

Fort Knocker Canyon

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
12,800	800	13,600 (100%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
0	0	0 (0%)
Inventory Unit Total		
12,800	800	13,600
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
None		

All of the Fort Knocker Canyon inventory unit (13,600 acres) has wilderness characteristics and is natural; the few minor human imprints are located along boundary roads and are outside the boundary. wilderness characteristics is exemplified by the outstanding and challenging canyon recreation available. The Black Hole section of White Canyon is described in several guidebooks. The canyon system provides outstanding opportunities for hiking, canyoneering (hiking requiring wet suits, life vests, and ropes), multiday backpacking, and exploring.

Unit Description

The Fort Knocker Canyon inventory unit is located in San Juan County about 65 miles west of Blanding. Terrain consists of flat benchlands, as well as Fort Knocker and White Canyons. Vegetation is a sparse mixture of desert shrubs on the benches and scattered cottonwood riparian communities in the wider portions of the canyons. The inventory unit is currently used for canyoneering, hiking, camping, and livestock grazing.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

The entire unit retains its natural character. The few human imprints within the area are not noticeable. The unit is roadless, penetrated only by two short cherry-stemmed roads. Fort Knocker and White Canyons, in particular, remain pristine. The naturalness of the area is enhanced by its rugged terrain.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

With the exception of the portion of the unit adjacent to Utah Highway 95, the

area provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. The remote location; dramatic, rugged terrain; and deep, sheer-walled canyons all combine to create a feeling of extreme isolation.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The canyon system provides outstanding opportunities for canyoneering in some sections. Hiking, multiday backpacking, and exploring the upper canyon reaches require less ability, but these are still high-quality experiences.

Supplemental Values

Scenic quality is excellent. The benches above the canyon system provide outstanding views of surrounding red-rock buttes and mesas. The unit contains Anasazi ruins, some of which are well preserved because of their remote location and the lack of vehicle access.

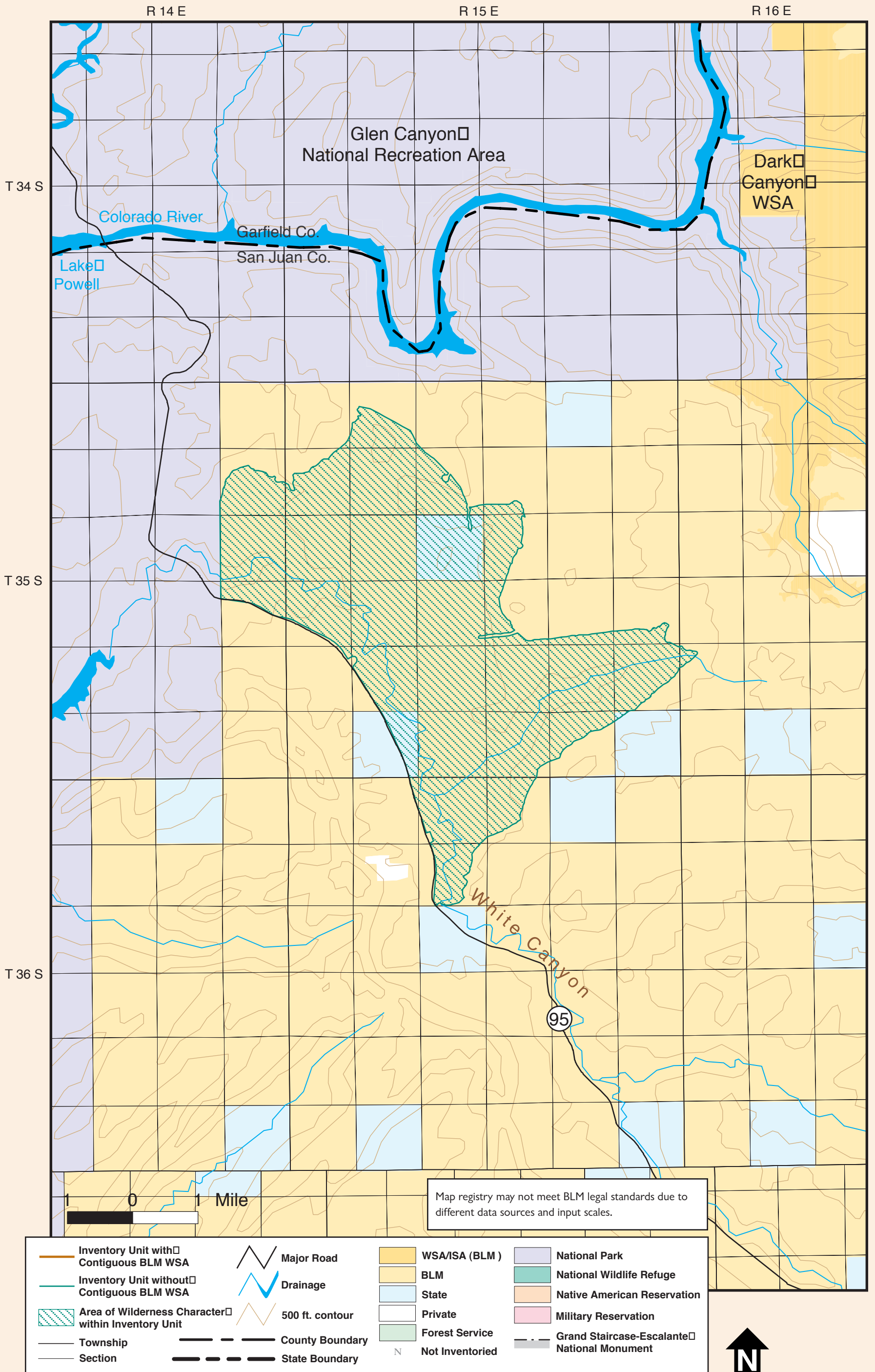
A portion of White Canyon, upstream from and outside the unit, has been identified by the National Park Service as having potential for Congressional designation as part of the National Wild and Scenic River system.

FORT KNOCKER CANYON—Although extremely scenic, Fort Knocker Canyon can also be dangerous when flash flooding occurs.



BLM photo

Fort Knocker Canyon



SOUTHEAST REGION—Fort Knocker Canyon