WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS REVIEW

Date of Submission: N/A

Date(s) of Field Office Review: 02/06-07/07

Submitter: N/A

Name of Area to be Reviewed: Monticello Field Office

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 areas reviewed were 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 polygons shown below depict units that are larger than one acre, but less than 100 acres in size. Because these units are adjacent to a WSA, an area Administratively Endorsed (AE) for Wilderness Management, or lands determined to possess Wilderness Characteristics (WC), they have been analyzed.

NAME	ACRES	REASON	DECISION
Arch Canyon 4	46.89	Contiguous to WSA	WC
Indian Creek 3	12.58	Map error, part of IC WSA	WC
Indian Creek Adj.	26.49	Contiguous to NPS AE	WC
White Canyon 17	29.98	Digitizing Error	WC

Appearance of Naturalness:
The areas listed above have been reviewed 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 reviewers 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. Reviewers have visited these areas over several years while administering their respective resources, and have noted that the areas, other than minimal access roads, do not contain substantially noticeable human impacts and contains no other known landscape scale surface disturbances, such as significant recreation development, etc. The Reasonable Foreseeable Development (RFD) Scenario indicates minimal oil and gas activity in the each area. Law enforcement patrol logs indicate limited Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) activity in the areas. Therefore, with minimal human impacts in each of the areas, they appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature and are natural in character.

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:
With minimal evidence of human disturbances, outstanding opportunities for solitude can be found throughout the area. Opportunities for primitive recreation uses such as hiking and photography are available.

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)
GIS Aerial Photography (NAIP 2006: San Juan County north and south)
BLM 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory
BLM 1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory Revised
Utah Wilderness Report to Congress (1995)

Attachments:

- *Complete List of Units*
- *Unit Maps*

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
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.