

Mud Spring Canyon

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
18,600	3,680	22,280 (100%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
0	0	0 (0%)
Inventory Unit Total		
18,600	3,680	22,280
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Mud Spring Canyon WSA (UT-040-077)		38,075

All 22,280 acres of the Mud Spring Canyon inventory units are natural and roadless and retain their wilderness characteristics. The units contain areas of highly eroded badlands and large open spaces where their wilderness characteristics is enhanced by their remoteness. These inventory units each contribute to the wilderness characteristics and physiographic integrity of the contiguous Mud Spring Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA), containing comparable outstanding primitive recreation and solitude opportunities.

Unit Description

The four Mud Spring Canyon inventory units are located in north-central Kane County and south-central Garfield County, about 12 miles east of Cannonville. They lie within the Grand

Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The terrain varies from expansive flats and rolling hills to highly eroded badlands and rugged canyons. Vegetation on the northern unit is ponderosa pine, giving way to piñon and juniper forests mixed with open flats of grass and sage. The units are bounded by roads, the WSA boundary, and legal land boundaries.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

The Mud Spring Canyon inventory units retain their natural character. These units are essentially pristine, and nearly devoid of human impacts. A few impacts—two vehicle ways, a seismic line, and a pack trail—were found to be substantially unnoticeable.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

Unit 1 provides outstanding opportunities for solitude within the area's highly eroded badlands. Opportunities for solitude also occur in the expansive flats and rolling hills of this unit, where vegetative screening is provided by piñon and juniper forests that surround open parks in a remote setting. The remaining units contain rugged topography and vegetative screening that provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude. In addition, the

units are contiguous to the Mud Spring Canyon WSA, which also has outstanding opportunities. Each of these inventory units contains comparable outstanding solitude opportunities.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Portions of the four units offer the same outstanding opportunities for backpacking, horseback riding, hiking, sightseeing, and photography that exist in the contiguous Mud Spring Canyon WSA. These opportunities are reasonable extensions of those found within the WSA. The best opportunities for hiking and geologic sightseeing are experienced by traveling into the badlands north of Dog Flat in Units 1 and 4, and into the head of Headquarters Valley under the pink cliffs of Canaan Peak in Unit 3.

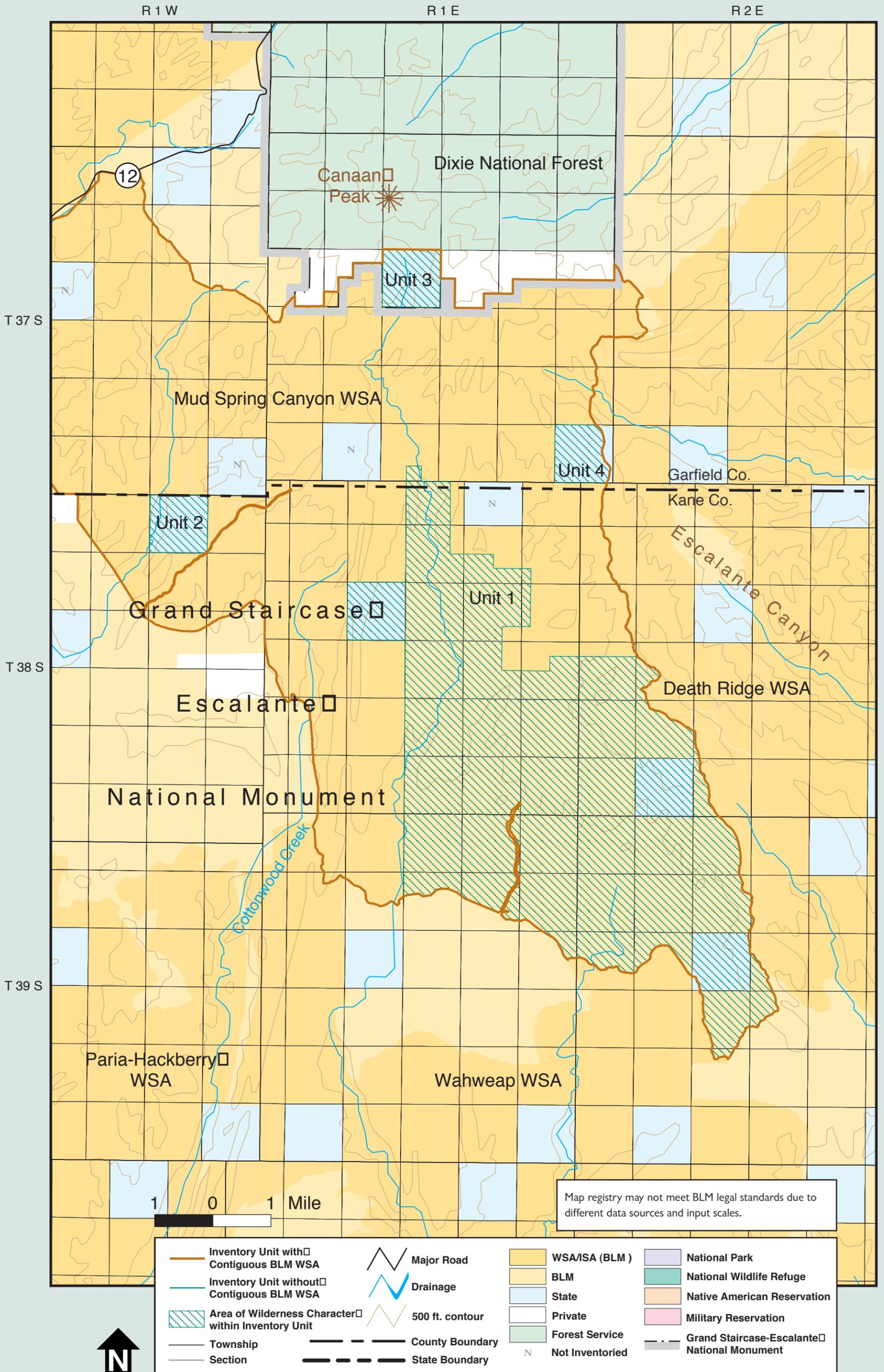
Supplemental Values

All of the main geologic structures of the Kaiparowits Plateau converge in the units and the adjacent WSA, providing visitors excellent opportunities for geologic study and sightseeing. The blue-gray clay rock layers of the Kaiparowits Formation form a series of erosional badlands in Units 1, 3, and 4. Spectacular views of Canaan Peak across the Mud Spring Canyon WSA, unimpeded by any indications of human presence, can be enjoyed throughout large parts of the four units. In some of these views, the pink cliffs in the peak are framed by the concave lines of a northward plunging syncline in the blue-gray rock layers of the Kaiparowits Formation.

MUD SPRING CANYON—A general view showing the inventory unit in the foreground; the Mud Spring Canyon WSA and the jagged sandstone ridge of The Cockscomb syncline are in the background.



Mud Spring Canyon



Map registry may not meet BLM legal standards due to different data sources and input scales.

Inventory Unit with Contiguous BLM WSA	Major Road	WSA/ISA (BLM)	National Park
Inventory Unit without Contiguous BLM WSA	Drainage	BLM	National Wildlife Refuge
Area of Wilderness Character within Inventory Unit	500 ft. contour	State	Native American Reservation
Township	County Boundary	Private	Military Reservation
Section	State Boundary	Forest Service	Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
		Not Inventoried	