

Moquith Mountain

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
10,950	2,090	13,040 (90%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
1,200	270	1,470 (10%)
Inventory Unit Total		
12,150	2,360	14,510
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Moquith Mountain WSA (UT-040-217)		14,830

About 13,040 acres of the Moquith Mountain inventory units have wilderness characteristics, while 1,470 acres do not. Units 1, 3, and 4 are natural in character and offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. These lands include the eastern portions of the Vermilion Cliffs (Unit 1), the eastern cliffs of Cottonwood Canyon (Unit 1), and scenic portions of Water Canyon (Unit 4) and South Fork Cottonwood Canyon (Unit 3). Great hiking opportunities are present within Unit 1. A hiking trail traverses the rim of the mesa above the city of Kanab, while the canyons offer hikers and hardy backpackers challenge, wildlife viewing, and scenic views.

Unit 2 is unnatural: it has been used for all-terrain vehicle (ATV) riding and woodcutting and is criss-crossed with power lines, water pipelines, and intrusive vehicle ways. Units 5 and 6 fail to satisfy the size criteria; they are not contiguous to the Moquith Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and do not have at least 5,000 acres of land. Unit 5 is separated from Unit 1 by a powerline, while a vehicle way separates Unit 6 from Unit 1.

MOQUITH MOUNTAIN—The inventory unit offers hikers and backpackers opportunities for wildlife viewing and excellent scenery.



BLM Photo

Unit Description

The Moquith Mountain inventory units are located in Kane County and skirt the western edge of the city of Kanab. The units are partly contiguous to the Moquith Mountain WSA. They consist primarily of a long high mesa indented by seven finger-like canyons and drainages. The Vermilion Cliffs are the units' most prominent feature, with sandstone escarpments, rim rock mesas, and numerous indented canyons and drainages. The inventory units are currently used for hunting, cattle grazing, off-road vehicle driving, and utility access (power lines and a water pipeline).

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

Units 1, 3, and 4 are primarily natural. They display only minor evidence of human activities and development. Unit 1 contains three small range fences, two insignificant vehicle ways (0.6 mile), and a communication panel. Units 3 and 4 are nearly pristine. All significant human imprints and developments have either been cherry-stemmed or form the units' boundaries. These intrusions include roads, significant vehicle ways, power lines, water pipelines, canals, a hiking trail-head parking area, and a large parcel of private land.

Unit 2 is unnatural because of many conspicuous human developments like pipelines, roads, vehicle ways, ATV trails, a corral, fences, campsites, and a power line.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

Unit 1 offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. The unit's steep, rugged cliff line, its canyons, and its pockets of piñon and juniper woodland and ponderosa pine provide visitors with opportunities for isolation. Because of their small size, Units 3 and 4 provide opportunities for solitude only in conjunction with the contiguous Moquith Mountain WSA.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

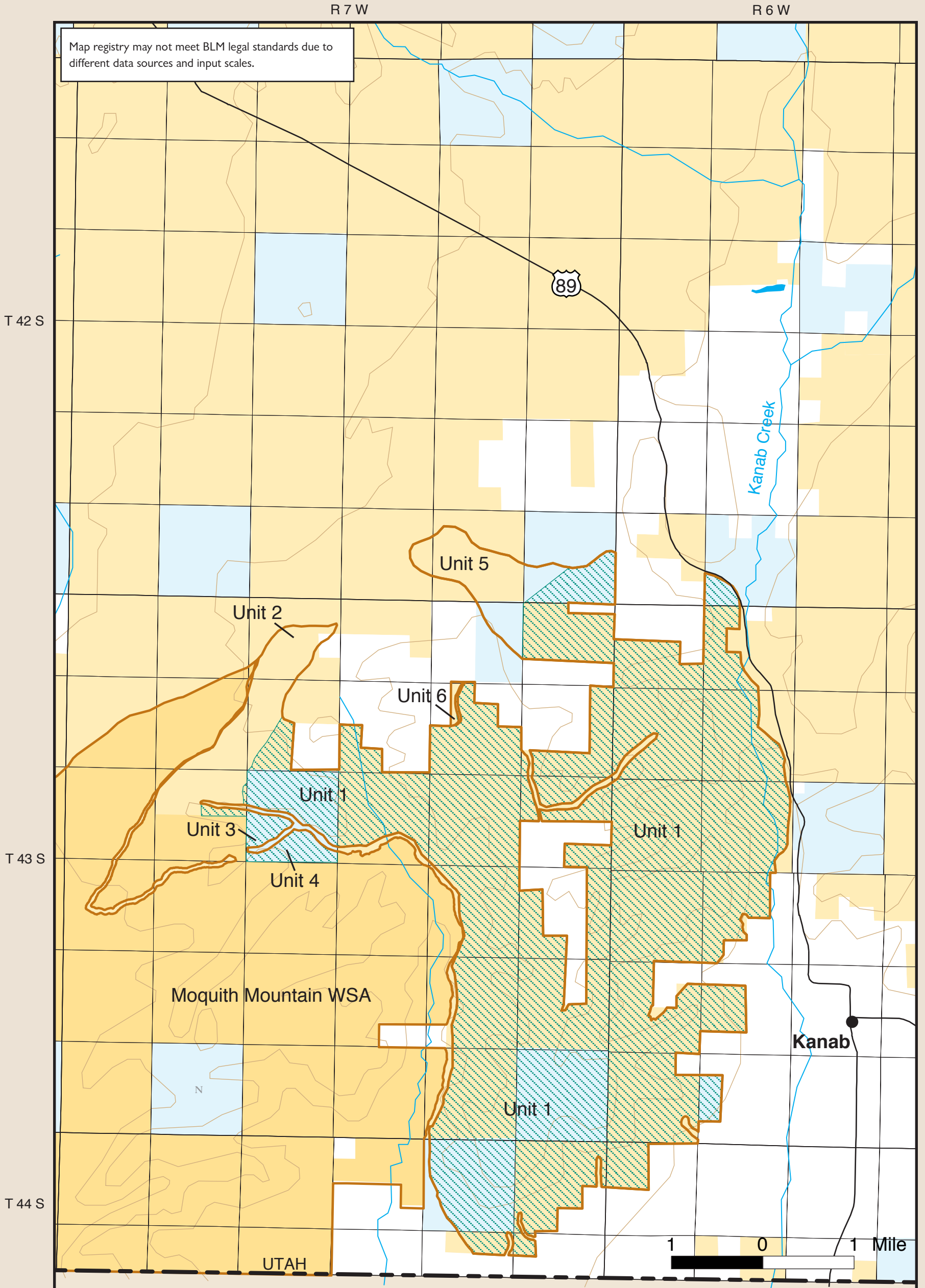
Opportunities for dispersed primitive and unconfined recreation within the units are outstanding. Unit 1 offers challenging opportunities for hunting, hiking, horse-back riding, and some backpacking. The rugged canyons and drainages in Unit 1 provide for some challenging hiking opportunities. The private land pattern around the unit has restricted access into the area for the general visitor. Therefore, the primary access routes into Unit 1 are two canyons along the eastern boundary and a hiking trail traversing the rim of the mesa from the city of Kanab. The canyons offer hikers and hardy backpackers challenging terrain, opportunities to view wildlife and scenic vistas, and the possibility of discovering ancient habitations within the area.

Units 3 and 4 have primitive recreational opportunities only in conjunction with those found in the Moquith Mountain WSA. These units offer excellent views for hikers from the top of the ridge line into the heads of Indian, South Fork, and Water Canyons.

Supplemental Values

The three units with wilderness characteristics are part of the complex ecological community of the Vermilion Cliffs. They contain riparian communities, upland ponderosa pine forest, canyons, large alcoves, and some hanging gardens. This area has a high potential for archaeological resources. The three units also support a good deer population, a small population of cougars, and hawks and eagles.

Moquith Mountain



Map registry may not meet BLM legal standards due to different data sources and input scales.

Inventory Unit with Contiguous BLM WSA	Major Road	WSA/ISA (BLM)	National Park
Inventory Unit without Contiguous BLM WSA	Drainage	BLM	National Wildlife Refuge
Area of Wilderness Character within Inventory Unit	500 ft. contour	State	Native American Reservation
Township	County Boundary	Private	Military Reservation
Section	State Boundary	Forest Service	Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
		Not Inventoried	



SOUTHWEST REGION—Moquith Mountain