

NORTH STANSBURY WSA

VOLUNTEER MONITORING ORIENTATION:

WSA Citizen Monitoring Coordinator:

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BLM Field Office Location and Phone Number

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Setting and Terrain

North Stansbury WSA is a part of the north-south trending Stansbury mountain range located in Tooele County, Utah approximately 40 miles west of Salt Lake City. This publicly owned parcel of land consists of 10,480 acres managed by the Utah BLM Salt Lake City Field Office.

Situated just north of the Deseret Peak Wilderness and south of the Great Salt Lake, the North Stansbury range rises above the desert between two valley floors with elevations varying between 5,200 feet along the northern base of the range and up to 8,800 feet on the southern end. Dimensionally, it is roughly six miles long from north to south and three miles wide from east to west consisting of steep V-shaped canyons that increase in elevation from north to south. Vegetation consists primarily of juniper-conifer forests with different elevations providing for distinct growth zones. Lower elevations are covered with typical juniper and sagebrush scrublands while higher elevations see wild rose, service berry and mountain mahogany. According to BLM, there are approximately 180 species of wildlife inhabiting the area including cougar, bobcat, deer, grouse, raptors, and cottontails. Both the golden eagle and bald eagle are commonly found in the North Stansbury range as well as Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep which were re-introduced into the area between 2005 and 2008.

With its sweeping views of the Great Salt Lake and Wasatch Mountains and relatively easy access, this area provides prime opportunity for an enjoyable wilderness outing, particularly during spring when the mountainsides are aglow with early wildflowers. Slightly more than 98% of the proposed wilderness area is considered natural and has ample opportunities for solitude and recreation.

BLM Management Strategy

North Stansbury WSA is managed in accordance with BLM Manual 6330 – Management of Wilderness Study Areas (WSA). Since WSAs are areas that have been recommended to Congress for potential designation as wilderness under the Wilderness Act, the guiding requirement of managing WSAs is the “non-impairment” principle. BLM is directed by policy to prevent any activities that would impair or degrade the area’s suitability for future consideration as designated wilderness. This means that BLM must prevent activities that are neither temporary or would create a new surface disturbance within the WSA.

In the practical sense, this management strategy involves preventing the placement of new permanent structures. Construction of new trails or vehicle routes is prohibited. Motorized and mechanized activities are not permitted except on valid, existing routes authorized within the WSA. Vehicular or mechanical cross country travel is strictly forbidden except in emergencies. Commercial activities are also restricted. Landing aircraft is prohibited.

Permissible activities would include camping, backpacking, rock climbing, skiing, caving, hunting, and other primitive pursuits. Installing bolts for climbing is not allowable. Activities such as mountain biking, geocaching, rock hounding, gold panning, and aerial activities like hang gliding or paragliding may be permissible as long as they do not create new surface disturbance or establish the precedent of a new discretionary use in a WSA where it did not previously exist. Prior authorization to conduct non-primitive, mechanized, or surface disturbing activities must be obtained from BLM.

BLM has an active grazing allotment within the Muskrat Canyon Area from June through October. Impacts caused by grazing are permitted during that time.

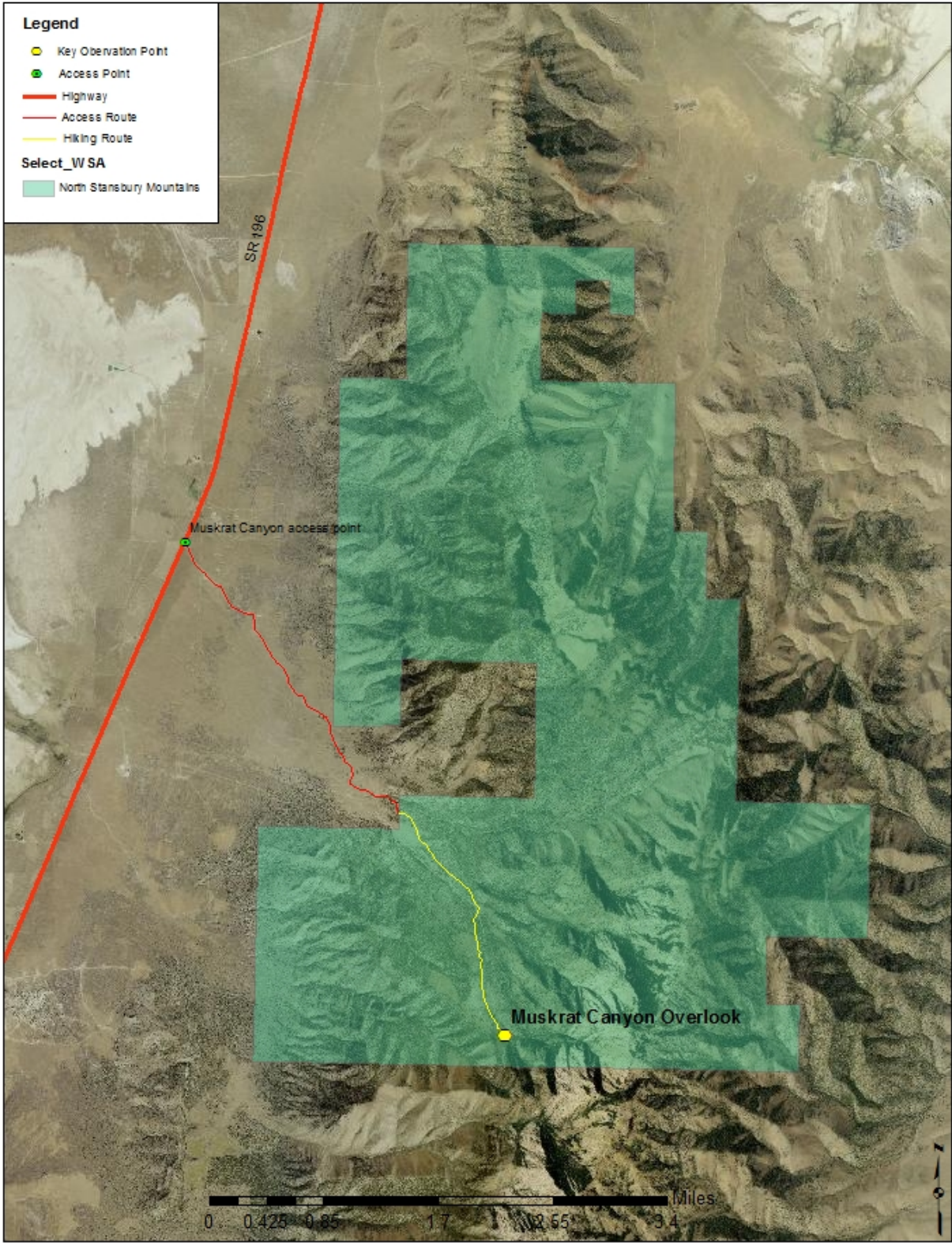
Monitoring Areas and Key Observation Points (KOP's)

Monitoring areas are general routes or areas within a WSA. Key Observation Points are exact locations within a Monitoring Area where surface disturbance or visitor use is concentrated and has been identified as a point of particular monitoring interest. The following is a list of the monitoring area, and the KOP associated with the Monitoring Area. Muskrat Canyon has been identified as the monitoring area of focus for the North Stansbury WSA. Within this monitoring area is one KOP, the coordinates of which are given in Table 1, and identified in the Figure 1 map.

Table 1: Monitoring Area - Muskrat Canyon

Key Observation Point (KOP) Name	Decimal Degrees		Degrees, minutes, seconds	
	Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude
Canyon Overlook	40.60973	-112.63152	40° 36'35.06"N	112° 37'53.28"W

Figure 1: North Stansbury Key Observation Point



The area is used extensively by hunters during deer and upland game bird seasons and by hikers and sightseers at other times of the year. The North Stansburys offer an excellent opportunity to escape the crowds while remaining within easy reach of the Salt Lake area.

Access Routes and Transportation

Vehicle access to the North Stansbury Mountains is easiest from Interstate 80 heading west out of Salt Lake City. Take the Rowley Dugway exit 77, six miles east of Delle and follow the road approximately 5 miles south. The road is located just past mile marker 31 on the east side. There are two gates leading to the BLM signage located approximately ¼ mile up the gravel road. These gates may be closed, but should not be locked. The route up Muskrat Canyon (in the southwestern section of the property) allows limited OHV use; however, all other road and trail access in the WSA is similar to a regular designated wilderness: no mechanized or motorized vehicles are allowed. About 2.8 miles up the rough and rocky road is a fence delineating the WSA boundary where the hiking route begins. Be sure to close the gate after crossing into the WSA. The main route up Muskrat Canyon to the desired observation point is just over 2 miles. The central and southern portions of the Stansbury Mountains are more easily reached from the east side of the range, south and west of Grantsville.

Transportation to and from North Stansbury WSA will be the responsibility of volunteers. Travel to Muskrat Canyon WSA boundary requires vehicles that have moderate to high clearance. It is advised that volunteers park wherever the route appears too rough to safely drive. It is also recommended that all vehicles be equipped with at least one spare tire, tools, and supplies to deal with emergencies.

Water Availability

No reliable water sources are available in the WSA. Be sure to bring adequate amounts when hiking and monitoring in the area.

Services and Facilities

There are currently no services or facilities provided in the WSA; however, due to its close proximity to Interstate 80 and Grantsville, access to food, fuel, and emergency services is relatively easy.

Communications

Cell phone service is generally available throughout the WSA depending on your provider. Phone access is also available in nearby Grantsville.

Signing

Portal signs and visitor kiosks have been placed at strategic access points off of main routes along the WSA. The WSA boundary at the end of authorized vehicle routes, fiber-glass carsonite signs and posts have been placed to notify the public that motorized access is not permissible beyond that point. Monitors should report damage of signs to BLM on the monitoring form.

Resource Issues

While there are currently no pressing resource concerns, illegal OHV use, particularly during hunting season when the WSA experiences its greatest visitation is a potential issue. Sign vandalism and litter are also concerns primarily during hunting season and holiday weekends.

Safety Recommendations

The following table of safety recommendations should be adhered to before and during monitoring visits. Volunteers should never compromise their personal safety for the sake of monitoring. Be vigilant at all times about the weather, terrain, and personal physical condition. It is best to prepare for monitoring by using a checklist for pre-trip packing. Be sure you have sufficient shelter, clothing, equipment, food, water (1 gal/person/day), light, first aid, and survival gear for existing conditions. Be sure to wear bright colors (specifically orange) during hunting season. Table 5 below summarizes the potential hazards volunteers may experience in the field, and recommended measures to manage the hazards.

Table 2: Risk Management

Hazard: Slipping, tripping or falling on rocky or uneven terrain.
Control measure: Be aware of conditions. Wear lug soled boots with good ankle support. Walk, don't run. Side step down hill. Carry hand tools on downhill side. Measure implemented through: tailgate sessions. Reminders prior to monitoring visit.
Hazard: Snakes, insect bites, bees, encounters with wild animals and poisonous plants.
Control measure: Walk slowly through brush. Be aware of surroundings. Wear long sleeved shirts, long pants, and leather boots. Avoid scented lotions. Know your plants. Carry medication if allergies exist. Avoid attracting predators and other hazardous wildlife by keeping a clean camp. Be bear aware and know how to react if encountered by bears or other wild animals. Measure implemented through: training on poisonous plant and animal encounters. Seasonal reminders.
Hazard: Unsafe tool use
Control measure: If using hand tools, make sure handles are in good condition. If handles are cracked, broken, or have mushroom heads, do not use. Keep axes and other cutting tools sharp. Chop away from body. Wear gloves, boots. Wear goggles to prevent eye injury. Measure implemented through: Use tools for purpose intended. Wear personal protective equipment. Proper training prior to use.
Hazard: Cuts, scrapes and splinters from fencing and/or barrier materials
Control measure: Use gloves, long sleeved shirts, long pants and boots. Keep first aid kit close by. Measure implemented through: Volunteer focus on monitoring rather than maintenance. Use tools for purpose intended. Wear personal protective equipment. Proper training prior to visit
Hazard: Sprains, strains from hiking, lifting loads, swinging tools, etc.
Control measure: Use caution crossing uneven terrain. Use proper lifting techniques. Avoid twisting if

swinging tools. Wear boots when digging with spade or posthole diggers. Use legs not back to lift and carry tools or supplies to work site. Measure implemented through: Use tools for purpose intended. Wear personal protective equipment. Proper training prior to use. Hike with a group or in pairs.
Hazard: Weather related illness or injury. Extreme heat or cold.
Control measure: Monitor weather closely. Wear clothing suited to weather. Carry and drink plenty of water. Know signs of heat stroke, heat exhaustion, frostbite, hypothermia and know how to treat. Measure implemented through: Check weather forecast prior to going to the field. First aid course recommended.
Hazard: Lightning or thunderstorm.
Control measure: Monitor weather closely and watch for approaching storms. Get to vehicle if possible. Stay away from trees, metal object and high ground. Measure implemented through: Check weather forecast prior to going to the field. First aid courses recommended.
Hazard: Flash flood
Control measure: Monitor weather closely when travelling in slot canyons as flash flood danger can be high and roads become impassable when wet. Watch flow in streams and washes, do not enter or cross if water is rising. Measure implemented through: Check weather forecast prior to going to the field. First aid courses recommended.
Hazard: Confrontation with verbal and/or abusive public.
Control measure: Do not engage in confrontation. Walk away. Use radio or cell phone communication to contact BLM or Law Enforcement if needed. Measure implemented through: Share contact information prior to each monitoring visit.
Hazard: Lost, missing, or overdue volunteer
Control measure: Leave a trip itinerary and your return time with your coordinator, friends, and/or family. Plan routes in advance and minimize deviation. Carry both hard copy maps, and gps units. Familiarize volunteers with monitoring location and equipment. Travel with a group or in pairs. Regroup at predetermined times and locations. Measure implemented through: All volunteers will be instructed on the WSA's, monitoring locations, and proper use of maps/navigational equipment through trainings and informational sheets.
Hazard: Motor vehicle breakdown or accident
Control measure: Scout the route. Drivers and vehicles should not attempt to drive into areas beyond their capabilities. Provide volunteers with vehicle safety checklist. Check weather forecast prior to going to the field. Relate vehicle requirements (4WD, high clearance, etc.) based on access route conditions to volunteers. Provide emergency contact information. Measure implemented through: Training provided to volunteers and through the use of tail gate safety sessions.

Monitoring Goals

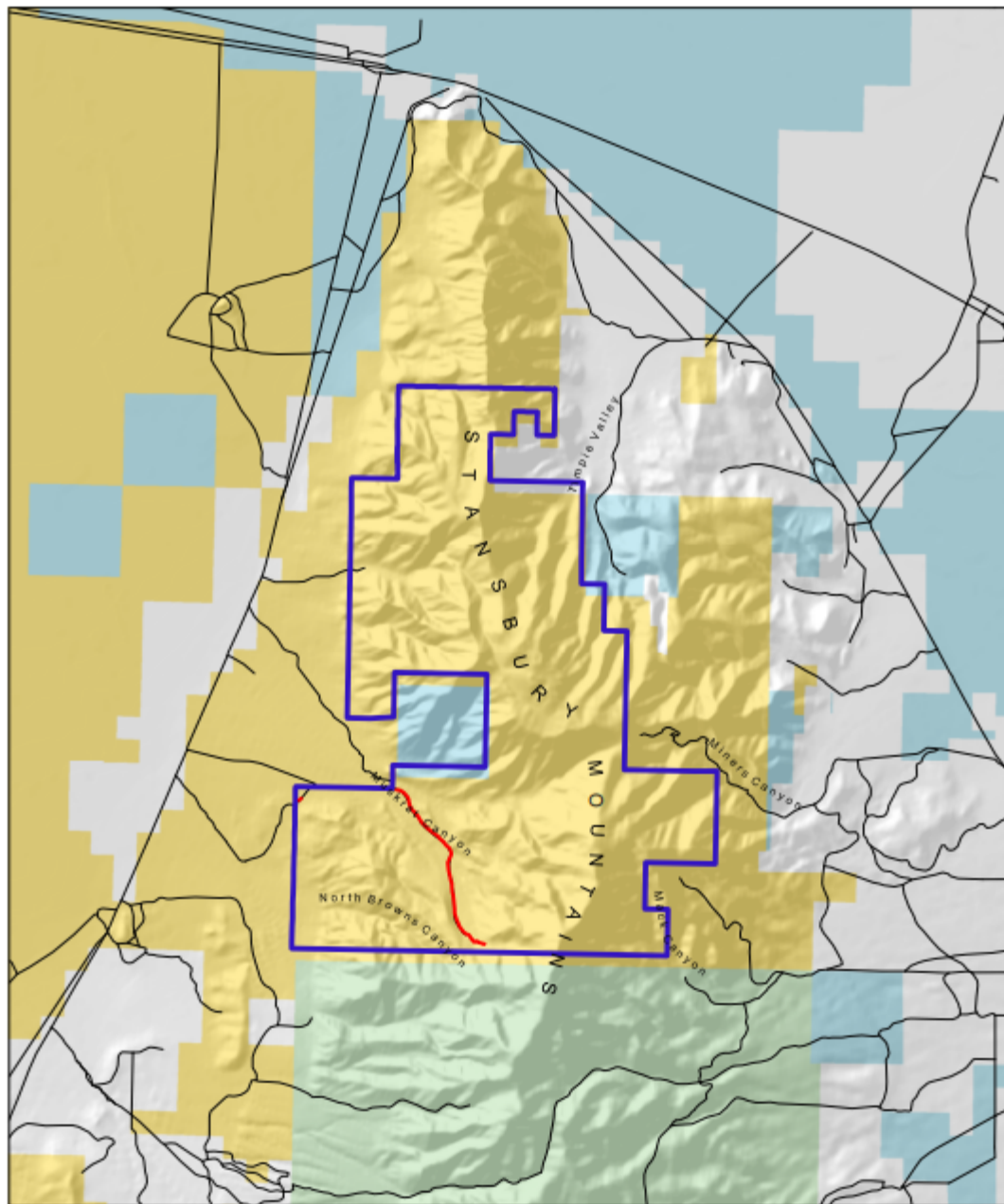
- Monitor existing vehicle routes for widening, significant deterioration, or motorized use beyond closure points. Provide photos and GPS points at key locations. Report all violations observed. If you witness illegal activity, avoid any conflict and only attempt to get identifying information (license plates and photos) if you feel it is safe.
- If possible, rake out vehicle tracks found beyond closed routes to a point where they are no longer visible from the closure point. Place dead vegetation across closed routes to provide camouflage.
- Document and report signs that have been damaged or need replacing.







- Document and pack out modern trash or debris whenever possible. Objects that may be historic or older than 50 years should not be disturbed.
- Deconstruct fire rings found in the backcountry.
- Document with photos and GPS any permanent structures or surface disturbance found away from existing routes.
- Photograph outstanding scenery and wildlife that you encounter.
- Enjoy yourself and have fun. Take pride in your contribution to public land conservation.

Maps

The map below shows an overview of the entire North Stansbury WSA and designated routes. BLM can provide more detailed topographic maps and directions to a particular area upon request.

NORTH STANSBURY WILDERNESS STUDY AREA



-  Open Routes in the WSA
-  North Stansbury WSA
-  State
-  Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
-  Forest Service
-  Private

Scale 1:50,000
Contour Interval 40 ft.



Bureau of Land Management
Salt Lake Field Office



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