

Dugway Mountains

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
23,300	2,600	25,900 (99%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
200	90	290 (1%)
Inventory Unit Total		
23,500	2,690	26,190
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
None		

About 25,900 acres of the Dugway Mountains inventory unit have wilderness characteristics. Most of the inventory unit appears natural and provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Although human intrusions exist, most are substantially unnoticeable and do not detract from the appearance of naturalness. About 290 acres in the northern portion of the unit are unnatural because of past mining activity.

Unit Description

The Dugway Mountains inventory unit is located in southern Tooele and northern Juab Counties about 50 air miles west of Tooele. The area includes both public and state land. Current uses within the unit

include cattle grazing, hunting, and sight-seeing. A portion of the unit has been affected by mining activity.

The terrain is mountainous, with numerous canyons and ridges. The mountain range is oriented north to south, with side canyons running to the east and west. The lack of flowing water in the canyons is typical of Great Basin mountain ranges, although a limited number of springs do exist in the Dugway Mountains. Topographic relief exceeds 2,000 feet from the desert floor to the summit of Castle Mountain and other high points in the range. Vegetation varies and includes salt-tolerant species at the base of the range. Shadscale, black sage, and grasses are found in foothill areas. Juniper occurs above 5,600 feet in elevation. Big sage and grasses are abundant in some canyon bottoms.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

There are few human developments in the unit. Nine vehicle ways and three wildlife guzzlers occur, but these are substantially unnoticeable. The guzzlers are designed to blend with the natural landscape. The vehicle ways are kept open by occasional vehicle use, although some are located in washes and are essentially eliminated after storm events. Only one small

area (290 acres) in the north appears unnatural because of disturbances from past mining activity.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The unit consists of rugged topography and is large enough to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Numerous side canyons and varied vegetation provide screening. Opportunities for solitude are occasionally interrupted by low-level overflights of military aircraft.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Spectacular vistas, the unit's remoteness, and the varied topography of the Dugway Mountains provide outstanding opportunities for hiking, photography, camping, and horseback riding.

Supplemental Values

The nearby Pony Express National Historic Trail is of historic interest. The Dugway Mountains provide excellent vistas of the surrounding desert. Antelope are common on the flats surrounding the unit, and habitat exists for deer, bobcat, a variety of birds, small mammals, and reptiles.

DUGWAY MOUNTAINS—The vehicle route in the bottom of the drainage forms a portion of the northwestern boundary of the inventory unit; the unit is on the left of the route in this photo.

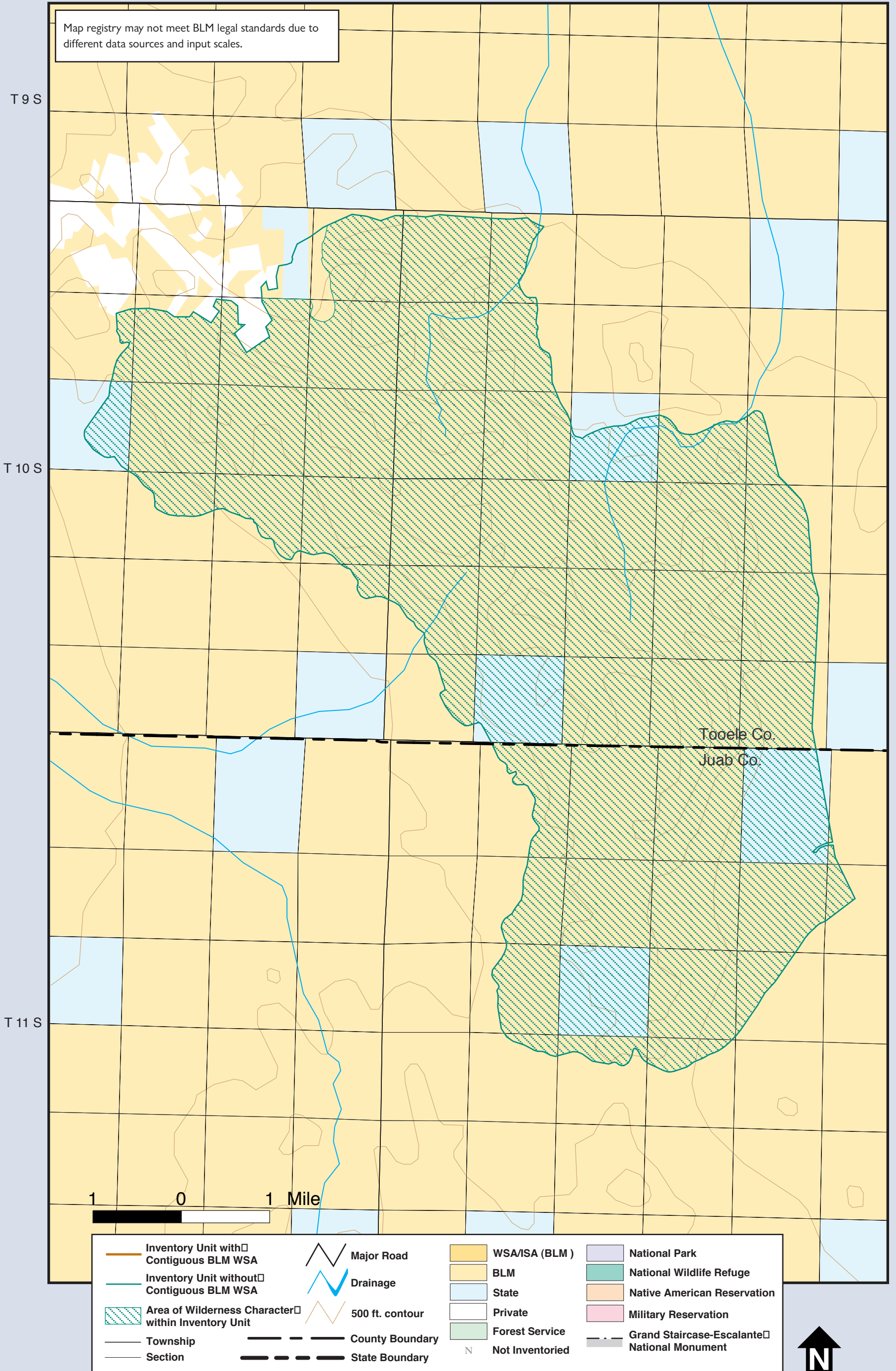


BLM photo

Dugway Mountains

R 12 W

R 11 W



NORTHWEST REGION—Dugway Mountains