



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson Street
Craig, Colorado 81625-1129
<http://www.co.blm.gov/lspa/index.htm>

In Reply Refer To:

June 26, 2001

Dear Interested Citizen:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has completed the Wilderness Character Inventory for the Vermillion Basin Area near Craig, Colorado. The final Wilderness Character Inventory evaluation results differ from the preliminary evaluation. Within the 81,028 acre inventory area, 77,067 acres have wilderness character and 3,961 acres lack wilderness character.

Several changes in the preliminary findings were made by the BLM inventory team based on additional field work undertaken in April and May of 2001 in response to public comments. The total acreage of the Vermillion inventory area with wilderness character was reduced by 1,499 acres due the presence of man made features which affect the appearance of naturalness.

The Wilderness Character findings do not change current BLM Resource Management Plan decisions for these areas. However, since portions of the area were found to have wilderness characteristics, we will initiate an amendment of 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/lspa/index.htm>. The Wilderness Character Public Comment Analysis will be posted in the near future.

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

Sincerely,

John E. Husband
Field Manager