

Comb Ridge

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
14,000	800	14,800 (85%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
2,400	200	2,600 (15%)
Inventory Unit Total		
16,400	1,000	17,400
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
None		

Most of the Comb Ridge inventory unit (14,800 acres) has wilderness characteristics. However, the area east of Butler Wash (2,600 acres) is significantly impacted by human disturbance and lacks wilderness characteristics.

Solitude opportunities are limited because of the unit's narrow width and the proximity of boundary roads. However, opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, especially hiking, are outstanding. Comb Ridge is known for its impressive geology, scenic vistas, and variety of important archaeological sites, all of which are accessible only by primitive means.

Unit Description

The Comb Ridge inventory unit is located in south-central San Juan County about 20 miles southwest of Blanding. It is separated from the Road Canyon inventory unit by San Juan County Route 237 (Snow Flat Road) and from the Fish and Owl Creeks inventory unit by San Juan County Route 235 (Comb Wash Road). The terrain consists primarily of a striking ridge of up-warped Navajo Sandstone that rises gradually from the east and then drops precipitously on the west. The higher elevations support primarily juniper, along with some piñon pine. Lower elevations support Mormon tea, sagebrush, yucca, rabbitbrush, greasewood, blackbrush, and squawbush. Cottonwoods and tamarisk dominate the drainages.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

The sheer walls and short, stark canyons of most of the Comb Ridge inventory unit appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. A few vehicle ways do cross Butler Wash, but they are substantially unnoticeable and largely impassable by vehicles because of erosion.

The area east of Butler Wash lacks wilderness characteristics because of the cumulative impact of numerous vehicle ways.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

Marginal opportunities for solitude exist. The unit is quite narrow (generally less than two miles wide throughout) and most of it is treeless, exposing the visitor to constant views of the boundary roads. However, opportunities for solitude may be present in the many slot canyons on the eastern side.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Outstanding opportunities exist for primitive and unconfined recreation. Challenging hikes and spectacular scenic views (among the most impressive in southern Utah) from the top of Comb Ridge reward the visitor. However, skill is required to access the beautiful and often rugged heart of this unique place.

Supplemental Values

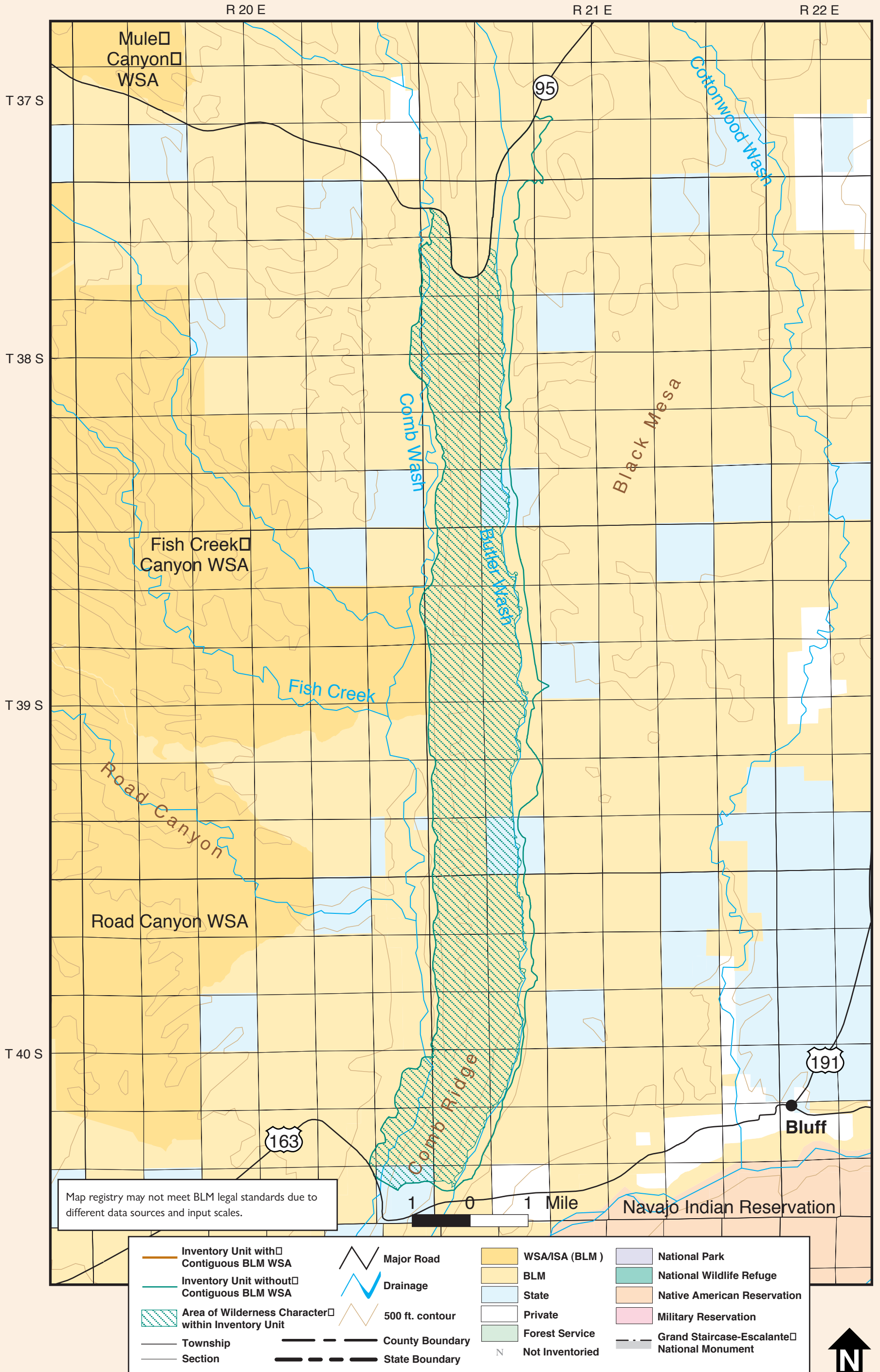
The scenic quality of this unit is excellent. Even the most casual visitor cannot help being impressed by the massive up-warp of Navajo sandstone forming the spine of Comb Ridge. Several cliff dwellings and rock art panels highlight the significant archaeological resources found here.

COMB RIDGE—Challenging hikes and some of the most impressive views in southern Utah reward the visitor to Comb Ridge.



Jerry Sintz

Comb Ridge



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

Inventory Unit with Contiguous BLM WSA	Major Road	WSA/ISA (BLM)	National Park
Inventory Unit without Contiguous BLM WSA	Drainage	BLM	National Wildlife Refuge
Area of Wilderness Character within Inventory Unit	500 ft. contour	State	Native American Reservation
Township	County Boundary	Private	Military Reservation
Section	State Boundary	Forest Service	Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
		Not Inventoried	

SOUTHEAST REGION—Comb Ridge