

WILDERNESS

In 1806, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were inspired by the untamed beauty and expanse of the American West and its wild places. Yet, less than 200 years after Lewis and Clark made their historic journey of exploration, America's wild places had virtually disappeared. In 1964, the U.S. Congress, by a nearly unanimous vote, enacted landmark legislation to permanently protect the most natural places that remained in America. The Wilderness Act of 1964 established the National Wilderness Preservation System to "secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness."



How much BLM-Managed Wilderness is there in Washington County?

Through the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Congress designated approximately 129,300 acres of BLM-managed public lands as new wilderness in Washington County, Utah. The St. George Field Office now manages nearly 132,000 acres of designated wilderness in 15 wilderness areas ranging in size from the 32-acre Taylor Creek Wilderness to the 44,530-acre Canaan Mountain Wilderness.

How is Wilderness Managed?

Many misconceptions exist about wilderness management. Some people think that wilderness is a "lock-up" of land where no public use can occur. Others think that all recreational activities are prohibited in wilderness. Neither is true. Primitive recreational activities such as hiking, horseback riding, hunting, camping, and fishing continue as authorized public uses in wilderness. For example, if livestock grazing is an ongoing activity when lands are designated as wilderness, it will continue as a valid use of those public lands. Scientific research and educational activities can also take place in wilderness. However, motorized and mechanized vehicle travel and equipment use are not authorized in designated wilderness without special authorization from the BLM (exceptions are made for emergency situations).

Did the new Wilderness Designations Close Roads?

The new wilderness areas include very rugged, mountainous terrain and steep-sided canyons that are generally inaccessible by vehicle and have no roads. Within the 129,300 acres of newly-designated wilderness, less than 10 miles of roads were closed when the 14 new wilderness areas were designated in 2009. Over 1,200 miles of roads on public lands in Washington County remain open to motorized use.

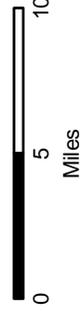
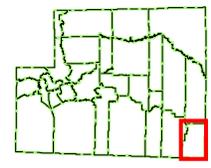
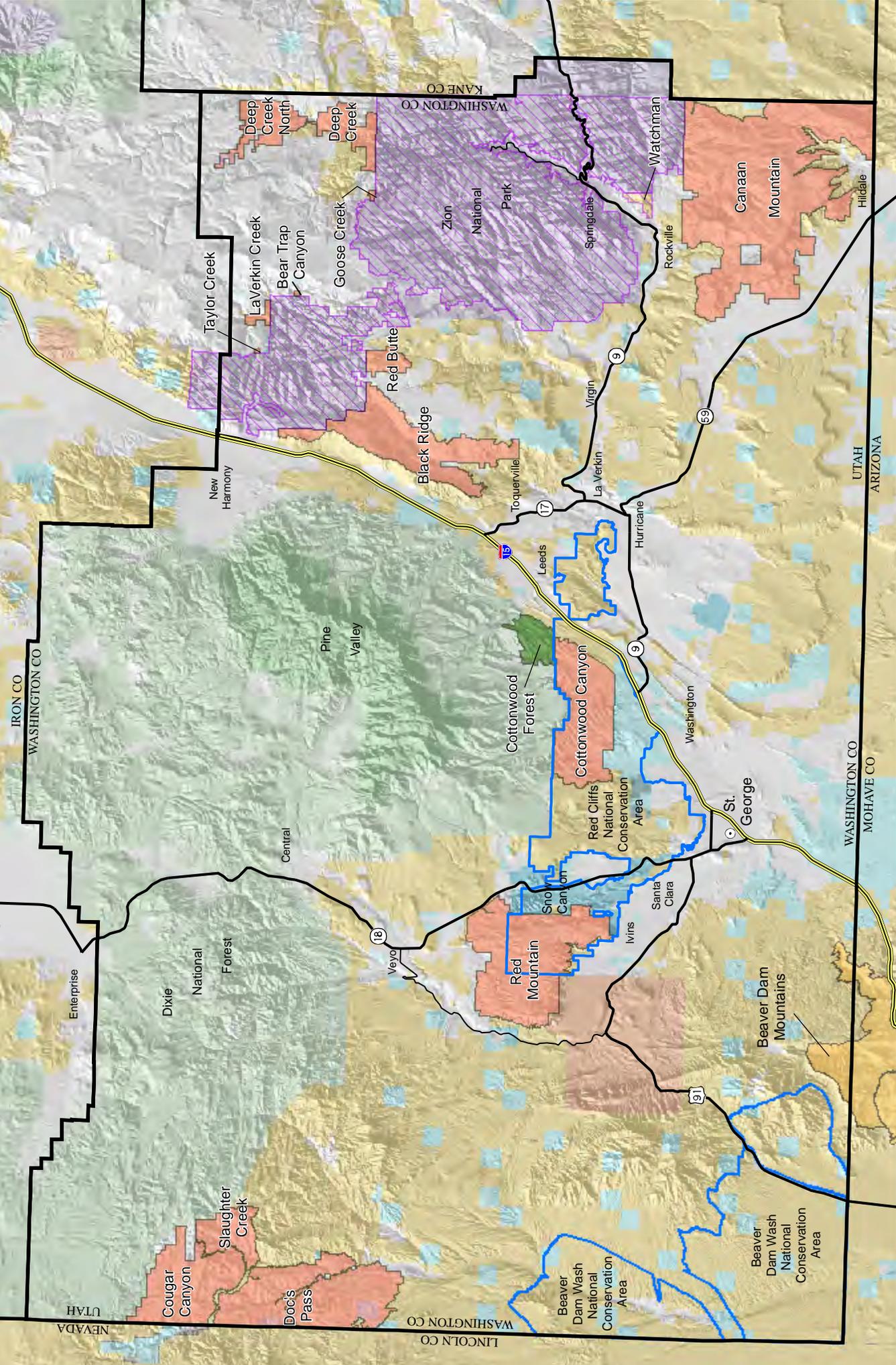
What's Ahead?

The map on the reverse side shows the locations of all BLM-managed wilderness areas in Washington County. More detailed maps are under development and will soon be available to the public. Management plans for the new wilderness areas will be completed by the BLM St. George Field Office through a public planning process, and will provide direction on the management of recreation, livestock grazing, fire suppression, and other administrative issues.

More Information:

Additional information about these new wilderness areas can be found on the St. George Field Office web site at: http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/st__george.html





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	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)		State of Utah
	Existing BLM Wilderness		US Forest Service (USFS)
	New BLM Wilderness		Existing USFS Wilderness
	BLM National Conservation Area		New USFS Wilderness
	Indian Reservation		National Park Service (NPS)
			New NPS Wilderness
			State Park
			Private Land
			Field Office Boundary