

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS REVIEW

Date of Submission: N/A

Date(s) of Field Office Review: 02/06/2007

Submitter: N/A

Name of Area to be Reviewed: Lime Creek

BLM Field Office(s) Affected: Monticello

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 Utah Wilderness Coalition (UWC). Additional Materials 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:

_____ a) the decision reached in previous BLM inventories, that the area lacks wilderness characteristics, is still valid.

(or)

X 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 Lime Creek area proposed by the UWC for wilderness consideration is approximately 5,556 acres. It is bordered on the south by State Highway 163, Valley of the Gods Road to the west, and a boundary road on the northeast side, separating Lime Creek from Unit 5 of the Road Canyon 1999 Inventory. The Lime Creek area was inventoried during the initial inventory in 1979 and was not carried forward into the intensive inventory because the area was determined not to be natural in character. Because the area was inventoried and no documentation has been received in addition to the GIS data layer, this is not considered to be new information. The area as proposed is in excess of 5,000 acres, and thus does meet the size requirements for wilderness management.

Appearance of Naturalness:

The ID team reviewed the area using GIS data layers, which included recent aerial photography (August 2006), San Juan County Road Data, og-wells GIS Layer, range allotment files, and Reasonable Foreseeable Development (RFD) Data. The ID Team 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. ID Team members have visited this area over several years while administering their respective resources, and have noted that the area contains minimal range improvements such as fencelines and stock reservoirs and contains no known landscape scale surface disturbances, such as major highways, significant recreation development, etc. The Reasonable Foreseeable Development (RFD) Scenario indicates minimal oil and gas activity in the area. Law enforcement patrol logs indicate limited Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) activity in the area. Therefore, with minimal human impacts in the area, the area appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature and is natural in character.

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

The area contains minimal vegetative cover, and consists primarily of sandy rolling hills and ravines. With minimal OHV activity, opportunities for solitude can be found throughout the area, away from the boundaries. Because of the sandy, rolling terrain, primitive recreation uses such as hiking and photography are available and are not impacted by OHV use, which is restricted to the boundaries.

Supplemental Values

The area also contains cultural and paleontological resources, which are considered to be significant supplemental values.

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.)

- Utah Wilderness Coalition (UWC) GIS Data Layer Proposal (2005)*
- Perkins Brothers Allotment File*
- Master Title Plats*
- Law Enforcement Patrol Logs: Cedar Mesa Sector*
- GIS Aerial Photography (NAIP 2006: San Juan County north and south)*
- GIS Oil and Gas Data (og-wells)*
- Reasonable Foreseeable Development Scenario for Oil and Gas (2005)*
- Mineral Potential Report (2005)*
- BLM 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory Revision (May 2003)*
- San Juan Resource Area Management Plan (1991)*
- Analysis of the Management Situation (2005)*

Attachments:

- *Map of Lime Ridge Unit*

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

NAME	RESOURCE (S) REPRESENTED
Gary Torres	Planner, NEPA Coordinator
Brad Colin	Recreation, OHV, Wilderness
Jed Carling	Range
Maxine Deeter	Lands, VRM
Marie Tuxhorn	Law Enforcement
Doug Paul	Fire, Fuels
Nick Sandberg	Range, Assistant Field Manager
Sandra Meyers	Field Manager
Brian Quigley	Recreation
Tammy Wallace	Wildlife
Nancy Shearin	Cultural, Paleontology
Jeff Brown	Oil and Gas, Hazardous Materials
Ted McDougall	Minerals
Paul Curtis	Range, Riparian, Soils, Vegetation
Dave Mermejo	BLM Utah State Office
Paul Leatherbury	GIS

Field Office Manager _____

Date _____.

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.