

Bull Canyon

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
2,470	300	2,770 (99%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
30	0	30 (1%)
Inventory Unit Total		
2,500	300	2,800
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Bull Canyon WSA (UT-080-419)		520
(CO-010-001)		11,777

About 2,770 acres of the three Bull Canyon inventory units have wilderness characteristics. The three units, together with the contiguous Bull Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA), are large enough to manage as wilderness. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation found within the Bull Canyon WSA extend into the inventory units. There are also scenic, archaeological, and wildlife values. About 30 acres in Unit 1, however, lack wilderness characteristics.

Unit Description

The Bull Canyon inventory units are in eastern Uintah County along the Utah and Colorado state line, about 25 air miles southeast of Vernal. Grassy flats in the south give way to rolling hills and drainages in the central portion of the area and steep, highly dissected, forested mountains in the north. Massive white-rock outcrops and colorful red soils contrast with the juniper woodland. Riparian vegetation in the canyons

provides a diverse oasis. Livestock grazing is the primary use. Popular with hunters, the northern portion is easily accessed by the Miners Draw Road. However, private land and deeply cut washes limit access into the southern part of the units.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

The Bull Canyon inventory units appear natural overall. While several developments such as fences and vehicle ways are present, their individual and cumulative impact on the unit's natural character is minor. Most of Unit 1 appears natural. The few human imprints are well screened by the same rugged terrain and vegetation that have limited development to the unit's boundary. There are a few vehicle ways and fences, as well as an old drill hole. Substantially noticeable vehicle ways, an associated minerals pit, and a road have been cherry-stemmed from the unit. The cumulative effect of these imprints eliminates naturalness values on a small portion (30 acres) of the surrounding area. Unit 2 and Unit 3 are both natural in appearance. There are four vehicle ways, but their impact on the natural character of the unit is minor.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The same features that create outstanding opportunities for solitude in the Bull Canyon WSA continue into the inventory units: rugged mountains, hidden basins,

thick woodlands, and deep drainages all promote feelings of solitude and isolation. The size, configuration, rugged terrain, and dense vegetation of the WSA create outstanding opportunities for solitude. On the higher elevations in the WSA, visitors experience wide open spaces and vast scenic vistas that enhance the feeling of solitude. Canyons in the WSA offer many places for a person to be alone, isolated from other people.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Varied scenery, interesting geology, and wildlife provide a variety of primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities within the Bull Canyon WSA. These opportunities include hunting, hiking, backpacking, photography, wildlife viewing, and sightseeing. These same outstanding opportunities extend into the Bull Canyon inventory units.

Supplemental Values

The Bull Canyon inventory units have scenic, archaeological, and wildlife values. The white cliffs, red soil, and green juniper woodland in Unit 1 combine to provide a variety of form, line, color, and texture, creating an attractive landscape. Several archaeological surveys have revealed temporary camps and short-term habitation sites, including subsurface stone hearths and millstones, associated possibly with a middle to late archaic period. Antelope and elk are commonly found in the units, as is habitat for Mexican spotted owls, peregrine falcons, spotted and big free-tail bats, and the Utah milk snake, a listed species.

BULL CANYON—Looking north from Unit 3, across the Bull Canyon WSA and Unit 2, into Unit 1 and beyond; the features and outstanding opportunities found in the WSA extend into the inventory units.



BLM photo

Bull Canyon

R 25 E

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

T 5 S

T 6 S

UTAH
COLORADO

Unit 1

Unit 2

Unit 3

Bull Canyon WSA



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	