

Diamond Breaks

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
4,500	700	5,200 (100%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
0	0	0 (0%)
Inventory Unit Total		
4,500	700	5,200
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Diamond Breaks WSA (UT-080-113) (CO-010-214)		35,380

The three Diamond Breaks inventory units (5,200 acres) all have wilderness characteristics. They are in a natural condition and offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation when considered in conjunction with the contiguous Diamond Breaks Wilderness Study Area (WSA) in Utah and Colorado.

Unit Description

The Diamond Breaks inventory units are in eastern Daggett County about 35 air miles northeast of Vernal. The terrain consists of southwest-trending ridges, with the south slopes covered with a piñon and juniper woodland. The north slopes are an interesting mosaic of vegetation, with Douglas fir and colorful pockets of

aspen and mountain mahogany, as well as sagebrush, piñon, and juniper. Colorful red cliffs and rock formations contrast with the vegetation. The ridge tops, capped by rock outcrops, offer expansive views. Elevations range from about 7,000 feet to 8,700 feet. The unit is used primarily by hunters and ranchers.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

All three inventory units retain their natural character. Given their remote location and rugged terrain, Units 1 and 2 are virtually free of any human imprints. A vehicle way, used primarily for hunter access, separates Utah's Diamond Breaks WSA from Unit 1. Unit 3 is also rugged; some of the highest elevation peaks in the Diamond Breaks complex are found here. Unit 3 does contain several minor vehicle ways and a short stretch of fence, but these features are well screened and do not affect the unit's naturalness. The core of Unit 3 remains in a natural state.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The Diamond Breaks inventory units are contiguous to and are logical extensions of the Diamond Breaks WSA, which has

outstanding opportunities for solitude. Both Units 1 and 3 enhance the opportunities for solitude found in the WSA. The numerous canyons and peaks provide excellent topographic screening, with the heavily forested vegetation further enhancing the opportunities for seclusion. The size of Unit 2 limits its solitude opportunities unless it is viewed as an extension of the entire WSA.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The inventory units are contiguous to and are logical extensions of the Diamond Breaks WSA, which has outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Both Units 1 and 3 enhance the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation found in the WSA. Hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, camping, and viewing natural resources are all opportunities found in the WSA, as well as in these units. Unit 2 has outstanding primitive recreation opportunities only when considered in conjunction with the WSA.

Supplemental Values

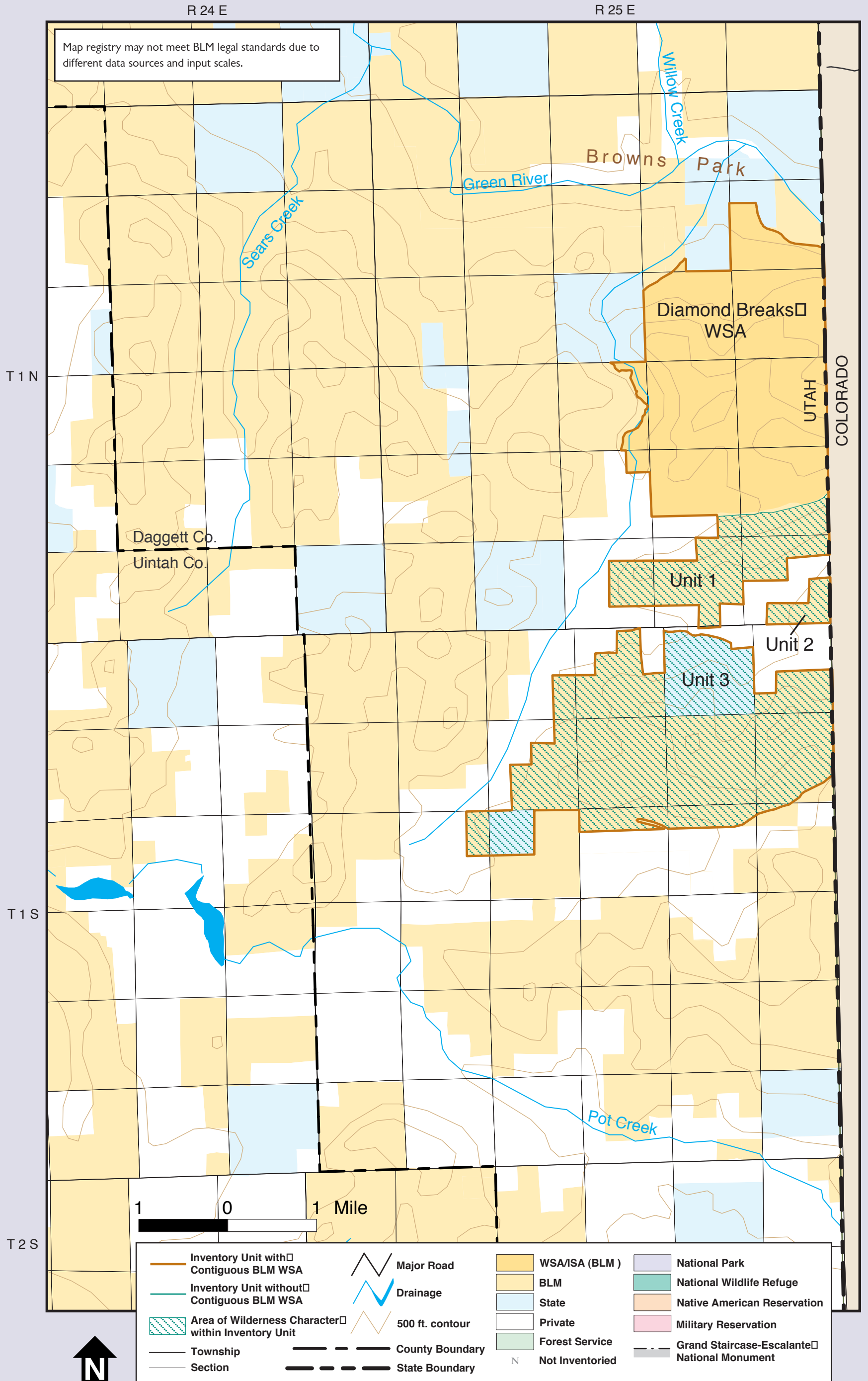
The Diamond Breaks inventory units provide critical elk habitat. Although unsurveyed, there is potential habitat for the Mexican spotted owl. Spotted and big free-tailed bats may be found near riparian areas. The units also have known Uinta Fremont cultural resource sites.

DIAMOND BREAKS—The inventory units are logical extensions of the contiguous Diamond Breaks WSA, enhancing many of its already identified outstanding opportunities. The bare junipers in the foreground resulted from a previous fire.



BLM photo

Diamond Breaks



NORTHEAST REGION—Diamond Breaks