

Harts Point

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
18,000	1,700	19,700 (27%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
45,200	7,300	52,500 (73%)
Inventory Unit Total		
63,200	9,000	72,200
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
None		

Most of the Harts Point inventory unit (52,500 acres) has lost its wilderness characteristics. The area without wilderness characteristics contains numerous roads, seismic lines, drill pads, evidence of past uranium exploration/mining, substantially noticeable vehicle ways, and livestock facilities.

The area with wilderness characteristics (19,700 acres) remains largely natural, with only a few substantially unnoticeable mineral exploration impacts that are revegetating. The inner core of the unit with wilderness characteristics contains portions of three prominent geographic features: Harts Point Plateau, Harts Draw, and Rone Bailey Mesa. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation exist in the natural portion of the unit. While large portions clearly do not have wilderness characteristics, the heart of the unit obviously contains high quality wilderness values. The use of topographic features was determined to be the

best method for distinguishing the boundary around those lands having wilderness characteristics.

Unit Description

The Harts Point inventory unit is located in San Juan County about 30 miles north of Monticello. The terrain consists of a large northward-draining canyon, a high plateau with continuous cliffs on its west and north sides, and a prominent mesa in the northeast corner. Vegetation varies from piñon and juniper woodlands at 6,500 feet to desert shrub and grass communities at 4,800 feet. Several perennial streams and springs support cottonwood trees. Tamarisk is the dominant riparian vegetation.

Current uses include rock climbing, woodcutting, use of off-highway vehicles, camping, hiking, and cattle grazing.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

A portion of the unit retains its natural character because of its remote location, rugged terrain, and challenging vehicle access. This natural portion receives far less vehicle-based recreation use than the remaining portions. Vegetation growth and screening is also greater in this portion of the unit.

Most of the remaining area has lost its natural character because of the presence

of over 50 roads, additional vehicle ways regularly driven by the public and livestock managers, a proliferation of constructed and maintained livestock management facilities, extensive oil and gas exploration impacts, and other readily apparent historical surface-disturbing activities.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

Portions of the unit provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. These opportunities are greatest in Harts Draw and at the northern end of Harts Point. However, opportunities for solitude are limited along Utah Highway 211 because of noticeable human activity at a popular rock-climbing area and a major tourist attraction at Newspaper Rock.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for easy day hiking from many scenic campsites are excellent. Day hiking and backpacking opportunities exist in Harts Draw, with an overnight stay common to access the middle of the canyon.

Supplemental Values

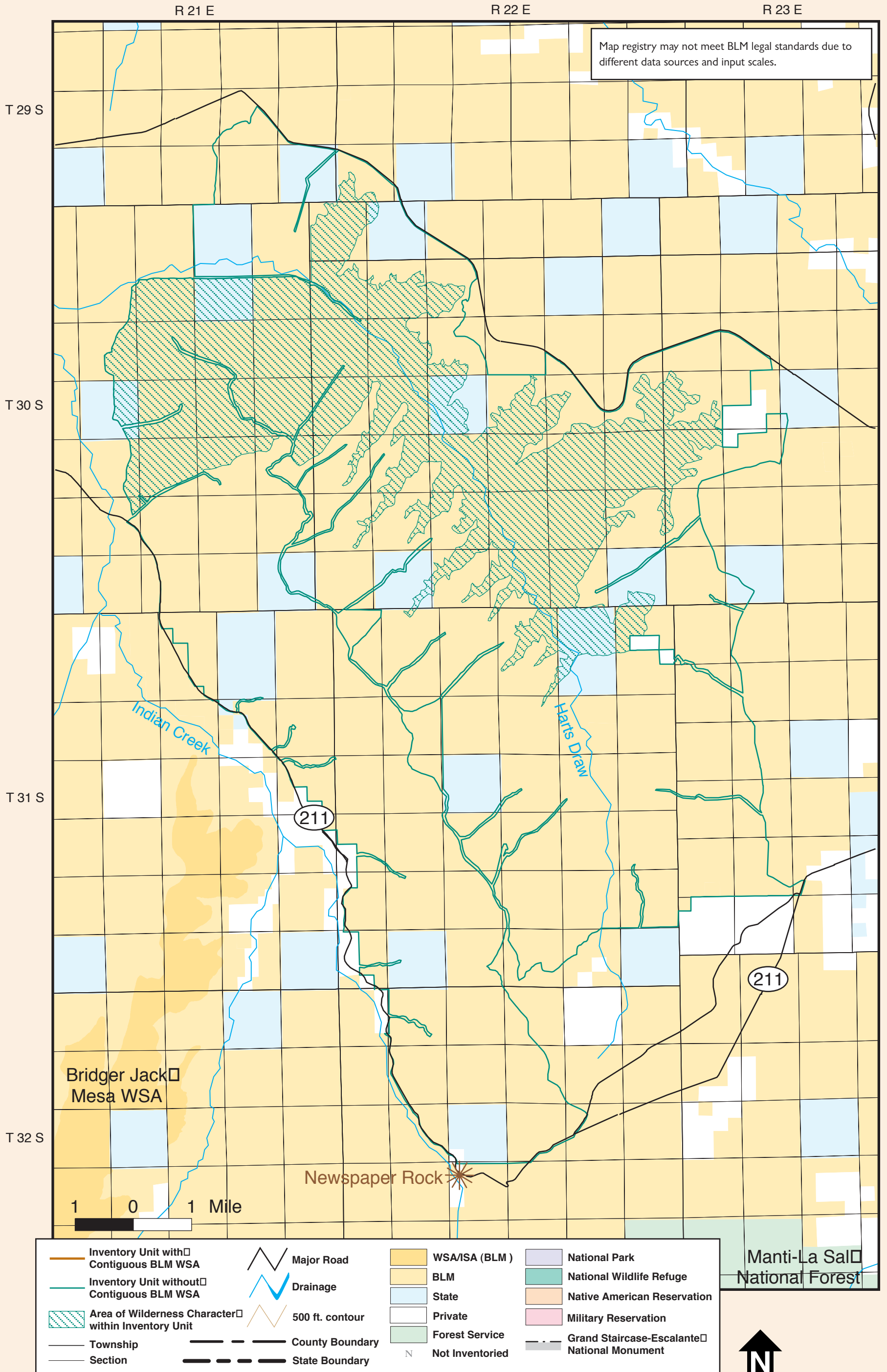
Scenic quality is high for the entire unit, with expansive views of the La Sal Mountains, the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park, and sheer 1,000-foot red rock cliffs. The unit contains several well-known rock art and geologic attractions.

HARTS POINT—Many opportunities exist in the inventory unit to view the scenic canyon cliffs of Harts Draw.



BLM photo

Harts Point



SOUTHEAST REGION—Harts Point