

Hondu Country

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
20,200	2,200	22,400 (100%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
10	0	10 (0%)
Inventory Unit Total		
20,210	2,200	22,410
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
None		

Most of the Hondu Country inventory unit (22,400 acres) has wilderness characteristics; it is roadless and natural appearing. The core of the area provides outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Only along the northern half of the eastern boundary are intrusions found: an abandoned vehicle way and drill hole, a vehicle route that was not constructed (leading to primitive dispersed campsites), and some livestock facilities, including a maintained fence and two reservoirs that have naturally revegetated and are not functioning. Two small areas (about 10 acres) are not natural and lack wilderness characteristics because of a substantially noticeable corral, a gravel pit, and their access routes.

Unit Description

The Hondu Country inventory unit is in south-central Emery County in the San Rafael Swell and is located about 40 miles southwest of Green River. The unit is completely surrounded by county-maintained roads that are often referred to as the Reds Canyon Loop. The unit is bordered on the east and south by the open flat plateau of McKay Flat and The Big Ridge. The north and east side of the unit are a series of broken, eroded hills and valleys lying below the towering escarpment forming Reds Canyon. Vegetation is predominantly sagebrush grasslands on the open flats; piñon and juniper are also found interspersed throughout the area.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

Most of the Hondu Country inventory unit retains its naturalness. The only imprints of man are on the east side on McKay Flat within three miles of one another, and these generally do not impair naturalness. Ten acres, however, are unnatural because of a substantially noticeable corral, a gravel pit, and their access routes.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The county road surrounding the inventory unit provides ready accessibility, yet the

unit's diverse topography and vegetative screening create numerous outstanding opportunities for visitors to feel remote and isolated.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The unit has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Opportunities include hiking, sightseeing, camping, and photography.

Supplemental Values

Numerous supplemental attributes exist. The unit is within the known habitat of an expanding herd of regionally significant desert bighorn sheep. It is also within a designated wild horse herd management area that has a healthy population of animals. The unit provides potential habitat for the endangered San Rafael Cactus (*Pediocactus despanii*), which has been found in adjacent areas with similar geology and soils.

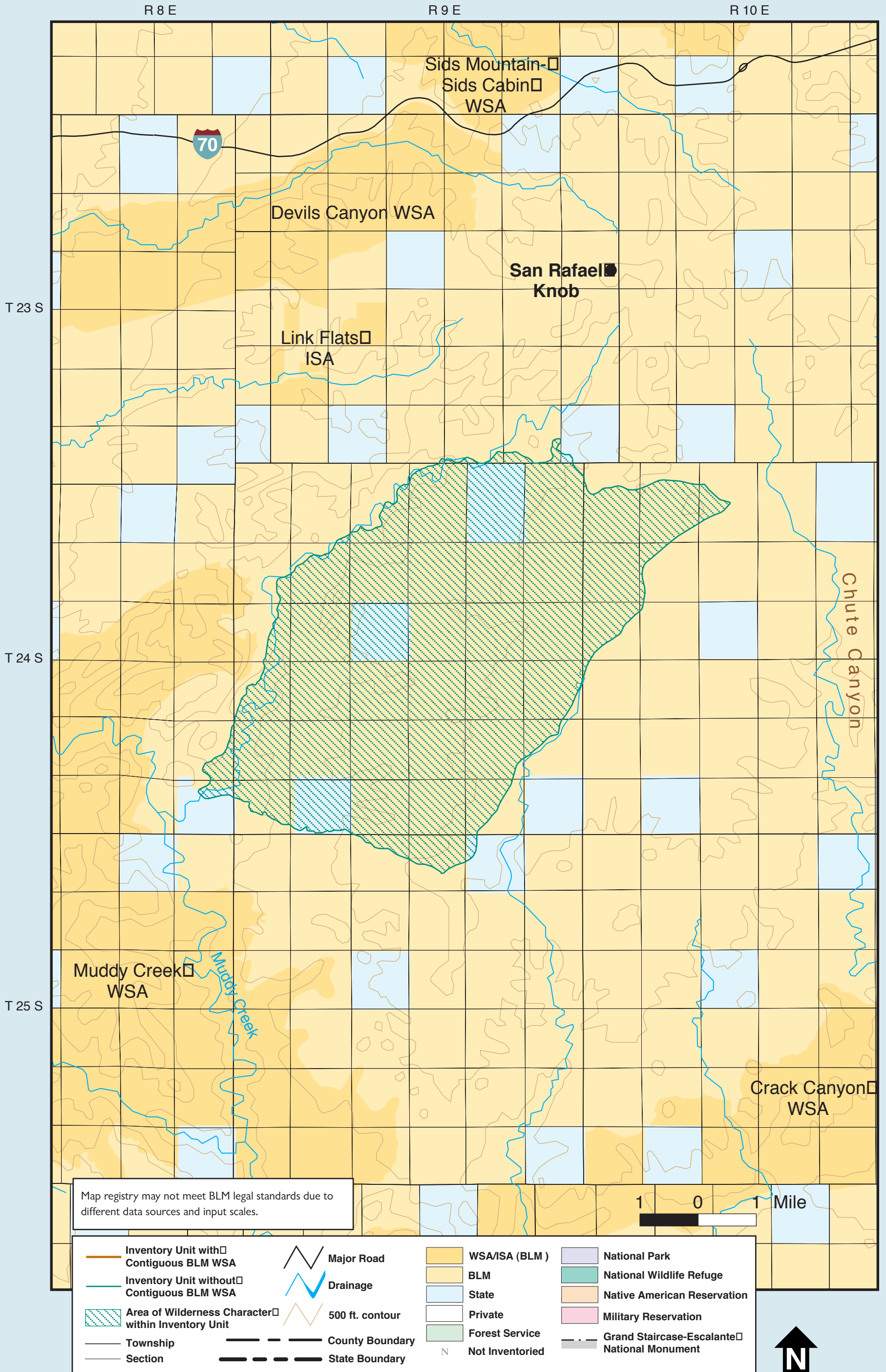
There are spectacular views of the surrounding area. The red and buff-banded expanse of the western sheer wall of Reds Canyon towers 1,000 feet above the west side of the unit. From the highest point, visitors can view Cedar Mountain and the distant Wasatch Plateau to the west.

HONDU COUNTRY—The Hondu Country inventory unit lies beyond the white-capped butte in the center of this photo.



Jerry Sintz

Hondu Country



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

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	

EAST CENTRAL REGION—Hondu Country