

WHITE ROCK 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

The White Rock WSA is a part of the greater White Rock Mountains, a pristine north-south oriented mountain range that straddles the border of east-central Nevada and western Utah. The WSA is 3,767 acres in size and lies on the boundary of Beaver and Iron counties in western Utah approximately 50 miles west of Cedar City. Originally, the White Rock WSA was 24,065 acres in size and existed throughout Nevada and Utah with the majority of land being in Lincoln County, Nevada. However, in 2004, the Nevada portion was designated as Wilderness under the Lincoln County Conservation Recreation Development Act. The remaining WSA land exists solely in Utah and is managed by the Cedar City BLM Field Office.

The WSA and adjacent lands consist of gentle mountain terrain with associated foothills and bench lands. Many side canyons and drainages exist throughout the range offering vast opportunity for exploration. Vegetation consists mostly of pinyon-juniper woodland and fir depending on elevation which ranges from approximately 6,200 to over 9,000 feet. Interspersed throughout the area are numerous small grassy meadows where springs support riparian vegetation. Notable wildlife found in the White Rock WSA include cougar, bobcat, badger, jackrabbit, along with several bird and reptile species, as well as a small elk herd and mule deer.

The White Rocks are primitive in the most literal sense. Virtually untouched by human activity, the area has the capacity to accommodate large numbers of visitors while still maintaining solitude due to the heavy tree cover and jumbled mountain topography. The volcanic nature of the geology results in strangely beautiful peaks that tower above a sea of green trees offering expansive views of surrounding basins and ranges. Solitude, lands unaffected by outside

influences, and the opportunity for primitive recreation combine with the abundance of natural springs to make this area an ideal destination for the avid outdoorsperson.

BLM Management Strategy

The White Rock 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 allowed. 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.

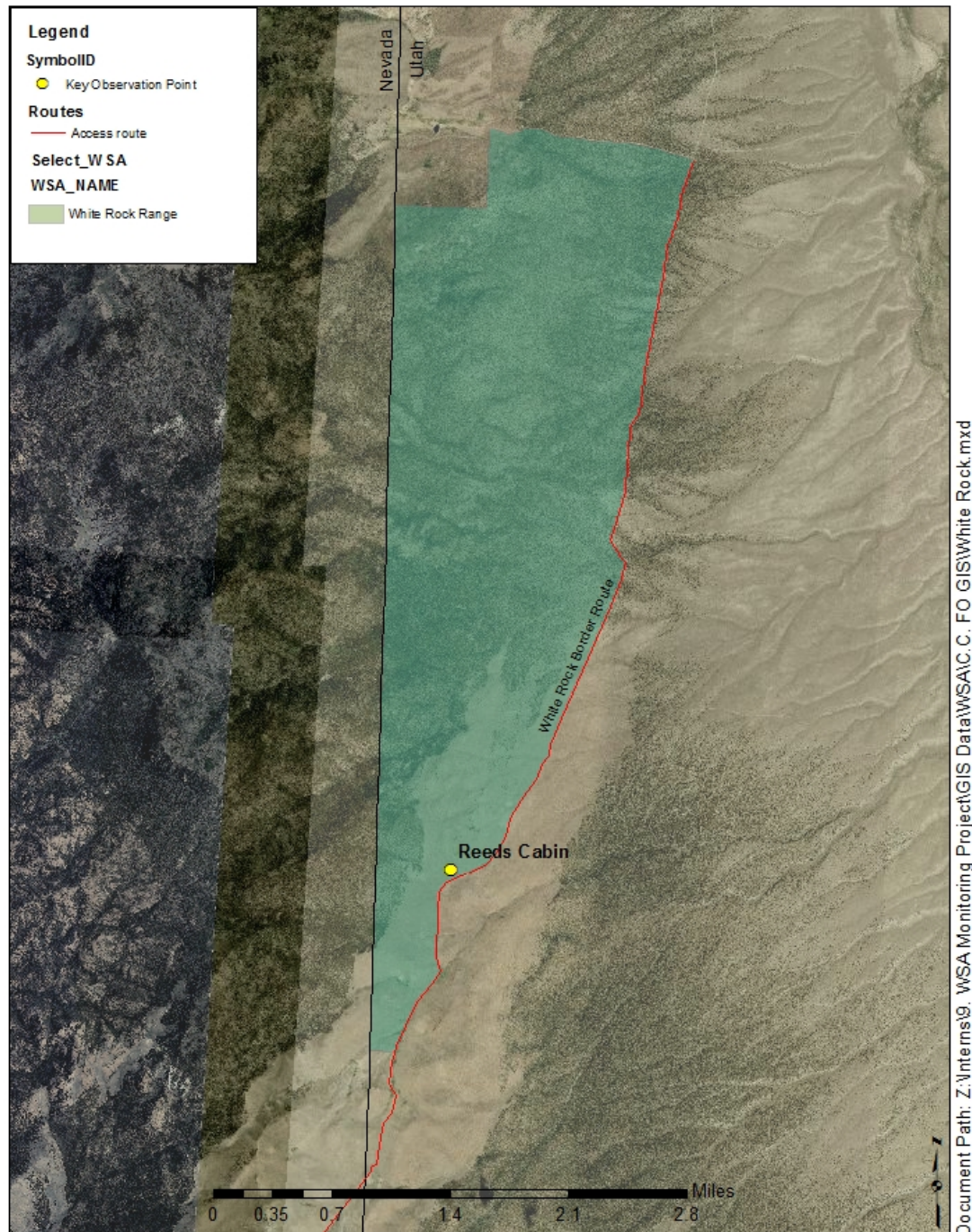
Monitoring Areas and Key Observation Points

Monitoring areas are general areas, trails, or routes within a WSA. Key Observation Points (KOP’s) are exact locations of significant management interest. KOP’s could be of significant management interest because they are high-use, experience surface disturbance, or provide a viewpoint where pictures of the landscape can be taken to track impacts and/or changes to habitat over time. The following is a list of the Monitoring Area of the White Rock Range WSA, and it’s associated KOP. White Rock Range WSA has one Monitoring Area – the eastern border route, and one KOP. The exact GPS coordinates for the KOP is listed in the following table, and displayed in Figure 1:

Table 1: Monitoring Area – Eastern Border

Key Observation Point (KOP) Name	Decimal Degrees		Degrees, minutes, seconds	
	Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude
Reeds Cabin	38.164583	-114.041661	38° 09'52.58"N	114° 02'30.0" W

Figure 1: White Rock Range Key Observation Point



Access Routes and Transportation

White Rock WSA is best accessed from Cedar City, and is approximately an 85 mile drive from the Cedar City I-15 exit. To reach the White Rock WSA, drive west on Highway 56 approximately 51 miles to the town of Modena. From Modena, take the following route to reach the White Rock WSA, and Key Observation Point.

- At the intersection of Highway 56 and Modena's Main Street/Modena Canyon Road, take a right, and travel north, 4.5 miles to the first intersection.
- Keep to the left at the intersection, and continue 9.9 miles north to the next intersection.
- Make a left at the intersection (1600 N Rd), and travel 1.0 miles west.
- Make a right hand turn (13600 W Rd). Travel north on this road for exactly 9.4 miles.
- Make a left hand turn onto the dirt road, and travel the winding road west, for 6.2 miles to a Y intersection. (Traveling past two other dirt road intersections to your left).
- Stay to the left at the Y intersection, and continue 1.0 miles.
- You will merge with a road on your left hand side. Continue on this road 2.68 miles. At this point, you should be near the Reeds Cabin KOP entrance.

This road travels north along the WSA boundary. Although this boundary and Reeds Cabin KOP have been identified as the only areas of monitoring focus due to the extremely low visitation to the WSA, volunteers are encouraged to monitor this boundary, as well as explore other parts of the WSA. From the roadway boundary, several trails can be used to access various parts of the WSA. Reeds Cabin KOP is located off of the eastern boundary roadway, near the southern boundary.

Transportation to and from the White Rock WSA will be the responsibility of volunteers. All vehicles should be equipped with at least one spare tire, tools, and supplies to deal with emergencies. High-clearance 4WD and all-terrain tires are recommended for all vehicles but are not necessarily required. Contact the Cedar City BLM office at (435) 865-3000 for current road and weather conditions before venturing into the WSA.

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 the location of all signs and current condition to BLM.

Water Availability

There are several springs available throughout both the WSA and adjacent wilderness area as well as two seasonal mountain lakes.

Services and Facilities

No services are available in the WSA or in the nearby town of Modena. Food, gas, water, and other supplies should be purchased in Cedar City (50 miles away) before traveling to the WSA.

Communications

Cell phone coverage in the White Rock WSA is spotty at best. Use of satellite phones or SPOT locators is the only reliable means of communication with the outside world. Local residents in Modena and Cedar City have phones that you could request the use of in an emergency.

Resource Issues

The main resource concerns in the WSA are illegal OHV use, BLM sign vandalism, and litter. Pay particular attention to signage that has been removed. The area is also a popular hunting destination as deer and elk are numerous.

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 2 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.
- Rake out any 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.
- 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 White Rock WSA and designated routes. BLM can provide more detailed topographic maps and directions to a particular area upon request.

Wilderness Study Areas in Utah - Whiterock Range

