

Dirty Devil-French Spring

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
94,400	18,700	113,100 (81%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
21,100	4,700	25,800 (19%)
Inventory Unit Total		
115,500	23,400	138,900
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Dirty Devil WSA (UT-050-236A)		61,000
French Spring-Happy Canyon WSA (UT-050-236B)		25,000

Most of the eight Dirty Devil-French Spring inventory units (113,100 acres) have wilderness characteristics. However, six specific locations (25,800 acres) are not natural appearing and lack wilderness characteristics. Three of these are in Unit 1, the fourth is in the combined Unit 3-5 area, and the last two areas of disturbance occur in Unit 6. Eight roads have been cherry-stemmed from the units. All other vehicle ways and other disturbances are not substantially noticeable in the landscape. As an extension of the contiguous Dirty Devil Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and the French Spring-Happy Canyon WSA, these eight units offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. In addition to the abundance of natural screening, there are few visitors to this region. The Dirty Devil area has a rich prehistory and history, with archaeological resources in the area being particularly impressive.

Unit Description

The eight Dirty Devil-French Spring inventory units are located in Wayne and Garfield Counties southeast of Hanksville. This relatively large area contains portions of the Dirty Devil River and its associated drainages and benchlands, including Sams and Bert Mesas and The Big Ridge. The eight units surround the Dirty Devil WSA and the French Spring-Happy Canyon WSA. All units are located east of Utah Highway 95 and are bounded by Glen Canyon National Recreation Area to the south and by an improved dirt road providing access to the Maze District of Canyonlands National Park on the east. This area has remained largely unchanged since the post-World War II uranium exploration boom.

The units are used for grazing and recreation. The popularity of the Dirty Devil River as a float trip is increasing, and parts of the river flow through the unit. Hiking

the main canyon and tributaries is also becoming popular.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

The eight units retain, for the most part, their natural-appearing character. Despite this area's relatively large size, only six specific locations appear as unnatural settings in the landscape. Three of these are in Unit 1: the Little Meadow, Blackburn Draw, and Little Antelope Valley areas, which contain extensive seismic survey lines; the benchlands along the Dirty Devil WSA's western boundary above Beaver Canyon and on the Burr Desert south to Bert Mesa, which contain extensive seismic survey lines; and the flats above the head of Beaver Canyon, which contain BLM livestock water developments and extensive evidence of oil and gas exploration. The fourth area lacking wilderness characteristics is in the combined Unit 3-5 area, encompassing the bench between Pasture Canyon and White Roost Canyon, which contains extensive seismic survey lines. The last two areas of disturbance are in Unit 6. These consist of the area west of Adobe Swale, which contains numerous vehicle ways and extensive seismic survey lines, and the benchlands between the maintained road in North Hatch Canyon and the cliff face of The Big Ridge, which contain numerous ways, drill pads, and other mining disturbances. Eight roads have been cherry-stemmed from the units. All other vehicle ways and other disturbances are not substantially noticeable in the landscape.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The eight units are contiguous to and an extension of the Dirty Devil WSA and the French Spring-Happy Canyon WSA, both of which provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. In combination with these WSAs, the Dirty Devil-French Spring inventory units provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Most of the units are remote and crisscrossed by deeply incised canyons, creating a landscape of topographic extremes. In addition to

the abundance of natural screening, few visitors frequent this area.

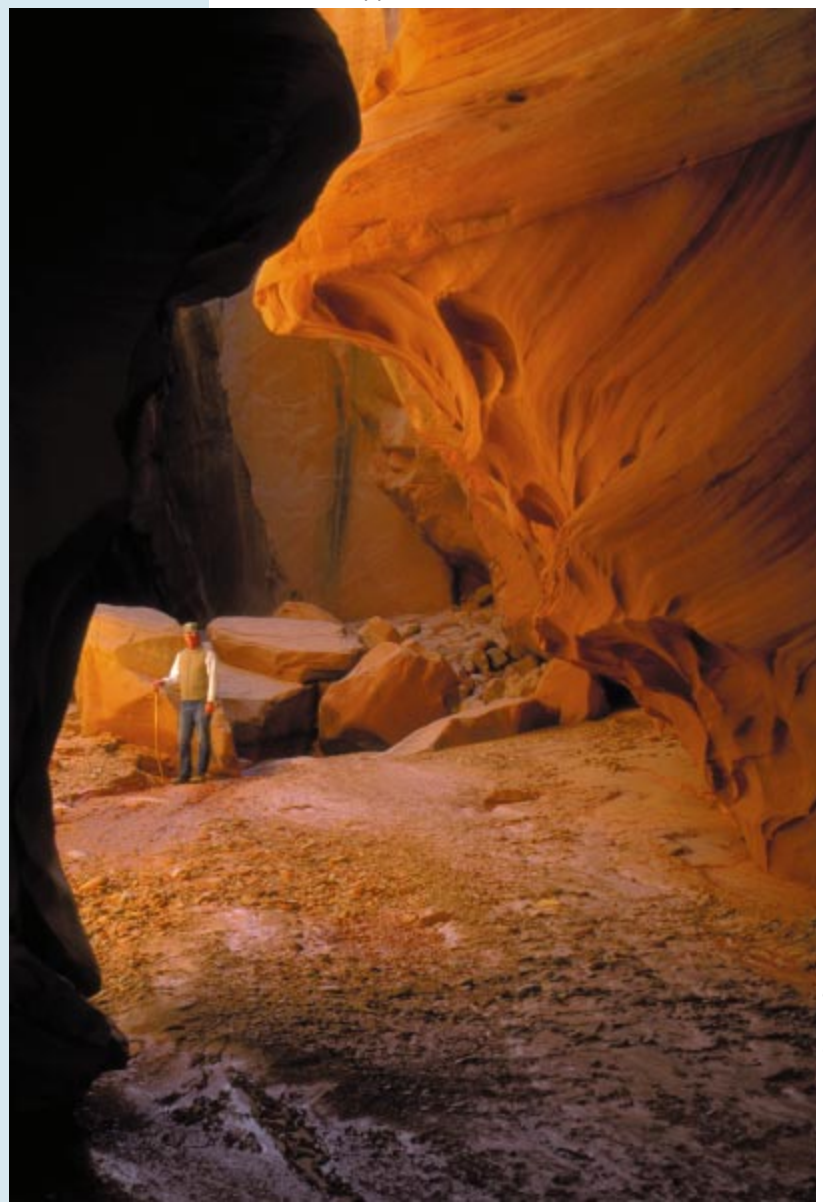
Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The eight units are contiguous to and an extension of the Dirty Devil WSA and the French Spring-Happy Canyon WSA; both provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. In combination with these WSAs, the Dirty Devil-French Spring inventory units provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values

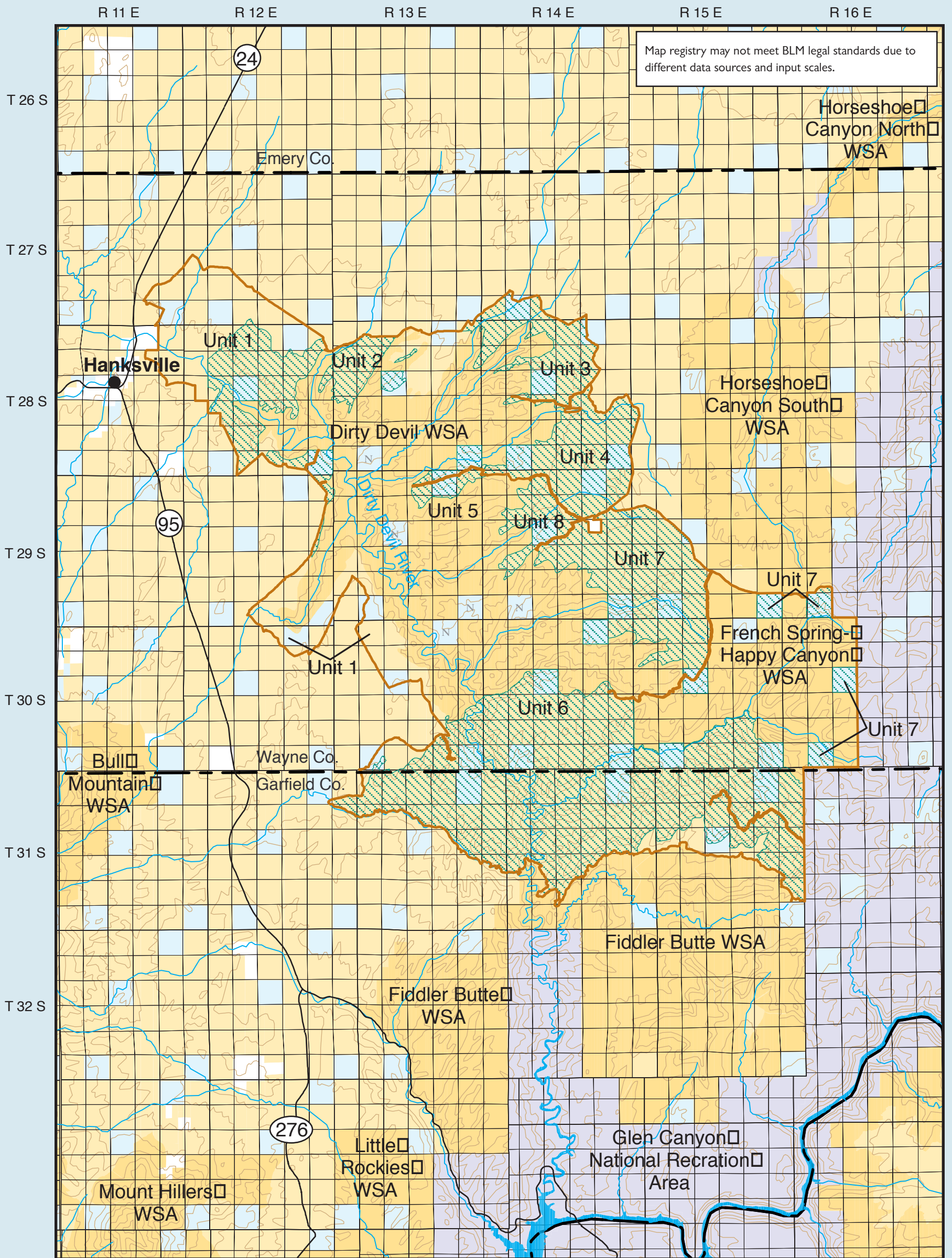
The general region of the Dirty Devil River has a rich prehistory and history. The archaeological resources in the area are impressive, and the outlaw history of this area is extensive. Part of the Outlaw Trail that stretched from Montana to Mexico is located here. Many names given to landscape features result from this period—Robbers Roost, Bluejohn Canyon, Deadman Hill, Silvertip Spring, Horsethief Canyon, Badman Trail, and many more. Butch Cassidy, along with his Wild Bunch, was the most famous of the outlaws to frequent this region. There have been a number of histories written about the area, which has also served as the setting for a number of western novels, including one by Zane Grey.

DIRTY DEVIL-FRENCH SPRING—
This portion of Happy Canyon is only one example of the many remote, deeply incised canyons that crisscross the unit, providing solitude and primitive recreation opportunities.



Jerry Sintz

Dirty Devil-French Spring



1 0 1 Mile



Inventory Unit with Contiguous BLM WSA	Major Road	WSA/ISA (BLM)	National Park
Inventory Unit without Contiguous BLM WSA	Drainage	BLM	National Wildlife Refuge
Area of Wilderness Character within Inventory Unit	500 ft. contour	State	Native American Reservation
Township	County Boundary	Private	Military Reservation
Section	State Boundary	Forest Service	Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
		Not Inventoried	