

Deep Creek

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
3,700	80	3,780 (98%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
80	0	80 (2%)
Inventory Unit Total		
3,780	80	3,860
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Deep Creek WSA (UT-040-146)		3,320

Most of the Deep Creek inventory unit (3,780 acres) has wilderness characteristics when considered in conjunction with the contiguous Deep Creek Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The unit is nearly pristine and has solitude opportunities, along with fine supplemental features. These inherent values enhance the wilderness characteristics of the contiguous WSA. Only three minor human developments were documented: two vehicle ways totaling 1.4 miles and a fence. These human imprints are substantially unnoticeable in the landscape, given the unit's dense vegetation and rugged topography. An 80-acre parcel lacks wilderness characteristics because it is separated from the rest of the unit by private land.

Unit Description

The Deep Creek inventory unit is located in northeast Washington County about 15 miles east of Interstate 15 and 10 miles southeast of Kanarrville. It is immediately north of, and borders for 0.75 mile, the 3,320-acre Deep Creek WSA. The unit is about 4 miles long and averages 2.5 miles wide. Unit boundaries are formed by the contiguous WSA, as well as by private and state lands. There are two private inholdings and one state parcel within the inventory unit.

Located upon the Kolob Terrace, the area contains parts of serpentine Crystal and Deep Creek canyons. About 4.5 miles of Crystal Creek, a tributary of Deep Creek, slashes diagonally through the unit's center. Deep Creek and Crystal Creek are an

average of 600 feet below the terraces and benchlands. The area is topographically diverse, ranging between 8,400 feet and 5,720 feet in elevation. Wildlife populations and plants are equally diverse. Raptor populations are especially notable. Vegetation ranges from coniferous forests, dense piñon and juniper woodlands, understory shrubs, and sage- and grass-covered slopes and benches, to riparian species along the stream courses.

Recreational use of the unit appears to be low. Four-wheel drive and all-terrain vehicle use along a 1.3-mile vehicle way on the south end of the unit occurs around the north and east side of Volcano Knoll. Drivers use this route to reach a splendid overlook of Deep Creek. This vehicle way is also used for hunting access and limited car camping.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

The inventory unit is natural, almost pristine. Only three minor human intrusions were documented during the inventory: a 1.3-mile vehicle way, a 0.2-mile vehicle way and campsite, and a 0.7-mile fence line. Both of the vehicle ways and the fence line are inconspicuous and well screened by the rugged terrain and vegetative cover.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude, but only when considered in conjunction with the contiguous WSA. The unit's dense vegetation, contorted canyons, and elevation changes all contribute to opportunities to experience

solitude. There are numerous areas where a visitor can find a secluded spot, separated from others by vegetation, terrain, or distance. In addition, the unit is not exposed to any outside sights and sounds of human works, further augmenting the feelings of isolation and separation from others.

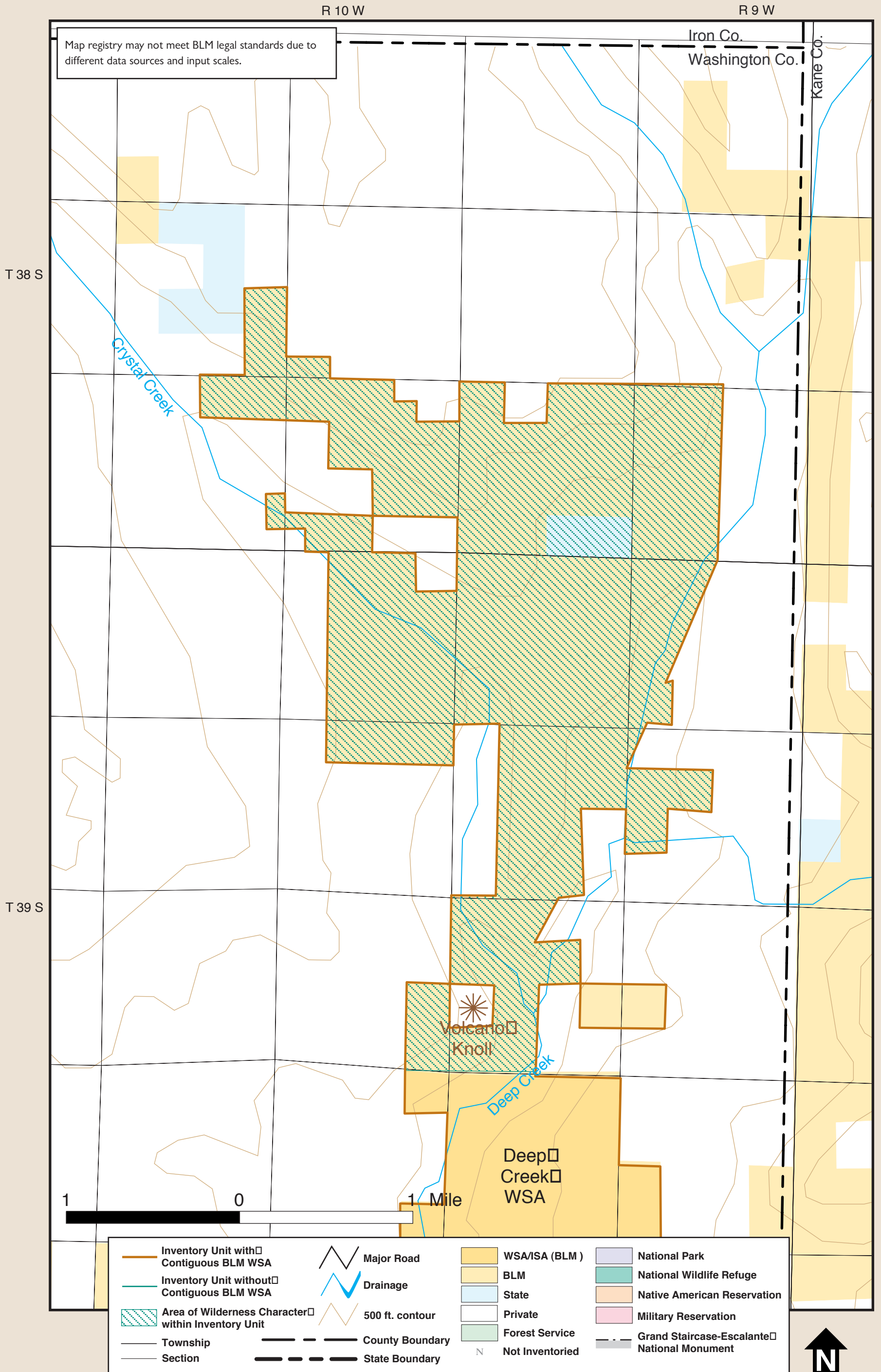
Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The unit has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, but only when considered in conjunction with the contiguous WSA. The unit provides opportunities for primitive recreation, (including hiking, hunting, and wildlife observation), although these are somewhat constrained by the unit's irregular boundary and poor physiographic integrity. Hiking opportunities are found along Crystal Creek. Opportunities are also available to hunt mule deer, elk, and cougar. Wildlife observation, especially bird watching, and photography are enjoyable activities, given the nearly 300 vertebrate species present. Access to the Zion Narrows canyon system is possible from this unit.

Supplemental Values

Diverse wildlife habitats and ecosystems occur because of water availability, enormous elevation changes, and deep canyons. The unit contains 4.5 miles of Crystal Creek and 1.8 miles of Deep Creek, both riparian corridors. A vast number of raptors are present, including bald and golden eagles, peregrine and prairie falcons, red-tail and Cooper's hawks, and American kestrels. About 300 other wildlife species are also present.

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SOUTHWEST REGION—Deep Creek