

Scorpion

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
9,570	4,840	14,410 (99%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
200	0	200 (1%)
Inventory Unit Total		
9,770	4,840	14,610
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Scorpion WSA (UT-040-082)		35,884

The Scorpion inventory unit consists of five separate units around the periphery of the Scorpion Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The vast majority of these units (14,410 acres) have wilderness characteristics. Each of the five units appears natural overall and augments the wilderness values of the adjoining Scorpion WSA. The units contain Early Weed Bench, the rolling Cat Pasture badlands, and the eroded colorful badlands of the Twenty-five Mile Wash watershed—features also contained within the contiguous Scorpion WSA. These units offer primitive recreation and solitude opportunities and supplemental values comparable to the Scorpion WSA.

The units contain some minor range developments, vehicle ways, small campsites, and old seismic lines, but these imprints are inconsequential and have little influence on naturalness or associated wilderness qualities. Small portions of Unit 1 (200 acres) do lack wilderness characteristics because of range developments, past mineral exploration, and associated access. Four roads have been cherry-stemmed from the units.

Unit Description

The Scorpion inventory units are located in northeastern Kane County about 25 miles southeast of Escalante. The units are within BLM's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The terrain varies from benchlands and rolling hills to steep, highly eroded drainages and deep sandstone canyons. The sandy flats give way to colorful badlands and cross-bedded sandstone bluffs. Vegetation on the benchlands is primarily desert shrubs, grass, and juniper. The drainages and wash bottoms are lined with riparian vegetation.

The units are used for ranching and contain several vehicle ways that access water

developments and salt licks. Four roads, including roads to the popular Dry Fork Coyote Gulch trailhead and an overlook of Twenty-five Mile Wash, have been cherry-stemmed from the units. Evidence of mineral exploration exists in Units 1, 2, and 3.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

Most of the Scorpion inventory units retain their natural character. Human impacts are substantially unnoticeable, with little surface disturbance occurring in the five units as a whole. There are some seismic lines, range developments (about four miles of buried pipeline and associated watering troughs), 14 vehicle ways totaling about 20 miles, several campsites, and a pack or hiking trail. However, these features are substantially unnoticeable. Two small areas near the boundary of the unit lack naturalness because of bladed road alignments and major range developments. Four roads have been cherry-stemmed from the units.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The portions of the units that extend into the Twenty-five Mile Wash and its various side canyons, along with Early Weed Bench and the Cat Pasture badlands, contain the same combinations of topographic screening and vegetation that provide outstanding opportunities for solitude in the adjacent Scorpion WSA. All five units are natural extensions of the contiguous WSA, and all five units either provide

opportunities for solitude or enhance existing opportunities.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Portions of the units have the same outstanding opportunities for backpacking, horseback riding, hiking, sightseeing, and photography that exist in the contiguous Scorpion WSA, offering extensions of the values within the WSA. The best opportunities for hiking and geologic sightseeing are experienced by exploring the lands south of Twenty-five Mile Wash and the eroded and intensely colored rock and washes of the Cat Pasture badlands (Unit 1), as well as by walking the canyon rims and sandstone benches above both Twenty-five Mile Wash (Unit 2) and the Dry Fork of Coyote Gulch (Unit 4). Unit 5 provides primitive recreation opportunities only in conjunction with the contiguous WSA.

Supplemental Values

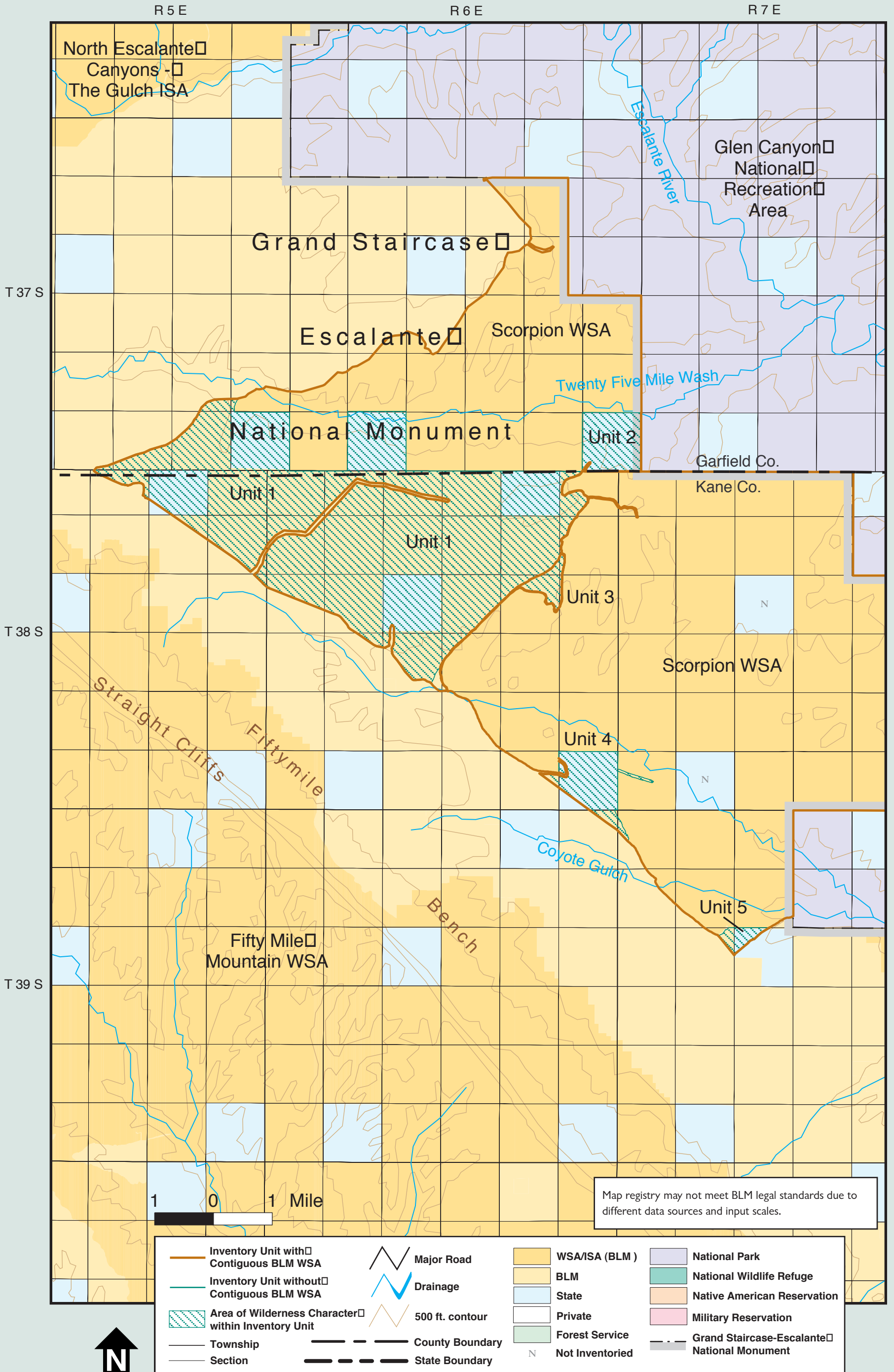
The units possess scenic, geologic, and archaeological values that supplement existing wilderness characteristics. Numerous spectacular scenic views into Twenty-five Mile Wash can be enjoyed from Units 1 and 2, while views into the Dry Fork of Coyote Wash can be seen from Unit 4. There are several spectacular areas of exposed sandstone and deep-sided canyons within Units 1, 2, and 4. Twenty-five Mile Wash within Units 1 and 2 is entrenched in a large basin below the exposed sandstone of the Early Weed Bench-Scorpion cliff line. The sandstone cliffs in Unit 4 overlook the extremely narrow and tortuous side canyons of the Dry Fork of Coyote Gulch. There are prehistoric archaeological sites present that are attributed to the Kayenta Anasazi occupation.



SCORPION—A rainbow illuminates the sky over Early Weed Bench.

BLM photo

Scorpion



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION—Scorpion