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SUN Advocate

ACT/007/013 #2

107th Year - No. 33

Price, Utah 50¢

Wilderness proposal raises local concerns

Decision slated Castle Dale

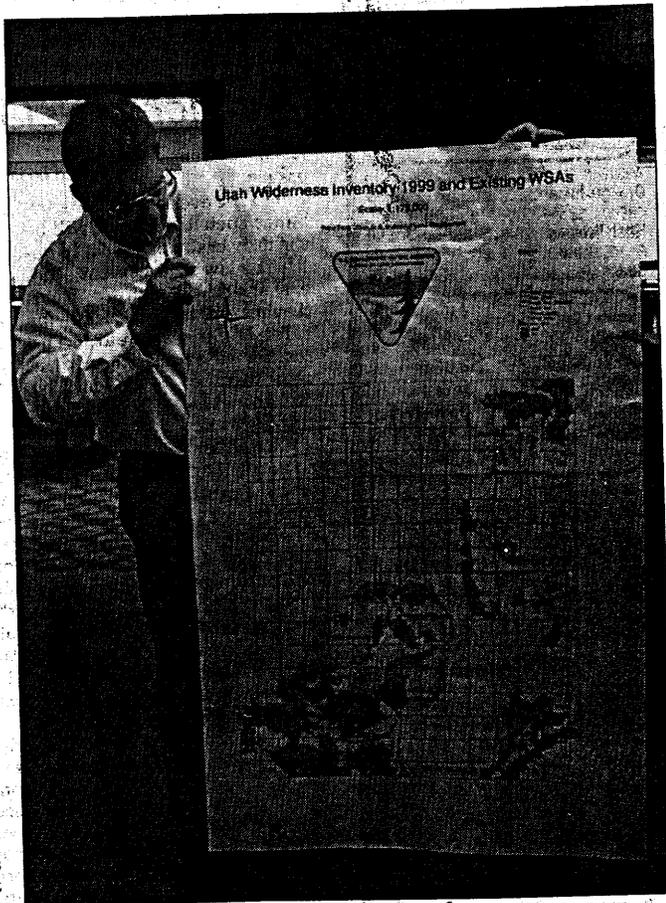
BLM offices as well as university and college libraries throughout Utah. Files contain field maps, color photographs, site evaluations and information on 142 inventoried units.

WSAs are managed according to the interim policy for lands under review to prevent impairment of wilderness suitability. Management continues only until the lands are released from consideration or designated as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System by Congress. The temporary management period for the last WSA has been in effect for 20 years, with no congressional action.

A scoping meeting will be conducted May 3 in Castle Dale at the Museum of the San Rafael from 3 to 8 p.m. There will be no public comments accepted, but interested people can talk personally to a BLM specialist.

Another way of documenting a complaint or expressing support for the WSA is by visiting the BLM internet site at www.blm.gov/wilderness or sending comments to the BLM State Office, WSA Planning Project, PO Box 45155, Salt Lake City, UT

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Sun Advocate publisher Kevin Ashby displays the map illustrating the designated and proposed wilderness area in the state of Utah. All shaded area will all be considered wilderness governed by WSA mandates if approved by the summer of 2000. Citizens are encouraged to attend public scoping meetings to contribute input to the proposal.

WSA reinventory report jeopardizes mine project

What can Carbon and Emery residents do if they feel that a favorite recreational retreat or a proposed mine site like Lila Canyon is included in the BLM's inventory for designation as a wilderness study area?

Related questions are causing concerned residents, recreationalists and stock producers to hit the deserts in and around Carbon and Emery counties. Reports indicate that digital movie cameras hooked to GIS tracking systems are being used to verify roads, trails and mining activity. People are hoping to sway the decision makers who determine what pieces of land fit wilderness description.

For example, Hershiel Hayden, president of Utah American Energy Inc. which is a developer of the proposed Lila Canyon coal mine, found that the facility's proposed portal has now been included in the WSA inventory.

"The delineations overlap part of the same areas that UEI has subleased federal coal leases under and/or has applied for rights of ways for roads, utilities and surface facilities," commented the Hayden's correspondence to

Mark Mackiewicz at the BLM office in Price.

If the boundaries stay where they are currently published, the mine that would have produced 4.4 million tons of coal annually and employed 130 people will be in jeopardy of never getting off the ground.

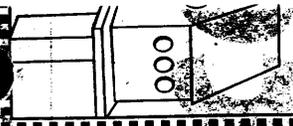
What has aggravated the Lila Canyon mining project organizers is the difference between what was recommended to be excluded by field teams and what was included in the proposed WSA by officials who made the final decision. The field teams worked around the portal property and access to the Lila Canyon mine. In fact some \$3 million dollars has been spent already in preparing the underground operation to produce coal.

The map that was presented to the public moved the lines over so that the portal as well as the coal reserves would be in the proposed WSA. In fact, the reports stated that "it is unlikely that coal will be mined in this area as it is very deep (i.e., more than 3,000 feet underground)."

But Lila Canyon mine officials indicate that core tests show that the maximum cover found on the coal leases in question are at an average

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Sale



WSA reinventory report jeopardizes mine project:

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 depth of 1,700 feet.
 Another statement the mining company felt was erroneous talked about old drill sites and routes leading to the areas, as paying been reclaimed, and/or returned to a natural state.
 They are also roads in the area used for a variety of coal mining related activities that were not listed in the inventory.
 The final statement which caused mine developers concern indicated that "the areas in question have no current land use that would be adversely affected through the inclusion as wilderness."
 Lila Canyon project officials disagree, claiming that a portion of the Turtle Canyon unit four and a large portion of the Desolation Canyon unit eight inventory areas have a long and ongoing history of coal mining related activities.
 UEI has subleased six federal coal tracts located in unit four and portions of the Desolation Canyon inventory area. In addition, the developers have an active mine reclamation plan in the same area.
 Even the Internountain Power Agency has existing federal coal leases that are underlying in the two inventory units. Coal mining and related activities have been ongoing since the 1940s.
 "UEI has invested substantial amounts of money in acquiring the referenced coal leases and in permitting and developing the Lila Canyon mine. For the BLM to take away the rights for which UEI has paid dearly, through a so called wilderness study area, is incompatible and unconscionable and likely illegal," pointed out Hayden. "We request that the BLM correct this mess immediately."
 Additional questions arise from the expertise of the BLM field team, members who were hired to complete the federal agency's reinventory process. Team members consisted of individuals concerned with surface rights. Below surface rights were not addressed at the time of the reinventory.
 If recreationalists and stock producers combine to form a second large group of citizens who are concerned about the land in the proposed WSA, maps are available at the BLM office in Pinedale for Carbon County residents interested in seeing what roads and trails have been identified and will remain unchanged. If there are roads or trails the public want identified in the proposed WSA, then the public needs to attend a scoping meeting and do the necessary paper work.
 If people don't get involved in the next few weeks, they will lose their opportunity to participate in the proposed additional wilderness study areas.

District officials address emergency plan:

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 because of a disaster or emergency, the decision will be made known to communities via radio, telephone and word of mouth.
 Master lists of students will be available to assist school officials and students in checking students out of school, in person with the principal, secretary, or designee.
 All students, before they leave school, must check out with the principal's office stating who they are leaving with and where they are going whenever school is dismissed early because of an emergency or disaster. The principal's office may not be able to deal with the numbers of students in the office. A proper plan of delegation needs to be put in place. Teachers could be delegated to assist with the release plan.
 If the superintendent has determined that the transportation fleet is operational and routes are reasonably safe, students will be transported home along usual routes where possible. Students who walk to preschool, elementary, middle and secondary schools up to and including age 15, are not to be released until a parent/guardian or pre-approved designee arrives. Walking secondary students ages 16 or older can be released if the superintendent, principal or pre-approved designee has determined it is reasonable safe for them to leave. Students must be informed of the disaster and given the option to wait at the school for their parent/guardian or pre-approved designee, or to go home immediately.
 Carbon High Principal Robert Cox stated that the emergency preparedness plan is in place at the school. The code of conduct is strictly followed, though incidents like Littleton serve as a reminder to pay more attention to the plan.
 "We have a safe school where faculty and students feel comfortable," commented Cox. "Administrators and teachers are out and about all the time maintaining visibility."
 Cox attitude reflects that of other secondary principals contacted. None eliminated the possibility of an incident like Littleton occurring in local schools, yet each feels confident in the current safe environment.
 Students also seem comfortable with their own safety regarding school officials.

Natio

By JEREMIAH Sports reporter

National awaits top-rank contender following a pre-events showing a high-game to the state towns 27-28.
 According to a recognized bowler who recently bro Country Men Association's record by 24 pins series, Wilson's has landmark County's history woman to select events state title was later extend fellow teammate as the duo steppe the first state c from Carbon County Wilson's 20-year career has been by several high-namments. She be howler from to win the state c

DWR, impac

The state Division Resources w out some water birds in the wes Environmental could keep some being protected ness. The water called guzzlers, that capture and ter for birds and primarily nonnat
 The DWR has Bureau of Land A for permission t

MISSISSIPPI Noodles 369 (case prices)

CHARMIN Bathroom Tissue 279 (12 roll)

WESTERN FAMILY Gallon Orange Juice 3.59
 ORE-IDA 24 oz. Hash Browns 3/5.00
 PINTO Beans 4.99

PAGE Picante Sauce 24 oz. 2/5.00

At Home Helper 89

Chili Peppers 4/1.00
 Green Peas 7/1.00
 Cherry Tomatoes 7/1.00
 Enchiladas 2/4.99
 Mexican Cookies 2/4.99

Mushrooms 1.99 (lb.)

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