

Nokai Dome

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
93,500	7,900	101,400 (100%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
0	0	0 (0%)
Inventory Unit Total		
93,500	7,900	101,400
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area		

All three of the large and remote Nokai Dome inventory units (101,400 acres) retain their generally natural appearance and have wilderness characteristics. Unit 2 does have some old disturbances resulting from mining exploration, but these are substantially unnoticeable. Unit 3, with its series of major canyons, colorful badlands, and impressive 1,000-foot cliffs, provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. All of the units provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation, either on their own or when considered in conjunction with the contiguous portion of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (NRA) that has been proposed for wilderness.

Unit Description

The units are located in southwestern San Juan County about 50 miles west of Blanding. Two of the three units are contiguous to a portion of the Glen Canyon NRA that has been proposed for wilderness. The terrain in the eastern portion of the inventory units consists of a rugged, broken, prominent mesa that slopes towards Lake Powell to the west and transitions into rolling hills. Major canyons, all located in the eastern portion of the area, include Mikes Canyon, the East Fork of Mikes Canyon, the West Fork of Mikes Canyon, Castle Creek Canyon, and Johnnies Hole Canyon. The mesa is formed primarily of Navajo Sandstone, with Wingate Sandstone in the inner canyons. Vegetation includes blackbrush, piñon, juniper, Mormon tea, buffaloberry, cacti, yucca, Indian ricegrass, and other sparse perennial and annual grasses. Cottonwood trees and riparian vegetation are found adjacent to springs and in the major canyon bottoms.

Primary human uses include grazing, past mineral exploration, hiking, camping, hunting, and exploring for cultural sites.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

All three units generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature and retain their natural character. The only human imprints in Unit 1 are three faint vehicle ways totaling less than 3 miles. These are all substantially unnoticeable, given the topographic and vegetative screening and the minimal degree of disturbance. Human imprints in Unit 2 include five vehicle ways that provide access to old drill holes and drill pads. These vehicle ways, which lack maintenance and current use, were initially spot-bladed and remain visible, especially from the air. However, given the large size, vast expanse, and topography of this unit, the vehicle ways are substantially unnoticeable. Human imprints in Unit 3 include eight vehicle ways that lead primarily to old drill holes and drill pads. One is a faint seismic line. The individual and cumulative impact of these human imprints is substantially unnoticeable because of the large size of the unit, the wide distribution of imprints, the minimal degree of the disturbance, and the extremely rugged terrain.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

All three units provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Units 1 and 2 enhance the solitude opportunities present in the contiguous portion of the Glen

Canyon NRA that is proposed for wilderness. Units 2 and 3 also provide outstanding opportunities on their own. In Unit 2, this is because of the size, configuration, rugged terrain, broken sandstone hills, and vegetative screening provided by piñons and junipers. In Unit 3, the extremely rugged topography includes over 20 miles of major secluded canyons.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Units 1 and 2 provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation only in conjunction with the contiguous Glen Canyon NRA area proposed for wilderness. Lake Canyon is a popular off-highway vehicle camping and play area, which impacts primitive recreation opportunities. There are opportunities for hiking, backpacking, camping, and sightseeing, but none is outstanding either on an individual basis or in combination with others. However, Unit 3 provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation on its own. The rugged terrain and excellent scenery provide outstanding opportunities for dispersed, undeveloped recreation. Opportunities exist for hiking, backpacking, camping, sightseeing, photography, nature study, exploring, and viewing of cultural resources. The badlands between the cliff and boundary roads provide a highly scenic, colorful, and challenging area for hiking, exploring, and photography.

Supplemental Values

Unit 1 has potential for cultural resources, although no surveys have been conducted.

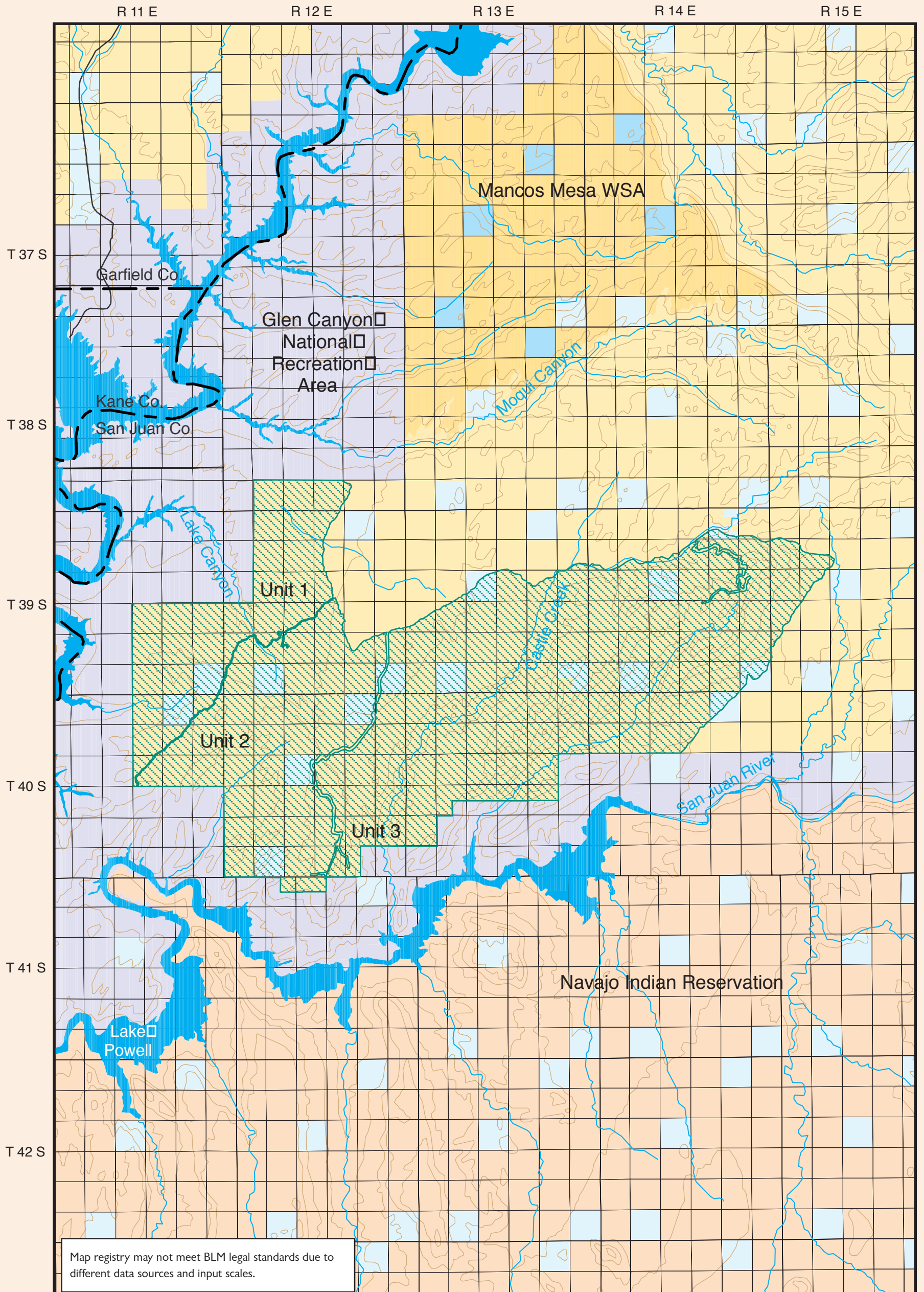
Unit 2 also has potential for cultural resources, has desert bighorn sheep habitat, and provides outstanding scenery in Lake Canyon. Unit 3 has a high potential for cultural resources, has excellent desert bighorn sheep habitat, and provides outstanding scenery. Scenic highlights include the five major canyons, views from the top of the 1,000-foot mesa, and the colorful and highly eroded Red House Cliffs.

NOKAI DOME—Mikes Canyon, as well as numerous other canyons in the inventory units, provides excellent hiking, backpacking, sightseeing, and photographic opportunities.



Eric Finstick

Nokai Dome



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	

