

Granite Creek

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
5,400	500	5,900 (88%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
800	0	800 (12%)
Inventory Unit Total		
6,200	500	6,700
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
None		

Approximately 5,900 acres of the Granite Creek inventory unit have wilderness characteristics. The portion with wilderness characteristics includes approximately five miles of Granite Creek within its deeply entrenched serpentine canyon. The area's rugged terrain, vegetative cover, and remoteness provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation.

A total of 800 acres lack wilderness characteristics because they are separated from the main unit by a road, are part of an old homestead, or have been chained.

Unit Description

The Granite Creek inventory unit is located approximately 35 air miles northeast of Moab (2½ hours by four-wheel drive) in a remote area known as the Dolores Triangle. Granite Creek, a perennial stream in a deeply entrenched canyon, is the area's most prominent feature. Granite Creek flows from Colorado into Utah, but only the portion in Utah is discussed in this report. Vegetation is piñon and juniper woodland on the benches above the stream. Cottonwood trees are found in riparian areas along Granite Creek.

The unit is accessible from either Colorado or Utah by fording the Dolores River. It is remote and seldom visited, except during hunting season and for livestock management purposes. Anglers may occasionally visit to fish for trout. Remnants of an old homestead are present.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

The portion of the area south and west of the Granite Creek Road is natural. This

natural area includes approximately five miles of Granite Creek in its deeply entrenched serpentine canyon.

An old homestead on the north bank of Granite Creek and an old chaining in the extreme southeastern corner of the unit are not natural.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The unit's rugged topography, vegetative cover, and remote location provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The unit contains outstanding opportunities for hiking and backpacking. A hiking or backpacking trip of approximately 10

miles could be undertaken by following the stream up and back from the southwestern boundary. The unit provides opportunities to hunt elk and mule deer. However, trout fishing opportunities are limited because of low stream flows caused by upstream diversions.

Supplemental Values

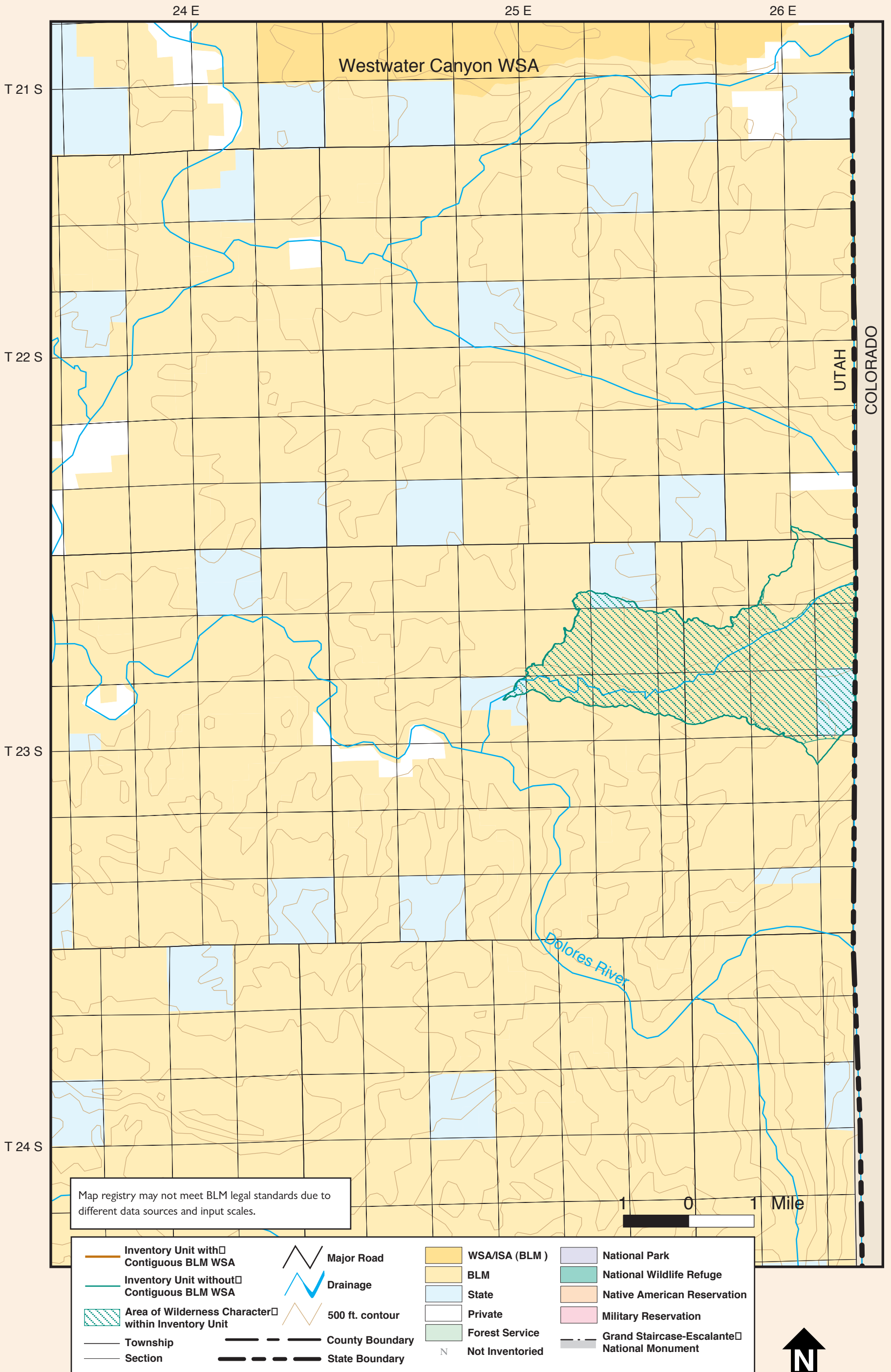
Granite Creek, a perennial stream, is a significant feature in this otherwise dry area. In its lower reaches, the stream has cut a narrow, serpentine canyon dotted with cottonwood trees. The canyon is scenic, with steep-sided rock walls. Wildlife includes mule deer, elk, mountain lion, black bear, and various raptors.

GRANITE CREEK—Granite Creek, a perennial stream, runs through the middle of the inventory unit.



BLM photo

Granite Creek



Map registry may not meet BLM legal standards due to different data sources and input scales.

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| Inventory Unit with Contiguous BLM WSA | Major Road | WSA/ISA (BLM) | National Park |
| Inventory Unit without Contiguous BLM WSA | Drainage | BLM | National Wildlife Refuge |
| Area of Wilderness Character within Inventory Unit | 500 ft. contour | State | Native American Reservation |
| Township | County Boundary | Private | Military Reservation |
| Section | State Boundary | Forest Service | Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument |
| | | Not Inventoried | |