

Labyrinth Canyon

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
84,300	8,000	92,300 (71%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
33,600	4,000	37,600 (29%)
Inventory Unit Total		
117,900	12,000	129,900
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Horseshoe Canyon (North) WSA (UT-060-045)		20,500
Canyonlands National Park— Horseshoe Canyon Unit		3,000

Most of the four Labyrinth Canyon inventory units (92,300 acres) have wilderness characteristics. However, the natural character of some portions (37,600 acres) is impacted by vehicle routes, livestock facilities, and mineral exploration; therefore, these portions lack wilderness characteristics. The units have a diverse combination of incised sandstone canyons and rugged benchlands that provide outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Straddling both sides of the spectacular Labyrinth Canyon of the Green River, the units are contiguous to the Horseshoe Canyon (North) Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and to the culturally significant Canyonlands National Park's Horseshoe Canyon Unit, which has been endorsed for wilderness designation. The inventory units encompass the natural characteristics and values of these remarkable areas.

Unit Description

The four inventory units are contiguous to Horseshoe Canyon (North) WSA, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and Canyonlands National Park. They are located in southeastern Emery County, northeastern Wayne County, and southwestern Grand County (about 15 miles south of Green River and 15 miles west of Moab). The units comprise the benches, rims, and side canyons straddling Labyrinth Canyon of the Green River and incorporate lands surrounding the north end of Horseshoe Canyon (Barrier Creek). The Green River winds through steep-walled sandstone canyons past numerous side canyons. The units provide exceptionally diverse habitats, including the extensive

riparian areas along the river and in major side canyons that support a large number of animal and plant species. Vegetation above the canyon bottoms is predominantly sagebrush and blackbrush, with scattered stands of piñon and juniper woodlands at the higher elevations.

Recreational opportunities abound, including hiking, mountain biking, off-highway vehicle (OHV) exploring, climbing, camping, hunting, river floating, photography, and the study of the region's natural and cultural history. Grazing, while not extensive, occurs on some river bottoms and benches. Mineral exploration has occurred within the area in the past.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

Most of the Labyrinth Canyon units are natural, wild, and remote. Most of Unit 1 retains its naturalness, which is enhanced by topographic screening from deep canyons and rugged terrain as well as from the natural re-vegetation of disturbed areas, which obscures most intrusions. However, the cumulative impact of intrusions in the form of old seismograph lines, drill holes, abandoned airstrips, and vehicle ways crisscrossing the flats and benchlands has resulted in loss of natural character in two places. Three frequently traveled routes have been cherry-stemmed from Unit 1.

Most of Unit 2 is natural; although old seismic lines, remnants of mineral exploration activity, and minor vehicle ways cross the uplands, most have little effect on the area's overall natural character. The expansive rolling topography minimizes the impact of these intrusions. However, the cumulative disturbance from OHV use, range developments, and mineral exploration has impacted the natural character of portions of the unit. Several roads and intrusions have been cherry-stemmed out of Unit 2.

Unit 3 generally retains its naturalness. In some locations on the upper benchlands in the eastern portion of the unit, intrusions cumulatively detract from the natural character of these benchlands. Several routes have been cherry-stemmed out of Unit 3. Except for evidence of old mining exploration in an isolated portion of the upper reaches of Hell Roaring Canyon, the canyons retain their natural

character. Unit 4 appears natural overall. A road has been cherry-stemmed from the unit. Other intrusions include old seismic lines and a single small, unusable landing strip. These are revegetating naturally and are not substantially noticeable.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The inventory units are contiguous to and are extensions of the Horseshoe Canyon (North) WSA, which provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. The inventory units have the same topographic diversity that provides opportunities for solitude within the WSA. The extensive side canyons, cliffs, and other topographical features that have worked to maintain the units' natural character also provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area is wild, remote, expansive, and rugged.

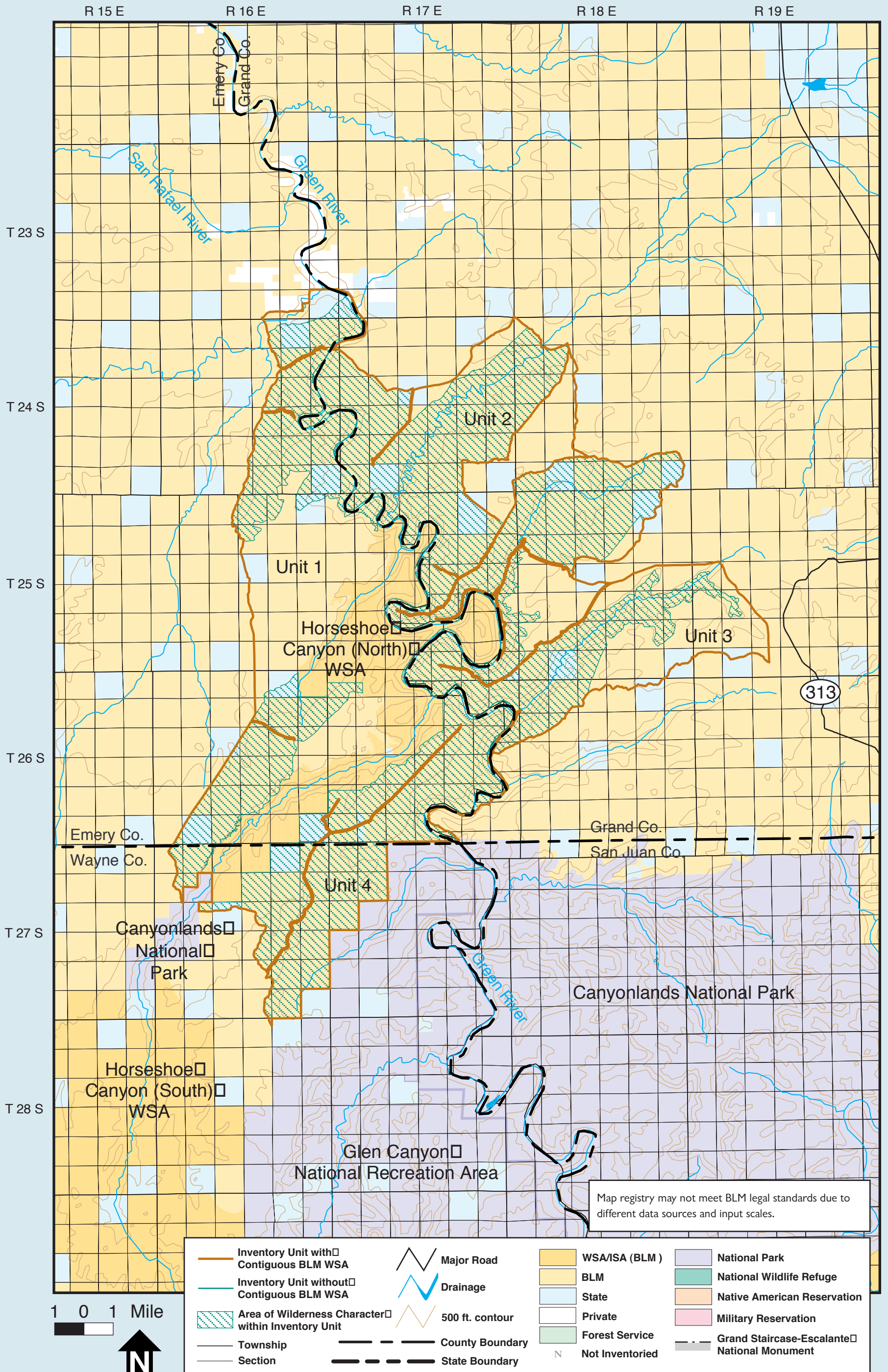
Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The inventory units are contiguous to and are extensions of the Horseshoe Canyon (North) WSA, which provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The units augment the primitive recreation opportunities found within the WSA, providing excellent opportunities for dispersed, undeveloped recreation. There are interesting geologic features, rugged and varied terrain, extensive vistas, hidden and remote grottos, incised canyons, river floating opportunities, numerous cultural sites, a number of trails, and opportunities to climb exposed rock faces.

Supplemental Values

There are several historical features, including two old hand-built sheep access trails, the remains of homesteads, and signatures of early steamboat passengers. The units contain the same type of nationally significant prehistoric cultural sites and rock art found within the contiguous National Park area. The endangered Colorado squawfish is found in the Green River, and the humpbacked chub and bonytail chub may also be present. The units provide habitat for bighorn sheep, peregrine falcons, bald eagles, and ferruginous hawks.

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Map registry may not meet BLM legal standards due to different data sources and input scales.