

Central Wah Wah Mountains

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
52,100	6,300	58,400 (99%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
400	400	800 (1%)
Inventory Unit Total		
52,500	6,700	59,200
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
None		

About 58,400 acres of the Central Wah Wah Mountains inventory unit have wilderness characteristics. This area appears natural and provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Although human intrusions exist, they are substantially unnoticeable in the unit as a whole and do not detract from the appearance of naturalness. Beautiful scenery, varied and interesting vegetation changes, and wildlife habitat supplement the wilderness values. A small area in the eastern portion (800 acres) is unnatural and lacks wilderness characteristics because of livestock grazing developments.

Unit Description

The Central Wah Wah Mountains inventory unit is located in Beaver County about 26 air miles west of Milford. The area is predominantly public land, along with several parcels of state land. There is an isolated 40-acre private parcel located in the southeast portion. The terrain is mountainous, with the main ridge running approximately 10 miles in a north-to-south direction. Numerous side canyons run east and west of the central ridge. The west side of the range consists of rugged terrain and large rock faces, while the east side has less rugged topography and is more densely covered with piñon and juniper forests. Valley bottom elevations average just under 5,500 feet, with the central ridge line of the mountain range exceeding 9,300 feet at the south. Wah Wah Peak at the north end of the unit rises to an elevation of 8,695 feet.

The lack of flowing water in the inventory unit is typical of Great Basin mountain ranges. However, a limited number of springs exist within the range, with the larger springs being located on the east side. Wah Wah Springs and Kiln Spring are in private ownership. Vegetation in the area varies, with desert vegetation dominating the lower elevation valley bottoms. As elevation increases, various plant communities typical of the Great Basin are encountered. Ponderosa pine is present in the southwestern corner, while piñon and juniper are common above 6,000 feet in elevation. Numerous grass species are present, with large, productive grass areas located around Sewing Machine Pass.

Current uses include livestock grazing, hunting, camping, all-terrain vehicle use, and sightseeing. The southern portion is adjacent to historical mining activity.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

Most of the inventory unit appears natural, although several developments do exist. There are 18 vehicle ways totaling about 37 miles and over 10 miles of fence, although these vehicle ways and fences are substantially unnoticeable in the area as a whole. About half of the fences are in poor condition and incapable of containing livestock. Most of the vehicle ways were not constructed, and none appear to have been maintained. Many are kept open only by occasional vehicle use, but none appear to receive regular and continuous use; they have not left a noticeable impact on the land. The most significant feature is 2.5 miles of reclaimed road to a reclaimed drill location. For the most part, the reclamation has been successful, so the road and site are substantially

unnoticeable from the ground. A small area in the eastern part of the unit is unnatural because of a substantially noticeable fence and two stock ponds.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The unit consists of variable and often rugged topography and is of sufficient size to ensure outstanding opportunities for solitude. Drainages provide opportunities to be apart from other people. As elevation increases, vegetation size and density increase along with topographic relief, further enhancing opportunities for solitude in this remote area.

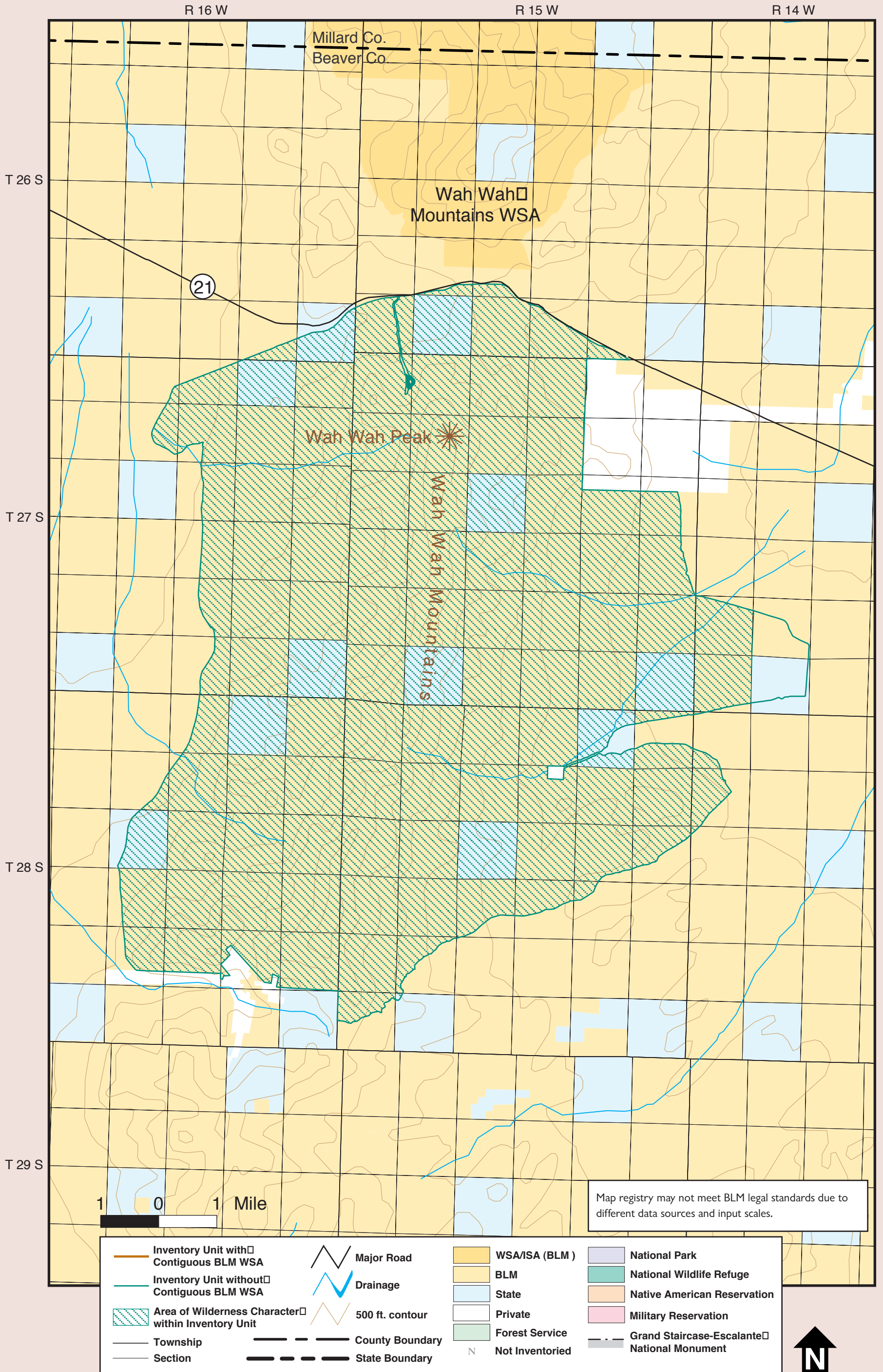
Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The remoteness, varied topography and vegetation types, and overall size of the Central Wah Wah Mountains inventory unit ensure outstanding opportunities for hiking, photography, camping, and horse-back riding. This variety of activities, coupled with the setting, is outstanding.

Supplemental Values

The Central Wah Wah Mountains provide beautiful views of rugged mountain topography. There are spectacular scenic vistas in all directions from the higher elevations. Vegetation types transition from cold desert vegetation to ponderosa pine forests. This varied vegetation provides habitat for pronghorn antelope, mule deer, a variety of birds, small mammals, and reptiles.

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WEST CENTRAL REGION—Central Wah Wah Mountains