

North Wah Wah Mountains

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
13,010	4,200	17,210 (72%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
6,300	400	6,700 (28%)
Inventory Unit Total		
19,310	4,600	23,910
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Wah Wah Mountains WSA (UT-050-073/UT-040-205)		41,140

About 17,210 acres within the four North Wah Wah Mountains inventory units retain their wilderness characteristics, with Units 1 and 2 appearing natural. However, about 6,700 acres within portions of Units 3 and 4 are unnatural and lack wilderness characteristics because of the cumulative effects of livestock developments, wildlife improvements, and bladed access roads. The inventory units extend the outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation found within the contiguous Wah Wah Mountains Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The WSA's values include Crystal Peak, a mountain of white volcanic tuff visible for 50 miles; bristlecone pine, which grows in the higher portions of the WSA; and endangered, threatened, or candidate animal species.

Unit Description

The inventory units are mostly on the lower slopes of the Wah Wah Mountains, which are located in southwestern Millard County and northwestern Beaver County about 30 miles west of Milford. The inventory units are mostly public land, with scattered parcels of state land; there are no private inholdings. The Wah Wah Mountains are typical of the Intermountain

Sagebrush Province. Like most other mountain ranges in the Great Basin, the Wah Wah Mountains rise abruptly above the surrounding desert valleys, with elevations ranging from 5,600 feet at the edges of the units to almost 9,000 feet at the peaks. Crystal Peak, in the adjacent WSA, dominates the northern portion of the area; its white volcanic tuff is visible up to 50 miles away. The bulk of the units are on the east and west sides of the Wah Wah Mountain Range and are contiguous to the WSA. A small portion of the inventory units is on the south end of the WSA near Wah Wah Summit and Highway 21. Piñon-juniper woodland is the dominant vegetative type.

The units are within the U.S. Air Force Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR), one of the nation's busiest military air spaces. However, both the WSA and the inventory units are in the southern portion of the UTTR, where air traffic is less frequent. Uses include hunting, woodcutting, livestock grazing, photography, backcountry driving, fossil hunting, and hiking in conjunction with wildlife viewing and geological sightseeing.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

Most of the inventory units are substantially undisturbed and retain their natural appearance. The Wah Wah Mountains are one of the most remote and untouched mountain ranges in the west desert. Overall, the natural landforms still dominate the scene. However, livestock and wildlife developments and their attendant roads and vehicle ways, when considered cumulatively, do impact naturalness in the western portion of Unit 4 and the southwestern portion of Unit 3. Bladed roads, bright metal guzzlers, and a pipeline route impact these units. When combined with the general flatness of the terrain and low vegetative cover, these intrusions are noticeable.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The inventory units are contiguous to and are an extension of the Wah Wah Mountains WSA. They provide outstanding opportunities for solitude, given their general remoteness, the vegetative and topographical screening, and the size of the area. There are many places to be alone within the canyons and piñon-juniper forests. Impressive views from the ridgelines give one a sense of the region's vastness and of the desert's profound solitude.

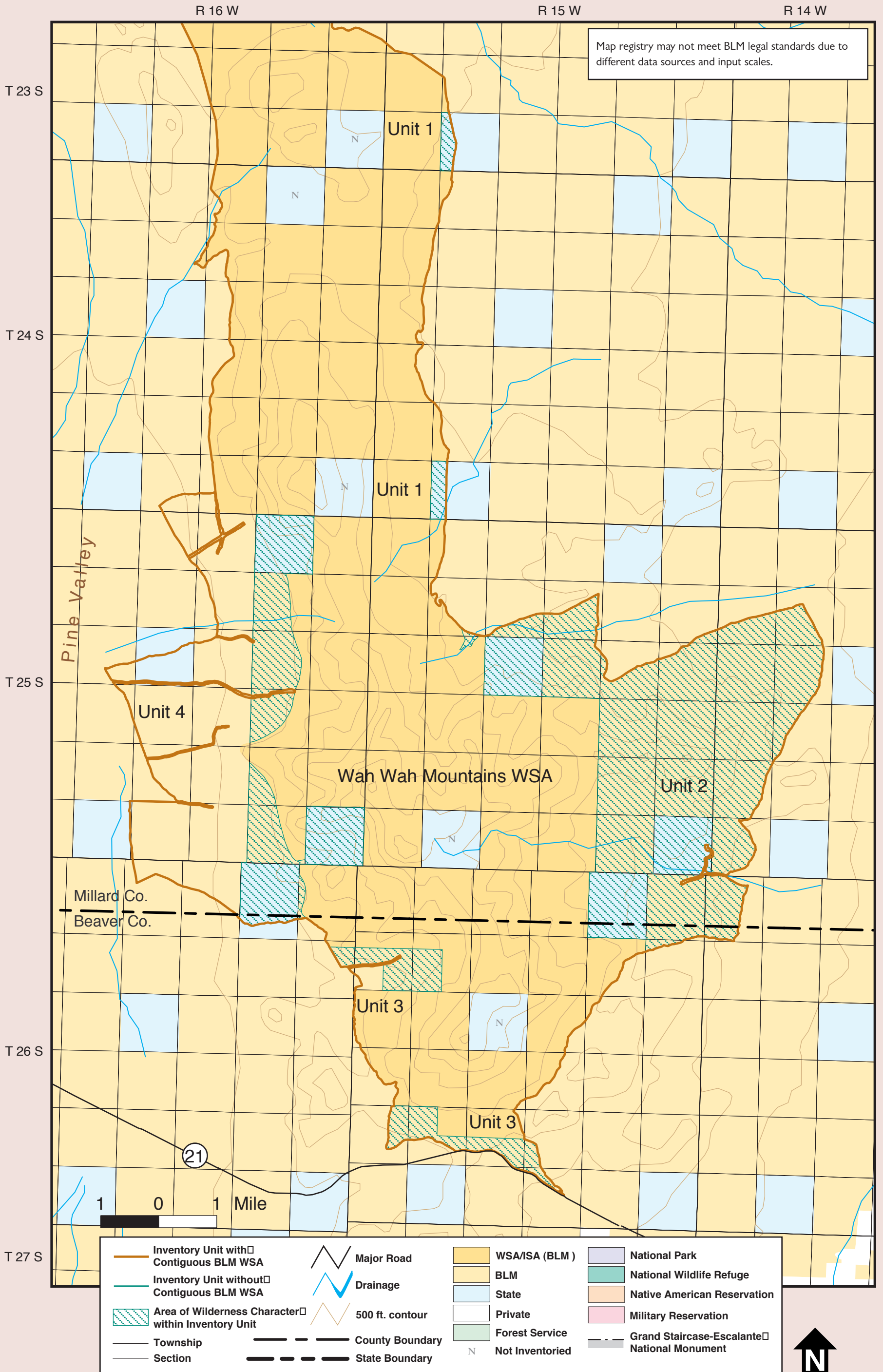
Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The inventory units provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation when considered in conjunction with the contiguous WSA. Opportunities for backpacking, horseback riding, hiking, camping, fossil hunting, and photography exist. The contiguous Wah Wah Mountains WSA provides outstanding opportunities for viewing wildlife and plant species and geological formations. Bristlecone and ponderosa pines, endangered species such as the bald eagle and peregrine falcon, and the sheer limestone cliffs and volcanic tuff of Crystal Peak all await the visitor.

Supplemental Values

Supplemental values of the WSA include Crystal Peak, a mountain of white volcanic tuff; bristlecone pine; and some endangered, threatened, or candidate animal species. Bald eagles and peregrine falcons, both listed as endangered species, inhabit the area. Several candidate species that may inhabit the area include the ferruginous hawk, Swainson's hawk, long-billed curlew, western snowy plover, and white-faced ibis. Portions of the adjacent WSA have been identified as a Research Natural Area or Outstanding Natural Area/Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

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WEST CENTRAL REGION—North Wah Wah Mountains