



UTAH
BLM
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 UNITED STATES

FOR RELEASE
 CONTACT

Immediately
 Don Baxa or Vern Bruggeman
 (524-4227)

news Release
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

MAR 3 1981

COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED ON BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

DRAFT WILDERNESS STUDY AND REPORTING SCHEDULE

Additional time to April 16, 1981 will be allowed for public comments on a Draft Wilderness Study and Reporting Schedule published today by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management.

When the draft (listed as Part B, Status of Current Planning Documents and Projected New Planning Starts) was first published in the January 19, 1981, Federal Register, a 42-day public comment period was provided. That publication did not specify the geographic location of Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). A list of those geographic locations will be published March 3, 1981, in the Federal Register. Therefore, the 45-day extension will provide the public greater opportunity to evaluate the proposed schedule.

Comments should be submitted to the Director (430), Bureau of Land Management, 18th and C Streets N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240. Comments received may be seen during regular office hours in Room 5600 at that address.

BLM policy provides for developing a schedule showing when wilderness study areas will be reviewed and reports prepared. This proposed wilderness study process is closely tied to the Bureau's multiple-use planning system. The schedule calls for completion of studies on seven planning areas in 1981; 20 in 1982; 34 in 1983; 26 in 1984; 21 in 1985, and 20 in 1986. The studies will determine whether these areas have characteristics necessary for them to be recommended for designation by Congress for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System or resource values that outweigh the benefits of wilderness designation.

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March 4, 1981

REPLIES TO WILDERNESS PROTESTS ANNOUNCED BY BLM

Replies on protests received by the Bureau of Land Management concerning final decision made last November on Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) in Utah have been announced. The announcement will appear in the Federal Register March 4th or 5th.

According to Dean Stepanek, acting BLM Utah state director, 69 protests on the earlier decisions were received. These protests addressed 61 inventory units. He said that each protestant has received, by certified mail, a decision responding in detail to the points of his/her protest. No protests were received concerning 120 other units listed in the November decisions.

Out of the protests received, those on 51 units were denied and there is no change in the earlier decisions on those units. Protests on 10 other units resulted in changes to the earlier decisions: 76,700 acres were added to various WSAs and two units totaling 16,310 acres were dropped from WSA status.

Stepanek added that if no appeals are filed on these decisions, they will become final on April 6, 1981. At that time 2,577,056 acres of public land in Utah will have been identified as WSAs. (This includes 117,360 acres of previously identified WSA's which are under appeal). These WSAs will receive further study as to their potential for recommendation to Congress for possible designation as Wilderness Areas.

Attached for your information is the more detailed Federal Register announcement. ###

UTAH

Decision on Protests to State Director's November 14, 1980
Decisions on Statewide Inventory

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: The State Director's final decisions on the statewide wilderness intensive inventory in Utah was published in the Federal Register on November 14, 1980. The decision was on individual inventory units. In that notice, it was stated that any person(s) who had disagreements with the individual unit decision(s) and had information which would influence the decision(s), could file a protest with the Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Director by 4:30 p.m., December 15, 1980.

During the protest period, the Utah State Director received 69 protests to decisions announced in the statewide notice. These protests affected 61 inventory units. Each protestant is receiving, by certified mail, a decision responding in detail to the points of his/her protest. This notice summarizes the results of the decisions. The following protests are denied and the decisions remain consistent with those published in the November 14, 1980, Federal Register:

Protestant	Unit No.	Unit Name	Protestant Wanted	S.D. Decision on Protest
Organized Group	UT-020-037	Newfoundland Mtn.	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision.
Organized Group	UT-020-129/ UT-050-130A	Dugway Mountains	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-040-075	Horse Spring Cyn.	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-040-075	Horse Spring Cyn.	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision

Protestant	Unit No.	Unit Name	Protestant Wanted	S.D. Decision on Protest
Organized Group	UT-040-076	Carcass Canyon	12,180 acres added to WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Local Government	UT-040-076	Carcass Canyon	Unit dropped from WSA status	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-040-077	Mud Spring Canyon	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-040-078	Death Ridge	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Local Government	UT-040-078	Death Ridge	Agreed with S.D.'s decision	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-040-079	Burning Hills	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Local Government	UT-040-079	Burning Hills	Agreed with S.D.'s decision	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Local Government	UT-040-080	Fifty Mile Mtn.	Unit dropped from WSA status	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-040-080	Fifty Mile Mtn.	WSA boundary adjusted	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Local Government	UT-040-082	Scorpion	Unit dropped from WSA status	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-040-104	Mountain Home Rge.	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-040-204B	Central Wah Wah Range	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Local Government	UT-040-217	Moquith Mountain	Unit dropped from WSA status	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-040-230	Parunuweap Cyn.	Cherrystemmed "road" added to WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Local Government	UT-040-230	Parunuweap Cyn.	Unit dropped from WSA status	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Local Government	UT-040-247	Paria-Hackberry	Unit dropped from WSA status	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-040-247	Paria-Hackberry	Acreage added to WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision

Protestant	Unit No.	Unit Name	Protestant Wanted	S.D. Decision on Protest
Organized Group	UT-040-248	Wahweap	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-040-255	Upper Kanab Creek	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-040-266	East of Bryce	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Company	UT-050-061	Swasey Mountain	Acreage deleted from WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-050-221B	Fremont Gorge	Parts of subunit B added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-050-237	Horseshoe Canyon	Portions of unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-050-238	Blue Hills-Mt. Ellen	Acreage added to WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-050-241	Fiddler Butte	Acreage added to WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-050-248	Mt. Pennell	Acreage added to WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Individual	UT-050-248A	Mt. Pennell	Acreage added to WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Individual	UT-050-248B	Mt. Pennell	Acreage added to WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-050-257	Notom Bench	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Individual	UT-060-023	Sid's Mountain	Acreage added to WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Individual	UT-060-054	Mexican Mountain	WSA boundary adjusted	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-060-068B	Floy Canyon	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision

Protestant	Unit No.	Unit Name	Protestant Wanted	S.D. Decision on Protest
Organized Group	UT-060-122/* CO-070-132A	Granite Creek	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-060-122/* CO-070-132A	Granite Creek	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-060-138	Negro Bill Canyon	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-060-165	Sixshooter Peak	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-060-171	Sweet Alice Canyon	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-060-181	Mancos Mesa	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-060-188	Pine Canyon	Unit combined with Grand Gulch ISA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-060-191	Cheese Box Canyon	Acreage added to WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Individual	UT-060-194	Harmony Flat	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-060-194	Harmony Flat	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-060-196	Bullet Canyon	Unit combined with Grand Gulch ISA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-060-197/ 198	Slickhorn Canyon	Unit combined with Grand Gulch ISA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-060-204	Fish Creek Canyon	Acreage added to WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-060-205A	Arch Canyon	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-060-205A	Arch Canyon	Unit added as WSA and combined with UT-060-205B	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Individual	UT-060-205A	Arch Canyon	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision

Protestant	Unit No.	Unit Name	Protestant Wanted	S.D. Decision on Protest
Organized Group	UT-060-224	Sheiks Flat	Unit combined with Grand Gulch ISA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	Grand Gulch ISA	Grand Gulch ISA	ISA combined with five other units	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-080-104	Wild Mountain	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-080-110	Hoy Mountain	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-080-114	Pot Creek	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision
Organized Group	UT-080-730	Winter Ridge	Unit added as WSA	No change from 11/14/80 final decision

*Interstate unit with Colorado - Answered by Utah.

The following interstate units received a protest; the decision will be announced by the State listed below:

<u>Unit No.</u>	<u>Unit Name</u>	<u>Decision on Protest</u>
UT-040-143/AZ-1-41	Canaan Mtn.	Arizona - no change in Utah portion
UT-040-216/NV-040-202	White Rock Range	Nevada - no change in Utah portion
UT-060-116/117/ CO-070-113A	Wrigley Mesa/ Jones Canyon	Colorado - No change in Utah portion
UT-060-227/CO-030-265A	Squaw & Pápoose Canyons	Colorado - no change in Utah portion
UT-060-229/CO-030-265	Cross Canyon	Colorado - no change in Utah portion
UT-080-113/CO-010-214	Diamond Breaks	Colorado - no change in Utah portion
UT-080-419/CO-010-001	Bull Canyon	Colorado - no change in Utah portion

The following protests are accepted in whole or in part:

Protestant	Unit No.	Unit Name	Protestant Wanted	S.D. Decision on Protest
Organized Group	UT-040-132	Red Mountain	Acreage added to WSA	250 acres added to WSA
Company	UT-060-023	Sid's Mountain	Unit dropped from WSA status	2 roads cherrystemmed
Organized Group	UT-060-068A	Desolation Canyon	100,000 acres added to WSA	40,845 acres added to WSA
Organized Group	UT-060-100B	Diamond Mountain	Acreage added to WSA	200 acres added to WSA
Organized Group	UT-060-100C	Cottonwood Canyon	Acreage added to WSA	1,770 acres added to WSA
Individual	UT-060-139A	Mill Creek	Unit dropped from WSA status	Unit dropped as WSA (10,320 acres)
Individual	UT-060-175	Middle Point	Unit dropped from WSA status	Unit dropped as WSA (5,990 acres)
Organized Group	UT-060-201	Road Canyon	Acreage added to WSA	30,260 acres added to WSA
Organized Group	UT-060-201	Road Canyon	Acreage added to WSA	30,260 acres added to WSA
Organized Group	UT-060-205B	Mule Canyon	Acreage added to WSA	280 acres added to WSA
Organized Group	UT-080-103/* CO-010-208	West Cold Springs	Acreage added to WSA	3,095 acres added to WSA

*Protest received Utah portion of Interstate Unit - answered by Utah.

Any person(s) who has information which he/she believes will show that the November 14, 1980, decision which is changed as a result of the protest decision is incorrect, may appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. Also, each protestant is allowed the right of appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals within 30 days from the date of service on his/her individual decision(s). In the event no appeal is filed, the decision will become final as of 4:30 p.m., April 6, 1981.



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FOR RELEASE
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News Release

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

June 22, 1979

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is inviting public comment on proposed guidelines for identifying and designating areas of the public lands where special management is needed. The proposed guidelines were published in the June 6 Federal Register.

"The Organic Act mandates us to protect our most environmentally significant and most vulnerable resources within a framework of multiple use," BLM Director Frank Gregg said. "We have a dual responsibility: to protect those genuinely important and critical natural, historic, cultural or scenic values that make the places where they are located special places, and to protect the public from natural hazards, and to do this without unnecessarily restricting these lands from any compatible uses," he said.

The kinds of areas that would be involved are those where special management is required to (1) protect important and critical historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or (2) provide protection to the public from natural hazards.

Recognition of such areas is not new to the public lands or to BLM. In the past, however, such designations as "research areas" or "natural areas" have not necessarily included commitment to providing special management on a continuing basis. In the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 Congress directed BLM to give special management attention to "areas of critical environmental concern" (ACECs) on such a continuing basis.

BLM Director Frank Gregg said the ACEC process will provide BLM resource managers with a multiple-use planning and management tool that will be useful in special situations.

Uses such as the production of food, timber or minerals, and recreational or other development, when wisely planned and properly managed, may take place in ACECs, and will be controlled to ensure that the significant and critical environmental resources within these areas are not damaged or endangered, Gregg said.

(more)

The draft guidelines include the following proposals:

* ACEC identification and designation will be done through BLM's on-the-ground resource management planning process with opportunities for broad public participation.

* Each ACEC's management prescription will be site-specific, individually "hand-crafted" to fit each area's particular resources or hazards.

* An ACEC designation will constitute a commitment that future actions within that area will be limited to those that are consistent with the area's particular special management requirements.

* To the extent that any otherwise appropriate use can take place within an ACEC without endangering an important environmental resource, or human life or property, the use will be permitted.

* Involvement by local and State governments, private organizations and individual citizens will be provided for at each phase of the process.

* ACEC designations may be made or revised only through an open public process including environmental analysis.

* Responsibility for designating ACECs rests with BLM District Managers, after concurrence by BLM State Directors.

Public comment will be received until August 6, 1979, and should be addressed to the Director (303), Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. A public informational meeting will be held at 9 a.m., June 18, in room 8069, Department of the Interior, 18th and E Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Copies of the proposed guidelines are available from BLM State Offices, or from BLM's Washington Office, Division of Wilderness and Environmental Areas, BLM (303), Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240, phone (202) 343-6064.

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