

Conger Mountain

Findings

INVENTORY UNIT ACRES		
Federal	State	Total
With Wilderness Characteristics		
1,800	1,800	3,600 (100%)
Without Wilderness Characteristics		
0	0	0 (0%)
Inventory Unit Total		
1,800	1,800	3,600
Contiguous Area-Wilderness Characteristics		
Conger Mountain WSA (UT-050-035)		20,400

All 3,600 acres of the three Conger Mountain inventory units have wilderness characteristics. The three units are contiguous to the Conger Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA). Developments include vehicle ways, a sheep pen and corral, and a spring box and buried pipeline, but their impact on the naturalness of the units is minimal. The three units enhance the outstanding opportunities for solitude found in the adjacent WSA but do not themselves provide outstanding opportunities for primitive types of recreation. A wild horse herd that has been sighted in the units represents a supplemental value.

Unit Description

The Conger Mountain inventory units are located in the Confusion Range, approximately 65 air miles northwest of Fillmore. The mountain range is typical of the Basin and Range Province: large north-south trending mountain ranges separated by expansive valleys. There are no private inholdings.

Unit 1 includes the foothills at the south end of Conger Mountain, where the elevation rises over 1,000 feet in less than one mile.

Long, narrow, rocky ridges are separated by long, broad valleys. Vegetation is piñon and juniper forest at higher elevations, giving way to mostly juniper at the lower elevations. The vegetative understory includes rabbitbrush, greasewood, and other shrubs and grasses. Unit 2 includes westward-sloping foothills of Conger Mountain. Vegetation is principally shrubs and grasses with a few scattered junipers. Unit 3 includes northward-sloping foothills that are cut by drainages. Vegetation includes juniper and the usual shrubs and grasses: sagebrush, shadscale, ephedra, rabbitbrush, and perennial and annual grasses.

Human uses include sheep and cattle grazing, as well as outdoor recreation activities such as back-country driving and hunting. There may be some hiking and camping taking place as well.

Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness

The three units appear natural, with human developments being substantially unnoticeable. There are eight vehicle ways in the three units, but evidence of these routes is simply two tracks through the vegetation. Vegetation is growing over on most of the ways, so they are not a significant impact. A spring development, sheep pen, and sheep corral are also present. Since the ways and other developments are relatively small in scale and are spread throughout the three inventory units, they are not apparent in the landscape and do not dominate the scene.

A road to Conger Spring has been cherry-stemmed from Unit 1 on the south end of the WSA. Two springs developed for wild horses, wildlife, and livestock have also been cherry-stemmed from the unit.

Outstanding Opportunities

Solitude

The Conger Mountain inventory units enhance the outstanding opportunities for solitude found in the adjacent Conger Mountain WSA. The variety of landforms and vegetation, along with the large size and relative isolation of the mountain range, combine to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Screening is provided by the WSA's many canyons. Piñon and juniper forest, found in both the WSA and the three inventory units, provides vegetative screening, further enhancing opportunities for solitude.

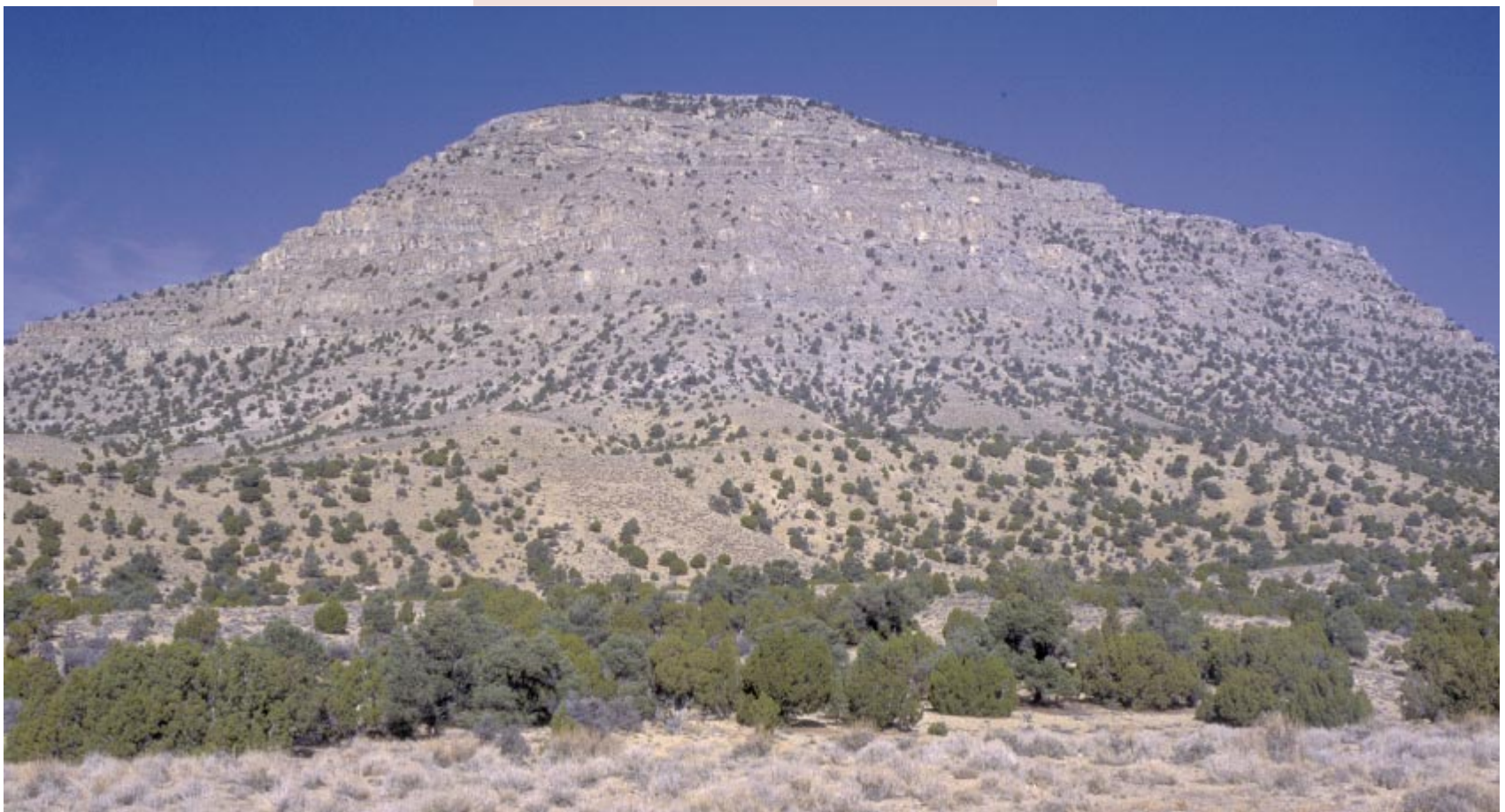
Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

No primitive recreation activities were found to be outstanding in the Conger Mountain WSA or in the inventory units themselves.

Supplemental Values

A herd of wild horses is present in the Conger Range and has been sighted in the inventory units. While wild horses are present throughout many western states, sightings by the casual visitor are not common. The adjacent Conger Mountain WSA is home to the bald eagle and peregrine falcon, both listed as endangered species; these may be found within the inventory units as well.

CONGER MOUNTAIN—This scene from Unit 1 shows the landscape typical of all three units, enhancing the values and opportunities found in the larger adjacent Conger Mountain WSA.



BLM photo

Conger Mountain

