

The Watchman

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
40	0	40 (100%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
0	0	0 (0%)
Inventory Unit Total		
40	0	40
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
The Watchman WSA (UT-040-149)		600

The Watchman inventory unit (40 acres) has wilderness characteristics. This small parcel, contiguous to the 600-acre The Watchman Wilderness Study Area (WSA), was found to moderately enhance the wilderness characteristics of the bordering WSA. The Watchman inventory unit augments the WSA's wilderness values by including the minor western talus slopes of Johnson Mountain and a short riparian corridor along the North Fork of the Virgin River.

Unit Description

The Watchman inventory unit is located in Washington County, 2 miles east of Rockville and 1.5 miles directly south of Springdale. The unit contains the west talus foothills of Johnson Mountain, which descend to the North Fork of the

Virgin River. The 0.15-mile long river segment is lined with cottonwood trees. Rolling hills are covered with low brushy desert shrubs like creosote, blackbrush, and saltbrush. A few rock outcrops jut above the scrubby landscape, which is occasionally dotted with junipers.

Hiking in the river corridor and horseback riding appear to be the main uses of the area. All-terrain and four-wheel-drive vehicles infrequently use the one vehicle way. Public access is becoming difficult, given the presence of private lands and subdivisions.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

The unit is natural. Only two human imprints were documented during the inventory: a 0.4-mile vehicle way and a 0.1-mile road. The road has been cherry-stemmed. The vehicle way, overgrown with shrubs and infrequently used, is substantially unnoticeable in the landscape. This route is used by hikers, equestrians, and all-terrain vehicle users.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The small size, open aspect, sparse vegetation, and low rolling terrain of the unit do not, on their own, generate outstanding

chances for visitors to experience solitude. The parcel is also exposed to the sights and sounds of nearby towns, roads, housing, and farming. Nevertheless, the parcel is contiguous to The Watchman WSA, which does contain outstanding solitude opportunities. When considered along with this adjacent WSA, the inventory unit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude.

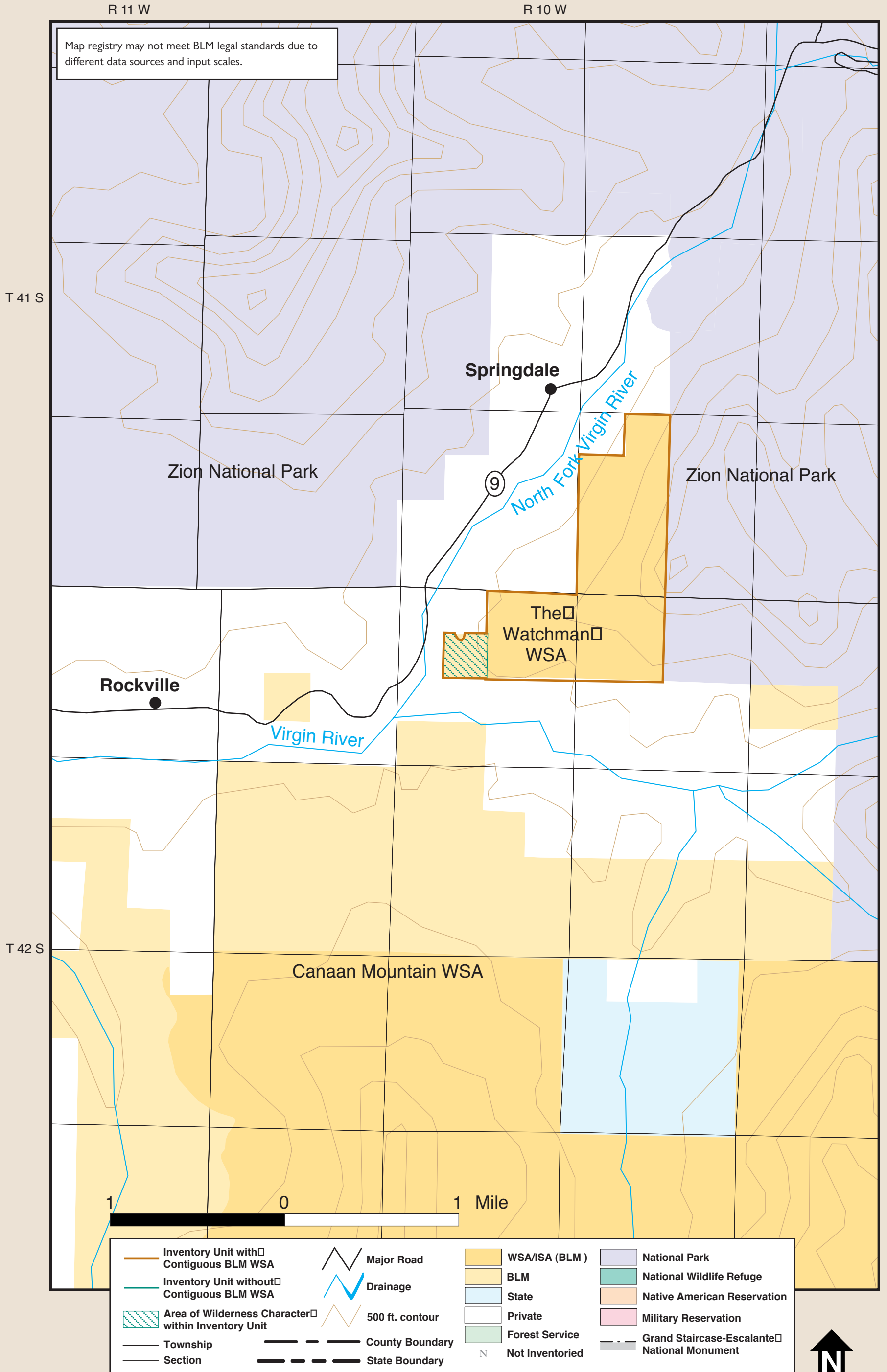
Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The unit provides good opportunities for hiking along the North Fork of the Virgin River, for viewing Johnson Mountain and the river, and for studying the geology of Grand Staircase rock formations. Most visitors walk from the Watchman Campground in Zion National Park, unknowingly crossing two miles of surrounding private lands. Outstanding primitive recreation opportunities are present for the visitor climbing eastward into The Watchman WSA and Zion National Park, centering on the Watchman formation and Johnson Mountain. These adjacent lands have outstanding and well-documented opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values

The unit contains 0.15 mile of the North Fork of the Virgin River, a cottonwood-lined riparian corridor. A vast number of raptors are present in this area, including bald eagles, golden eagles, peregrine falcons, prairie falcons, American kestrels, red-tail hawks, and Cooper's hawks.

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SOUTHWEST REGION—The Watchman