

Little Egypt

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
19,900	2,500	22,400 (100%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
70	0	70 (0%)
Inventory Unit Total		
19,970	2,500	22,470
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area; North Escalante Canyons/The Gulch ISA (UT-060-054 & UT-060-67)		119,752

Most of the Little Egypt inventory unit (22,400 acres) has wilderness characteristics. It is highlighted by the presence of active sand dunes, the Little Valley badlands, sculptured sandstone areas, slot canyons, and the sandy expanse of Allen Dump. The unit is natural, providing visitors with good opportunities to photograph, hike, or ride to an assortment of landscapes in one locale. Solitude opportunities are enhanced by the unit's size, rolling topography, and diverse landforms.

In addition, the Little Egypt inventory unit enhances the wilderness values within the bordering Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and the North Escalante Canyons/The Gulch Instant Study Area (ISA). The unit is a continuation of the Egypt Bench, Twenty-Five Mile Wash, and Harris Wash landforms of the Escalante River canyons. It shares a 5.5-mile boundary with the National Recreation Area's wilderness proposal and a 1.5-mile boundary with the Instant Study Area.

About 70 acres of the inventory unit are unnatural, lacking wilderness characteristics because of roads and range developments. Six routes have been cherry-stemmed from the unit.

Unit Description

The Little Egypt inventory unit is in south-central Garfield County approximately 20 miles southeast of Escalante, and lies within BLM's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The landscape is a mixture of badlands, sandstone formations, sandy-soil grassland, and sand dunes. Spotty stands of piñon and juniper woodland are found along the periphery.

The unit is currently used for livestock grazing and by recreationists. Until recently, it was used regularly by a Utah-based therapeutic wilderness program for troubled youth.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

Most of the unit retains its natural character, given the absence of noticeable human imprints. There are six vehicle ways, two fence lines, two seismic lines, a spring and stock tank development, and several grazing associated salt lick areas. However, all of these human features were determined to be substantially unnoticeable.

Vehicle use in the unit has been restricted to mostly faint two-track vehicle ways extending beyond maintained portions of roads. One vehicle way across the Allen Dump, which leads to a spring and stock watering development, is used occasionally and has been cherry-stemmed from the unit.

Portions of the unit were found to lack naturalness because of substantially noticeable impacts from grazing facilities, recreation use, and associated vehicle access. Four roads and two vehicle ways have been cherry-stemmed from the unit.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

Buckaroo Flat, Little Valley, Allen Dump, the sand dune fields, and the Egypt Bench are diverse landscapes offering visitors many opportunities to experience seclusion from others. The unit is a vast and lonely place, with screening provided by space and topography. In some areas screening and isolation is provided by a juniper woodland. The unit is contiguous to Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and the North Escalante Canyons/The Gulch Instant Study Area, lands possessing outstanding solitude opportunities.

Solitude opportunities in Little Egypt are indisputably outstanding when associated with the vast area of the Egypt Bench, Escalante Canyons, Harris Wash, and Twenty-Five Mile Wash directly to the east and north.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Buckaroo Flat, Little Valley, Allen Dump, slot canyons, the sand dune fields, the badlands, and Egypt Bench all offer visitors opportunities for day hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding. Opportunities for photography are exceptional in the active sand dune fields, erosional sandstone areas, and various badlands.

The unit is contiguous to wild lands within the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and the North Escalante Canyons/The Gulch Instant Study Area, lands possessing outstanding and renowned primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities. The primitive recreation opportunities in the Little Egypt inventory unit are undeniably outstanding when associated with the Escalante River Canyon country of the Instant Study Area and the National Recreation Area, directly to the east and north.

Supplemental Values

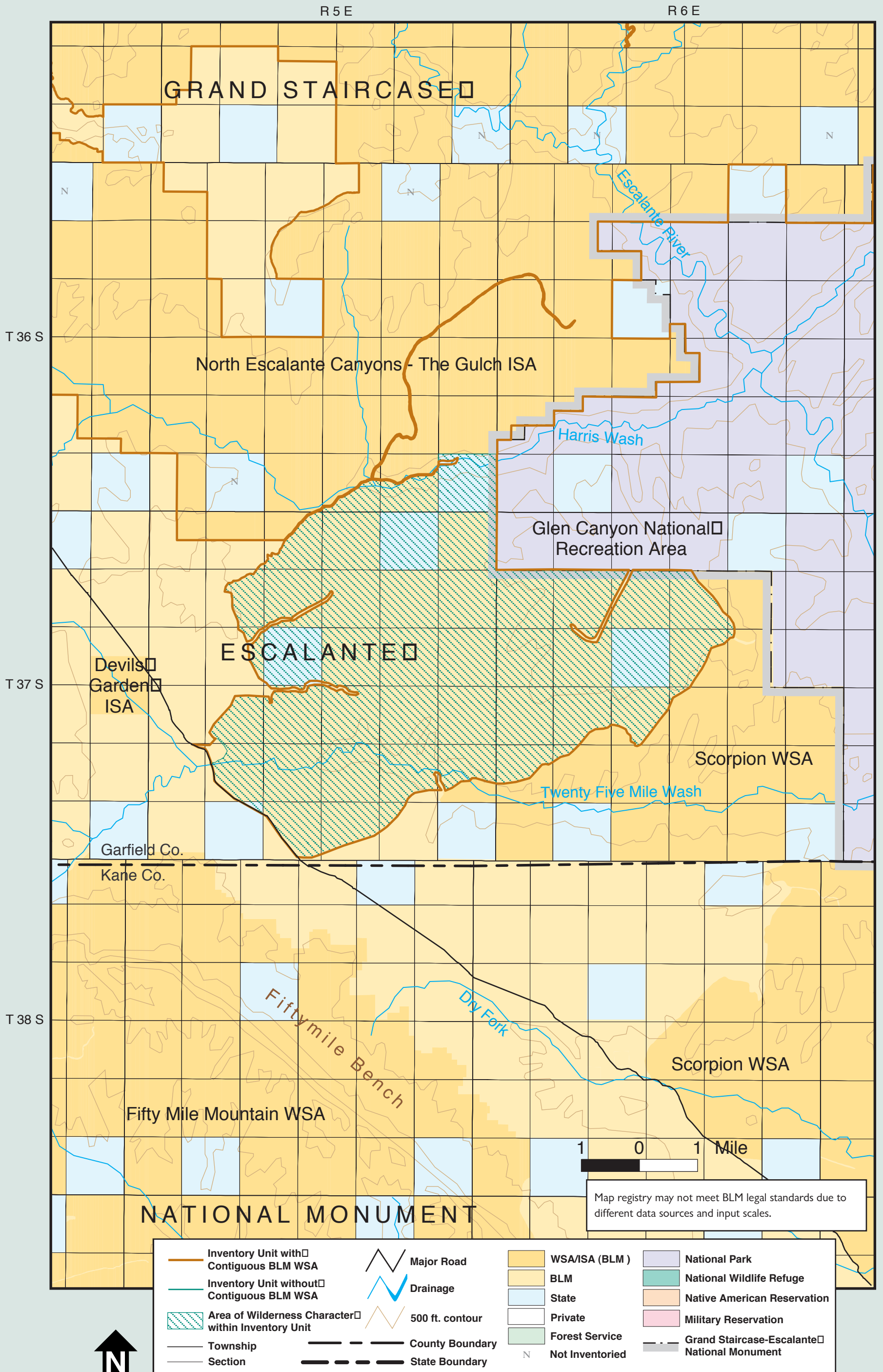
Scenic quality is high throughout this unit. Even flatlands within Buckaroo Flat and Allen Dump offer outstanding panoramic views of surrounding badlands, sand dunes, sandstone formations, and Fiftymile Mountain. Narrow slot canyons weave their way through the sandstone formations, providing an element of suspense. Three areas offer good opportunities for geologic sightseeing, including Little Bryce Valley or Sunset Valley (encompassing an area with highly eroded badlands), an area resembling Devils Garden, and active sand dunes south of Buckaroo Flat.

LITTLE EGYPT—The slanted light of morning and late afternoon will please photographers who venture into the active sand dune and badlands region of this unit.



Jerry Sintz

Little Egypt



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION—Little Egypt