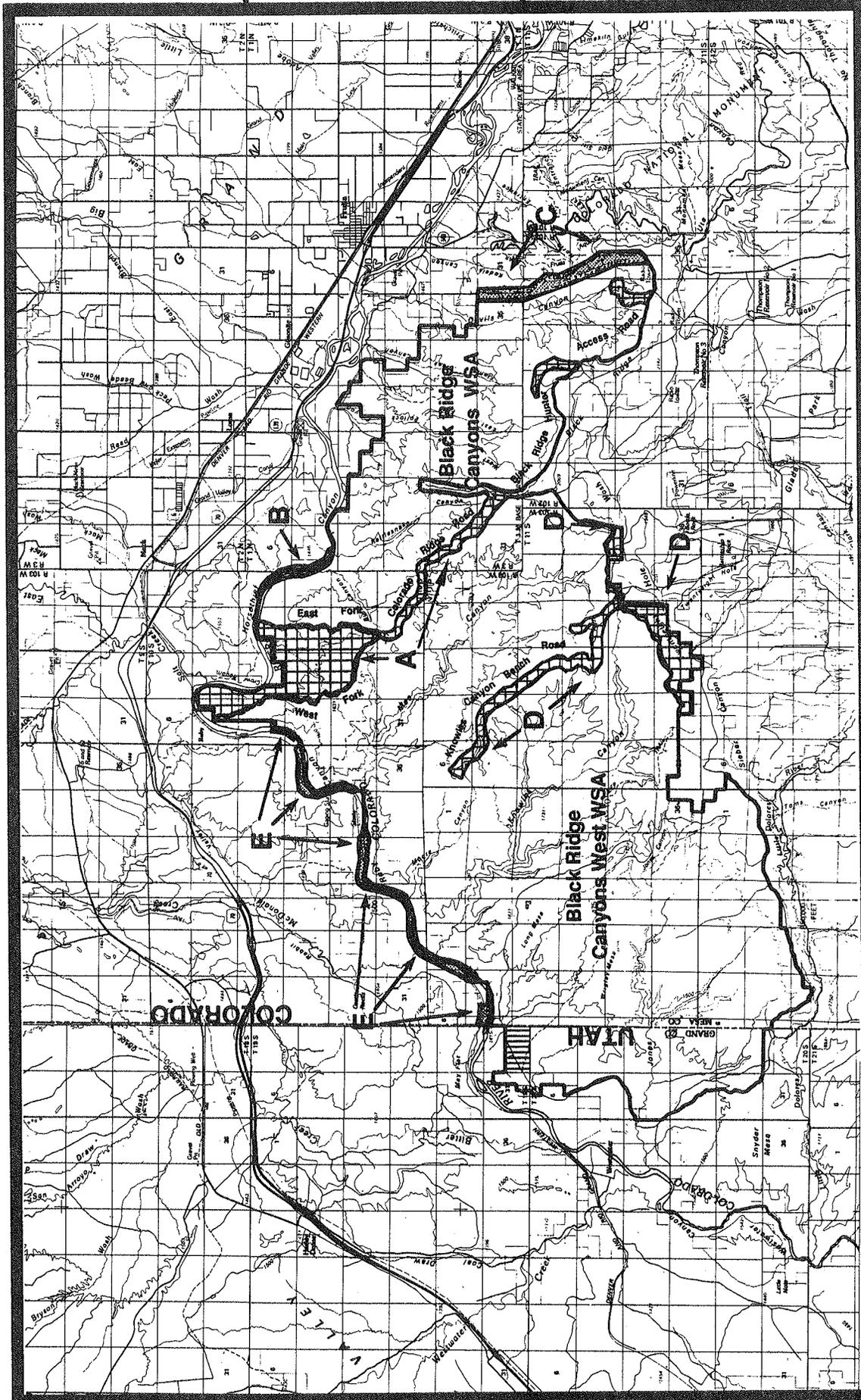


**Black Ridge Canyons West
Wilderness Study Area**

T 2 N | T 1 N | T 1 N | T 11 S | T 12 S

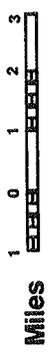


T 19 S | T 20 S

R 104 W | R 103 W | R 103 W | R 102 W

-
-
-
-

RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS
 RECOMMENDED FOR NONWILDERNESS
 LAND OUTSIDE WSA RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS
 SPLIT ESTATE
 STATE
 PRIVATE



BLACK RIDGE CANYON WEST WSA
 PROPOSAL CO-070-113A
 BLACK RIDGE CANYON WSA
 PROPOSAL CO-070-113



January 1991

Note: Except for the Rattlesnake Canyon Access Roads, all of the WSA's Cherry Stemmed roads would be part of the Wilderness Recommendation

BLACK RIDGE CANYONS WEST WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

THE STUDY AREA: 54,265 acres

The Black Ridge Canyons West WSA (CO-070-113A, UT-060-116/117) is located in Mesa County, Colorado, and Grand County, Utah. The WSA is located 15 miles west of Grand Junction, Colorado and contains 54,265 acres of public lands administered by the BLM (see Table 1). The area is bounded on the north by private lands and the Colorado River shoreline, on the east by the Colorado Ridge Road, and on the south and west by boundary roads, the cherry-stemmed Knowles Canyon bench road and private lands. The WSA is shown on the map. Three extensive canyon systems (almost 1,000 feet deep) dissect this northern terminus of the Uncompaghere Plateau creating a spectacular setting. Pinyon-Juniper woodland and sagebrush parks are the dominant vegetation in the upland area while the canyons have scattered pinyon-juniper wood-

land in the broad, open areas and grassy meadows and riparian vegetation along canyon bottoms.

The WSA was studied under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and was included in the Grand Junction Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) published in November, 1985. Three alternatives were analyzed in the EIS; all wilderness, no wilderness, and partial wilderness (53,617 acres in the WSA and 725 acres outside the WSA would be designated as wilderness while 648 acres would be released for uses other than wilderness). Under the partial wilderness alternative, the area to be designated as wilderness would be combined with the contiguous Black Ridge Canyons WSA to form one 73,937-acre wilderness. The Colorado Ridge Road separating the Black Ridge Canyons West WSA from the Black Ridge Canyons WSA would be closed (see Map).

**TABLE 1
LAND STATUS AND ACREAGE SUMMARY IN THE STUDY AREA**

TOTAL ACREAGE	
WITHIN THE WSA	ACRES
BLM (surface and subsurface)	53,945
Split-Estate (BLM surface only)	320
In-holdings (State, Private)	0
Total	54,265
WITHIN THE RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY	
BLM (within the WSA)	53,297
BLM (outside the WSA)	725
Split-Estate (within the WSA)	320
Total BLM land recommended for wilderness	54,342
In-holdings (State, private)	0
WITHIN THE AREA NOT RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS	
BLM	648
Split-Estate	0
Total BLM land not recommended for wilderness	648
In-holdings (State, Private)	0

Source: BLM File Data

BLACK RIDGE CANYONS WEST WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

TABLE 1 (Continued)
LAND STATUS AND ACREAGE SUMMARY IN THE STUDY AREA

UTAH	
WITHIN THE WSA	ACRES
BLM (surface and subsurface)	4,880
Split-Estate (BLM surface only)	320
In-holdings (State, Private)	0
Total	5,200
WITHIN THE RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY	
BLM (within the WSA)	4,880
BLM (outside the WSA)	0
Split-Estate (within the WSA)	320
Total BLM land recommended for wilderness	5,200
In-holdings (State, private)	0
WITHIN THE AREA NOT RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS	
BLM	0
Split-Estate	0
Total BLM land not recommended for wilderness	0
In-holdings (State, Private)	0
COLORADO	
WITHIN THE WSA	ACRES
BLM (surface and subsurface)	49,065
Split-Estate (BLM surface only)	0
In-holdings (State, Private)	0
Total	49,065
WITHIN THE RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY	
BLM (within the WSA)	48,417
BLM (outside the WSA)	725
Split-Estate (within the WSA)	0
Total BLM land recommended for wilderness	49,142
In-holdings (State, private)	0
WITHIN THE AREA NOT RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS	
BLM	648
Split-Estate	0
Total BLM land not recommended for wilderness	648
In-holdings (State, Private)	0

Source: BLM File Data

BLACK RIDGE CANYONS WEST WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE

54,342 acres
(recommended for wilderness)

648 acres
(recommended for nonwilderness)

It is recommended that 54,342 acres of the Black Ridge Canyons West WSA be designated as wilderness and that this area would be combined with additional lands to be designated wilderness from Black Ridge Canyons WSA, and from outside the WSA's boundaries to form one 73,937-acre wilderness area. This includes 53,167 acres inside the Black Ridge Canyons West WSA and 725 acres (parcel D) from outside the WSA boundary which would be added to the wilderness recommendation. It is also recommended that 648 acres (parcel E) on the north side of the Black Ridge Canyons West WSA be released for uses other than wilderness. These WSAs are shown on the map. The environmentally preferable alternative would be to designate the entire 54,265 acres of the Black Ridge Canyons West WSA as wilderness since this would result in the least change to the natural environment over the long term.

The 725-acre parcel (parcel D) contiguous to the southeastern boundary of the Black Ridge Canyons West WSA did not qualify initially as part of the WSA because of a road separating it from the WSA. However, the wilderness recommendation includes closure and rehabilitation of this road. Therefore, this parcel was recommended for wilderness as part of the contiguous WSA recommended for wilderness.

The 53,617-acre area which makes up most of the WSA and the 725-acre contiguous parcel of land on the southern boundary of the WSA are recommended for wilderness designation because of their naturalness, outstanding scenery and landscape variety, spectacular geologic features, cultural and paleontological values, ecological diversity, and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Three extensive canyon systems and several minor canyons, seven known rock arches and other geologic features, changing vegetation patterns and the shoreline of the Colorado River create a spectacular setting for the recreationist.

Wilderness designation would provide for long-term protection of the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude and

outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, scenic viewing, nature study, and photography. The canyon systems provide the visitor with a variety of spectacular settings each with its unique features. The ruggedness of the WSA adds to the recreational experience by providing a high degree of challenge and risk.

There are approximately 59 miles of deep canyons that can be hiked. Hikers can also use the benches on either side of the canyons or enjoy the upland mesas. One very popular hike is the trip into Mee Canyon to view a huge cave created by the meandering stream. Floatboating on the Colorado River provides outstanding views of the WSA as well as access into its canyons.

Wilderness designation would protect cultural resources in the WSA from vandalism and unauthorized collection. Cultural resources within 0.5 mile of cherry-stemmed roads and trails would no longer be as vulnerable to destruction because roads and trails would be closed to recreational off-highway vehicle use. Similarly, wilderness designation would help protect fossils from vandalism and unauthorized collection but this would also preclude large scale scientific excavations.

Wilderness designation would preserve an area of valuable wildlife habitat. This area provides habitat for desert bighorn sheep, deer, mountain lion, and bald and golden eagles. There were about 60 desert bighorn sheep in the WSA in 1989.

The four parcels of land (parcel E) along the northern boundary of the WSA which are not recommended for wilderness are shown on the map. These parcels, consisting of 648 acres on the north side of the Colorado River, are recommended for release for purposes other than wilderness because the physical separation of these lands from the remainder of the WSA south of the river would make them difficult to manage as wilderness.

No major manageability problems or resource conflicts would result from wilderness designation. Wilderness designation would preclude excavations of large fossils but no large scale excavations are expected to be proposed. The WSA contains 18 unpatented mining claims inside the area recommended for wilderness. According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM) report, the development potential for these mining claims and

BLACK RIDGE CANYONS WEST WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

for the remainder of the WSA is projected to be low because the area has a low mineral resource potential. There are no oil and gas leases in the area recommended for wilderness. The USGS and USBM report for the area states that development potential for oil and gas is low based on the lack of a stratigraphic section favorable for oil and gas occurrence.

The area recommended for wilderness contains portions of 5 grazing allotments totalling 3,714 animal unit months (AUMs). Livestock operators use motorized vehicles five times a year in the WSA to monitor and move livestock and maintain reservoirs.

CRITERIA CONSIDERED IN DEVELOPING THE WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATION

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

The Black Ridge Canyons West WSA is predominantly natural with negligible human imprints. The WSA is characterized by a high east-west ridgeline which is dissected by 3 extensive canyon systems that drain north into the Colorado River, the northern boundary of the WSA. These canyons cut deeply (about 1,000 feet) into the northern, sloping edge of the Uncompaghre Plateau creating extreme topographic variety between the mesa tops and the canyon bottoms. Each canyon is characterized by a deep main canyon with several side canyons. There are approximately 59 miles of canyons in this WSA.

An outcropping of precambrian granite occurs in the bottoms of each canyon. Spectacular waterfalls and pools occur in the granite due to its high degree of resistance to erosion. The canyons vary from narrow chasms to more open canyons which are up to 0.5 mile wide. Natural arches and amphitheater-like alcoves occur in these canyons.

Situated between each of the canyons is a mesa sloping downward toward the Colorado River. The mesas vary topographically from large, relatively flat to areas with highly dissected ravine systems with hillocks interspersed between drainages. These mesas terminate in cliffs above the Colorado River resulting from fault lines that roughly parallel the course of the river.

Vegetation within the canyon bottoms consists of a combination of grassy meadows and sparse stands of pinyon-

juniper woodland. Isolated stands of cottonwood trees and other riparian species such as willows, river birch and box elder can be found along the drainages. Vegetation on the mesas consists of moderately dense stands of pinyon-juniper woodland. Flatter areas with well-developed soils on the mesas typically consist of big sagebrush meadows with a scattering of grasses.

The canyon systems are primarily free of any human imprints and appear to be affected by the forces of nature. The imprints on the mesa include fence lines, stock reservoirs, a rock quarry and trails. All of these imprints, because of location and screening, have a minor effect on the naturalness of the WSA. The mesas also appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

The pinyon-juniper woodland, sagebrush and riparian vegetation types in this WSA provide for a variety of wildlife including deer, mountain lion, bighorn sheep and bald and golden eagles. Bald eagles winter in the area and are present every day from mid-December through mid-March along Ruby Canyon. One pair of peregrine falcons nests in the WSA and undoubtedly hunt the WSA. Cottonwood trees that grow along the Colorado River are an important part of the raptor habitat.

The Colorado River endemic fishes can all be found in the Colorado River at the north edge of the WSA. The Colorado River squawfish and the candidate species, razorback sucker, are the two species of primary concern. Golden eagles and canyon tree frogs are sensitive species that are found here. The bird species, Scott's oriole, gray vireo, and Cassin's kingbird are also found here.

Solitude

The Black Ridge Canyons West WSA provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. The number of canyon systems allow visitors to disperse throughout the WSA without concentrating people into certain settings. Large side canyons and amphitheater-like alcoves allow visitors to isolate themselves from the main canyons. Opportunities for solitude within a single canyon are further accentuated by isolation provided by the benches at various levels above the canyons. The relatively broad expanses on the mesas offer additional outstanding solitude in that visitors can be widely dispersed. Excellent topographic and vegetative screening on the mesas and the large size and configuration of

BLACK RIDGE CANYONS WEST WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

the WSA all enhance outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Motorized boating use along 7 miles of the Colorado River creates noise that primarily affects visitors along the river but has minimal effect on recreationists in the remainder of the WSA because of the muffling effect of the intervening topography.

Because of its small size, the 725-acre parcel of land on the southern boundary of the WSA does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude. However, when considered with the adjacent WSA, the area as an extension of the WSA shares its outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The Black Ridge Canyons West WSA provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in close proximity to the Grand Junction area (population 85,000). The WSA's outstanding scenery and landscape variety, interesting geologic features, three extensive canyons (totalling 59 miles), the Colorado River, and cultural and paleontological resources contribute to outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation in the WSA.

Topographic diversity, unusual geologic features such as rock arches, spires and windows, and intermittent water courses all appeal to hikers. Outstanding opportunities for hiking are enhanced by the geologic features such as the giant cave in Mee Canyon. Many visitors float the Colorado River for the purpose of gaining access into the canyons or for fishing. Other activities in the WSA include picnicking, camping, viewing outstanding scenery, horseback riding, deer hunting, bird watching, and rockhounding.

Special Features

The WSA possesses outstanding geological, paleontological, archaeological, and ecological values. Erosion has exposed sedimentary strata and a precambrian bedrock of schist, gneiss, and granite covering a period of geologic history dating back 600 million years. Dark precambrian schist, gneiss and granite which are laced with pegmatite dikes twist along the canyon floors. Seven arches, natural amphitheaters, various sized alcoves, sheer canyon walls, gigantic boulders and talus slopes all attest to the ongoing forces of erosion working on the canyons and mesas.

The unit also contains significant paleontological resources. The Burro Canyon Formation in this WSA has produced a 115 to 120 million year old sycamore, which may be among the world's oldest known flowering plants. There is also a high potential for significant fossils such as dinosaurs to be found in the Morrison Formation outcrops in this WSA.

Evidence of habitation by the Desert Archaic, Fremont and Ute Indians occur throughout the WSA and represent 10,000 years of history and pre-history. Sites include overhangs, rock art, and open camps.

Bald eagles winter in the WSA and are present every day from mid-December through mid-March. A pair of peregrine falcons nest just inside the WSA and undoubtedly hunt the WSA.

The Colorado River which forms part of the northern boundary of the WSA has been recommended for scenic designations under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Assessing the diversity of natural systems and features as represented by ecosystems:

Wilderness designation of this WSA would add an outstanding representative of the juniper-pinyon woodland of the Colorado Plateau Province to the NWPS but would not add a new ecosystem or landform. This ecosystem is currently represented by only one area in Colorado and 11 in the NWPS. Although there are 17 other WSAs representing this ecosystem in Colorado, the Black Ridge Canyons West WSA has become one of the most popular in the region because of its spectacular setting and interesting geologic features. This information is summarized in Table 2.

Expanding the opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation within a day's driving time (5 hours) of major population centers:

The Black Ridge Canyons West WSA is within a 5-hour drive of two major population centers and within 1-hour of Grand Junction, the largest metropolitan area on the western slope of Colorado with a population of about 85,000 residents. Table 3 summarizes the number and acreage of designated areas and other BLM study areas within a 5-hour drive of these population centers.

BLACK RIDGE CANYONS WEST WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

TABLE 2
ECOSYSTEM REPRESENTATION

BAILEY-KUHLER CLASSIFICATION (PNV)	NWPS AREAS		OTHER BLM STUDIES	
	AREAS	ACRES	AREAS	ACRES
NATIONWIDE (COLORADO PLATEAU PROVINCE)				
Juniper-Pinyon Woodland	11	1,401,745	85	2,142,602
COLORADO (COLORADO PLATEAU PROVINCE)				
Juniper-Pinyon Woodland	1	8,105	17	293,837

Source: BLM File Data.

TABLE 3
WILDERNESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF MAJOR POPULATION CENTERS

POPULATION CENTERS	NWPS AREAS		OTHER BLM STUDIES	
	AREAS	ACRES	AREAS	ACRES
Salt Lake City-Ogden, Utah	11	685,088	42	1,826,904
Provo-Orem, Utah	12	730,088	52	2,307,031

Source: BLM File Data.

Balancing the geographic distribution of wilderness areas:

The Black Ridge Canyons West WSA would contribute to balancing the geographic distribution of areas within the NWPS. The nearest designated wilderness areas are about 2 hours from the Black Ridge Canyons West WSA. The Sewemup Mesa WSA (18,835 acres) and the Dominguez Canyon WSA (73,888 acres) are both recommended for wilderness and are both within 1.5 hours of the Black Ridge Canyons West WSA.

Manageability

(The area must be capable of being effectively managed to preserve its wilderness character.)

The Black Ridge Canyons West WSA can be managed to maintain wilderness values. There would only be some minor manageability problems as discussed under the Recommendation and Rationale section.

Energy and Mineral Resource Values

The USGS and USBM prepared a mineral assessment of the Black Ridge Canyon West WSA in 1988. There is a low mineral resource potential in the WSA. The 18 existing claims in the WSA were filed in January of 1988. The development potential for the mining claims is projected

to be low because the area has a low mineral resource potential. Much of the shoreline along the river is considered to have a high resource potential for placer deposits. There are no claims within this area and the area has been withdrawn from mineral entry; therefore, the development potential is considered low. There are no oil and gas leases in the Black Ridge Canyons West WSA. The development potential for oil and gas is low based on the lack of a stratigraphic section favorable for oil and gas occurrence.

Impacts on Resources

Table 4 summarizes the comparative impacts for the three alternatives considered for this WSA.

Local Social and Economic Considerations

Designation of the Black Ridge Canyons West WSA as wilderness would incrementally help to increase recreation use in the Grand Junction area. Greater public awareness of this WSA would also draw wilderness users from outside west-central Colorado. Wilderness use after designation is projected to grow from 8,800 to 16,200 visitor days within 10 years. This increase would generate some increase in local income and although not large, could be noticed in the Grand

BLACK RIDGE CANYONS WEST WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Junction area. These economic benefits to the Grand Junction area could be even more noticeable if all areas proposed for wilderness in west-central Colorado became wilderness.

Designation of most of the Black Ridge Canyons West WSA as wilderness would probably result in the loss of a few unpatented mining claims in the WSA. Very few claims are projected to have any assessment work done on them. There is only a low mineral potential for development.

Summary of WSA Specific Public Comments

Public involvement has occurred throughout the wilderness review process. Comments received during the inventory process and early stages of the EIS were used to develop issues and alternatives for analysis.

During the formal review of the Draft EIS, a total of 51 comments were received specific to the Black Ridge Canyons West WSA. Twenty of these comments were oral testimony received at public hearings. There were 48 comments in favor of wilderness designation and 3 comments against wilderness designation. Many of the commenters had visited this WSA and discussed its special features and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Some commenters stated that the scenic, geologic, recreational, and archaeological resources of this unit would significantly enhance the NWPS.

Two commenters opposing wilderness designation wanted trails in the WSA and boundary roads to be left open in the area to maintain good motorized access for rockhounding. One commenter opposed wilderness for the WSA because "it was too close to town".

The Mesa County Commission commented on the Draft EIS stating that the proposed action to designate the Black Ridge Canyons West WSA as wilderness "seemed reasonable and consistent" with the county's land use plans. Comments received from the state of Colorado's Department of Natural Resources supported the Draft EIS on wilderness recommendations but did not specifically reference the Black Ridge Canyons West WSA. No other federal, state, or local agency commented on the Draft EIS.

BLACK RIDGE CANYONS WEST WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

TABLE 4
COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF THE IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE

Impact Topics	Recommendation Combined WSAs	All Wilderness Alternative	No Wilderness Alternative
Impacts on Wilderness Values	Wilderness designation would provide long-term legislative protection on 53,222 acres. Wilderness values would not be protected on 1,120 acres from intermittent sights and sounds of motorized boating on 7 miles of the Colorado River (0.25 mile influence zone).	Wilderness designation would provide long-term legislative protection on 51,545 acres. Wilderness values would not be protected on 2,720 acres subject to intermittent sights and sounds of recreational off-highway vehicles on 10 miles of roads and motorized boating on 7 miles of the Colorado River.	Management of a portion of the WSA (50,260 acres) as Black Ridge Canyons Recreation Lands would maintain wilderness values on about 45,000 acres centered on the canyons. Approximately 900 acres of cryptogamic soil area would lose its naturalness from yearly herding by cattle over 10 years. Disc-plowing and seeding of 400 acres would impair naturalness in the WSA for up to 3 years. Recreational off-highway vehicles traveling on 15 miles of roads and trail and motor boats traveling on 7 miles of the Colorado River would impair wilderness values on 4,320 acres over time.
Impacts on Paleontological Escavations and Study	Wilderness designation would help protect fossils from vandalism and unauthorized collection but would preclude excavations of large fossils. This is considered to be a minor impact since no large-scale excavations are expected to be proposed. Allowing six non-impairing excavations would allow scientists to excavate small fossils.	Wilderness designation would help protect fossils from vandalism and unauthorized collection but would preclude excavation of large fossils. Allowing six nonimpairing excavations would allow scientists to excavate small fossils. This is considered a minor impact since no large-scale excavations are expected to be proposed.	Allowing six non-surface disturbing excavations would produce small fossils that would add to our knowledge of the area. Leaving 10 miles of roads and 5 miles of trail open to recreational OHV's would make fossils vulnerable to vandalism and unauthorized collection. Fossils within 0.50 mile of these roads and trails would be vulnerable.

BLACK RIDGE CANYONS WEST WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

TABLE 4 (Continued)
COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF THE IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE

Impact Topics	Recommendation Combined WSAs	All Wilderness Alternative	No Wilderness Alternative
Impacts on Wildlife Habitat and Populations	Wilderness designation would protect about 52,822 acres of wildlife habitat. Wildlife habitat would be degraded on 1,120 acres from sights and sounds of motorized boats traveling on 7 miles of the Colorado River. It would also continue to be degraded on 400 acres proposed for disc-plowing and seeding under the No Wilderness Alternative. Without the project, the carrying capacity for deer may be reduced by up to 1,000, reducing the annual carrying capacity by up to 60 deer.	Wilderness designation would protect about 51,145 acres of wildlife habitat. Wildlife habitat would continue to be degraded on 1,600 acres from the sights and sounds of vehicles traveling on 10 miles of road and on 1,120 acres along the Colorado River. It also would continue to be degraded on 400 acres proposed for disc-plowing and seeding under the No Wilderness Alternative. Without the project, the carrying capacity for deer may be reduced by up to 1,000 deer, reducing the annual carrying capacity by up to 60 deer.	Management of the area as Recreation Lands would protect about 49,945 acres of wildlife habitat. Habitat on 6,400 acres would be degraded by the sights and sounds of motorized vehicles on 10 miles of roads and 5 miles of trail and by motor boats on 7 miles of the Colorado River. Disc-plowing and seeding on 400 acres of critical deer winter range would improve the range and maintain 60 deer in the area's annual carrying capacity.
Impacts on Cultural Resources	Wilderness designation would protect cultural resources on about 54,000 acres of Black Ridge Canyons West from vandalism and unauthorized collection. Data from cultural sites on 20 acres would be recovered or protected.	Cultural resources on 3,200 acres would be vulnerable to vandalism and unauthorized collection. Data from cultural sites on 20 acres would be recovered or protected. Cultural resources on the remaining 51,045 acres would be protected.	Cultural sites on 6,400 acres would be vulnerable to vandalism and unauthorized collection. Data from cultural sites on 436 acres would be recovered or protected. Cultural resources on 47,865 acres would remain largely undisturbed.

BLACK RIDGE CANYONS WEST WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

TABLE 4 (Continued)
COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF THE IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE

Impact Topics	Recommendation Combined WSAs	All Wilderness Alternative	No Wilderness Alternative
Impacts on Recreation and Off-Highway Vehicles	Wilderness designation would maintain the natural and predominantly natural settings and nonmotorized recreation opportunities on 53,222 acres of the WSA but would not protect 1,120 acres along the Colorado River. Nonmotorized recreation use of 8,800 visitor days per year would increase (10 percent per year) to about 20,600 visitor days within 10 years. Closing 10 miles of boundary road and 5 miles of trail would displace 950 visitor days of motorized recreation use.	Wilderness designation would maintain the natural and predominantly natural settings and nonmotorized recreation opportunities on 51,545 acres. Sights and sounds from motor vehicles and motorized boats would impair wilderness values on 2,270 acres. Nonmotorized recreation would increase to 20,600 visitor days per year over 10 years. About 500 visitor days of motorized recreation per year would be displaced. The motorized use (450 visitor days per year) on the boundary road would increase to about 1,050 visitor days over 10 years.	Natural settings and nonmotorized recreation would be protected on a total of 45,940 acres within the Recreation Lands. Natural settings and nonmotorized recreation would be lost on 4,320 acres by the roads and 5 miles of trail and by motor boats traveling on 7 miles of the Colorado River. Nonmotorized recreation use is projected to increase to 16,200 visitor days per year in 10 years. Motorized recreation (about 950 visitor days per year) is projected to increase to 1,700 visitor days per year over 10 years.
Impacts on Utility Rights-of-Way	Designating the Black Ridge Canyons West WSA as unsuitable for public utilities would have no effect on residents living in the area.	Prohibiting utility rights-of-way in the WSA would not affect the residents in the nearby area.	Designating the Black Ridge Canyons West WSA unsuitable for public utilities would have no effect on the residents living in the area.