

Hatch Wash

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
12,000	2,100	14,100 (51%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
12,100	1,400	13,500 (49%)
Inventory Unit Total		
24,100	3,500	27,600
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
None		

The central portion (14,100 acres) of the Hatch Wash inventory unit has wilderness characteristics. This portion retains its natural appearance and provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. It consists of over 12 miles of the deeply incised, sheer-walled, twisting Hatch Wash Canyon, as well as numerous side tributary canyons and the surrounding highly dissected mesa top. Interesting geographic features include towering cliffs, numerous spires, sandstone domes, hanging rincons (old stream meanders now located high on canyon walls), and other unique erosional features. Portions of the unit (13,500 acres) are unnatural in character because they contain roads, vehicle ways, bladed seismic lines, and livestock developments.

Unit Description

The Hatch Wash inventory unit is located in northern San Juan County about 10 miles south of Moab. The terrain consists of approximately 6 miles of Kane Springs Canyon, over 12 miles of Hatch Wash Canyon, numerous side tributary canyons, and the surrounding highly dissected mesa top. Portions of both Flat Iron Mesa and Hatch Point Mesa are included. The 1,000-foot-deep Hatch Wash is a major tributary to Kane Springs Canyon. Vegetation consists of piñon and juniper woodland and desert shrub communities, with a variety of large shrubs (sagebrush, greasewood, blackbrush, and rabbitbrush), cacti, yucca, perennial grasses, and annual plants. Lush riparian vegetation is found in Kane Springs Canyon, Hatch Wash, and some of the side drainages, including Trout Water Canyon. Cottonwoods, willows, and a wide variety of shrubs, reeds, and grasses provide shade, shelter, and food for a variety

HATCH WASH—One of the spectacular canyons within the inventory unit offering seclusion and isolation, along with a host of primitive recreation opportunities.

of wildlife. Most evidence of mining exploration is old and has undergone natural vegetative and erosional restoration over time. Livestock management continues, with several range developments being present. Recreational activities include hiking, mountain biking, and off-highway vehicle (OHV) use.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

The central portion of the Hatch Wash inventory unit generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature and retains its natural character. Human impacts are substantially unnoticeable in this portion of the unit. The few isolated seismic lines and other evidence of mineral exploration that are widely scattered throughout the unit are quite old and have become substantially unnoticeable because of natural rehabilitation. These intrusions are, in most cases, well screened by the unit's vegetation and broken terrain. A few livestock fences are widely dispersed and inconspicuous. Stock ponds and associated access routes have been excluded from the area with natural character. Several vehicle ways penetrate the central part of the unit and some provide access to the rim for hiking, camping or scenic viewing. Others are used for OHV activity. However, all of these routes are substantially unnoticeable due to the area's diverse topographic and vegetative screening. Most receive little use and are highly eroded.

In the remaining part of the unit, a combination of roads, vehicle ways, remnant bladed seismic lines, and livestock developments have resulted in the loss of natural character. In addition, areas in the northwest and northeast sections of the unit are separated from the central portion of the unit by roads that are less than 0.25 mile apart in places.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. The varied topography, including over 12 miles of twisting Hatch Wash, numerous side canyons, and the broken plateau, provides excellent opportunities to find seclusion and isolation. The size of the area and the vegetative screening provided by the piñon and juniper trees, plus the riparian vegetation in the canyon bottoms, all contribute to the unit's outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The unit provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The remote, rugged nature of the terrain, along with the excellent geologic scenery and unique landforms, provide truly outstanding opportunities for dispersed, undeveloped recreation. The difficulty in accessing the bottom of Hatch Wash adds to the "challenge and risk" factor of recreating in the unit. Wildlife, lush riparian areas, perennial water, unique landforms (towering cliffs, spires, sandstone domes, and hanging rincons), and other unique erosional features all contribute to the unit's attractiveness. Hiking, backpacking, camping, sightseeing, photography, and nature study all present outstanding opportunities.

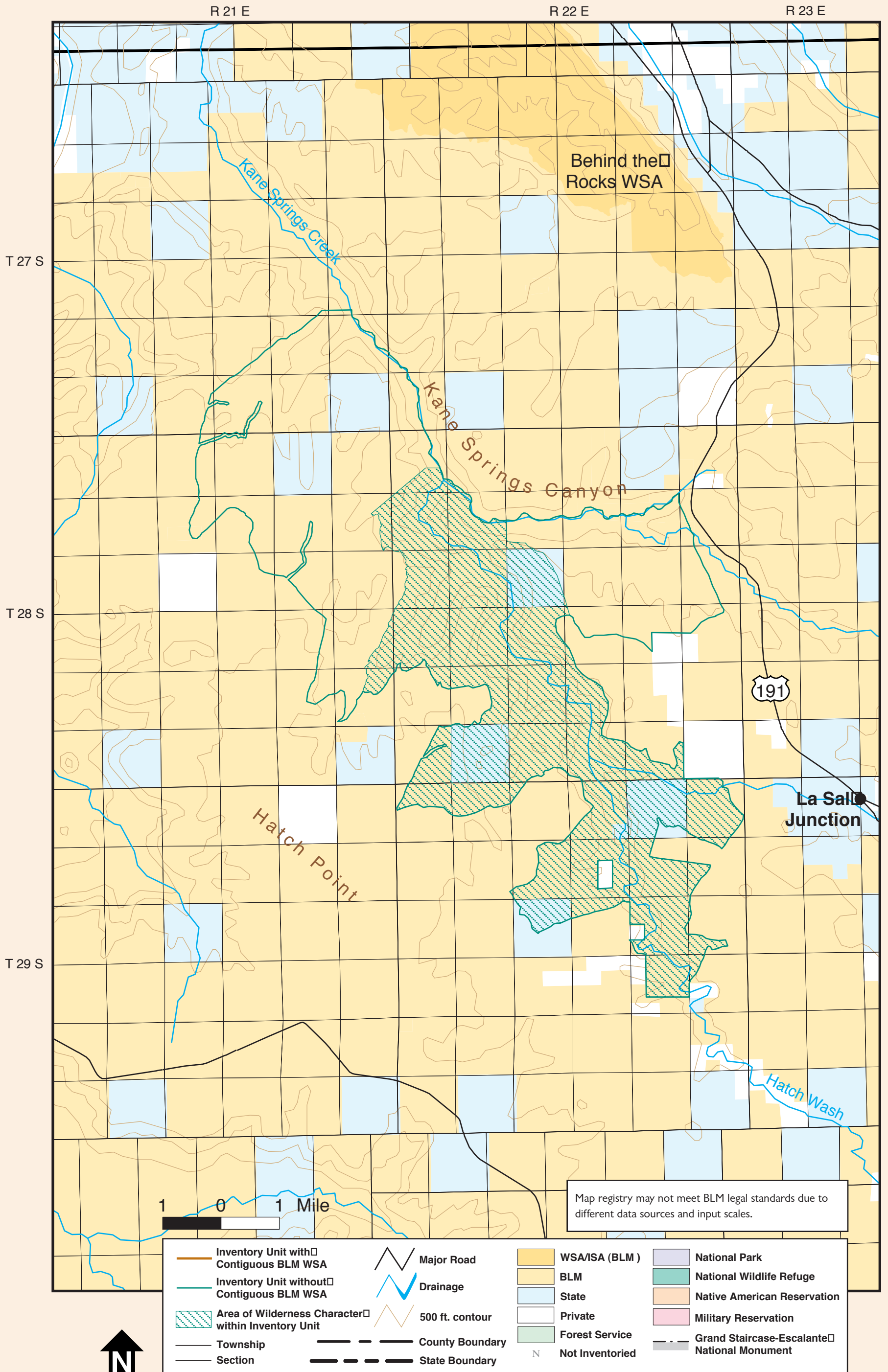
Supplemental Values

Scenic quality is high, especially in Hatch Wash and its major tributaries. Special status wildlife species inhabiting the area include peregrine falcons and bighorn sheep. Landforms are spectacular—towering sheer-walled cliffs, spires, sandstone domes, hanging rincons, and other unique erosional features all contribute to the unit's outstanding scenery. Dense riparian vegetation, a perennial stream, and a side canyon with seasonally spectacular waterfalls and deep pools, are special features of the unit.



BLM photo

Hatch Wash



SOUTHEAST REGION—Hatch Wash