

# Canaan Mountain

## Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
<b>With Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
3,000	1,300	4,300 (65%)
<b>Without Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
2,340	0	2,340 (35%)
<b>Inventory Unit Total</b>		
5,340	1,300	6,640
<b>Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics</b>		
Canaan Mountain WSA (UT-040-143)		47,170
Parunuweap Canyon WSA (UT-040-230)		30,800

All or parts of Units 1, 2, 4, and 5 (4,300 acres) of the five Canaan Mountain inventory units have wilderness characteristics. They are natural in appearance and provide visitors with outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The units with wilderness characteristics are contiguous with the Canaan Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA). However, parts of Units 1, and 4, and all of Unit 3 (2,340 acres) are unnatural and lack wilderness characteristics because of vehicle routes and off-highway vehicle (OHV) activity.

Unit 1 is especially noteworthy. It contains the start of the Eagle Crags trail, a popular hiking route traversing Canaan Mountain that provides several outstanding views of the southern portion of Zion National Park. The Canaan Mountain WSA is contiguous to Unit 9 of the Parunuweap Canyon inventory units, sharing 0.3 mile of boundary in Shunes Hollow (See Parunuweap Canyon unit map, page 34M). Accordingly, the Canaan Mountain WSA and the Parunuweap Canyon WSA are linked by a tract of roadless and natural land. In addition, these areas all share a border with Zion National Park lands that are under formal wilderness consideration.

**CANAAN MOUNTAIN**—The Eagle Crags trailhead and a portion of the trail are within Unit 1. This popular hiking route traverses Canaan Mountain, providing several outstanding views of the southern portion of Zion National Park. The peaks on the right are in the WSA.

## Unit Description

The five Canaan Mountain inventory units are located in eastern Washington and western Kane Counties about 30 miles east of St. George. They are located on the north, south, and east sides of the Canaan Mountain WSA and share the same dissected and rolling foothills and sandy terraces found within the WSA. The units have a mixture of piñon and juniper woodland and sagebrush vegetation. In addition, the eastern part of Unit 1, south of the Trees' Reservoir, contains a riparian area along South Creek. The units are used mainly for ranching and recreation, with a considerable amount of OHV and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) activity being present. About 0.8 mile of the Eagle Crags hiking trail is found in Unit 1.

## Wilderness Characteristics

### Naturalness

Portions of all of the inventory units have natural character, with the exception of Unit 3, which is unnatural in its entirety. Units 2 and 5 appear natural in their entirety, while Unit 1 has minor unnatural portions. About half of Unit 4 is natural. The units contain vehicle ways used for grazing management, OHV and ATV driving, camping, hunting, and woodcutting access. However, all of these features are considered inconspicuous.

Within parts of the units found to be unnatural, the inventory documented two old stock tanks, some campsites, a trailhead for the Eagle Crags trail, the Rimrock Springs water development, a telephone right-of-way, and OHV and ATV disturbance.

## Outstanding Opportunities

### Solitude

The natural portions of Units 1, 2, 4, and 5 have outstanding opportunities for solitude because of their diverse terrain and dense vegetative screening. There are many places where visitors can avoid the sights, sounds, and activities of others. In addition, these units adjoin the Canaan Mountain WSA, which has outstanding solitude opportunities. Solitude opportunities equal to those provided within the WSA extend into these four inventory units. A small and detached part of Unit 1 also borders a portion of Zion National Park that is administratively endorsed for wilderness. Solitude opportunities provided by the NPS lands extend into this portion of Unit 1.

### Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Units 1, 2, 4, and 5 offer outstanding opportunities for backpacking, horseback riding, hiking, camping, geologic sightseeing, and photography. Magnificent views of Canaan Mountain, Elephant Butte, Zion National Park, and Eagle Crags can be enjoyed from several locations within the inventory units. The inventory units enhance the outstanding primitive recreation opportunities provided by the contiguous Canaan Mountain WSA.

### Supplemental Values

Units 1, 2, and 5 provide spectacular scenic views of Zion National Park, Eagle Crags, and Canaan Mountain. Unit 4 provides spectacular scenic views of Canaan Mountain.



BLM photo

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