

## WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS REVIEW

Date of Submission: 12/22/2011  
Date(s) of Field Office Review: 04/23/2012  
Submitter: Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA)  
Name of Area to be Review: Upper Indian Creek  
BLM Field Office(s) Affected: Monticello

### EVALUATION

1. Was new information submitted by a member of the public for this area?

YES  X  NO \_\_\_\_\_

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 map and photographs submitted By SUWA. It should be noted, the map submitted by SUWA omitted a short section, approximately ½ mile, of Road 0570 north of Creek Pasture Campsite that is in the current Monticello Field Office Travel Management Plan as a designated motorized route.

3. As a result of Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team) review of relevant information (which includes maps, photographs, field observations, evidence presented as new information by a proponent, etc.) do you conclude:

X  a) the decision reached in the most current review, 04/23/2012, and 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.

**Size:**

The Upper Indian Creek area proposed by SUWA for wilderness character consideration is approximately 6,418 acres.

**Appearance of Naturalness:**

Three members of the ID Team reviewed the area by driving the designated route that parallels the SUWA proposed unit boundary. We utilized range allotment maps, aerial photographs, Monticello Field Office travel maps, and the Indian Creek Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) map. The new proposal submitted by SUWA, with the exclusion of a small area north of Hamburger Rock Campground, was reviewed for Wilderness Characteristics in 2007 as part of the Hatch-Lockhart-Hart 1 Unit, approximately 12,578 acres in size. Sixteen members of the ID Team conducted a detailed review of the entire unit. Most of the intrusions noted in the 2007 review were located above the canyon rim. Whereas the SUWA proposed unit lies below the canyon rim, the area still lacks natural character because of the following findings:

Allotment fences - Attachment 1

Numerous OHV intrusions and impacts - Attachment 2

User-created roads and campsites – Attachment 3

Old two-track road that bisects and cuts off about 1/3 of the acreage in the northeast part of the unit – Attachment 4

Because the area was found to not possess natural character, further analysis for outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation was not required.

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 as new information by a proponent, etc.)

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance proposal December 2011

Aerial Photography

BLM Recreation Staff Patrols and Photographs

2007 Wilderness Characteristics Review for the Hatch-Lockhart 1 Unit

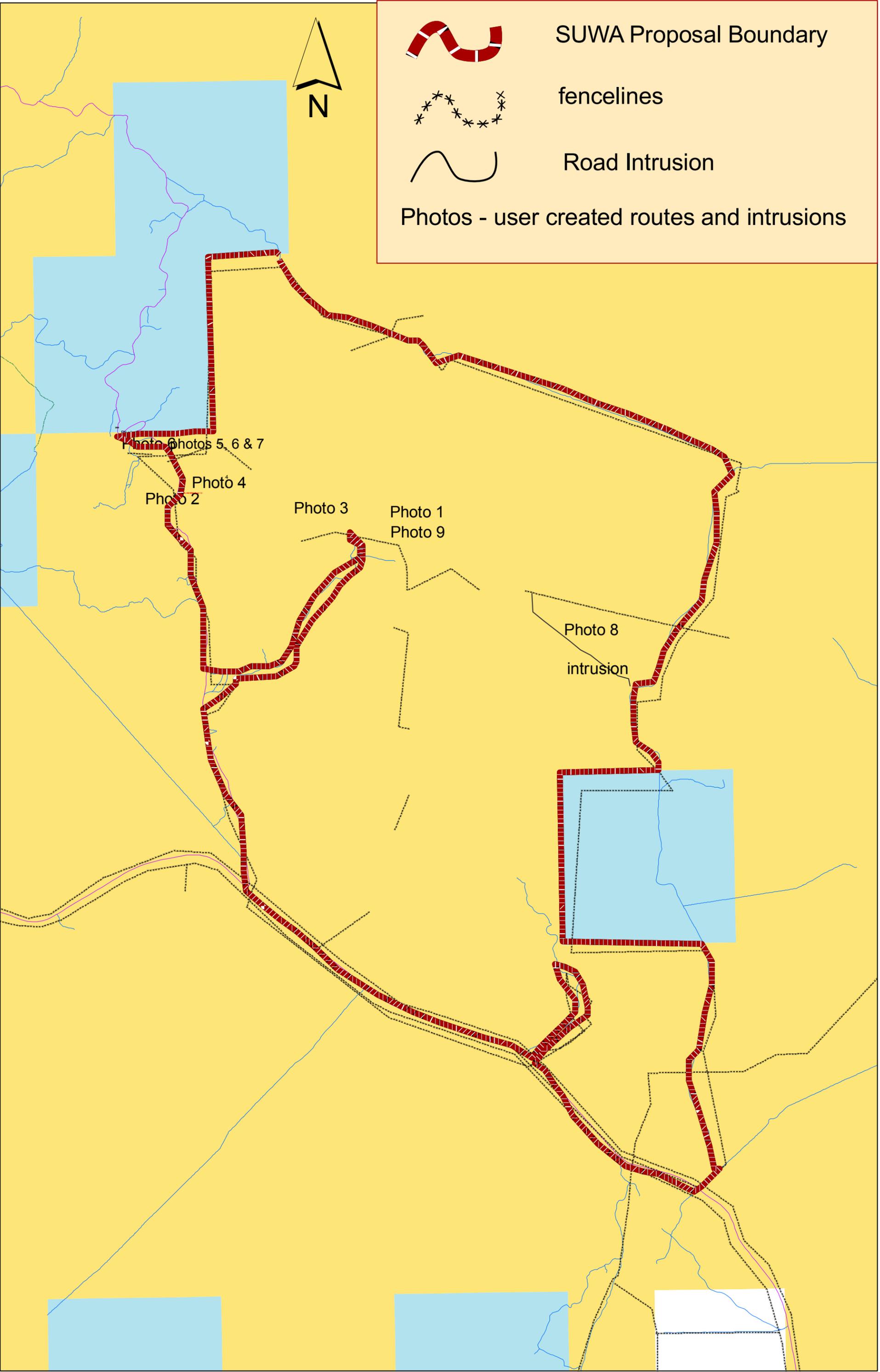
Field Observations April 23, 2012

Environmental Assessment UT-090-00-47 – Indian Creek Corridor Plan and EA

Monticello Field Office Resource Management Plan (2008) and maps

NAME	RESOURCES REPRESENTED
Robert A. Leaver	Recreation, Wilderness, OHV
Maxine Deeter	Lands, VRM
Cliff Giffen	Natural Resources

Field Office Manager Thomas Anderson Date 8/21/12



SUWA Proposal Boundary



fencelines



Road Intrusion

Photos - user created routes and intrusions

Photo 6  
Photos 5, 6 & 7

Photo 4  
Photo 2

Photo 3

Photo 1  
Photo 9

Photo 8

intrusion



## Attachment 2

# Numerous OHV Intrusions and Impacts



**Photo 1 - Intrusion North of Creek Pasture – UTM 618148, 4229570**



**Photo 2 - Dry Wash Near Indian Creek Falls Toilet – UTM 616280, 4229801**



**Photo 3 - ATV Tracks in Creek, Fence Across Creek – UTM 617543, 4229717**



**Photo 4 - Indian Creek Falls Loop Road – UTM 616617, 4229956**

## Attachment 3

# User-created Roads and Campsites



**Photo 5 - Indian Creek Falls Area – UTM 615792, 4230357**



Photo 6 - Indian Creek Falls Area - UTM 615960, 4230321



Photo 7 - Indian Creek Falls Area - Near Photos 5 & 6

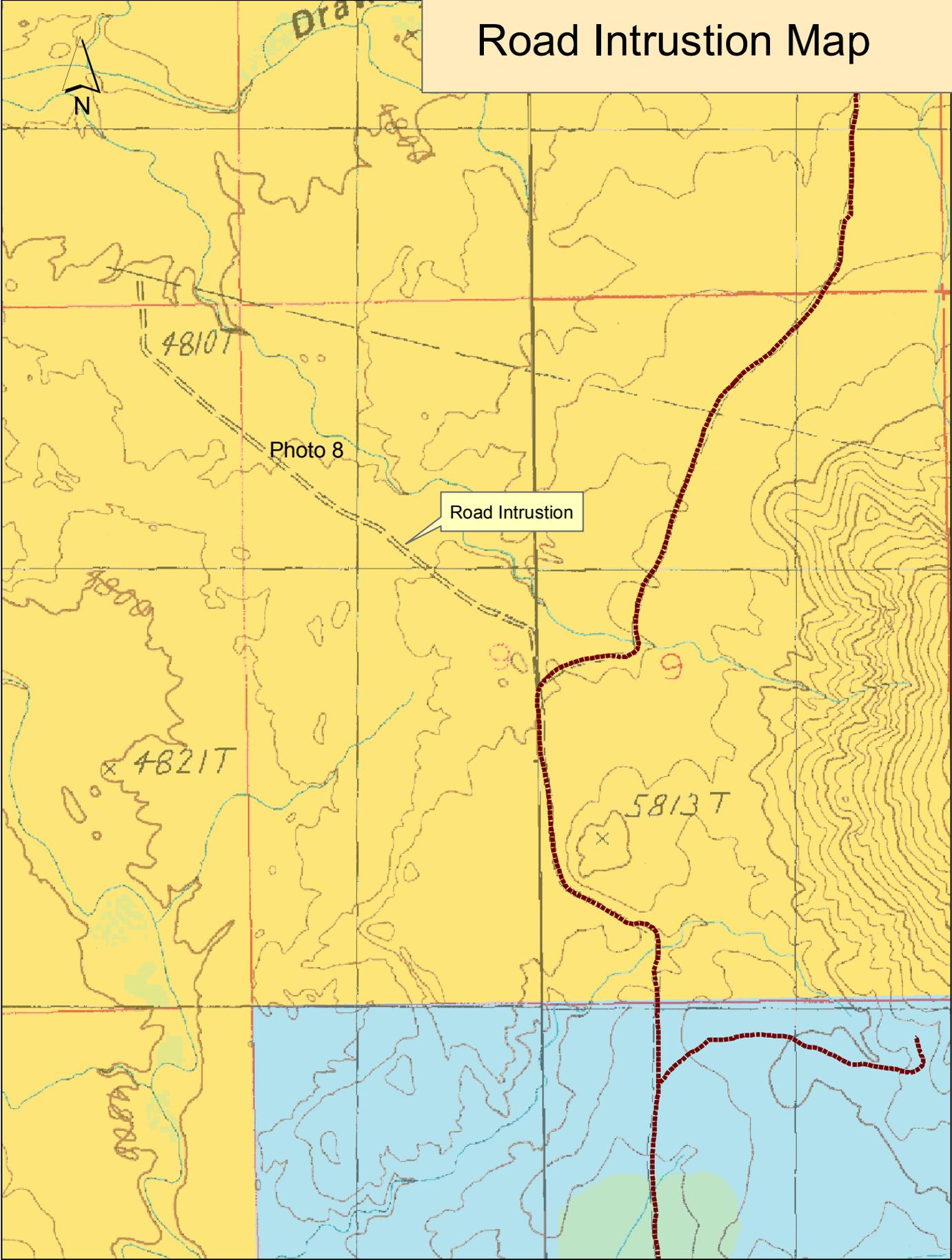


Photo 7b Indian Creek Falls Loop Road - Near Photos 5 & 6

## Attachment 4

# Road Bisecting Wilderness Character Proposal Area

# Road Intrusion Map





**Photo 8 - Bisecting Road – UTM 619758, 4228472**



**Photo 9 - Intrusion North of Creek Pasture Going into the Creek – UTM 618219, 4229394**



**Photo 10 - Northeast of Hamburger Rock – Near Photo 9**