

# Orderville Canyon

## Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
<b>With Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
2,030	900	2,930 (55%)
<b>Without Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
2,200	200	2,400 (45%)
<b>Inventory Unit Total</b>		
4,230	1,100	5,330
<b>Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
Orderville Canyon WSA (UT-040-145)		1,750
North Fork Virgin River WSA (UT-040-150)		1,040
Zion National Park		120,620

About 2,930 acres of the seven Orderville Canyon inventory units have wilderness characteristics, while 2,400 acres do not. The units are contiguous to the Orderville Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and the North Fork Virgin River WSA, as well as an area in Zion National Park that is administratively endorsed for wilderness. The units possessing wilderness characteristics include areas containing some upper portions or side tributaries of Orderville Canyon (Units 3, 5, and 6), the benchlands above Orderville Canyon (Units 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7) and a prominent peak, Dakota Hill (Unit 1). All of the units complement and extend the landforms, ecological integrity, and naturalness of the two contiguous WSAs. They also provide an extension of the same outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation found within the WSAs. Those areas lacking wilderness characteristics, Unit 2 and part of Unit 6, are criss-crossed with substantial vehicle ways and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) routes. The State of Utah has a 200-acre parcel proposed for sale located north of Orderville Canyon that occupies the western portion of Unit 2.

## Unit Description

The Orderville Canyon inventory units are located in the northwest region of Kane County about 10 miles north of Utah Highway 9. Half of the inventory area is located north of Orderville Canyon, with the other half lying south of the canyon. Units 1, 6, and 7 are contiguous to Zion National Park to the west. The unit's boundaries are defined by the Zion National Park boundary, private land, substantial vehicle ways, and the North Fork Virgin River WSA and Orderville Canyon WSA boundaries. The terrain consists of steep canyons and drainages, canyon rims, broad hollows, rounded peaks, and flat benches. A piñon and juniper woodland

covers most of the inventory units, along with some ponderosa pine. The understory consists of mountain mahogany, serviceberry, Gambel's oak, cliffrose, and silver buffaloberry. The lower portion of the units is covered by mountain shrub vegetation, with oak, big sagebrush, serviceberry, piñon pine, juniper, and manzanita, along with some bitterbrush and rabbitbrush. The units are currently used for woodcutting, camping, cattle grazing, big game hunting, and ATV riding.

## Wilderness Characteristics

### Naturalness

All or portions of six units (Units 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7) are natural in character, while these units contain about 3 miles of vehicle ways and one state land sale area. All other vehicle ways have been cherry-stemmed from the units. These cherry-stemmed vehicle ways are used by ATVs and are considered intrusive and substantially noticeable. Unit 2 is unnatural in its entirety.

## Outstanding Opportunities

### Solitude

The six units with wilderness characteristics are natural extensions of the wildlands represented in the Orderville Canyon WSA, the North Fork Virgin River WSA,

and Zion National Park. The inventory units enhance the outstanding opportunities for solitude offered by these contiguous lands. The varied topography and assortment of vegetative cover provides excellent screening. Numerous drainages and broader hollows provide areas of seclusion.

## Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Each of the six units provide extensions of the landscapes found within the Orderville Canyon WSA and the North Fork Virgin River WSA. Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation have been documented for these WSAs, and these opportunities clearly extend into the inventory units. Moreover, Units 1, 6, and 7 border Zion National Park, lands that are administratively endorsed for wilderness. The world-renowned hiking, canyoneering, and backpacking opportunities found within these National Park Service lands clearly extend into both WSAs and all of the inventory units.

## Supplemental Values

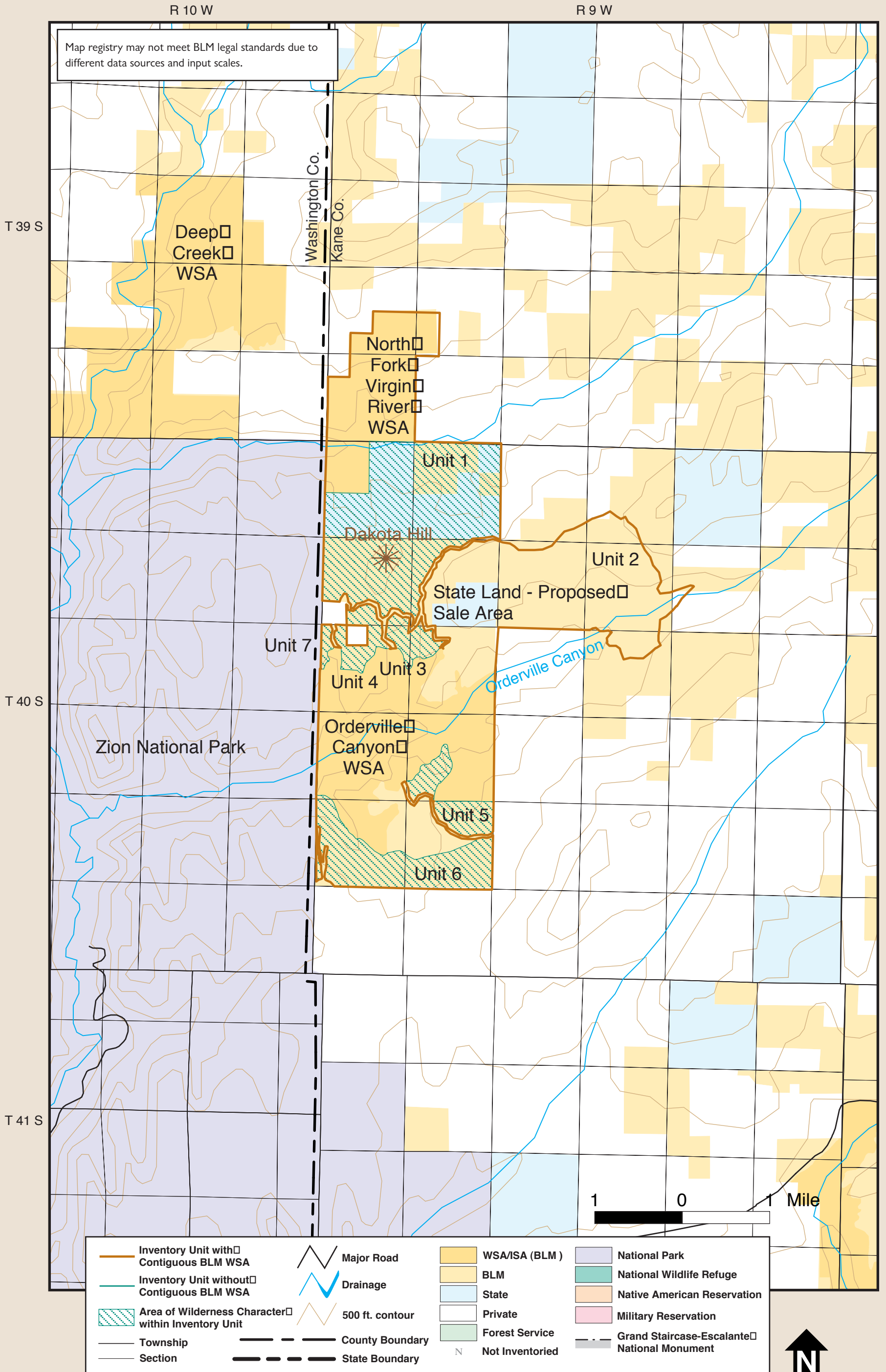
The six units are ecological extensions of the Orderville Canyon WSA and the North Fork WSA, where special features have been identified. Four Category 2 candidate plant species may occur: *Asplenium andrewsii*, *Erigeron sionis*, *Heterotheca ionensis*, and *Sphaeromeria ruthiae*. Raptors that may inhabit the area include golden eagles, peregrine falcons, and red-tailed and Cooper's hawks. Big game animals include mule deer, elk, and cougar.



ORDERVILLE CANYON—Excellent screening is provided by ponderosa pine, piñon, oak, and juniper, enhancing outstanding solitude opportunities in Unit 1 and the contiguous WSAs.

BLM photo

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SOUTHWEST REGION—Orderville Canyon