

# Coal Canyon

## Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
<b>With Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
12,480	4,770	17,250 (90%)
<b>Without Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
1,370	520	1,890 (10%)
<b>Inventory Unit Total</b>		
13,850	5,290	19,140
<b>Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
Coal Canyon WSA (UT-060-100C2)		64,546
Spruce Canyon WSA (UT-060-100C1)		20,990

Most of the eleven Coal Canyon inventory units (17,250 acres) have wilderness characteristics and are in a natural condition with little or no evidence of human presence. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are outstanding. The inventory units contain panoramic vistas, many long and deep canyons, perennial streams, and a wide variety of wildlife species. They are contiguous to the Coal Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA), which in turn is contiguous to a large parcel of land managed by the State of Utah as a roadless area.

Portions of four units (1,890 acres) do not have wilderness characteristics. Several small areas adjacent to the Cisco Dome Oil and Gas Field are unnatural because of the outside sights and sounds of the gas field operation. In addition a small area in the northwestern portion is unnatural because of impacts from concentrated hunting/ outfitting parking and camping.

The WSA boundary road separating the Spruce Canyon and Coal Canyon WSAs no longer exists beyond the well and pipeline in Cottonwood Canyon adjacent to Unit 10. Beyond this point, the road has returned to a natural condition.

## Unit Description

The Coal Canyon inventory units are in Grand County about 25 miles northeast of Green River. The southern portion of the area is visible from Interstate 70, which is approximately 10 miles to the south. The eleven units lie primarily along the southern and eastern boundaries of the WSA.

Located in the northeastern portion of the Colorado-Plateau Province/Ecoregion, the Coal Canyon area has extreme and varied

topography. The landscape is dissected with steep ridges and narrow v-shaped canyons. Cottonwood Canyon, Horse Canyon, and Corral Canyon, as well as Corral and Tepee Points, are all within the inventory units.

Piñon and juniper woodlands and high desert plant communities are found throughout much of the area. Deep within the canyons and high on the upper slopes are Douglas fir, sagebrush, and mountain shrub communities, while riparian communities exist in the bottom of the canyons along the perennial streams and springs. Land uses in the area include livestock grazing, oil and gas development, and recreation, with an emphasis on hunting.

## Wilderness Characteristics

### Naturalness

Most of the Coal Canyon inventory units retain their natural character. Many of the units have little or no development, and evidence of humans does not impact the natural character. Roads and associated developments in Units 4, 5, and 6 have been cherry-stemmed from the units.

A small portion of Unit 1 in the northwestern corner is unnatural because of impacts from concentrated hunting/outfitting parking and camping. In addition, portions of Units 4, 5, and 6 immediately adjacent to the Cisco Oil and Gas Field are unnatural because of oil and gas exploration and development activities; the outside sights, sounds, and odors of producing or exploratory operations affect areas where adequate vegetative screening does not exist.

## Outstanding Opportunities

### Solitude

The Coal Canyon inventory units are contiguous to and are a logical extension of the Coal Canyon WSA, which has outstanding opportunities for solitude. All of the larger units (1 - 7) enhance the opportunities for solitude found in the WSA. The numerous canyons and plateaus provide excellent topographic screening, with the thick woodlands further enhancing opportunities for seclusion. The size of Units 8 - 11 limits their ability to provide opportunities for solitude; they have outstanding opportunities only when considered in conjunction with the contiguous WSA.

## Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

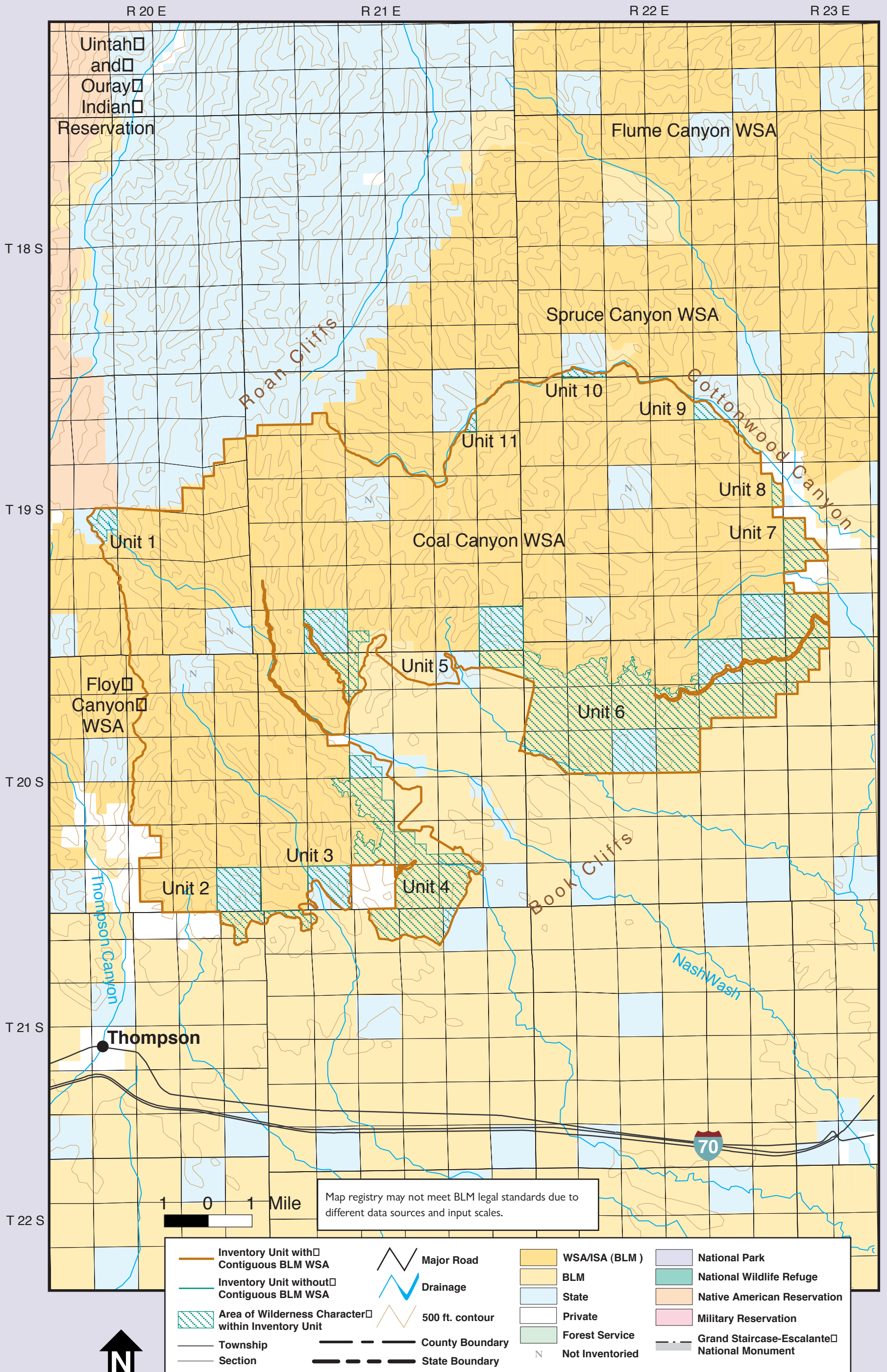
The Coal Canyon inventory units are contiguous to and are a logical extension of the Coal Canyon WSA, which has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. All of the larger units (1 - 7) enhance the opportunities for recreation found in the WSA. The size of Units 8 and 9 limits opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation; they offer outstanding opportunities only when considered in conjunction with the contiguous WSA. Because the boundaries between Spruce Canyon and Coal Canyon WSAs are no longer evident on the ground, Units 10 and 11 blend into the contiguous WSAs, further enhancing opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Unit 6 offers outstanding upland game hunting. In addition, opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, photography, and other primitive forms of recreation are found within the inventory units.

## Supplemental Values

The units provide impressive scenic vistas, interesting geology, and habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. The dissected landscape of steep ridges and long, narrow v-shaped canyons provides outstanding panoramic vistas and scenic quality. Black-footed ferrets, which are an endangered species, and six other animal species considered sensitive may be present. Four candidate endangered species, including the ferruginous hawk, longed-billed curlew, southern spotted owl, and the western yellow-billed cuckoo, may also inhabit the area.

# Coal Canyon



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	

NORTHEAST REGION—Coal Canyon