

Box Canyon

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
3,000	0	3,000 (97%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
100	0	100 (3%)
Inventory Unit Total		
3,100	0	3,100
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Bryce Canyon National Park (1994 recommended addition)		2,760

About 3,000 acres of the Box Canyon inventory unit have wilderness characteristics, but only in conjunction with Bryce Canyon National Park lands to the west, which were recommended as a wilderness addition by the Park in 1994. Most of the unit, which shares a common 1.5-mile boundary with the National Park, is natural. However, about 100 acres have considerable disturbance and thus do not have wilderness characteristics. There are no distinctive supplemental values. The world-famous geological formations present on contiguous lands managed by the National Park Service (NPS) do not continue into the unit to any degree.

Unit Description

The Box Canyon inventory unit is located in western Garfield County east of Bryce Canyon National Park and north of the village of Tropic. The unit consists of a steep portion of Bull Dog Bench. Box Canyon, Dry Canyon, and other unnamed

canyons drain south toward the Paria River. The north is lightly forested with piñon and juniper on the benches and upper canyons. Sagebrush and shrubs cover the lower south-facing valleys and hills.

The evidence of human activity includes an old bulldozer scrape, 1.5 miles of vehicle way, 3.1 miles of fence, a stock pond, and a canal and associated access. No known recreational use occurs; there is limited public access due to private lands.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

Most of the unit retains its natural character, with the upper elevation areas being nearly pristine. Minimal surface-disturbing activity has occurred, almost all of it restricted to areas near private lands along the southern boundary. Only minor vehicle ways, fences, and a slight bulldozer scrape extend into the natural appearing part of the area. All of these imprints are gradually being reclaimed by plant growth and erosion and are unnoticeable to casual observers.

Part of the unit (100 acres) has been considerably disturbed and is unnatural in appearance.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The unit has outstanding solitude opportunities only when considered in

conjunction with the contiguous NPS lands. Solitude opportunities are limited because of the size of the unit and its narrow shape. Plant cover is sparse and the terrain has an open aspect to the south. This open character exposes the visitor to off-site ranching/farm operations and traffic along Highway 12.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The unit has outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities only when considered in conjunction with contiguous NPS lands. Hiking, horseback riding, and other primitive recreation opportunities are of a lower caliber than those found on the contiguous NPS lands, and the scenery and geology are less striking and more commonplace as well. Although geologic formations that are found within the National Park extend into the unit, there are no celebrated geological features to attract visitors. Recreation access is limited because of posted private land along the south boundary. The best public access is through the Dixie National Forest and NPS lands to the north and west.

Supplemental Values

No supplemental values have been documented.

BOX CANYON—Although geologic formations in this inventory unit are not as spectacular as those in the contiguous Bryce Canyon National Park, they still have scenic interest for the hiker or photographer.



BLM photo

Box Canyon

