

# The Blues

## Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
<b>With Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
750	900	1,650 (100%)
<b>Without Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
0	0	0 (0%)
<b>Inventory Unit Total</b>		
750	900	1,650
<b>Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
The Blues WSA (UT-040-268)		19,030

The Blues inventory units (1,650 acres) possess wilderness characteristics as an extension of the wilderness characteristics identified in the contiguous The Blues Wilderness Study Area (WSA). A road and disturbance from coal mining has been cherry-stemmed, separating Units 1 and 2.

## Unit Description

The Blues inventory units are located in western Garfield County approximately 25 miles southwest of Escalante and 4 miles northeast of Henrieville, Utah. They lie within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Inventory Units 1 and 2 contain both state and BLM public land, while Unit 3 is entirely BLM-managed public land. The vegetation consists of a piñon-juniper woodland at the middle elevations, ponderosa pine at higher elevations, and grasses, sagebrush, and shrubs on the foothills and flats near the mouths of the canyons.

Evidence of human activity is present in all three units. A cherry-stemmed road and a coal mine separate Units 1 and 2. All three units contain range fencing. Unit 3 also contains several vehicle ways near the mouth of Pardner Canyon. Recreational use in all three units consists mainly of hiking, backpacking, hunting, rock climbing, and both geological and botanical sightseeing.

## Wilderness Characteristics

### Naturalness

The three units appear natural overall, with human impacts being substantially unnoticeable and natural reclamation occurring at a rapid pace. Minimal surface-disturbing activity has occurred in the units as a whole. Disturbances are primarily limited to a small coal mine cherry-stemmed from Unit 2; range fencing in all three units; and a series of ways, a small borrow pit, and a small refuse dump in Unit 3.

The coal mine area in Unit 2 and its associated access were found to be unnatural and lacking wilderness characteristics. Hence, the main mining access road up the unnamed canyon that separates Units 1 and 2, along with the associated coal workings at the road's end, have been cherry-stemmed.

## Outstanding Opportunities

### Solitude

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are present in the units only in conjunction

with The Blues WSA. The three units are contiguous to and are an extension of the WSA. The Blues WSA has outstanding solitude opportunities, and the opportunities provided by the contiguous inventory units would slightly enhance those of the WSA. Solitude opportunities in Units 1 and 2 are impacted by the presence of a maintained road to a coal exploration area. The solitude opportunities in the sagebrush-covered flatlands in all three units are diminished by the sights and sounds of a power line and the traffic along Utah Highway 12.

## Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The units have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation only in conjunction with the contiguous The Blues WSA, an area possessing such opportunities. Opportunities in Units 1 and 2 are impacted by the presence of a maintained cherry-stemmed road to a coal mine. However, in all three units, the scenic forested canyon walls, exposed sandstone cliffs, and small erosional areas with "hoodoo" features are enticing areas to explore. The quality of opportunities in the southern portion of all three units is lessened by the sights and sounds of Utah Highway 12 and the flat sage-covered lands.

## Supplemental Values

Inventory Units 1 and 2 contain small areas with interesting rock formations similar to Bryce Canyon. One small area exhibits "hoodoo"-like rock arrangements.

THE BLUES—Units 1 and 2, both contiguous to The Blues WSA, are separated by a cherry-stemmed road.



BLM photo

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