

FINAL WILDERNESS CHARACTER INVENTORY EVALUATION

INVENTORY AREA: Vermillion Basin

FINDINGS: The Vermillion Basin inventory area cumulatively contains 81,028 acres of BLM-administered public land in five separate inventory units. Most of the area (77,067 acres) has wilderness character - of which Units 1 through 5 contain 41,752 acres, 7,377 acres, 10,195 acres, 11,329 acres, and 6,414 acres respectively. With a few site-specific exceptions, the landscapes of all five inventory units retain their natural-appearing character and provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation. This large inventory area includes expansive and colorful badlands, rugged, steep-walled canyons, and all or major portions of two designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Additionally, this area has exceptional supplemental values including rare and uncommon plants and plant communities, unique geological features, spectacular scenery and scenic vistas, and irreplaceable cultural resources.

Within the Vermillion Basin inventory area, sixteen specific locations (totaling 3,961 acres) lack wilderness characteristics. Eight of these locations are in Unit 1 where 3,812 acres are affected by a combination of utility lines, fencelines, range developments, and old bulldozed routes and vehicle ways. Three of these locations are in Unit 3 where nine acres are affected by livestock developments. Four of these locations are in Unit 4 where 129 acres are affected by livestock developments and a fenceline maintained for wild horse management associated with the Sand Wash Herd. One location is in Unit 5 where 11 acres are affected by the proximity of a vehicle way to the unit boundary. These human imprints are substantially noticeable in the landscape and contribute to the “unnatural in character” condition of all sixteen locations. Seventeen roads are cherry-stemmed out of the inventory area - of which 13 are in Unit 1, one is in Unit 3, and three are in Unit 4.

I. INVENTORY AREA DESCRIPTION

The Vermillion Basin inventory area is located in northwest Moffat County, approximately 80 miles west of Craig, and about eight miles south of the Colorado-Wyoming state line. Dinosaur National Monument is six miles to the southwest at its closest point. While both state and privately owned lands are excluded from this wilderness character inventory, there are 1,923 acres of state land and 626 acres of private land within the inventory area's exterior boundary. Additionally, Moffat County has claimed numerous R.S. 2477 rights-of-way within the Vermillion Basin inventory area. Since a wilderness character inventory evaluation only addresses the issue of wilderness characteristics on BLM-administered lands, the County's R.S. 2477 assertion is a legal question beyond the scope and intent of this inventory effort.

Following is a unit-by-unit description for each of the inventory area's five separate units.

May 25, 2001

Unit 1: The inventory unit boundary is comprised of a combination of state, county and BLM roads, state and private property lines, and legal subdivision lines. BLM Road 2033 and an unnumbered road, extending northeast from the vicinity of Blue Hill and traversing the north side of Vermillion Creek, form the northern exterior boundary. Moffat County Road 52, BLM Roads 2041, 2042 and 2058, and private property and subdivision lines form the eastern exterior boundary. State Highway 318, an unnumbered road on Vermillion Mesa, and state section and private property lines form the southern exterior boundary. And Moffat County Road 10W and a state section line form the western exterior boundary. Unit 1 is the only unit in the inventory area where state and private property lines form interior boundaries. Thirteen roads penetrate this 45,564-acre inventory unit and are cherry-stemmed out of the inventory area as a result of the 1998 Roadless Review determinations for the Vermillion Basin area. Two small “islands” of BLM-administered land, located along the Blue Hill Road, are also excluded from this inventory because they are completely surrounded by roads and are of insufficient size to be considered separate inventory units. The larger of these is a 302-acre area and the smaller is a nine-acre area.

Vermillion Creek meanders through the entire north-south length of Unit 1. Dry Creek is the main tributary to Vermillion Creek within the inventory area, and their confluence lies in the north-central portion of the unit. Other Vermillion Creek tributaries within the unit include Big Bend Draw, Kraft Draw, Left-Hand Draw, and Ted’s Draw which drain southwesterly from The Bears Ears, a prominent landscape feature near the unit’s eastern boundary. The general landscape is characterized by a combination of narrow ridges, steep and very rugged draws, sandstone cliffs, and thin canyons with confined valley floors. To the extreme south, in the vicinity of Vermillion Mesa, the landscape gives way to more gently rolling hills and narrow valleys. The higher ridges range from 6,000 feet to nearly 7,500 feet in elevation, with The Bears Ears, at 7,700 feet, the highest elevation in the unit. Portions of two major canyons, Irish Canyon and Vermillion Canyon, are located within Unit 1 boundaries. Irish Canyon, cutting deeply into uplifted limestone, exhibits the most complete record of geologic history in the eastern Uinta Mountains. Recognized for its unique geological and botanical resources, the BLM designated Irish Canyon as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Three rare plant associations occur within the Irish Canyon area, along with five statewide or regionally rare or sensitive plant species identified by both the BLM and the Colorado Natural Heritage Inventory. Irish Canyon also encompasses some of the most notable rock art in northwest Colorado. Although much of Vermillion Canyon lies within a state section, both canyon portals are located on BLM-administered land.

Taken together, the narrow ridgelines, steep draws, sandstone cliffs, and threadlike canyons with their confined valley floors combine to make Unit 1 a topographically varied and thoroughly rugged part of the larger Vermillion Basin inventory area.

May 25, 2001

Five different plant communities occur within Unit 1 including: 1) pinyon and juniper woodland; 2) sagebrush; 3) salt bush; 4) greasewood; and 5) riparian. Pinyon and juniper woodland occupy much of the southern and western portions of the unit. Ridgetops and areas at higher elevations with shallow, often rocky, soils support pinyon and juniper stands. The density of the pinyon and juniper woodland at the lower elevations is markedly different from that growing at the higher elevations. In Unit 1, stand density varies greatly from very sparse at lower elevations to more dense stands in the upper reaches of canyons and draws. Individual ponderosa pine are very widely scattered in the pinyon and juniper woodland at high elevations. The sagebrush community, consisting of low-growing shrubs dominated by big sagebrush, occupies much of the northern portion of the unit and is interspersed with pinyon and juniper woodland at lower elevations to the unit's south and west. Salt bush and intermixed salt bush/greasewood communities occupy saline-alkaline soils along the unit's lower elevation flood plains and intermittent drainages wherever semi-arid conditions predominate. Canyon bottoms support a more riparian-like habitat, with scattered pockets of willow, tamarisk, water birch, and cottonwood trees hugging the bed and banks of perennial and intermittent streams. The narrow valley bottom of Vermillion Creek supports this community type, as does its tributary drainages moist enough to allow riparian vegetation to exist. Plants of interest found within the unit are the Yampa penstemon (*Penstemon yampaensis*), tufted cryptanth (*Cryptantha caespitosa*), woodside buckwheat (*Eriogonum tumulosum*), and ligulate feverfew (*Parthenium ligulatum*).

The diversity of plant communities found within the Unit 1 provide shade, shelter, water, and food for a relatively wide variety of wildlife. Elk, antelope, mule deer, beaver, bobcat, coyote, white-tailed prairie dog, and badger inhabit the unit along with other regionally endemic species. Animals of interest found within the unit are golden eagle, peregrine falcon, chukar, and sage grouse. Many bird species, including the pinyon jay, horned lark, Brewer's sparrow, white-throated swift, Northern harrier, and red-tailed hawk are common throughout the area.

The major human uses and activities evident within inventory Unit 1, excluding those associated with prehistoric archaeological resources, are tied primarily to livestock grazing, exploration for oil and gas, and public recreation. With few exceptions, it is the ridgetops and canyon/valley bottoms which evidence disturbances associated with these human uses and activities. There are currently five range allotments (4219 - Sand Wash, 4302 - Dry Creek, 4303 - South Bears Ears, 4304 - West Boone Draw, and 4320 - Browns Park) covering the unit, and livestock management continues with scattered range developments (primarily reservoirs, fences and a windmill) and access routes. Surviving traces of old seismograph line routes provide evidence that exploration for oil and gas resources occurred in the past. At present, there are no oil/gas wells capable of production within this inventory unit; however, four wells were drilled during prior exploration activity (one each in: 1948 by Lusk Royalty & G. Goff; 1954 by Shannon Oil Company; 1964 by Mountain Fuel Supply Company; and 1972 by Tenneco Oil Company). All of these wells were plugged and abandoned in the same year as drilled, and the surface areas disturbed by drilling activity were reclaimed. Vegetation has reestablished on all four locations, and only short, steel

May 25, 2001

standpipes remain as on-site markers for the well locations. Currently, there are no federal leases for oil and gas resources within inventory Unit 1. Additionally, there are currently no mining claims within this inventory unit. Recreational activities occurring within unit boundaries include hunting, sightseeing, off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding, hiking, horseback riding, and camping. Other than visitation associated with hunting and sightseeing, public use of this inventory unit is relatively light.

Current BLM resource management decisions covering the Vermillion Basin inventory area are set forth in the June 1989 Little Snake Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Record of Decision (ROD). Consistent with management objectives presented in the RMP/ROD Chapter II, Table 1 shows a general summary of major resource/activity prescriptions for BLM-administered public lands which are currently in effect for inventory Unit 1. RMP/ROD Management Units 2, 3, 9, 12, and 13B overlap the wilderness inventory Unit 1 area. Figure 1 shows the relationship between the boundaries of the RMP/ROD Management Units and the five wilderness inventory units. Reference the 1989 RMP/ROD for detailed descriptions of Management Unit boundaries and management objectives, terms and conditions.

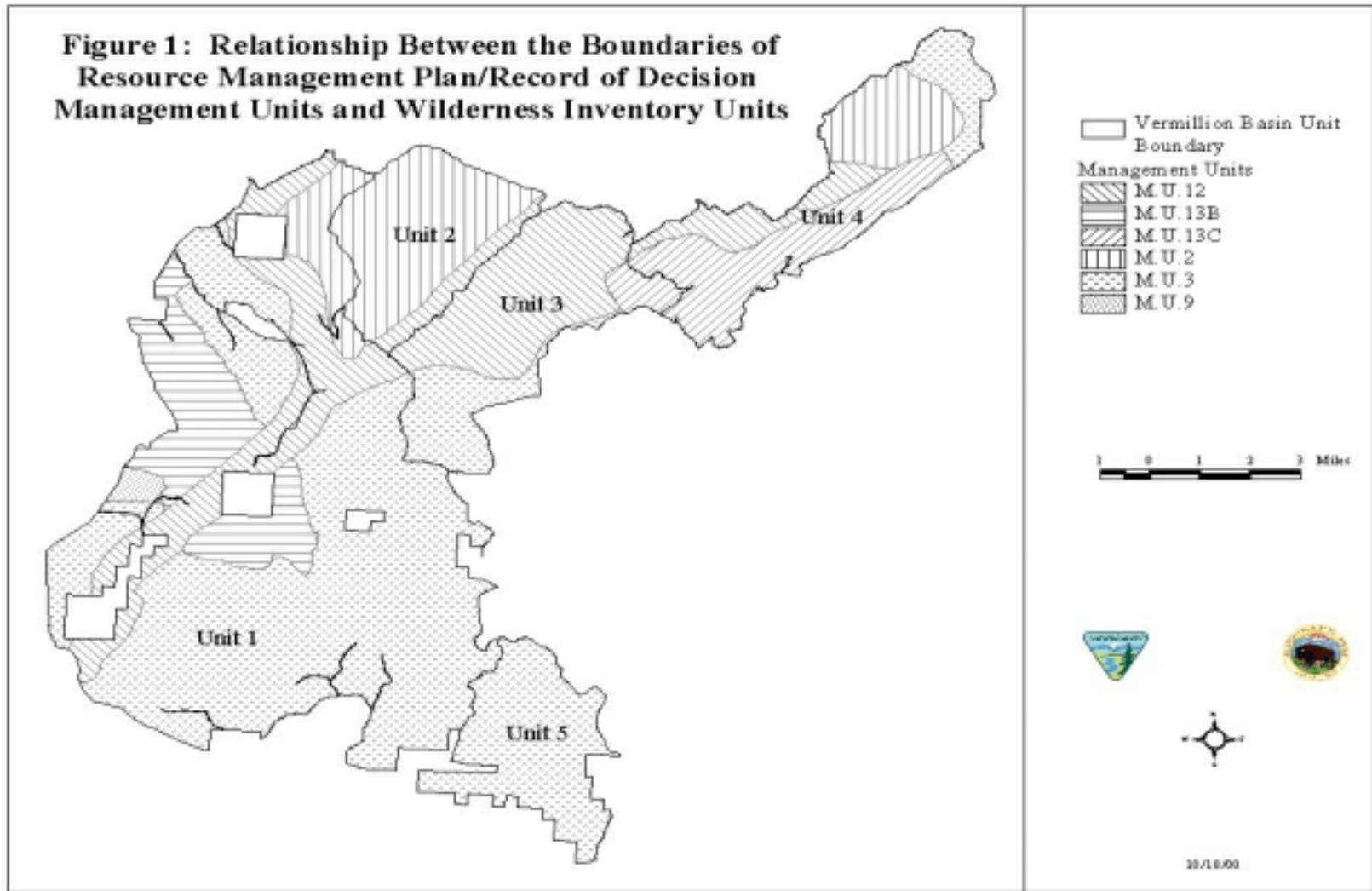
TABLE 1 (Vermillion Basin Wilderness Character Inventory Unit 1)
RESOURCE/ACTIVITY PRESCRIPTIONS FOR RMP/ROD MANAGEMENT UNITS

Resource or Major Activity	Resource Prescription by RMP/ROD Management Unit (MU)				
	MU 2	MU 3	MU 9	MU 12	MU 13B
Coal	open to exploration	open to exploration	open to exploration	open to exploration	open to exploration
Oil and Gas	open to leasing and development	open to leasing and development	open to leasing and development	open to leasing and development	open to leasing and development with avoidance stipulations
Other Minerals	open to exploration and development of other leasable minerals and to location of mining claims; development of other federal leasable minerals and materials sales allowed	open to leasing of federal minerals and mineral material sales; open to locatable mineral exploration and development	open to leasing of federal minerals and mineral material sales; open to locatable mineral exploration and development	open to leasing of federal minerals and mineral material sales; open to locatable mineral exploration and development	open to locatable mineral entry; no-surface-occupancy stipulations will be placed on new federal leases
Livestock Grazing	open to livestock grazing; management practices or range improvement projects permitted; existing range improvements will be maintained	open to livestock grazing; emphasis on vegetation treatments and rangeland improvement projects to enhance livestock grazing	open to livestock grazing; rangeland improvement projects and vegetation treatments may be authorized	open to livestock grazing; management practices or range improvement projects permitted; existing range improvements will be maintained	open to livestock grazing; management practices or range improvement projects permitted; existing range improvements will be maintained
Wildlife	open to wildlife habitat management	open to wildlife habitat management	open to wildlife habitat management	open to wildlife habitat management	open to wildlife habitat management
Forest Lands and Woodlands	commercially valuable stands will be managed for harvest of forest products	open to commercial harvest of forest products	open to commercial harvest of forest products	not applicable	closed to woodcutting

May 25, 2001

Wild Horses	habitat condition will be maintained to support a portion of the herd of 130-160 wild horses within Sand Wash Basin	habitat condition will be maintained to support a portion of the herd of 130-160 wild horses within Sand Wash Basin	not applicable	habitat condition will be maintained to support a portion of the herd of 130-160 wild horses within Sand Wash Basin	not applicable
Recreation	available for dispersed recreation use and establishment of developed recreation sites	available for dispersed recreation use and establishment of developed recreation sites	available for dispersed recreation use and establishment of developed recreation sites	available for dispersed recreation	available for dispersed recreation use and establishment of developed recreation sites
Realty Actions	rights-or-ways, leases, permits, and land tenure adjustments can occur	rights-or-ways, leases, permits, and land tenure adjustments can occur	rights-or-ways, leases, permits, and land tenure adjustments can occur	rights-or-ways, leases, permits, and land tenure adjustments can occur	land tenure adjustments can occur
Off-Highway Vehicle Use	open to off-highway vehicle use	open to off-highway vehicle use	vehicle use limited to existing roads and trails	vehicle use limited to existing roads and trails	vehicle use limited to designated roads and trails

May 25, 2001



May 25, 2001

Unit 2: The inventory unit boundary is comprised of county and BLM roads. Moffat County Road 4W and BLM Road 2058 form the northern boundary. BLM Road 2059, traversing the north side of Dry Creek, forms the eastern boundary. And BLM Road 2058 forms the western boundary.

Two short unnamed side canyons dominate the landscape in the 7,377-acre Unit 2. These drain southeasterly into Dry Creek (located in Unit 3 south of BLM Road 2059), the main tributary to Vermillion Creek in the inventory area. While both of these are narrow and steep topographically, the northern-most canyon, although small, is an impressive landscape feature with thoroughly rugged, deep topography and near-vertical walls in many places. These two canyons, and several other lesser side canyons, are separated by equally narrow mesa tops and ridge noses which dive southward into the Dry Creek canyon bottom.

Vegetation here is typical of a geographic region defined as Central Cold Desertic Plateaus. These cold, dry areas support salt bush and sagebrush/shadscale plant communities. In Unit 2, the sagebrush plant community generally consists of a mixture of low-growing shrubs dominated by big sagebrush, with a variable understory of perennial grasses and herbaceous broad-leaved species. The salt bush plant community has a high percentage of annual grasses, and is considered valuable winter range for both livestock and forage-dependent wildlife. Limited riparian-like habitat occurs in the narrow canyon bottoms in places moist enough to allow riparian vegetation to exist. There are no plants of special interest known to exist within Unit 2.

Animals of interest found within the unit are burrowing owl, white-tailed prairie dog, ferruginous hawk, and pronghorn antelope. Many bird species, including the horned lark, vesper sparrow, western meadowlark, and sage thrasher, are common throughout the area.

The major human uses and activities evident within inventory Unit 2, excluding those associated with prehistoric archaeological resources, are tied primarily to livestock grazing, exploration for oil and gas, and public recreation. Because the short side canyons are so narrow, steep and rugged, the preponderance of human uses and activities in Unit 2 has been limited to the intervening ridgetops. There is currently one range allotment (4302 - Dry Creek) covering the unit, and livestock management continues with scattered range developments (primarily reservoirs and fences) and access routes. Surviving traces of old seismograph line routes provide evidence that exploration for oil and gas resources occurred in the past. To date, no oil/gas wells have been drilled within this inventory unit. Currently, there are no federal leases for oil and gas resources within inventory Unit 2. Additionally, there are currently no mining claims within this inventory unit. Recreational activities occurring within unit boundaries include hunting, sightseeing, and OHV riding. Public use of this inventory unit is relatively light.

Current BLM resource management decisions covering the Vermillion Basin inventory area are set forth in the June 1989 Little Snake RMP and ROD. Consistent with management objectives

May 25, 2001

presented in the RMP/ROD Chapter II, Table 2 shows a general summary of major resource/activity prescriptions for BLM-administered public lands which are currently in effect for inventory Unit 2. Only RMP/ROD Management Units 2 and 12 overlap the wilderness inventory Unit 2 area. Figure 1 shows the relationship between the boundaries of the RMP/ROD Management Units and the five wilderness inventory units. Reference the 1989 RMP/ROD for detailed descriptions of Management Unit boundaries and management objectives, terms and conditions.

TABLE 2 (Vermillion Basin Wilderness Character Inventory Unit 2)
 RESOURCE/ACTIVITY PRESCRIPTIONS FOR RMP/ROD MANAGEMENT UNITS

Resource or Major Activity	Resource Prescription by RMP/ROD Management Unit (MU)				
	MU 2	MU 3	MU 9	MU 12	MU 13B and C
Coal	open to exploration			open to exploration	
Oil and Gas	open to leasing and development			open to leasing and development	
Other Minerals	open to exploration and development of other leasable minerals and to location of mining claims; development of other federal leasable minerals and materials sales allowed			open to leasing of federal minerals and mineral material sales; open to locatable mineral exploration and development	
Livestock Grazing	open to livestock grazing; management practices or range improvement projects permitted; existing range improvements will be maintained			open to livestock grazing; management practices or range improvement projects permitted; existing range improvements will be maintained	
Wildlife	open to wildlife habitat management			open to wildlife habitat management	
Forest Lands and Woodlands	commercially valuable stands will be managed for harvest of forest products			not applicable	

May 25, 2001

Wild Horses	habitat condition will be maintained to support a portion of the herd of 130-160 wild horses within Sand Wash Basin		habitat condition will be maintained to support a portion of the herd of 130-160 wild horses within Sand Wash Basin	
Recreation	available for dispersed recreation use and establishment of developed recreation sites		available for dispersed recreation	
Realty Actions	rights-or-ways, leases, permits, and land tenure adjustments can occur		rights-or-ways, leases, permits, and land tenure adjustments can occur	
Off-Highway Vehicle Use	open to off-highway vehicle use		vehicle use limited to existing roads and trails	

May 25, 2001

Unit 3: The inventory unit boundary is comprised of BLM roads. An unnumbered road extending from Moffat County Road 4W south to BLM Road 2063 forms the northern boundary. BLM Road 2063 forms the eastern boundary. BLM Road 2058 forms the southern boundary and a portion of the western boundary. BLM Road 2059, traversing the north side of Dry Creek, forms the remainder of the western boundary. One road penetrates this 10,204-acre inventory unit and is cherry-stemmed out as a result of the 1998 Roadless Review determinations for the Vermillion Basin area.

Inventory Unit 3 contains a significant segment of Dry Creek and the westernmost portion of the Vermillion Bluffs. Vermillion Bluffs stands out as a colorful and prominent geological feature with a relatively narrow ridgeline separating the Dry Creek drainage, which lies within the inventory unit, from the much larger Sand Wash Basin lying outside of the inventory area to the south. The northern face of Vermillion Bluffs is a very steep-sloping, multi-colored, highly eroded, and scenic escarpment visible from many locations both from within and outside the unit. Purplish-brown, grayish-yellow, and pinkish-colored layers exposed by erosional forces characterize much of the rugged badlands located at the escarpment's base. Elevations range from nearly 7,500 feet on the ridgeline along the unit's southern boundary to just over 6,000 feet on Dry Creek's valley floor. Numerous north-south trending canyons radiate from the ridgeline and dive steeply into wash bottoms near Dry Creek. These canyons are short, narrow and rugged near the ridge, but open up into slightly wider valleys as they drop into Dry Creek at the northern unit boundary.

As with Unit 2 to the northwest, much of the vegetation in Unit 3 is typical of the geographic region defined as Central Cold Desertic Plateaus. These cold, dry areas support salt bush and sagebrush/shadscale plant communities. A relatively small stand of pinyon and juniper woodland grows in the extreme southern portion of Unit 3, along with small pockets of pinyon and juniper widely scattered along the upper slopes of the Vermillion Bluffs just below (north of) BLM Road 2058. The sagebrush plant community generally consists of a mixture of low-growing shrubs dominated by big sagebrush, with a variable understory of perennial grasses and herbaceous broad-leaved species. The salt bush plant community has a high percentage of annual grasses, and is considered valuable winter range for both livestock and forage-dependent wildlife. Limited riparian-like habitat occurs along Dry Creek as it drains into inventory Unit 2, in small isolated pockets located on slump-bench seeps scattered along the upper slopes of the Vermillion Bluffs below BLM Road 2058, as well as in lower portions of narrow canyon bottoms in places moist enough to allow riparian vegetation to exist. Several plant associations considered rare and of interest are located at the G Gap and Vermillion Bluffs Sites within Unit 3. At the G Gap Site near the junction of BLM Roads 2041 and 2058, the plant association Utah juniper/bluebunch wheatgrass (Juniperus osteosperma/Agropyron spicatum) is critically imperiled in Colorado and is extremely rare. The plant association Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass (Artemisia tridentata ssp. wyomingensis/Agropyron spicatum) is also quite rare in Colorado. Also, the G Gap Site contains the best condition occurrence currently known for a regionally rare

May 25, 2001

plant - Dutch bisquitroot (*Cymopterus duchesnensie*). This location represents a significantly disjunct locality from the main range of the taxon. Another plant of interest found within the unit is debris milkvetch (*Astragalus detritalis*).

Animals of interest found within the unit are white-tailed prairie dog, pronghorn antelope, badger and cooper's hawk. Many bird species, including the horned lark, western meadowlark, Brewer's sparrow, and sage thrasher are common throughout the area.

The major human uses and activities evident within inventory Unit 3, excluding those associated with prehistoric archaeological resources, are tied primarily to livestock grazing, exploration for oil and gas, and public recreation. Because the canyons are so narrow, steep and rugged, the preponderance of human uses and activities in Unit 3 has been limited either to the vicinity of the Vermillion Bluffs ridgeline or to the Dry Creek valley floor and its side canyon wash bottoms. There is currently one range allotment (4302 - Dry Creek) covering the unit, and livestock management continues with scattered range developments (primarily reservoirs, fences and windmills) and access routes. Surviving traces of old seismograph line routes provide evidence that exploration for oil and gas resources occurred in the past. At present, there are no oil/gas wells capable of production within this inventory unit; however, one well was drilled during prior exploration activity (in 1982 by C&K Petroleum, Inc.). This well was plugged and abandoned in the same year as drilled, and the surface area disturbed by drilling activity was reclaimed. Vegetation has reestablished on this location, and only a short, steel standpipe remains as an on-site marker for the well location. Currently, there are no federal leases for oil and gas resources within inventory Unit 3. Additionally, there are currently no mining claims within this inventory unit. Recreational activities occurring within unit boundaries include hunting, sightseeing, and OHV riding. Public use of this inventory unit is relatively light except for visitation associated with driving BLM Road 2058 on the Vermillion Bluffs ridge - which is increasing as the public discovers the outstanding scenery viewing opportunities available from Lookout Mountain further east in Unit 4.

Current BLM resource management decisions covering the Vermillion Basin inventory area are set forth in the June 1989 Little Snake RMP and ROD. Consistent with management objectives presented in the RMP/ROD Chapter II, Table 3 shows a general summary of major resource/activity prescriptions for BLM-administered public lands which are currently in effect for inventory Unit 3. Only RMP/ROD Management Units 3, 12, and 13C overlap the wilderness inventory Unit 3 area. Figure 1 shows the relationship between the boundaries of the RMP/ROD Management Units and the five wilderness inventory units. Reference the 1989 RMP/ROD for detailed descriptions of Management Unit boundaries and management objectives, terms and conditions.

TABLE 3 (Vermillion Basin Wilderness Character Inventory Unit 3)
 RESOURCE/ACTIVITY PRESCRIPTIONS FOR RMP/ROD MANAGEMENT UNITS

Resource or Major Activity	Resource Prescription by RMP/ROD Management Unit (MU)				
	MU 2	MU 3	MU 9	MU 12	MU 13C
Coal		open to exploration		open to exploration	open to exploration
Oil and Gas		open to leasing and development		open to leasing and development	open to leasing and development with avoidance stipulations
Other Minerals		open to leasing of federal minerals and mineral material sales; open to locatable mineral exploration and development		open to leasing of federal minerals and mineral material sales; open to locatable mineral exploration and development	open to locatable mineral entry; no-surface-occupancy stipulations will be placed on new federal leases
Livestock Grazing		open to livestock grazing; emphasis on vegetation treatments and rangeland improvement projects to enhance livestock grazing		open to livestock grazing; management practices or range improvement projects permitted; existing range improvements will be maintained	open to livestock grazing; management practices or range improvement projects permitted; existing range improvements will be maintained
Wildlife		open to wildlife habitat management		open to wildlife habitat management	open to wildlife habitat management
Forest Lands and Woodlands		open to commercial harvest of forest products		not applicable	closed to woodcutting

Wild Horses		habitat condition will be maintained to support a portion of the herd of 130-160 wild horses within Sand Wash Basin		habitat condition will be maintained to support a portion of the herd of 130-160 wild horses within Sand Wash Basin	habitat condition will be maintained to support a portion of the herd of 130-160 wild horses within Sand Wash Basin
Recreation		available for dispersed recreation use and establishment of developed recreation sites		available for dispersed recreation	available for dispersed recreation use and establishment of developed recreation sites
Realty Actions		rights-or-ways, leases, permits, and land tenure adjustments can occur		rights-or-ways, leases, permits, and land tenure adjustments can occur	land tenure adjustments can occur
Off-Highway Vehicle Use		open to off-highway vehicle use		vehicle use limited to existing roads and trails	vehicle use limited to designated roads and trails

May 25, 2001

Unit 4: The inventory unit boundary is comprised of a combination of county and BLM roads, a state section line and topography. BLM Roads 2062 and 2063, along with topography following the centerline of mainstem Dry Creek in its extreme headwater drainage, form the northern boundary. Moffat County Road 68 and a state section line form the eastern boundary. Moffat County Road 67 and BLM Road 2058 form the southern boundary. And BLM Road 2063 forms the western boundary. Three roads penetrate this 11,458-acre inventory unit and are cherry-stemmed out as a result of the 1998 Roadless Review determinations for the Vermillion Basin area.

Inventory Unit 4 contains a significant portion of the headwaters of Dry Creek, the entire eastern portion of the Vermillion Bluffs, and the north-facing ridge of Lookout Mountain which, at 8,120 feet in elevation, is the highest point within the five-unit inventory area. Lookout Mountain is a major landmark in Moffat County and overlooks much of northwestern Colorado into southern Wyoming. The view from the summit encompasses the Vermillion Creek drainage, Limestone Mountain and Ridge, Irish Canyon, Diamond Peak, Middle Mountain, Powder Wash, Sand Wash, and the southern crest of Horseshoe Basin in Wyoming. Vermillion Bluffs stands out as a colorful and prominent geological feature with a relatively narrow ridgeline separating the Dry Creek drainage, which lies within the inventory unit, from the much larger Sand Wash Basin lying outside of the inventory area to the south. The northern face of Vermillion Bluffs is a very steep-sloping, multi-colored, highly eroded, and uniquely scenic escarpment visible from many locations both from within and outside the unit. Purplish-brown, grayish-yellow, and pinkish-colored layers exposed by erosional forces characterize much of the rugged badlands located at the escarpment's base. Elevations range from Lookout Mountain's 8,120 feet on the unit's southern boundary to approximately 6,900 feet in Dry Creek's headwaters. Numerous northwest-southeast trending canyons and ridge noses radiate from the Vermillion Bluffs just below the near-vertical cliff face running the length of the escarpment's rim. These canyons are short, narrow, very steep, and rugged near the base of the escarpment, but open up into slightly wider valleys as they drop into Dry Creek at the northern unit boundary.

As with both inventory Units 2 and 3, much of the vegetation in Unit 4 is typical of the geographic region defined as Central Cold Desert Plateaus. These cold, dry areas support salt bush and sagebrush/shadscale plant communities. Small pockets of pinyon and juniper woodland are widely scattered along the base of the Vermillion Bluffs escarpment, but do not descend the slopes into the badlands and wash bottoms which drain into Dry Creek. The sagebrush plant community generally consists of a mixture of low-growing shrubs dominated by big sagebrush, with a variable understory of perennial grasses and herbaceous broad-leaved species. The salt bush plant community has a high percentage of annual grasses, and is considered valuable winter range for both livestock and forage-dependent wildlife. Limited riparian-like habitat occurs in small isolated pockets located on slump-bench seeps scattered along the upper slopes of the Vermillion Bluffs below BLM Road 2058, as well as in lower portions of narrow canyon bottoms in places moist enough to allow riparian vegetation to exist.

May 25, 2001

Two plant associations considered rare and of interest are located in the Lookout Mountain ACEC. The plant association Utah juniper/bluebunch wheatgrass (Juniperus osteosperma/Agropyron spicatum) is critically imperiled in Colorado and is extremely rare. The plant association shadscale saltbrush/bluebunch wheatgrass (Atriplex confertifolia/Agropyron spicatum) is also rare and occurs worldwide only in Moffat County, Colorado. Also, the Lookout Mountain ACEC is habitat for four state and regionally rare plant species, two of which only occur in this ACEC. These rare plants include debris milkvetch (Astragalus detritalis), tufted cryptanth (Cryptantha caespitosa), rock-tansy (Sphaeromeria capitata), and strigose Easter Daisy (Townsendia strigosa).

Animals of interest found within the unit are pronghorn antelope, short-horned lizard, and prairie falcon. Many bird species, including the horned lark, western meadowlark, Brewer's sparrow, killdeer, and sage thrasher, are common throughout the area.

The major human uses and activities evident within inventory Unit 4, excluding those associated with prehistoric archaeological resources, are tied primarily to livestock grazing, exploration for oil and gas, and public recreation. Because the Vermillion Bluffs escarpment and associated canyons are so narrow, steep and rugged, the preponderance of human uses and activities in Unit 4 has been limited either to the vicinity of the Vermillion Bluffs ridgeline and Lookout Mountain, or to the Dry Creek valley floor and its side canyon wash bottoms. There are currently two range allotments (4300 - Hiawatha Tri-District and 4302 - Dry Creek) covering the unit, and livestock management continues with scattered range developments (primarily reservoirs, fences and a windmill) and access routes. Surviving traces of old seismograph line routes provide evidence that exploration for oil and gas resources occurred in the past. At present, there are no oil/gas wells capable of production within this inventory unit; however, two wells were drilled during prior exploration activity (one in 1957 by Sun Oil Company and the other in 1972 by Ferguson Oil and Gas, Inc.). These two wells were plugged and abandoned in 1957 and 1973 respectively, and the surface areas disturbed by drilling activity were reclaimed. Vegetation has reestablished on both locations, and only short, steel standpipes remain as on-site markers for the well locations. Currently, there are three federal leases (totaling 4,000 acres) for oil and gas resources covering inventory Unit 3, and a fourth federal lease (totaling 320 acres) is pending. Additionally, there are currently no mining claims within this inventory unit. Recreational activities occurring within unit boundaries include hunting, sightseeing, and OHV riding. Public use of this inventory unit is relatively light except for visitation associated with driving BLM Road 2058 on the Vermillion Bluffs ridge - which is increasing as the public discovers the outstanding viewing opportunities available from Lookout Mountain.

Current BLM resource management decisions covering the Vermillion Basin inventory area are set forth in the June 1989 Little Snake RMP and ROD. Consistent with management objectives presented in the RMP/ROD Chapter II, Table 4 shows a general summary of major resource/activity prescriptions for BLM-administered public lands which are currently in effect

for inventory Unit 4. RMP/ROD Management Units 2, 3, 12, and 13C overlap the wilderness inventory Unit 4 area. Figure 1 shows the relationship between the boundaries of the RMP/ROD Management Units and the five wilderness inventory units. Reference the 1989 RMP/ROD for detailed descriptions of Management Unit boundaries and management objectives, terms and conditions.

**TABLE 4 (Vermillion Basin Wilderness Character Inventory Unit 4)
RESOURCE/ACTIVITY PRESCRIPTIONS FOR RMP/ROD MANAGEMENT UNITS**

Resource or Major Activity	Resource Prescription by RMP/ROD Management Unit (MU)				
	MU 2	MU 3	MU 9	MU 12	MU 13C
Coal	open to exploration	open to exploration		open to exploration	open to exploration
Oil and Gas	open to leasing and development	open to leasing and development		open to leasing and development	open to leasing and development with avoidance stipulations
Other Minerals	open to exploration and development of other leasable minerals and to location of mining claims; development of other federal leasable minerals and materials sales allowed	open to leasing of federal minerals and mineral material sales; open to locatable mineral exploration and development		open to leasing of federal minerals and mineral material sales; open to locatable mineral exploration and development	open to locatable mineral entry; no-surface-occupancy stipulations will be placed on new federal leases
Livestock Grazing	open to livestock grazing; management practices or range improvement projects permitted; existing range improvements will be maintained	open to livestock grazing; emphasis on vegetation treatments and rangeland improvement projects to enhance livestock grazing		open to livestock grazing; management practices or range improvement projects permitted; existing range improvements will be maintained	open to livestock grazing; management practices or range improvement projects permitted; existing range improvements will be maintained
Wildlife	open to wildlife habitat management	open to wildlife habitat management		open to wildlife habitat management	open to wildlife habitat management
Forest Lands and Woodlands	commercially valuable stands will be managed for harvest of forest products	open to commercial harvest of forest products		not applicable	closed to woodcutting

May 25, 2001

Wild Horses	habitat condition will be maintained to support a portion of the herd of 130-160 wild horses within Sand Wash Basin	habitat condition will be maintained to support a portion of the herd of 130-160 wild horses within Sand Wash Basin		habitat condition will be maintained to support a portion of the herd of 130-160 wild horses within Sand Wash Basin	habitat condition will be maintained to support a portion of the herd of 130-160 wild horses within Sand Wash Basin
Recreation	available for dispersed recreation use and establishment of developed recreation sites	available for dispersed recreation use and establishment of developed recreation sites		available for dispersed recreation	available for dispersed recreation use and establishment of developed recreation sites
Realty Actions	rights-or-ways, leases, permits, and land tenure adjustments can occur	rights-or-ways, leases, permits, and land tenure adjustments can occur		rights-or-ways, leases, permits, and land tenure adjustments can occur	land tenure adjustments can occur
Off-Highway Vehicle Use	open to off-highway vehicle use	open to off-highway vehicle use		vehicle use limited to existing roads and trails	vehicle use limited to designated roads and trails

May 25, 2001

Unit 5: The inventory unit boundary is comprised of county and BLM roads, and private property lines. BLM Road 2040 forms the northern boundary. Moffat County Road 46, BLM Road 2040, and private property lines form the eastern boundary. Private property lines form the southern boundary. And BLM Roads 2040 and 2042, and private property lines form the western boundary.

Hartman Draw, Marshall Draw and West Boone Draw dominate the landscape in 6,425-acre Unit 5. All three draws drain southwesterly, from the western rim of Sheephead Basin and the northwest-southeast trending ridgeline forming the backbone of Dry Mountain, into Douglas Draw - a tributary to Vermillion Creek. These draws are narrow and steep-sloped drainages at their heads, but flatten and widen quickly into more broad wash bottoms just a short distance from the ridgeline. At nearly 7,500 feet in elevation, a point on Dry Mountain, located at the head of Hartman Draw, is the highest point within the inventory unit. Spicer Basin, a very confined flat located midway through Marshall Draw, holds the remnant evidence of the Spicer cabin, spring development and associated homestead structures.

Two plant communities, pinyon and juniper woodland and sagebrush, cover most of the Unit 5 landscape. Ridgetops and areas at higher elevations with shallow, often rocky, soils support pinyon and juniper stands. The density of the pinyon and juniper woodland at the lower elevations is markedly different from that growing at the higher elevations. In Unit 5, stand density varies greatly from very sparse at lower elevations to more dense stands in the upper reaches of the draws. The sagebrush community, consisting of low-growing shrubs dominated by big sagebrush, is interspersed with pinyon and juniper woodland at lower elevations and the margins of wash bottoms associated with Hartman, Marshall and West Boone Draws. There are no plants of special interest known to exist within Unit 5.

Animals of interest found within the unit are elk, mule deer, and Cooper's Hawk. Many bird species, including the pinyon jay, blue-gray gnatcatcher, lark sparrow, and Brewer's sparrow, are common throughout the area.

The major human uses and activities evident within inventory Unit 5, excluding those associated with prehistoric archaeological resources, are tied primarily to livestock grazing, exploration for oil and gas, and public recreation. Because the short draws are so narrow, steep and rugged, the preponderance of human uses and activities in Unit 5 has been limited to the intervening ridgetops and wash bottoms. There is currently one range allotment (4304 - West Boone Draw) covering the unit, and livestock management continues with scattered range developments (primarily reservoirs) and access routes. Surviving traces of old seismograph line routes provide evidence that exploration for oil and gas resources occurred in the past. At present, there are no oil/gas wells capable of production within this inventory unit; however, one well was drilled during prior exploration activity (in 1984 by Arco Oil & Gas Company, Inc.). This well was plugged and abandoned in the same year as drilled, and the surface area disturbed by drilling

activity was reclaimed. Vegetation has reestablished on this location, and only a short, steel standpipe remains as an on-site marker for the well location. Currently, there are no federal leases for oil and gas resources within inventory Unit 5. Additionally, there are currently no mining claims within this inventory unit. Recreational activities occurring within unit boundaries include hunting and OHV riding. Public use of this inventory unit is relatively light.

Current BLM resource management decisions covering the Vermillion Basin inventory area are set forth in the June 1989 Little Snake RMP and ROD. Consistent with management objectives presented in the RMP/ROD Chapter II, Table 5 shows a general summary of major resource/activity prescriptions for BLM-administered public lands which are currently in effect for inventory Unit 5. Only RMP/ROD Management Unit 3 overlaps the wilderness inventory Unit 5 area. Figure 1 shows the relationship between the boundaries of the RMP/ROD Management Units and the five wilderness inventory units. Reference the 1989 RMP/ROD for detailed descriptions of Management Unit boundaries and management objectives, terms and conditions.

TABLE 5 (Vermillion Basin Wilderness Character Inventory Unit 5)
 RESOURCE/ACTIVITY PRESCRIPTIONS FOR RMP/ROD MANAGEMENT UNITS

Resource or Major Activity	Resource Prescription by RMP/ROD Management Unit (MU)				
	MU 2	MU 3	MU 9	MU 12	MU 13B and C
Coal		open to exploration			
Oil and Gas		open to leasing and development			
Other Minerals		open to leasing of federal minerals and mineral material sales; open to locatable mineral exploration and development			
Livestock Grazing		open to livestock grazing; emphasis on vegetation treatments and rangeland improvement projects to enhance livestock grazing			
Wildlife		open to wildlife habitat management			
Forest Lands and Woodlands		open to commercial harvest of forest products			
Wild Horses		habitat condition will be maintained to support a portion of the herd of 130-160 wild horses within Sand Wash Basin			

May 25, 2001

Recreation		available for dispersed recreation use and establishment of developed recreation sites	
Realty Actions		rights-of-ways, leases, permits, and land tenure adjustments can occur	
Off-Highway Vehicle Use		open to off-highway vehicle use	

May 25, 2001

FINAL WILDERNESS CHARACTER INVENTORY EVALUATION

INVENTORY AREA: Vermillion Basin

II. WILDERNESS CHARACTER ANALYSIS

A. SIZE

Approximate Acres:

	<u>Federal</u>	<u>State</u>
Inventory Unit 1	45,564	0
Inventory Unit 2	7,377	0
Inventory Unit 3	10,204	0
Inventory Unit 4	11,458	0
Inventory Unit 5	<u>6,425</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL ACRES	81,028	0

Summary: Does the area have at least 5,000 acres of contiguous land or is it of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition?

Inventory Unit 1	YES <u>X</u>	NO <u> </u>
Inventory Unit 2	YES <u>X</u>	NO <u> </u>
Inventory Unit 3	YES <u>X</u>	NO <u> </u>
Inventory Unit 4	YES <u>X</u>	NO <u> </u>
Inventory Unit 5	YES <u>X</u>	NO <u> </u>

May 25, 2001

FINAL WILDERNESS CHARACTER INVENTORY EVALUATION

INVENTORY AREA: Vermillion Basin

B. NATURALNESS

Unit 1: Most of Unit 1 (41,752 acres) appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature and retains its natural character. Human impacts are substantially unnoticeable in this portion of the unit and, for the most part, the unit's narrow ridgelines, steep draws, sandstone cliffs, and threadlike canyons with their confined valley floors have not experienced much in the way of human-caused surface disturbance. The few ways present on the ridgetops and wash/valley bottoms are widely scattered and have become substantially unnoticeable in the landscape. Today, most are little more than parallel tire-track routes. Remnants of old seismograph line routes can also be found. These ways and traces of old seismograph line routes do not substantially impact the overall naturalness of the inventory unit. Several factors contribute to this condition. First, minimal construction was used in their initial development. And second, they have received very little use, show the effects of natural erosion, and are often hidden by vegetative regrowth and/or screening. Several livestock reservoirs and fences are widely dispersed and inconspicuous. Many of these reservoirs have not been maintained on a regular basis, or at all, in recent years. Some are silted in with vegetation growing in the bottom, while others have been breached or hold little water, and have revegetated on one or both sides of their earthen berms. These conditions reduce greatly any visual impact they may present to visitors. A few of these reservoirs were constructed so long ago that there is little indication of the original routes leading to them. The four oil/gas well pads within Unit 1 are grown over with vegetation and difficult to find. One small wildlife guzzler, located just off Moffat County Road 10W in Irish Canyon, is hidden for the most part by vegetation and is not substantially noticeable in the landscape. Although there are minor scattered impacts noticeable from some locations within the inventory unit, this 41,752-acre portion of Unit 1 still retains its natural character.

However, substantially noticeable and extensive impacts totaling 3,812 acres exist on eight specific areas within inventory Unit 1. These are unnatural in appearance due to the presence of range developments, a small portion of a cultivated pasture area, utility line poles/conductors, fence lines, and old bulldozed routes and vehicle ways. These areas are described below.

- Along the unit's extreme southwestern boundary, in a location hemmed in by State Highway 318, Moffat County Roads 10W and 169, a state section, and privately owned land, a 1,991-acre area is heavily impacted by a combination of disturbances. Utility line poles/conductors, access routes, fence lines, and loop routes regularly traveled by people driving OHV's are most noticeable. Soil compaction, loss of vegetative cover, erosion, scattered litter/trash, and the remnant evidence of the original wagon road providing access into this area all contribute to this setting's unnatural appearance. Another contributing factor is that this area is connected to the balance of Unit 1 by a 1,000-foot

May 25, 2001

wide “bottle-neck” strip of BLM-administered land wedged between the state section and State Highway 318. When traversing this “bottle-neck”, there is no place where the impacts described can be avoided.

- Along Vermillion Creek, where private property lines form an interior inventory unit boundary, a 17-acre area is impacted by a small portion of a cultivated pasture area and several vehicle ways.
- Along the unit’s western boundary (in Irish Canyon), a narrow 19-acre area, located between Moffat County Road 10W and the eastern side of a 25-foot wide utility line right-of-way, is heavily impacted by utility poles and conductors, and the short access routes used to service them.
- Along the unit’s western boundary, between Bull Pasture way and the Blue Hill Road, a 1,053-acre area is traversed by several old bulldozed routes which, cumulatively taken, significantly impact naturalness.
- Along the unit’s eastern boundary, near the point where Dry Creek enters the unit, is a one-acre range development which is unnatural in appearance due to the presence of an old windmill and water pipeline, storage tank, and trough. There is currently no water production at this development, and it appears that none has occurred for quite some time. Also, a small fenced-in area (most likely constructed for hay storage) is located adjacent to this windmill site.
- Along the unit’s eastern boundary, north of G Spring and the private property line and south of G Gap, is a 221-acre area heavily impacted by a long fenceline and several vehicle ways. Needed to manage the Sand Wash Basin wild horse herd, this fence, with its linear alignment, confined location and double-width bulldozed clearing, is not a natural-appearing element in the landscape.
- Along the unit’s eastern boundary, just northeast of The Bears Ears and south of the private property line, is a 197-acre area heavily impacted by a long fenceline and several vehicle ways. Needed to manage the Sand Wash Basin wild horse herd, this fence, with its linear alignment, confined location and double-width bulldozed clearing, is not a natural-appearing element in the landscape.
- Along the unit’s eastern boundary, just west of the junction of BLM Roads 2040 and 2042 and above the head of Left-Hand Draw and Kraft Draw, a 313-acre area is impacted by a series of connected bulldozed ways. These connected ways are not maintained but, cumulatively taken, are substantially noticeable and appear “heavy” on the landscape. These are also regularly traveled by people driving OHV’s off of the BLM boundary roads. In such concentration, these regularly traveled ways are unnatural in appearance.

May 25, 2001

Unit 2: All of Unit 2 (7,377 acres) appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature and retains its natural character. Human impacts are substantially unnoticeable and, for the most part, are confined to the relatively narrow mesa tops and ridge noses separating the unit's two rugged draws. The ways which are present traverse these narrow mesa tops before dropping down the steep ridge noses toward Dry Creek. These have become substantially unnoticeable in the landscape and today, little more than parallel tire-track routes exist. These ways do not substantially impact the overall naturalness of the inventory unit. Several factors contribute to this condition. First, minimal construction was used in their initial development. And second, they have received very little use, show the effects of natural erosion, and are often hidden by vegetative regrowth. Several livestock reservoirs are widely dispersed and inconspicuous. These reservoirs have not been maintained on a regular basis, or at all, in recent years. Some are silted in with vegetation growing in the bottom, while others have been breached or hold little water, and have revegetated on one or both sides of their earthen berms. These conditions reduce greatly any visual impact they may present to visitors. A few of these reservoirs were constructed so long ago that there is little indication of the original routes leading to them. Although there are minor scattered impacts noticeable from some locations within the inventory unit, on a landscape-level basis, Unit 2 still retains its natural character.

Unit 3: Most of Unit 3 (10,195 acres) appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature and retains its natural character. Human impacts are substantially unnoticeable in this portion of the unit and, for the most part, the unit's narrow ridgelines, steep draws, threadlike canyons with their confined valley floors, and badlands have not experienced much in the way of human-caused surface disturbance. The few ways present are widely scattered and have become substantially unnoticeable in the landscape. Today, most are little more than parallel tire-track routes. Remnants of old seismograph line routes can also be found. These ways and traces of old seismograph line routes do not substantially impact the overall naturalness of the inventory unit. Several factors contribute to this condition. First, minimal construction was used in their initial development. And second, they have received very little use, show the effects of natural erosion, and are often hidden by vegetative regrowth. Several livestock reservoirs and fences are widely dispersed and inconspicuous. Many of these reservoirs have not been maintained on a regular basis, or at all, in recent years. Some are silted in with vegetation growing in the bottom, while others have been breached or hold little water, and have revegetated on one or both sides of their earthen berms. These conditions reduce greatly any visual impact they may present to visitors. A few of these reservoirs were constructed so long ago that there is little indication of the original routes leading to them. The lone oil/gas well within Unit 3 was plugged and abandoned in 1982 and the surface area of the drill pad has been reclaimed. Although there are minor scattered impacts noticeable from some locations within the inventory unit, this 10,195-acre portion of Unit 3 still retains its natural character.

However, substantially noticeable and extensive impacts totaling nine acres exist on three specific areas within inventory Unit 3. These are unnatural in appearance due to the presence of range developments. These areas are described below.

- Located at the end of a short cherry-stemmed road extending off of BLM Road 2063 (which forms the inventory boundary separating Unit 3 from Unit 4) is a two-acre area which is unnatural in appearance due to the presence of a large range development. This inter-connected, three-pond development (two smaller and one larger) has been recently enlarged and maintained, and it currently holds a relatively plentiful supply of water.
- Along the unit's western boundary, between BLM Road 2059 and Dry Creek, is a four-acre range development which is unnatural in appearance due to the presence of an old windmill and water pipeline, storage tank, and trough. There is currently no water production at this development, and it appears that none has occurred for quite some time. Also, a small wooden structure is located adjacent to this windmill site.
- Along the unit's western boundary, between BLM Road 2059 and Dry Creek just south of the junction with Moffat County Road 4W, is a three-acre range development which is unnatural in appearance due to the presence of an old windmill and water pipeline, storage tank, and trough. There is currently no water production at this development, and it appears that none has occurred for quite some time.

Unit 4: Most of Unit 4 (11,329 acres) appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature and retains its natural character. Human impacts are substantially unnoticeable in this portion of the unit and, for the most part, the unit's narrow ridgelines, steep draws, near-vertical cliff faces, and badlands have not experienced much in the way of human-caused surface disturbance. The few ways present are widely scattered and have become substantially unnoticeable in the landscape. Today, most are little more than parallel tire-track routes. Remnants of old seismograph line routes can also be found. These ways and traces of old seismograph line routes do not substantially impact the overall naturalness of the inventory unit. Several factors contribute to this condition. First, minimal construction was used in their initial development. And second, they have received very little use, show the effects of natural erosion, and are often hidden by vegetative regrowth. Several livestock reservoirs and fences are widely dispersed and inconspicuous. Many of these reservoirs have not been maintained on a regular basis, or at all, in recent years. Some are silted in with vegetation growing in the bottom, while others have been breached or hold little water, and have revegetated on one or both sides of their earthen berms. These conditions reduce greatly any visual impact they may present to visitors. A few of these reservoirs were constructed so long ago that there is little indication of the original routes leading to them. Although there are minor scattered impacts noticeable from some locations within the inventory unit, this 11,329-acre portion of Unit 4 still retains its natural character.

However, substantially noticeable and extensive impacts totaling 129 acres exist on four specific areas within inventory Unit 4. These are unnatural in appearance due to the presence of livestock developments, fencelines, ways, and an abandoned oil/gas well drill pad. These areas are described below.

- Along the Unit's extreme northeastern boundary, at the headwaters of Dry Creek just below the toe of the Vermillion Bluffs escarpment, a 32-acre area is heavily impacted by livestock developments. Consisting of an accumulation of 13 reservoirs and several small earthen mounds, these developments are very noticeable on the landscape when traversing the area. Although most of the reservoirs have not been maintained on a regular basis, or at all, in recent years, and many are silted in (with vegetation growing in the bottom), breached (or hold little water), or revegetated on one or both sides of their earthen berms, their proximity to one another cumulatively impacts this area to the point that naturalness has been compromised.
- Along the unit's southern boundary (near Lookout Mountain), a narrow 93-acre area, located between Moffat County Road 67/BLM Road 2058 and the rim of the Vermillion Bluffs, is heavily impacted by a long fenceline. Needed to manage the Sand Wash Basin wild horse herd, this fence, with its linear alignment and confined location, is not a natural-appearing element in the landscape. Also located within this narrow area, at its southern end, is a plugged and abandoned well (drilled in 1957 by Sun Oil Company), along with the short access route extending to it. The surface area disturbed by drilling activity has been reclaimed. Vegetation has reestablished on the well pad area, and only a short, steel standpipe remains as an on-site marker for the well location.
- Located at the end of a short cherry-stemmed road extending off of BLM Road 2063 (which forms the inventory boundary separating Unit 3 from Unit 4) is a one-acre area which is heavily impacted by a livestock reservoir. Recently maintained and enlarged to perhaps double its original storage capacity, this development is not a natural-appearing element in the landscape. This is the third livestock reservoir developed in proximity to this spot - the older two down-slope locations being totally silted in and abandoned.
- Along the unit's northern boundary is a three-acre range development which is unnatural in appearance due to the presence of an old windmill and water pipeline, storage tank, and trough. There is currently no water production at this development, and it appears that none has occurred for quite some time.

Unit 5: Most of Unit 5 (6,414 acres) appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature and retains its natural character. Human impacts are substantially unnoticeable and, for the most part, are confined to the relatively narrow ridgetops and wash bottoms of Hartman, Marshall and West Boone Draws. Remnants of old seismograph line routes can also be found. These impacts have become substantially unnoticeable in the landscape and today, little more

May 25, 2001

than parallel tire-track routes exist which do not substantially impact the overall naturalness of the inventory unit. Several factors contribute to this condition. First, minimal construction was used in their initial development. And second, they have received very little use, show the effects of natural erosion, and are often hidden by vegetative regrowth and/or screening. A few livestock reservoirs are widely dispersed and inconspicuous. The lone oil/gas well within Unit 5 was plugged and abandoned in 1984 and the surface area of the drill pad has been reclaimed. A small abandoned and deteriorating cabin, dugout water well, and remnants of associated homestead-style developments is located in Spicer Basin within Marshall Draw. Although there are minor scattered impacts noticeable from some locations within the inventory unit, on a landscape-level basis, most of Unit 5 still retains its natural character.

However, a substantially noticeable impact exists on one specific area within inventory Unit 5. Along the unit's eastern boundary, just north of Sheephead Basin and the private property line, an 11-acre area is impacted by the proximity of a vehicle way to the unit boundary. The relationship between the location of this vehicle way and the unit's boundary road creates a small "island" that is visually unnatural appearing in the landscape.

Summary: Does the area generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of people's work substantially unnoticeable?

Inventory Unit 1	YES <u>X</u>	NO <u> </u>
Inventory Unit 2	YES <u>X</u>	NO <u> </u>
Inventory Unit 3	YES <u>X</u>	NO <u> </u>
Inventory Unit 4	YES <u>X</u>	NO <u> </u>
Inventory Unit 5	YES <u>X</u>	NO <u> </u>

FINAL WILDERNESS CHARACTER INVENTORY EVALUATION

INVENTORY AREA: Vermillion Basin

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

1. SOLITUDE

Unit 1: This unit offers visitors outstanding opportunities to experience solitude in many locations throughout that portion of the unit retaining its natural character. The varied topography, including long narrow ridges, steep draws, sandstone cliffs, and threadlike canyons with confined valley floors, provide outstanding opportunities for visitors to find a secluded place and isolation. The western and southwestern slopes of The Bears Ears and its headwater drainages - Big Bend Draw, Kraft Draw, Ted's Draw, and several large unnamed draws tributary to Vermillion Creek - are very steep, frequently rugged, seldom visited terrain which exemplify much of what Unit 1 has to offer in the way of secluded places to visit. Likewise, the northwest-southeast trending ridges and canyon bottoms of the area lying between the east ridgeline of Irish Canyon and the Blue Hill Road is a rugged, seldom visited area which provides visitors outstanding opportunities for solitude. Additionally, the unit's overall size and vegetative screening afforded by often dense pinyon and juniper woodland, contribute to a visitor's ability to locate places where a perception/feeling of being totally alone or remote from others can be found.

Unit 2: Outstanding opportunities for solitude can be found in Unit 2 by any visitor seeking it within the largest of the two unnamed side canyons tributary to Dry Creek. This very rugged and relatively deep side canyon provides a natural barrier to easy access from the upland areas surrounding it. Similar opportunities do not exist for those who visit the relatively narrow mesa tops which lack both the expanse and pinyon and juniper woodland screening available in Unit 1 and other locations within the inventory area.

Unit 3: This unit offers visitors outstanding opportunities to experience solitude in many locations throughout that portion of the unit retaining its natural character. The varied topography, including long narrow ridges, steep draws, threadlike canyons with confined valley floors provide outstanding opportunities for visitors to find a secluded place and isolation. Additionally, the unit's overall size, in conjunction with the general landscape features associated with the badlands' steep draws descending from the Vermillion Bluffs escarpment, contribute to a visitor's ability to locate places where a perception/feeling of being totally alone or remote from others can be found.

Unit 4: Not unlike inventory Unit 3, this unit offers visitors outstanding opportunities to experience solitude in many locations throughout that portion of the unit retaining its natural

May 25, 2001

character. The overall size of Unit 4, in conjunction with the general landscape features associated with the badlands' steep descent from the Vermillion Bluffs escarpment, contribute to a visitor's ability to locate places where a perception/feeling of being totally alone or remote from others can be found. Here, the rugged, near-vertical escarpment and its steep, narrow draws have much to offer in the way of secluded places to visit.

Unit 5: Although the smallest of the five separate units, Unit 5 offers opportunities for solitude which are notably outstanding in the Vermillion Basin inventory area. During team discussions in the field about the character of the interior portion of Unit 5 (the headwater drainages of Hartman and Marshall Draws specifically), one of the ranchers specifically commented on how remote and rugged the area is.

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Inventory Unit 1	YES <u>X</u>	NO ___
Inventory Unit 2	YES <u>X</u>	NO ___
Inventory Unit 3	YES <u>X</u>	NO ___
Inventory Unit 4	YES <u>X</u>	NO ___
Inventory Unit 5	YES <u>X</u>	NO ___

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION

Unit 1: This unit offers visitors outstanding opportunities to participate in recreation activities which are dispersed in nature and do not require developed sites and facilities or motorized equipment, either to take part in the activities or to gain access into the unit's interior. Because of its overall size, shape, and topography, a wide variety of dispersed recreation activities are not only possible throughout that portion of the unit retaining its natural character, but the unit allows visitors an opportunity to realize truly outstanding experiences through participation. Hunting, hiking, backpacking, camping, sightseeing (particularly to see botanical, geological and cultural resource features), horseback riding, photographing, and bird watching/wildlife observation are primitive and unconfined recreation activity opportunities considered outstanding within inventory Unit 1. Irish Canyon and its surrounding vicinity, The Bears Ears and the rugged draws radiating west and southwest from it, and Vermillion Canyon are specific locations where such outstanding opportunities may be discovered.

Unit 2: This unit offers opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, including day hiking, sightseeing and photographing scenery, but these opportunities are limited and are not considered outstanding. Although outstanding opportunities for solitude can be found within the largest of the two unnamed side canyons tributary to Dry Creek, neither this small canyon nor the unit's lesser canyons, draws and upland areas provide dispersed recreation activity opportunities considered outstanding.

May 25, 2001

Unit 3: This unit offers visitors outstanding opportunities to participate in recreation activities which are dispersed in nature and do not require developed sites and facilities or motorized equipment, either to take part in the activities or to gain access into the unit's interior. Because of its overall size, shape, and topography, a wide variety of dispersed recreation activities are not only possible throughout that portion of the unit retaining its natural character, but the unit allows visitors an opportunity to realize truly outstanding experiences through participation. Hunting, hiking, backpacking, camping, sightseeing (particularly to view scenery and see botanical and geological resource features), photographing, and wildlife observation are primitive and unconfined recreation activity opportunities considered outstanding within inventory Unit 3. The Vermillion Bluffs escarpment and its long rugged draws radiating to the northwest, and the badlands encompassing the toe of the escarpment, are specific locations where such outstanding opportunities may be discovered.

Unit 4: This unit offers visitors outstanding opportunities to participate in recreation activities which are dispersed in nature and do not require developed sites and facilities or motorized equipment, either to take part in the activities or to gain access into the unit's interior. Because of its overall size, shape, and topography, a wide variety of dispersed recreation activities are not only possible throughout that portion of the unit retaining its natural character, but the unit allows visitors an opportunity to realize truly outstanding experiences through participation. Hunting, hiking, backpacking, camping, sightseeing (particularly to view scenery and see botanical and geological resource features), photographing, and wildlife observation are primitive and unconfined recreation activity opportunities considered outstanding within inventory Unit 4. Lookout Mountain and the Vermillion Bluffs escarpment, the badlands encompassing the toe of the escarpment, and the long rugged draws radiating from the Vermillion Bluffs ridgeline are specific locations where such outstanding opportunities may be discovered.

Unit 5: This unit offers visitors outstanding opportunities to participate in recreation activities which are dispersed in nature and do not require developed sites and facilities or motorized equipment, either to take part in the activities or to gain access into the unit's interior. Horseback riding, hunting, day hiking, sightseeing, photographing, and wildlife observation are primitive and unconfined recreation activity opportunities considered outstanding within inventory Unit 5. The rugged headwater drainages of both Hartman and Marshall Draws, along with the ridges, small box canyons and upland areas separating them, are specific locations where these outstanding opportunities may be discovered and experienced.

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?

Inventory Unit 1	YES <u>X</u>	NO <u> </u>
Inventory Unit 2	YES <u> </u>	NO <u>X</u>
Inventory Unit 3	YES <u>X</u>	NO <u> </u>
Inventory Unit 4	YES <u>X</u>	NO <u> </u>
Inventory Unit 5	YES <u>X</u>	NO <u> </u>

FINAL WILDERNESS CHARACTER INVENTORY EVALUATION

INVENTORY AREA: Vermillion Basin

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES

Unit 1:

Ecological Values: Unit 1 is characterized by a wide variety of vegetative communities and habitat types ranging from semi-desert salt bush to pinyon-juniper ecotones. This inventory area includes a portion of the Irish Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and the Ink Springs Special Management Area. A significant feature here is Irish Lakes - a natural aquatic feature. Five remnant plant associations, Utah juniper/bluebunch wheatgrass (Juniperus osteosperma/Agropyron spicatum), Utah juniper/pinyon pine/black sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass (Juniperus osteosperma/Pinus edulis/Artemisia nova/Agropyron spicatum), Utah juniper/pinyon pine/curl-leaf mountain mahogany (Juniperus osteosperma/Pinus edulis/Cercocarpus ledifolius var. intricatus), black sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass (Artemisia nova/Agropyron spicatum) and black sagebrush/needleandthread grass (Artemisia nova/Stipa comata), occur within this unit. Another four BLM sensitive plant species, Yampa penstemon (Penstemon yampaensis), tufted cryptanth (Cryptantha caespitosa), woodside buckwheat (Eriogonum tumulosum), and ligulate feverfew (Parthenium ligulatum), have been documented in the area.

The variety of vegetation types and topographic features support an abundance of habitat types within the unit. Steep canyon walls along Irish Canyon provide nesting opportunities for the Peregrine falcon, a federally threatened species, while smoother rock faces, associated with Vermillion Creek, support more common bird species such as the white-throated swift. Sagebrush, salt shrubland and juniper communities all support an abundance of birds adapted to that eco-type. For example, sagebrush steppe provides needed habitat for the northern sage grouse, a sensitive species, while the more arid salt bush community may provide suitable habitat for the mountain plover, a species proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

Severe winter range for both mule deer and pronghorn antelope has been mapped just north of Irish Canyon. However, antelope and elk use the majority of this unit for long periods of time throughout the year. An abundance of wildlife species, especially generalists such as, coyote, white-tailed jack rabbits, and badgers, thrive throughout the area. Many white-tailed prairie dog towns exist in the unit, providing potential habitat for the black footed ferret, a federally endangered species.

Geological Values: Irish Canyon, of which a portion lies within Unit 1, is on the eastern end of Cold Springs Mountain and is roughly parallel to Vermillion Creek. The southern end of the canyon is composed of sandstone layered with Uinta Mountain Red Quartzite. This quartzite is

May 25, 2001

one of the oldest exposed rock formations in Colorado - dating back over one billion years. Capping the western side of the canyon is Limestone Ridge. Exposed sandstone in the rest of the canyon comes in a variety of shades and colors. Another interesting geologic feature of Irish Canon is its natural drainage pattern. Since the highest point in the canyon floor lies somewhere toward the middle, the hydrologic drainage runs both north and south from the canyon openings. Irish Canyon was named after three Irishmen who camped there in the late 1800's after robbing a store in Rock Springs, Wyoming. The canyon provided access from the north into the Browns Park area of Colorado which was notorious as a refuge for outlaws including Butch Cassidy and his gang.

Stromatolite fossils, a unique geological feature found within Unit 1, are located along an exposed limestone shelf near the eastern unit boundary. Stromatolites are silicified concentrations of tree stumps, algal growth rings and fresh water ostracods. The fossils are round, oblong or egg-shaped features and range in size from one to over seven meters in diameter. The quantity and density of the stromatolites in this particular location suggests the remains of an ancient, submerged forest. Due to weathering or rolling down hill and breaking apart, interior portions of a number of these geologic oddities are open - revealing multiple layers of solidified algal growth rings.

Scenic Values: Unit 1 encompasses a broad range of visual resources which include expansive vistas, broad valleys and incised hydrologic channels. The topology of this unit affords visitors a wide range of pleasing visual resources. Scenic features of interest include Irish Canyon, Vermillion Creek, Blue Hill, Ted's Draw, Big Bend Draw, Kraft Draw, Marshall Draw, The Bears Ears, Dry Creek, and the public land portions of Vermillion Canyon. References to the scenic values in Irish Canyon and Lookout Mountain are found in visitor guides to the area. The unit contains portions of the Irish Canyon ACEC which is designated for protection or enhancement of remnant plant associations, plant species, geologic values, cultural resources and scenic quality. The ACEC resources, varieties of plants, animals and cultural resource (i.e., the medicine wheel and rock art) contribute to the abundance and superior quality of visual resources within the unit.

Cultural Resource Values:

[SPECIAL NOTE: The following introductory discussion about cultural resources applies to the entire landscape of the five-unit inventory area. It is placed here as a part of the Unit 1 narrative, but not repeated for the other separate unit discussions.]

Introduction: The prehistoric cultural resources that are known within the five inventory units are characterized as being unique and/or representative of the local region's cultural resources. This concept can be applied equally to Colorado State Lands as well as to private lands in the vicinity of the inventory area and local region. Prehistoric cultural resources and sites in the inventory area are strongly influenced by archaeological presence outside of the area. Conversely, the

archaeological presence within the five units provides just as strong an influence reflected back to the local region. This dynamic provides for the unique nature of some of the site types, rock art and ceremonial sites found here. The large number of open habitation and resource procurement sites also exhibit this relationship. The resource is very much tied to the local region - both within and between each of the five units and, to a greater extent, the more broad three-state area in which the inventory area lies.

Present within the five units is a record of the last 11,000 years of human occupation in the region. This covers Paleo-Indian, Archaic, Fremont, Numic, Ute and other modern Native Americans. The little that is known points to the potential cultural resource richness present in the area. Overall, not much of the area has been inventoried or considered in any kind of systematic manner. What is known is a result of industry-, rancher-, and BLM-driven projects that needed specific areas examined. Information derived from these examinations provides for the current understanding and indications as to the overall cultural resource, but not a clear picture as to site numbers present or to site types. As recently as 1998, an extensive ceremonial site was located for the first time, and in 1997, Paleo-Indian presence was officially confirmed.

Unit 1 contains some of the most unique prehistoric cultural resources found within the five inventory units as well as within the entire local region. Represented here is a cultural progression from around AD 1 to AD 1400. This covers several cultural groups that used the area. This is present on the rock art panels located on BLM lands within the unit as well as on Colorado State land outside the inventory boundary. These panels are some of the best in the region, both in subject matter and lack of vandalism. The potential for other panels to be discovered in the unit is very high. Other areas of Unit 1 show that Native American groups were present as far back in time as 11,000 years ago.

This unit also presents unique physical characteristics that, when viewed from the many high vantage points available, would be recognizable to any of the past Native American groups (11,000 years ago to the present). Views such as these allow area visitors to comprehend/grasp the vastness of this region, and to further enhance understanding of the Native American presence here - how they may have moved through this landscape to collect and hunt for everyday subsistence items as well as to pursue their spiritual activities.

Unit 2:

Ecological Values: No known supplemental values for this category exist within Unit 2.

Scenic Values: Unit 2 vistas consist of broad plateaus and deeply incised drainages. Southward-facing aspects, topology and sparse vegetation provide expansive, unimpaired, viewsheds of the unit and other areas within visual limits. Scenic features include the western bank of Dry Creek and the canyons of ephemeral tributaries.

May 25, 2001

Cultural Resource Values: Unit 2 is characterized by what is not known. Little cultural resource management work has been carried out in this unit. However, considering the adjacent inventory units, and looking to the north in Wyoming, extrapolations on a very generalized basis can be developed. Human occupation and use of the area is again felt to be represented by the 11,000 years of Native American presence in the local region. The rolling landscape, deeply bisected by steep/deep gullies and valleys (with little substantial tall vegetation), does indicate that occupation sites will be few. It is believed that other activities, such as moving through the area, hunting, and staying overnight for limited periods along the water courses, would be present in the prehistorical archaeological record.

Unit 3:

Ecological Values: Unit 3 includes all or portions of the G-gap and Vermillion Bluffs Special Management Areas and the Lookout Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern. This inventory area supports two BLM sensitive plants, Dutch bisquitroot (*Cymopterus duchesnensie*) and debris milkvetch (*Astragalus detritalis*), and two remnant plant associations, Utah juniper/bluebunch wheatgrass (*Juniperus osteosperma/Agropyron spicatum*) and Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass (*Artemisia tridentata ssp. wyomingensis/Agropyron spicatum*). The area also includes steep badland cliffs which may be suitable for nesting raptors, as well as more gentle terrain supporting white-tailed prairie dog towns which provide potential habitat for black footed ferrets (a federally endangered species) and burrowing owls.

Scenic Values: Unit 3 visual resources consist of elevated vistas and deeply eroded drainages. The topology of this unit presents visitors a wide range of pleasing visual resources. Scenic features of interest include portions of the Vermillion Bluffs and Dry Creek. The unit contains portions of the Lookout Mountain ACEC which is designated for protection or enhancement of remnant plant associations, BLM sensitive plant species, and scenic quality. The ACEC resources contribute to the quality of visual resources within the unit.

Cultural Resource Values: A number of small inventory/research projects have been undertaken within Unit 3. Unit 3 was also the focal point of a cultural resource-related master's thesis. This formal work, combined with both archaeological and paleontological sites shown to the BLM by several concerned members of the public, provides a fairly extensive understanding of the archaeological landscape dominated by the Vermillion Bluffs in this area.

Within the Vermillion Bluffs vicinity there exists recorded buffalo kill sites, open habitation sites and wickiup structures. The unit's lower rolling hill areas, dotted with sand dunes and scattered juniper stands, yield another example of the span of human occupation in the region. The identified archaeological and paleontological locations point to a rich resource being present here. As with Unit 1, the higher elevation viewpoints allow visitors an overall look at a landscape recognizable to any of the past Native American groups that may have been in the area.

May 25, 2001

Unit 4:

Ecological Values: Unit 4 includes the northern half of the Lookout Mountain ACEC. Significant features are the colorful viewshed and unique geology associated with the badlands falling into Dry Creek. The area supports four BLM sensitive plants, debris milkvetch (*Astragalus detritalis*), tufted cryptanth (*Cryptantha caespitosa*), rock-tansy (*Sphaeromeria capitata*), and strigose Easter Daisy (*Townsendia strigosa*), and two remnant plant associations, shadscale salt bush/bluebunch wheatgrass (*Atriplex confertifolia/Agropyron spicatum*), and Utah juniper/bluebunch wheatgrass (*Juniperus osteosperma/Agropyron spicatum*). In addition, the steep badland cliffs provide nesting habitat for raptors, including the prairie falcon.

Scenic Values: Unit 4 contains a broad range of visual resources which include expansive vistas, broad valleys and incised hydrologic channels. The topology of this unit affords visitors a wide range of pleasing visual resources. Scenic features of interest include the Vermillion Bluffs, Lookout Mountain, eroding clays of the Buffalo Drop, and the eastern bank of Dry Creek. The unit contains portions of the Lookout Mountain ACEC which is designated for protection or enhancement of remnant plant associations, BLM sensitive plant species, and scenic quality. The ACEC resources and remarkable scenic views from Lookout Mountain (the highest point in the inventory area at 8,120 feet in elevation) contribute to the quality of visual resources within the unit.

Cultural Resource Values: A number of small inventory/research projects have been undertaken within Unit 4. This formal work, combined with both archaeological and paleontological sites shown to the BLM by several concerned members of the public, provides a fairly extensive understanding of the archaeological landscape dominated by the Vermillion Bluffs in this area.

Within the Vermillion Bluffs vicinity there exists recorded buffalo kill sites, open habitation sites and wickiup structures. The unit's lower rolling hill areas, dotted with sand dunes and scattered juniper stands, yield another example of the span of human occupation in the region. The identified archaeological and paleontological locations point to a rich resource being present here. As with Units 1 and 3, the higher elevation viewpoints allow visitors an overall look at a landscape recognizable to any of the past Native American groups that may have been in the area.

Unit 5:

Ecological Values: No known supplemental values for this category exist within Unit 5.

Scenic Values: Unit 5 visual resources include rugged hills and deep drainages. The topology of this unit affords visitors a number of pleasing visual resources. Scenic features of interest include Spicer Basin and Marshall Draw.

Cultural Resource Values: Similar to Unit 2, little cultural resource management work has been carried out in Unit 5. However, it is reasonable to project, based on the cultural resource record of adjacent inventory units, what may be present within Unit 5. The pinyon-juniper woodlands that dominate the steep rolling hillsides will have numerous open habitation sites. Cultural survey work in these adjacent areas has shown that numerous open sites are present within the woodlands and along the contact zones between pinyon-juniper stands and sagebrush vegetation. The likelihood that wickiup camps and other wooden structures exist is very good. The little formal cultural work that has been carried out shows that a large number of cultural resource could be present within Unit 5.

Summary: Does the area contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value?

Inventory Unit 1	YES <u>X</u>	NO ___
Inventory Unit 2	YES <u>X</u>	NO ___
Inventory Unit 3	YES <u>X</u>	NO ___
Inventory Unit 4	YES <u>X</u>	NO ___
Inventory Unit 5	YES <u>X</u>	NO ___

FINAL WILDERNESS CHARACTER INVENTORY EVALUATION

INVENTORY AREA: Vermillion Basin

III. SUMMARY

Wilderness Character Analysis Considerations	Inventory Unit									
	1		2		3		4		5	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Does the area meet any of the size requirements?	X		X		X		X		X	
Does the area appear to be natural?	X		X		X		X		X	
Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?	X		X		X		X		X	
Does the area have supplemental values?	X		X		X		X		X	

IV. CONCLUSION

Inventory Unit	Wilderness Character Inventory Findings	
	The Area or a Portion of the Area Has Wilderness Character	The Area Does Not Have Wilderness Character
1	X	
2	X	
3	X	
4	X	
5	X	

May 25, 2001

FINAL WILDERNESS CHARACTER INVENTORY EVALUATION

IV. FINDINGS VERIFICATION

A. BLM Inventory Team:

David Lehmann (Team Member)
Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist
Grand Junction Field Office, Colorado

Jim McBrayer (Team Member)
Outdoor Recreation Planner
Little Snake Field Office, Colorado

Scott Abdon (Team Leader)
Natural Resource Staff Administrator
Salem District Office, Oregon

Date: _____

B. BLM Management:

John Husband
Field Manager
Little Snake Field Office, Colorado

Date: _____