

East of Bryce

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
800	0	800 (100%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
0	0	0 (0%)
Inventory Unit Total		
800	0	800
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Bryce Canyon National Park		

The entire East of Bryce inventory unit (800 acres) has wilderness characteristics. Overall, it appears natural; an abandoned irrigation canal on the southeast edge of the unit is being naturally reclaimed and is substantially unnoticeable. The unit is contiguous to Bryce Canyon National Park, sharing three miles of boundary. The East of Bryce inventory unit provides a continuation of the geological land forms and ecosystems present in the park lands: red cliffs and pine forests on the mesas, along with badland shales on the lower slopes. The contiguous lands managed by the National Park Service (NPS) have been administratively endorsed for wilderness. The East of Bryce inventory unit provides an extension of the wilderness values of these NPS lands.

Unit Description

The East of Bryce inventory unit is located in western Garfield County between Bryce Canyon National Park and Tropic. It is composed entirely of public land. The unit consists of a portion of a large mesa providing overviews of Tropic Valley to the east and Bryce Canyon National Park to the west. Several moderate drainages cut into the mesa from the south and east. The vegetation is predominantly piñon and juniper woodland on the mesa top and finger ridges, with sagebrush and shrubs on the hillsides on the south and east.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

The unit retains its natural character. The only evidence of human activity is an abandoned earthen irrigation canal on the extreme edge of the southeastern boundary. The irrigation canal, which crosses a small corner of the unit near the base of a finger ridge, is no longer in use, nor is it maintained. It is being naturally reclaimed by revegetation and erosion and is unnoticeable to casual observers.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The East of Bryce unit is contiguous to Bryce Canyon National Park and provides an extension of the outstanding opportunities for solitude found within the park. However, the sights and sounds of the town of Tropic and Utah Highway 12 could diminish solitude opportunities in those parts directly adjacent to the village and road.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The entire East of Bryce unit is contiguous to and could be an extension of a National Park Service wilderness, if these NPS lands were designated. The unit has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation when considered in conjunction with the contiguous NPS lands. Recreational use occurs primarily from access points within Bryce Canyon National Park and consists mainly of hiking, backpacking, and photography.

Supplemental Values

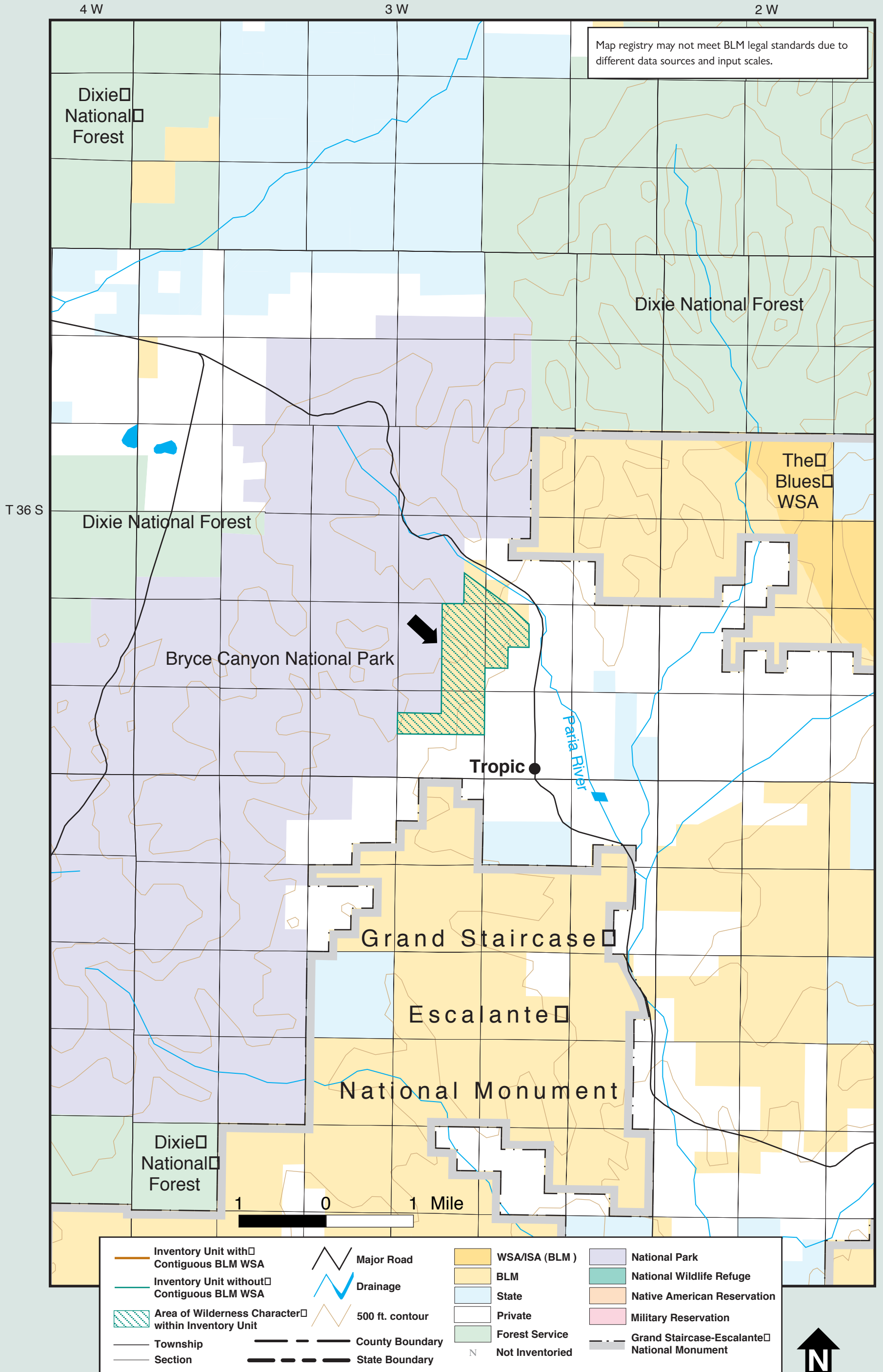
The mesa portions of this unit provide visitors with exceptional vistas. Some scenic overviews along the rim of the mesa provide views of Tropic Valley and the colorfully banded sandstone escarpments of Bryce Canyon National Park.

EAST OF BRYCE—This view from the northern boundary shows the dense piñon and juniper woodlands covering the unit's northern hills.



BLM photo

East of Bryce



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION—East of Bryce