

Appendix C

A portion of the draft San Rafael Transportation Management Plan showing the use of the ROS primitive criteria by the BLM as partial justification for closing a road.

3. Specific Areas Requiring Decisions

The following areas repeatedly came up during the public participation phase and while preparing this plan. The heightened interest in these places was evident from the 400+ letters received from the public, statements by Emery County officials and the comments from the working group prior to the draft plan's publication.

a) Muddy Creek - Hidden Splendor Mine North to WSA Boundary

This portion of the canyon would be closed to OHV travel due to the following conflicts:

- Over one half of this route is in ROS P class and is closed by the RMP
- Motorized use is found to be incompatible with other users due to noise in the confined canyon. Such use can be heard in portions of the adjacent ROS P class area.
- The WSA boundary is less than 2 miles away upstream. Delineation of that boundary would be difficult to maintain and intrusions impossible to monitor.
- Riparian areas must be crossed.
- The RMP identified this segment of Muddy Creek as eligible for designation as a Wild River. Future suitability could be affected if vehicles utilized that corridor.

The *ROS Users Guide* specifies that roads should be no closer than three miles for the "P" class and at least one-half mile for SPNM class (page 18). This area appears to have roads closer than that, if this closure is not enacted.

The canyon is a popular hiking area and provides access to several other remote canyons. Currently intrusions into the WSA by motorized vehicles are a common occurrence due to the easily traversed, unmarked boundary. Marking it closed to OHV use at the point where the road enters the Muddy Creek Canyon would be the most manageable location.

The RMP (pages 91-92) and Bureau policy requires maintenance, restoration or enhancement of riparian and aquatic habitats.