

North Stansbury Mountains

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
6,800	1,240	8,040 (78%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
2,300	0	2,300 (22%)
Inventory Unit Total		
9,100	1,240	10,340
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
North Stansbury Mountains WSA (UT-020-089)		10,480

About 8,040 acres of the three North Stansbury Mountains inventory units have wilderness characteristics. Units 1 and 3 appear natural. They contain some vehicle ways, but these routes are returning to a natural condition and are substantially unnoticeable in the inventory unit as a whole. There is also some evidence of past mining and a cabin in Unit 3, but these features do not significantly detract from the natural character of the unit. However, only a portion of Unit 2 is natural; about 2,300 acres of Unit 2 do not have wilderness characteristics. The juniper forest in the northern portion of Unit 2 has been treated and seeded to grassland, and this part of the unit also contains numerous developments. All three units provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation in conjunction with the contiguous North Stansbury Mountains Wilderness Study Area (WSA).

Unit Description

The North Stansbury Mountains inventory units are in the northeastern quadrant of Tooele County about 40 miles west of Salt Lake City and 5 miles southeast of Timpie. They encompass the typical desert-locked, north-to-south trending mountain range that is so common in the Great Basin. The three units are all contiguous to the North Stansbury Mountains WSA. Unit 1 is contiguous to the north

end of the WSA, while Units 2 and 3 are contiguous to the WSA on the west and east, respectively. There is private land within the boundary of the inventory units that is accessed by a cherry-stemmed road. Elevations in the inventory unit range from 4,200 feet to 7,600 feet. The northern section is steep, rugged, and sparsely vegetated. Vegetation is predominantly juniper from the base of the mountains to the higher elevations, while grasslands and sagebrush occupy the gently sloping western foothills. The eastern side of the inventory units consists of steep juniper-covered hills, with grasslands on the gentler slopes. Douglas fir, spruce, pine, and aspen grow at the higher elevations of Miners Canyon in Unit 3.

Human uses of the units include outdoor recreation activities such as hunting, camping, and off-highway vehicle (OHV) driving; livestock grazing; removal of sand, gravel, and rock materials; woodcutting; and some mining assessment access to old mine claims.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

Units 1 and 3 are natural in character, with the evidence of humans substantially unnoticeable. While Units 1 and 3 contain several vehicle ways, natural restoration is taking place and the routes are substantially unnoticeable. There is also some evidence of old mines and an old house in Unit 3, but these developments do not substantially detract from the natural character of the unit. Three of the five portions of Unit 2, however, are unnatural. Much of the juniper woodland in the northern three portions of the unit has been treated or burned by fire and seeded to grasslands. In addition, these parts of Unit 2 have noticeable intrusions, including a road,

eight vehicle ways, fences, power lines, stock tanks, wildlife guzzlers, water wells, borrow pits, and numerous OHV trails. The southernmost and eastern portions of Unit 2, however, do retain their natural character.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The North Stansbury Mountains WSA provides outstanding opportunities for solitude, given topography and vegetation that screen visitors from the sights and sounds of others and the outside world. Rugged canyons and heavily wooded north slopes provide an outstanding sense of isolation and seclusion. The topography and vegetation found in the WSA continue into the inventory units, enhancing opportunities for solitude throughout.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The combination of opportunities to hike, hunt, ride horses, photograph outdoor subjects, collect rocks and minerals, and camp provides outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation in the WSA. In conjunction with the WSA, the same combination of outstanding primitive recreation opportunities exists within the inventory units.

Supplemental Values

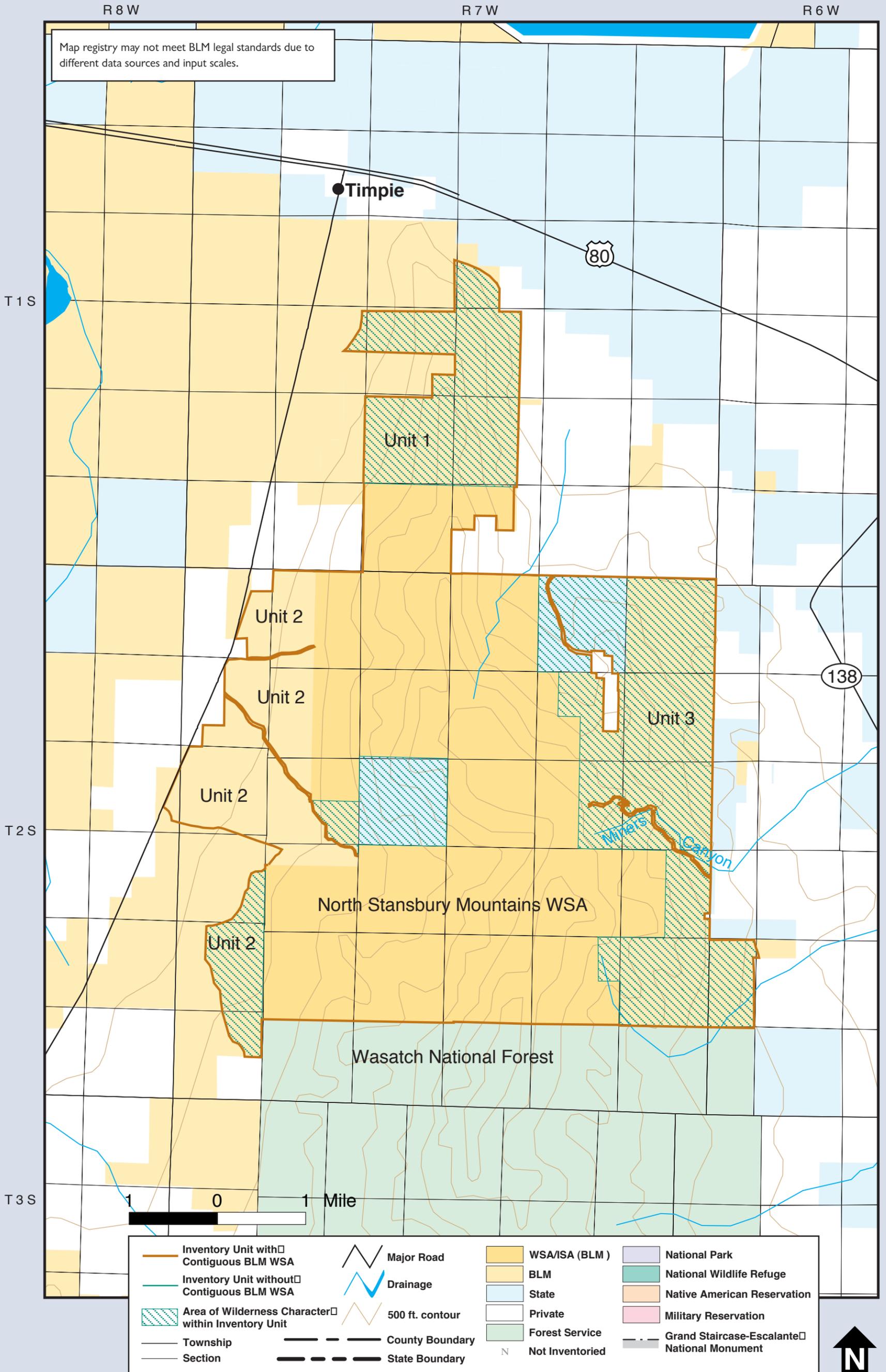
Unit 3 has evidence of old mines that may have historical significance. Ecological values are clearly displayed as the units rise through a spectrum of at least three vegetation life zones. Units 1 and 3 contain a number of scenic vistas of the surrounding valleys and the Great Salt Lake. Unit 2 is not likely to contain any supplemental values.



BLM photo

NORTH STANSBURY MOUNTAINS—
The inventory units contain a variety of ecological values, with the terrain rising through a spectrum of at least three vegetation life zones.

North Stansbury Mountains



NORTHWEST REGION—North Stansbury Mountains