

# Fiddler Butte

## Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
<b>With Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
16,720	3,180	19,900 (77%)
<b>Without Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
5,500	400	5,900 (23%)
<b>Inventory Unit Total</b>		
22,220	3,580	25,800
<b>Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
Fiddler Butte WSA (UT-050-241)		73,100

Most of the four-unit Fiddler Butte inventory unit (19,900 acres) has wilderness characteristics. However, two areas within Unit 1 (5,900 acres) are not natural appearing and lack wilderness characteristics. Several vehicle ways to scenic vistas overlooking the Dirty Devil River and Poison Spring Canyon, along with numerous old seismographic survey lines, are substantially noticeable because of the relatively flat terrain and lack of screening vegetation. Additional seismographic survey lines are visually pronounced and cumulatively affect natural character in the vicinity of Cedar Point. All other vehicle ways and disturbances in the unit are not substantially noticeable. As an extension of the contiguous Fiddler Butte Wilderness Study Area (WSA), this four-unit inventory area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation, given the deeply incised canyons, rugged terrain, and dense stands of piñon and juniper.

## Unit Description

The Fiddler Butte inventory units are located in Garfield County approximately 18 miles southeast of Hanksville. The 73,100-acre Fiddler Butte WSA is contiguous. The principal unit is bounded on the north by the Poison Spring Canyon Road, on the east by the WSA, on the

south by Utah Highway 95, and on the west by a maintained road south of Turkey Knob that extends to Cedar Point and the Lone Cedar Flat Road, which also extends to Cedar Point.

The units are used primarily for livestock grazing and recreation. Exploration for oil, gas, and uranium has occurred, and there is evidence of old seismographic survey lines and access ways to old adits, particularly in portions of Unit 1.

Vegetation above the canyons is predominantly sagebrush and blackbrush grasslands, with scattered stands of piñon and juniper at the higher elevations and along the canyon breaks near Cedar Point. Riparian species include Fremont cottonwood, willow, common reed grass, and tamarisk. The topography consists mainly of broken canyon country and the upper reaches of major canyons within the Fiddler Butte WSA. The units also contain benchlands between maintained roads and the canyon breaks on Cedar Point.

## Wilderness Characteristics

### Naturalness

Fiddler Butte Unit 1 is a horseshoe-shaped area that includes Cedar Point. With the exception of two specific locations that are not natural appearing, most of Unit 1 retains its natural character. One of these exceptions is located at the westernmost tip of the unit, where old seismographic survey lines are numerous and noticeable because of the lack of either screening vegetation or rugged terrain. Several of these old lines are used as ways for access to scenic vistas overlooking the Dirty Devil River and Poison Spring Canyon. The second area that is not natural appearing lies in the vicinity of Cedar Point and has pronounced seismographic survey lines. The road to Cedar Point extends approximately 0.5 mile beyond the point itself.

Several old seismographic survey lines extend beyond Cedar Point and one vehicle way extends to the bench above the head of Stair Canyon. Blowing sands often make these vehicle ways difficult to locate or follow. These intrusions do not affect the unit's naturalness. A short spur road off of the Turkey Knob Road extends to a spring development and livestock watering area. This road has been cherry-stemmed out of the unit.

Fiddler Butte Unit 2 is a state land section with no intrusions; its naturalness has been retained. Unit 3 is a state land section with a maintained road and vehicle way in the southwestern corner. These routes have been cherry-stemmed out of the unit. The remainder of Unit 3 contains no intrusions, so its naturalness has been retained. Unit 4 is a state land section with a vehicle way forming a portion of the north boundary, separating this unit from Dirty Devil-French Spring Inventory Unit 6. There are no intrusions in this unit, so its naturalness has also been retained.

## Outstanding Opportunities

### Solitude

The Fiddler Butte inventory units are contiguous to the 73,100-acre Fiddler Butte WSA, which contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. In combination with this WSA, the Fiddler Butte inventory units provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

### Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The Fiddler Butte inventory units are contiguous to the 73,100-acre Fiddler Butte WSA, which contains outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. In combination with this WSA, the Fiddler Butte inventory units provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, including backpacking, hiking, and photography.

## Supplemental Values

No supplemental values have been identified.

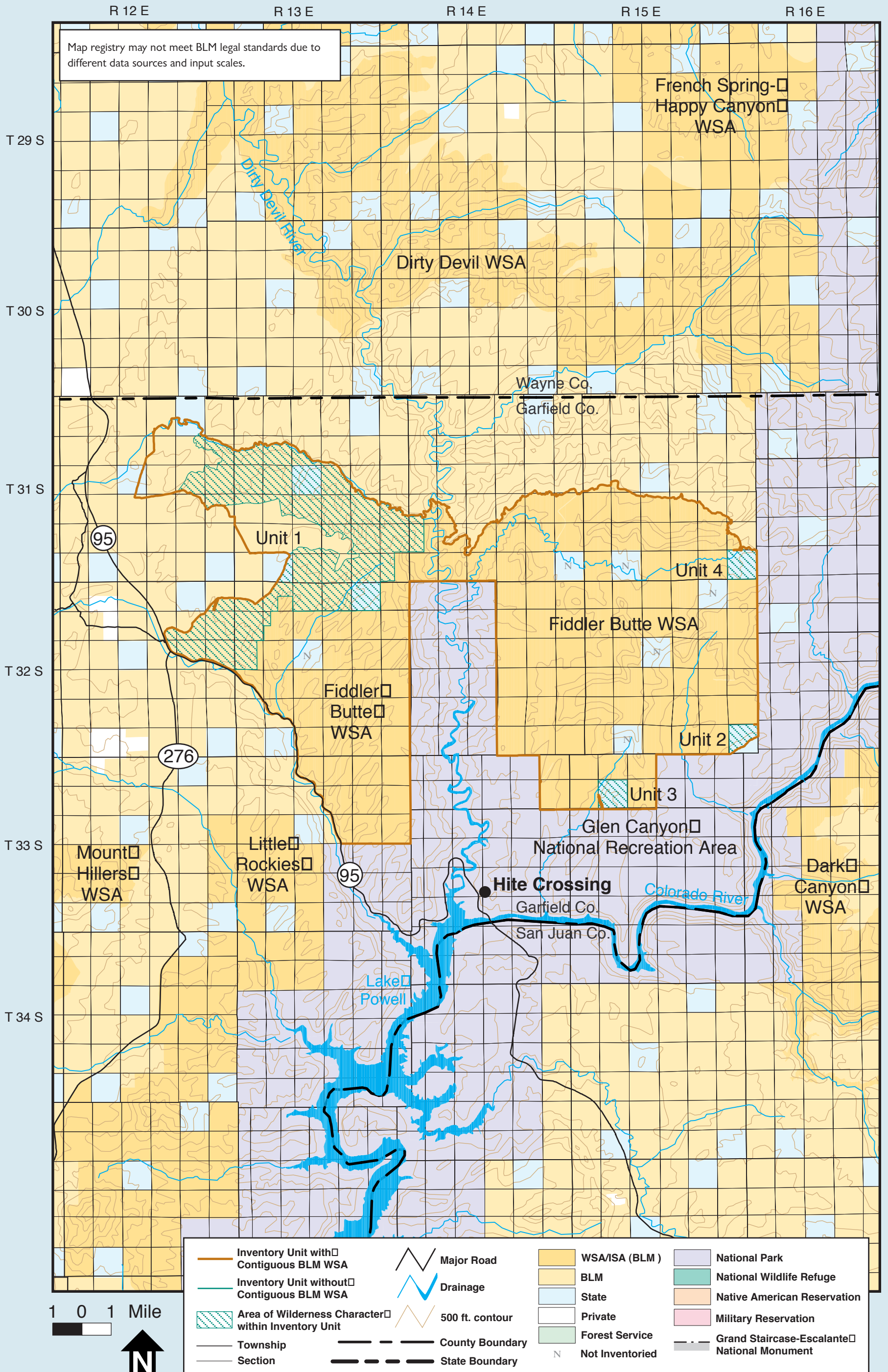
FIDDLER BUTTE—Poison Spring Canyon offers many opportunities for the backpacker, hiker, or photographer.

Jerry Sintz





# Fiddler Butte



EAST CENTRAL REGION—Fiddler Butte