

For Immediate Release  
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**BLM Completes Final Wilderness Character Inventory for the Vermillion Basin Area located near Craig, Colorado**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has released its Final Wilderness Character Inventory for the Vermillion Basin Area located near Craig, Colorado. The inventory, conducted in conjunction with a citizen advisory group, concluded that 77,067 acres out of 81,028 total acres in the Vermillion Basin Area have wilderness characteristics. Wilderness characteristics indicate that the area was found to be predominately natural in character and have outstanding opportunities for either solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation.

BLM will initiate a plan amendment to the Little Snake Resource Management Plan (RMP) to determine how the area will be managed. The amendment will consider a full range of alternatives including continuation of existing management, management as administrative Wilderness Study Areas, or other new land management prescriptions. The beginning date for the plan amendment is still to be determined. During the amendment process, there will be numerous opportunities for public involvement.

The Final Wilderness Character Inventory Evaluation is available on the BLM's Little Snake Field Office Website at: <http://www.co.blm.gov/lspa/lspaindex.htm>. The Wilderness Character Public Comment Analysis will be posted in the near future.

If you have questions or need printed copies of these documents, please contact Jim McBrayer at the Little Snake Field Office, 455 Emerson Street, Craig, CO 81625-1129 or phone (970) 826-5083.

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