



# *“Voice of the Western Slope since 1953”*

*A coalition of counties, communities, businesses & individuals*

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## **02-9 NR 1**

### **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FINAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY AND STUDY PROCEDURES HANDBOOK**

**WHEREAS:** Congress passed the Wilderness Act of 1964 “to establish a National Wilderness Preservation System for the permanent good of the whole people, and for other purposes;” and

**WHEREAS:** The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 directed the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to establish a multiple use sustainable yield plan for their lands, while also reviewing “roadless areas of five thousand acres or more and roadless islands of the public lands,” which have “wilderness characteristics described in the Wilderness Act of 1964;” and

**WHEREAS:** The BLM surveyed all their lands to establish which areas might meet wilderness criteria, and designated those areas that could possibly be considered wilderness as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) and upon further inventory found that some of those WSA’s were suitable for wilderness designation while others were not; and

**WHEREAS:** The BLM completed their inventory in 1991 and in 1992 President Bush sent the recommendation of the Secretary on designation of BLM wilderness in Colorado to Congress; and

**WHEREAS:** Congress has yet to designate wilderness areas and release for multiple use sustainable use or some other management designation those areas not deemed suitable for wilderness designation; and

**WHEREAS:** The BLM must manage suitable and unsuitable WSA’s as wilderness until Congress makes a decision on wilderness designation; and

**WHEREAS:** A citizen’s proposal has nominated additional areas for wilderness designation, although those areas were never even designated as WSA’s by the BLM; and

**WHEREAS:** The national BLM office has adopted a policy in their Final Wilderness Inventory and Study Procedures Handbook that requires local BLM agencies to manage as wilderness other non-WSA’s, nominated by other groups as wilderness; and

**WHEREAS:** This policy guideline requires regional BLM offices to manage those lands as if they were in a de facto WSA status even though the BLM has not been funded to fully inventory them; and

**WHEREAS:** The Procedures Handbook was not reviewed by other departments within the BLM, which has previously been the policy, and the Procedures Handbook did not receive public review or input, although its policies have far reaching affects on local communities;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the CLUB 20 Board of Directors at its annual meeting September 6, 2002, that CLUB 20 requests that the Bureau of Land Management rescind its Final Wilderness Inventory and Study Procedures Handbook and utilize the previous regulations guiding wilderness lands management, and that current non-WSA be released for multiple use sustained yield management.

**Adopted September 6, 2002.**