

Red Mountain

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
970	1,100	2,070 (100%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
0	0	0 (0%)
Inventory Unit Total		
970	1,100	2,070
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Red Mountain WSA (UT-040-132A)		18,290

The six Red Mountain inventory units are contiguous to the Red Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA). All six units (2,070 acres) have wilderness characteristics. Each unit is natural, and most provide visitors with outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive recreation. The units are obvious extensions of the scenic landscapes and wilderness values displayed in the contiguous WSA. Units 1, 2, 4, and 6 contain portions of the rugged 1,400-foot Red Mountain cliffs. The Red Mountain plateau and cliffs represent a spectacular formation of Navajo Sandstone. These units enrich the natural integrity of the WSA by enclosing additional portions of this significant geologic feature.

Unit Description

The inventory units are located in west-central Washington County about six miles northwest of St. George. They encompass three different land forms. The

southern units (Units 1, 2, and 3) are located on the flat bench or lower cliff faces of the southern portion of Red Mountain, while the western units (Units 4 and 5) are located primarily on two benches. The northern tract (Unit 6) is in the dissected canyons of Red Mountain proper. The dominant vegetation covering the rough hills, cliff faces, and benches of these six units is mainly desert shrubs and grasses. A road and a pipeline system have been cherry-stemmed from Unit 6.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

All of the units are natural, with Units 1, 3, and 5 being nearly pristine. Minor evidence of human activity in Units 2, 4, and 6 includes an abandoned fence, a small mineral excavation, and an insignificant 0.1-mile vehicle way, along with associated vehicle tracks. However, these slight imprints are indiscernible to casual observers and are being reclaimed naturally.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The six inventory units are contiguous to the Red Mountain WSA and are natural extensions of the landforms and associated opportunities found within this WSA. Units 4, 5, and 6 provide outstanding opportunities for solitude because of their rugged terrain. Inventory Units 1, 2, and 3 lack outstanding opportunities for solitude because of their proximity to the town of

Ivins and the Kayenta subdivision. All three units have unavoidable views southward toward expanding subdivisions.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Outstanding opportunities for hiking, climbing, geologic sightseeing, and photography exist in the WSA, and these opportunities extend to some degree into each of the inventory units. Views of the Red Mountain cliff faces and panoramas of the nearby mountains and peaks of Zion National Park are spectacular. Given the steepness of the terrain, hiking or climbing can be strenuous but extremely rewarding.

Supplemental Values

The six units offer the visitor splendid views and fascinating geology. Units 1, 2, and 3 have spectacular views of the surrounding Red Mountain and the mountains and peaks of nearby Zion National Park. Units 4 and 5 have outstanding views of the Red Mountain cliffs, Gunlock Reservoir, the Santa Clara River, the Beaver Dam Mountains, and distant mountains along the Nevada/Utah border. From Unit 6, visitors can view the Veyo Crater and the Pine Valley Mountains. Red Mountain itself has outstanding geological features of possible interest to visitors studying geology. The mountain is a large Navajo Sandstone plateau, rising dramatically 1,400 feet from the relatively level Santa Clara Bench.

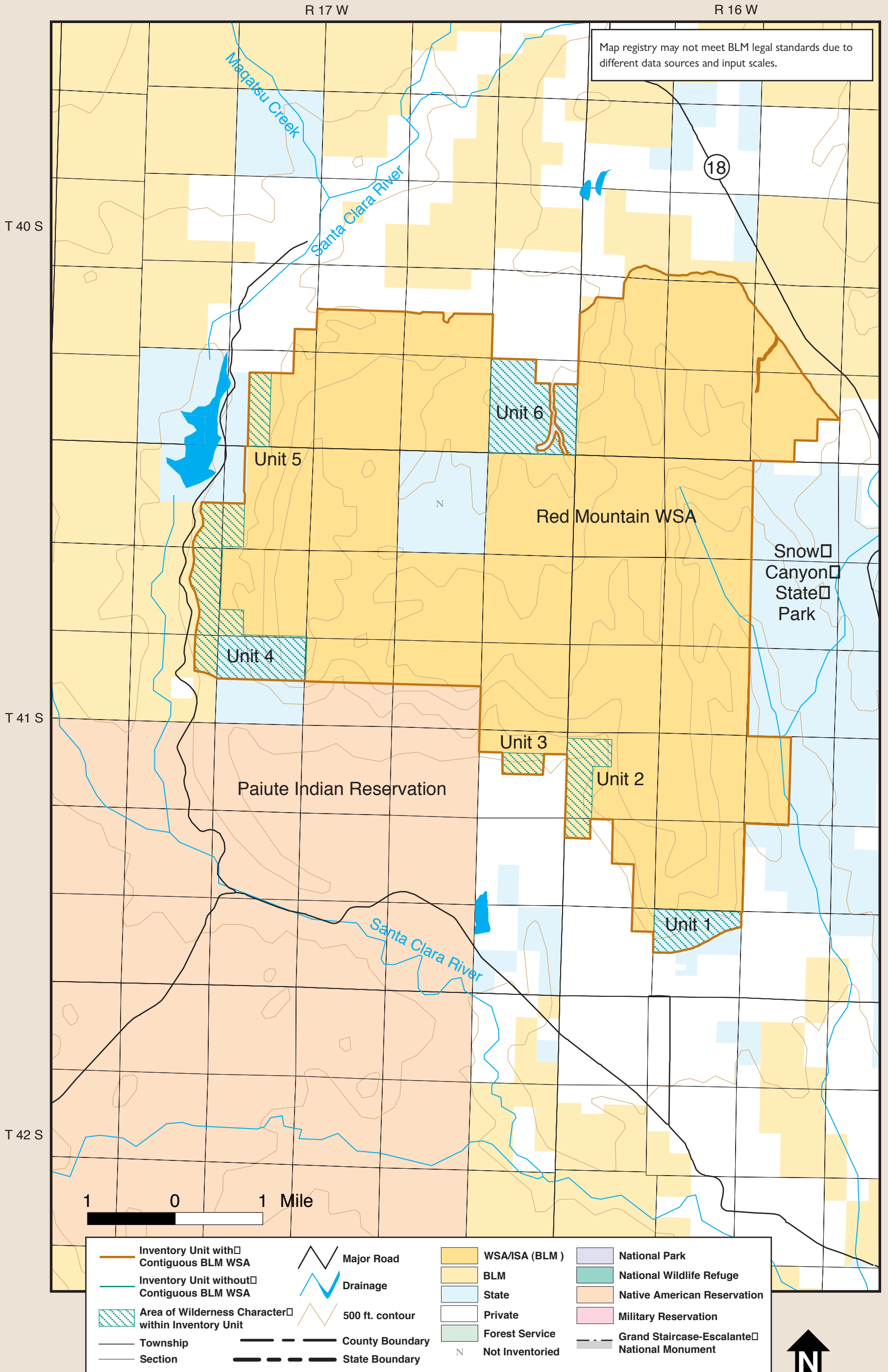
RED MOUNTAIN—

The grey-green vegetation of the sagebrush flats in inventory Unit 3 contrasts with the red cliff faces within the Red Mountain WSA in the background, attesting to the area's splendid views and fascinating geology.



BLM photo

Red Mountain



SOUTHWEST REGION—Red Mountain