

Goldbar

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
6,500	1,600	8,100 (54%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
6,600	400	7,000 (46%)
Inventory Unit Total		
13,100	2,000	15,100
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
None		

A portion of the Goldbar inventory unit (8,100 acres) has wilderness characteristics. Its core area, which is composed of several major canyons and their numerous branches, is roadless, predominately natural, and spectacular. Surrounding eroded sandstone formations, including several arches and many other intriguing erosional features, add to the unit's outstanding qualities. The rugged, broken landscape gives a feeling of remote solitude almost immediately upon entering it.

Approximately 7,000 acres located in the east and north do not have wilderness characteristics because of a proliferation of vehicle routes. In addition, part of this area is separated from the unit's core either by roads or by a railroad right-of-way.

Unit Description

Goldbar is immediately west of Moab and north of the Colorado River. The unit includes the cliffs of Poison Spider Mesa and a series of canyons. Other erosional features include Long Canyon and the Dry Fork of Bull Canyon, which is north and west of the river. Six canyon systems with numerous branches and forks, five named arches, and numerous spectacular sandstone features carved from the Navajo Formation are found within the unit. The Wingate and Kayenta Formations are exposed in some of the deeper canyons, such as Day Canyon in the west. Vegetation includes juniper and some piñon in pockets of soil scattered throughout the mostly sandstone surface. Cottonwoods, tamarisk, and other riparian species are found in the canyons.

Current uses of the area include hiking and exploring the canyons and arches, mountain biking, and off-highway vehicle (OHV) driving. Marked trails exist for hiking, mountain biking, and OHV use. Portions of the Poison Spider Mesa routes

and the Golden Spike trail are within the unit. Livestock grazing and associated range developments occur in parts of the unit, and substantial mining activity has taken place in the past in its northwestern corner. The tunnel right-of-way for the Potash mine railroad is also within the unit.

The higher cliff terrain in the northeast portion provides panoramic views of the Moab Valley, Arches National Park, and Behind the Rocks Wilderness Study Area.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

A portion of the inventory unit retains its natural character and shows little evidence of human presence. The area west of the railroad right-of-way and south of the Golden Spike route contains an area of slickrock, canyons, cliffs, and monoliths that is almost entirely natural in appearance. One cherry-stemmed road between Day Canyon and Long Canyon receives little use and does not intrude into the canyons. An old road and some mining exploration scars in Day Canyon are revegetating and are substantially unnoticeable in this large and spectacular canyon. The route is no longer accessible by vehicles and is difficult to find because of vegetation at the mouth of the canyon. The extreme upper end of the Dry Fork of Bull Canyon, ending in spectacular cliffs and an 800-foot pour-off, is also natural in character.

The remaining portions of the unit west and north of the Golden Spike route and east of the railroad right-of-way are separated from the "core" natural area. These portions contain some areas that have been heavily impacted by roads and other vehicle routes.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The natural portion of the unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude in its series of branching canyons and rugged sandstone outcrops. Although this portion of the area is

bounded by a heavily traveled route and a railroad right-of-way, the terrain is such that the area provides an exceptional sense of solitude. Winding canyons, steep cliff walls, and broken slickrock benches shut out all but the immediate vicinity.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The unit contains outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Opportunities are exceptional for hiking, exploring the maze of canyons and sandstone benches, sightseeing, and photographing the spectacular canyons, sandstone formations, and arches. Close proximity to the city of Moab makes these opportunities even more outstanding.

Supplemental Values

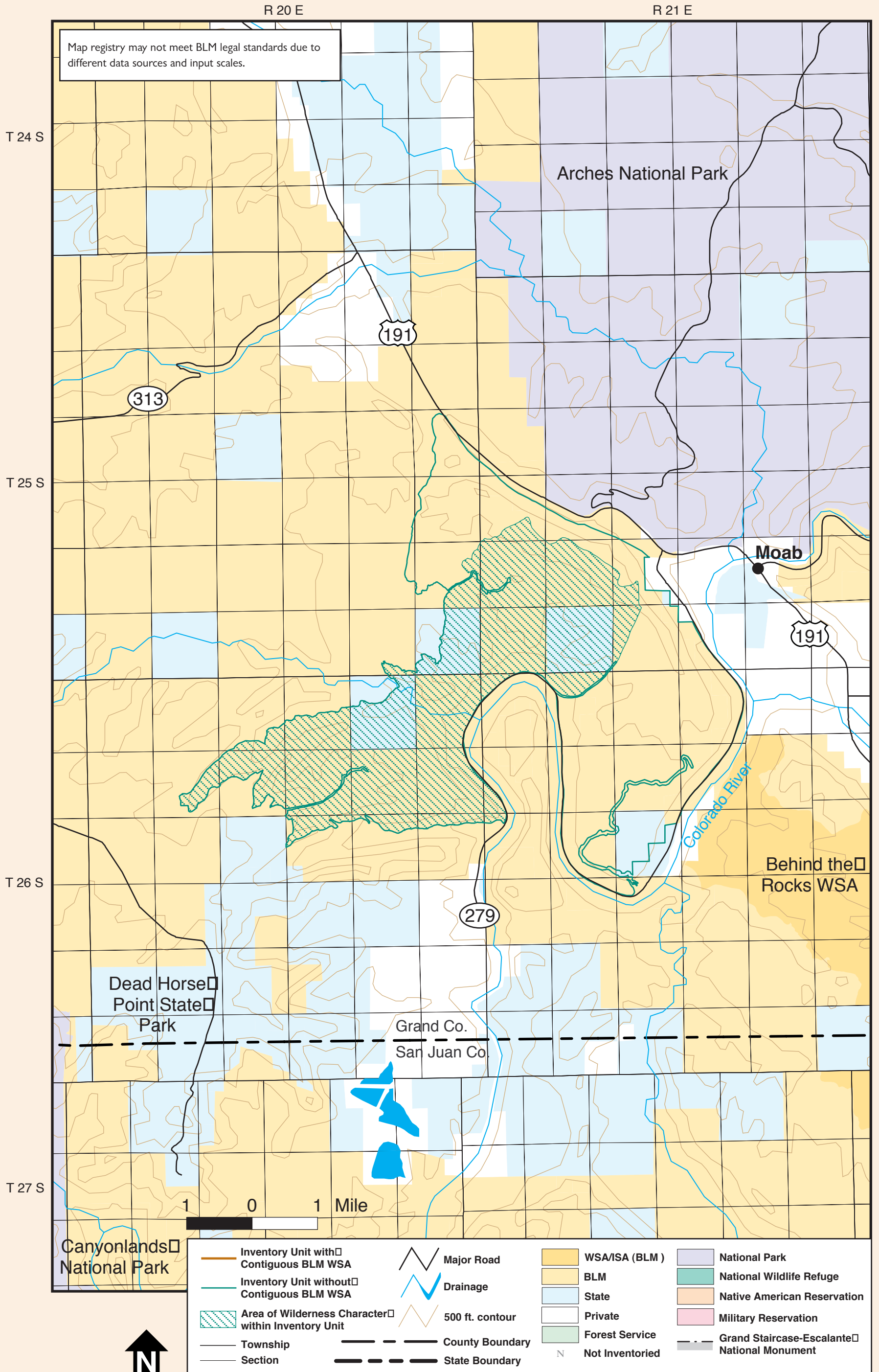
In addition to its arches (Corona Arch, Bowtie Arch, Goldbar or Jeep Arch, Jughandle Arch, and Pinto Arch), this unit contains a maze of twisting canyons and unusual rock formations. Rock-art panels and other cultural sites can also be found. Dinosaur footprints are located just off the Potash Road, and bighorn sheep can be found in the Long Canyon area.

GOLDBAR—Bowtie Arch is just one of the many geologic features contributing to the spectacular scenery of the Goldbar inventory unit.



Jerry Sintz

Goldbar



SOUTHEAST REGION—Goldbar