

Carcass Canyon

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
27,400	6,440	33,840 (97%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
650	480	1,130 (3%)
Inventory Unit Total		
28,050	6,920	34,970
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Carcass Canyon WSA (UT-040-076)		46,711

The greater portion of six out of the seven Carcass Canyon inventory units (33,840 acres) have wilderness characteristics. These areas are natural in appearance and nearly free of human intrusions. Only minor human impacts, including some old seismic lines and grazing developments, are present. The six units with wilderness characteristics are similar to, and largely inseparable from, the contiguous Carcass Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The units with wilderness characteristics include the upper or lower reaches of principal canyons within the bordering WSA, so many of the outstanding solitude and primitive recreation opportunities provided by the WSA's canyon and rim-rock topography continue into the six units.

However, all of Unit 2 and small parts of Units 1, 3, 4, 5, and 7 (1,130 total acres) have been impacted by human activity and are unnatural. These areas contain chainings, stock ponds, corrals, fences, roads, seismic lines, oil drill pads, and an off-road vehicle (OHV) play area. More than six miles of roads and vehicle ways have been cherry-stemmed from the units.

Unit Description

The units are located almost entirely within Garfield County. The western Units (1-6) are in the northern Straight Cliffs portion of the Kaiparowits Plateau and contain vegetation ranging from piñon pine and juniper forests on the plateaus and benches, to ponderosa pine and riparian vegetation in the labyrinthine canyons. Unit 7 consists primarily of sagebrush and grassland-covered benchlands and mesas. The benches at the foot of the Straight Cliffs in this unit are distinctive in color and varied in topography, adding striking contrast to the towering scenic backdrops of the WSA. Well-known features like the large Cedar Wash Arch, the Covered Wagon Natural Bridge, and several segments of the historic Hole-in-the-Rock Trail are also in Unit 7. All of the units receive some hunting use. Portions of

Units 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 have been chained and seeded for livestock grazing. Cattle grazing also occurs in the western units, primarily on the chained and seeded areas. The eastern portion of Unit 7 is used extensively for grazing cattle. Some past seismic exploration has occurred in Unit 4.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

Unit 6 is pristine, and most of Units 1, 3, 4, 5, and 7 are natural even though they contain some widely scattered and inconspicuous fences, earthen stock reservoirs, corrals, salting locations, overgrown seismic lines, and about 18 miles of lightly used vehicle ways. However, these features, both individually and collectively, are substantially unnoticeable in the area as a whole. Unit 2 is completely chained and is therefore not natural. Small portions of Units 1, 3, 4, 5, and 7 are also unnatural. Units 1, 4, and 5 have chained areas. The Hardhead stock tank and excavation are located in Unit 3. Lands generally south of the Cedar Wash Road in Unit 7 are natural. However, Unit 7 has been affected by human activity near Escalante, by chainings in the Cedar Wash area, by roads and stock developments, and by recreation intrusions.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The western units include the same combinations of topographic screening, landforms, vegetation, and relative isolation from human activity that provide opportunities for solitude in the contiguous

WSA. Furthermore, Units 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 all contain outstanding solitude opportunities on their own, given their dense woodlands, deep canyons, and rugged uplands. Visitors have opportunities to seek secluded spots equal to those in the WSA. The southeast portion of Unit 7 contains outstanding opportunities for solitude in the bench and mesa areas because of topographic and vegetative screening. However, opportunities for solitude diminish in the Ten Mile and Seep Flat areas and are not of the caliber provided by the contiguous WSA. These lands are open and exposed, lacking vegetative cover and topographic screening. Opportunities are also poor on the Unit 7 lands near the town of Escalante.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The western Units (1, 3, 4, 5, and 6) offer outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, photography, and sightseeing similar to opportunities provided within the WSA. Outstanding opportunities for exploring, hunting, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, photography, and sightseeing are also individually and cumulatively challenging and rewarding in Unit 7.

Supplemental Values

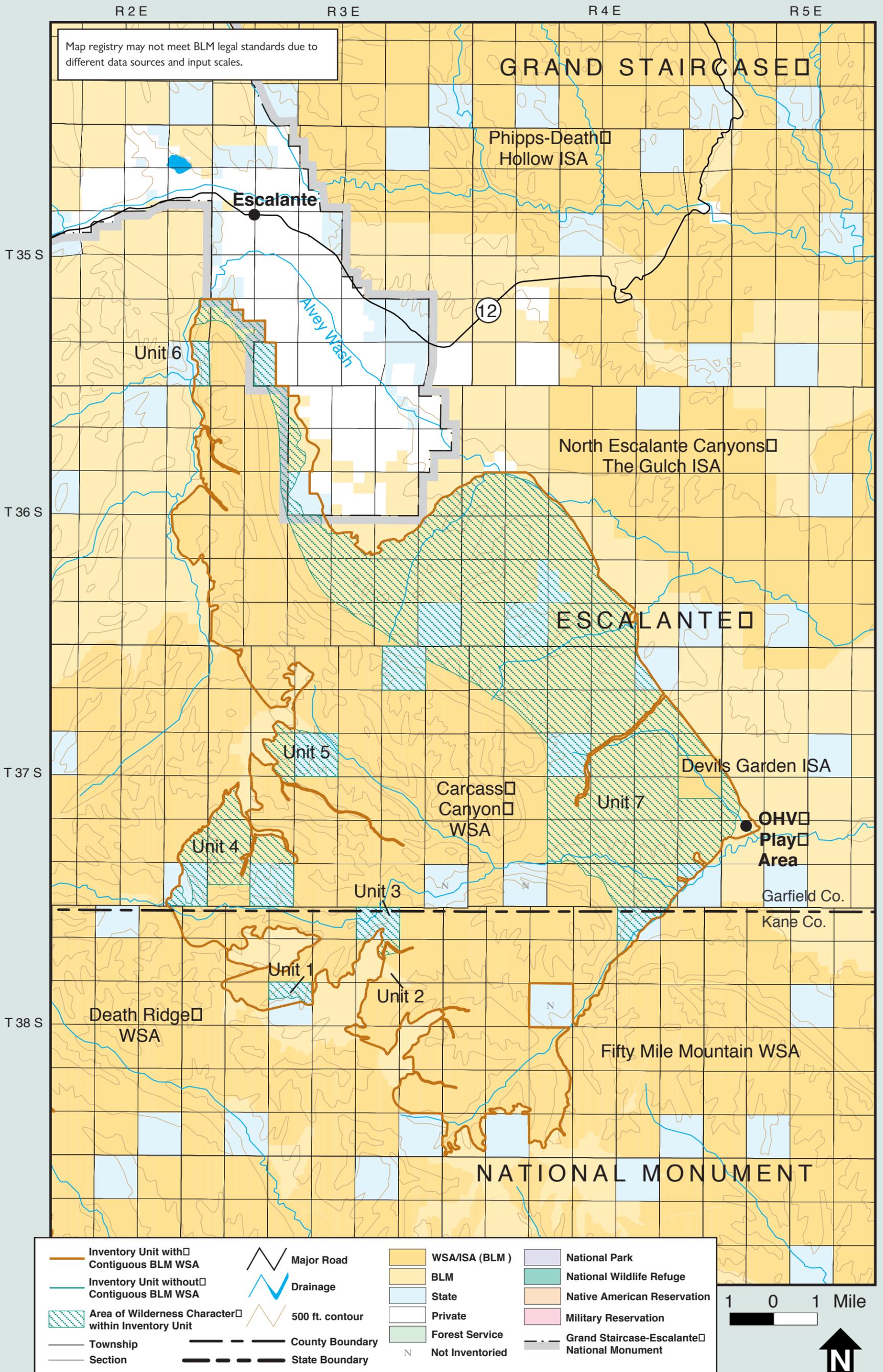
Some of the smaller canyons, benches, and plateaus are quite breathtaking. The benches at the foot of the Straight Cliffs in Unit 7 are colorful and varied, adding contrast to the towering cliffs to the west. The large Cedar Wash Arch, the Covered Wagon Natural Bridge, and several parts of the historic Hole-in-the-Rock Trail are all within Unit 7. Several archaeological sites have been recorded: open campsites, lithic scatters, petroglyphs, and cave habitation sites. Some paleontological values also exist.

CARCASS CANYON—Piñon and juniper woodlands and grassland flats of Unit 7 add striking contrast to the Carcass Canyon WSA's distinctive and colorful Straight Cliffs in the background.



Jerry Sintz

Carcass Canyon



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION—Carcass Canyon