

Coyote Creek

Findings

| INVENTORY UNIT ACRES | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| Federal | State | Total |
| With Wilderness Characteristics | | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 (0%) |
| Without Wilderness Characteristics | | |
| 9,600 | 640 | 10,240 (100%) |
| Inventory Unit Total | | |
| 9,600 | 640 | 10,240 |
| Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics | | |
| None | | |

None of the 10,240-acre Coyote Creek inventory unit has wilderness characteristics. Although the unit contains opportunities for solitude, the quality of these opportunities is not considered outstanding because of the lack of topographic variety and vegetative screening. Likewise, the opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation are not outstanding because of the lack of challenge, diversity, and quality for any potential hiking, backpacking, and sightseeing endeavors.

In contrast to the evidence of grazing developments scattered around the boundary, the interior is pristine. However, despite this natural character, the opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation in the pristine portion were not sufficiently outstanding to result in a finding of wilderness characteristics.

Unit Description

The Coyote Creek inventory unit is located in south central Kane County about 35 miles east of Kanab. It consists of public land, except for one state section, and is located within BLM's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The unit lies on the Kaiparowits Plateau and contains parts of Brigham Plains and Jack Riggs Bench, lower benchlands north of the Wiggle Rim, and about three miles of the Coyote Creek drainage. Upland vegetation in the north is scattered piñon and juniper woodland. Sparse sage and grassland shrubs grow on the lower benchlands, while clay soils are found in the south.

Evidence of grazing developments is scattered around the unit, mostly along the boundary. However, the interior is pristine. The unit receives little recreation use.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

The unit retains much of its natural character, given the near absence of human impacts. Human impacts include three stock ponds and 0.6 mile of associated vehicle ways, two fence lines totaling 2.1 miles, and an unused 1.2 mile vehicle way into the unit's southwest side. The remainder of the interior is free of any human impacts.

Three small areas on the edge were found to be unnatural. Two of these areas contained stock ponds adjacent to the west boundary. The cumulative effects of several grazing developments, centered around a stock pond and related access at the south end of the unit, were considered substantially noticeable. A well-used vehicle way to a stock pond facility has been cherry-stemmed from the southwest portion of the unit.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

While opportunities for solitude occur within the unit due to its remote location, these opportunities are not outstanding. The benchlands within the unit are relatively open and flat, with only low sage or scattered piñon and juniper cover. Solitude opportunities in the canyon systems are limited by the relatively small tributaries and open aspect of the drainages. The lower elevations have no vegetative screening.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Some opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, including day hiking, overnight backpacking, and geologic sightseeing, are available, but these opportunities are not considered outstanding. They were found to be less than outstanding because of the lack of quality, challenge, and variety. Primitive recreation opportunities, primarily hiking, can be found in the canyon and associated tributaries of Coyote Creek, representing about seven miles of the canyon system. However, primitive recreation opportunities on the upland benches and open southern landscapes are considered meager.

Supplemental Values

The Coyote Creek inventory unit includes rocks of Cretaceous age. These rock elements are known to contain paleontological values that are found throughout the Kaiparowits Plateau.

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