



WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The St. George Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is preparing a Wilderness Management Plan (Wilderness Plan) for the Cottonwood Canyon and Red Mountain Wilderness areas and an Environmental Assessment (EA) to consider the

environmental consequences of implementing the approved plan. The Wilderness Plan will provide long term management direction for the two wilderness areas. The Cottonwood Canyon Wilderness consists of 11,667 acres of public land and is located entirely within

the boundaries of the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area (NCA). Red Mountain Wilderness is 18,689 acres in size, of which 8,332 acres are within the NCA. There are no private or state lands (in-holdings) within the boundaries of either wilderness area.

The Wilderness planning process will employ a collaborative approach that incorporates the input of State, Tribal, and local governments, interest groups, and public land users. The scoping period is crucial, as it provides opportunities for the public to help identify issues, provide data and information, and propose future decisions. Public input could address the following topics or issues, among others:

- ▶ Wildland Fire Management
- ▶ Scientific Research and Educational Opportunities
- ▶ Commercial Activities (e.g., hunter/guides; wilderness therapy programs)
- ▶ Livestock grazing management
- ▶ Restoration of natural communities

PUBLIC SCOPING AND ISSUE IDENTIFICATION:

The scoping workshop will be an open house format, during which the public can obtain information about the Cottonwood Canyon and Red Mountain Wilderness areas and this planning process. Resource specialists from BLM's St. George Field Office will be available to answer questions. Public input will

be considered by BLM during the development of a reasonable range of alternatives to address the long-term management of these units. The public scoping workshop for the Cottonwood Canyon and Red Mountain Wilderness Management Plan / EA will be held on the following date at this location:

**Dixie Center, Entrada C
1835 Convention Center Drive
St. George, UT 84790**

**Date: Tuesday, April 19, 2011
Time: 6-8 p.m.**

WHAT IS A WILDERNESS AREA?

Wilderness areas are federally-managed public lands, designated by Congress in legislation that is signed by the President. They are managed so that their undeveloped, natural character, outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are protected for future generations. Motorized and mechanized vehicle travel and equipment use are not allowed in wilderness areas, without special authorization from the federal land manager.

The *Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009* (Public Law 111-11) designated 14 new wilderness areas on BLM-managed public lands in Washington County, UT, including the Cottonwood Canyon and Red Mountain Wilderness areas. To learn more about these new wilderness areas, visit our website at:

http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/st_george/blm_special_areas/national_landscape/wilderness.html

ST. GEORGE FIELD OFFICE WILDERNESS PLANNING PROCESS

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
345 East Riverside Dr.
St. George, Utah 84790-9000
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE

FIRST CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
Bureau of Land Management
Permit No. G-76

You're invited to our wilderness scoping workshop.

In addition to the scoping workshop, BLM will accept comments via the following methods

Mailed or Delivered to:

**Bureau of Land Management
St. George Field Office**

**Attention: Wilderness Planning
345 East Riverside Drive
St. George, UT 84770**

Emailed to: utsgmail@blm.gov

Please include
"Wilderness Planning"
in the subject line of your e-mail.

**Comments will be accepted
through May 20, 2011.**

All documents developed during this planning process will be available to the public on the BLM St. George Field Office website at:
www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/st_george.html