

Wilderness Characteristics Evaluation

Interdisciplinary Team Signature Sheet

The following interdisciplinary (ID) team reviewed the citizen's wilderness proposal. The review included field inventory and an analysis of the routes within the proposed area, as well as an evaluation of the wilderness characteristics within the proposed area. This signature sheet documents the available BLM ID Team members that participated in this wilderness evaluation process along with the member's agreement with the conclusions reached in the road analysis forms and wilderness character forms completed for the area. These forms are contained in this wilderness inventory file.

Proposed WSA: Bald Mountain

Team Members:

Todd Forbes Todd Forbes Date: 5/4/09
Associate Field Manager for Wildlife, Fisheries, Riparian, Hydrology, Wilderness, Recreation, and Cultural

Glenn Lorton Glenn Lorton Date: 5/11/09
Wildlife Biologist

Paul Whitman Paul Whitman Date: 5/4/2009
Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Les Boothe Les Boothe Date: 5/4/2009
Range Management Specialist

Kim McLean Kim McLean Date: 5/4/09
Recreation/Wilderness Specialist

Breanna O'Conner Breanna O'Conner Date: 5/5/09
Park Ranger

Theresa Romesko Theresa Romesko Date: 5/4/2009

Year: 2009

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-144/ Bald Mountain

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 Source: Wilderness Inventory: Oregon and Washington Final Intensive Inventory Decisions November 1980

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Bald Mountain/1-144

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.

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	14,040	Y	N	N	N

Inventory Source: Wilderness Inventory: Oregon and Washington Final Intensive Inventory Decisions, November 1980

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

a. Unit Number/Name: OR-015-144/Bald Mountain

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes X No

Citizen Information Received: In 2005, the BLM received a citizen proposal from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) for the 18,489-acre Bald Mountain proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA). ONDA included in their information a narrative report, maps, photos, photo and route logs, and GIS data with their route and photo point data; all of these materials were considered during the BLM's wilderness inventory process for this BLM Unit. The photos submitted by ONDA were taken in August of 2004. They identified the area as having no interior routes which met the BLM wilderness inventory definition of a road (see p. 8-13 of ONDA, 2005).

Boundary Determination and Consideration of Citizen Information: In summer 2008, BLM conducted its own field inventory of the area to update its road and wilderness inventory for the area and to gather additional information to supplement ONDA's information. This field work included photo documentation of the boundary routes and some of the interior routes. Using both ONDA and BLM photos, field logs, and staff field knowledge, a BLM inter-disciplinary (ID) team completed road analyses on the main routes within the proposed area in 2008.

The results of the route analysis are documented in the road analysis forms contained in the wilderness evaluation file. The BLM ID team determined route 6126-B0 (which ONDA identified as a "way") meets the wilderness inventory definition of a road and, therefore, serves as a unit boundary. For this reason, the BLM found the Bald Mountain proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is comprised of two smaller evaluation units (Map 2).

The unit is currently bounded by route 6176-00 on the north and west, route 6176-D0 on the east, and route 6126-BO on the south (Map 2) (Refer to the road analysis forms, photos, photo logs, and BLM ID team minutes in the wilderness inventory file for additional supporting information regarding these boundary determinations). The inventory unit currently contains approximately 13,758 acres of BLM- administered lands.

Following the boundary determination, the BLM ID team subsequently reviewed ONDA's information, examined the previous inventory information contained in the BLM's wilderness inventory files and published inventory documents, and its own field inventory information, and then conducted an inter-disciplinary evaluation of the current wilderness characteristics within the unit boundary. The results are contained in the

following sections. 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:

This unit contains Bald Mountain which is the highest point within the unit. The south half of the unit is a low angle slope rising to the north with minor drainage depressions. The northern half contains minor rims, draws and broken contours; there is also an elevation drop of approximately 1,000 feet over a two mile distance in this unit. The vegetative cover on this unit is primarily sagebrush-steppe community.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes No N/A

1980 Unit Description: The original inventory noted several ways leading to and from three reservoirs in the northern half of the unit, two reservoirs located near the boundaries of the southern half of the unit, and a way going to Shelby Reservoir. These ways and reservoirs were somewhat noticeable from higher elevations within the unit, but the area retained a primarily natural appearance. The BLM concluded that the disturbances were minimal and the area was natural.

Current Condition Description: The area topography and vegetative cover has not changed since 1980. This unit is mostly sagebrush community, which includes sagebrush, low growing perennials and scattered juniper trees. One can gain a general overview of the naturalness of this unit by examining both ONDA and BLM field photographs contained in the wilderness inventory file.

There are approximately 7.8 miles of primitive motorized routes, 3 waterholes, 1 reservoir, and 1 developed spring scattered throughout the unit (Map 2). About a half mile of BLM Road 6126-00 in the southeast corner of the unit was realigned sometime after 1980. Most of these developments are substantially noticeable within close proximity and are less noticeable from further distances. Though the total disturbances have increased since 1980 and they cumulatively detract from the natural quality of the area, the ID team concluded that most of this unit would appear to be natural to the casual observer.

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

Yes No N/A

1980 Unit Description: During the previous inventory, the southern half of the unit, with gentle slopes and lack of tall cover, did not offer any degree of solitude from other visitors. The north half of the unit, which has more broken terrain, did offer some

marginal opportunities for solitude. However, these secluded portions were restricted in size and were found less than adequate to provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The BLM concluded that the unit as a whole did not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Current Condition Description: Since the 1980 inventory, opportunities for solitude have not changed substantially. The majority of this unit has limited topographic or vegetative screening which is necessary to provide opportunities for solitude (see photos in the inventory file). The northern end of the unit has some opportunities for solitude, but it is greatly reduced due to proximity to existing roads and lack of screening. There are a number of existing primitive motorized routes (Map 2) that provide access to substantial portions of the interior of the unit. This further limits the ability to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors in the unit.

For these reasons, the BLM ID team determined that this unit continues to lack an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

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

Yes _____ No N/A _____

1980 Unit Description: During the previous inventory, the recreational opportunities identified included wildlife observation, hunting to a limited degree, and an opportunity for hiking on the northern portion of the unit. These activities were not considered to be outstanding due to the limited size of the unit and lack of any significant recreation values. The BLM concluded that the unit did not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Current Condition Description: The BLM ID Team did not identify any new recreational opportunities within the unit in 2008. There are a number of existing internal primitive motorized routes (Map 2) that provide access to substantial portions of the interior of the unit. This further limits the ability to have a primitive (non-motorized) recreational experience. The noise level associated with motorized activity also diminishes the quality of the recreational experience for those visitors looking for a primitive experience.

The unit does not provide a single unique primitive recreational opportunity, nor does it provide a diversity of primitive recreation opportunities. This landscape and the recreation opportunities provided by it are similar to the BLM lands surrounding the area.

For these reasons, the BLM ID team determined that this unit continues to lack an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes _____ No _____ NA X

Description: Supplemental values were not evaluated as the unit did not meet the minimum criteria for wilderness character.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: Bald Mountain/OR-015-144

Results of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of 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 a primitive and unconfined type 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.

ID Team Members (Names and Titles):

Breanna S. O'Connor	Park Ranger
Todd Forbes	Associate Field Manager Natural Resources
Theresa Romasko	Associate Field Manager Natural Resources
Paul Whitman	Planning and Environmental Coordinator
Lucile Housley	Botanist
Ken Siegrist	Park Ranger
Glenn Lorton	Wildlife Biologist
Kim McLean	Outdoor Recreation/Wilderness Specialist
Les Boothe	Range Management Specialist

Approved by:



Tom Rasmussen, Field Manager

5/11/89

Date

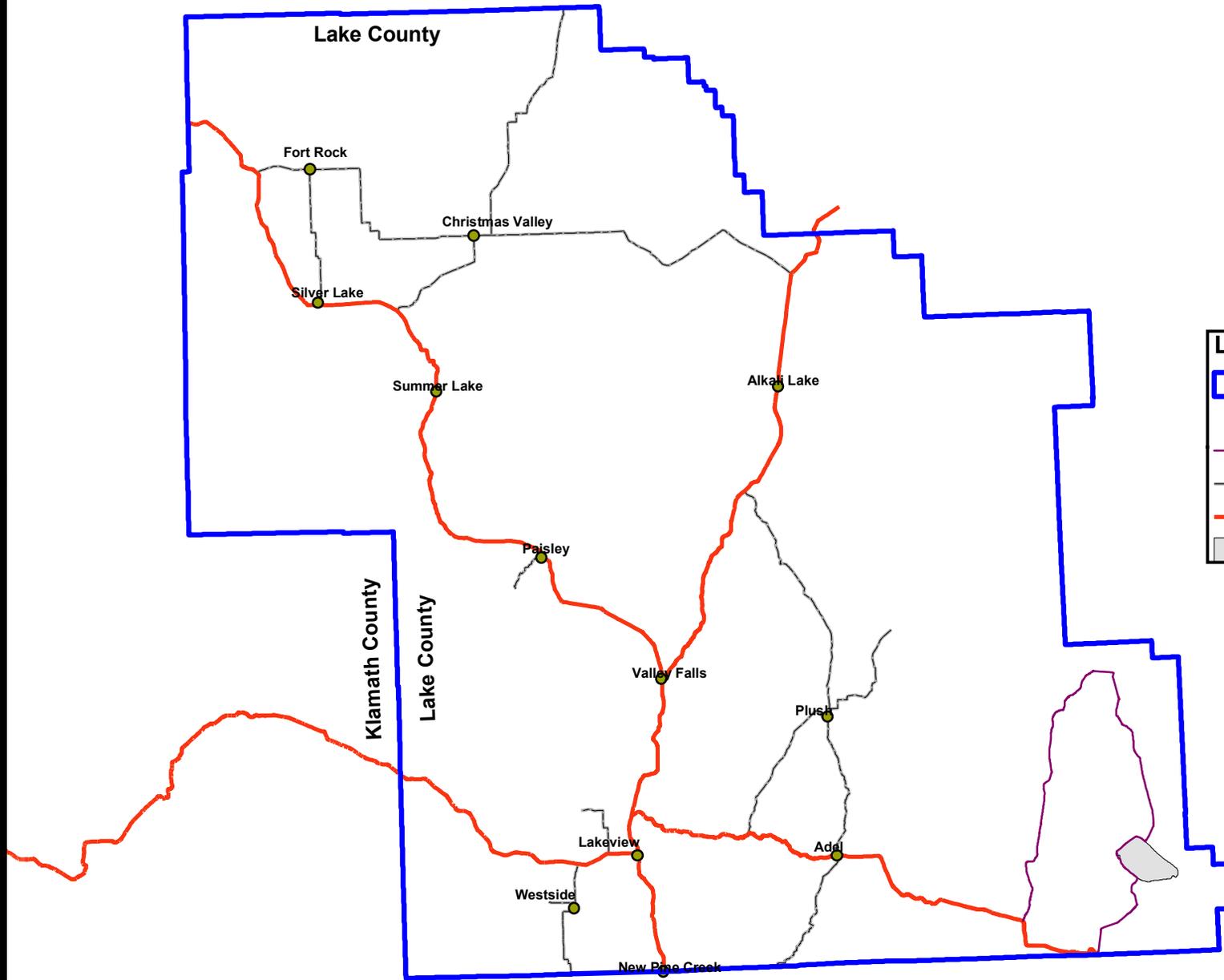
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.

Map 1 - Wilderness Character Evaluation Area

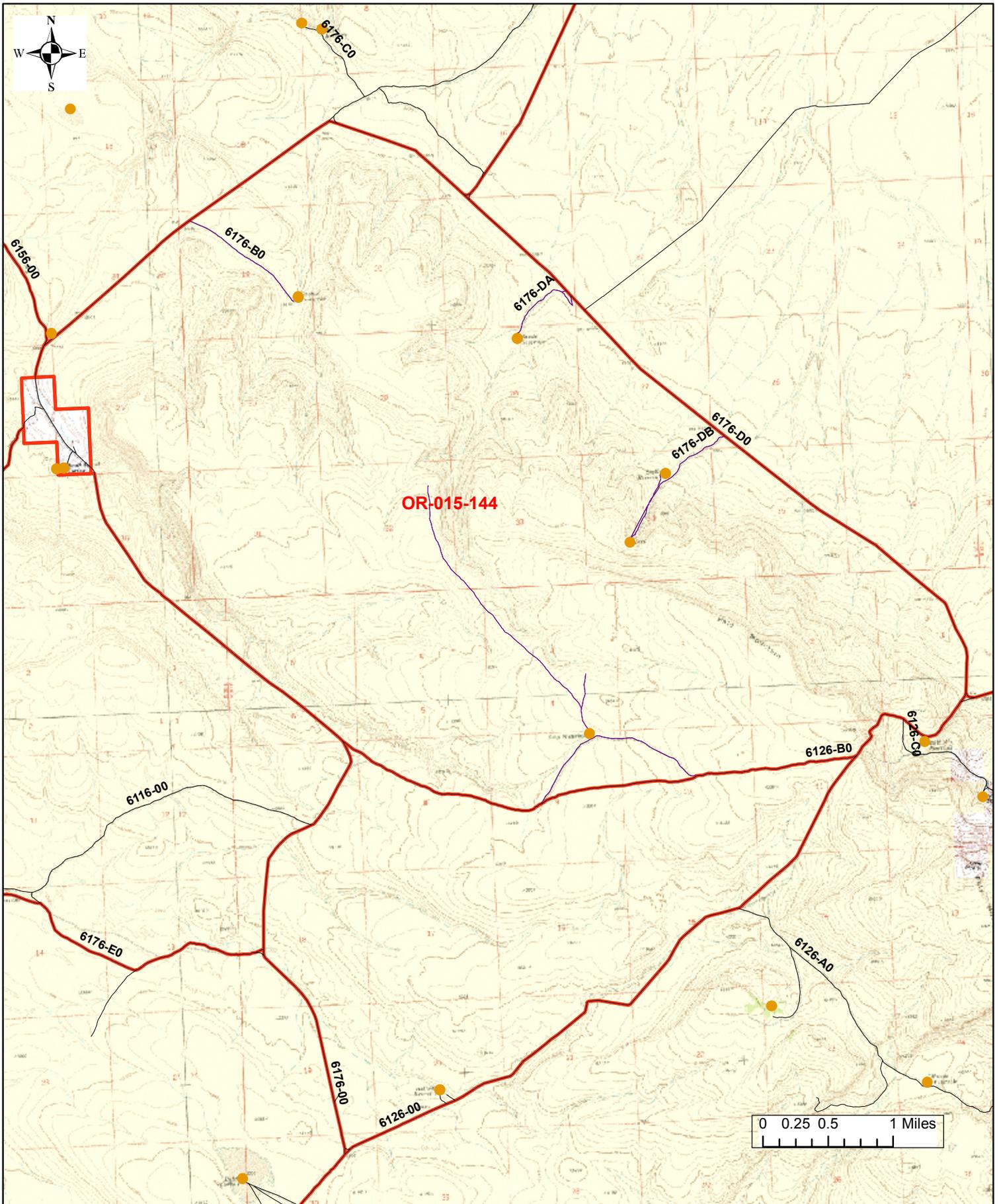


Legend

-  Lakeview Resource Area
-  Cities
-  Beaty Butte Loop Road
-  Major Secondary Roads
-  Major Highways
-  Wilderness Unit Boundary



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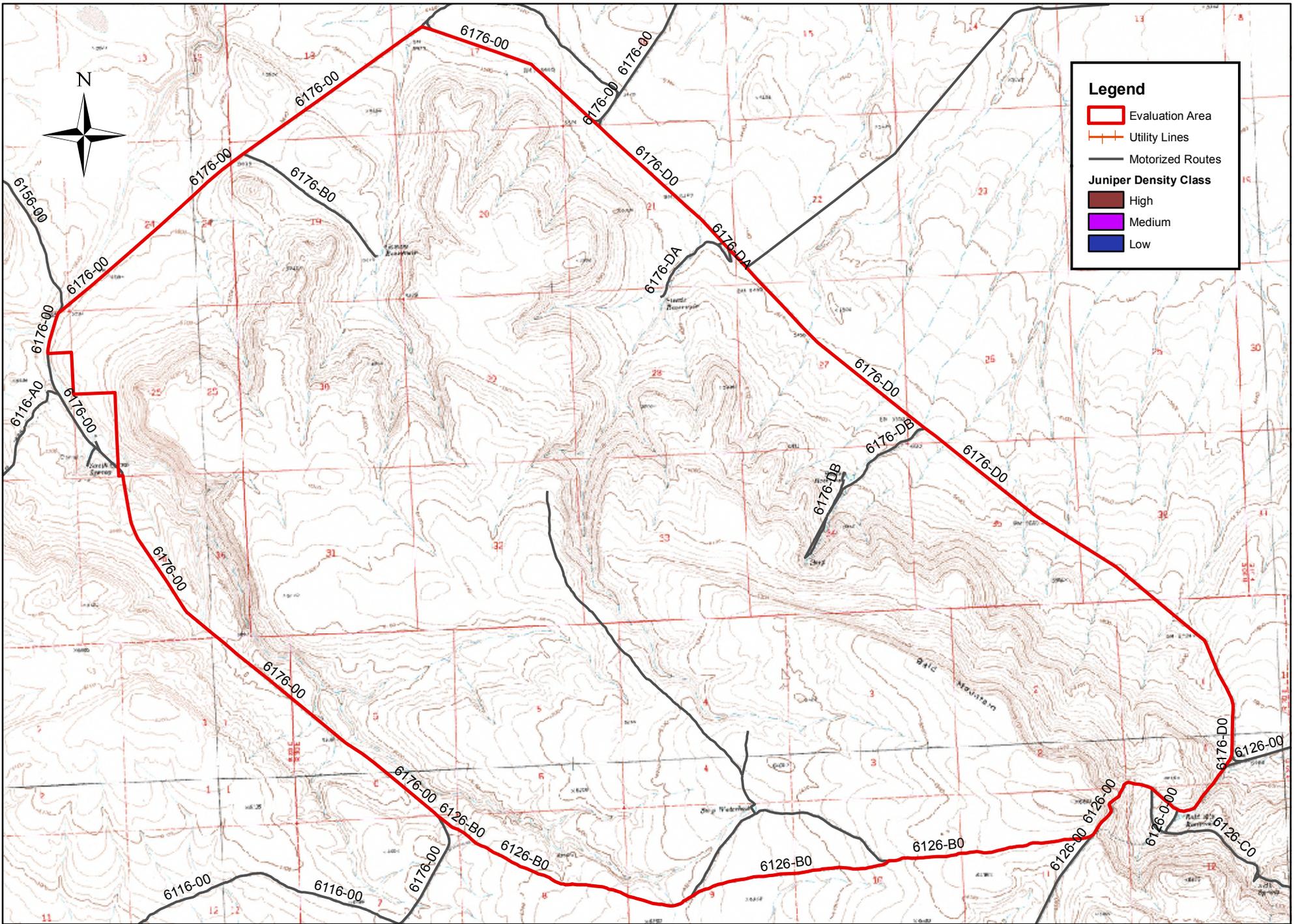


Map 2 - Bald Mountain Wilderness Inventory Unit

- Legend**
- Water Developments
 - Internal Primitive Motorized Routes
 - Existing Motorized Routes
 - Wilderness Inventory Unit Boundary
- Land Status**
- Non-BLM
 - BLM

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Legend

- Evaluation Area
- Utility Lines
- Motorized Routes

Juniper Density Class

- High
- Medium
- Low



Map 3 - Vegetative Screening based on Juniper Density Classes

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Year: 2009

Inventory Unit Number/Name: Unnumbered Unit

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 X Yes

a) Inventory Source: NA

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): NA

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.

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	Less than 5,000	NA	NA	NA	NA

Inventory Source: Wilderness Inventory: Oregon and Washington Final Intensive Inventory Decisions, November 1980

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

a. Unit Number/Name: Unnumbered Unit

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes No

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The unit is currently bounded by route 6176-00 on the west, route 6126-00 on the east, and route 6126-BO on the north (Map 2) (Refer to the road analysis forms, photos, photo logs, and BLM ID team minutes in the wilderness inventory file for additional supporting information regarding these boundary determinations).

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS:

This inventory unit currently is about 4,731 acres and does not meet the minimum 5,000 acre size requirement, nor does it meet any of the exceptions to the size requirement. For this reason, the BLM did not evaluate this unit further.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes ___ No ___ N/A X

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

Yes ___ No ___ N/A X

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

Yes ___ No ___ N/A X

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes ___ No ___ NA X

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: Unnumbered Unit

Results of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? __Yes XNo
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ___Yes ___No XNA
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? __Yes ___No XNA
4. Does the area have supplemental values? __Yes ___No XNA

Conclusion (check one):

___ The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.

X The area does not have wilderness character.

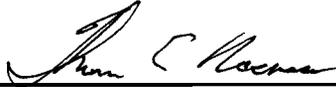
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Approved by:



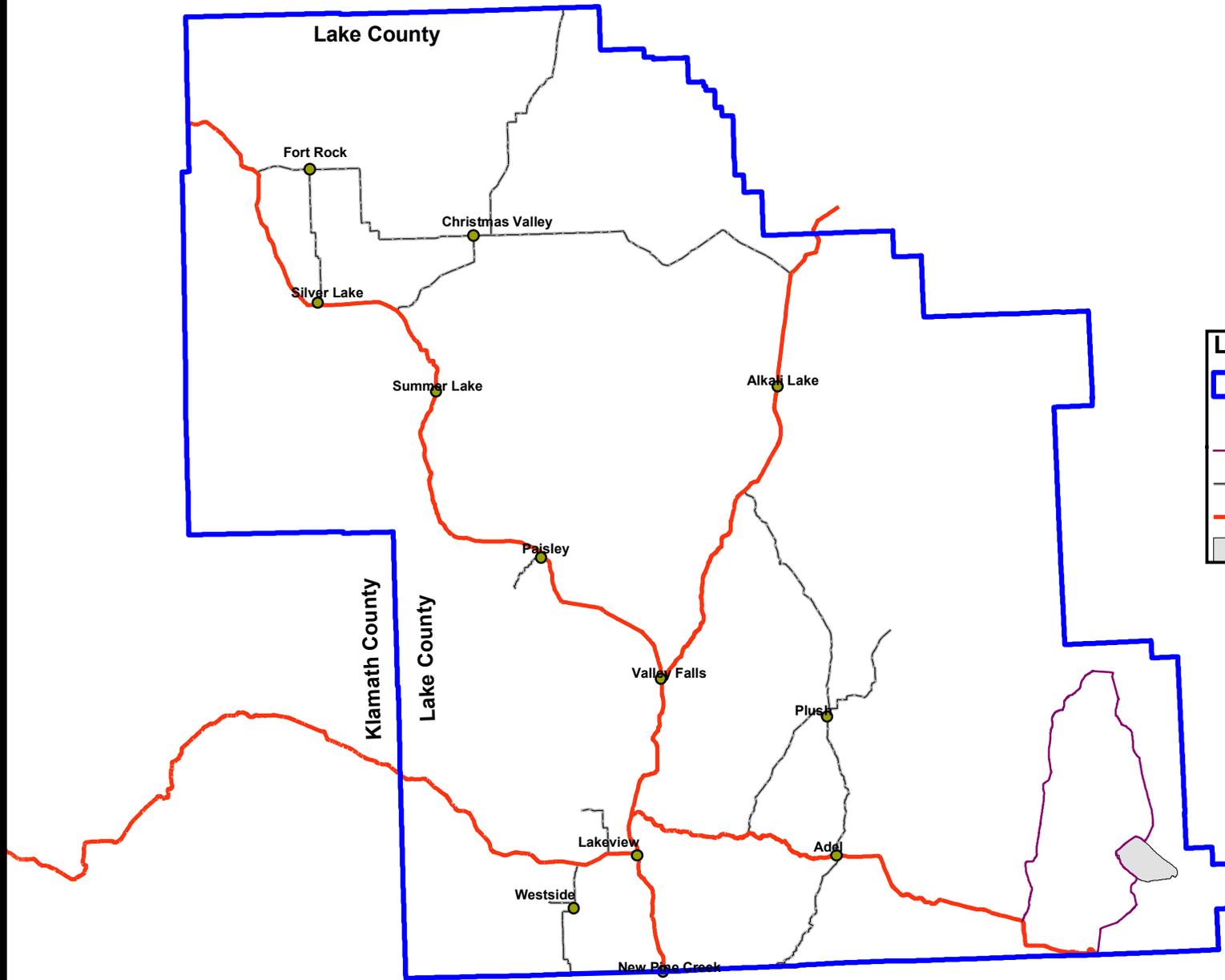
Tom Rasmussen, Field Manager



Date

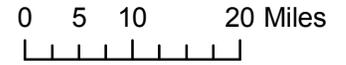
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Map 1 - Wilderness Character Evaluation Area

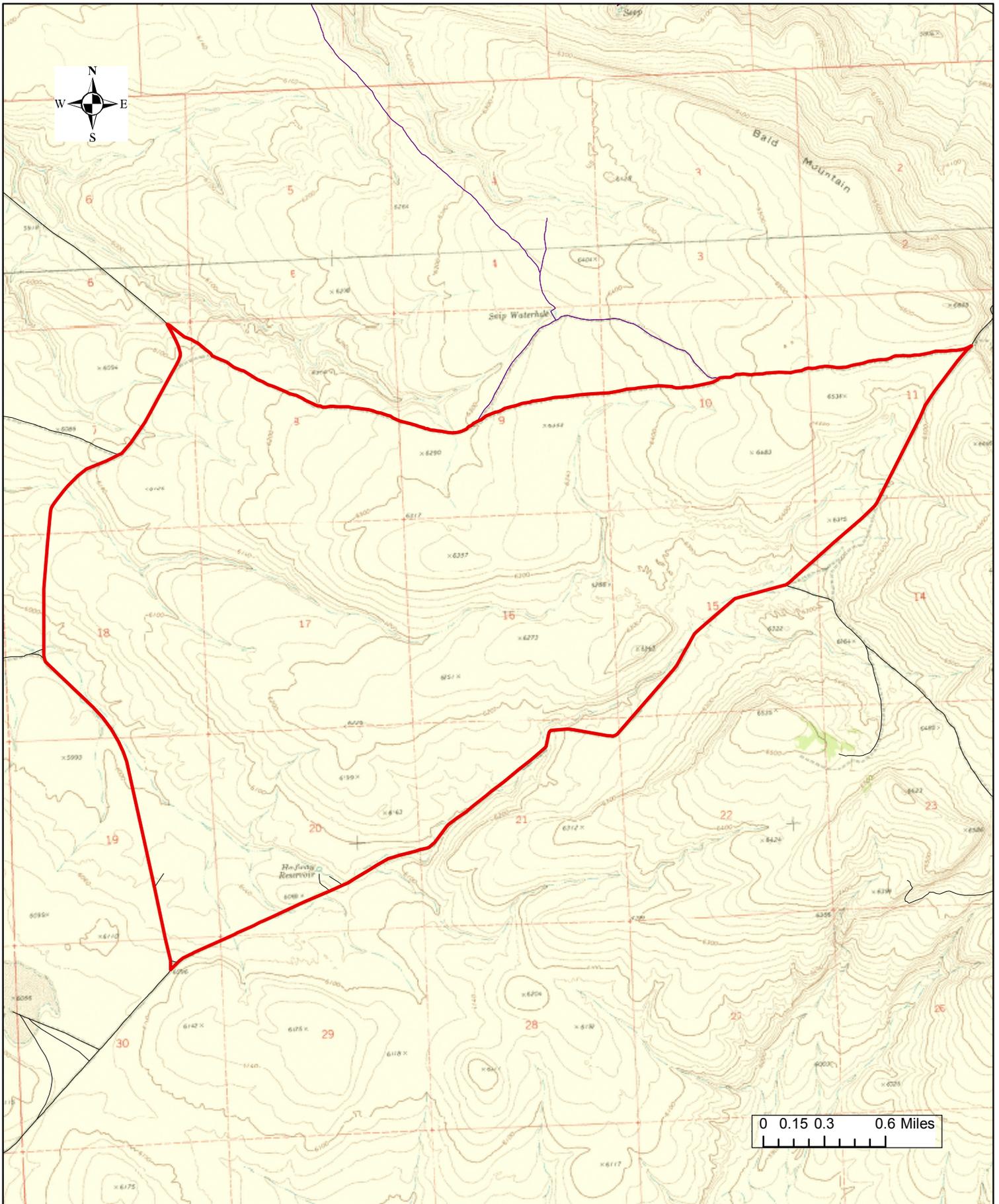


Legend

- Lakeview Resource Area
- Cities
- Beaty Butte Loop Road
- Major Secondary Roads
- Major Highways
- Wilderness Unit Boundary



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Map 2 - Unnumbered Wilderness Inventory Unit

Legend

- Wilderness Inventory Unit Boundary
- Existing Motorized Routes
- Internal Primitive Motorized Routes
- Land Status
- Non-BLM
- BLM

0 0.15 0.3 0.6 Miles

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