

# Fish Springs

## Findings

| INVENTORY UNIT ACRES                              |       |              |
|---|-------|--------------|
| Federal   | State | Total        |
| <b>With Wilderness Characteristics</b>            |       |              |
| 6,900   | 2,980 | 9,880 (100%) |
| <b>Without Wilderness Characteristics</b>         |       |              |
| 0   | 0     | 0 (0%)       |
| <b>Inventory Unit Total</b>                       |       |              |
| 6,900   | 2,980 | 9,880        |
| <b>Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics</b> |       |              |
| Fish Springs WSA (UT-050-127)                     |       | 52,500       |

All five of the Fish Springs inventory units (9,880 acres) have wilderness characteristics. The units are in a natural state, and because they are rugged and remote, they offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation only a short distance from boundary roads. The five units are contiguous to the Fish Springs Wilderness Study Area (WSA). They consist of benchlands covered with desert shrubs, along with a scattered piñon and juniper forest. Special features include wildlife and geologic values.

## Unit Description

The Fish Springs inventory units are located in the Fish Springs Range in northwestern Juab County, 60 miles northwest of Delta. The steep and rugged Fish Springs Range is a north-south trending mountain range at the southern margin of the Great Salt Lake Desert that rises abruptly from 5,000 feet in elevation at its base to 8,500 feet at its crest. Vegetation is predominantly shrubs (e.g., sagebrush, rabbitbrush, greasewood, and saltbush) and associated grasses at lower elevations, with piñon and juniper woodlands at higher elevations. White fir trees grow in isolated pockets at higher elevations in the WSA. Historical uses include cattle and sheep grazing, hiking, and climbing.

## Wilderness Characteristics

### Naturalness

All of the Fish Springs inventory units retain their natural character and appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. The numerous side canyons and benchlands are natural in appearance to the casual visitor. Several vehicle ways are in various stages of natural rehabilitation and remain substantially unnoticeable in the units as a whole.

## Outstanding Opportunities

### Solitude

The units provide outstanding opportunities for solitude because the area is remote and the surrounding boundary roads have only infrequent vehicle use. The open, sloping and rolling hills of these benchlands provide a sense of vastness or remoteness, with long viewing distances. Solitude is easily found just inside the boundary of all the units. The surrounding benchlands enhance the outstanding opportunities provided within the steep upper elevations of the Fish Springs WSA.

### Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The units provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, camping, sightseeing, photography, and viewing of geologic formations exist within the units and the adjacent WSA. These opportunities are enhanced by the expansive views from the benchlands of the inventory units, as well as from the top of the Fish Springs Range in the WSA. Visitors gaze across the wide Snake Valley into the Deep Creek Range to the west and across Fish Springs Flat to the Thomas Range and Drum Mountains to the east. The opportunities within the units and the WSA are outstanding because of the diversity of terrain, scenic quality, and range of activities available.

## Supplemental Values

The terrain of the units adds to the geologic values of the adjacent WSA. The Fish Springs Range is a tilted fault block of sedimentary rocks, with bedding plane faults visible in the central part of the WSA.

Bald eagles and peregrine falcons, both of which are endangered species, and golden eagles, a BLM sensitive species, inhabit the area. It is considered crucial year-round habitat for golden eagles. Candidate threatened or endangered species that may occur in the units include the ferruginous hawk, Swainson's hawk, long-billed curlew, western snowy plover, white-faced ibis, and Bonneville pocket gopher. The inventory units have been proposed for the reintroduction of desert bighorn sheep.

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