

Bullfrog Creek

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
29,900	3,100	33,000 (81%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
6,100	2,000	8,100 (19%)
Inventory Unit Total		
36,000	5,100	41,100
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
None		

Most of the Bullfrog Creek inventory unit (33,000 acres) has wilderness characteristics. The unit remains natural appearing with only two notable exceptions: the mesa top of Clay Point and an area west of Hansen Creek below the cliff line (8,100 total acres), both of which lack wilderness characteristics. A concentration of maintained roads, range developments, stock ponds, and vehicle tracks on the Clay Point mesa top—along with an active landfill (for the town of Ticaboo), several maintained vehicle ways, and a small off-highway vehicle play area west of Hansen Creek—impact this area. Vehicle access is limited to several four-wheel-drive ways and maintained roads, and these have been cherry-stemmed from the unit. Naturalness is enhanced by the area's rugged terrain, deep canyons, difficult access, and relatively large size. These same attributes provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Description

The Bullfrog Creek inventory unit is in southeastern Garfield County approximately 10 miles northwest of Bullfrog Basin Marina on Lake Powell. The Long Canyon inventory unit is adjacent to the west, the Mount Pennell inventory unit and the Mount Pennell Wilderness Study Area are adjacent to the north, and the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area forms the unit's southern boundary. The Burr Trail, traversing the mesa top between this unit and the Long Canyon inventory unit, forms the western boundary. Utah Highway 276 and other roads and development near the community of Ticaboo form the eastern boundary. The Clay Point mesa top, west to Eggnog, forms the unit's northern boundary.

The terrain consists mainly of a large, deep canyon system and the extensive Clay Point and Saleratus Point mesa tops.

The unit contains the lower portion of the extensive Bullfrog Creek drainage system.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

The vast majority of the unit retains its natural character. This naturalness is enhanced by the area's rugged character, difficult access, deep canyons, and limited number of widely scattered intrusions on the mesa tops. Vehicle access is limited to several four-wheel-drive ways and maintained roads along the mesa tops and benchlands in the vicinity of Clay Point and Saleratus Point.

However, the mesa top of Clay Point is not natural because of the cumulative effect of a high concentration of intrusions, including maintained roads, range developments, stock ponds, and vehicle tracks. The rest of the area, below the canyon rims and breaks on Clay Point, retains its natural character. A maintained road on the mesa end of Saleratus Point, a short spur road near Eggnog, a maintained spur road to Clay Seep, and several short spur roads to overlooks along the Burr Trail have been cherry-stemmed and excluded from the unit.

An area west of Hansen Creek, below the cliff line, is not natural appearing; it contains an active landfill for the town of Ticaboo, along with several vehicle ways, stock ponds, and an off-highway vehicle play area. However, the occasional vehicle tracks and other widely scattered intrusions on the interior of the unit that are remnants of seismographic surveys and mineral exploration completed 15 to 40 years ago are substantially unnoticeable in the area.

BULLFROG CREEK—Scenic views within the unit include the Bullfrog Creek drainage and distant features such as Mount Hillers and Mount Pennell.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. The rugged terrain, deep canyons, difficult and limited access to the canyon area of Bullfrog Creek and its side canyons, and the unit's large size all contribute to the sense of isolation and solitude. Deep canyons make it difficult to view or distinguish other individuals who may be present, contributing to the feeling of remoteness.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for dispersed, undeveloped recreation within the unit are excellent. A wide range of geologic features, rugged terrain, deep canyons, extensive scenic vistas, hidden and remote grottos, and incised canyons all provide focal points of interest for hiking, climbing, camping, photography, and the study of the region's natural history and geology. In general, the number of recreational activities available, along with the quality of the experiences associated with them, create outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Supplemental Values

The Clay Point agate fields are well known for their Jurassic fossil woods and opportunities for geologic study. The Morrison Formation contains an unusual concentration of fossil wood. Numerous viewpoints and overlooks along the Burr Trail offer scenic views of the Bullfrog Creek drainage and distant features such as Lake Powell, the Orange Cliffs, the Abajo Mountains, and the Dark Canyon plateau. Peregrine falcons have been observed along the cliffs near the lower end of the canyon that drains Bullfrog Creek.



Jerry Sintz

Bullfrog Creek

