON-WSA LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS IN THE VPA			
Name	Acres with Wilderness Characteristics (WC)	Acres with No Wilderness Characteristics (NWC)	Contiguous Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
Cripple Cowboy	13,603	0	Cripple Cowboy is contiguous to BLM's Book Cliffs Mountain Browse WSA. The contiguous lands total more than the required 5,000-acre size.
Daniels Canyon	3,045	0	Daniels Canyon is contiguous to BLM's Daniels Canyon WSA and Dinosaur National Monument lands recommended by the Park Service for wilderness designation. The contiguous lands total more than the required 5,000-acre size.
Dead Horse Pass	6,994	1,124	
Desolation Canyon	63,118	6,993	Desolation Canyon is contiguous to BLM's Desolation Canyon WSA. The non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics are located in BLM's Vernal, Price, and Moab Field Offices. This is the acreage with wilderness characteristics in the Vernal Field Office portion of the area. Total acreage of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics is 154,767.
Diamond Breaks	4,539	186	Diamond Breaks is contiguous to BLM's Diamond Breaks WSA, located in Utah and Colorado. The contiguous lands total more than the required 5,000-acre size.
Diamond Mountain	27,238	25	Diamond Mountain is contiguous to Dinosaur National Monument lands recommended by the Park Service for wilderness designation.
Dragon Canyon	0	19,899	
Goslin Mountain	0	6,084	
Hells Hole Canyon	2,709	0	Hells Hole Canyon includes 7,000 acres in Colorado. The contiguous lands total more than the required 5,000-acre size.
Hideout Canyon	1,113	0	Hideout Canyon includes 11,607 acres of lands with wilderness characteristics in the Moab Field Office. The contiguous lands total more than the required 5,000-acre size.

TABLE 3.22.1 NON-WSA LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS IN THE VPA			
Name	Acres with Wilderness Characteristics (WC)	Acres with No Wilderness Characteristics (NWC)	Contiguous Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
Lower Bitter Creek	11,417	2,682	
Lower Flaming Gorge	17,810	3,360	Lower Flaming Gorge includes 800 acres of lands with wilderness characteristics on the adjacent Ashley National Forest.
Mexico Point	1,277	79	Mexico Point includes 12,837 acres of lands with wilderness characteristics in the Moab Field Office. The contiguous lands total more than the required 5,000-acre size.
Moonshine Draw	4,513	0	Moonshine Draw is contiguous to Dinosaur National Monument lands recommended by the Park Service for wilderness designation. The contiguous lands total more than the required 5,000-acre size.
Mountain Home	7,083	2,201	
Rat Hole Ridge	11,367	0	Rat Hole Ridge includes 1,200 acres of lands with wilderness characteristics in Colorado. The contiguous lands total more than the required 5,000-acre size.
Red Creek Badlands	0	4,656	
Seep Canyon	0	20,802	
Split Mountain Benches	0	2,164	
Split Mountain Benches South	0	355	
Stone Bridge Draw	0	3,638	
Stuntz Draw	1,992	0	Stuntz Draw is contiguous to Dinosaur National Monument lands recommended by the Park Service for wilderness designation. The contiguous lands total more than the required 5,000-acre size.
Sunday School Canyon	0	18,069	
Sweetwater Canyon	6,994	0	
Vivas Cake Hill	277	0	Vivas Cake Hill is contiguous to Dinosaur National Monument lands recommended by the Park Service for wilderness designation.

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Name	Acres with Wilderness Characteristics (WC)	Acres with No Wilderness Characteristics (NWC)	Contiguous Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
White River	21,210	8,564	
Wild Mountain	527	31	Wild Mountain is contiguous to Dinosaur National Monument lands recommended by the Park Service for wilderness designation. The contiguous lands total more than the required 5,000-acre size.
Wolf Point	11,802	2,764	
Total (34 areas)	277,596	133,723	

Non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics analyzed in this document include 277,596 acres of BLM-administered public land. In addition to the acreage currently being managed to protect and preserve their wilderness characteristics, BLM Utah is considering management options for 2,759,400 (5.3% of lands in Utah) additional acres of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics in six ongoing land use planning efforts. This includes the 277,596 acres in the VPA. There are other federal lands with wilderness characteristics in Utah not administered by the BLM that are currently being managed to protect those values. These are identified in Table 3.22.2.

TABLE 3.22.2. FEDERAL LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS IN UTAH THAT ARE CURRENTLY BEING MANAGED TO PROTECT THOSE VALUES			
Land Administrator	Administrative Unit	Acres	Percent of Land in Utah*
BLM	Designated Wilderness	127,700	0.24
BLM	Wilderness Study Areas	3,214,740	6.10
National Park Service	Recommended Wilderness	1,467,082	2.79
U.S. Forest Service	Designated Wilderness	773,124	1.47
U.S. Forest Service	Recommended Wilderness	83,390	0.16
Total		5,666,036	10.76

*The percentage figures shown in this table are based on a total land area of 52,541,440 acres in Utah.

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