

Year: 2009 Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-157 and CA-020-1005/Coleman Valley West and Coleman Ranch

FORM 1

DOCUMENTATION OF BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY FINDINGS ON RECORD

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?

No Yes

a) Inventory Sources: Wilderness Inventory: Oregon and Washington Final Intensive Inventory Decisions November 1980, and Final Intensive Inventory, Public Lands Administered by BLM California Outside the California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness, December 1979.

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Coleman Valley West/OR-010-157 and Coleman Ranch/CA-020-1005

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): U.S. Department of the Interior: Bureau of Land Management Oregon: Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decisions November, 1980.

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Lakeview District, Lakeview Resource Area, Lakeview, Oregon, and Surprise Field Office, Cedarville, California

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory unit is associated with the area, list each unit and answer each question individually for each inventory unit):

Ownership	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
BLM (Oregon)	9,600	N	N	N	Unknown
Private (Oregon)	400				
BLM (Nevada)	12,125	Y	N	N	Unknown
Private (Nevada)	880				

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

a. Unit Number/Name: **OR-015-157/Coleman Valley West and CA-020-1005/Coleman Ranch**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes X No

Boundary Determination: In 2003, 2008, and 2009, BLM conducted field inventory of the area to update its road and wilderness inventories, respectively. This field work included photo documentation of the boundary routes. The BLM also considered photos taken along boundary routes on the northern end of the unit taken by the Oregon Natural Desert Association in 2004. Using photos, field logs, and staff field knowledge, the BLM completed an analysis of the main motorized routes within the area in 2009.

The results of the route analysis are documented in the road analysis forms contained in the wilderness evaluation file. On the west, the unit is bounded by the Bonneville Power Association (BPA) power line right-of-way (750 feet from centerline). On the south, the unit is bounded by private lands, the Barrel Spring Road, and the Coleman Ranch Road. On the east, the unit is bounded by a combination of private lands and an unnumbered road. On the north, the unit is bounded by a combination of private lands and BLM Roads 6172-00 and 6172-E0 (see Maps 1 and 2, road analysis forms, photos, photo log, and BLM ID team minutes in the wilderness inventory file for additional supporting information regarding these boundary determinations).

The inventory unit currently contains about 26,335 acres of BLM-administered land and about 980 acres of private land inholdings located in several scattered blocks (Map 2).

Following the boundary determination, a BLM ID team, representing both the Lakeview and Surprise Field Offices, examined the previous inventory information contained in the BLM's wilderness inventory files and published inventory documents, and its own recent field inventory information, and then conducted an inter-disciplinary, inter-office evaluation of the current wilderness characteristics within the unit boundary. The results are contained in the following section. Additional background on the process that the BLM ID team followed during this evaluation is contained in the ID team meeting notes and the document, *Wilderness Inventory Maintenance Process for the Lakeview Resource Area, BLM*. Both documents are contained in the wilderness inventory file.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS:

The inventory unit is located about 12 miles south of Adel, Oregon, and about 10 miles northeast of Ft. Bidwell, California (Map 1). The unit is irregular shaped and is approximately 8.5 miles wide and 10.5 miles long (Map 2). The 500-Kv BPA power

line, just outside the western boundary, is a dominant man-made feature visible from portions of majority of the unit.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No N/A

1980 Unit Description: The previous inventory described the unit as a low plateau dissected by Twelvemile and Horse Creek drainages. Elevations rise sharply east of Horse Creek. Most of the rest of the unit contains low, rolling hills with a few rocks, ridgelines, and shallow drainages. A small mountain ridge extends from the northeast “arm” in Oregon south into Nevada. The dominant vegetation was described as sagebrush and grass, scattered western juniper, and isolated stands of Ponderosa pines. The northern portion (Oregon) of the unit contained numerous reservoir developments developed springs, roads, and the BPA power line and did not appear to be primarily affected by the forces of nature. The southern portion (Nevada) contained a few miles of primitive ways and several reservoirs, but was determined to be mainly natural in appearance.

Current Condition Description: The area topography has not changed since 1980. A couple of wildfires have occurred in recent years which have removed the shrub and juniper overstory in places, creating plant communities dominated by grasses and forbs. In other portions of the unit western juniper has expanded in aerial extent and density.

In 2003, about 854 acres of the Twelvemile Creek area in Oregon was recommended suitable as a Wild and Scenic River within the Lakeview RMP/ROD. In 2008, an additional 457 acres of the creek corridor was recommended suitable within the Surprise RMP/ROD. The outstandingly remarkable values found within this corridor included the presence of fish habitat and populations (Warner suckers) (see Draft Lakeview RMP/EIS, Appendix J2, pages A-266 to A-270; 2001). Congress has yet to act upon these recommendations.

This unit contains about a third of the 19,648-acre Rahilly-Gravelly Area of Critical Environmental Concern and Research Natural Area (ACEC/RNA) which was designated in 2003 during the Lakeview RMP process (Map 2). This designation is intended to recognize and protect important cultural, wildlife, and botanical values. The ACEC/RNA “contains scattered western juniper stands, tall sagebrush mosaic, and low sagebrush on lithic soil flats”. In particular, the area contains three vegetation community cell needs of the Oregon Natural Heritage Program (Draft RMP/EIS, Appendix I, p. A-247 and Proposed RMP/Final EIS, p. 2-58):

- 1) Western juniper/big sagebrush-bitterbrush
- 2) Mountain brush
- 3) Bitterbrush-sagebrush, mountain snowberry/Thurber needlegrass mosaic

There are currently 8 constructed reservoirs, 2 constructed waterholes, 6 developed springs, 0.3 miles of pipelines and an associated water storage tank, and approximately 35.3 miles of pasture division fence within the unit. Currently, there are approximately 30.3 miles of primitive motorized routes within the unit. The motorized routes, water developments, and fences are scattered across the unit. One abandoned mine site is located near the eastern portion of the unit (Map 2).

About 487 acres of the Twelvemile Creek Canyon was mechanically treated to remove invasive juniper in 2006 to improve the health of ponderosa pine and aspen stands in the canyon (see Map 2).

All of these man-made developments/disturbances are substantially noticeable within close proximity (approximately one-quarter mile) and are less noticeable from further distances. Though the total man-made disturbances within the unit have increased since 1980 and cumulatively detract from the natural quality of the area, the ID team determined that overall, the unit currently is in a natural condition, where the imprints of man are substantially unnoticeable.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

1980 Unit Description: During the previous inventory, the unit was characterized as offering only marginal opportunities to avoid the presence of others due to the open terrain, broad flat areas, and little tall vegetative screening. Further, the relatively small size of the southern portion of the area (which was predominantly natural) further restricted the opportunities for solitude. The stream drainages in the unit offered only minor areas of solitude for a small number of people.

Current Condition Description: The topography and vegetative screening within the unit has not changed substantially since 1980.

Much of the northern portion of the unit consists of broad, open expanses of relatively flat terrain. The southern half of the unit contains drainages with low density juniper woodland cover which provides some screening in a portion of the unit.

The Barrel Springs Road, which forms the southern boundary of the unit, is a designated Backcountry Byway. This designation encourages visitation along the southwestern end of the unit. In addition, the existing primitive motorized routes extending into the interior of the unit increase the likelihood of encountering others within the unit. The BPA power line, just outside the western boundary, is visible from portions of the unit and detracts from the solitude experience.

For these reasons, the ID team determined that the opportunities for solitude have not changed substantially since 1980 and are not outstanding.

(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

1980 Unit Description: During the previous inventory, the unit was described as having the potential for hunting and wildlife observation with a limited potential for day use. Overall, the opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation was determined to be limited and not outstanding.

Current Condition Description: The Lakeview RMP/ROD (Map R-7) shows the Rahilly-Gravelly ACEC as limiting off-highway vehicle (OHV) to existing roads and trails. The wild and scenic river corridor is limited to designated roads and trails. The remainder of the Oregon portion of the unit is open to OHV use. The northern portion of the unit is currently managed to promote a semi-primitive, motorized recreation experience (Maps R-3). The Surprise RMP/ROD states that OHV use in the Nevada portion of this unit is limited to designated roads and trails. The Nevada portion of the unit is currently managed to promote a combination of semi-primitive, motorized, and semi-primitive, non-motorized recreation experiences (Map ROS-1).

The Barrel Springs Road, which forms the southern boundary of the unit, is a designated Backcountry Byway. This designation encourages motorized travel along the southwestern end of the unit. The 33.5 miles of existing primitive motorized routes within the interior of the unit, coupled with the OHV and recreation management direction described above, further encourages motorized use and negatively impacts the potential opportunities for a primitive (non-motorized) and unconfined recreation experience within the interior of the unit (Map 2).

The wild and scenic river determination noted that the Twelvemile Creek corridor provides some opportunities for hiking, camping, sightseeing, photography, bird watching, wildlife observation, fishing, and hunting. Water levels within the creek were generally found to be too low to provide boating opportunities. These recreation opportunities were described as being “fairly typical for the surrounding area” (Draft Lakeview RMP/EIS, Appendix J2, page A-267).

The majority of the unit offers some limited potential for primitive recreation activities such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, and dispersed camping. However, these opportunities are similar to those available throughout much of the surrounding BLM-administered lands and tend to be indirectly associated with the motorized access provided by the existing road system and OHV designations within the unit.

For these reasons, the ID team found that primitive recreation opportunities with the unit have not changed substantially since 1980. The unit does not offer any single outstanding primitive and unconfined recreational opportunity, nor does it offer an outstanding diversity of primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes _____ No _____ NA X

1980 Unit Description: In the previous inventory, archaeological values were noted as a supplemental value potentially existing within the unit.

Description: Supplemental values were not evaluated during the current inventory as the unit did not meet all of required wilderness character criteria described above.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: Coleman Valley West/OR-015-157 and Coleman Ranch/CA-020-1005

Results of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet the size requirements? X Yes ___ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? X Yes ___ No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation? ___ Yes X No
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ___ Yes ___ No X NA

Conclusion (Check One):

- ___ The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.
- X The area does not have wilderness character.

Lakeview ID Team Members (Name and Title)

Paul Whitman
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12/14/2009
Date

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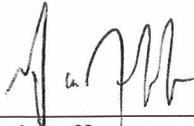
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Approved by:

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Lakeview Resource Area

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Surprise ID Team Members (Name and Title)



Garth Jeffers
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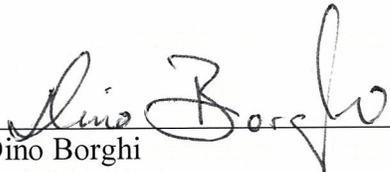
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Elias Flores
Wildlife Biologist

14 Dec. 2009

Date



Dino Borghi
GIS Specialist

12/14/2009

Date

Approved by:



Shane DeForest, Field Manager
Surprise Field Office

12-14-09

Date

This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.

FORM 1

**DOCUMENTATION OF BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY
FINDINGS ON RECORD**

Year: 2009 Inventory Unit Number/Name: Unnumbered/Coleman Lake
South and Coleman Seeding South

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?

No Yes (if more than one unit is within the area, list the names/numbers of those units.):

a) **Inventory Source:** Wilderness Inventory: Oregon and Washington Final Intensive Inventory Decisions November 1980 and the Final Intensive Inventory, Public Lands Administered by BLM California Outside the California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness, December 1979.

b) **Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s):** None

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** U.S. Department of the Interior: Bureau of Land Management Oregon: Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decisions November, 1980

d) **BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):** Lakeview District, Lakeview Resource Area, Lakeview, Oregon

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory unit is associated with the area, list each unit and answer each question individually for each inventory unit):

Ownership	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
BLM	<5,000	NA	NA	NA	NA

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

a. Unit Number/Name: **Unnumbered/Coleman Lake South and Coleman Seeding South**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes _____ No X

Boundary Determination: In 2003, 2008, and 2009, BLM conducted field inventory of the area to update its road and wilderness inventories, respectively. This field work included photo documentation of the boundary routes. The BLM also considered photos taken by the Oregon Natural Desert Association in 2004 along the southern boundary routes of their Sucker Creek wilderness proposal, which borders this inventory area. Using these photos, field logs, and staff field knowledge, the BLM completed an analysis of the main motorized routes within the area in 2009.

The results of the route analysis are documented in the road analysis forms contained in the wilderness evaluation file. The Coleman Seeding South inventory unit is bounded on the east by state highway 34 and county road 3-15, on the west by private lands, and on the south by the Coleman Ranch Road. The Coleman Lake South inventory unit is bounded on the west by BLM Roads 6172-00 and an unnumbered road, on the south by private lands, and on the north by county road 3-15. The units total 1,173 and 253 acres respectively and do not meet the minimum size criteria or any of the exceptions to the size criteria.

Refer to Maps 1 and 2, road analysis forms, photos, photo logs, and BLM ID team minutes in the wilderness inventory file for additional supporting information regarding these boundary determinations. Additional background on the process that the BLM ID team followed during this evaluation is contained in the document, *Wilderness Inventory Maintenance Process for the Lakeview Resource Area, BLM*, in the wilderness inventory file.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The inventory units are located about 10 miles southeast of Adel, Oregon (Map 1). The topography in the area consists of flat, exposed valley bottom.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

1980 Unit Description: The previous inventory did not evaluate the natural quality of these 2 areas; presumably because they did not meet the minimum size criteria.

Current Condition Description: The current natural character within the 2 inventory units was not evaluated since these areas still do not meet the minimum size criteria or any of the exceptions to this criteria.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

1980 Unit Description: The previous inventory did not evaluate the opportunities for solitude within these 2 areas; presumably because they did not meet the minimum size criteria.

Current Condition Description: The current solitude opportunities within the 2 inventory units were not evaluated since these areas did not meet the minimum size criteria or any of the exceptions to this criteria.

(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

1980 Unit Description: The previous inventory did not evaluate the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation within these 2 areas; presumably because they did not meet the minimum size criteria.

Current Condition Description: The current primitive recreation opportunities within the 2 inventory units were not evaluated since these areas did not meet the minimum size criteria or any of the exceptions to this criteria.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes _____ No _____ NA X

1980 Unit Description: During the previous inventory, archeological values were identified as a potential supplemental value.

Description: Supplemental values within the 2 inventory units were not evaluated since these areas did not meet the minimum wilderness criteria.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: Coleman Lake South and Coleman Seeding South/ Unnumbered

Summary

Results of Analysis:

- 1. Does the area meet the size requirements? Yes X No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No X NA
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No X NA
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No X NA

Conclusion (Check One):

- The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.
- X The area does not have wilderness character.

Lakeview ID Team Members (Name and Title)

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This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.

Map 1 - Wilderness Character Evaluation Area

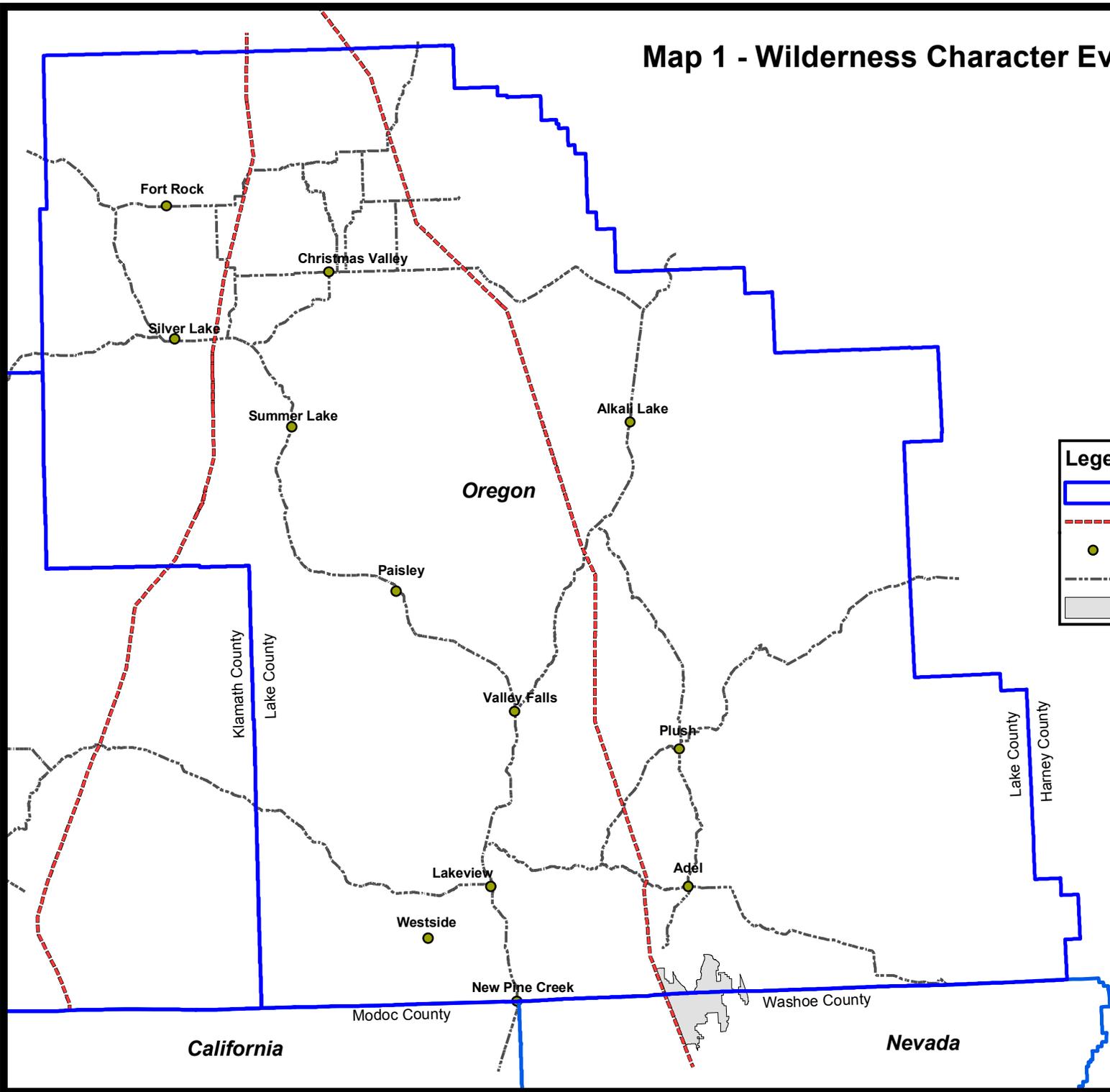


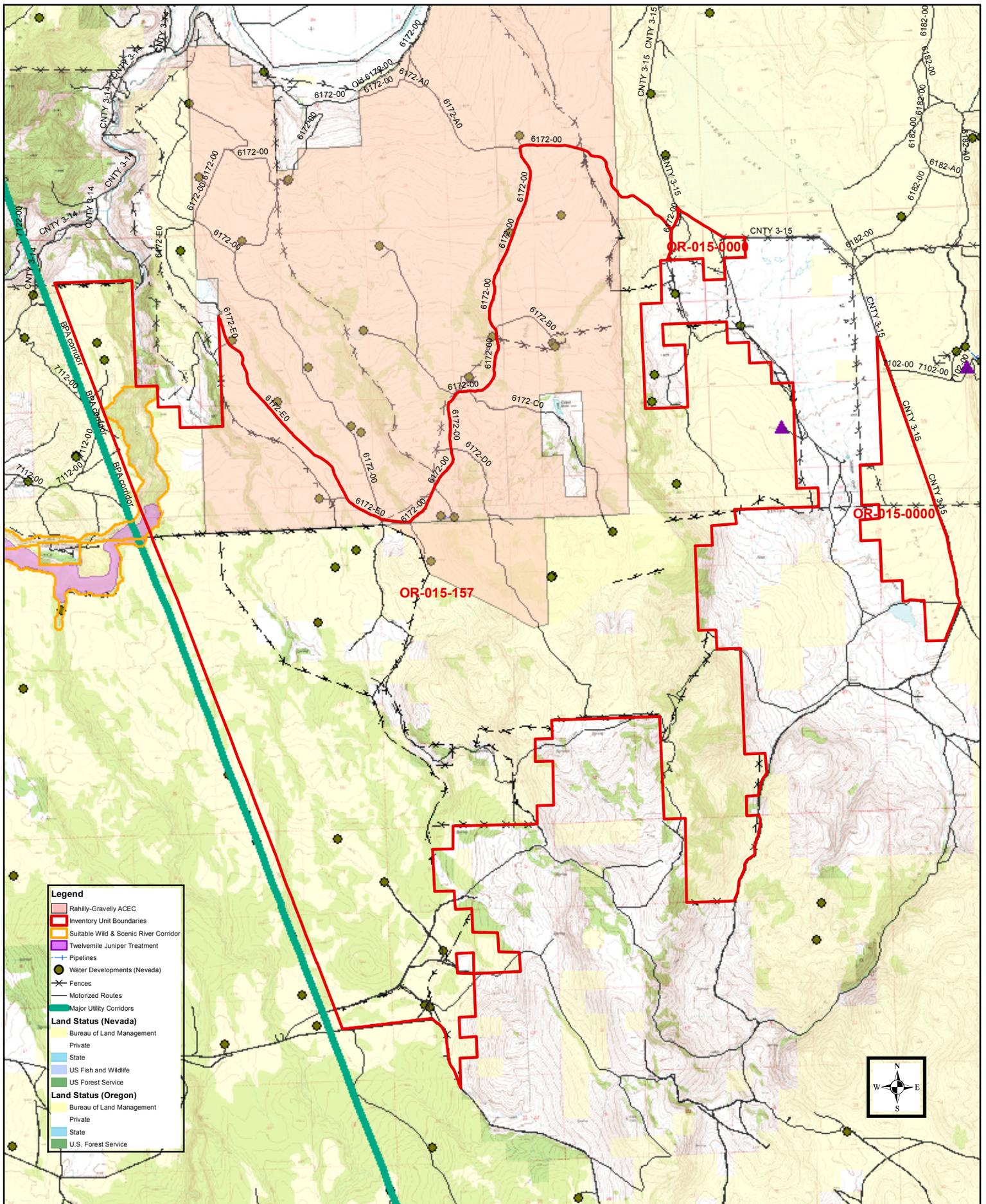
Legend

-  Resource Area/Field Office Boundaries
-  Major Utility Corridors
-  Cities
-  Major Roads
-  Wilderness Character Evaluation Area



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Map 2 - Wilderness Character Inventory - Coleman Valley West - Coleman Ranch Area



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

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