

Fremont Gorge

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
14,600	1,400	16,000 (79%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
3,800	500	4,300 (21%)
Inventory Unit Total		
18,400	1,900	20,300
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Fremont Gorge WSA (UT-050-221)		2,540
Capitol Reef National Park		

Most of the Fremont Gorge inventory unit (16,000 acres) has wilderness characteristics. However, several locations (4,300 acres) within the inventory boundaries are not natural and lack wilderness characteristics, including the ridgetops and benchlands of Miners Mountain east of Carcass Creek and Sulphur Creek, a small area just east of the junction of Utah Highways 12 and 24, another small parcel north of Calf Canyon, and a small area on the eastern tip of Beas Lewis Flat. Three roads have been cherry-stemmed out of the inventory unit. As an extension of both the contiguous Fremont Gorge Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and a portion of Capitol Reef National Park that has been administratively endorsed for wilderness by the National Park Service (NPS), the inventory unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The Fremont gorge contains pristine riparian habitat, providing significant recreational, educational, ecological, and scientific values. Scenery in the Fremont gorge is spectacular.

Unit Description

The inventory unit is in western Wayne County just east of the town of Torrey. The Fremont Gorge WSA is contiguous to the northern portion of the unit. The unit's northern boundary follows a maintained road along Sand Creek for approximately one mile and then follows the WSA boundary. Capitol Reef National Park forms the unit's eastern boundary south to the Wayne-Garfield County line. An area administratively endorsed by the NPS for wilderness designation lies immediately adjacent. The southern boundary follows the Wayne-Garfield County line west for about a mile. The unit's western boundary generally follows maintained roads and private ownership boundaries. The Fremont River flows from west to east through a deep scenic gorge located within unit boundaries. The gorge itself is wild, roadless, and lacks evidence of man-made intrusions. Vegetation consists of piñon and juniper, scattered ponderosa pine, and high-desert shrub species. The Fremont River and its tributaries support undisturbed riparian vegetation. The unit is currently used for livestock grazing, woodcutting, and recreation.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

While most of the inventory unit has retained its natural-appearing character, several specific locations are not natural appearing in the landscape. These include the ridge tops and benchlands of Miners Mountain east of Carcass Creek and Sulphur Creek (which contain extensive impacts from firewood cutting, Christmas

tree harvesting, chaining areas, old seismographic survey line construction, mineral exploration ways and adits, and numerous fence lines), a small area just east of the junction of Utah Highways 12 and 24, a small parcel north of Calf Canyon (which contains several dump sites, a commercial flagstone quarrying operation, and dispersed recreation sites), and a small area on Beas Lewis Flat (which contains Torrey Allotment Reservoir No. 2 and associated intrusions). Three roads have been cherry-stemmed out of the inventory unit: one extending to Torrey Allotment Reservoir No. 2 on Beas Lewis Flat, a second extending to the confluence of Carcass Creek and the Fremont River, and a third extending to and beyond Wide Hollow Reservoir.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The inventory unit is contiguous to and is an extension of the Fremont Gorge WSA as well as the administratively endorsed wilderness acreage within Capitol Reef National Park. Both of these contiguous areas provide outstanding opportunities for solitude; in combination with them, the inventory unit does as well. Where present, dense stands of piñon and juniper provide excellent screening below canyon rims. The riparian vegetation along the Fremont River also provides screening and enhances opportunities for visitor solitude.

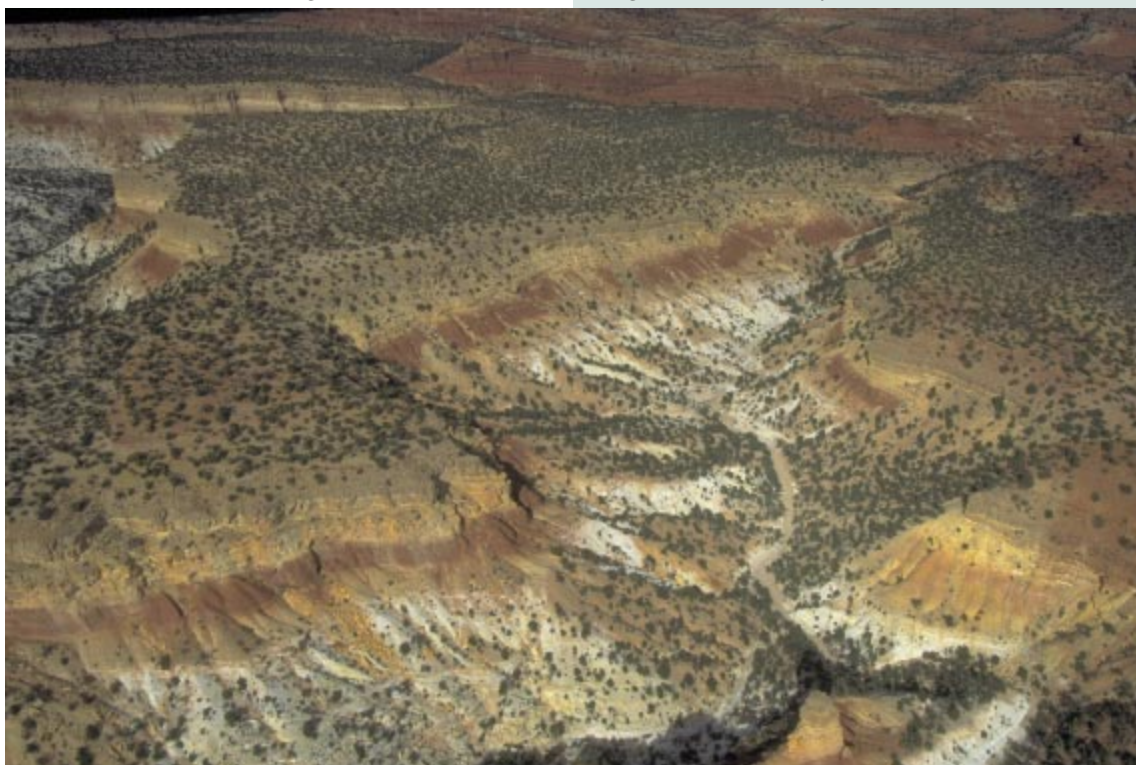
Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The inventory unit is contiguous to and is an extension of the Fremont Gorge WSA as well as the administratively endorsed wilderness acreage within Capitol Reef National Park; both provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. In combination with this WSA and NPS acreage, the inventory unit provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Hiking, backpacking, photography, and sightseeing are popular recreational activities. The Fremont gorge provides outstanding hiking and fishing opportunities along a major river.

Supplemental Values

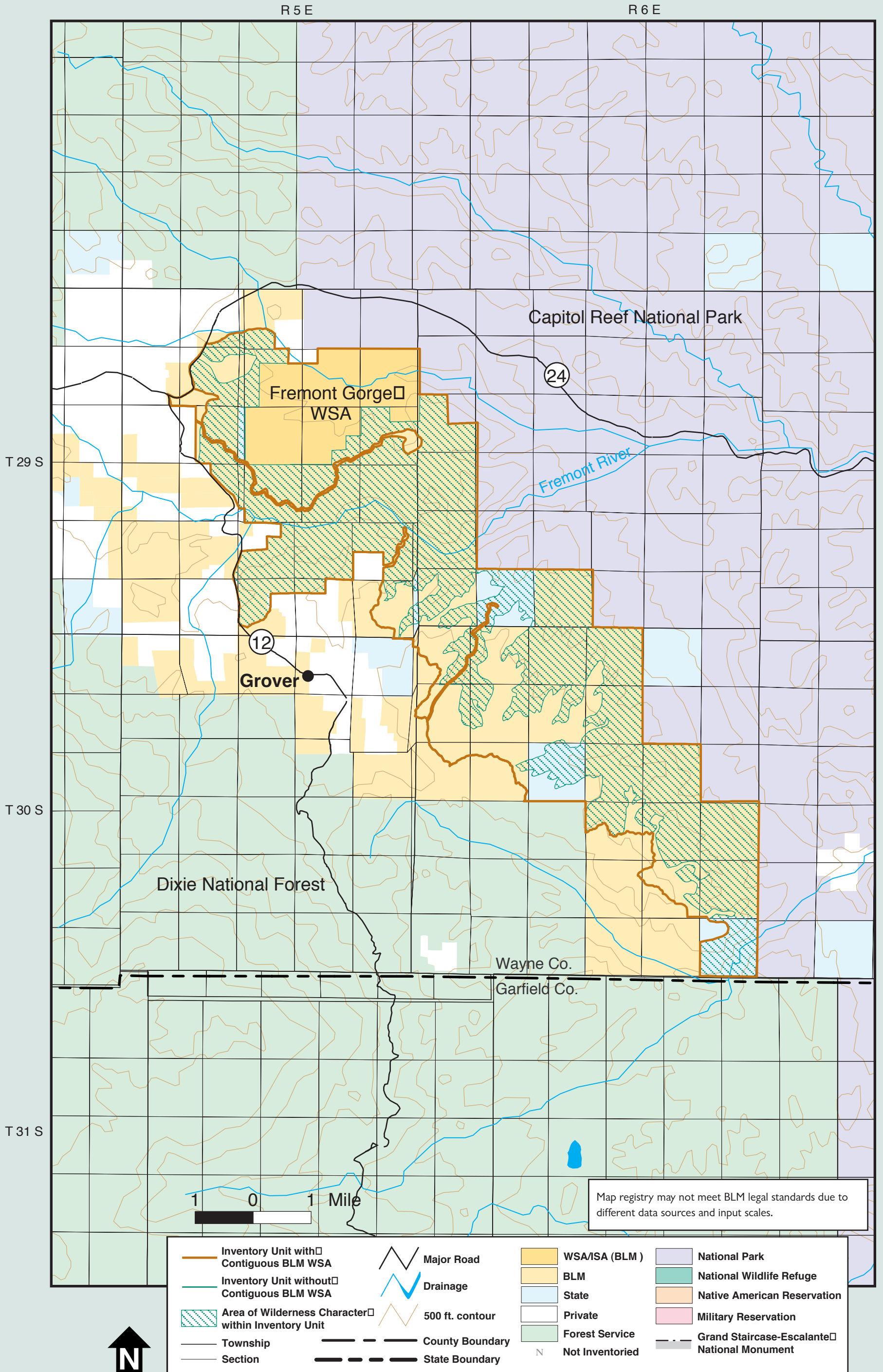
The Fremont River area through the gorge contains pristine riparian habitat and provides significant ecological, educational, and scientific values. The Fremont River is eligible for inclusion as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System because of its outstanding recreational values. Scenery in the Fremont gorge is spectacular.

FREMONT GORGE—The edge of Miner's Mountain, looking into the inventory unit.



Jerry Sintz

Fremont Gorge



Map registry may not meet BLM legal standards due to different data sources and input scales.