

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS REVIEW

Date of Submission: *December 30, 2003*

Date(s) of Field Office Review: *December, 2006- February, 2007*

Submitter: *SUWA*

Name of Area to be Reviewed: *Beaver Creek*

BLM Field Office(s) Affected: *Moab*

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 proponent. New information 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.

See attached narrative

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.)

During the course of the interdisciplinary team review, Moab BLM undertook the following steps. The areas reviewed were the new non-WIA lands only.

In late 2006 and early 2007, BLM used GIS information to identify potential impacts on naturalness including county road data (previously verified as part of travel plan formulation), county-provided intrusion data, and local GIS data on range improvements, oil and gas wells, vegetative manipulations (especially chainings), and community pits. Master Title Plat data available from the State Office GIS was examined for rights-of-way.

BLM Moab next 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.

The above steps enabled Moab BLM to prepare a map showing what remaining areas were likely to possess naturalness. As described in the attached narrative, most of the new acreage is cut off from the larger WIA by roads, other impacts, lands found in earlier reviews (1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory and 2003 Revision) and/or state lands. This acreage, regardless of naturalness, failed to meet the size criteria and was dropped from further consideration.

Moab BLM convened an interdisciplinary review team meeting on January 11, 2007, to review the findings from the above steps. Team members were asked to provide information, including knowledge gained in the field, which either supported or refuted these findings. Based on input from this review, Moab BLM incorporated any necessary changes into its analysis.

The following specific documents and files were utilized:

1. *Grand County road inventory (GIS)*
2. *Grand County intrusion data (GIS)*
3. *Beaver Creek, Taylor, Gateway, Steamboat Mesa, Hubbard range allotment files*
4. *NAIP 2006 aerial photos (GIS)*
5. *Vegetative treatments (local GIS)*
6. *Range improvements (local GIS)*
7. *1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory file (Beaver Creek)*
8. *2003 Wilderness Inventory revision document*
9. *UWC GIS Wilderness Proposal Data Layer (2005)*
10. *1999 Supplemental Revision Files*
11. *Analysis of Management Situation (Moab BLM, 2007)*

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

<i>Name</i>	<i>Resource(s) Represented</i>
<i>Bill Stevens</i>	<i>Wilderness, GIS, Recreation</i>
<i>Ann Marie Aubry</i>	<i>Hydrology, Soils</i>
<i>Brent Northrup</i>	<i>Minerals, RMP Team Lead</i>
<i>Chad Niehaus</i>	<i>Recreation</i>
<i>Daryl Trotter</i>	<i>Botany, NEPA coordinator</i>
<i>Donna Turnipseed</i>	<i>Cultural, Paleontology</i>
<i>Katie Stevens</i>	<i>Recreation, Planning</i>
<i>Lynn Jackson</i>	<i>Geology, Minerals, Associate FO Manager</i>
<i>Pam Riddle</i>	<i>Wildlife</i>
<i>David Williams</i>	<i>Range</i>
<i>Maggie Wyatt</i>	<i>Field Office Manager</i>

Field Office Manager /s/ Maggie Wyatt

Date 3/9/07

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.

Analysis of Citizens' Proposals for Wilderness Characteristics

Beaver Creek

The Citizens' Proposal for this area includes 5 individual parcels of land that are contiguous with the Beaver Creek Wilderness Inventory Area (WIA) considered in the *1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory*. Lands already considered in the *1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory* will not be reconsidered here.

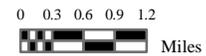
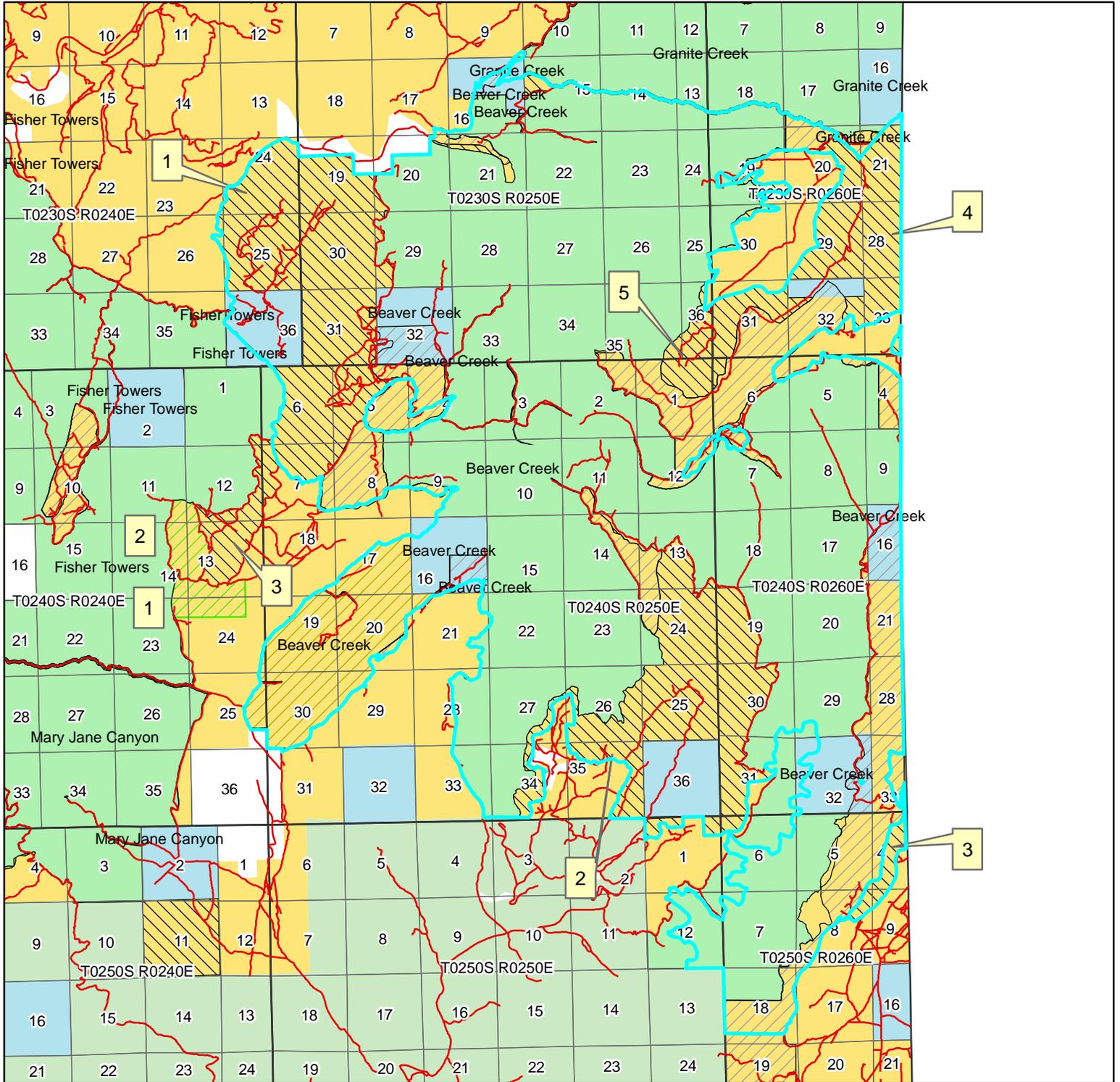
To possess wilderness characteristics, lands must possess naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. According to the 1964 Wilderness Act, these outstanding opportunities generally require a land mass of 5000 acres or more. An exception to this are those lands which adjoin other lands already judged to possess wilderness characteristics, as the opportunities need be present *somewhere* in the larger unit. In the case of Beaver Creek, no unit would be large enough to potentially qualify as a stand-alone unit; it could possess outstanding opportunities only by association with contiguous lands that were evaluated in the *1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory* and determined to have wilderness characteristics.

The acreage to be reviewed can be divided into five units (see accompanying map). Unit 1 is bounded by substantially noticeable routes, state lands, and lands found to lack wilderness character in the 1999 inventory. Unit 1 is not large enough to meet the size requirement for stand-alone units. Unit 2 is largely unnatural in appearance due to a large number of substantially noticeable routes and other impacts, principally from uranium mining. The unit is cut off from the larger WIA by substantially noticeable routes and areas found to lack wilderness character in the 1999 inventory. Units 3 and 5 are cut off from the WIA by substantially noticeable routes and lands found to lack wilderness character in the 1999 inventory. Additionally, the center of Unit 5 shows impacts from past mining disturbances. Unit 4 is entirely cut off from the larger WIA by a combination of substantially noticeable routes, state lands, and lands found to lack wilderness character in the 1999 inventory, and is not large enough to meet the size requirement for stand-alone units.

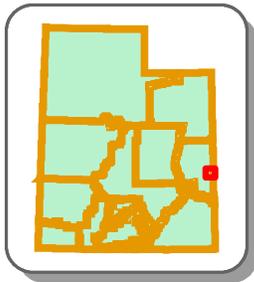
In summary, none of the five units have wilderness characteristics due to existing substantially noticeable disturbances and/or lack of size:

The following is a list by unit of acres of lands with wilderness characteristics:

Unit 1: 0 acres
Unit 2: 0 acres
Unit 3: 0 acres
Unit 4: 0 acres
Unit 5: 0 acres



1:115,503



Legend

— Grand Co Identified Routes

1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory

- WC
- WC isolated by State
- NWC

Wilderness Characteristics Review

- NWC
- WC



Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- BLM Wilderness Area
- National Forest
- National Park Service
- Indian Lands
- Military Reservations
- State Lands
- Private Lands
- Water

CAUTION:
Land ownership data is derived from less accurate data than the 1:24000 scale base map. Therefore, land ownership may not be shown for parcels smaller than 40 acres, and land ownership lines may have plotting errors due to source data.

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for the use of the data for purposes not intended by the BLM.



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Moab Field Office
Map created on Feb 22, 2007