

Sheep Canyon

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
4,700	640	5,340 (100%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
0	0	0 (0%)
Inventory Unit Total		
4,700	640	5,340
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area's Dark Canyon		18,595

All 5,340 acres of the Sheep Canyon inventory unit retain their wilderness characteristics. The area is contiguous with the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area's Dark Canyon (18,595 acres), which has already been administratively endorsed for wilderness designation. The inventory unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation when considered in conjunction with the adjacent National Recreation Area. The unit includes the popular Sundance Trail, which is the primary hiking access route to the lower end of Dark Canyon.

Unit Description

The Sheep Canyon inventory unit is located in San Juan County about 80 miles northwest of Blanding. It is separated from the adjacent Dark Canyon and Fort Knocker Canyon units by boundary roads.

The terrain consists of relatively flat benchland, sandstone outcrops, and the heads of two northward-draining canyons on the north. Vegetation is a sparse mixture of juniper and desert shrubs.

Hiking on the Sundance Trail, cattle grazing, and occasional car camping along boundary roads are the current uses.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

The unit retains its natural character because of its remote location and roadless character. No known archaeological or geological features attract visitors or users to the area, along with their resulting impacts. Impacts to naturalness from six primitive campsites, two old seismic lines, a corral, and a stock pond are substantially unnoticeable.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The entire unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. Despite the unit's relatively flat terrain and small size,

enough screening exists from the topography and junipers to provide opportunities for solitude to the few visitors who venture into the interior. The contiguous Dark Canyon unit of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area enhances opportunities for solitude.

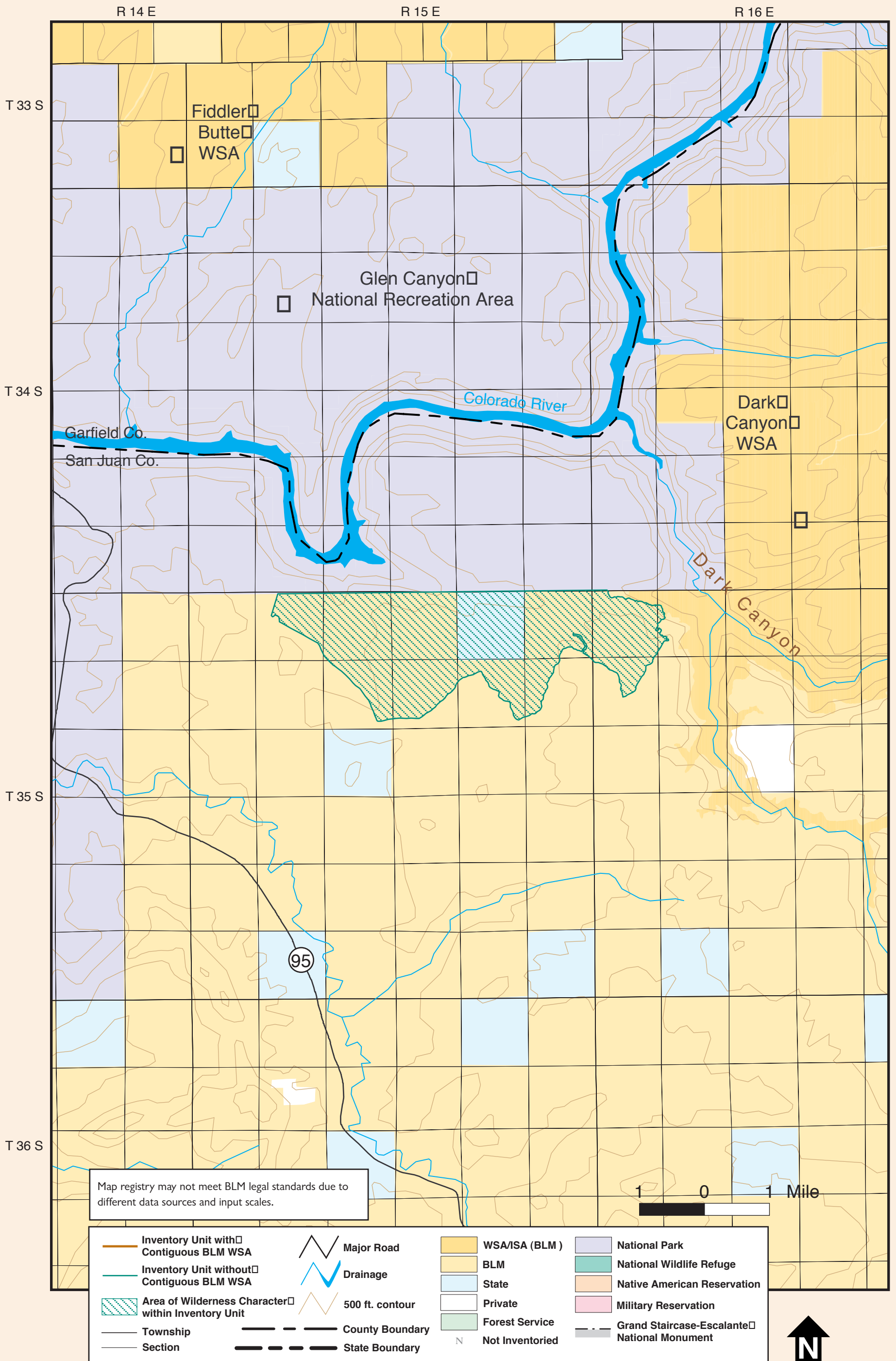
Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for dispersed recreation are outstanding. The Sundance Trail provides a challenging day hike or overnight backpacking opportunity. The rim of Sheep Canyon on the north offers views of the Mille Crag Bend in Lake Powell. Numerous scenic view points and potential campsites with outstanding views of Dark Canyon are just a short hike from the boundary. Travel into Sheep Canyon requires ropes and advanced canyon hiking abilities.

Supplemental Values

The unit offers a spectacular view from its northern edge into Dark Canyon and Lake Powell. The original Sundance Road along the eastern boundary may be of historical interest.

Sheep Canyon



SOUTHEAST REGION—Sheep Canyon