

# Ragged Mountain

## Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
<b>With Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
25,900	3,400	29,300 (95%)
<b>Without Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
1,500	200	1,700 (5%)
<b>Inventory Unit Total</b>		
27,400	3,600	31,000
<b>Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
None		

The Ragged Mountain inventory unit retains its natural appearance and wilderness characteristics on 29,300 acres because of its rugged, diverse terrain and limited number of widely scattered intrusions. However, a few areas (1,700 acres) impacted by mineral and grazing activities lack wilderness characteristics. Several short roads accessing range developments, ranching facilities, or small stock ponds have been cherry-stemmed from the unit. Outstanding opportunities for dispersed, undeveloped recreation and solitude are present. A wide range of geologic features provide points of interest for the recreationist. The unit has rugged and varied terrain, extensive vistas, hidden and remote grottos, and incised canyons. A free-roaming bison herd utilizes portions of the unit seasonally.

## Unit Description

The Ragged Mountain inventory unit is in north-central Garfield County about 20 miles south of Hanksville and 4 miles east of State Route 276. The BLM Bull Creek Pass National Back Country Byway circumnavigates the unit, forming the unit's border on the north and south. The unit includes an eastern portion of the Henry Mountain Range. Ragged Mountain (9,113 feet) is located on the southeast flanks of Mount Ellen.

Ragged Mountain itself consists of rugged rock outcroppings. Vegetation is as diverse as the terrain. Sagebrush, blackbrush, Mormon tea, grass, and scattered junipers cover the foothills, while cottonwood, tamarisk, and willow dominate the canyon riparian areas. Occasional stands of large ponderosa pine, Douglas fir and aspen occur in the higher drainages, with low shrubs and scrub oak at the highest elevations.

Much of the unit is currently used for cattle and wildlife grazing. There are active mining operations in a few locations on the north. Hunters and rock climbers occasionally venture into the area.

Numerous dispersed primitive camping sites exist near roads bordering the north, west, and southwest.

## Wilderness Characteristics

### Naturalness

Naturalness has been retained in most of the unit. Intrusions are limited in number and are widely scattered. Substantially unnoticeable intrusions include several vehicular ways on the south and east as well as at higher elevations along the north and west boundary, old chainings north of the Penellen Pass Road that are rehabilitating naturally, a 0.75 mile drift fence on the southern boundary, and dispersed camping sites (one with a corral) located along the west boundary road. Substantially noticeable disturbances include cherry-stemmed roads accessing livestock developments on the east side; mining claims and a small BLM radio transmitting station on the west side; a short road on the south side; accumulated disturbance in the north, including abandoned vehicle ways, old mining prospects, reservoirs, a well, a fence line, a pipeline, and chainings; a cluster of chained areas on the west; and small cabins, corrals, and spring developments near the northwest boundary.

## Outstanding Opportunities

### Solitude

Primarily because of its rugged and varied terrain, the Ragged Mountain inventory unit offers visitors outstanding opportunities to experience solitude during their stay. Ridges, deeply incised canyons, rock outcrops, remote and hidden grottos, and the massive relief of Ragged Mountain itself cumulatively make such experiences possible. Vegetative screening, particularly at higher elevations, augments visitor opportunities for solitude.

RAGGED MOUNTAIN—A view of Pyserts Hole in Raggy Canyon.



## Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for dispersed, undeveloped recreation within the Ragged Mountain inventory unit are outstanding. A wide range of recreationally significant characteristics—including prominent geologic features, rugged topographic relief, extensive canyon systems, remote and hidden grottos, visually striking vistas of distant landscapes, and the seasonal presence of free-roaming bison—provide focal points for sightseeing, hiking, backpacking, climbing, camping, photography, wildlife observation, and study of the region's natural history and geology. In general, the number of recreational opportunities available, combined with the unit's potential for meeting high expectations of visitors, create outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

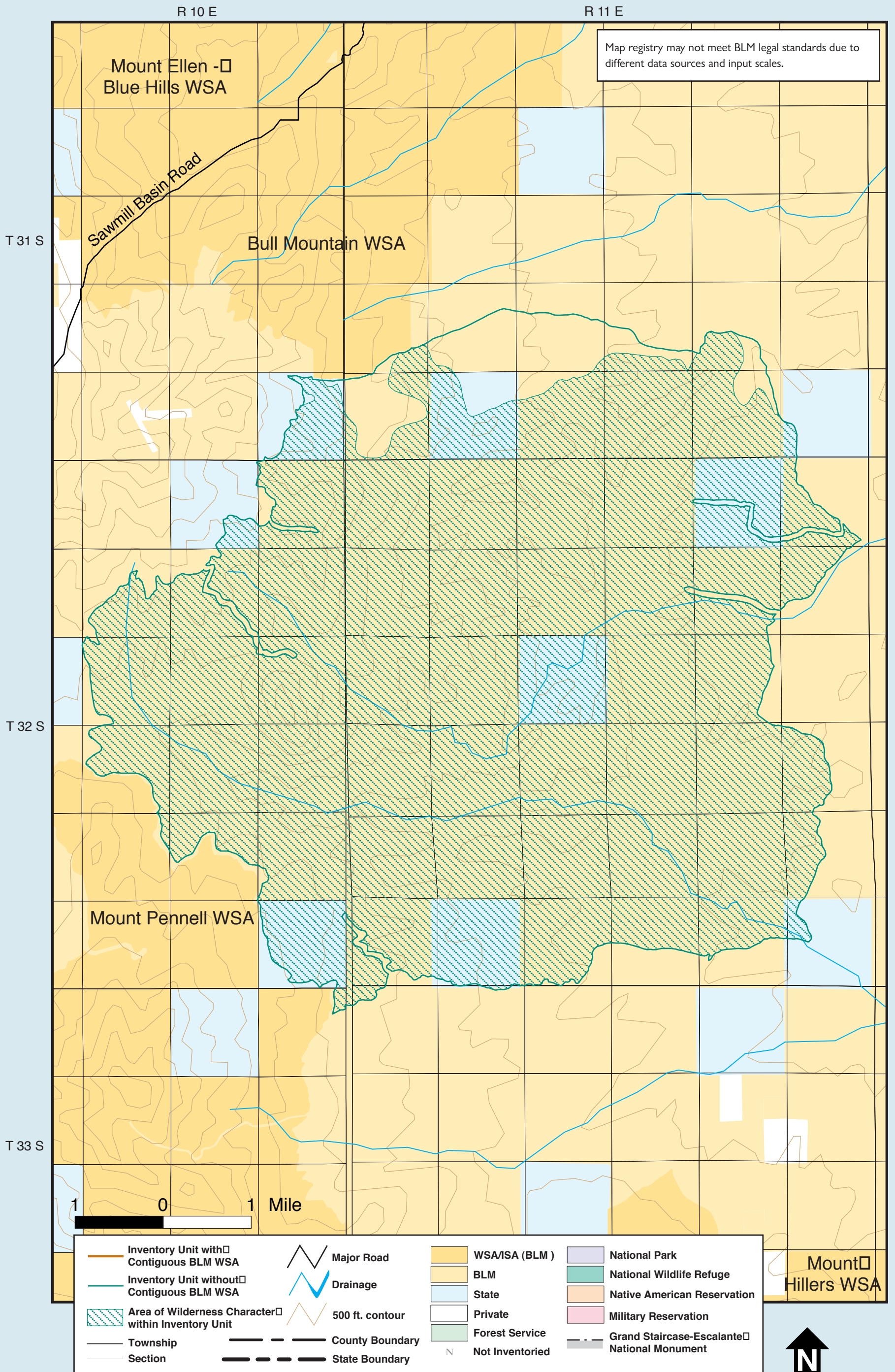
## Supplemental Values

Ragged Mountain, one of several prominent geological features in the Henry Mountains, may be the best example of a laccolith (lateral intrusion) in this geologically rich region. Formed approximately 44 million years ago, Ragged Mountain is the laccolith resulting from stock-radiated igneous material which penetrated surrounding rock strata. As such, this inventory unit has exceptional value as a geologic type site for both educational and scientific study.

The Henry Mountains are home to one of the few free-roaming herds of bison in the continental United States. In an effort to expand the numbers of this once-threatened species, 18 bison were transplanted from Yellowstone National Park to the Henry Mountains in 1941. Today a herd of more than 300 animals ranges on the western slopes of the Henrys, including areas within the Ragged Mountain inventory unit, moving from low benchlands in the winter to higher-elevation slopes during the long, hot summers. Hunting to regulate herd populations was first introduced in 1950 and continues today by permit issued through a special lottery each season.



# Ragged Mountain



EAST CENTRAL REGION—Ragged Mountain