

Lost Spring Canyon

Findings

| INVENTORY UNIT ACRES | | |
|---|-------|--------------|
| Federal | State | Total |
| With Wilderness Characteristics | | |
| 11,770 | 1,900 | 13,670 (92%) |
| Without Wilderness Characteristics | | |
| 1,150 | 100 | 1,250 (8%) |
| Inventory Unit Total | | |
| 12,920 | 2,000 | 14,920 |
| Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics | | |
| Lost Spring Canyon WSA (UT-060-131B) | | 3,380 |
| Arches National Park—Devils Garden Unit | | 18,069 |

Portions of the Lost Spring Canyon inventory units (13,670 acres) have wilderness characteristics. The portions with wilderness characteristics are contiguous either to the Lost Spring Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA) or the Devil's Garden unit in Arches National Park, which has been administratively endorsed by the National Park Service (NPS) for wilderness. The portions with wilderness characteristics are logical extensions of either the WSA or the NPS area and are separated by roads into eight units.

A portion of Unit 8 does not meet the naturalness criteria. Units 9-12 are on the fringe of the inventory area and are impacted by a combination of roads, a pipeline right-of-way, and a highly visible, bladed seismic exploration line. These four small units do not have wilderness characteristics. Altogether, a total of 1,250 acres lack wilderness characteristics.

Unit Description

The Lost Spring Canyon inventory units are located in Grand County about 15 air miles north of Moab. The western units are northeast of the Devils Garden section of Arches National Park. The northern group of units is just north of the Lost Spring Canyon WSA, while the eastern units are northeast of the Delicate Arch area of Arches National Park.

In the western portion, Cordova Canyon and Cottonwood Wash join Salt Wash, which flows into the WSA. The major features of the northern portion are Fish Seep Draw and the upper reaches of Lost Spring Canyon. Features in the eastern part include Winter Camp Ridge, Winter

LOST SPRING CANYON—

The portions of the inventory unit with wilderness characteristics are contiguous either to the Lost Spring Canyon WSA or the Devil's Garden Unit of Arches National Park, enhancing the wilderness values already recognized in these two areas.

Camp Wash, and the western portion of the Dome Plateau.

Vegetation in the western portion consists of low-growing desert shrubs and sagebrush, with some cottonwood, tamarisk, and other riparian species in the canyon bottoms. The northern and eastern portions support piñon and juniper woodlands, Indian ricegrass, and Mormon tea, with riparian species in the drainage bottoms.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

Eight units are generally natural in appearance. Although separated from the other units by roads, each unit is contiguous to areas recommended for wilderness in Arches National Park or the Lost Spring Canyon WSA. Units 1-8 are generally natural in character, with the following exceptions. The boundary of Unit 1 has been drawn to eliminate an area of mining disturbance north of Cordova Canyon. The northern boundary of Unit 5 has been drawn to exclude two large stock ponds. Unit 8 has been divided into a northern section that is generally natural in character and a southern section that has lost its natural character because of disturbance from oil and gas exploration and road development. The road to Lipiquino Water has been cherry-stemmed from Unit 8.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

All eight units with sufficient size and natural character have outstanding opportunities for solitude in conjunction with contiguous areas in Arches National Park or the Lost Spring Canyon WSA. Units 2 and 8 have outstanding opportunities for solitude on their own. In Unit 2, Cordova Canyon and Salt and Cottonwood washes, with their deep canyons and relatively

thick riparian vegetation, provide ample opportunity for seclusion. Unit 8 includes the southern flank of Winter Camp Ridge, Winter Camp Wash, and the piñon and juniper woodlands of the Dome Plateau. This topographically complex area, with its many sandstone outcrops and drainages, has many secluded locations. Unit 5 has some opportunities for solitude in Fish Seep Draw with its shallow drainages and scattered woodlands. However, Units 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7 are all less than 400 acres and have outstanding opportunities for solitude only in conjunction with contiguous areas.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Units 1-8 have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in conjunction with contiguous NPS lands or with the Lost Spring Canyon WSA. Units 2 and 8 have outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation on their own. Unit 2, which includes Cordova Canyon and parts of Salt Wash and Cottonwood Wash with their scenic sandstone walls, has outstanding opportunities for hiking and photography. Unit 8 has several water sources and scenic sandstone outcrops, creating outstanding opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and photography.

Supplemental Values

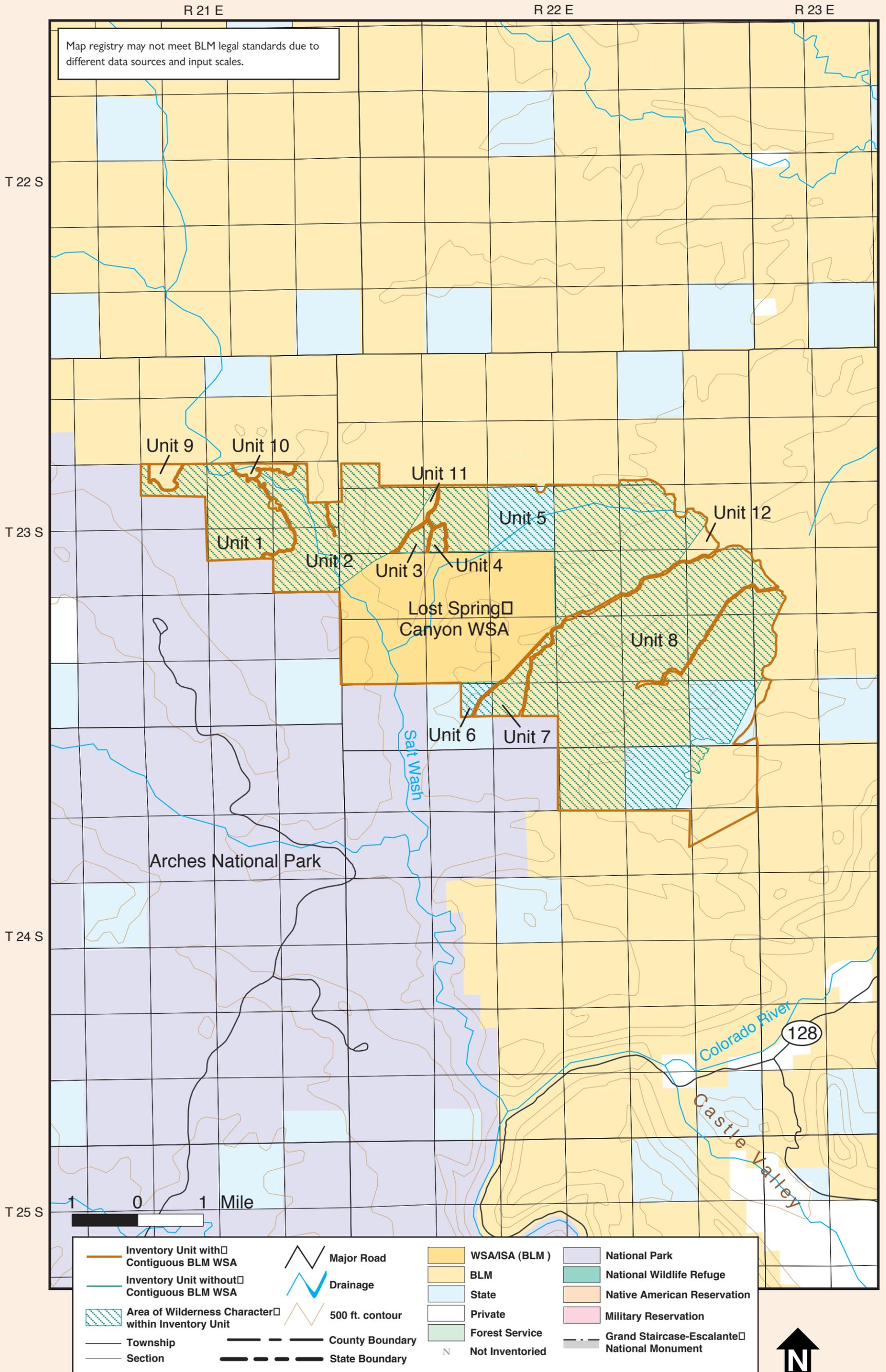
Units 2 and 8 have features of scenic interest. Unit 2 includes parts of three canyon systems with salmon-colored sandstone walls. The cottonwood trees in Cordova Canyon provide color contrast. Unit 8 includes a number of Entrada Sandstone domes and fins. Jug Rock in Unit 7 features several deep pothole formations. Peregrine falcons and mountain lions, along with four animal and five plant species considered sensitive, may inhabit the Lost Spring Canyon WSA. Some of these species may utilize portions of the inventory area.

Note: This report does not reflect the Arches National Park Expansion Act of 1998 (PL 105-329). Signed by the President on October 30, 1998, this Act authorizes the transfer of 3,140 acres of BLM land to the National Park Service. The transfer involves portions of the Lost Spring Canyon WSA and Units 2, 3, 4, and 5.



BLM photo

Lost Spring Canyon



SOUTHEAST REGION—Lost Spring Canyon