WILDERNESS INVENTORY UPDATE

Date of Review:_____02/26/07_____.

Name of Area to be Reviewed:___Labyrinth Canyon Extensions

BLM Field Office(s) Affected:_____Richfield Field Office

EVALUATION

1.) Was new information submitted by a member of the public for this area?

YES ___X . NO ____.

2.) If new information has been submitted, does the submission include the following?

a) map which identifies the specific boundaries of the area(s) in question?

YES __X__. NO ____.

b) detailed narrative that describes the wilderness characteristics of the area and documents how that information differs from the information in prior inventories conducted by BLM regarding the wilderness values of the area?

YES __X__. NO ____.

c) photographic documentation?

YES __X__. NO ____.

d) any information not identified above? If so, please describe what it is.

3. As a result of interdisciplinary review of relevant information (which may include aerial photographs, state and county road information, road maintenance agreements, documentation from prior BLM inventories, field observations, maps, plats, evidence presented as new information by a proponent, etc.), do you conclude

_____a) the decision reached in previous BLM inventories that the area lacks wilderness characteristics remains valid.

(or)

___X___b) some or all of the area has wilderness characteristics as shown on the attached map.

4. Describe your findings regarding specific wilderness characteristics and provide detailed rationale.

On February 15, 2002, BLM (Utah State Office) received from Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) and Utah Wilderness Coalition (UWC) information regarding lands which may have wilderness characteristics. This information was received in this office from the BLM UTSO on July 1, 2002. Site-specific comments regarding wilderness characteristics on a parcel of land in the vicinity of Labyrinth Canyon were addressed and included lands managed by the Price, Richfield and Moab Field Offices. BLM Richfield Field Office wilderness staff (myself) then conducted an initial review of the submitted information using existing information. This evaluation is in accordance with BLM IM -2003-275, Change-1 and the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1)

Following consideration of the submittals and new information, including field reviews and revised policy guidance, the BLM RFO determined that the area had been inventoried and the wilderness character evaluated previously in 1979 and 1999. The relevant case files are located in the Richfield Field Office under the WSA 1979 Inventory, the 1991 Utah Statewide Wilderness Final EIS, (Volume IV), the North Horseshoe Canyon WSA File, and the 1999 Wilderness Inventory Area (WIA) File for the Labyrinth Canyon Area.

The area SUWA submitted and BLM evaluated is in eastern Wayne County. The isolated portion of Canyon Land National Park (Horseshoe Canyon Unit) and the BLM Horseshoe Canyon (North) WSA is adjacent to the west and some lands are actually on the west of this NPS unit, and the main portion of Canyonlands National Park is to the east. The lands were inventoried in the initial BLM 1979 effort, when it was found to be not to possess wilderness characteristics and dropped from further study. It was again inventoried by BLM in the 1996-1999 effort. BLM previously addressed this land parcel on page 79 of the 1999 Re-inventory document. Additional comments were received during the public review period and were addressed in the 2001 Revision document.

Size: The parcel is more than 5,000 acres in size and is not separated from any other lands having wilderness characteristics by a county maintained road or any other man-made feature.
Appearance of Naturalness: The lands are in a natural condition. There are minor and substantially unnoticeable range improvements, the lands have no mineral claims, and there are no oil and gas leases. There are no vegetation manipulation impacts. The route inventory and BLM MOUs with Wayne County for road construction and maintenance indicate that there are no additional routes and no RS 2477 assertions. The main roads accessing this area have been removed from the inventory area previously and are not analyzed here.
Outstanding Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude: Recreation use levels are very low and the expectation of meeting anyone else is minimal. There are no commercial recreation outfitters operating in the area. The area currently has primitive recreational activities occurring on it – mostly associated

with hunting or hiking into the adjacent NP Horseshoe Canyon unit. The actual staging site for access into the NP is located on BLM was addressed in the 1999 inventory and is not analyzed here.
Supplemental Values: There are several cultural sites located in the area, and other supplemental values include critical wildlife habitat and riparian values.

Determination - From the evidence presented by the proponent, as well as other relevant information (which includes documentation from prior BLM inventories, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc.), BLM concludes that the decision reached in previous BLM inventories remains valid. The specific concerns in the submittal have been analyzed previously and do not need further review during the inventory phase. The re-submittal of the concerns is only a difference of opinion between the proponent and the BLM which has been analyzed previously, documented, and resolved. The concerns submitted can be analyzed adequately during the new planning process for the new Resource Management Plan (RMP) now underway by the Richfield Field Office if needed. The land parcel has been already found to possess wilderness characteristics.
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1. Wayne County – BLM Memorandum of Understanding. March 19, 1970. "Road Construction and Maintenance". File 1786. Map dated 1990

2. Wilderness Inventory Reference Data

1. May 9, 1979 Inventory Reports on Horseshoe Canyon Unit (north) and Horseshoe Canyon Unit (South)

2. Utah Wilderness Inventory 1999, Horseshoe Canyon and Dirty Devil – French Springs Units (pages 75 and 78)

3. Utah Statewide Wilderness EIS, November 1990, volume IV.

4. Aerial Photography Project UT-94-CC 1:24,000

Recreation Program Reference:

Henry Mountains Planning Unit OHV Implementation Plan, 1988.

Agency Coordination Reference:

1. Canyonlands National Park staff, Hans Flat Office.

GIS Program reference:

1. BLM RFO Route Inventory
2. BLM Resource Data-Wildlife, vegetation, fuels, watershed, visual

Mineral Program Reference:

BLM geographic report for case recordation and mining claim status in LR 2000.

5. List the members of the interdisciplinary team and resource specialties represented. (2002 staff)

Buzz Rakow - Minerals
Tim Finger - Wilderness, Recreation, Visual Resources
Craig Harmon - Archaeology
Leroy Smalley - Range
Steve Knox - Wilderness

Gene McEwen - Range
Gary Hall - Assistant Field Manager

Kay Erickson - Realty
Rod Lee - Resource Advisor
Vearl Christiansen - Natural Resources
Tom Gnojek - Wilderness

Dave Gibbons - Law Enforcement
Lauren Mermejo - Wilderness
Sue Fivecoat - Recreation, Visual Resources
Sam Brown - Range
Suzanne Grayson - Wildlife, T&E Species
LaRell Chappel - Soils
Stan Adams - Environmental Protection
Justin Seastrand - GIS
Chris Colton - Range
Brant Hallows - Natural Resources

Field Office Manager_____ Date_____

This determination is part of an interim step in BLM's internal decision making process and does not constitute a decision that can be appealed.

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Richfield Field Office
150 E., 900 N
Richfield, Utah 84701
(435) 896-1500

STAFF REPORT
Labyrinth Canyon Area submittal
Supplemental and New Wilderness Characteristic Information

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Tim Finger, RFO Wilderness Specialist
July 1, 2002