

Guidelines for documenting

The BLM is required to keep a constantly-updated inventory of possible Wilderness Characteristics of the lands it manages; however it is not required to manage the land to maintain “wilderness characteristics”. **It may consider other uses as a priority over protecting “wilderness characteristics.”** Similarly, management plans for ACECs are still in-process and subject to revision.

The BLM is allowed - in fact, encouraged - to accept input from the public with regard to wilderness inventories and environmental concerns. We believe most of the input in support of the areas proposed as Lands Managed to Maintain Wilderness Characteristics (LWC) and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in the draft document was submitted by members of the public. **It is important for members of the public to offer input on the other side of the question too.** If you believe your claims have non-wilderness characteristics, we encourage you to document the non-wilderness in the same way that “wilderness” is documented: using the form on the other side of this page, which is taken from BLM Manual 6310: Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands (Public). Include photographs and a detailed location of the photographs, preferably using UTM coordinates. Examples of features to photograph include buildings, mine workings, other obvious artifacts of human activity, and roads. If your claims are located on lands that may be classified as ACEC, the BLM needs to know similar information.

Also document **other characteristics** that might take priority over “wilderness” for management. **Most especially, document mineralization or evidence for mineralization (alteration).** For alteration and mineralization, other pre-existing reports may also serve as documentation; for example, NI 43-101 Technical Reports, publications by the Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology or the USGS, or similar.

BLM Manual 6310 and Instructional Memorandum explaining its use may be downloaded from the internet at:

- http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/wo/Information_Resources_Management/policy/blm_manual.Par.38337.File.dat/6310.pdf
- http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/wo/Information_Resources_Management/policy/blm_manual.Par.52465.File.dat/6320.pdf

In the draft Resource Management Plan, LWC are discussed in Section 3.2.12, beginning on page 3-128. ACEC are discussed in Section 3.4.1, beginning on page 3-187.

Additionally, your active mining claims convey to you some pre-existing rights including **the right of access**. Be sure to check the Travel Management Area maps (Figs 2-62 to 2-69 in Appendix A) and descriptions to see if you will still be able to access your holdings without undue restrictions on travel. Tell the BLM if you would be shut out by any of the land management alternatives.

Feel free to contact any of the signers of this letter for additional input regarding documenting and commenting.