APPENDIX I.
GENERAL ANALYSIS OF EACH WILDERNESS AREA

The lands bill enacted by the United States in March, 2009, identified fifteen separate wilderness areas within the boundaries of Washington County. One of these, the Cottonwood Canyon Forest wilderness area, is located on National Forest land. Another one, The Watchman, has been included into Zion National Park along with most of the National Park.

Because not everyone has access to a list of the wilderness areas, nor a map showing the wilderness locations, this section of the General Plan is devoted to a brief identification of each area, using Bureau of Land Management criteria, where available, to introduce the Washington County wilderness areas to the public. These reviews may be accessed through this document, or through the electronic copy of the General Plan found on the Washington County Web Site under the heading "General Plan 2010." Hopefully, this information will be helpful to those desiring to learn more about each wilderness area including size, location, size, and other information.

Of the fifteen sites designated by Congress, most of them were originally recommended in one form or another by the Bureau of Land Management following a very thorough study of each area. In an effort to provide information to the public, each of these areas is reviewed in this section of the General Plan. Only in those areas not recommended by the Bureau of Land Management, is the information not fully available, and therefore is of a reduced nature.

Based upon their small size, a number of the designated areas do not qualify for wilderness designation on their own, but are contiguous with other federally managed area that were recommended for wilderness designation in one form or another by the Bureau of Land Management n a very thorough study of each area. As a result of federal court action, the BLM was required to address them in its final wilderness review and, subsequent land use planning processes. By not being included within the National Park, the areas are still available for such public uses as hunting and fishing. The county does expect that each of these small areas will generally be managed in conjunction with the much larger areas now designated within the park boundaries. Each of these areas also contains a stream segment designated under the wild and scenic rivers act and would be subject to collaborative management between the BLM and the park service over the entire stream segments in accordance with the BLM's 1999 RMP and the Park's 2001 General Management Plan. These small areas include Beartrap Canyon, Goose Creek, LaVerkin Creek, and Taylor Creek.

This table provides a list of each site, listed alphabetically, including the approximate size of the wilderness area. The map also included in this section of the General Plan, identifies the physical location of each wilderness area in the county.

TABLE	
BLM Wilderness Areas	
Black Ridge	13,015 acres
Beartrap Canyon	40 acres
Canaan Mountain	44,531. acres
Cottonwood Canyon	11,712 acres
Cottonwood Canyon Forest	2,645 acres
Cougar Canyon	10,409 acres
Deep Creek	3,284 acres
Deep Creek North	4,262 acres
Docs Pass	17,294 acres
Goose Creek Canyon	98 acres
LaVerkin Creek	445 acres
Red Butte	1,537 acres
Red Mountain	18,729 acres
Slaughter Creek	3,901 acres
Taylor Creek	32 acres
TOTAL BLM WILDERNESS:	**131,932 ACRES**

Note: Actual acreage is approximate until a final survey
Of each area has been officially completed by the BLM.
It does not include the Zion Park wilderness.

Following is an outline of each of the wilderness areas in Washington County located on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management:

Black Ridge

I. Area Description:

The Black Ridge wilderness area is located essentially along the top of the "Black Ridge", as it is called, running parallel to the Interstate 15 Freeway, along the top of the ridge on its easterly side. The designated wilderness area crosses over LaVerkin Creek Canyon east of the black ridge (not to be confused with the LaVerkin Creek wilderness area) and is bounded on the east by the east rim of the canyon and private land in the "Hurricane Mesa" dry farming area. On the south are private land and the Hurricane Mesa rocket test site. On the north is a part of Zion National Park. The Black Ridge wilderness area was not recommended by the Bureau of Land Management, nor was it recommended by Washington County. Rather, it was added by the act of Congress. However, there was a partial review by the BLM which provides the information for this review.

II. Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size:

The wilderness area contains 13,015 acres of land. It is approximately two to three miles wide from west to east and eight miles long from north to south. All of the in-holdings have previously been removed.

The elevation along the Black Ridge and the dry farming area is about 1,900 feet to a low in the bottom of LaVerkin Creek of about 1,200 feet.

B. Naturalness:

The area is mostly in a natural condition. There are no buffer zones around the wilderness area. Outside influences include the sights and sounds of the Interstate Freeway to the west and below the rim of the Black Ridge, the test site and transmitting towers on the south edge, and farming operations east of the rim on the east side. There is also adjacent private land in the bottom of LaVerkin Creek, which may also impede access to the wilderness area itself.

C. Solitude:

Some areas of solitude exist on top of the Black Ridge, although it is too narrow to offer much solitude. Some areas of solitude can be found in the LaVerkin creek canyon below. A commercial airline route along I-15 may interfere with solitude on top of the rim. There is no buffer zone created by Congress. Therefore solitude may be marginal in many parts of the wilderness area, and may be fairly good in others, depending upon the definition of solitude.

D. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

For the most part, the wilderness area would provide for primitive and unconfined recreation. It is possible, in most parts of the wilderness area, to find areas where the sights and sounds "of the world" may be mostly shut off. The area is large enough that there are pockets of true wilderness within the wilderness boundary.

E. Special Features:

This wilderness area lacks many of the special features found in other wilderness areas. Because of its connection to Zion National Park along the northern border, The area does offer some of the scenic views found within many areas of the Park.

III. Socio-Economics:

All private and some state lands have previously been graded out of this unit. No rights-of-way are known to exist in this area. The individual economic impact on Washington County from the Black Ridge wilderness area in and of itself is minimal. The mineral, sand and gravel, deposits found along the base of the Black Ridge on the freeway side of the ridge, have significant economic value to the county and make up some of the most valuable sand and gravel mineral deposits available for future county development.

IV. Manageability:

Black Ridge wilderness area can generally be effectively managed to preserve its wilderness character. Access is somewhat difficult inasmuch as the natural access through the town of Toquerville, is largely cut off by private property. A determination will need to be made by the BLM and the county as to the access into the wilderness area from the roadway along LaVerkin Creek. Some access could be made available to the east rim of the canyon through the dry farming area, most of which is private property. Limited access and areas of marginal wilderness quality will make the area easier for the BLM to manage. The Black Ridge wilderness area will likely be found near the bottom of the list of "must see" wilderness areas in Washington County. Many of the small wilderness areas offer much more in terms of wilderness qualities than does the Black Ridge.

Beartrap Canyon

I. Area Description:

The Beartrap Canyon Wilderness area is located in the northeast corner of Washington County. The area is adjacent to Zion National Park. It is bounded by the National Park on the west and by private lands on the north, south, and east.

The deep drainage of upper Beartrap Canyon dominates the area. The canyon rims and vertical walls of Navajo Sandstone rise 1,300 feet above the creek. High cliffs prohibit access from the area into Zion National Park.

II. Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size:

The area contains 40 acres of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. It is approximately 0.5 miles wide from east to west, and 0.33 miles from north to south.

B. Naturalness:

The area is in a natural condition, with no human imprints.

C. Solitude:

The area is an extremely small parcel of land at the head of Beartrap Canyon. Opportunities for solitude are very good throughout the entire canyon. These opportunities may be dependent upon the contiguous land of Zion National Park.

D. Primitive and unconfined recreation:

The rugged, scenic qualities of the area offer recreational opportunities along the canyon bottom for hiking, backpacking and photography.

E. Special Features:

The scenic qualities of Beartrap Canyon are especially notable, particularly the depth and narrowness of the canyon, its riparian habitat, and hanging gardens.

III. Socio Economics:

There is no state of private in-holdings, sub-surface rights-of-way in the Beartrap Canyon Wilderness. The land is presently used for unconfined and primitive forms of outdoor recreation and wildlife habitat. No individual adverse economic impact on Washington County is anticipated from the designation of this area as

wilderness. The only economic related activity in the wilderness area is recreation.

IV. **Manageability:**

Beartrap Canyon, along with all of the small wilderness areas lying north and east of Zion National Park, can be managed to preserve the wilderness characteristics that exist there. Access is very difficult and visitor use has been very limited. Because of its remote location and qualification for wilderness in connection with similar wilderness classifications for wilderness, it is not expected that the management and use of the area will change materially as a designated wilderness.

Canaan Mountain:

I. Area Description:

The Canaan Mountain Wilderness Area is on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. It comprises approximately 44,531 acres as depicted in the Washington County General Plan Map.

The Canaan Mountain Wilderness Area is located in the extreme south-east corner of Washington County, running northward to a co-boundary with Zion National Park It is contiguous in part with the State of Arizona along the southern boundary, except for the incorporated town of Hildale. It is bounded on the east by Kane County and on the west by the incorporated town of Apple Valley. Some of the wilderness lies inside the town limits of Apple Valley. The wilderness area is located about 25 miles west of Kanab, in Kane County.

Canaan Mountain is a beautiful plateau that towers 2,000 feet above the surrounding lands. From the top of the plateau, a panorama of Zion National Park, the Arizona Strip, and the Pine Valley Mountains are visible. There is a variety of vegetation, including hanging gardens, ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, aspen, maple, and pinion pine.

II. Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size:

The wilderness area, as approved is 44,531 acres in size. It is about ten miles wide from east to west, and is about nine miles long from north to south.

B. Naturalness:

Canaan Mountain is the largest undisturbed plateau top or tableland remaining in southwest Utah. It possess a quality of remoteness and naturalness not found an where else in the immediate region. It is in a natural condition with one major exception, and a few minor ones.

Past human activity includes vehicular tracks from the east side of the mesa to the cable and sawmill site on the westerly side, a house trailer, fences, and a historical cable lumber lowering operation from the top to the bottom of the plateau. These activities encompass a very small portion of the overall area.

C. Solitude:

The wilderness area affords outstanding opportunity for solitude. The plateau on Canaan Mountain is a large, rough, sandstone area that gives the visitor a feeling of isolation. Slotted walls of the vermillion cliffs and talus slopes at the base of the cliffs also provide for solitude. Several deep, narrow, and thickly vegetated

canyons that penetrate the plateau provide seclusion.

D. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

A large part of the Canaan Mountain provides outstanding opportunity for hiking, horseback riding; rock climbing, photography, bird watching, and sightseeing. Areas suitable for backpacking are the most extensive, but backpacking is somewhat limited to canyon and plateau tops because of the rugged terrain. Scenic quality is outstanding throughout the area, and is the main objective of hiking. Among the scenic features are the cliffs, large expanses of slick rock, and waterfalls during period of heavy storm, abrupt rock rims with views of Zion National Park and the Arizona Strip.

E. Special Features:

1. Scenery, similar to scenery in Zion National Park is a significant characteristic of the wilderness area. The summit of the Canaan Mountain is an essentially intact expanse, unlike the much smaller, separated plateau remnants in Zion National Park.

2. The lumbering operation that existed on the mountain from 1904 to about 1928 has important historical value, and is a significant part of the customs and culture of Washington County. Conceived by David Flanigan, he constructed a windless and pulley system onto the westerly side of the mountain. It was used to lift men, equipment, and supplies 2,000 feet upward to the top of the mountain. As many as 25 men were employed there. By 1906, as much as 200,000 feet of timber had been lowered to the base of what was by then called Cable Mountain. The lumber was cut, and then hauled for construction purposes to settlements up the river and down the river as far away as St. George. In later years, logs up to four feet in diameter were harvested from this area, and used to make shingles from a shingle mill set up at the base of the mountain. Access to this historic site would be from an existing ORV trail crossing the mesa. This trail has been used by many groups for forty years or more years prior to the current wilderness designation. Access to this historic site is from the Kane County side of the mountain.

3. Smithsonian Butte is a special landmark land feature that is included in the Canaan Mountain Wilderness area. The boundary of the wilderness area was enlarged in order to include this special land feature as a part of the wilderness. It has actually been annexed into the town of Apple Valley in order to provide additionally protection. Except for some animal life, vegetation, and bird nesting, many of the standard features of wilderness such as size, solitude, naturalness, recreation, etc., do not exist around Smithsonian Butte. It belongs in the wilderness area because of what it is, and not because it qualifies for special protection on its own.

4. Another historic site exists in the Canaan Mountain area near the north-corner of the area known as the Mail Drop. At one point the pony express rider coming out of Kane County, rode to the edge of the Canaan Mountain ridge and dropped the mail over the edge. The mail was picked up near the town of Schunesburg, and delivered to communities all along the Virgin River. This practice of using the mail drop continued for several years. This site is also accessed from the Kane County side of Canaan Mountain.

III. Socio-Economics:

One private in-holding remains inside the designated area.
No individual adverse economic impact on Washington County is anticipated from the designation of this area as wilderness.

IV. Manageability:

A. The area can be effectively managed to preserve all wilderness values now present in the wilderness area. Continued use of the range land and livestock grazing would not significantly affect wilderness management. One private in-holding remains inside the designated area.

B. The nearly 100 year old historic lumber site creates a different situation. In all of the wilderness areas and formerly wilderness study areas, it has always been a common practice to "cherry stem" access-ways into the area in order to create wilderness. The same situation exists on Canaan Mountain. The most difficult area to maintain as wilderness in Washington County is the current trail across the plateau from the easterly to the westerly side. This type of facility is much like other timber producing activities found in areas of the county. Residents of the county and visitors to the county want to use off-road vehicles to visit the site of early resident activity. It is a part of the culture and customs of the county that should be preserved and made accessible to those desiring to visit the site. The General Plan recommends that access be provided, and is prepared to discuss methods by which is can accomplished.

Cottonwood Canyon

I. Area Description:

The Cottonwood Canyon wilderness area is located in south-central Washington County approximately 3 miles north of the city of Washington. The area is characterized by sharp, steep and jagged exposures of Navajo Sandstone, with elevations ranging from 3,200 feet to 4,870 feet. The area is situated near the southeastern base of the Pine Valley Mountains, which tower above it. It also borders the developed camping portion of the BLM Red Cliffs Recreation area on the east. It is bounded by the Dixie National Forest on the north and by additional BLM, State, and private land on the south and west.

II. Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size.

This wilderness area contains 11,712 acres of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. It is approximately 7 miles wide from east to west, and three miles wide from north to south.

B. Naturalness:

For the most part, the area is in a natural condition with few noticeable human imprints, and contains a high quality of naturalness.

C Solitude:

Topographic screening makes the opportunity for solitude outstanding in this wilderness area. The screening is associated with the exposures of Navajo Sandstone. The sights and sounds of human activities are not present from most places. From the higher points of the area, traffic on I-15 can be observed. Noise from aircraft is not considered to be significant or impairing to wilderness values since few small planes per day fly over the area. Most of the heads of drainages in Mill Creek and Washington Hollow provide solitude. Other opportunities are also found in the upper Heath Wash, in the rim areas in the lower Cottonwood Canyon area, and in the cliff area south of Quail Creek.

D. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

The opportunity for primitive recreation is outstanding in portions of the wilderness area because the canyon hiking activity is of outstanding quality. The cottonwood heath canyon area contains superior hiking opportunities. It is more limited in the Washington hollow-mill creek complex.

E. Special Features:

The wilderness area is rated class A for scenic quality. The exposed Navajo sandstone cliffs provide scenic beauty. Bird watching, especially the bald eagle and peregrine falcon are seen in this area.

III. Socio-Economics:

No in-holdings exist. There are still issues with existing water development that need to be resolved as a part of the BLM Management Plan. The county General Plan recommends that the BLM work closely with the county and city officials to resolve concerns that may still exist with water or land ownership. The land bill does not provide for new water development. There are no existing in-holdings in the wilderness area.

One critical economic component of concern to the county is to identify, on cooperation with the public agencies, one or more northern transportation routes across the county from east to west, as required by Congressional action. The General Plan recommends that the public agencies that may be involved, work closely with the county and the cities involved in identifying this route within the framework set out by Congress.

IV. Manageability:

The Cottonwood Canyon wilderness area would appear to create no serious management challenges. The major challenge may be to determine how best to manage the area inasmuch as it is completely inside the current desert tortoise reserve, and has been placed in a national conservation area by the action of Congress. The Section 10 permit for the HCP tortoise recovery is scheduled to expire in 2016. The General Plan recommends that this become a natural transition from the current management plan to the new management plan with the County still acting as the land coordinator in close cooperation with the various public agencies that are currently involved in its management. It is expected that the BLM, working closely with the county and the other public agencies, will work out the details of how to make this transaction come about in a natural, seamless manner.

Cottonwood Canyon Forest

I. Area Description:

The Forest Service Cottonwood Wilderness area is immediately adjacent to the BLM Cottonwood Wilderness area near the north-east corner of the BLM wilderness area.

II. Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size:

According to the land bill, the area contains 2,643 acres, and is somewhat "square" in size.

B. Naturalness:

The area is in a natural condition with a high quality of naturalness.

C. Solitude:

Topographic screening makes the opportunity for solitude very high in this area. The area is composed of a series of badly fractured sandstone ravines. The county concurred that, attached to the cottonwood wilderness area, it qualified for wilderness designation. The one detraction to solitude is the overflight of commercial airlines and private air planes approaching or departing from the current St. George. This flight pattern could change with the completion of the new airport in 2011.

D. Primitive and unconfined recreation:

There is good opportunity for primitive recreation in this wilderness area because of the difficulty of access to and travel within the area.

E. Special Features:

The wilderness area is rated A for scenic quality. The exposed Navajo Sandstone cliffs provide scenic beauty. Bird watching should be excellent in this area.

III. Socio-Economics:

No individual economic impact on Washington County is anticipated from the designation of this area as wilderness.

IV. Manageability:

The National Forest Wilderness designation would appear to create no serious management challenges. The main challenge may be to determine how to best manage the area inasmuch as it is inside the national conservation area created by Congress. The General Plan would suggest that the Forest Ranger from this part of the Dixie National Forest be given a seat along with the current management group of the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve and that the area be managed cooperatively by the current organization presently in place with the addition oa a forest service representative.

Cougar Canyon

I. Area Description:

The Cougar Canyon wilderness area is located in the northwest corner of the BLM managed land in Washington County, and adjacent to the Nevada State line. It was originally proposed as a companion area to the same quality of land on the Nevada side of the State line. The Nevada WSA was eliminated by Congress as a part of the Lincoln County, Nevada wilderness bill. The Utah portion was later designated by Congress as wilderness in March, 2009.

Cougar Canyon is characterized by hot summers and relatively short, mild winters. Cold spells are of short duration. The wilderness area is at the headwaters of the Beaver Dam Wash and is adjacent to Clover Mountain, which extends east-west from Nevada into Utah. It is adjacent to the Dixie National Forest on the North, Nevada on the west, and BLM land on the south and east. The wilderness area contains steep mountainous canyons, long ridges, and rough drainage areas:

II Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size:

The Cougar Canyon wilderness area contains 10,409 acres of public land managed by the Bureau of land Management. The area is approximately 4 miles wide by 5 miles long.

B. Naturalness:

The wilderness area is basically natural. There are a few signs of man, including several miles of range fence, and a spring development. The area meets the wilderness criteria for naturalness.

C. Solitude:

There are outstanding opportunities for solitude, particular in the canyon bottoms. The size and configuration of the wilderness area neither enhances nor detracts from the outstanding opportunities for solitude present in the recommended area. Congress specifically provided for continued use of the air space for low level training flights of military aircraft, which could conflict to some degree with the solitude of the area.

D. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

The wilderness area would allow for the continued use of livestock grazing. The fence would be allowed to remain and the existing water development could also remain. There are The activities that would be available in this wilderness area

include hiking, fishing, bird watching, picnicking, and photography.

E. Special Features:

The wilderness area has several miles of perennial streams that support fishing. This feature is unique to most BLM lands. Perennial pools along with perennial

III. Socio-Economics:

Because the mineral potential of much of the western part of Washington County it has never been sufficiently explored, it is difficult to determine the possible value of minerals that could be developed in that part of the county in the future. Based upon current commercial development, there is little socio economic impact from this wilderness area, acting independently from all other areas, in the county. Some isolated private lands intrude into the northeast boundary of the area, adjacent to the forest boundary. No other private or state in-holdings exist.

IV. Manageability:

The Cougar Canyon wilderness area is manageable as wilderness. The area is rugged, relatively remote, and currently has only low to moderate recreational use. Vegetation is too sparse to provide woodland products, and mineral conflicts are unlikely. Livestock grazing in the area may continue, hunting may continue and wilderness designation will strengthen current management efforts to protect the Beaver Dam watershed and will provide wildlife habitat.

Deep Creek

I. Area Description;

The Deep Creek wilderness is located in northeastern Washington County. The area is adjacent to Zion National Park on the south, BLM and private on the west and north private land also on the north and on the east. The Deep Creek's impressive canyon of Navajo Sandstone dominates much of the area, along with small portions of other deep drainage such as Kolob Creek. In places, the canyon rim rises 2,000 feet above the creek bottom. Portions of the canyon are included in the wilderness area. These regions consist of Pinion Pine, juniper, and mountain shrub woodlands, as well as Ponderosa Pine, fir, and aspen forests at the higher elevations.

II. Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size

The wilderness area contains 3,284 acres of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. It is approximately 2 miles wide from east to west and 3 miles long from north to south. The small size of this area, and the fact that access to the canyons is generally from non-BLM lands, primarily private lands and the National Park Service land, is a handicap to its proper management. There are however, other qualities that helped qualify Deep Creek as a wilderness area.

B. Naturalness:

The area is in a natural condition, with little human imprint in the canyons below the rim.

C. Solitude:

The deep Creek wilderness area provides opportunities for solitude due to the deep, rugged, and winding canyon terrain, the side drainage, vegetative screening, and isolation of the area. However, the small size of the wilderness area limits its composition to segments of several canyons, with the longest segment consisting of approximately 4 miles of Deep Creek Canyon. Outstanding solitude opportunities are dependent upon the longer lengths of the canyons and the canyon rims which involve other contiguous lands, particularly lands within Zion National Park.

D. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

The rugged and highly scenic qualities of the Deep Creek Wilderness area offer recreational opportunities along the canyon bottom for hiking, sightseeing, backpacking, photography, and fishing. When combined with adjacent public lands, recreational opportunities are considered to be outstanding.

E. Special Features:

The scenic qualities of the Deep Creek area are quite spectacular. Because these tributary canyons lead directly into Zion National Park, they are not far upstream from their confluences with the Zion narrows. The deep Creek and Deep Creek north wilderness areas contain some of the only designated segments of wild and scenic rivers currently designated in the State of Utah on BLM lands.

III. Socio-Economics:

Individually, Deep Creek holds no significant economic benefit to the County other than for recreation. There is no state or private in-holdings within the wilderness area. There is a motorized ATV trail bisecting Deep Creek and Deep Creek North. The trail ex extremely steep and allows legal access between the private properties on the east and west sides.

IV. Manageability:

Overall, the area could be managed to preserve its wilderness character. Administration of the area may be difficult because of the limited areas of access across private land. Visitor use can be monitored and controlled through a cooperative effort by the BLM and the National Park Service. The BLM may acquire some private land access points to the west side of the wilderness area to precipitate access into the canyons.

Deep Creek North

I. Area Description:

Deep Creek North is separated from the Deep Creek wilderness area by an east-west motorized trail running between the two wilderness areas. The deep creek north area was not recommended by the BLM for wilderness consideration. Both areas were evaluated, but only the southern part was recommended.

The Deep Creek North wilderness area contains 4,062 acres, which is actually larger than the Deep Creek wilderness area. The major difference between the two wilderness areas is found in the imprint of man. The east-west motorized trail and other adjacent roadways are more noticeable in Deep Creek North. There is a problem with State and private land being located within the boundary of the north wilderness area that will need to be resolved by the BLM, including possible land trades to benefit all affected entities.

Access into Deep Creek North is more difficult because it is essentially surrounded by private land ownership which may or may not allow access into the canyons, which is where the naturalness, solitude, and unconfined recreation is mostly located.

Beyond the above considerations, there is no reason to duplicate the Deep Creek evaluation for Deep Creek North. To a greater, or lesser, degree the comments relative to one of the wilderness areas applies to the other one. To get a feel for Deep Creek North, read the summary of conditions found in Deep Creek. They are both not unlike each other with Deep Creek North being to a lesser degree even though it contains more acreage. The qualities that set these areas apart as wilderness areas are found in the bottoms of the deep canyons, and not above the rims.

Both areas all together account for a total of 7,346 acres of wilderness in Washington County.

II. Wilderness Characteristics:

Please see description from Deep Creek wilderness area.

III. Socio-Economics.

Individually, Deep Creek North holds no significant economic benefit to the county other than for recreation.

IV. Manageability

The management of the Deep Creek North wilderness area should be no more difficult for the Bureau of Land Management at all of the other wilderness areas located in the northeast part of Washington County in the Kolob portion of Washington County. Signing, fencing, and monitoring issues increase with additional acres.

Doc's Pass

I. Area Description:

Doc's pass is located in the west part of Washington County, along the Nevada border. It is approximately 9 miles from north to south and 3 to 4 miles wide. It is bounded by the State of Nevada on west, the Beaver Dam Wash on the north and east, and BLM, private, and State land on the south.

Doc's Pass contains 17,294 acres, making it one of the larger wilderness areas in the county. Doc's pass was not recommended by the Bureau of Land Management for wilderness designation at any time. Therefore the more detailed consideration of Doc's pass has not been specifically completed. However, because of its relationship to the Cougar Canyon wilderness area, there are obviously significant similarities between the two areas. Both areas, according to Congress, are subject to low level training flights from military aircraft flying in the area. Both areas do provide areas for naturalness, solitude, along with primitive and unconfined recreation.

Active mining claims remain on the west boundary of the area. Access to the claims will need to be maintained. There are many roadways traversing Doc's pass from one end to the other which will need to be resolved by meetings between the BLM and Washington County. At least some of these roadways will need to be retained. In addition, there are state lands and private in-holdings within the wilderness boundary that will also need to be resolved by the County, BLM, and the other stakeholders involved. There have been range improvements within the wilderness area, and livestock permits are allowed to continue following wilderness designation. The Doc's Pass wilderness area may have been designated by Congress for the purpose of placating the environmental community and adding acreage to the total land in the County, more than for actual wilderness value. However, the County, working closely with the BLM, will find ways to resolve the problems created by the wilderness designation, thereby making Doc's Pass a valid wilderness addition to the County.

II. Wilderness Characteristics:

Please see the Cougar Canyon wilderness area for similar information.

III. Socio- Economics:

Please see the Cougar Canyon wilderness area for similar characteristics.

IV. Manageability:

The manageability of Doc's Pass, coupled with the Cougar Canyon and the Slaughter Creek Wilderness area, which are all contiguous with one another, should make the three wilderness areas along the west side of the county, more manageable because of their proximity.

Goose Creek Canyon

I. Area Description:

The Goose Creek Canyon area is located in the northeast corner of Washington County. The area is adjacent to Zion National Park on the south and private land on the north, east, and west. This parcel is isolated from other BLM lands.

The deep drainage of Goose Creek Canyon dominates the area. The canyon rims and vertical walls of the Carmel formation and Navajo sandstone tower 2,000 feet above the creek, exposing these various rock formations. The only access into the canyon is through Zion National Park. The sheer walls at the upper end of the canyon do not permit access. The upper rim may be viewed by way of a road paralleling the north side of the wilderness area.

II. Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size:

This wilderness area contains 98 acres of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. It is approximately 0.25 miles wide from east to west and 0.50 miles long from north to south. By itself, the wilderness area does not qualify for wilderness designation based upon size. However, combined with the National Park, it can qualify as a wilderness area.

B. Naturalness:

The canyon area is in a natural condition, with no significant imprint.

C. Solitude:

The rugged, winding canyon of Goose Creek does provide opportunity for solitude, particularly when considering the area's difficult accessibility and isolation. Its existing opportunities for solitude are tied to the adjacent wilderness area of Zion National Park.

D. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation.

The rugged, scenic qualities of the area offer recreational opportunities for hiking, backpacking, technical rock climbing, and photography. It must be accessed through Zion National Park. Because of its location and accessibility, the number of annual visitors to the Goose Creek Canyon Wilderness is very low.

E. Special Features:

All of the wilderness area has significant scenic value. That segment of Goose Creek running through this parcel has been designated under the wild and scenic rivers act.

III. Socio-Economics:

No individual adverse economic impact on Washington County is anticipated from the designation of this area as wilderness. There are no state or private in-holdings, sub-surface rights in the wilderness area. The land is presently use for unconfined and primitive forms of outdoor recreation and wildlife habitat.

IV. Manageability:

Goose Creek Canyon wilderness area could be effectively managed to preserve its wilderness character. Access is very difficult but visitor use could be monitored through Zion National Park. Because of its remote location and because of its qualification for wilderness in connection with similar wilderness land inside the national park, the Goose Creek Canyon has, except for size, the necessary qualifications for wilderness. It is not expected that the management and use of the area will change materially from its present condition because of its remote location and lack of accessibility.

LaVerkin Creek Canyon

I. Area Description:

The LaVerkin Creek Canyon wilderness area is located in the northeastern part of Washington County. The area is bordered on the south by Zion National Park; it is surrounded by private land on the other side. The area consists mainly of 1.5 miles of the LaVerkin Creek and a very small portion of the Bear Trap Canyon drainage. The canyon rims rise 700 to 900 feet above the creek.

II. Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size:

The wilderness area contains 445 acres of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. It is approximately 1 mile wide from east to west, and 1.25 miles long from north to south. The wilderness area is basically "L" shaped.

B. Naturalness:

The area is in a natural condition, with no noticeable human imprints.

C. Solitude:

In connection with the adjacent Zion National Park, the area has outstanding solitude opportunities throughout the entire area.

D. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Some recreational opportunities exist along the canyon bottoms such as hiking, back packing, horseback riding, and photography. Outstanding opportunities for unconfined recreation exist when combined with the wilderness area of Zion National Park.

E. Special Features:

All of the area has excellent scenic values.

III. Socio-Economics:

There are no state or private in-holdings sub-surface rights in the wilderness area. No individual adverse economic impact on Washington County is anticipated from the designation of this area as wilderness.

IV. Manageability:

The LaVerkin Creek wilderness area could be effectively managed to preserve its

wilderness character. Access to the area is very difficult, but visitor use could be monitored through Zion National Park. Because of its remote location, and because of its qualifications for wilderness in connection with similar wilderness inside the National Park, the LaVerkin Creek wilderness has, except for a lack of size, the necessary qualifications for wilderness. It is not expected that the management and use of the area will change materially from its present condition.

Red Butte

I. Area Description:

The Red Butte Wilderness area is located in eastern Washington County, approximately fifteen miles north of the town of Virgin. The area is adjacent to Zion National Park on the north, State trust land on the south, and private lands on the east and west sides.

The area predominantly consists of a large sandstone butte, set amidst a dense mountain scrub brush such as sage, serviceberry, Manzanita, pinion pine, ponderosa pine and juniper. Elevations of the site range from 5,500 feet to 7,400 feet, with the Red Butte wilderness rising some 1,800 feet above nearby Smith Mesa, and 1,200 feet above the lower Kolob Plateau.

II. Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size:

The wilderness area contains 1,537 acres of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. It is approximately 1.25 miles long from north to south, and 1.25 miles wide from east to west. By itself, the wilderness area does not quality for wilderness designation based upon size. However, combined with the National Park, it can qualify as a wilderness area

B. Naturalness:

The area is in a generally condition with a few human imprints. The wilderness area has been primarily affected by the forces of nature. A few lightly used jeep trails exist along its eastern boundary. A developed spring and surface pipeline are located just inside its western boundary.

C. Solitude:

The area does provide opportunities for solitude due to its difficult accessibility, isolation and dense vegetation. The main reason for its solitude stems from its isolation which is created by the large expanse of undeveloped land surrounding the red butte area. It is not protected from outside sounds by the land use bill enacted by Congress.

D. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

The area offers recreational opportunities such as deer hunting, hiking, backpacking, nature study, geologic study, and technical rock climbing. Overall, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are found in the

Red Butte Wilderness area.

E. Special Features:

The most special feature of this area is that it is rated as outstanding for scenic quality.

III. Socio-Economics:

There are no state or private in-holdings, sub-surface rights, or rights-of-way in the Red Butte Wilderness area. The land is presently used for unconfined recreation. Very little economic change will be noticed by wilderness designation. Livestock grazing ma continue, and there is little other opportunity for other economic development.

IV. Manageability:

Overall it appears that the wilderness area can be effectively managed to preserve its wilderness character. Access is difficult across private land, but could be monitored in connection with Zion National Park. It is not expected that management and use of this wilderness area will change materially from its present condition because of its remote location and lack of accessibility.

Red Mountain

I. Area Description:

The Red Mountain wilderness area is located on Bureau of Land Management lands in the south central part of Washington County, just north of the city of Ivins. It is approximately 8 or 9 miles northwest of St. George city. Red Mountain is a plateau of deep red Navajo Sandstone rising 1,400 feet above the city of Ivins and the Santa Clara bench, to elevations of 4,600 feet to 5,432 feet.

The wilderness area borders Snow Canyon State Park on the east, nearly to the homes in the City of Ivins on the south, and Gunlock State Park on the west.

II. Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size:

The Red Mountain wilderness area contains 18,729 acres of public land. It is approximately six miles from east to west and 7 miles from north to south.

B. Naturalness:

All appears to be natural in character. In close proximity to the urban valley, Red Mountain is perceived as an island of naturalness. Imprints that existed at the time of the BLM inventory included about 5 miles of roadway, about .05 miles of fence remnants, and a livestock watering trough. Only about 5 surfaces are affected, but these imprints are substantially unnoticeable. No surface disturbing a activities other than fire suppression, restoration, and occasional ATV intrusions. have occurred since the inventory.

C. Solitude:

Not all of the area has been identified as having outstanding opportunity for solitude. Outside sights and sounds from the Santa Clara Bench are readily apparent from the rim of the plateau, and below to the city of Ivins. The opportunity for solitude lies with the top of the plateau,, away from the rim.

D. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation exists on the plateau at the top of the rim. Opportunities for hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding are rated as above average in the Red Mountain wilderness area. There is a lack of water which may limit the length of stay in the area.

E. Special Features:

The wilderness area is rated as outstanding for scenic quality. Much of this is related to the views from the rim of the mountain overlooking the Santa Clara Bench, Gunlock Reservoir, and Snow Canyon State Park.

III. Socio-Economics:

With all of the mining and mineral leases filed over the years in the wilderness area, this area could realistically see significant revenue loss to the county as a result of the wilderness designation by Congress. Actual development of mineral resources and mineral leases are, however, distinctly different. No significant development has taken place since the area was made into a wilderness study area. It is not likely now. There would appear to be at least one section of State land within the wilderness boundary that would need to be traded out of the area.

IV. Manageability:

The area can be managed by the BLM much as it has been for many years. The combined management of the Red Hills Desert Reserve and the new addition of the National Conservation area over the top of the wilderness area will require some management decisions in the future. The General Plan recommends coordinating with the public agencies with a proposed plan to continue the area much as it is now. The County and the public agencies will need to work together to develop the details of this management.

Slaughter Creek

I. Area Description:

The Slaughter Creek wilderness is located in the north-west part of Washington County, immediately adjacent to the Cougar Canyon wilderness area. It is approximately 3 miles from north to south and 2 miles wide from east to west. The Slaughter Creek wilderness area contains 3,901 acres, and was designated by Congress as a part of the Washington County wilderness bill.

As a result of congressional designation, rather than having been identified as wilderness by prior study of the Bureau of Land Management, it does not have the same information available for use that it would have had if it had been identified for wilderness by the BLM. Slaughter Creek is also adjacent to Doc's Pass, another wilderness area created by Congress without having gone through the FLPMA process.

The characteristics of Slaughter Creek most naturally relate to the Cougar Canyon wilderness area. Therefore, by reviewing the information from Cougar Canyon, there will be many similarities between the two areas.

II. Wilderness Characteristics:

Please see the Cougar Canyon wilderness area for similar information.

III. Socio-Economics:

Some active mining claims remain on the south-east border of the wilderness area. Potential for further development and production is unknown. There is no other state or private in-holdings.

IV. Manageability:

The manageability of Slaughter Creek, coupled with Doc's Pass and the Cougar Canyon wilderness area, which are all contiguous, except for roadways, should make the three wilderness areas along the west side of the county more manageable because of the benefit of proximity with one another. Combined, they create a wilderness area of 31,604 acres.

Taylor Creek Canyon

I. Area Description:

The Taylor Creek Canyon wilderness area is located in the northeast corner of Washington County. The area is adjacent to the Kolob Canyons of Zion National Park. It is bounded by National Park land on the east, private lands on the east and state lands on the north and south.

The area is dominated by the rugged, barren slick rock terrain found at the head of a deep drainage, the middle fork of Taylor Creek. The vast majority of this canyon is within Zion National Park. The canyon rims and sheer walls of the Carmel formation and Navajo Sandstone rise 1,000 feet above the canyon floor. Elevations range from 6,800 feet to 7,000 feet within the area. High cliffs prohibit access into the National Park.

II. Wilderness Characteristics:

A. Size:

The area contains 32 acres of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. It is approximately 0.25 miles wide from east to west and about the same from north to south.

B. Naturalness:

The area is in a natural condition, with no human imprints.

C. Solitude:

The area encompasses only an extremely small parcel of land at the head of Taylor Creek Canyon. Opportunities for solitude are very good throughout the entire canyon.

D. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

The rugged, scenic qualities of the canyon offer recreational opportunities along the canyon bottom for hiking, backpacking, and photography.

E. Special Features:

The scenic qualities of Taylor Creek Canyon are especially notable, particularly the depth and colorful walls of the canyon. The canyon provides habitat for raptors. That portion of the Taylor Creek headwaters that runs through the wilderness area has been designated by Congress under the wild and scenic rivers act.

III. Socio-Economics:

By itself, there is no expected economic impact on Washington County from the designation of Taylor Creek Canyon as a wilderness area. There are no private lands within the Taylor Creek Wilderness area.

IV. Manageability:

The wilderness area can effectively be managed by the Bureau of Land Management. However, in this instance, there is no access to the wilderness area from Zion National Park. Access from private land is restricted. The area has received little use, and no major increase in on-site use is anticipated. The area is unsuitable for grazing and visitor use is limited. All of the small wilderness areas allocated in the Kolob area north and east of the National Park are two small by themselves to qualify as wilderness. They do have wilderness characteristics, in many cases greater than larger areas; it should make it easier for the BLM to manage the group than it would be if there was only an isolated wilderness designation in the area.