

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Form 2) Yes  X  (if more than one unit is within the area, list the names/numbers of those units.)

**a) Inventory Source:** Wilderness Review. Intensive Inventory. Proposed Decision on the Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas. October 1979.

**b) (Historic) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s):** 1-105 / Skokum Lake

**c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):** U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon. Proposed Decision. Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas 1979.

**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/acreage and answer each question individually for each inventory unit):

Unit#/ Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
1-105/ Skokum Lake	30,000 BLM; 920 Private	N	N	N	N/A

*Summarize any known primary reasons for prior inventory findings listed in this table):*

In 1979, unit 1-105 (Skokum Lake) was described as flat tableland ending on the northeast at Commodore Ridge with a narrow strip of land dropping 80-200 feet in elevation between the ridge and the Hogback Road. The area did not meet the naturalness criteria due to extensive works of man including: 23 miles of ways, eight water developments, six miles of fenceline, and 605 acres of drill seeding that did not appear natural. The unit also did not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude due to a lack of screening and flatness of the landscape. Although hunting was available in the unit, the unit did not have any outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

**FORM 2**

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS**

a. Unit Number/Name OR-015-105 / Skokum Lake

**(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?** Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

Between 2008 and 2011, members of the BLM staff conducted a field inventory of the area to update its road and wilderness inventory for this area. This field work included photo documentation of the area routes. Using BLM and citizen provided photos, field logs, and staff field knowledge, a BLM inter-disciplinary (ID) team completed route analyses on the routes within the area in 2011.

The results of the route analysis are documented in the route analysis forms and ID team meeting notes contained in the wilderness evaluation file. The ID team determined that BLM Roads 6105-00, 6125-00, 6125-B0, 6125-BA, and an interim numbered route (6125-BF) met the wilderness inventory definition of boundary roads and form the north and south boundaries of the unit. The west boundary is formed by the 500 KV BPA power line right-of-way, and the east boundary is formed by State Land boundaries and County Road 3-10 (Hogback) right-of-way. The unit currently contains about 17,357 acres of BLM-administered lands.

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* contained in the wilderness inventory file.

**DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS:**

The unit is located about 12 miles northeast of Valley Falls, Oregon (Map 1). The unit is approximately 7 miles long and 4 miles wide and is smaller than it was in 1979. This is primarily due to a land exchange that occurred between the Oregon Division of State Lands and the BLM after 1979. The topography has not changed since the original inventory. In 2001, two wildfires burned through portions of the area and were allowed to revegetate naturally. There are approximately 1,431 acres of the Foley Lake Research Natural Area/Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC/RNA) within this inventory unit which was established for botanical (sensitive plant) and cultural resource values (Map 2).

**(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

In 1979, the unit lacked wilderness character primarily because the impacts of man, including the 500 KV powerline, several reservoirs, primitive routes and 605 acres of seeding area, that were substantially noticeable. Except for the seeding, these features are still substantially noticeable. Within the unit there are now a number of man-made

disturbances including; 7 waterholes, 12 reservoirs, 11.3 miles of pasture division fence, and 4 small abandoned mining prospect disturbances. Additionally, there are approximately 12.6 miles of internal, open primitive motorized routes and 6.4 miles of reclaiming routes. These man-made developments are spread throughout the unit (Map 2) and are substantially noticeable within close distances (up to a quarter mile).

Based on a review of all the available information including photos, staff knowledge, and field review, the ID team concluded that the overall natural character within the area has not improved since the original inventory and is still in an unnatural condition where the imprint of man is substantially noticeable.

**(3) Does the unit** (or the remainder of the unit if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) **have outstanding opportunities for solitude?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A X

Since the unit did not meet the naturalness criteria, solitude opportunities were not evaluated.

**(4) Does the unit** (or the remainder of the unit if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) **have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A X

Since the unit did not meet the naturalness criteria, recreation opportunities were not evaluated.

**(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A X

Since the unit did not meet the naturalness criteria, supplemental values were not evaluated.

### **Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

Unit Name and Number: Skokum Lake / OR-015-105

#### **Summary Results of Analysis:**

1. Does the area meet the size requirements? X Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes X No
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 (items 1, 2 and 3 are checked "yes").

The area does not have wilderness character (any of items 1, 2 and 3 are checked "no").

**Prepared by (ID Team Member Names and Titles):**

Todd Forbes  
Todd Forbes: Assistant Field Manager

4/10/12  
Date

Paul Whitman  
Paul Whitman: Planning Coordinator

7/3/2012  
Date

for Casey O'Connor  
for Casey O'Connor: Range Management Specialist

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Brennan Hauk: Weed Specialist

4/10/12  
Date

Chris Bishop  
Chris Bishop: Outdoor Recreation Manager

4/13/12  
Date

**Approved by:**

Thomas R. Rasmussen  
Thomas R. Rasmussen  
Field Manager

7/9/12  
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.*

Year: 2012 Inventory Unit Number/Name: Commodore Ridge Area Units <5,000 Acres

**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 (go to Form 2) Yes  (if more than one unit is within the area, list the names/numbers of those units.)

**a) Inventory Source:** Wilderness Proposed Initial Inventory. Roadless Areas and Islands which Clearly do not Have Wilderness Characteristics. Oregon and Washington. April 1979.

Wilderness Review. Intensive Inventory. Proposed Decision on the Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas. October 1979.

**b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s):** 1-100 and 1-105 / Skokum Lake

**c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):** U.S. Department of the Interior: Bureau of Land Management, Oregon, Proposed Initial Inventory Roadless Areas and Islands Which Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics, April 1979.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon. Proposed Decision. Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas 1979.

**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/acreage and answer each question individually for each inventory unit):

Unit #	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
1-100	5,300	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
1-105	30,000 BLM 920 Private	N	N	N	N/A

*Summarize any known primary reasons for prior inventory findings listed in this table:*

In 1979, unit 1-100 was described as primarily rolling hills at the north end of Abert Rim. The unit was bounded by a 500 KV power line and Highway 395. The area was found to not meet the naturalness criteria due to the influences of these features. Opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation were also found to be limited by these features.

In 1979, unit 1-105 (Skokum Lake) was described as flat tableland ending on the northeast at Commodore Ridge with a narrow strip of land dropping 80-200 feet in elevation between the ridge and the Hogback Road. The area did not meet the naturalness criteria due to extensive works of man including: 23 miles of ways, eight water developments, six miles of fenceline, and 605 acres of drill seeding that did not appear natural. The unit also did not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude due to a lack of screening and flatness of the landscape. Although hunting was available in the unit, the unit did not have any outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

**FORM 2**

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS**

a. **Unit Number/Name:** Commodore Ridge Area Inventory Units <5,000 Acres

**(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X

Between 2008 and 2011, the BLM conducted field inventory of the area to update its road and wilderness inventories. This field work included photo documentation of the boundary routes. Using BLM and citizen provided photos, field logs, and staff field knowledge, a BLM interdisciplinary (ID) team completed an analysis of the motorized routes within the area in 2011. The results of the route analysis are documented in the route analysis forms contained in the wilderness evaluation file.

These units are bounded primarily by U.S. Highway 395 right-of-way on the North, County Road 3-10 (Hogback) right-of-way, a 500 KV BPA right-of-way, and by BLM Roads 6125-00, 6125-B0, 6125-BA, an interim numbered route (6125-BF), and 7125-00. See Map 1, route analysis forms, photos, and photo logs in the wilderness inventory file for additional supporting information regarding these road determinations.

As a result, there are a total of 5 inventory units within the Commodore Ridge Area. Only one of these inventory units met the minimum size criteria and has been evaluated separately (OR-015-105). The other 4 units range in size from 1,277 acres to 4,844 acres and do not meet the minimum size criteria or any of the exceptions to the size criteria.

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*, contained in the wilderness inventory file.

**DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS:**

The 4 small inventory units are located approximately 20 miles northeast of the town of Valley Falls, OR (Maps 1 and 2). The topography can be described as flat gently sloping table lands with some rims. The dominant vegetation in the area is low sagebrush flats.

**(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  X

The current natural condition of these units was not evaluated because the units failed to meet the minimum size requirement.

**(3) Does the unit (or the remainder of the unit if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  X

The current opportunities for solitude within these units were not evaluated because the units failed to meet the minimum size requirement.

**(4) Does the unit (or the remainder of the unit if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A X

The current opportunities for recreation within these units were not evaluated because the units failed to meet the minimum size requirement.

**(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A X

Supplemental value was not evaluated within these units because the units failed to meet the size criteria.

### Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: Commodore Ridge Area Inventory Units <5,000 Acres

#### **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 N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?      \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No X N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values?      \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No X N/A

#### **Conclusion (Check One):**

       **The area- or a portion of the area- has wilderness character:**  
*(items 1, 2 and 3 must be checked "yes").*

X **The area does not have wilderness character:** *(any of items 1, 2 and 3 are checked "no").*

**Prepared by (ID Team Member Names and Titles):**

Todd Forbes  
Todd Forbes: Assistant Field Manager

4/10/12  
Date

Paul Whitman  
Paul Whitman: Planning Coordinator

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Glenn Lorton  
Glenn Lorton: Wildlife Biologist

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Date

Brennan Hauk  
Brennan Hauk: Weed Specialist

4/10/12  
Date

Chris Bishop  
Chris Bishop: Outdoor Recreation Manager

4/13/12  
Date

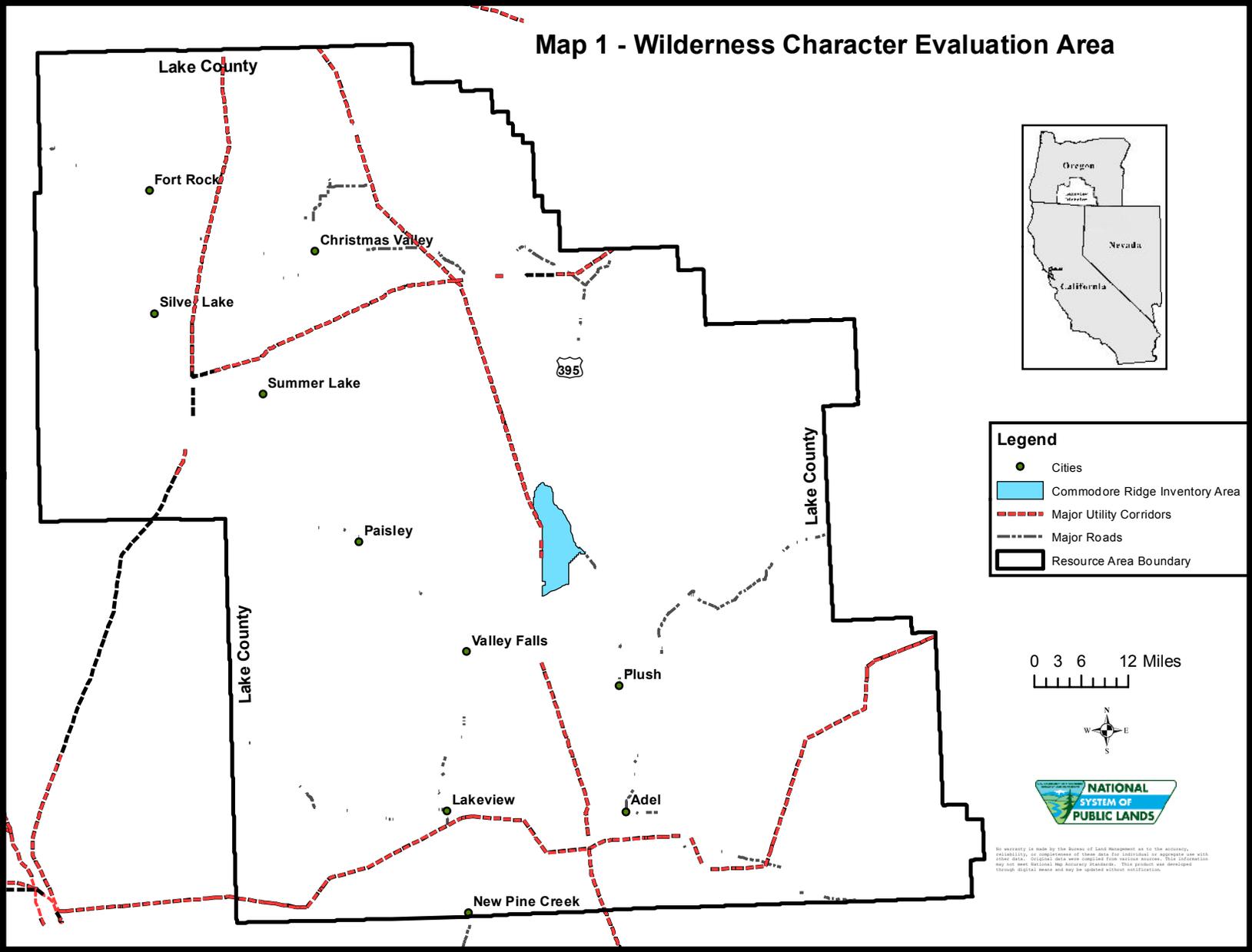
**Approved by:**

Tom Rasmussen  
Tom Rasmussen, Field Manager

7/9/12  
Date

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# Map 1 - Wilderness Character Evaluation Area



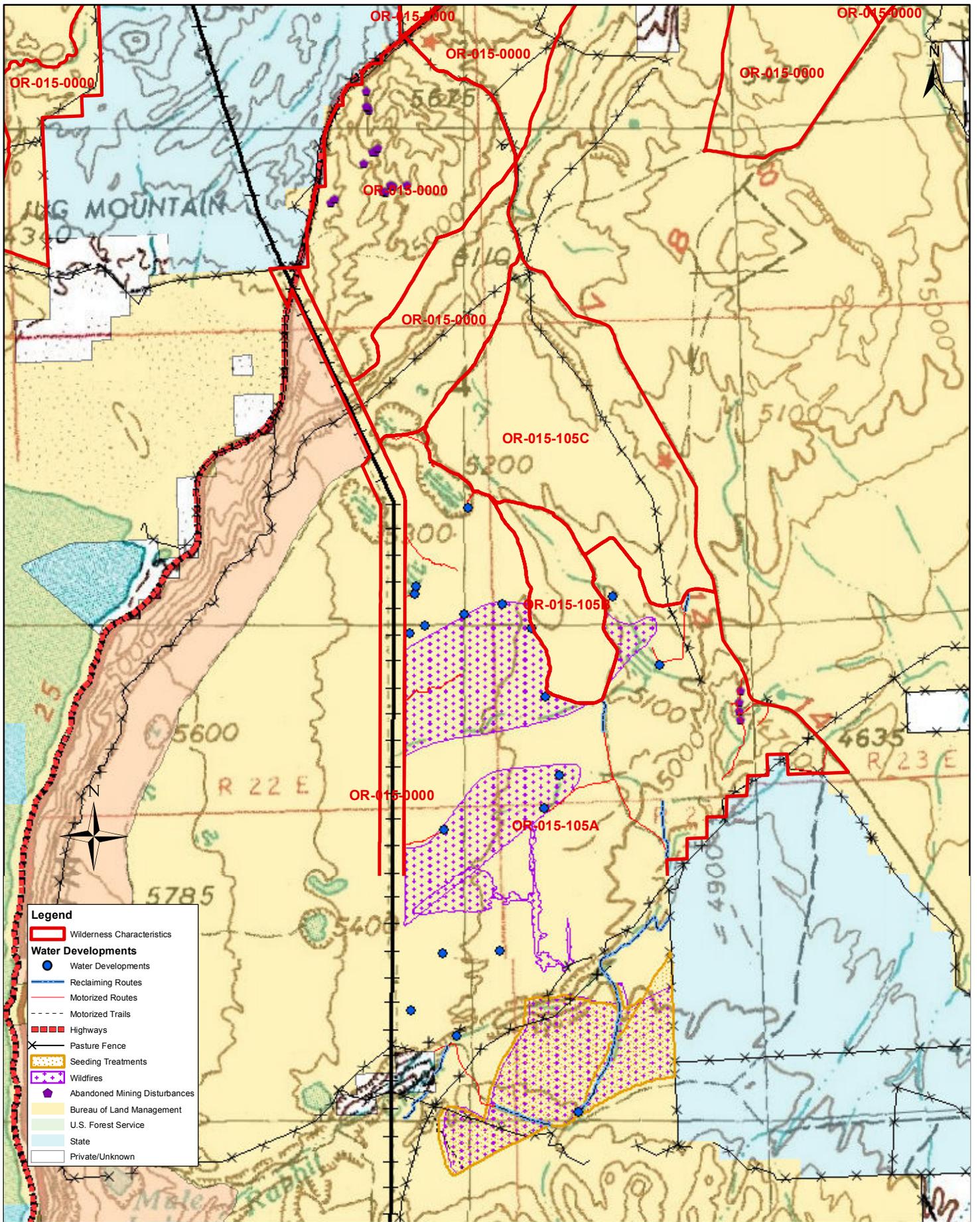
**Legend**

- Cities
- Commodore Ridge Inventory Area
- Major Utility Corridors
- Major Roads
- Resource Area Boundary

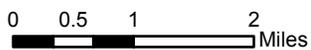
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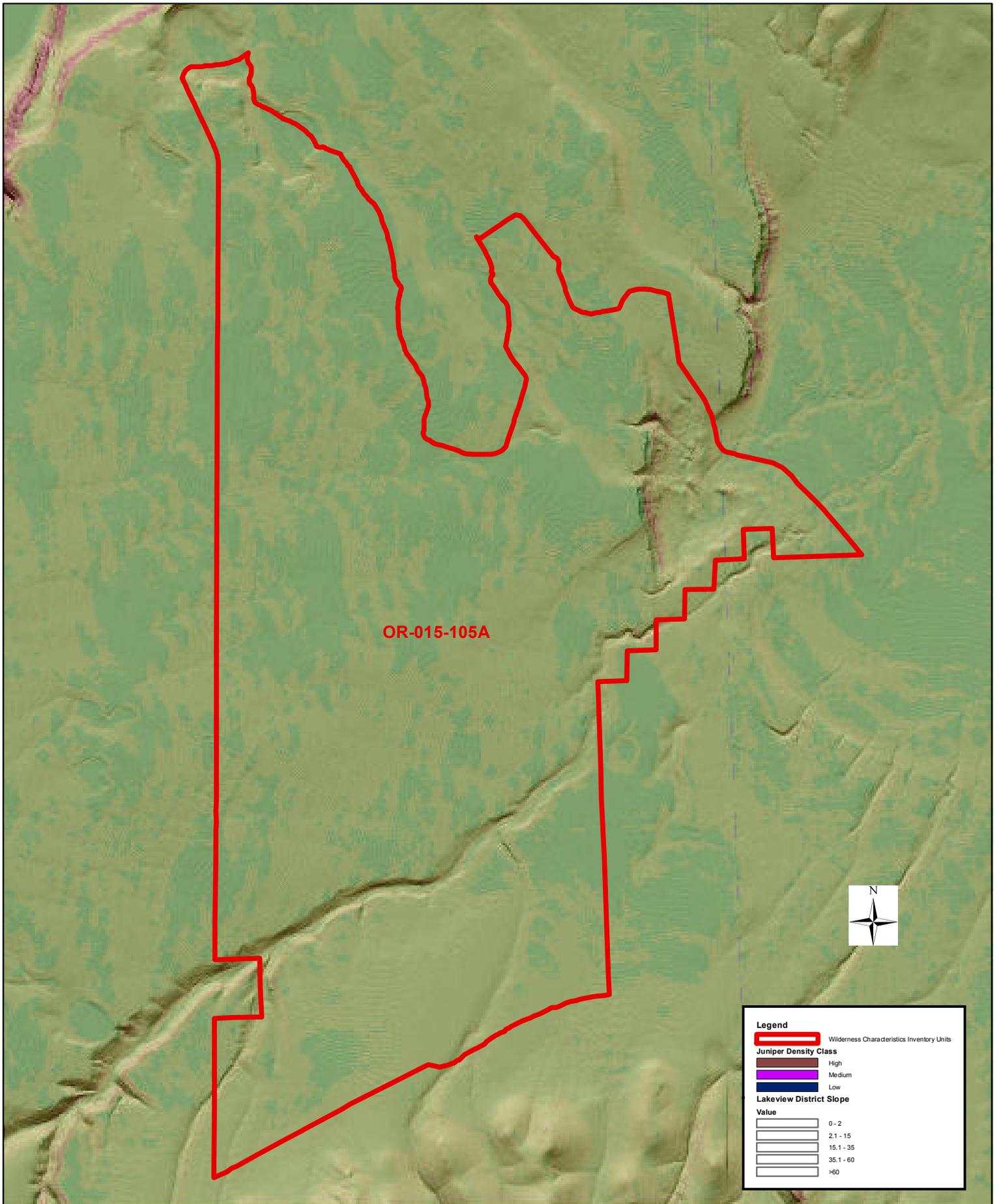
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Map 2 - Wilderness Characteristics in the Commodore Ridge Area



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OR-015-105A



**Legend**

-  Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Units
- Juniper Density Class**
-  High
-  Medium
-  Low
- Lakeview District Slope**
- Value**
-  0 - 2
-  2.1 - 15
-  15.1 - 35
-  35.1 - 60
-  >60

Map 3 - Screening in Skokum Lake Inventory Unit



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