

# Indian Creek

## Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
<b>With Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
19,000	2,640	21,640 (88%)
<b>Without Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
1,850	1,170	3,020 (12%)
<b>Inventory Unit Total</b>		
20,850	3,810	24,660
<b>Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
Indian Creek WSA (UT-060-164)		6,870
Canyonlands National Park— The Maze Area		105,980

Approximately 21,640 acres of the four Indian Creek inventory units have wilderness characteristics, including a portion of Indian Creek Canyon with its labyrinth of tributary drainages. Roads divide the area into four units. Each unit is contiguous either to the Indian Creek Wilderness Study Area (WSA) or to the Maze area of Canyonlands National Park, which has been recommended for wilderness by the National Park Service (NPS). Consequently, all four units are part of a large and exceptionally scenic wild area. About 3,020 acres lack wilderness characteristics because of disturbance from off-highway vehicle activity, camping, and mineral exploration.

INDIAN CREEK—Heavily dissected canyons and drainages and colorful geologic features are found in this exceptionally scenic wild area.

## Unit Description

The Indian Creek inventory units are located along the eastern side of Canyonlands National Park and the Indian Creek WSA. They are within San Juan County and are located about 20 air miles southwest of Moab. For the most part, the units consist of a labyrinth of canyons, draws, and small buttes of mostly bare sandstone separated by flatter open areas and benches. The two most prominent features are Indian Creek, with its riparian vegetation, and Lockhart Canyon. Vegetation includes cottonwood and tamarisk in drainage bottoms and blackbrush and Utah junipers on the flats and benches.

## Wilderness Characteristics

### Naturalness

All four inventory units are primarily natural in character. While each unit shows disturbance from off-highway vehicle use, camping, and mining exploration, these impacts are largely confined to fringe areas along the roads separating the four units. Within the upper reaches of Indian Creek in the southeastern corner of Unit 4, a large area has been impacted by off-highway vehicle use and mining exploration and has thus lost its natural character. However, the complex and remote canyons and benches in the majority of this unit show only minor evidence of human presence, either past or present.

## Outstanding Opportunities

### Solitude

The natural portions of the units have outstanding opportunities for solitude. They are heavily dissected by canyons and small drainages. The large number of hiking routes in canyons, along benches, and across small plateaus make it easy to find secluded spots. The opportunities for solitude within the units are supplemented by those found in the contiguous WSA and the Maze area of Canyonlands National Park.

### Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The natural portions of the units provide outstanding opportunities for hiking and backpacking, with a choice of many different routes. The scenic and geologic features of the area invite exploration. Routes may be extended by making use of the contiguous WSA and the Maze area of Canyonlands National Park.

### Supplemental Values

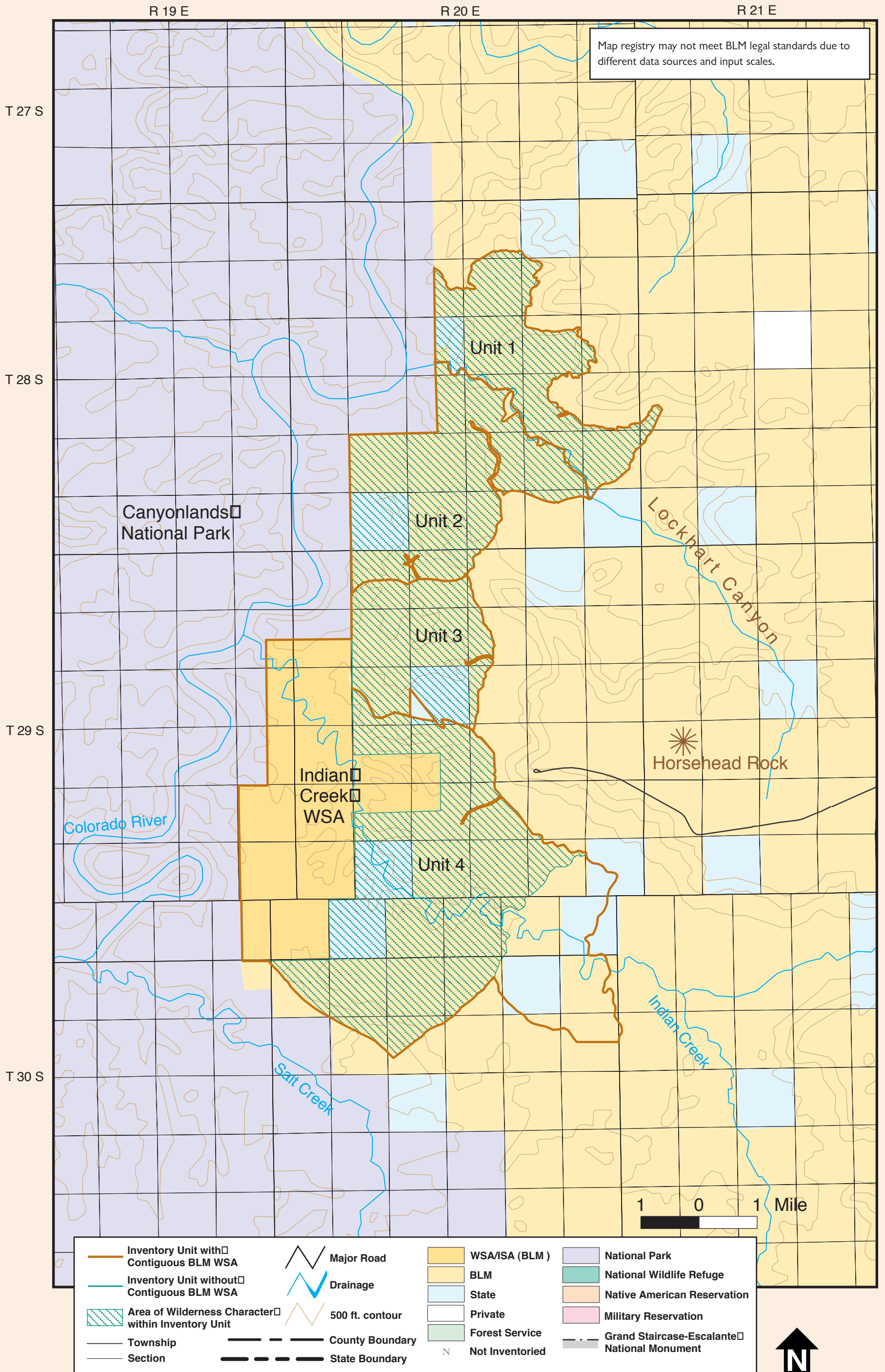
The units contain a portion of Indian Creek, an intermittent stream with many tributary canyons. The area provides scenic landforms and features similar to parts of the Maze area in Canyonlands National Park. Desert bighorn sheep are known to inhabit the area, and peregrine falcons may also be present.



Jerry Sintz



# Indian Creek



SOUTHEAST REGION—Indian Creek