

Devils Canyon

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
8,800	1,140	9,940 (64%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
4,820	800	5,620 (36%)
Inventory Unit Total		
13,620	1,940	15,560
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Devils Canyon WSA (UT-060-025)		9,610
Link Flats ISA		

Most of the two Devils Canyon inventory units (9,940 acres) have wilderness characteristics, although four specific locations (5,620 acres) are not natural appearing in the landscape and lack wilderness characteristics. Three of these unnatural areas are in Unit 1, with the fourth occurring in Unit 2, including lands in the vicinity of the Copper Globe Mine. Clyde and Neils stock pond and the short access road extending to it, as well as two constructed vehicle ways, have been cherry-stemmed out of the units. While both Units 1 and 2 contain a few other old mining scars and vehicle ways, none are substantially noticeable in the landscape. The inventory units contain the lower portion of Devils Canyon from its mouth near South Salt Wash almost to Devils Canyon Spring. As an extension of the Devils Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA), the units offer outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The Highway I-70 Scenic Corridor Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) lies to the north of the unit; this ACEC was established in 1991 to protect significant scenic values.

DEVILS CANYON—A road separates the Devils Canyon inventory units from the Muddy Creek-Crack Canyon inventory units.



Jerry Sintz

Unit Description

The Devils Canyon inventory units are located in Emery County near the heart of the San Rafael Swell. They are bounded by Interstate 70 on the north, Kimball Draw Road on the south, Copper Globe Road on the east, and South Salt Wash Road on the west. The Devils Canyon WSA and Link Flats Instant Study Area are adjacent. The central and defining feature of this area is Devils Canyon, a steep-walled canyon twisting through vertical exposures of beautifully cross-bedded sandstone. This canyon forms a deep gash in the crest of the San Rafael Swell. A small riparian area meanders intermittently through the canyon bottom, while the ridges and uplands are dominated by piñon and juniper woodlands. Extending out from the ridges toward the outer edges of the units, the woodlands give way to open savannahs, desert shrublands, and badlands. Scattered throughout the units are buttes, knobs, and mesas, which combine to create a varied and interesting landscape. Livestock grazing occurs throughout these units, and mineral exploration and extraction have occurred in the western and southwestern portions.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

Four specific locations (5,620 acres) are not natural appearing in the landscape and lack wilderness characteristics. Three of these are in Unit 1. The Tea Brush Flat area contains numerous intrusions, including a constructed airstrip and numerous constructed vehicle ways. The area between Devils Canyon WSA and Interstate 70

contains numerous constructed vehicle ways, seismographic survey lines, a large gravel pit and haul road associated with the construction of Interstate 70. And a constructed road is located on the narrow ridge between Kimball Draw and the southern boundary of Devils Canyon WSA. The fourth unnatural area is in Unit 2; it includes lands in the vicinity of the Copper Globe Mine. Clyde and Neils stock pond and the short access road extending to it, as well as two constructed vehicle ways, have been cherry-stemmed from the units. While both Units 1 and 2 contain a few other old mining scars and vehicle ways, none of these are substantially noticeable in the landscape.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The Devils Canyon inventory units are contiguous to and are an extension of the Devils Canyon WSA, which provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. In combination with this WSA, the inventory units also provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area's deeply incised canyons, rugged terrain, and moderate-to-dense stands of piñon and juniper woodland provide remote and natural-appearing settings for those wishing to explore this seldom-visited region.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The Devils Canyon inventory units are contiguous to and are an extension of the Devils Canyon WSA, which provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. In combination with this WSA, the inventory units provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The area's deeply incised canyons, rugged terrain, and moderate-to-dense stands of piñon and juniper woodland provide remote and natural-appearing settings for those wishing to explore this seldom-visited area. Visitors will likely follow wash bottoms or piñon-covered ridges; these frequently open up into savannah-like settings and sometimes end abruptly at dramatic slick-rock exposures.

Supplemental Values

In addition to the flora and fauna common to the San Rafael Swell, the Devils Canyon inventory units are a refuge for two species of endangered plants: the Maguire's Daisy and Wright's scelerocactus. The Highway I-70 Scenic Corridor ACEC lies to the north of the unit; this ACEC was established by the BLM in 1991 to protect significant scenic values.

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