

Nipple Bench

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
25,800	3,600	29,400 (99%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
200	10	210 (1%)
Inventory Unit Total		
26,000	3,610	29,610
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
None		

The determination that most of the Nipple Bench inventory unit (29,400 acres) has wilderness characteristics was based upon its outstanding naturalness over most of its area. The canyon rims and open aspect of the unit offer spectacular vistas across steep-walled canyons over 1,000 feet deep. The unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude along the Nipple Bench rim and in two large canyon systems. Opportunities exist for hiking, camping, geologic sightseeing and photography, walks on the Nipple Bench rim, and the viewing of Lake Powell from several points. Taken together, these primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities are outstanding. Two minor areas of the unit (210 acres) lack wilderness characteristics. One portion is near the central area of Nipple Bench, while the other is near the northwest tip of the unit. The cumulative effect of range management developments and stock water structures makes these areas unnatural. Three cherry-stemmed roads penetrate the unit.

Unit Description

The unit is located approximately 60 miles east of Kanab and 20 miles northwest of Page, Arizona, in eastern Kane County. It is within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, with a large plateau, Nipple Bench, dominating the unit's center. This bench lies between the Kaiparowits Plateau to the north and eroded badlands to the south. Nipple Bench is divided by deeply cut canyons separating Haycock Point, Mustard Point, Middle Warm Creek Point, and Baldwin Hollow; each of these points provides striking overviews of Lake Powell to the southeast. The vegetation is a predominantly piñon and juniper woodland on the north end of Nipple Bench, with sagebrush and other high desert shrubs and grasses on the remainder of the bench. The lower canyons and badlands are nearly barren of plants. Current land uses include livestock management and driving various roads and jeep trails to scenic overlooks. Some hunting also occurs.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

Most of the unit retains its natural character. There are 19 vehicle ways totaling 14.6 miles, two off-road vehicle play areas, and four fences, but all of these are substantially unnoticeable in the area as a whole. Many of the vehicle ways are a result of one-time mineral exploration ventures and ongoing grazing management. The vehicle ways associated with mineral exploration extend to drill holes on the Nipple Bench plateau. However, these routes are not maintained and have been naturally reclaiming, and the drill holes are no longer noticeable. The four livestock fences total 2.4 miles. There are two off-highway vehicle (OHV) play areas located on the southern and western boundaries. These two sites consist primarily of clay soils, so wind and rain obliterate OHV tracks in a short period of time. Two small parts of the unit were found to be unnatural because of a collection of livestock management facilities and associated roads. A pipeline, trough, water catchment apron, and several salting sites are located along roads and vehicle ways that extend through the central portion of Nipple Bench.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude, but only in three locations. The large canyon between Haycock Point and Mustard Point and the area called Baldwin Hollow both provide outstanding opportunities because of their size and topographic complexity. High canyon

NIPPLE BENCH—Canyons on the south side of the unit cut into the Nipple Bench plateau, offering access for some of the area's best hiking opportunities.



Jerry Sintz

walls screen visitors from others. The canyon rims along Nipple Bench also provide outstanding solitude when the visitor is distanced from the frequently visited overlooks and roads. Expansive views intensify the feeling of isolation from human activity. However, the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude elsewhere.

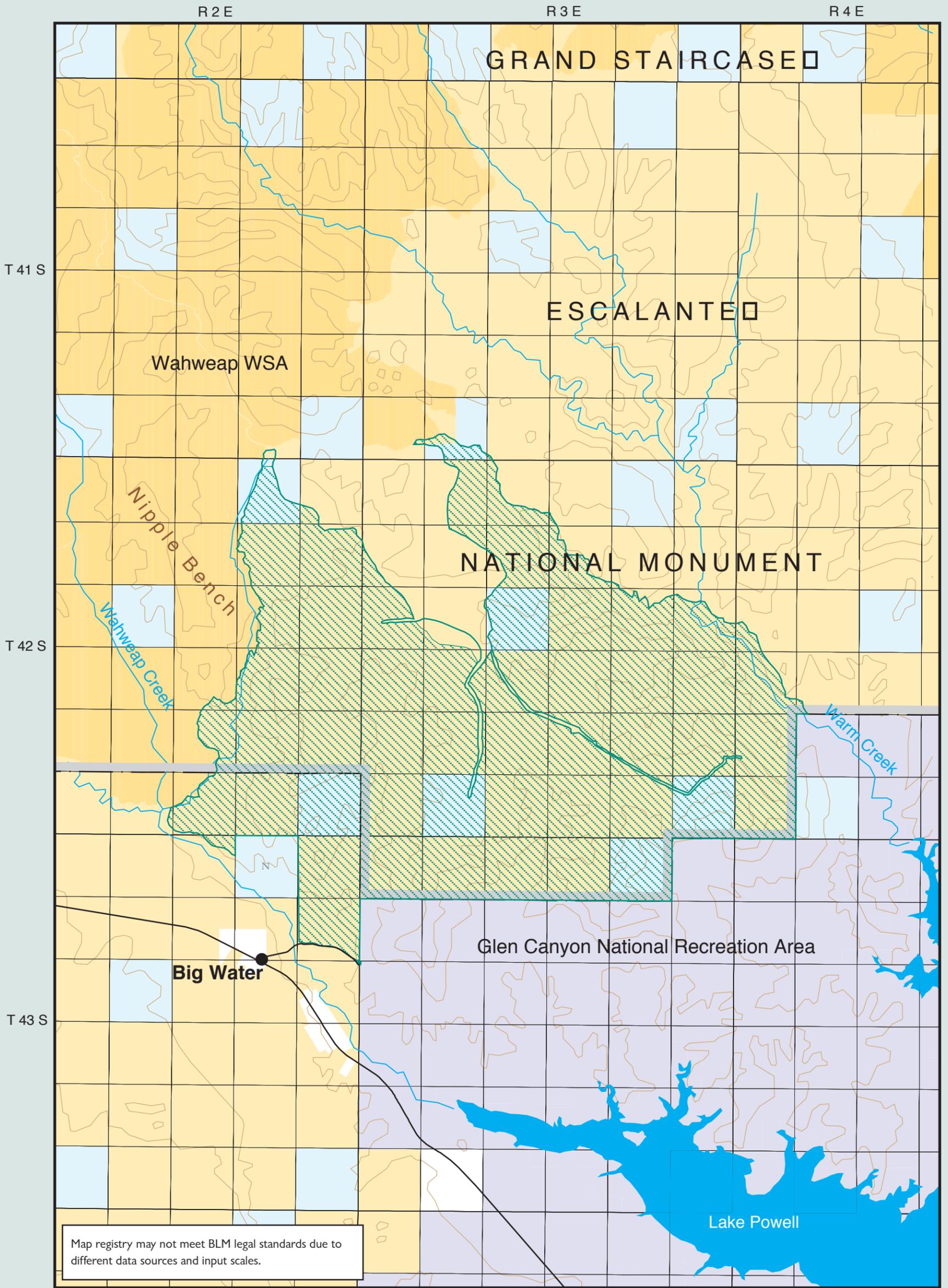
Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities exist for hiking, camping, sightseeing, and photography. Hiking opportunities along the rim of Nipple Bench offer visitors days of splendid and uninterrupted views of the upper canyons within the unit as well as awe-inspiring views of Lake Powell outside the unit. There are also views of Four Mile Bench and the southern portion of the Kaiparowits Plateau, Wahweap Creek, and the Wahweap and Burning Hills Wilderness Study Areas. Hiking opportunities are outstanding in the large canyon between Haycock Point and Mustard Point. However, hiking opportunities are not outstanding in the unit's other canyons, which are short and open.

Supplemental Values

Spectacular views of Lake Powell can be enjoyed from Mustard Point and along the entire southern part of the unit. Views of Four Mile Bench, Smoky Mountain, Navajo Mountain, and the canyon areas of Tippet Bench and Squaw Canyon are also excellent. Archaeological sites from the Anazazi period may be found within the unit. Researchers from the Museum of Northern Arizona have found significant examples of fossilized plants and such vertebrates as turtles, dinosaurs, and crocodiles.

Nipple Bench



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

1 0 1 Mile



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	