

Jones Bench

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
2,600	500	3,100 (100%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
0	10	10 (0%)
Inventory Unit Total		
2,600	510	3,110
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Capitol Reef National Park—		
Cathedral Valley Unit		3,900
Deep Creek Canyon Unit		64,290

Almost all of the Jones Bench inventory unit (3,100 acres) is natural appearing, is roadless, and has wilderness characteristics. Only a very small portion (10 acres) lacks wilderness characteristics; this portion contains a corral and stock pond and is adjacent to Rock Springs Road on the inventory unit's northern boundary.

Capitol Reef National Park forms the southern boundary. The Park's Cathedral Valley unit (3,900 acres) and Deep Creek Canyon unit (64,290 acres), both administratively endorsed by the National Park Service (NPS) for wilderness designation, are contiguous to the inventory unit. When considered in combination with the NPS lands, the Jones Bench inventory unit exhibits outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit Description

The Jones Bench inventory unit is located in the extreme southeast corner of Sevier County. The unit is contiguous to two Capitol Reef National Park units that have been administratively endorsed for

wilderness designation. Fishlake National Forest is approximately one-quarter mile from the unit's western boundary. A boundary road skirts the eastern portion of the unit, providing access to Cathedral Valley in Capitol Reef National Park. A road in Rock Springs canyon extends through private land that separates the Limestone Cliffs inventory unit to the north from the Jones Bench inventory unit. This road continues west into Fishlake National Forest.

Sagebrush and rabbitbrush are found on the desert floor, while piñon and juniper woodlands are on the mesa tops and near the National Forest boundary. Small rolling hills, typical of the badlands in this region, sit at the base of vertical cliffs. Scattered miniature pinnacles break the lower landscape into intriguing formations reminiscent of Capitol Reef National Park's Cathedral Valley.

Primary uses of the land include livestock grazing and recreation. There are outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, photography, sightseeing, and observing wildlife. Privately owned ranch lands are adjacent to the north; some grazing occurs within the unit itself.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

The Jones Bench inventory unit largely retains its natural character. In most of the area, the imprints of man are not noticeable, and the unit remains roadless. One access way in the northeast corner is not maintained, has now revegetated, and is substantially unnoticeable in the landscape. It appears to follow a wash to private property, but it has not been used for many years. The county-maintained road in Rock Springs canyon now supplies alternative access to privately owned lands.

A corral and stock pond near the northern boundary create a significant impact to the natural-appearing character of the landscape in this location.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The unit is contiguous to Capitol Reef National Park's 3,900-acre Cathedral Valley unit and 64,290-acre Deep Creek Canyon unit, both of which have been endorsed for wilderness designation by the NPS. The NPS units possess outstanding opportunities for solitude; in combination with these areas, the Jones Bench inventory unit also has outstanding opportunities for solitude.

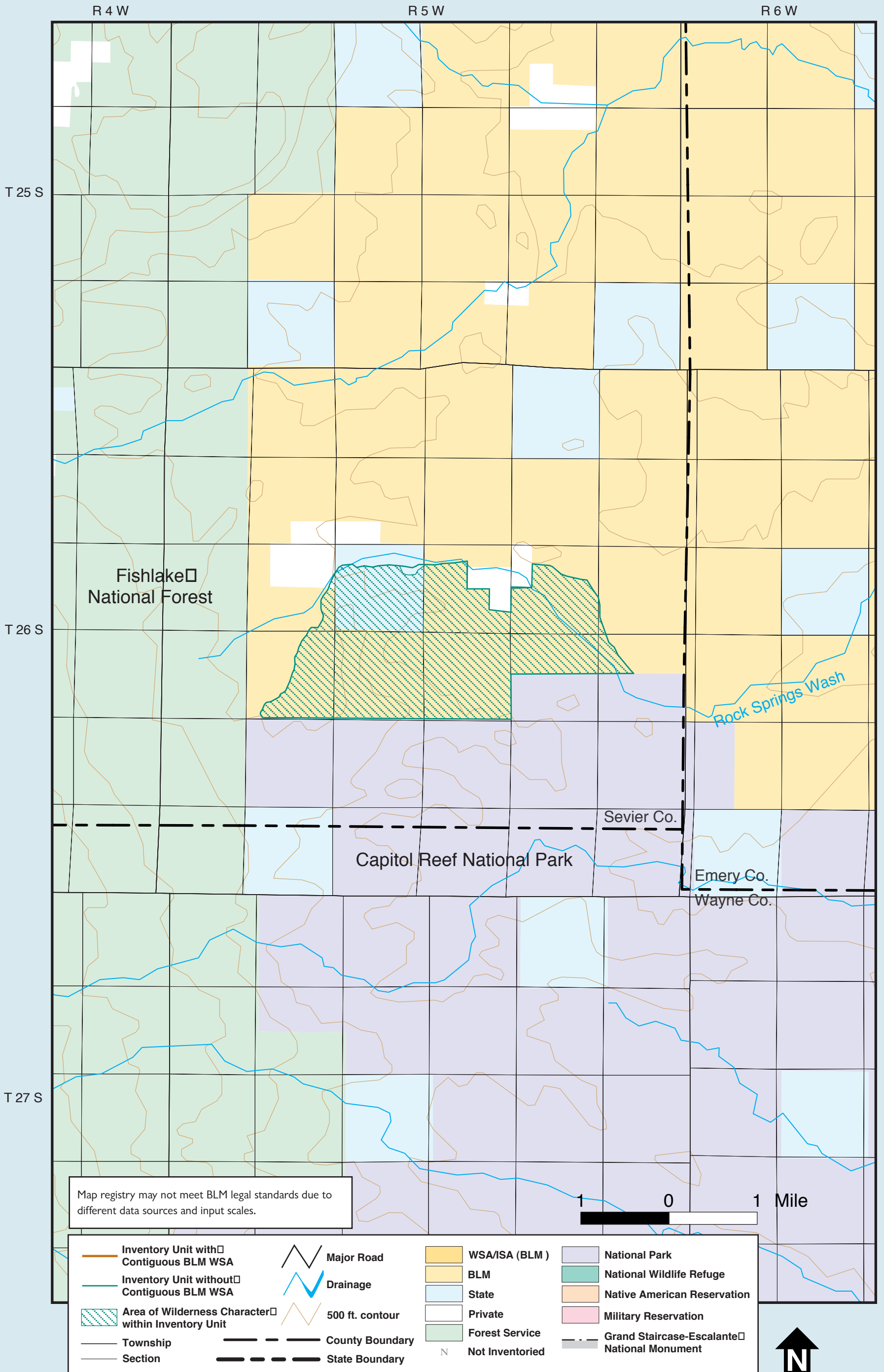
Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The Jones Bench inventory unit is contiguous to Capitol Reef National Park's 3,900-acre Cathedral Valley unit and 64,290-acre Deep Creek Canyon unit which have been endorsed for wilderness designation by the NPS. Both the Cathedral Valley and Deep Creek Canyon units possess outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. In combination with these NPS areas, the Jones Bench inventory unit has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values

The endangered Wright's fishhook cactus (*Sclerocactus wrightiae*) may be present. The western half of the unit is critical habitat for mule deer.

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EAST CENTRAL REGION—Jones Bench