

Parunuweap Canyon

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
5,500	2,290	7,790 (64%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
3,500	800	4,300 (36%)
Inventory Unit Total		
9,000	3,090	12,090
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Canaan Mountain WSA (UT-040-143)		47,170
Parunuweap Canyon WSA (UT-040-230)		30,800

Eight of the nine Parunuweap Canyon inventory units are contiguous to the Parunuweap Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA), while one unit is contiguous to both the Parunuweap Canyon and Canaan Mountain WSAs. About 7,790 acres of the inventory units have wilderness characteristics, while 4,300 acres do not.

The portions of the units with wilderness characteristics are natural and include scenic canyon rims, thickly wooded piñon and juniper benchlands, and stands of ponderosa pine. Landforms, topography, and wilderness opportunities are similar to what is offered within the contiguous WSAs. These natural landscape extensions are apparent in Unit 6; this unit's primary feature is the dramatic sandstone monolith of Harris Mountain and Harris Point, which occupies the northern portion of Unit 6 and continues into the Parunuweap Canyon WSA. Unit 7 includes the upper headwaters of Rock Canyon, while Unit 4 includes a segment of Mineral Gulch. Both scenic canyons are main tributaries of Parunuweap Canyon, with stands of ponderosa pine.

The areas lacking wilderness characteristics are unnatural. Utilized primarily for woodcutting, they are blanketed with slash debris and traversed with substantial vehicle ways.

Unit Description

The Parunuweap Canyon inventory units are located in Kane County about 20 miles northwest of Kanab. Four of the units are located north of Parunuweap Canyon, while the other five are south of the canyon. The units are defined by private land boundaries, roads, well-defined vehicle ways, and the Parunuweap Canyon WSA. Unit 9 also borders the Canaan Mountain WSA and Zion National Park.

The terrain consists of canyon rims and drainages, separated by flat benchlands of sagebrush or thick piñon and juniper woodlands. The southern extension of Rock Canyon, a tributary of Parunuweap Canyon, cuts through Unit 7. Scattered throughout the inventory units, especially within Rock Canyon are pockets of ponderosa pine and sandstone outcroppings. The most prominent feature in the inventory units is Harris Mountain, a topographic formation that extends into the Parunuweap Canyon WSA.

The units are currently used for woodcutting, big game hunting, camping, cattle grazing, and off-highway vehicle (OHV) and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) driving.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

Six of the nine inventory units contain natural lands where the evidence of human activity is substantially unnoticeable. Unit 5 is pristine, while Units 6, 7, and 8 have natural character throughout, even though they contain insignificant human imprints like 4 miles of fence line and 2.9 miles of minor seldom-used vehicle ways. Unit 9 is mostly natural, although part of the unit is unnatural because of intrusive vehicle ways and grazing developments. Over half of Unit 4 is natural; the remainder is unnatural due to chainings.

Unit 1 is dominated by human activity, mainly vehicle ways, evidence of woodcutting, deer camps, OHV travel, grazing, vegetation chainings, and mineral exploration. Units 2 and 3 are entirely unnatural because of mining and/or woodcutting.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The natural portions of Units 4, 6, 7, and 9 offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Each unit has varied topographical relief and dense vegetative cover consisting of piñon and juniper woodlands and ponderosa pine. Visitors are well-screened from others in these four units. The natural portions of Units 1, 5, and 8 offer outstanding opportunities for solitude in conjunction with the contiguous portions of the Parunuweap Canyon WSA.

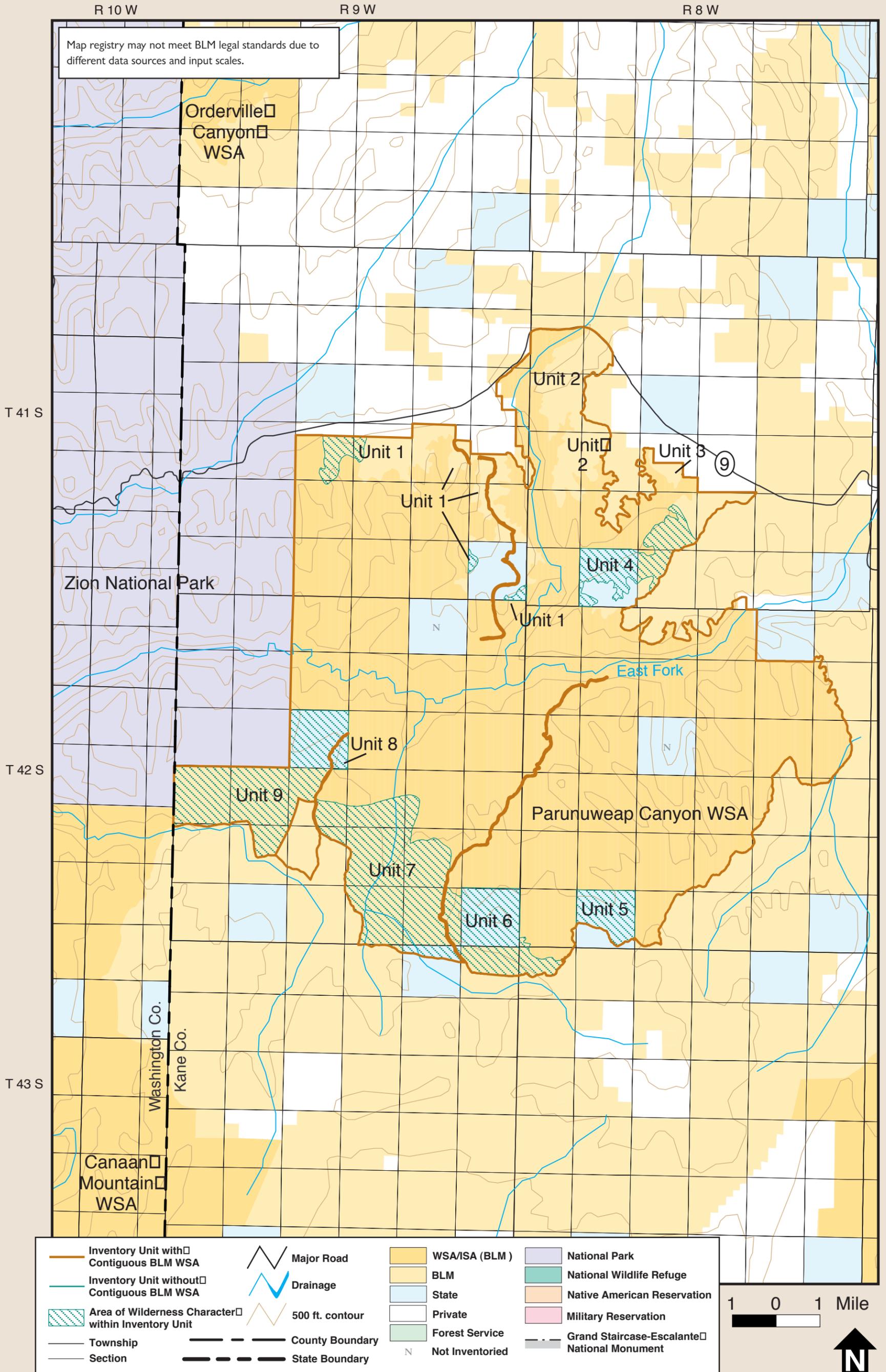
Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The natural portion of the inventory units provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation when considered in conjunction with the contiguous WSAs. In addition, opportunities for primitive, dispersed recreation within several of the units are outstanding on their own. Units 4, 7, and 9 offer challenging opportunities, especially for deer hunting. The Rock Canyon area of Unit 7 also offers challenging opportunities for hiking and backpacking.

Supplemental Values

The units provide scenic overviews into Parunuweap Canyon from Units 4, 6, 7, and 9. From Harris Point in Unit 6, the scenic vistas encompass Zion National Park, the White Cliffs, and Bryce Canyon to the northeast. The canyon walls and ridges are extensions of the same formations that make up Zion National Park. Diverse plant life can be found in the inventory area. It is likely that the units, which are part of the Parunuweap Canyon complex, also support cultural values.

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SOUTHWEST REGION—Parunuweap Canyon