

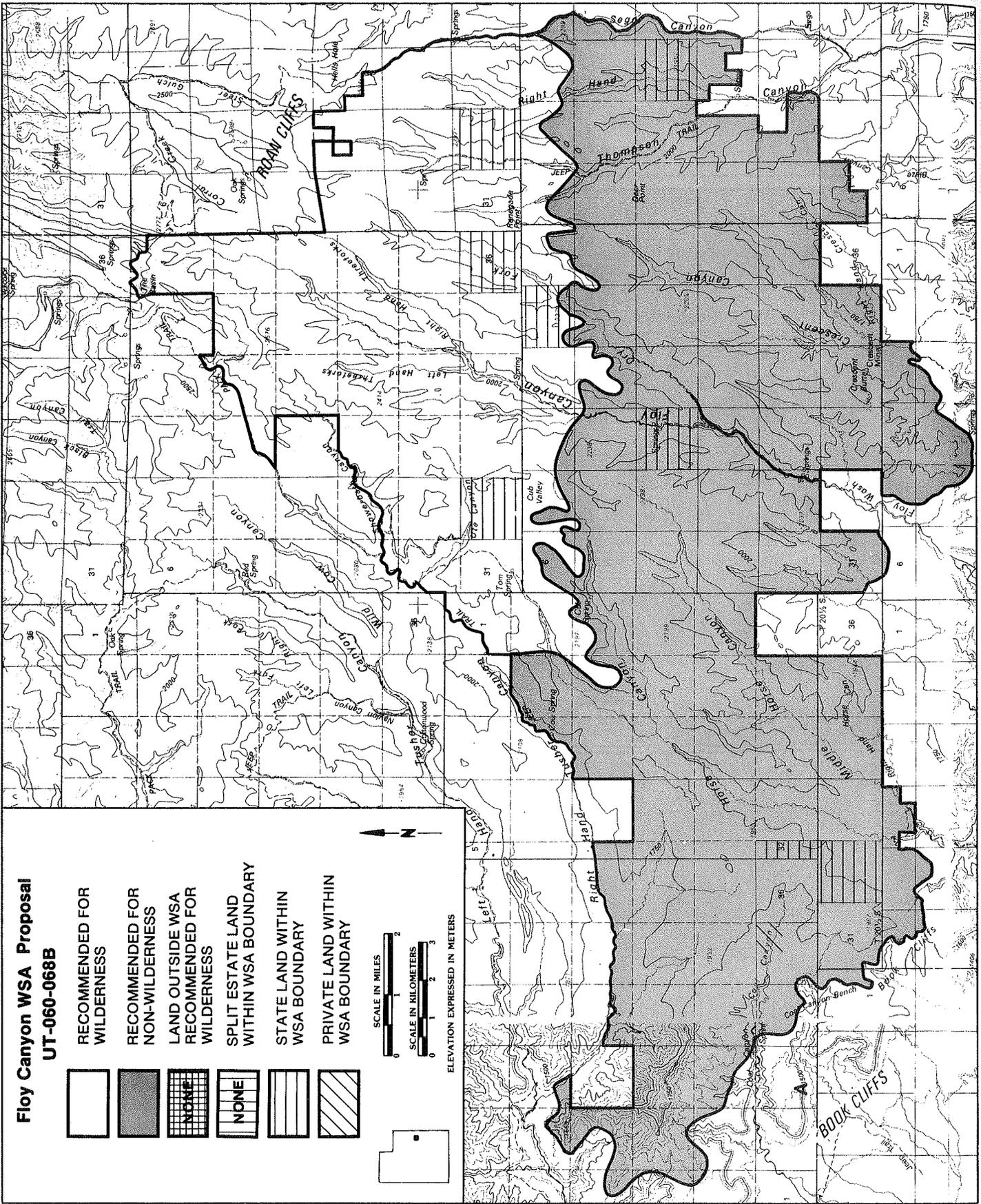
Floy Canyon  
WSA



# FLOY CANYON WSA

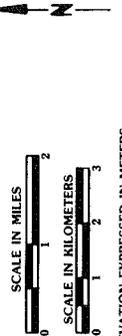
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## Floy Canyon WSA Proposal UT-060-068B

-  RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS
-  RECOMMENDED FOR NON-WILDERNESS
-  LAND OUTSIDE WSA RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS
-  SPLIT ESTATE LAND WITHIN WSA BOUNDARY
-  STATE LAND WITHIN WSA BOUNDARY
-  PRIVATE LAND WITHIN WSA BOUNDARY



October 1991

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**FLOY CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA**

**1. THE STUDY AREA: 72,605 acres**

The Floy Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (UT-060-068B) is in Grand County, about 9 miles east-northeast of Green River, Utah (population 1,048), and about 4 miles north of Interstate Highway 70 (I-70). The study area is about 11 miles from north to south and 21 miles from east to west. The WSA is adjacent to the Desolation Canyon WSA (UT-060-068A) on the west and the Coal Canyon WSA (UT-060-100C) on the east, and is one of a group of seven contiguous WSAs in the Book Cliffs. The boundary is irregular, formed along roads, breaks in terrain, and State sections (see Map).

The WSA contains 72,605 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Eight State sections (4,509 acres) and one 1/4 section (160 acres) of private land are in the WSA. Four State sections (2,468 acres) are in the portion that is recommended for wilderness designation. No private lands are in the recommended wilderness area.

The study area is in rugged terrain between the face of the Book Cliffs and the higher Roan Cliffs to the north. Steep ridges and numerous V-shaped canyons are characteristic of the WSA.

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

<b>WITHIN THE WSA</b>	<b>ACRES</b>
BLM (surface and subsurface)	72,605
Split-Estate (BLM surface only)	0
In-holdings (State, Private)	4,669
<b>Total</b>	<b>77,274</b>
<b>WITHIN THE RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY</b>	
BLM (within the WSA)	23,140
BLM (outside the WSA)	0
Split-Estate (within the WSA)	0
Split-Estate (outside the WSA)	0
<b>Total BLM land recommended for wilderness</b>	<b>23,140</b>
In-holdings (State, private)	2,468
<b>WITHIN THE AREA NOT RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS</b>	
BLM	49,465
Split-Estate	0
<b>Total BLM land not recommended for wilderness</b>	<b>49,465</b>
In-holdings (State, Private)	2,201

Source: BLM File Data

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

## FLOY CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

The southern boundary of the WSA is the top of the 1,000 foot escarpment of the Book Cliffs. Elevations in the WSA range from 5,000 feet in Floy Canyon, at the southern edge of the WSA, to 9,496 feet, at the north end of the study area. Douglas fir and pinyon-juniper together constitute almost 80 percent of the vegetative cover.

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. Three alternatives were analyzed in the EIS: a partial wilderness alternative where 23,140 acres would be designated as wilderness and 49,465 acres would be released for uses other than wilderness, which is the recommendation in this report; a no wilderness (no action) alternative; and an all wilderness alternative.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE:

- 23,140 acres  
(recommended for wilderness)
- 49,465 acres  
(not recommended for wilderness)

The recommendation for this WSA is to designate 23,140 as wilderness and to release the remaining 49,465 acres for uses other than wilderness. Designation of the entire area as wilderness is considered to be the environmentally preferable alternative as it would result in the least change from the natural environment over the long term. The alternative selected, however, would be implemented in a manner which would utilize all practical means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts. The recommendation will further apply to any additional in-holding acreage acquired through purchase or exchange with willing owners. The Appendix lists all in-holdings and provides additional information on acquisition.

The recommended portion is the northern part of the WSA which is comprised of rugged parts of the Roan and Book Cliffs. All of the area is in a natural state and has outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Scenic, geologic, historical, and archaeological values are exceptional.

The northeastern part of the recommended area borders, and wilderness management would be compatible with, the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation Hill Creek Extension which is managed to preserve its roadless character and primitive natural values. Oil and gas resources are indicated throughout the WSA, including the recommended portion, but the rugged terrain severely constrains access. Other localities in the vicinity, including the southern portion of the WSA, are considered more feasible for exploration. No significant conflicts exist with other minerals or other resource and land uses.

All of the portion of the WSA which is not recommended for wilderness designation is in a natural state and has outstanding opportunities for solitude and 73 percent of the area has outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. The southern portion, about 52 percent, of the area is within a known recoverable coal resource area, as part of the Se-go Coal Field. Coal mining is not predicted in the near future, but may have long-term potential. Oil and gas resources may be discovered in part of the area, which is accessible mostly from the south. Mineral and energy development potential outweighs the importance of the wilderness values in the southern two thirds of the WSA.

### 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. Although imprints exist, they are substantially unnoticeable in the area as a whole and the entire WSA meets the wilderness standards for naturalness. Imprints of human activity in the WSA resulted from mineral exploration, ranching activities, and recreation. The pattern of imprints is limited to accessible areas. Such areas are the lower terrain above the Book Cliffs in the south and within the canyons that cross the WSA. Overall the WSA

## FLOY CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

appears to be in an unaltered condition.

Human imprints in the WSA include the following: (1) a post-FLPMA rehabilitated vehicle way approximately 2.5 miles in length in the Dry Fork of Floy Canyon; (2) a pre-FLPMA vehicle way approximately 6 miles long in Floy Canyon; (3) five abandoned pre-FLPMA coal mines of about 5 acres each; (4) an abandoned pre-FLPMA uranium mine that affected about 5 acres near Cub Spring in Horse Canyon; (5) an abandoned pre-FLPMA jeep trail system extending approximately 10 miles in the Tom Farrer Valley and Showerbath Spring area; (6) a pre-FLPMA corral and spring in Floy Canyon; (7) a pre-FLPMA corral and evidence of early logging activities in Thompson Canyon; (8) pre-FLPMA log cabins in Right Hand Thompson Canyon and Segó Canyon; (9) a pre-FLPMA way approximately 5 miles long in Thompson Canyon; (10) evidence of an old road leading to a coal mine on private property in Coal Canyon; (11) a recently rehabilitated pre-FLPMA oil and gas lease drill site; (12) a developed spring including a trough, barrel, and pipe in Tom Farrer Valley; (13) a developed spring consisting of a 1.5-inch diameter rubber hose and a cement trough in Showerbath Canyon; (14) a developed but still primitive spring at the mouth of Horse Canyon; (15) two stock ponds; and (16) approximately 15 drift fences.

Since establishment of the WSA, less than 5 acres of the WSA have been disturbed. This disturbance resulted from (1) helicopter seismic work in Floy Canyon during September 1984. Each seismic charge along a 4-mile stretch of way in Floy Canyon impacted approximately a 3-foot radius circular area. And (2) approximately 2.5 miles of road in Dry Fork Canyon constructed on public land to gain access to in-held State lands to conduct drilling operations. The well was abandoned on June 3, 1982 and reclamation work was completed during 1983. Because these areas have been reclaimed to a substantially unnoticeable condition, the entire WSA meets the Wilderness Act Criteria for naturalness.

### B. Solitude

The deeply incised, branching drainages in the WSA allow dispersion of recrea-

tional use and provide for outstanding solitude in approximately 95 percent (68,975 acres) of the WSA, which meets the requirements for outstanding opportunities for solitude. The remaining 5 percent (3,630 acres) that does not meet the standard lacks vegetation and terrain that would provide screening necessary to eliminate outside sights and sounds.

The size, configuration, and topographic characteristics of the WSA enhance opportunities for solitude. Canyons from 500 to 3,000 feet deep are separated by ridges and peaks in the north and benches or plateaus in the south.

The Floy Canyon WSA contains over 90 miles of canyon bottom. The bottoms vary in width from about 10 feet to a 0.5 mile. Lines of sight along the bottoms rarely exceed a 0.5 mile and are usually considerably less. Canyons in the north half of the unit are more V-shaped in their lower portions. Canyons in the south and west are more distinctly terraced with vertical walls separating talus slopes. The vertical walls range from 100 to 1,000 feet. In most of the WSA, terrain provides outstanding opportunities for solitude due to screening.

In about 75 percent (54,450 acres) of the WSA, mostly in the north, vegetation augments opportunities for solitude by providing additional screening. Significant cover by large trees and large shrubs occurs in the canyons and on the ridges, especially on northern exposures and in higher elevations. The canopy of trees in the pinyon-juniper/Douglas fir type creates closed or nearly closed areas. The tree canopy in Douglas fir, Ponderosa pine, Gambel's oak, and aspen types is closed. While tree canopy is more open in the pinyon-juniper type, it combines with large brush species to provide fairly continuous cover. The remaining 25 percent (18,155 acres) of the WSA, in the lower southern and southwestern parts of the WSA, is dominated by sheer-faced cliffs, rock outcrops, and smaller shrubs.

Roads and traveled ways negatively affect opportunities for solitude when vehicular use occurs. Approximately 2 miles of road and 6 miles of way up Floy

## FLOY CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Canyon are used mostly by ranchers and recreationists. Most of the use along the travel routes occurs in the fall. Vegetation along the travel routes is sagebrush and Gambel's oak. Average height of these species is 5 feet. The ability to find seclusion is possible because of the side slopes and thick tree cover. Sights and sounds of vehicular traffic within the unit is limited to immediate exposure or when seen from higher elevations.

A road between Coal Canyon and the Right Hand Tusher makes up the southwestern boundary of the WSA. Travel along this route is also associated with recreation and ranching. Opportunities for solitude in some points adjacent to the road, where it is within a 0.5 mile of a talus slope and sheer cliff to the north, is less than outstanding due to limited distance. In other portions between the road and cliff or plateau top, the rugged landscape of huge boulders and long fingered ridges allows for seclusion.

The ridge tops and high benches of the WSA offer extensive overlooks of the rugged terrain and impressive vertical relief within the area. Views can be seen of mountain ranges outside the WSA to the south, northwest, and west, 50 to 100 miles away. The San Rafael Reef, a prominent feature to the west, can be seen from many points in the WSA. Expansive views enhance the feeling of solitude within the WSA.

### C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The entire WSA meets the requirements for outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The WSA's extensive canyon systems, ridges, abundant springs, wildlife trails, and old travel routes provide outstanding opportunities for a variety of primitive and unconfined recreational activities. Hiking, backpacking, horsepacking, winter sports, hunting, wildlife observation, sightseeing, and photography are some of the opportunities available.

Foot trails largely comprised of old mining and game routes are suitable for hiking and horsepacking within all of the canyons. Included are routes from the west side of Ute Canyon to Tom Farrer Valley into Cub Valley or Horse

Canyon, and from the east side of Ute Canyon into Showerbath Canyon. Possible routes exist from Showerbath Canyon to Floy Canyon, and from Floy Canyon to Thompson Canyon, Renegade Canyon or the Right Hand of Thompson Canyon. Springs can be found in the mouth of Horse Canyon, the upper part of Middle Horse and Crescent Canyons, and in Floy, Dry Fork, Left and Right Hand Threeforks, Thompson, Right Hand Thompson, Renegade, Showerbath, Ute, Right Hand Tusher, and Sego Canyons. The springs are a good source of drinking water for recreationists in the area.

The western and southern parts of the WSA are comprised of plateaus and ridges with steep cliffs. Finding routes is difficult and challenging. Water is scarce outside the canyons. Old mining routes in several canyons in the south part of the WSA provide access to the higher plateaus.

Hunting opportunities for both big and small game are exceptional in the Book Cliffs. Black bear, cougar, deer, elk, rabbit, and chukar hunting opportunities are excellent. The area has limited vehicular access and most hunting is done on foot or horseback.

From the south to the north, interesting colors and rock formations are present, adding interesting scenic quality to the unit. Along the southern portion, the sheer-walled plateau face is interrupted by a collapsed area where there is a field of hoo-does, i.e., pedestals of soil holding up slabs of rock. Tall pedestals of less resistant soils hold the huge rock slabs of a more resistant nature. A finely carved barrel-shaped chute also exists within the drainage's route. Several other places in the unit's southern half expose such character. The northern terrain is a colorful mix of interesting pinnacles and rock figures. Outstanding sightseeing and photography values are emphasized by these features. Waterfalls and a mix of vegetation add interest to the winding canyon bottoms, especially in the northern portion of the unit.

The many drainages and the dissected terrain provide hundreds of potential hiking routes up canyon bottoms and along ridge tops.

## FLOY CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Opportunities for hiking, backpacking, and hunting are outstanding throughout the WSA.

### D. Special Features

The WSA contains supplemental scenic, geologic, and cultural values. The northern part of the WSA, notably Sege Canyon, Thompson Canyon and its tributaries, Floy Canyon and its tributaries, Showerbath Canyon, Ute Canyon, and the head of Horse Canyon and its tributaries include scenic areas. Rock outcrops, pinnacles and chimneys, soil colors, dense and varied mixtures of vegetation, and waterfalls and streams enhance the visual character of the area.

Approximately 93 percent (67,500 acres) of the WSA is rated as outstanding for scenic quality. In the southern portions of the unit there are unusual formations such as rock pedestals and dramatic and textured cliff faces. An unusual strata exposed in the northern portions of the WSA along the Book Cliffs is the conglomerate Wasatch Formation. The dark-brown cobblestone layer, ranging from 5 to 20 feet thick, is related to discontinuous and ancient stream channeling.

Cultural values, such as historic log cabins and related trails, exist within the unit. The WSA has populations of cougar, elk, and black bear which are wildlife species associated with wilderness. Also, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep may occasionally enter the WSA. Black-footed ferrets, peregrine falcons, and bald eagles, listed as endangered species, and six other animal species considered sensitive may inhabit or visit the WSA. One plant species that is considered sensitive also may occur in the WSA.

Refer to Appendix 4 and the Affected Environment, Vegetation and Wildlife Including Special Status Species sections 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 add a combination of 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 Douglas fir forest (7,680 acres), juniper-pinyon woodland (44,525 acres), mountain mahogany-oak scrub (18,480 acres), and saltbush-greasewood (1,920 acres). The juniper-pinyon woodland and saltbush-greasewood PNV types are represented in the NWPS nationally and in Utah and in other BLM study areas both in and outside of Utah, although saltbush-greasewood PNV is represented in the NWPS only in Utah. The Douglas fir forest and mountain mahogany-oak scrub PNV types are not currently represented at all in the NWPS.

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 (Five Hours) of Major Population Centers

The WSA is within a 5-hour drive of the Salt Lake City-Ogden, Utah and the 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.

FLOY CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

TABLE 2  
ECOSYSTEM REPRESENTATION

BAILEY-KUCHLER CLASSIFICATION (PNV)	NWPS AREAS		OTHER BLM STUDIES	
	AREAS	ACRES	AREAS	ACRES
<b>NATIONWIDE (COLORADO PLATEAU PROVINCE)</b>				
Douglas Fir Forest	0	0	2	61,590
Juniper-Pinyon Woodland	11	1,401,745	84	2,099,480
Mountain Mahogany-Oak Scrub	0	0	4	13,381
Saltbush-Greasewood	1	20,000	17	392,083
<b>UTAH (COLORADO PLATEAU PROVINCE)</b>				
Douglas Fir Forest	0	0	2	61,590
Juniper-Pinyon Woodland	1	26,000	53	1,661,673
Mountain Mahogany-Oak Scrub	0	0	4	13,381
Saltbush-Greasewood	1	20,000	17	392,083

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	1,099,962	78	2,187,070
Provo-Orem, Utah	11	721,793	90	2,714,263

Source: BLM File Data.

C. Balancing the Geographic Distribution of Wilderness Areas

The Floy Canyon WSA could contribute to balancing the geographic distribution of wilderness areas within the NWPS.

As of January 1987, the NWPS included 44 areas comprising 3,443,330 acres in Utah and in Colorado, the adjacent state nearest the WSA.

A Floy Canyon Wilderness would supplement the NWPS in the Uinta Basin Section of the Colorado Plateau where there are no established wilderness areas. There is only one designated wilderness area within 100 miles of the WSA. This is the 45,000-acre Dark Canyon Wilderness south of the WSA (U.S. Forest Service [FS]).

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

The portion of the WSA that is recommended for wilderness can be managed to preserve values now present in the area. Livestock grazing and maintenance of existing fences and three developed springs would continue but would not significantly affect wilderness values in the area. There are 11,283 acres of post-FLPMA oil and gas leases in the WSA. About 6,113 acres of the leases are in the area recommended for wilderness. All of these leases are subject to stipulations for the protection of wilderness values. Therefore, it is assumed that if the area is designated as wilderness, the existing leases will expire

## FLOY CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

prior to production and new leases will not be issued.

There are presently 80 acres of mining claims in the WSA. None are in the recommended area, and the probability of future valid claims is low throughout the WSA because only minor occurrences of uranium are thought to be in the area.

Provision of access to and activities on four sections (2,468 acres) of State land in-held in the portion of the WSA recommended as wilderness could affect wilderness values and uses in the surrounding wilderness. BLM would be obligated to provide access to the State sections and could not administratively control development on State land. BLM projects that at least 1 mile of access road to State land would be required through the area following wilderness designation.

The area not recommended for wilderness also could be effectively managed to protect wilderness values. There are 5,170 acres of post-FLPMA oil and gas leases, four in-held State sections, and 160 acres of private land in this area where the terrain is more accessible. However, the leases are subject to stipulations for the protection of wilderness values and would not be a manageability problem if the area were designated wilderness.

The presence of four State sections and 160 acres of private land in-held in the nonrecommended area could complicate wilderness management, but the sections are widespread and activities may not affect the overall manageability of the area. BLM projects that about 4 miles of access road for State and private lands would be required through the nonrecommended area if it were designated as wilderness.

### Energy and Mineral Resource Values

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM) prepared a mineral assessment report for the Floy Canyon WSA (USGS Bulletin 1753, William B. Cashion, et al., N.D.). The report indicates that coal deposits underlie the Floy Canyon WSA. Identified bituminous coal resources in beds 3.5 feet or

more thick and under 2,000 feet or less of overburden are estimated to be about 45 million tons in the study area. Mineral resource potential is estimated to be high for coal; moderate for oil and gas; low for bituminous sandstone, tar sand, oil shale, bentonite, zeolites, geothermal energy, and all minerals other than uranium; and unknown for coal bed methane. Minor occurrences of uranium have been found in the basal part of the Wasatch Formation in the Western part of the Floy Canyon WSA. There is moderate potential for occurrences of uranium in the WSA.

### 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 BLM's recommended partial wilderness designation, present economic conditions would not be affected. Oil and gas exploration and development would increase employment in Grand County by 1 percent (40 jobs) by the year 2010, but the duration of the increase would be shorter than with the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative because development would not occur on 32 percent of the WSA. Recreation-related local sales could contribute up to \$10,701 annually to the local economy by the year 2020. Annual local sales and Federal revenues related to livestock grazing could be reduced by \$1,740 and \$174 respectively because only a portion of a proposed vegetation treatment would be possible. Annual Federal and State revenues from potential oil and gas leasing fees could be reduced by \$46,380 as compared to the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative. Annual royalty payments on oil and gas production would not be reduced, but total royalties from the oil and gas field would be reduced because development and production would be foregone on 32 percent of the WSA. Federal revenues from commercial recreation outfitting would probably increase if the area receives recognition from wilderness designation.

## FLOY CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

### 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 95 inputs specifically addressing this WSA were received from 101 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, 87 commenters supported wilderness designation for part or all of the WSA, while seven commenters were opposed. Seven commenters addressed the relative merits of the EIS but took no formal position on wilderness designation.

Those favoring wilderness commented that the WSA contains wilderness values and has no mineral-related conflicts in uses of the area. The majority of those commenting in favor of wilderness were from outside Utah and from urban areas in Utah. Of particular concern was the need to protect wilderness values and wildlife habitat.

Those opposing wilderness were concerned that wilderness would restrict livestock grazing management and harm local and State economies. The opinion was expressed that wilderness is incompatible with multiple use. Most of those opposing wilderness designation were from urban and rural parts of Utah.

No Federal agencies commented on the Draft EIS or expressed opinions regarding wilderness designation of this WSA.

No comment letters were received on the Final EIS.

There are eight State sections (4,509 acres) in the WSA. In commenting on the Draft EIS, the State of Utah expressed general opposition to wilderness designa-

tion, but did not take a definite position regarding wilderness designation for the WSA. The State commented that the Floy Canyon WSA has moderate wilderness quality values and moderate conflicts compared with the other WSAs in the region. According to the State, conflicts are with coal, other mineral values and livestock uses which probably would not be reduced except by the no action alternative. The State also noted that high cultural and wildlife values are present in the WSA. Additionally, the State made corrections to the number of acres given for State in-holdings; agreed that significant oil shale beds are unlikely to occur in the WSA; complimented the BLM for its information on cultural resources; questioned recreation visitation estimates; and suggested a correction regarding the number of acres in the nondesignated area for the partial wilderness alternative.

The Floy Canyon WSA is in Grand County. The Grand County Master Plan does not specifically address the WSA. The plan generally emphasizes continuation of present uses and maximizing mineral development. The Grand County Commission is opposed to wilderness designation and has endorsed the Consolidated Local Government Response to Wilderness that opposes wilderness designation of BLM lands in Utah. In commenting on the Draft EIS, the Commission stated that the Floy Canyon WSA is interspersed with signs of modern man, including roads that are used for ranching and recreation. The Commission also noted that designation of the area as wilderness would be contrary to the County's overall planning goals and that the geology and ecology of the area is repetitious of the adjacent State roadless area and tribal lands that are managed as roadless. The Commission believes the WSA contains substantial natural resources and that wilderness designation would adversely affect State and local economies.

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**Table 4  
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative**

Alternatives	
Issue Topic	Recommendation
Impacts on Wilderness Values	<p><b>Partial Wilderness (23,140 Acres)</b></p> <p>Wilderness values would be preserved overall in the designated area which is approximately 32 percent of the WSA. In the foreseeable future, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be directly lost on 317 acres because of mineral exploration and development, construction of access roads to in-held State lands, and instream structures. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be indirectly reduced in quality on up to 3,630 acres. Almost all of the impact would be in the non-designated area. Special features would not be significantly affected. Some Class A scenery would be reduced in quality in the disturbed and adjacent areas and some wilderness dependent species would temporarily leave the area. Use of 13 miles of vehicular ways and new roads in the non-designated portion would detract from opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.</p>
	<p><b>No Action/No Wilderness</b></p> <p>Wilderness values would not be protected 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 1,077 acres because of vegetation treatments oil and gas exploration and development construction of access to in-held State lands, and watershed treatments. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be indirectly reduced in quality on up to an additional 10,890 acres of the WSA. Special features would generally not be significantly affected. Some Class A scenery would be reduced in quality in disturbed and surrounding areas and some wilderness dependent wildlife species would leave the area during the period of disturbance. Vehicular use of 24 miles of ways and new roads would occasionally detract from opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.</p>
	<p><b>All Wilderness (72,605 Acres)</b></p> <p>Wilderness designation would preserve overall the wilderness values in the WSA. In the foreseeable future, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be directly lost on 12 acres and indirectly reduced in quality on up to an additional 726 acres because of construction of access to in-held State lands. Special features would be preserved.</p>
Impacts on Vegetation	<p>Vegetation types and special status plant species would not be significantly impacted with this alternative because the potential for major disturbance would be eliminated on 32 percent of the WSA and protective measures would be required on the remainder of the area.</p> <p>Approximately 1.5 percent (1,077 acres) of the vegetation in the WSA would be modified by this alternative. The Category 2 candidate species that may be located in the WSA would not be significantly affected because protective measures would be required.</p> <p>Vegetation types and special status plant species would be protected because potential surface disturbance would be reduced from 1,077 acres to 12 acres and the area would be closed to ORV use.</p>

# FLOY CANYON WSA

**Table 4 (Continued)**  
**Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative**

		Alternatives		
Issue Topic	Recommendation Partial Wilderness (23,140 Acres)	No Action/No Wilderness (72,605 Acres)	All Wilderness (72,605 Acres)	
Impacts on Mineral and Energy Exploration and Production	Partial wilderness designation would preclude or constrain potential exploration and development of an unknown portion of the 10 to 50 million barrels of oil and 60 to 300 billion cubic feet of natural gas may occur in the WSA. Loss of exploration and development opportunities for other mineral and energy resources would not be significant because the probability of development is low even if a portion of the WSA is not designated wilderness.	Implementation of this alternative would not adversely affect mineral exploration or production because mineral leasing, location of mining claims and mineral developments could occur without restriction for the protection of wilderness values.	Recovery of 10 to 50 million barrels of oil and 60 to 300 billion cubic feet of natural gas would be foregone. Loss of potential for recovery of other minerals would not be significant because the probability of development is low even if the area is not designated wilderness.	
Impacts on Wildlife Habitat and Populations	Wildlife would benefit from a reduced acreage of surface disturbance when compared to the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative. Only 0.4 percent of the habitat in the WSA would be disturbed. Approximately 205 acres of vegetation treatment would be allowed in the nondesignated portion, which would benefit some wildlife. Wildlife would not receive the additional benefit of solitude on the 49,465 acres not designated. Special status species would not be significantly affected because protective measures and mitigation would be required.	Implementation of the land treatment opportunity would benefit some wildlife species and population levels by providing additional forage and ecotones. Surface disturbance on 2 percent of the habitat in the WSA may displace some wildlife species during the lifetime of the projects. Special status species would not be significantly adversely affected because protective measures and mitigation would be required. Ferruginous hawks would benefit from habitat improvement.	Wilderness designation would preclude the proposed land treatment project which would have benefitted some wildlife species. Most wildlife species would benefit due to the preservation of solitude and crucial habitat. Special status species would be protected.	
Impacts on Livestock Management	Restrictions on vehicle use on 11 miles of ways and predator control would be an inconvenience to the three permittees that operate the Showerbath Springs, Floy Canyon, and Thompson Canyon allotments. The cost of livestock management could increase slightly. Approximately 700 acres of vegetation treatment that would produce about 87 AUMs would not occur.	With this alternative, there would be no changes in livestock use or management techniques. Surface disturbances resulting from mineral exploration and development would not significantly impact grazing, since forage is currently underused in the WSA. The proposed 905-acre burning and seeding project could be completed to provide an additional 113 AUMs of livestock forage.	No change in livestock authorization would occur with this alternative. Restrictions on the use of 24 miles of ways and predator control would be an inconvenience and would result in increased costs of livestock management for nine livestock permittees. The proposed 905-acre burning and seeding that would produce 113 AUMs would not be allowed.	

## FLOY CANYON WSA

**Table 4 (Continued)  
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative**

Alternatives	
Recommendation Partial Wilderness (23,140 Acres)	No Action/No Wilderness (72,605 Acres)
<p>Impacts on Local Economic Conditions</p>	<p>All Wilderness</p>
<p>Present economic conditions would not be affected. Oil and gas exploration and development would increase employment in Grand County by 1 percent (40 jobs) by the year 2010, but the duration of the increase would be shorter than with the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative because development would not occur on 32 percent of the WSA. Recreation-related local sales could contribute up to \$10,701 annually to the local economy by the year 2020. Annual local sales and Federal revenues related to livestock grazing could be reduced by \$1,740 and \$174 respectively because only a portion of the proposed vegetation treatment would be possible. Annual Federal and State revenues from potential oil and gas leasing fees could be reduced by \$46,380 as compared to the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative. Annual royalty payments on oil and gas production would not be reduced, but total royalties from the oil and gas field would be reduced because development and production would be foregone on 32 percent of the WSA. Federal revenues from commercial recreation outfitting would probably increase if the area receives recognition from wilderness designation.</p>	<p>Present economic conditions would not be affected. The potential for 40 jobs, 1 percent of the projected Grand County employment in the year 2010, would be foregone. Recreation-related local sales could contribute up to \$10,701 annually to the local economy by the year 2020. Annual local sales and Federal revenues related to livestock grazing could be reduced by \$2,260 and \$174 respectively because the proposed vegetation treatment would not be possible. Annual Federal and State revenues from oil and gas leasing fees and royalty payments could be reduced by \$145,210 to over \$100,000 as compared to the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative. Federal revenues from commercial recreation outfitting would probably increase if the area received recognition from designation.</p>
<p>Present economic conditions would not be affected. Oil and gas exploration and development would increase employment in Grand County by 1.0 percent (40 jobs) by the year 2010. There would be only minor changes in local economic conditions. Recreation-related local sales could contribute up to \$10,701 annually to the local economy by the year 2020. The WSA could contribute up to \$58,760 annually in local livestock sales and \$4,525 in grazing fees. Oil and gas leasing fees and royalty payments could contribute from \$145,210 to over \$100,000 per year in Federal and State revenues. Federal revenues from commercial recreation outfitting (currently \$160 annually) would continue.</p>	<p>Present economic conditions would not be affected. Oil and gas exploration and development would increase employment in Grand County by 1.0 percent (40 jobs) by the year 2010. There would be only minor changes in local economic conditions. Recreation-related local sales could contribute up to \$10,701 annually to the local economy by the year 2020. The WSA could contribute up to \$58,760 annually in local livestock sales and \$4,525 in grazing fees. Oil and gas leasing fees and royalty payments could contribute from \$145,210 to over \$100,000 per year in Federal and State revenues. Federal revenues from commercial recreation outfitting (currently \$160 annually) would continue.</p>

FLOY CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Appendix  
Estimated Costs of Acquisition of Non-Federal Holdings Within Areas Recommended for Designation <sup>a</sup>

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. 19 S., R. 19 E., Sec. 32	640.37		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 19 S., R. 19 E., Sec. 36	636.32		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 19 S., R. 20 E., Sec. 32	640.00		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 20 S., R. 19 E., Sec. 2	551.76		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 20 S., R. 17 E., Sec. 35 NENE	160.0		Private	No	Purchase	\$9,600-\$12,300	

<sup>a</sup> 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.