

Cold Spring Mountain

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
9,500	3,100	12,600 (78%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
2,700	800	3,500 (22%)
Inventory Unit Total		
12,200	3,900	16,100
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
West Cold Spring WSA (UT-080-103)		3,200
(CO-010-208)		14,482

About 12,600 acres of the Cold Spring Mountain inventory unit have wilderness characteristics. The unit is generally natural, with human imprints being substantially unnoticeable. Many older vehicle routes have largely disappeared because of non-use and vegetation growth.

About 3,500 acres are unnatural. In the northwest corner, a number of access routes to major natural gas pipelines and a fiber optic line right-of-way, a concentration of vehicle ways, and a major range pipeline have combined to impact naturalness along the Jessie Ewing Canyon and Clay Basin boundary roads. In the south-central portion of the unit, roads, vehicle ways, fences, and ranch developments have impacted naturalness on lands between the Willow Creek and George Draw Roads.

The unit offers outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation, opportunities that enhance and extend those found in the contiguous West Cold Spring Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The unit also has values that supplement these wilderness characteristics, including cultural, botanical, and wildlife resources.

Unit Description

The inventory unit is in Daggett County in northeastern Utah along the Colorado state line, about 40 air miles northeast of Vernal. It is contiguous to the West Cold Spring WSA on the north, west, and

south. The unit and WSA in Utah are located on the southern slopes of the O-Wi-Yu-Kuts Mountains, draining from the O-Wi-Yu-Kuts Plateau on the north toward Browns Park and the Green River to the south. Willow Creek is the major drainage, encompassing Birch Creek, Bender Draw, and O-Wi-Yu-Kuts Creek and Draw. Vegetation varies from sagebrush and grass meadows to scattered stands of piñon pine and aspen on the O-Wi-Yu-Kuts Plateau, and piñon-juniper woodlands and associated shrubs and grasses on the lower slopes of the hills above Browns Park.

Human uses include hiking, hunting, camping, livestock grazing, woodcutting, natural gas and fiber optic transmission lines, and oil and gas exploration.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

Most of the unit is natural. While there are intrusions, they do not significantly impact the unit's natural condition as a whole. The dense piñon-juniper woodlands and the steep rugged terrain conceal the presence of many of the minor intrusions. The existing human imprints are unnoticeable in the area as a whole because they are being naturally rehabilitated, are screened by vegetation, and are generally located on the boundary of the unit. The unit offers scenic views of high mountain meadows and canyons, along with spectacular views of Browns Park, the Green River, and the Gates of Lodore.

Naturalness has been impacted in the northwest and south-central portions of the unit. In the northwest, a combination of vehicle ways and vegetative disturbances associated with natural gas pipelines, a fiber optic line, access to developed springs

(Chokecherry, Fighting, and Cottonwood), hunting activities, property boundary lines, and casual off-road vehicle use have impacted naturalness. In the south-central portion of the unit, vehicle ways and fences associated with ranching activities have combined to impact naturalness between the Willow Creek and George Draw Roads. These two areas are unnatural and lack wilderness characteristics.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The rugged landforms, deep canyons, and dense vegetation in the inventory unit provide a setting where a visitor can find isolation from others and the outside world. Willow Creek and Birch Creek, two deep twisting canyons, are good examples of this. Open vistas from the top of the O-Wi-Yu-Kuts Plateau create a sense of vastness, open space, and isolation from the developed world.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The inventory unit offers outstanding opportunities to participate in a variety of primitive recreational activities, including hiking, backpacking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, and sightseeing. The large size of the unit enhances these opportunities by allowing unrestricted movement throughout the area. The combination and variety of recreational activities are outstanding.

Supplemental Values

The unit possesses a variety of supplemental values, including wildlife, potential threatened and endangered animal species habitat, cultural resources, and threatened and endangered plant species habitat.



BLM photo

COLD SPRING MOUNTAIN—
Rugged terrain, deep canyons, and dense vegetation provide numerous opportunities to find solitude and isolation in this vast area straddling the Utah and Colorado state line.

Cold Spring Mountain

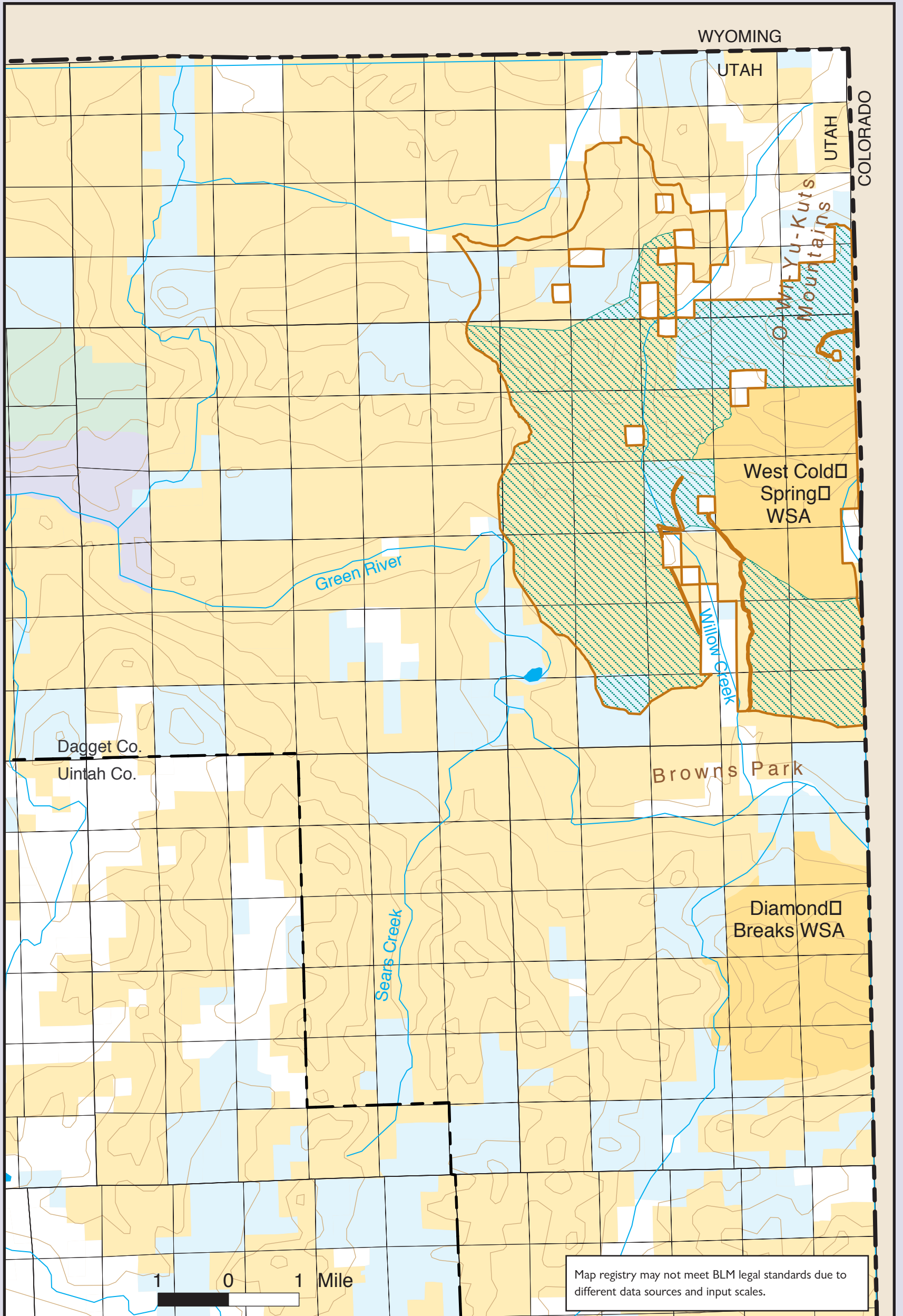
R 24 E

R 25 E

T 3 N

T 2 N

T 1 N



WYOMING

UTAH

COLORADO

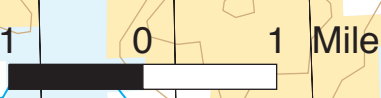
Wiyu-Kuts Mountains

West Cold Spring WSA

Browns Park

Diamond Breaks WSA

Dagget Co.
Uintah Co.



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	

NORTHEAST REGION—Cold Spring Mountain