

# Price Field Office

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- Crack Canyon
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- Horseshoe Canyon (North) – Management shared with the Richfield Field Office.
- Jack Canyon
- Link Flats ISA
- Mexican Mountain
- Muddy Creek
- San Rafael Reef
- Sids Mountain
- Sids Cabin
- Turtle Canyon

## Crack Canyon

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**Size:** 25,335 acres

**Location:** Emery County, about 15 miles north of Hanksville, UT and directly west of Goblin Valley State Park.

**Vegetation:** Desert shrub and saltbush are the dominant vegetation but most of the WSA is barren.

**General Description:** The study area includes colorful badlands of eroded soils, cliffs, and rock monuments, including fins which form a sawtooth sandstone ridge, and knobs, caves, and arches. Canyons from 200 to 500 feet deep cross the Reef and the WSA, narrowing in places to clefts with bottoms constantly in shadow.

**Special Features:**

- The canyons of the WSA expose geologic strata and arches, caves, and narrow twisted and textured pathways. Many of the features are unique to the San Rafael Reef. The upper reaches provide dramatic views of the reef and its many fins and folds.
- Small pictograph or petroglyph panels exist in the canyon.
- Considerable evidence of old mining activity surrounds the north, west, and south boundaries of the WSA. Shacks, cabins, and mine shafts adjacent to the WSA provide striking contrast to the color, beauty, and magnitude of the WSA and surrounding land.
- Cougars and desert bighorn sheep may occasionally visit the WSA.
- There are wild horses within the WSA.
- Peregrine falcons and bald golden eagles occur in or near the WSA.

- Two endangered plant species, Maguire daisy and Wright fishhook cactus may occur near or within the WSA and two threatened species, the Jones Cycladenia and the Last Chance Townsendia may also occur in the WSA.

# Desolation Canyon

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**Size:** 290,840 acres

**Location:** In parts of Carbon, Emery, and Grand Counties, about 6 miles north of Green River, UT.

**Vegetation:** Juniper-pinyon woodland is the predominant vegetation, mixed with or giving way to Douglas fir in some places at higher elevations. About one-fourth of the WSA is barren rock outcrop.

**General Description:** Desolation Canyon is 294,581 acres. The WSA is in the Uinta Basin Section of the Colorado Plateau Physiographic Province. The Green River has cut a very deep, somewhat sinuous canyon through the plateaus bounded by the Roan and Tava Puts. In places the canyon walls are vertical and quite narrow. The numerous tributary canyons are generally steep, in some cases falling several thousand feet in a few miles, and vary in width from narrow clefts to relatively wide gorges.

## **Special Features:**

- Elevation varies by more than 5,500 feet.
- In the north portion of the WSA water is relatively abundant, especially for an area in the arid southwest.
- The extreme ruggedness of the terrain contributes to the WSAs scenic quality, remoteness, and habitat for species such as raptors and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep which are sensitive to development.
- The WSA contains both canyon desert and high mountain environments.
- Topographical diversity: The WSA has an extensive system of deep canyons. The canyon at Rock Creek is more than 1 mile deep. The WSA contains arches, pinnacles, and other erosional remnants not known to occur elsewhere in the Wasatch Formation in similar concentrations or settings.
- Vegetation is diverse, ranging from desert to high mountain types in a distance of only 5-10 miles.
- The Uintah Basin hookless cactus is a threatened plant species that may occur in or near the WSA.
- The diversity of wildlife in the WSA is unusual compared with public lands surrounding the WSA. The Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, humpback chub, and bony-tail chub are endangered fish that occur in the WSA.
- The WSA has populations of cougar, elk, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and black bear, which are wildlife species associated with wilderness.
- There are several other special status animal species and plant species that are considered sensitive that also occur in or near the WSA.

# Devils Canyon

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**Size:** 9,610 acres

**Location:** Emery County, about 12 miles south of Emery, UT.

**Vegetation:** The north-eastern part of the WSA is a densely vegetated area of rounded knobs and benches. The southwestern portion of the WSA is a sparsely vegetated area of pink, red, cream, and purple soils.

**General Description:** It is a rugged, sinuous gorge with numerous short tributary canyons that drain westward toward Muddy Creek. Pour offs, abrupt changes in the gradient of the canyon floor are characteristic of the area.

**Special Features:**

- The entire WSA is rated outstanding for scenic quality.
- A small wild horse herd of approximately 10-15 animals use the WSA.
- Cougar, a wildlife species associated with wilderness, may occasionally visit the WSA.
- The Maguire daisy and Wright fishhook cactus are listed as endangered and may be found within or near the WSA.
- Two threatened plant species, Jones cycladenia and Last Chance townsendia may also occur in the WSA.

# Horseshoe Canyon (North)

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**Size:** 20,500 acres

**Location:** Southwestern Emery County and Northeastern Wayne County, about 30 miles south of Green River, UT.

**Vegetation:** Desert shrub and sagebrush are the dominant forms of vegetation in about half of the WSA. Scattered desert shrub, small areas of grassland, and riparian vegetation are found in the remainder of the WSA.

**General Description:** The area is elongated in a general curve around lower Horseshoe Canyon. The terrain in the study area consists of sandy flats and hilly areas between the canyons which are 1,000 feet deep where they join the Green River. The bottoms of the canyons are inaccessible in several places.

**Special Features:**

The WSA includes approximately 20 miles of perennial streams, the majority of which is the Green River along the eastern boundary of the WSA.

- The entire WSA is rated as outstanding for scenic quality.

- The canyons in the WSA expose many geologic strata. The upper reaches provide dramatic views of the twisted and carved character of the area including cliffs, knolls, alcoves, caves, and arches.
- Bowknot Bend is a perfect example of the present creation of a Rincon. The Green River has carved a large deeply entrenched meander, leaving only a narrow neck to be eroded away before its course takes a shortcut.
- A completed Rincon can be found nearby at the mouth of Horseshoe Canyon.
- Adjacent to the southwestern border and an extension of the Horseshoe Canyon drainage, are notable pictographs in the detached Horseshoe Canyon Unit of Canyonlands National Park.
- Within the Labyrinth Canyon drainage and WSA along the Green River is evidence of the early river explorers. A river register at Bowknot Bend records the passage of both famous and little known river runners.
- Several rock inscriptions can be found in the WSA along the river course, adding a distinctly historic flavor to any recreational trip.
- Riparian vegetation along the Green River and within the major canyon drainages provides some diversity of habitat for many species of waterfowl, reptiles, mammals, and neotropical migratory birds.
- Habitat diversity and riparian vegetation of the WSA are emphasized by the arid character of the surrounding region.
- Several isolated tracts of land in the WSA provide a unique relic vegetation habitat. These areas are inaccessible and remain undisturbed by grazing or browsing animals.
- Desert bighorn sheep, a wildlife species associated with wilderness, may frequent the WSA.
- Several species including Colorado pikeminnow, humpback chub, bonytail chub, and razorback sucker are listed as endangered species.
- Several animal and plant species that are considered sensitive may be found within the WSA.

## Jack Canyon

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**Size:** 7,500 acres

**Location:** Carbon County, about 15 miles northeast of East Carbon City, UT.

**Vegetation:** The dominant vegetation includes pinyon-juniper woodland, sagebrush on the benches and moderate slopes, and Douglas fir on steep slopes and north-facing slopes.

**General Description:** The terrain in the WSA is characteristic of the highly dissected Roan Cliffs and West Tavaputs Plateau, and includes both vertical-sided and V-shaped canyons, steep tributary draws, and narrow irregular ridges.

**Special Features:**

- The Jack Canyon WSA is highly scenic when viewed from the canyon bottoms.
- Variety in vegetation and the existence of erosional remnants and features, creeks and springs, and wildlife habitat all combine in an interesting and scenic landscape.
- High value wildlife habitat in the WSA includes the intermittent stream and spring riparian associations in Jack Creek, Pine Springs Draw, and cliff and talus habitats.

- The WSA has small populations of Rocky Mountain big horn sheep, elk, cougar, and black bear, which are wildlife species associated with wilderness.
- The Mexican spotted owl, listed as a threatened species, nests within the WSA.

## Link Flats

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**Size:** 912 acres

**Location:** Emery County, UT

**Vegetation:** Pinyon-juniper woodlands

**General Description:** It lies in the San Rafael Swell, a breached anticline on the western edge of the Colorado Plateau physiographic province. Link Flats is one of a series of grassy flats between two major drainages, Devil's Canyon and Red's Canyon, which run to the south-west. Link Flats, Copper Globe Flats, and Justensen Flats are generally defined by pronounced sandstone bluffs to the northwest and are separated by pinyon-juniper desert woodlands.

**Special Features:** The 1991 Utah Statewide Wilderness Report does not list any special features in Link Flats.

## Mexican Mountain

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**Size:** 59,600 acres

**Location:** Emery County, about 18 miles west of Green River, UT.

**Vegetation:** Almost half of the area is barren or has only scattered plant cover. Pinyon-juniper dominates about one-third of the WSA, with brush and grass on the remainder of the area.

**General Description:** The WSA is characterized by features resulting from erosion of the multi-colored sedimentary rocks of the eastern San Rafael Swell, including the slopes of the San Rafael Reef on the eastern edge of the WSA: vertical cliffs, buttes, ridges, alcoves, and pinnacles. The San Rafael River has cut deeply in the southeastern portion of the WSA to form narrow, deep canyons known as the Upper and Lower Black boxes. Large isolated erosion remnants such as Mexican Mountain are distinctive in the southeastern part of the WSA.

**Special Features:**

The natural features of the WSA primarily result from its geology. Cuestas, buttes, pinnacles, alcoves, and at least one prominent natural arch occur in the WSA. Only a few canyons in Utah can be compared to the entrenched, very narrow gorges of the Black Boxes of the San Rafael River. The combination of geologic surface features present is not found to the same extent anywhere else in the San Rafael Swell.

The oldest rock exposed in the San Rafael Swell is the White Rim or Coconino Sandstone in the Black Boxes. It is exposed elsewhere in Utah, although not in a similar gorge. The hummocks in the Navajo Sandstone north of the San Rafael River are also unusual. The San Rafael reef which also extends through the other WSAs to the south is remarkable because of its steep pitches. In Mexican Mountain WSA it begins at its base with steeply dipping Carmel and Entrada sandstones cut by narrow clefts and rises to pitched Navajo Sandstone points or sandstone hammocks.

The ruggedness of the terrain contributes to its suitability as nesting habitat for raptors, such as golden eagle and prairie falcon, habitat for desert bighorn sheep, and scenic interest. The San Rafael River runs through the WSA, cutting deep canyons and providing an important perennial water source with its riparian vegetation.

The potential exists in the WSA for unusual historical sites, given the known combination of sites and activities in the immediate vicinity of the WSA including the Old Spanish Trail, the Old Railroad Grade, historical agriculture, and use by outlaws.

Special wildlife habitat features in the WSA include springs, the San Rafael River, riparian associations, and a cliff line suitable for raptor nesting. The WSA has small populations of cougar and desert bighorn sheep, which are wildlife species associated with wilderness. Peregrine falcons and bald eagles, and nine additional animal species considered to be sensitive may inhabit or frequent the WSA. Two plants, Maguire Daisy and Wright fishhook cactus, which are listed as endangered species occur or may occur in the WSA. Also two threatened species, the Jones Cycladenia and the Last Chance Townsendia, and five other plant species that are considered sensitive may occur in or near the WSA.

## Muddy Creek

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**Size:** 31,400 acres

**Location:** Emery County, about 30 miles south of Emery, UT

**Vegetation:** Pinyon, juniper, and desert shrub are the predominant types of vegetation, but the plant cover in the WSA is generally sparse.

**General Description:** The WSA includes a portion of the San Rafael Reef. Muddy Creek, a tributary of the Dirty Devil River to the south, flows east across the northern portion of the WSA then south through the eastern portion, and has a deep canyon through the study area. The south-central portion of the WSA consists of steep mesas. The southern part of the study area is a mesa bisected by Muddy Creek Canyon, and is referred to as “The Pasture” west of the canyon and “Keesle Country” east of the canyon.

**Special Features:**

- The canyons of the WSA expose geologic strata and cliffs, knolls, alcoves, caves, and arches.
- The upper reaches provide dramatic views of the twisted and carved character of the area, surrounded by the volcanic evidence and up thrust rock structures.
- The Chute is a good example of the unusual erosional pattern of drainage through some of the oldest formations exposed in the San Rafael Swell.

- The entire WSA is rated outstanding for scenic quality.
- Remnants of cowboy camps and mining activities of the 1940s are present in several places of the WSA.
- Two herds of wild horses frequent the WSA in the west, north, and east portions.
- Cougar, a wildlife species associated with wilderness, may occasionally visit the area.
- Peregrine falcons, bald eagles, and golden eagles may occur in or near the WSA.
- Two plant species, Maguire daisy and Wright fishhook cactus, which are listed as endangered may be found near or within the WSA.
- Two threatened species, the Jones cycladenia and the Last Chance townsendia may occur in the WSA.

## San Rafael Reef

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**Size:** 59,170

**Location:** Emery County, about 18 miles west of Green River, UT.

**Vegetation:** Vegetation is predominantly pinyon and juniper, covering three-fourths of the area, especially in the inner, higher parts of the WSA.

**General Description:** The study area is on the eastern edge of the San Rafael Swell. The San Rafael Reef is a nearly north-south trending hogback that dips steeply eastward. The central and northern parts of the WSA are composed mostly of multicolored sandstone mesas, faulted and joined so as to give a checkerboard appearance. The rest of the study area consists of canyons from 200 to 1,000 feet deep that drain eastward. Fins jut vertically from the desert floor in the northeastern part of the study area.

### Special Features:

- The upper reaches of the study area provide dramatic views of arches, caves, and narrow textured passageways within the WSA and views of the great up thrust of the San Rafael Reef and its many fins.
- Approximately 45 percent of the study area is rated outstanding for scenic quality.
- The rare grape agate thought to occur in only a few other places in the country is found in the WSA.
- Shacks, cabins, and mine shafts dot the area, providing a historic flair to the natural surroundings.
- Evidence of the old Green River to the Hanksville wagon trails also adds historic significance to the WSA.
- Desert bighorn sheep, a wildlife species associated with wilderness is found in the WSA.
- Cougars may occasionally visit the area.
- Peregrine falcons, bald and golden eagles may inhabit or use the WSA.
- Two plant species, Maguire daisy and Wright fishhook cactus, listed as endangered species, occur or may occur in the WSA.
- The Jones cycladenia is a threatened species that occurs in the WSA.
- The Last Chance townsendia, a threatened species, may occur in the WSA.

# Sids Mountain

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**Size:** 80,970 acres

**Location:** Emery County

**Vegetation:** scattered pinyon-juniper pine woodland

**General Description:** The WSA is characterized by an intricate canyon system which drains northward into the San Rafael River in the extreme northern portion of the area. The canyons typically have massive sandstone walls, winding routes, and numerous small tributary canyons. Above and between the canyons are flat to hilly grass parks. The western portion of the WSA is rough badlands terrain of colorful, eroded soils, cliffs, and small mesas.

**Special Features:**

- Suspected sites of the Fremont Indian culture
- Historic travel and trade routes
- Scenic values such as the colorful and dramatic rock forms in the intricate canyon drainages, arches, caves, pinnacles, buttes, and knobs
- Geologic values include the several formations exposed during the uplift of the San Rafael Swell.
- The entire WSA is rated as outstanding for scenic quality.
- Desert bighorn sheep, a species associated with wilderness occurs within the WSA.
- Cougars may also occur within the WSA.
- Bald eagles and peregrine falcons may occur within the WSA.
- The Maguire daisy, San Rafael cactus, and Wright fishhook cactus, which are listed as endangered species, may be found near or within the WSA.
- Two threatened species, the Jones cycladenia and the Last Chance townsendia may occur in the WSA.

# Sids Cabin

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**Size:** 440 acres

**Location:** Emery County

**Vegetation:** Same as Sids Mountain

**General Description:** This historic cabin rests on 439 acres inside the Sids Mountain WSA. The structure was built in the mid-1930's and remains standing today.

# Turtle Canyon

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**Size:** 33,690

**Location:** Emery County, about 8 miles southeast of Sunnyside, UT.

**Vegetation:** About one-third of the WSA supports pinyon-juniper woodland and nearly one-third of the area contains Douglas fir and mountain shrub. The remainder of the WSA is predominantly rock outcrop, pinyon-juniper and Douglas fir

**General Description:** Flat areas in the southern portion of the WSA are limited to canyon floors, ledges, and narrow ridge tops. South of the cliffs, alternate layers of soft and resistant rocks form a landscape of benches and slopes cut by canyons 100 to 500 feet deep.

**Special Features:**

- Approximately 75 percent of the WSA is rated as outstanding for scenic quality.
- The historical setting is similar to that of Desolation Canyon.
- The differences in terrain, vegetation productivity, variety in wildlife, and wildlife habitat represented in the WSA are highly unusual and are seldom found in an area of the size of the WSA.
- The WSA has small populations of cougar, elk, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and black bear, which are wildlife species associated with wilderness.
- Peregrine falcons and bald eagles may frequent the WSA.