

Swasey Mountain

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
13,800	5,520	19,320 (97%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
350	300	650 (3%)
Inventory Unit Total		
14,150	5,820	19,970
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Swasey Mountain WSA (UT-050-061)		49,500

About 19,320 acres of the six Swasey Mountain inventory units have wilderness characteristics. Most of the units are in a natural condition, with little or no evidence of human presence. However, about 650 acres in Units 3 and 4 are unnatural and lack wilderness characteristics because of camping impacts, historical developments, a buried waterline, corrals, and commercial mining of fossils. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are outstanding throughout the area. Remoteness, rugged terrain, and vegetation all combine to provide outstanding opportunities to be isolated from others. The inventory units have outstanding opportunities for a variety of primitive and unconfined types of recreation, including hiking, climbing, hunting, camping, and sightseeing, with interesting scenery, geology, caves, and wildlife all contributing to the experience. The units' scenic and geologic features supplement their wilderness values.

Unit Description

The Swasey Mountain inventory units are located in northwestern Millard County in western Utah about 35 miles west of the community of Delta. The contiguous Swasey Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA) is approximately 17 miles long north to south and 12 miles wide east to west. The inventory units border the WSA on the west, south, and east sides. Vegetation consists of sagebrush and associated species on the lower slopes, but a dense piñon and juniper woodland covers most of the inventory units. At higher elevations there is white pine, Douglas fir, limber pine, ponderosa pine, aspen, and bristlecone pine. Land uses include cattle grazing, caving, hunting, camping, hiking, and other primitive forms of recreation. Opportunities for fossil collection in the Antelope Springs Trilobite Area are outstanding.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

Most of the Swasey Mountain inventory units retain their natural character. Vehicle tracks, vehicle ways, and campsites associated with hunting are present but are substantially unnoticeable. Portions of Units 3 and 4 are unnatural in character because of surface disturbances created by camping, historical developments, a buried waterline, corrals, and the commercial mining of fossils.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The inventory units provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Steep, rugged terrain, the many canyons, and the dense piñon and juniper woodland all provide screening to separate visitors from each other. The scenic views from many high points in the area enhance feelings of isolation. Remoteness, terrain, and vegetation all contribute to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The inventory units have outstanding opportunities for a variety of primitive and unconfined types of recreation. There are opportunities for hiking, climbing, hunting, camping, and sightseeing, given the area's scenery, geology, caves, and wildlife. The panoramic vistas further enhance these opportunities.

Supplemental Values

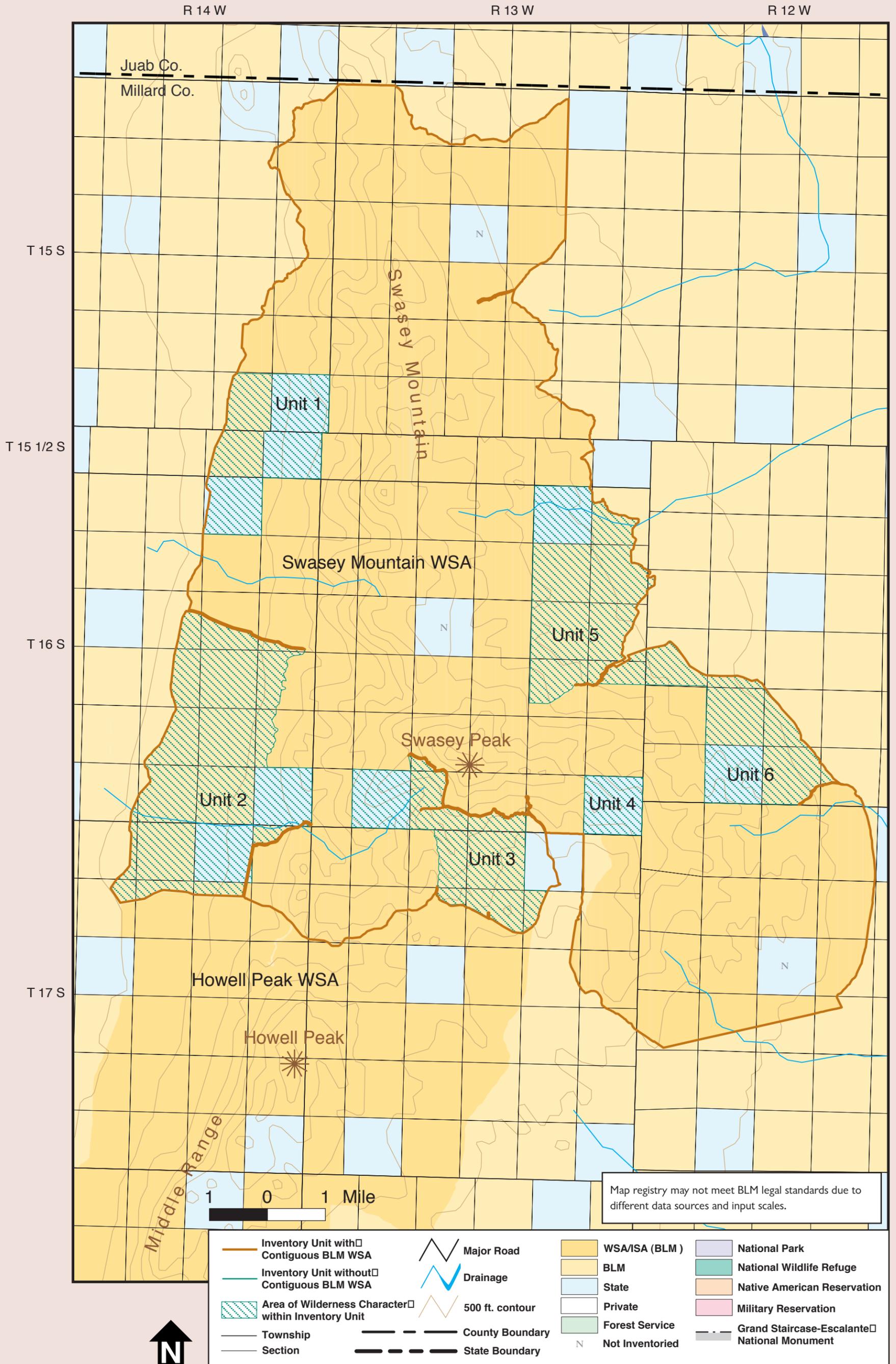
The inventory units contain outstanding scenery and geologic features. From the area's high points, visitors are treated to panoramic vistas of the surrounding desert lands. There are seven known limestone caves within the area, and many more may exist. According to a Smithsonian Institution report, the Antelope Springs Trilobite Beds in the southern portion of the inventory units are "the most outstanding field for gathering fossils of the Cambrian geologic era in Utah and one of the most outstanding fields in the United States."

SWASEY MOUNTAIN—A general view of the inventory units with the Swasey Mountain WSA in the background.



BLM photo

Swasey Mountain



WEST CENTRAL REGION—Swasey Mountain