

Long Canyon

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
16,500	1,250	17,750 (100%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
0	0	0 (0%)
Inventory Unit Total		
16,500	1,250	17,750
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Capitol Reef National Park— Wagon Box Mesa Unit		28,530

The Long Canyon inventory unit (17,750 acres) has retained its naturalness and has wilderness characteristics. The unit boundary has been drawn to eliminate vehicle ways and stock ponds that are substantially noticeable, and three roads have been cherry-stemmed from unit boundaries. The unit is contiguous to and is an extension of Capitol Reef National Park's Wagon Box Mesa, a 28,530-acre unit that has been administratively endorsed for wilderness designation. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area borders on the south. Given its remoteness and the contiguous National Park Service (NPS) area, the inventory unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude. The unit also has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Description

The Long Canyon inventory unit is in southeastern Garfield County, about 11 miles northwest of the Bullfrog Basin Marina on Lake Powell. This long (16 miles), narrow (1 to 4 miles) unit is wedged between the Henry Mountains (the lower slopes of Mount Pennell) on the northeast, Capitol Reef National Park on the west, and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area on the south. The Burr Trail (a county-maintained road) forms the boundary along the northeast side. The remainder of the eastern boundary is formed by two maintained roads—one around the perimeter of Big Thompson Mesa and another on the east side of Middle Point (leading to Utah Highway 276 and Lake Powell).

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

The Long Canyon inventory unit has retained its natural character because of its remote location and rugged terrain. Several old seismic/assessment vehicle ways can be observed from the Burr Trail, but are not substantially noticeable. An abandoned airstrip and a vehicle way used for mining exploration (west of Burts Spring) are present. While the airstrip creates an extensive intrusion when viewed from the air, vegetation obscures it from the casual observer at ground level. Two stock ponds are also considered substantially unnoticeable because of extensive revegetation and natural topographic screening. Several roads, vehicle ways, and stock ponds intrude enough to affect small portions of the unit's naturalness, so the boundary was drawn to exclude them.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The unit is contiguous to and is an extension of Capitol Reef National Park's Wagon Box Mesa, which has been administratively endorsed for wilderness designation. Because of the unit's remoteness and the fact that it is contiguous to the NPS area, outstanding opportunities for solitude are present.

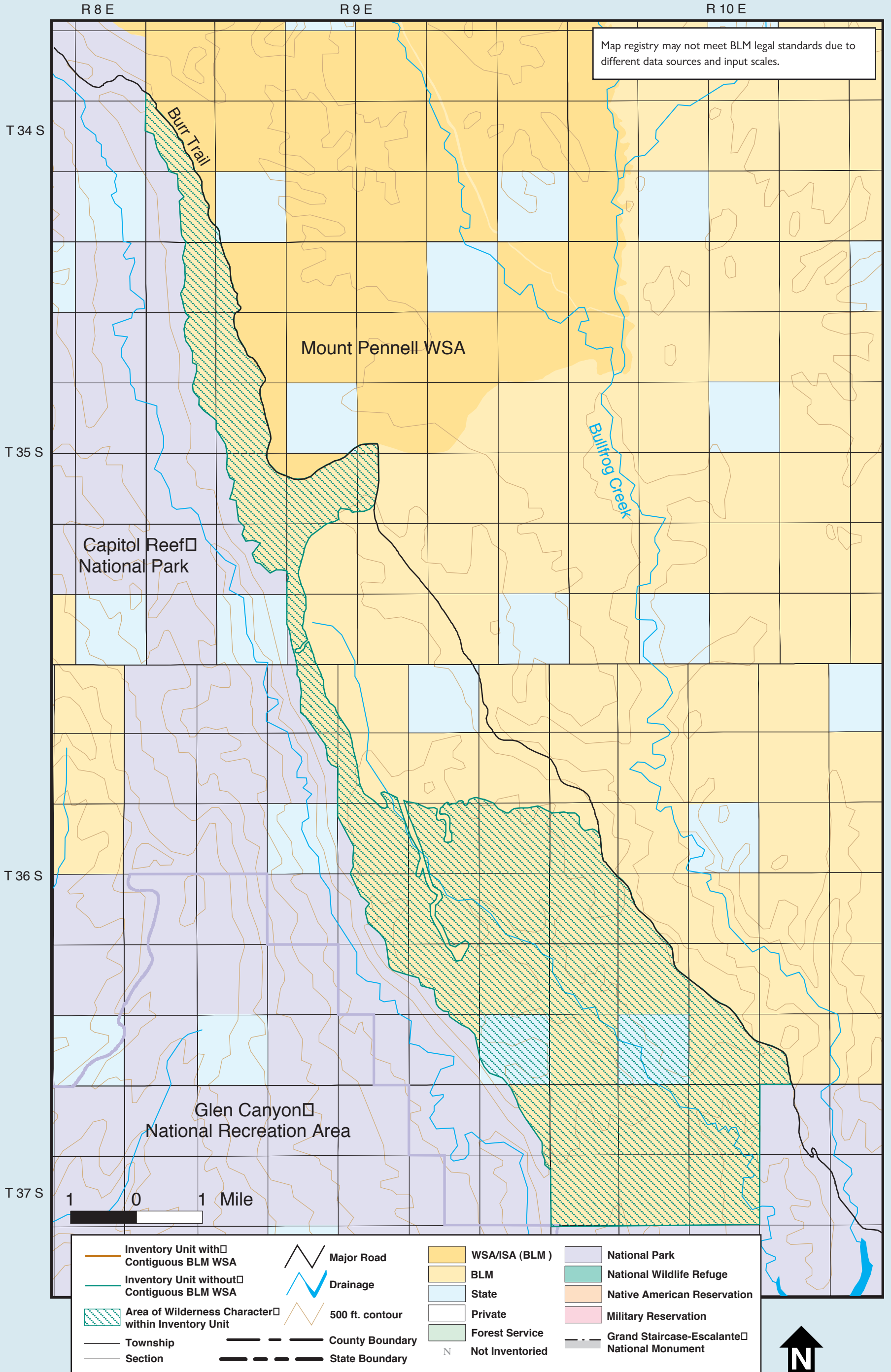
Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

On its own merits, the Long Canyon inventory unit has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. In particular, the unit has outstanding opportunities for hiking and backpacking in Long Canyon. These opportunities are enhanced by the remoteness and isolation of the unit. Although outstanding opportunities exist, use is low because of restricted access. The unit is contiguous to Capitol Reef National Park's Wagon Box Mesa, which has been administratively endorsed for wilderness designation. The adjacent NPS lands enhance the unit's outstanding opportunities.

Supplemental Values

No supplemental values have been identified.

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EAST CENTRAL REGION—Long Canyon