

Warm Creek

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
21,000	2,700	23,700 (100%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
0	0	0 (0%)
Inventory Unit Total		
21,000	2,700	23,700
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
None		

The entire Warm Creek inventory unit (23,700 acres) has wilderness characteristics and is primarily natural in appearance. The terrain provides visitors with outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The benches open to panoramas of canyons that are over 500 feet deep. Tibbet Canyon, John Henry Canyon, and the Wesses Canyon in the core of the unit are colorful and steep-walled, with scenic eroded mudstones and sandstones. Several locations within the unit contain some evidence of past minor mineral exploration and current range management activity. However, most of the mineral-related workings and vehicle ways are no longer in use, and all are returning to a natural condition.

Unit Description

The unit is located approximately 60 miles east of Kanab and 25 miles northwest of Page, Arizona. It is part of the Kaiparowits Plateau within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The unit consists of three benches—Tibbet Bench, John Henry Bench, and Spring Point—that are separated by three deep canyons: Tibbet Canyon, John Henry Canyon, and the Wesses Canyon complex.

The vegetation is predominantly piñon and juniper woodland on the north end of John Henry Bench and across the northern region of the unit to Spring Point above Smoky Hollow. Scattered cottonwoods and tamarisk can be found in the canyon bottoms. Other vegetative communities include high-desert grasses and shrubs such as sagebrush, fourwing saltbush, and shadscale. The area is currently used for mineral exploration and sightseeing. The unit and surrounding areas have abundant coal reserves.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

Most of the unit retains its natural character; evidence of human activity is substantially unnoticeable. Some surface disturbance has occurred in the form of mineral exploration and range developments. However, the range developments are insignificant; all major facilities are located next to roads and are outside the unit. The unit does contain the Andalex Coal Mining Lease, located in an unnamed tributary of Smoky Hollow. However, access to the mining portal has washed out and is not even visible in places. Four roads leading to range facilities have been cherry-stemmed from the unit.

Two types of vehicle ways are present: routes that were not bladed and routes that received unauthorized blading in September 1996. The 12 vehicle ways in the first category total about 9.0 miles. About 3.6 miles receive no use, while the rest of the vehicle ways are occasionally traveled. Mineral exploration routes extend to drill holes throughout the various bench areas. These vehicle ways are not maintained, are generally impassable, and are being naturally reclaimed. The drill holes are no longer noticeable to visitors.

About 12.2 miles of seven vehicle ways above Dirty Devil and on Spring Point Bench received unauthorized mechanical blading by Kane County in September 1996. These routes had been constructed for mineral exploration, but at the time of the blading they were overgrown with vegetation, were no longer being maintained, and did not receive regular and continuous use. The unauthorized blading did not alter these basic conditions. The routes could be restored to a more natural-appearing condition with mechanical reclamation or through natural weathering processes.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude, especially within the canyons. The long and sinuous portions of John Henry and Wesses Canyons can effectively screen and separate visitors. The canyon complex and tributaries of Wesses, Dirty Devil, and Stony Point stretch over 20 miles. Visitors have plenty of opportunities to seek a secluded spot in this rugged, remote, and seldom-visited locale. The piñon and juniper woodlands along the top of Spring Point and the northern part of John Henry Bench provide screening between visitors in the benchland areas.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Outstanding opportunities exist for hiking, camping, geologic sightseeing, and photography. Hiking and backpacking opportunities are outstanding in the two major canyon systems: John Henry Canyon and the Wesses/Stony Point/Dirty Devil Complex. About 27 miles of main and tributary canyon hiking are available for visitors who enjoy untrammelled hiking and backpacking through seldom-visited canyons. There are a vast number of route opportunities, and the geology of the Cretaceous Straight Cliffs Formation is interesting to view and study.

Supplemental Values

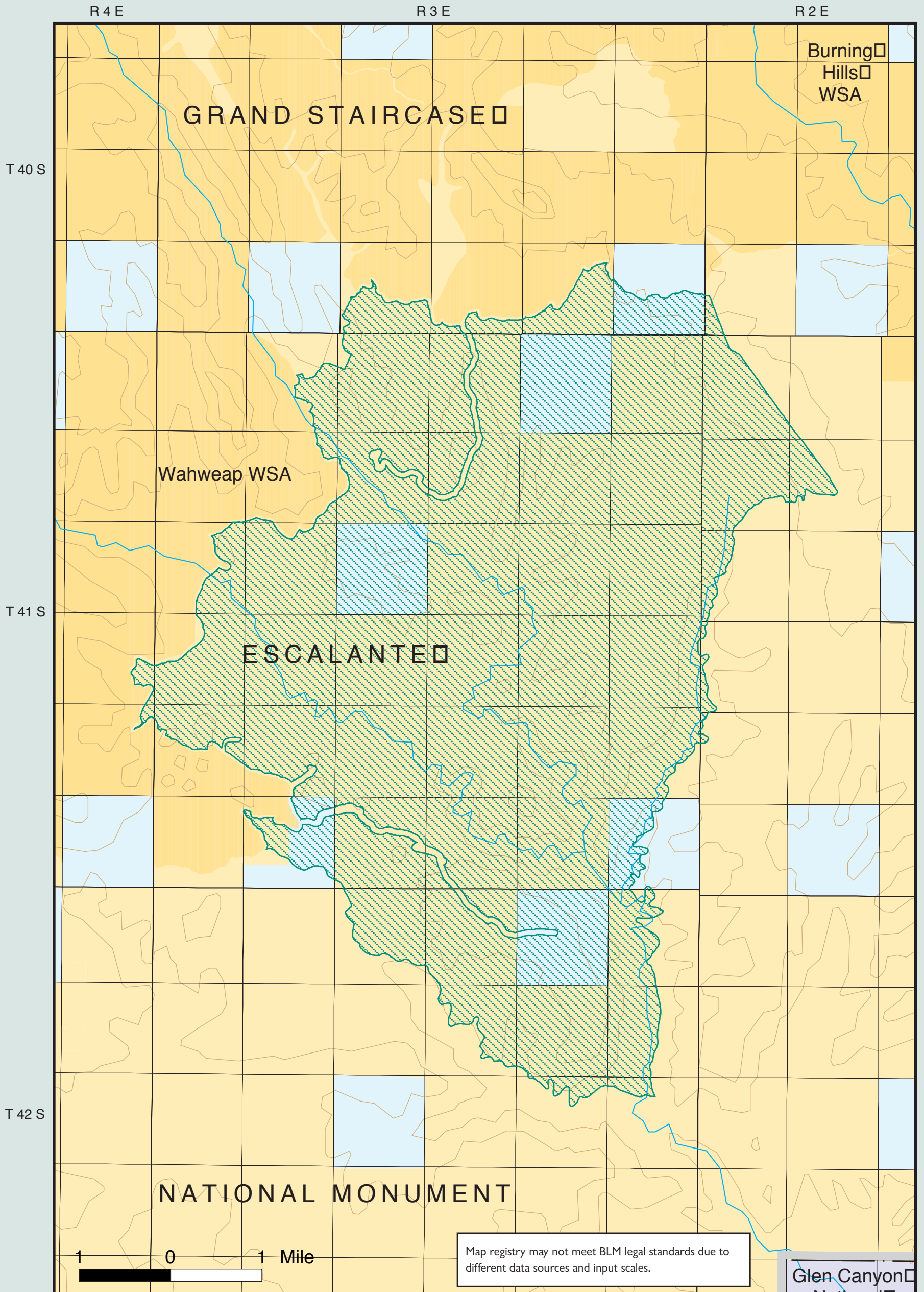
The unit contains spectacular scenic views, interesting geologic features (such as petrified wood), and significant archeological and paleontological artifacts and fossils. Spectacular views of the Kaiparowits Plateau can be enjoyed from Tibbet Bench, John Henry Bench, and Spring Point. Archeological sites from the Anazazi period may be found in the area.

WARM CREEK—A road separates the Warm Creek inventory unit on the right from the Nipple Bench unit.



Jerry Sintz

Warm Creek



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	

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

