

Cedar Mountains

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
15,540	0	15,540 (95%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
800	0	800 (5%)
Inventory Unit Total		
16,340	0	16,340
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Cedar Mountains WSA (UT-020-094)		50,500

These six units are extensions of the Cedar Mountains Wilderness Study Area (WSA). About 15,540 acres of the Cedar Mountains inventory units have wilderness characteristics. However, a portion of Unit 1 (800 acres) lacks naturalness because of noticeable disturbances from three mining areas. The boundary of Unit 6 has been drawn to exclude a substantially noticeable corral and water development, and roads and water developments at the ends of those roads have been cherry-stemmed from Units 3 and 4. The six units enhance the outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation found within the adjacent Cedar Mountains WSA. In addition, Unit 1 has supplemental values related to a historic trail.

Unit Description

The Cedar Mountains inventory units are in Tooele County about 50 air miles southwest of Salt Lake City. They are made up only of public lands; no state lands are included. There is a 40-acre private inholding near the northern boundary of Unit 3. The units are contiguous to the 50,500-acre Cedar Mountains WSA on the north, east, and west. Human uses include mining, livestock grazing, and hunting. There is some evidence of woodcutting on the west slope of the mountain range.

The six-unit area comprises the crest of the Cedar Mountains near Hastings Pass, the foothills on the east flank of the mountain range, a single section in the mountains near Quincy Spring, a 40-acre parcel on the west slope of the mountain range, and a single section on the lower slopes of the west flank of the mountain. The higher and more rugged portions of the Cedar Mountains Range are included in the existing WSA. Vegetation at the higher elevations is a continuation of the juniper forest common in the WSA, with

patchy juniper forest occurring on cooler and moister north slopes, along mountain drainages, and along ridges. Recent fires have thinned this forest in many locations. Sagebrush and other shrubs and grasses are found at lower elevations.

Wilderness Characteristics Naturalness

Most of the units appear natural. Portions of Units 1 and 6, however, are unnatural because of past mining activity and live-stock management facilities. Three areas of past mining activity have left a portion of Unit 1 unnatural. The boundary of Unit 6 has been drawn to exclude a substantially noticeable corral and the remnants of a water tank. Unit 2 has two vehicle ways, but they are substantially unnoticeable and do not impact the natural character of the unit. Unit 3 has nine vehicle ways, a cherry-stemmed road, three stock ponds, three troughs, and three fences. These features are not substantially noticeable and do not impact naturalness in Unit 3. The road and adjacent water developments have been cherry-stemmed from Unit 3. A cherry-stemmed road to Quincy Spring crosses the WSA into Unit 4. The road, buried pipeline, and spring development have all been cherry-stemmed from Unit 4. Unit 5 is natural.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The units are contiguous to the Cedar Mountains WSA, which has outstanding opportunities for solitude. From north to

south, the WSA extends about 20 miles and includes over 50,000 acres. The size of this WSA, coupled with mountainous topography and drainages, provides many places for the visitor to be free from the sights, sounds, and presence of other people.

The Cedar Mountains inventory units themselves generally include gently sloping topography covered primarily with shrubs and grasses. While the terrain of the units is open, the addition of these “lower slopes” enhances the existing opportunities for solitude found in the upper reaches of the mountain range within the WSA.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The units are contiguous to the Cedar Mountains WSA, which has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, including the opportunity to view wild horses. In addition, the WSA provides opportunities for deer and upland game hunting, hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding and packing. The variety and combination of these activities make the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation outstanding. The addition of the six units’ “lower slopes” enhances the outstanding opportunities found within the WSA.

Supplemental Values

Hastings Cutoff through Hastings Pass at the northern end of Unit 1 was once the path taken by travelers using the historic California Trail. The Hastings Cutoff segment of the California Trail was the route taken by the Donner Party on their fateful journey to California. The California Trail is a designated National Historic Trail.

CEDAR MOUNTAINS—The lower slopes of the Cedar Mountains enhance the wilderness values found in the adjacent Cedar Mountains WSA.



Cedar Mountains

