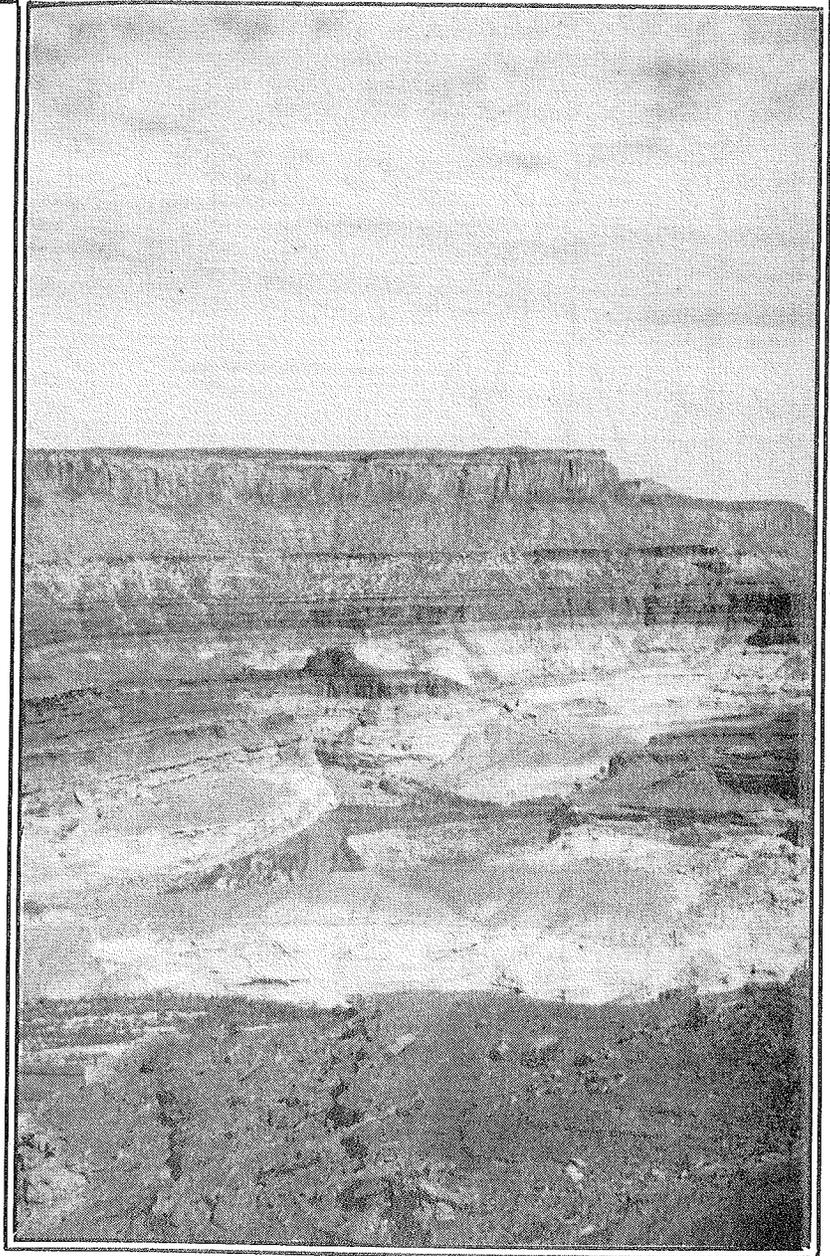


Dirty Devil
WSA

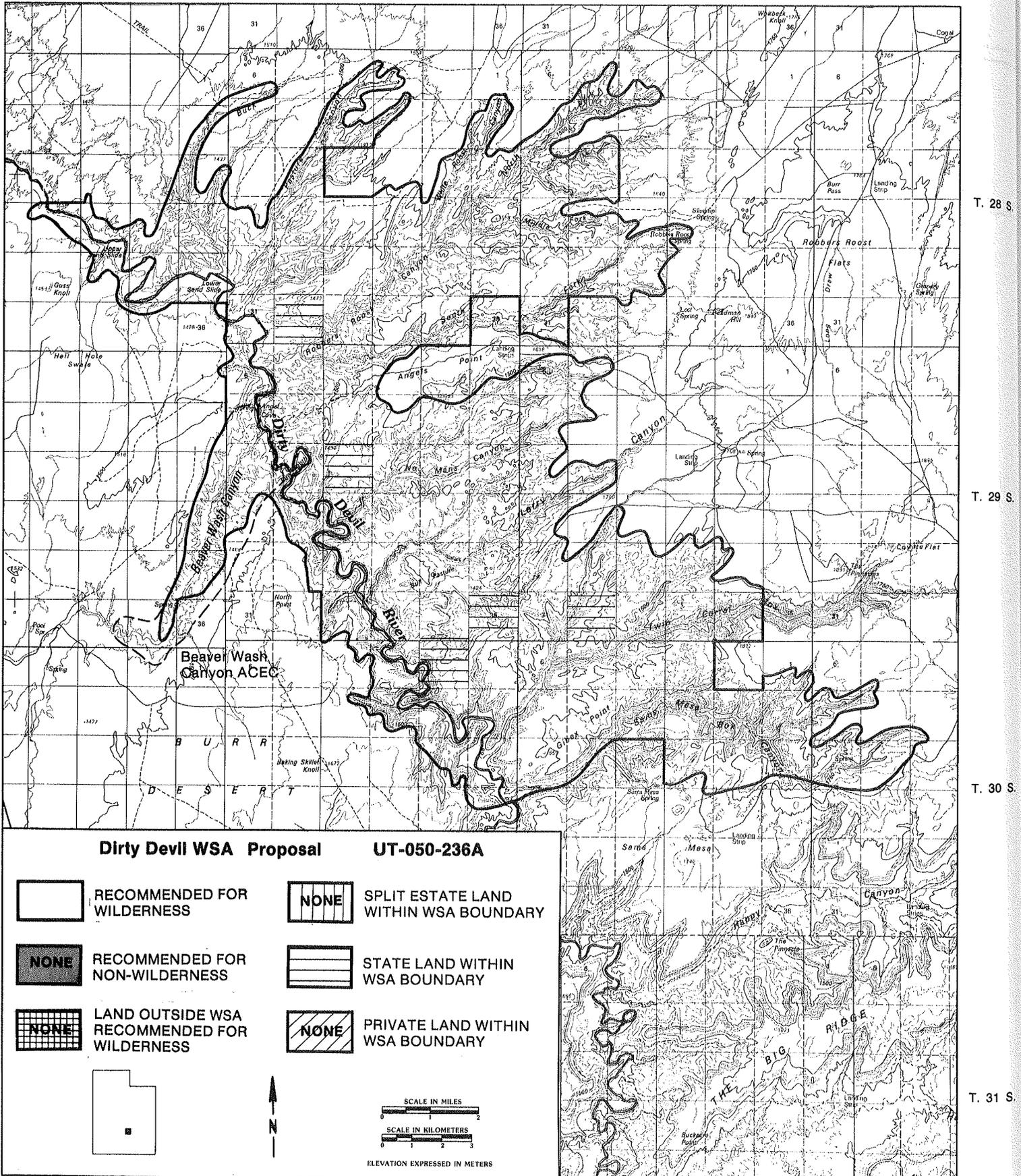


DIRTY DEVIL WSA

R. 12 E.

R. 13 E.

R. 14 E.



T. 28 S.

T. 29 S.

T. 30 S.

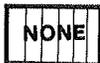
T. 31 S.

Dirty Devil WSA Proposal

UT-050-236A



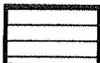
RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS



NONE SPLIT ESTATE LAND WITHIN WSA BOUNDARY



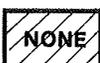
NONE RECOMMENDED FOR NON-WILDERNESS



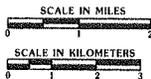
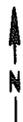
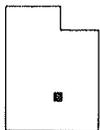
STATE LAND WITHIN WSA BOUNDARY



NONE LAND OUTSIDE WSA RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS



NONE PRIVATE LAND WITHIN WSA BOUNDARY



ELEVATION EXPRESSED IN METERS

DIRTY DEVIL WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA: 61,000 acres

The Dirty Devil Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (UT-050-236A) is in eastern Wayne County, about 5 miles east of Hanks-ville, Utah. The WSA is an irregularly shaped unit extending about 19 miles from northwest to southeast and as much as 10 miles from east to west. The southeast corner of the WSA adjoins the French Springs-Happy Canyon WSA (UT-050-236B). The major part of the boundary is along terrain features and roads. In a few places State sections form the boundary (see Map). The WSA contains 61,000 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Five sections (3,195 acres) of State land are inheld in the WSA (see Table 1).

The study area includes a portion of the canyon of the Dirty Devil River along the western side of the WSA and several tributary canyons as much as 500 feet deep. Some of the canyons are more than 10 miles long, and are bounded by sheer cliffs with large overhangs in several places. The upper parts of the benches between canyons are mostly undulating bare rock surfaces. Elevations in the WSA range from 4,000 feet to 4,800 feet.

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

WITHIN THE WSA	ACRES
BLM (surface and subsurface)	61,000
Split-Estate (BLM surface only)	0
In-holdings (State, Private)	3,195
Total	64,195
WITHIN THE RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY	
BLM (within the WSA)	61,000
BLM (outside the WSA)	0
Split-Estate (within the WSA)	0
Split-Estate (outside the WSA)	0
Total BLM land recommended for wilderness	61,000
In-holdings (State, private)	3,195
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

Source: BLM File Data

* The Appendix is a detailed table of in-holdings included within the portion of the WSA recommended for designation.

DIRTY DEVIL WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

About 70 percent of the study area is barren sand and rock, with sparse blackbrush and other desert shrubs and some pinyon-juniper, saltbush, and scrub oak.

The WSA was studied under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and was included in the Utah BLM Statewide Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) finalized in November 1990. Two alternatives were analyzed in the EIS: an all wilderness alternative, which is the recommendation in this report, and a no action (no wilderness) alternative.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE:

61,000 acres
(recommended for wilderness)
0 acres
(not recommended for wilderness)

The recommendation for this WSA is to designate the entire area as wilderness. This is the environmentally preferable alternative as it would result in the least change from the natural environment over the long term.

The recommendation further applies to any in-holdings acquired through purchase or exchange with willing owners. The Appendix lists all in-holdings and provides information on acquisitions.

All of the WSA is in a natural condition and about 80 percent has outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The diverse individuality of special features in the WSA are exceptional. Designation would not preclude future in-situ recovery of available tar sand in the Tar Sand Triangle Special Tar Sand Area. No conflicts exist with other land uses.

3. CRITERIA CONSIDERED IN DEVELOPING THE WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATION

Wilderness Characteristics

A. Naturalness

Naturalness is defined as an attribute in which the evidence of man is substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor and where minor imprints of man exhibit no cumulative impact that is substantially noticeable. All of the Dirty Devil WSA is in a natural condition.

Sheer cliffs of the Navajo and Wingate formations, colorful sediments, sinuous tributary canyons, riparian vegetation along the Dirty Devil River and Beaver Wash Canyon and unbridled erosion reinforce the feeling of naturalness. The character of this area, largely remote and inaccessible, has prevented it from being extensively disturbed. Eighteen miles of post-FLPMA vehicular ways with numerous drill pad sites in the southern end of the WSA along the Dirty Devil River, on Sams Box Mesa, and in Twin Corral Canyons were substantially unnoticeable at the time of the inventory, in 1980. They are in the process of natural rehabilitation. A 12-mile road authorized in 1979-80 in the Bull Pasture area is successfully rehabilitating. No other surface disturbances have occurred and naturalness has not been affected since the BLM's Intensive Wilderness Inventory.

B. Solitude

Overall, characteristics in the WSA meet the standards for solitude set by the Wilderness Act on 49,000 acres (80 percent of the WSA). Opportunities for solitude on the remaining 12,000 acres do not meet the standards.

The large size of the WSA and the numerous deep, steep-walled, twisting canyons offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The low recreational use of the area enhances opportunities for solitude.

On top of the mesas, where vegetation is low-growing and sparse, opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding.

C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation meet the standards set by the Wilderness Act on 49,000 acres (80 percent of the WSA) and do not meet the standards on 12,000 acres.

The Dirty Devil WSA has diverse recreational opportunities, many of which are of outstanding quality. These opportunities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, photography, nature study, camping, scenic sightseeing, and viewing geologic formations and archaeological structures. Numerous hiking routes,

DIRTY DEVIL WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

totaling more than 100 miles, allow for extended trips. Many camping sites in the canyons offer shelter under rock overhangs. The slickrock areas offer excellent opportunities for sightseeing and photography. Present recreational use is low due to the remote location and limited accessibility.

D. Special Features

The Dirty Devil River, a Nationwide Wild and Scenic Inventory river segment, is the major perennial water source in the WSA. Approximately 30 miles of the river flow through the WSA.

Beavers have constructed dams in Beaver Wash Canyon from desert woody plants (e.g., pinyon, juniper, sagebrush). Petrified wood occurs in several canyons. Prehistoric rock art is found in Robbers Roost Canyon. Generally spectacular canyon scenery including ephemeral waterfalls in places is present throughout the WSA. Robbers Roost Canyon is reputed to have been one of the major hideouts of the famous outlaw, Butch Cassidy. The diversity and uniqueness of these features give the WSA exceptional special features.

Approximately 96 percent (58,440 acres) of the WSA is rated outstanding (Class A) for scenic quality.

The endangered peregrine falcon and black-footed ferret may occur in the WSA. The WSA may have desert bighorn sheep, which is a species associated with wilderness. Six other animal species that are considered sensitive may inhabit the WSA.

Refer to Appendix 4 and the Affected Environment, Wildlife Including Special Status Species section of the Utah BLM Statewide Wilderness Final EIS for additional information.

Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS)

A. Expanding the Diversity of Natural Systems and Features as Represented by Ecosystems

Wilderness designation of this WSA would not add potential natural vegetation

(PNV) ecosystems not presently represented in the NWPS.

PNV is the vegetative type that would eventually become climax vegetation if not altered by human interference, and is not necessarily the vegetation that is currently present in an area.

The WSA is in the Colorado Plateau Province/Ecoregion. The PNV in the WSA is entirely juniper-pinyon woodland (61,000 acres), which is represented in the NWPS in Utah and is well represented nationally in the NWPS and in other BLM wilderness study areas.

This information is summarized in Table 2 from data compiled in December 1989.

B. Assessing the Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive Recreation within a Days Driving Time (5 Hours) of Major Population Centers

The WSA is within a 5-hour drive of the Salt Lake City-Ogden, Utah and Provo-Orem, Utah standard metropolitan statistical areas. Table 3 summarizes the number and acreage of designated wilderness and other BLM study areas within a 5-hour drive of these population centers.

C. Balancing the Geographic Distribution of Wilderness Areas

The Dirty Devil WSA would not contribute significantly to balancing the geographic distribution of wilderness areas within the NWPS.

As of January 1987, the NWPS included 93 areas comprising 5,475,207 acres in Utah and Arizona and Colorado, the adjacent states nearest the WSA.

A Dirty Devil Wilderness would supplement the NWPS in the Canyonlands Section of the Colorado Plateau, where there are just two established wildernesses, totaling 70,751 acres.

There are two designated wilderness areas within 100 miles of the WSA. To the southeast is the 45,000-acre Dark Canyon Wilderness, and to the southwest is the 25,751-acre Box-Death Hollow Wilderness. Both are administered by the U.S. Forest Service (FS).

DIRTY DEVIL WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

**TABLE 2
ECOSYSTEM REPRESENTATION**

BAILEY-KUCHLER CLASSIFICATION (PNV)	NWPS AREAS		OTHER BLM STUDIES	
	AREAS	ACRES	AREAS	ACRES
NATIONWIDE (COLORADO PLATEAU PROVINCE)				
Juniper-Pinyon Woodland	11	1,401,475	84	2,083,005
UTAH (COLORADO PLATEAU PROVINCE)				
Juniper-Pinyon Woodland	1	26,000	53	1,645,198

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	10	1,099,962	78	22,198,675
Provo-Orem, Utah	11	721,793	90	2,725,868

Source: BLM File Data.

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

The entire WSA can be effectively managed as wilderness to preserve values now present in the area. Current uses such as livestock grazing would continue with little or no effect on wilderness values. Even though there are 11,250 acres of post-FLPMA oil and gas leases in the WSA, the leases are subject to nonimpairment of wilderness values and it is expected that they will expire and not be renewed.

There are 4,360 acres of mining claims in the WSA. Because there is some potential for uranium deposits in the WSA, it is expected that a portion of these and future claims existing at the time of designation will be explored and possibly developed. It is projected that uranium exploration and development would disturb only small areas (approximately 16 acres) following wilderness designation.

The presence of five State sections (3,195 acres) scattered through the wilderness could create additional manageability problems because BLM would be required to provide reasonable access to State lands and would have no control over activities on State lands. All of the in-held State sections are leased for oil, gas and hydrocarbons. Because there is some potential for uranium in the WSA, it is projected that in the foreseeable future uranium exploration and development on State lands could reduce wilderness values in small parts of the recommended wilderness.

Energy and Mineral Resource Values

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and the U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM), examined the WSA for mineral and energy resource potential and prepared a report and map (USGS Miscellaneous Field Studies Map MF 1754-A, R. F. Dubiel, et al., 1985). The report indicates that the WSA has a moderate potential for oil and gas. The potential for tar sand resources is unknown. The study area

DIRTY DEVIL WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

appears to have moderate potential for undiscovered uranium resources. The potential is low for metals other than uranium, however.

The WSA has some potential for materials that could be used for construction purposes. Sand and gravel are present in terrace deposits and could be sources of building stone. Larger and more accessible deposits of the same kind of materials are available outside the WSA, closer to markets.

Impacts on Resources

The comparative impact table (Table 4) summarizes the effects on pertinent resources for alternatives considered including designation or nondesignation of the area as wilderness.

Local Social and Economic Considerations

With implementation of BLM's all wilderness recommendation, restrictions would be placed on the use of resources such as uranium. Therefore, there could be slight losses in local income and Federal and local revenues as compared to conditions without wilderness designation.

An unquantified but potentially significant economic impact could result in Emery, Garfield, Sevier, and Wayne Counties, if water developments are restricted upstream of the WSA.

Summary of WSA-Specific Comments

Public involvement has occurred throughout the wilderness review process. Comments received during the early stages of the EIS preparation were used to develop significant study issues and alternatives for the ultimate management of the WSA.

During formal public review of the Draft EIS, a total of 96 inputs specifically addressing this WSA were received from 348 commenters, including oral statements received at 17 public hearings on the EIS. Each letter or oral testimony was considered to be one input. Duplicate letters or oral statements by the same commenter were not counted as additional inputs or signatures. Each individual was credited with one signature

or testimony regardless of the number of inputs.

In general, 322 commenters supported wilderness designation for part or all of the WSA, while 19 commenters were opposed. Seven commenters addressed the relative merits of the EIS but took no formal position on wilderness designation.

Those favoring wilderness stated that wilderness designation of the WSA would protect the wilderness values there, preserve the area for future generations, and add an ecosystem to the NWPS. The majority of those commenting in favor of wilderness were from other states.

Those opposing wilderness were concerned that wilderness would preclude mineral exploration and development and harm State and local economies. Most of those opposing wilderness designation were from rural Utah.

Two Federal agencies, the National Park Service (NPS) and USBM commented on the Draft EIS. The NPS concurred with the proposed alternative and stressed that the analysis of impacts associated with development of the Tar Sand Triangle should be expanded. The USBM did not take a position on wilderness designation for the WSA, but stated that the BLM had underestimated the petroleum potential of the WSA and overestimated the uranium potential.

No comment letters were received on the Final EIS.

There are five State sections (3,195 acres) of State land in the WSA. In commenting on the Draft EIS, the State of Utah noted that BLM's tar sand rating for the WSA was probably too high and that the presence of tar sand in the WSA is conjectural. The State also pointed out that drilling results indicate that the uranium potential of the WSA is limited, but the uranium potential has not been fully evaluated. According to the State, the Dirty Devil WSA is ranked first for wilderness quality, but there are conflicts within the region.

Reported conflicts would be with tar sand and water development, but more

DIRTY DEVIL WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

favorable areas for tar sand may exist elsewhere. The State noted that there are potential conflicts with water development and that gas company reports give the WSA a high potential rating for hydrocarbons.

The WSA is entirely within Wayne County. The Wayne County Master Planning Project Final Report does not identify recommendations at specific locations. The plan recognizes that ". . . outstanding natural landmarks should be preserved as much as possible." However, it also states that "Open spaces should be used for many purposes rather than strictly as wilderness areas." The Wayne County Commission is opposed to wilderness designation for this WSA because of oil and gas potential, the need to provide access for tourism and because there are large deposits of tar sand adjacent to the area. The County Commission also has endorsed the Consolidated Local Government Response to Wilderness that opposes wilderness designation of BLM lands in Utah.

DIRTY DEVIL WSA

Table 4
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

Recommendation All Wilderness (61,000 Acres)		Alternatives
Issue Topic		No Action/No Wilderness
Impacts on Wilderness Values	Wilderness designation would preserve wilderness values overall in the WSA. In the foreseeable future, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be lost on 22 acres because of uranium exploration and development and construction of roads to in-held State lands, and would be indirectly reduced in quality on up to an additional 9,760 acres. Special features, including Class A scenery, cultural values, petrified wood, special status species, wildlife associated with wilderness, and perennial waters including the Dirty Devil River, would be preserved overall. Class A scenery would be reduced in quality in the disturbed areas.	Wilderness values would not be preserved by wilderness designation and loss would occur as intrusions increase. In the foreseeable future, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be directly lost on 61 acres because of uranium exploration and development and construction of roads to in-held State lands, and indirectly reduced in quality on up to 30,500 acres. Some special features, including petrified wood, cultural values, special status species, and wildlife associated with wilderness, would not be significantly affected. Class A scenery would be reduced in quality in the disturbed areas. Long-term changes of water flow in the Dirty Devil River would significantly reduce the quality of opportunities for primitive recreation.
Impacts on Water Resources	In the long term, groundwater quality could be affected by tar sand development outside the WSA. Existing water rights and uses would not be affected, but future water diversions and new consumptive uses in the Dirty Devil River system upstream of the WSA in Sevier, Wayne, Garfield, and Emery Counties may be hampered or restricted in order to protect wilderness values in the WSA.	In the long term, tar sand development on the adjacent Tar Sand Triangle STSA and potential extraction of water from the WSA would reduce the quality of groundwater, reduce the flow in the Dirty Devil River, reduce the salinity in the Colorado River, and compete with other potential consumptive water uses in the Dirty Devil River system.
Impacts on Mineral and Energy Exploration and Production	The potential for production of an unknown amount of uranium oxide would be foregone.	Implementation of this alternative would not adversely affect mineral exploration or production because mineral leasing and mining claim location would continue and developments could be completed without wilderness protection measures.
Impacts on Livestock Management	Restrictions on access would result in inconvenience and slight increases in management costs to three permittees.	This alternative would not adversely affect livestock management in the WSA because management techniques and access would remain as at present.
Impacts on Economic Conditions	In the long term, major beneficial or adverse impacts on economic conditions from uranium development or water consumptive projects upstream of the WSA on the Dirty Devil River may not occur.	Existing and potential future economic conditions would not be affected. Major economic developments requiring consumptive water use would not be affected.

DIRTY DEVIL WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Appendix
Estimated Costs of Acquisition of Non-Federal Holdings Within Areas Recommended for Designation ^a

Legal Description (Prior to any Subdivision)	Total Acreage	Number of Owners (If Parcel has been subdivided)	Type of Ownership by Estate (Federal, State, Private, Other) (Surface Estate) (Subsurface Estate)	Presently Proposed for Acquisition (Yes, No)	Preferred Method of Acquisition (Purchase, Exchange, Other)	Estimated Cost of Acquisition (Land Costs)	Estimated Cost of Acquisition (Processing Costs)
T. 28 S., R. 13 E., Sec. 32	640.00		State	Nb	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 29 S., R. 13 E., Sec. 16	640.00		State	Nb	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 29 S., R. 13 E., Sec. 36	640.00		State	Nb	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 29 S., R. 14 E., Sec. 32	638.96		State	Nb	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 30 S., R. 13 E., Sec. 2	635.84		State	Nb	Exchange		\$2,000

^a The estimated costs listed in this appendix in no way represent a Federal appraised value of the land or mineral estate, but are rough estimates based on sales or exchanges of lands or mineral estates with similar characteristics to those included in the WSA. The estimates are for purposes of establishing a range of potential costs to the government of acquiring non-Federal holdings and in no way represent an offer to purchase or exchange at the cost estimate included in this appendix.