

# Wild Mountain

## Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
<b>With Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
500	400	900 (97%)
<b>Without Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
30	0	30 (3%)
<b>Inventory Unit Total</b>		
530	400	930
<b>Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
Dinosaur National Monument		

Most of the Wild Mountain inventory unit (900 acres) has wilderness characteristics. Only a 30-acre area in the north end of the unit is unnatural. The unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation when considered in conjunction with the contiguous Dinosaur National Monument, which encompasses lands that have been administratively endorsed by the National Park Service (NPS) for wilderness.

## Unit Description

The Wild Mountain inventory unit is located in northeastern Uintah County about 30 air miles northeast of Vernal. It is composed of roughly equal amounts of public and state land. This small unit shares a 0.25-mile boundary on the south and a one-mile boundary on the east with Dinosaur National Monument's wilderness proposal. The terrain consists of colorful, highly scenic limestone cliffs on the

western flanks of Wild Mountain. Most of the unit is heavily wooded with piñon and juniper. However, the northern end is a grass and sagebrush knoll offering outstanding views of the Diamond Mountains.

The unit is currently used by hikers and hunters, as well as ranchers. The Jones Hole Fish Hatchery, located adjacent to the unit, is a popular stop for hikers and people who like to fish.

## Wilderness Characteristics

### Naturalness

Most of the Wild Mountain inventory unit retains its natural character and has few human imprints. Rugged terrain and a dense piñon and juniper woodland contribute to its natural condition. This naturalness is enhanced by and is a logical extension of the wild lands within the contiguous Dinosaur National Monument.

A few intrusions exist in the more open, northern portion of the unit. These include a vehicle way, two small reservoirs, and a fence. The parcel between this fence and the northern boundary road lacks natural character.

## Outstanding Opportunities

### Solitude

The Wild Mountain inventory unit is contiguous to and an extension of the

lands in Dinosaur National Monument (both in Utah and Colorado) that have been administratively endorsed for wilderness. These NPS lands have already been determined to have outstanding opportunities for solitude. The Wild Mountain inventory unit provides opportunities for solitude, but such opportunities are outstanding only in association with the contiguous NPS lands.

## Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The Wild Mountain inventory unit is contiguous to and an extension of the lands in Dinosaur National Monument (both in Utah and Colorado) that have been administratively endorsed for wilderness. These NPS lands have already been determined to have outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. The unit itself provides opportunities for hiking and exploring the limestone cliffs and viewing spectacular vistas. Views of Diamond Gulch, the Labyrinths, and Jones Creek are truly breathtaking. However, these opportunities are outstanding only in association with the contiguous NPS lands.

## Supplemental Values

The Wild Mountain inventory unit provides spectacular scenic viewpoints. Sensitive wildlife species include peregrine falcons and big free-tailed and spotted bats that may inhabit nooks and crannies in the cliff faces in the southern portion. Cultural resources also exist in the southern portion of the unit.

WILD MOUNTAIN—From atop a grassy knoll at the north end of the inventory unit, visitors can enjoy spectacular views of the surrounding countryside.



Sharon Netherton

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