

**To:** Butts, Sally[sbutts@blm.gov]; Wick, Robert M[rwick@blm.gov]  
**From:** Sippel, James  
**Sent:** 2017-05-22T12:09:49-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: GSENM Executive Summary and Initial Data Request  
**Received:** 2017-05-22T12:09:57-04:00

My recommendation for changing the paragraph are below. Sorry I didn't do it in track changes, just started with some tweaks and then got more into it. A couple points: We have refrained from saying BLM designated WSAs under 603, because it was a mandatory function of law, not BLM discretionary action (if we found an area meet the definition, it became a WSA). So I changed the wording to talk about WSA's being established. Also, the question that came in was if there was more than one process for an area becoming a WSA. That question was not answered, so I added several sentences to explain the other processes.

All WSAs were established under the authority of Sections 202 and 603 of FLPMA. Sec. 603 of FLPMA directed the BLM to develop recommendations, within 15 years of the law's enactment, for areas identified under the inventory requirements of Section 201 of FLPMA as meeting the definition of "wilderness" as described in the Wilderness Act of 1964. In carrying out Sec. 603, the BLM broke the process into three phases: inventory, study, and reporting. The BLM completed the wilderness inventory phase by 1980. Between 1980 and 1991, BLM conducted the study phase, which consisted of Bureau staff comparing a WSA's wilderness values to other potential land uses and whether other land uses for a given WSA were of greater public value than managing the area as wilderness. A suitability recommendation was the result of the evaluation. Finally, the BLM reported its recommendations to the President, which it did by sending statewide wilderness reports to the President in 1991. The President, in turn, sent his recommendations to Congress in 1993. After the BLM's study phase was completed and prior to the President's recommendations to Congress in 1993, changes to the public lands (most often land acquisitions) resulted in additional areas meeting the definition of wilderness. During that time, approximately 30 additional WSAs were established under the authority of Section 202. These were not included in the recommendation to Congress. Lastly, Congress itself has designated WSAs legislatively, and required that BLM provide recommendations for their designation as wilderness. In the Settlement of the lawsuit Utah v. Norton, it was clarified that BLM's authority to designate new WSAs expired in 1993. Except through Congressional action, no new WSAs have been designated since 1993. All WSAs are managed to protect wilderness characteristics until Congress decides, through legislation, whether or not they should be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System as wilderness areas.

James Sippel  
 Wilderness Specialist  
 BLM representative to Arthur Carhart Interagency Wilderness Center (WO-410)  
 406-243-4625

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 8:52 AM, Butts, Sally <sbutts@blm.gov> wrote:

James or Bob,

Does Nikki's suggested response to Randy (who's coordinating the Executive Order on Monuments review) sound good regarding WSAs? Are we missing anything?

Thanks for your help, Sally

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Moore, Nikki** <[nmoore@blm.gov](mailto:nmoore@blm.gov)>

Date: Mon, May 22, 2017 at 8:54 AM

Subject: Fwd: GSENM Executive Summary and Initial Data Request

To: Peter Mali <[pmali@blm.gov](mailto:pmali@blm.gov)>

Cc: "McAlear, Christopher" <[cmcalear@blm.gov](mailto:cmcalear@blm.gov)>, Sally Butts <[sbutts@blm.gov](mailto:sbutts@blm.gov)>, Timothy Fisher <[tjfisher@blm.gov](mailto:tjfisher@blm.gov)>

Hi Peter,

Randy has a follow up question. Here is my recommended answer:

The BLM designated all WSAs under the authority of sections 202 and 603 of FLPMA. Sec. 603 of FLPMA directed the BLM to inventory its lands and, within 15 years of the law's enactment, identify parcels that met the definition of "wilderness" as described in the Wilderness Act of 1964. In carrying out Sec. 603, the BLM broke the process into three phases: inventory, study, and reporting. The BLM completed the wilderness inventory phase by 1980. Between 1980 and 1991, BLM performed the study phase, which consisted of Bureau staff comparing a WSA's wilderness values to other land uses and coming up with a recommendation as to whether a given WSA was suitable to be managed as wilderness. The recommendation phase consisted of BLM submitting its recommendations to the President, which it did by sending statewide wilderness reports to the President in 1991. The President, in turn, sent recommendations to Congress in 1993. Settlement of the lawsuit, *Utah v. Norton*, clarified that BLM will not designate new WSAs. These areas are managed to protect wilderness characteristics until Congress decides whether or not they should be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System as wilderness areas.

Nikki Moore

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From: **Bowman, Randal** <[randal\\_bowman@ios.doi.gov](mailto:randal_bowman@ios.doi.gov)>

Date: Mon, May 22, 2017 at 8:31 AM

Subject: Re: GSENM Executive Summary and Initial Data Request  
To: Nikki Moore <[nmoore@blm.gov](mailto:nmoore@blm.gov)>

Nikki, one followup question - does BLM have more than one process for designating wilderness study areas, or were all done by administrative review, recommendation to the President and transmittal to Congress? I've tried to find this on your web site with no luck.

On Fri, May 19, 2017 at 7:57 PM, Nikki Moore <[nmoore@blm.gov](mailto:nmoore@blm.gov)> wrote:

Hi Randy,

We have completed our review of the initial responses provided in response to the April 26, 2017 Executive Order 13792 and initial data request. The executive summary and detailed response for the requested items are attached and will be uploaded to the respective Google Drive folder for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in addition to the supporting data and documents.

Per your request, I have also attached the additional information in a word document below and will shared the google docs that provide the supporting data and information.

Please let me know if you have any questions.  
Hope you have a great weekend!

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Sally R. Butts, J.D., Acting Division Chief  
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