

**FORM 1**

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

Year: 2009

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-190/Sheldon Rim

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

No    Yes   X   (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 Final Intensive Inventory, Public Lands Administered by BLM California outside the California Desert Conservation Area, December 1979.

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

**c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):** U.S. Department of the Interior: Bureau of Land Management Oregon: Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decisions November, 1980, and Map 02-F

**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):

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

**FORM 2**

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY  
CONDITIONS**

a. Unit Number/Name: **OR-010-190/Sheldon Rim**

**(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X

The unit does not meet the size criteria. However, it does meet one of the exceptions to the size criteria; namely that it lies immediately adjacent to the BLM's Sheldon Contiguous WSA (CA-020-1012) located to the south.

Citizen Information Received: In 2005, the BLM received a citizen proposal from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) for the 46,451-acre Sheldon Contiguous proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA) addition. ONDA included a narrative report, a map, 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 area. The photos submitted by ONDA were taken in September of 2004. They identified the area as having no interior routes which met the BLM wilderness inventory definition of a road (see pages 200-208 of ONDA, 2005).

Boundary Determination and Consideration of Citizen Information: In 2008 and 2009, BLM conducted field inventory of the area to update its road and wilderness inventories, as well as, gather additional information to supplement the citizen inventory information described above. This field work included photo documentation of the boundary routes. Using both ONDA and BLM photos, field logs, and staff field knowledge, a BLM interdisciplinary (ID) team completed an analysis of the motorized routes within the area in December of 2009.

In Oregon, ONDA's proposed WSA is comprised mainly of lands administered by the State of Oregon that are not managed for wilderness values (Map 4). The State of Oregon has no state legislation similar to the federal Wilderness Act. Further, the BLM has no management jurisdiction over state lands nor is it under any legal obligation to inventory for wilderness character on state lands. In Nevada, ONDA's proposal includes lands managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. Most, but not all of these refuge lands have been recognized as having wilderness values. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for making wilderness character determinations on these lands, not the BLM. For these reasons, the BLM limited its inventory update to BLM lands within the proposal. The results of the unit boundary/route analysis are documented in the road analysis forms contained in the wilderness evaluation file.

On the east, the unit is bounded by state land. On the south the unit is bounded by BLM lands administered by the Surprise Field Office (Nevada) that are part of the 24,130-acre

Sheldon Contiguous WSA (CA-020-1012). On the west, the unit is bounded by BLM Roads 6102-A0 and an unnumbered road extending onto state lands (see Map 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).

The inventory unit currently contains about 450 acres of BLM-administered land in Oregon immediately adjacent to the BLM's Sheldon Contiguous WSA (CA-020-1012) in Nevada (see Maps 2 and 4).

Following the unit boundary determination, a BLM ID team reviewed the citizen inventory information, 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 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 14 miles southeast of Adel, Oregon (Map 1). The unit is roughly triangular-shaped and is located directly adjacent to and north of the BLM's Sheldon Contiguous WSA (CA-020-1012) in northern California (Maps 2 and 4).

**(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?**

Yes  No  N/A

**Previous Inventory Unit Description:** The previous inventory did not include information on the natural character of this unit, presumably because it did not meet the minimum size criteria. However, the BLM's Sheldon Contiguous WSA unit (CA-020-1012) was found to meet the naturalness criteria in 1979.

**Current Condition Description:** The unit is relatively flat and covered by low and tall sagebrush (see Map 2 and inventory photos). Several vegetation treatments occurred in the northern portion of the unit prior to the 1980 inventory. The vegetation in these areas has since rebounded and appears natural to the casual observer.

One primitive motorized route totaling about 0.4 miles exists in the center of the unit. About 1.5 miles of fence are located near the eastern edge of the unit (Map 2) and another 0.6 miles located along the southern boundary. Though the density of human disturbances within the unit is relatively low, these man-made developments are substantially noticeable within close proximity (one-quarter mile), and are less noticeable from further distances particularly due to the lack of screening.

The ID team found the natural quality in the unit currently meets the naturalness criteria.

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

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

**Previous Inventory Unit Description:** The previous inventory did not include information on the opportunities for solitude within this unit, presumably because it did not meet the minimum size criteria.

The much larger BLM's Sheldon Contiguous unit (CA-020-1012) to the south was found in 1979 to provide some opportunities for solitude on its own merit. These opportunities were enhanced when considered in conjunction with the adjacent proposed wilderness area to the east on the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge (Map 4).

**Current Condition Description:** In 2005, ONDA's inventory found their much larger proposal area had an outstanding opportunity for solitude (page 201). However, as noted above, their analysis covered primarily state and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands, not BLM.

The current unit forms a long, narrow finger-like extension to the BLM's Sheldon Contiguous WSA (Map 4). On its own merit, it lacks adequate size or screening (Map 3) to provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

In addition, the Lakeview RMP/ROD (Map R-7) shows the unit is open to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use. The open, motorized routes on the boundary and interior of the unit, along with the existing OHV designation increases the likelihood of encountering others within the unit, or hearing noise intrusions from motorized vehicles within or near the unit, particularly during the fall hunting/trapping seasons.

Ultimately, only 748 acres in the very southeast corner of the BLM's Sheldon Contiguous WSA (immediately adjacent to proposed wilderness on the Sheldon Refuge) was recommended for wilderness designation in 1987 (Map 4). The majority of the unit was noted as having gentle terrain, low vegetation, scattered juniper stands and excellent visibility, which combined to limit opportunities for solitude across most of the unit.

The 450-acre Sheldon Rim unit would minimally enhance the solitude opportunities of the adjacent WSA. However, it is substantially disjunct from the 748 acres of WSA actually found to have outstanding solitude opportunities and would not enhance solitude opportunities on that portion of the WSA (Map 4).

For these reasons, the ID team found that the solitude opportunities within the unit would not substantially enhance the solitude opportunities found within the adjacent WSA and are not outstanding.

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

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

**Previous Inventory Unit Description:** The previous inventory did not include information on the opportunities for solitude within this unit, presumably because it did not meet the minimum size criteria.

The much larger BLM Sheldon Contiguous unit (CA-020-1012) to the south was found in 1979 to provide some opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation on its own merit. These opportunities were enhanced when considered in conjunction with the adjacent proposed wilderness area to the east on the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge (Map 4).

**Current Condition Description:** In 2005, ONDA’s inventory identified wildlife viewing, hunting, and photography as primitive recreation opportunities available within the larger area (page 201). However, as noted above, their analysis covered primarily state and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands, not BLM.

The current unit forms a long, narrow finger-like extension to the BLM’s Sheldon Contiguous WSA. On its own merit, it lacks adequate size to provide an outstanding opportunity for primitive or unconfined types of recreation.

One existing open primitive motorized route (Map 2) and the open OHV designation promote motorized recreational access to much of the interior of the unit. This reduces the probability of being able to have a primitive (non-motorized) recreational experience.

The unit does not provide a single unique or unusual primitive recreational opportunity, nor does it provide a unique diversity of primitive recreation opportunities. The recreation opportunities provided within the unit are similar to those available on surrounding BLM-administered lands.

The larger BLM Sheldon Contiguous WSA to the south provides some opportunities for dispersed recreation such as hiking, horseback riding, sight-seeing, and hunting. However, the majority of the WSA was found to lack the distinctive topography or vegetation features or dependable water sources necessary for an outstanding opportunity.

For these reasons, the ID team concluded that recreation opportunities within the unit, and considered in connection with the adjacent WSA, are not outstanding.

**(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ NA  X

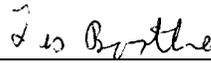


Todd Forbes  
Associate Field Manager

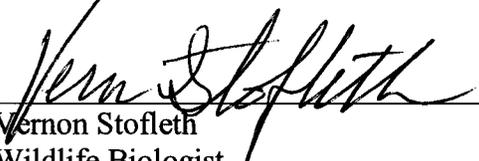
Date

  
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Theresa Romasko  
Associate Field Manager

1/19/2010  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
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Les Boothe  
Range Management Specialist

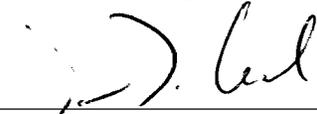
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Vernon Stofleth  
Wildlife Biologist

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Glenn Lorton  
Wildlife Biologist

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James Leal  
Fishery Biologist

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Breanna O'Connor  
Recreation Technician

1/19/2010  
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Date

**Approved by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Rasmussen, Field Manager  
Lakeview Resource Area

1/19/2010  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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

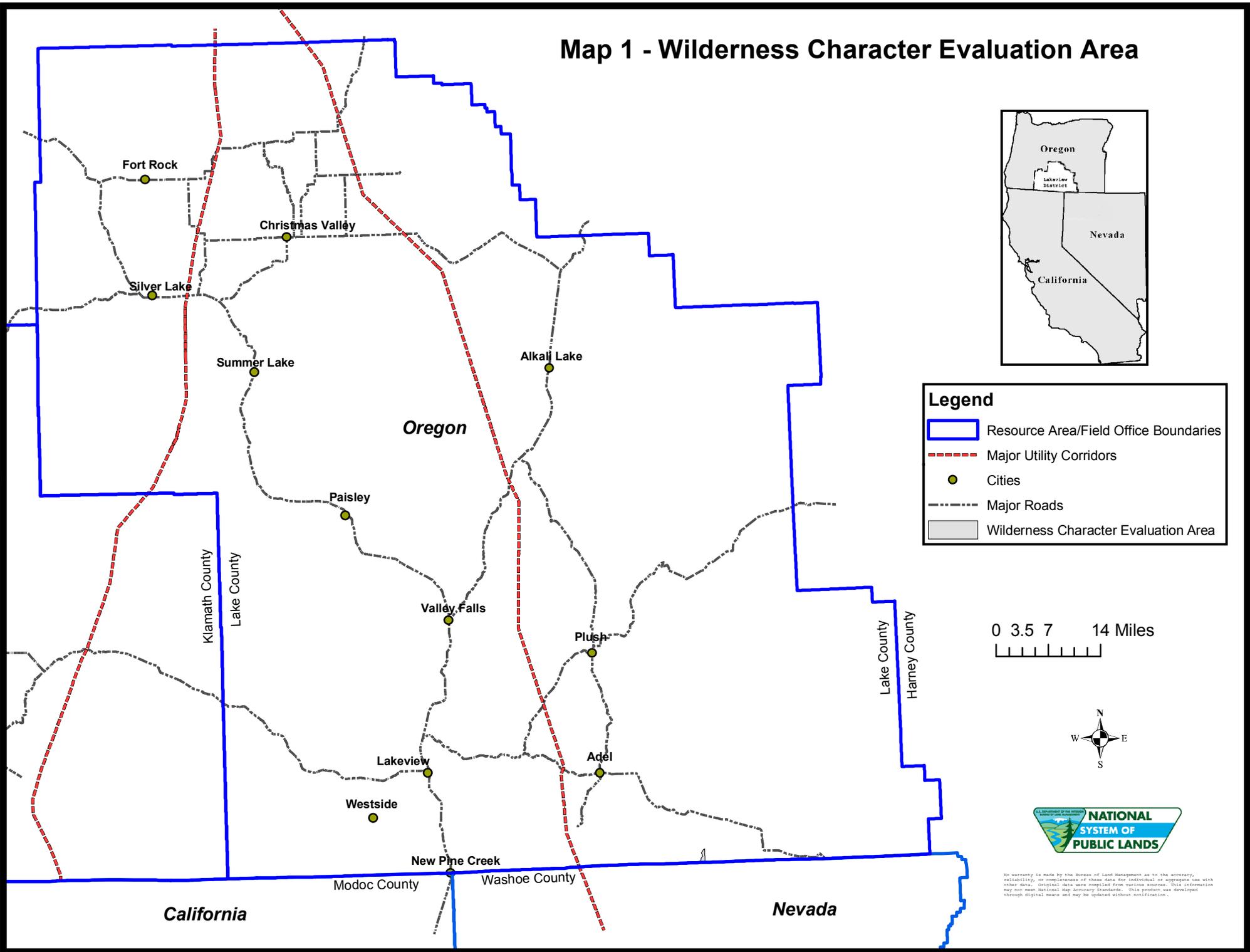


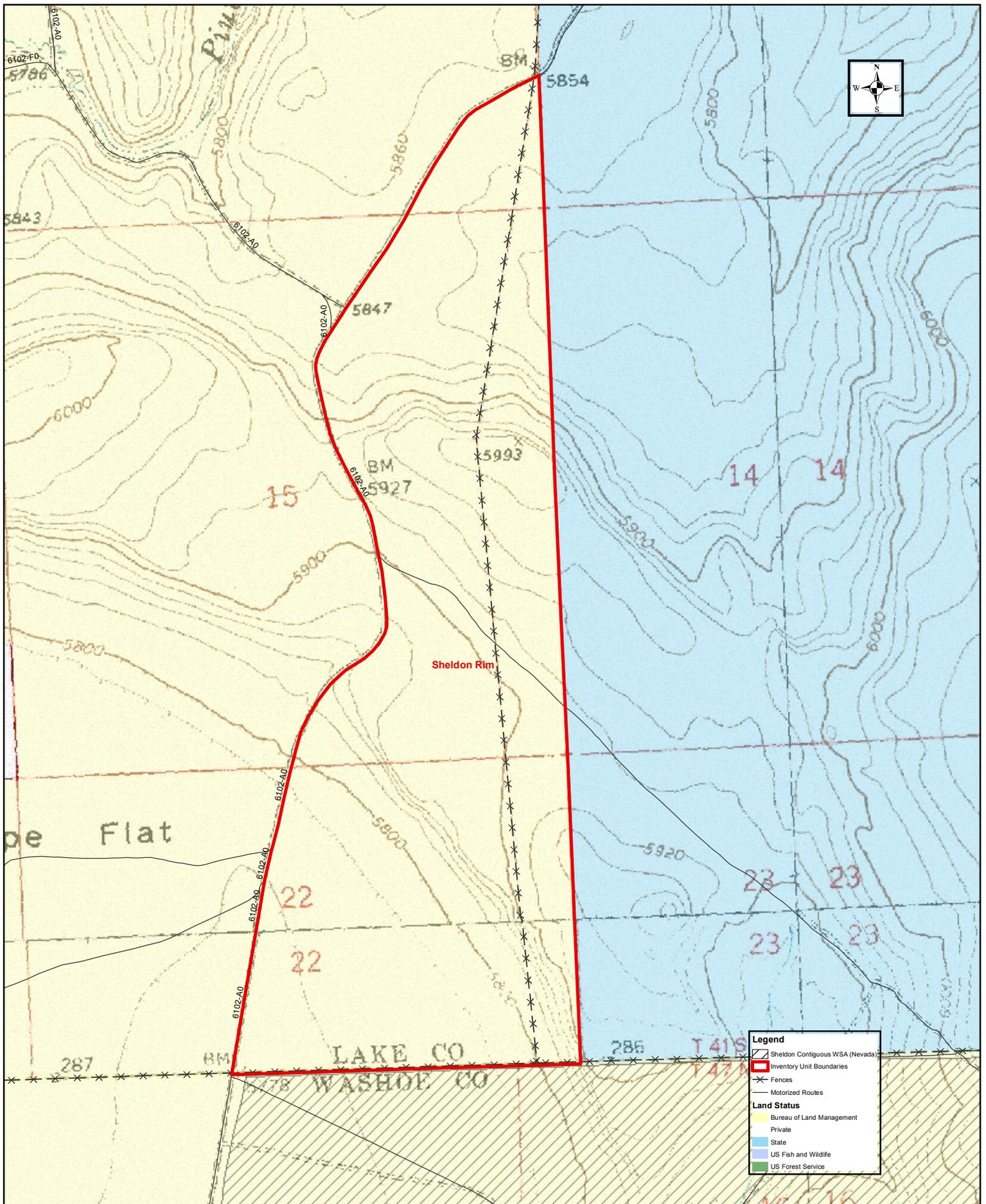
**Legend**

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



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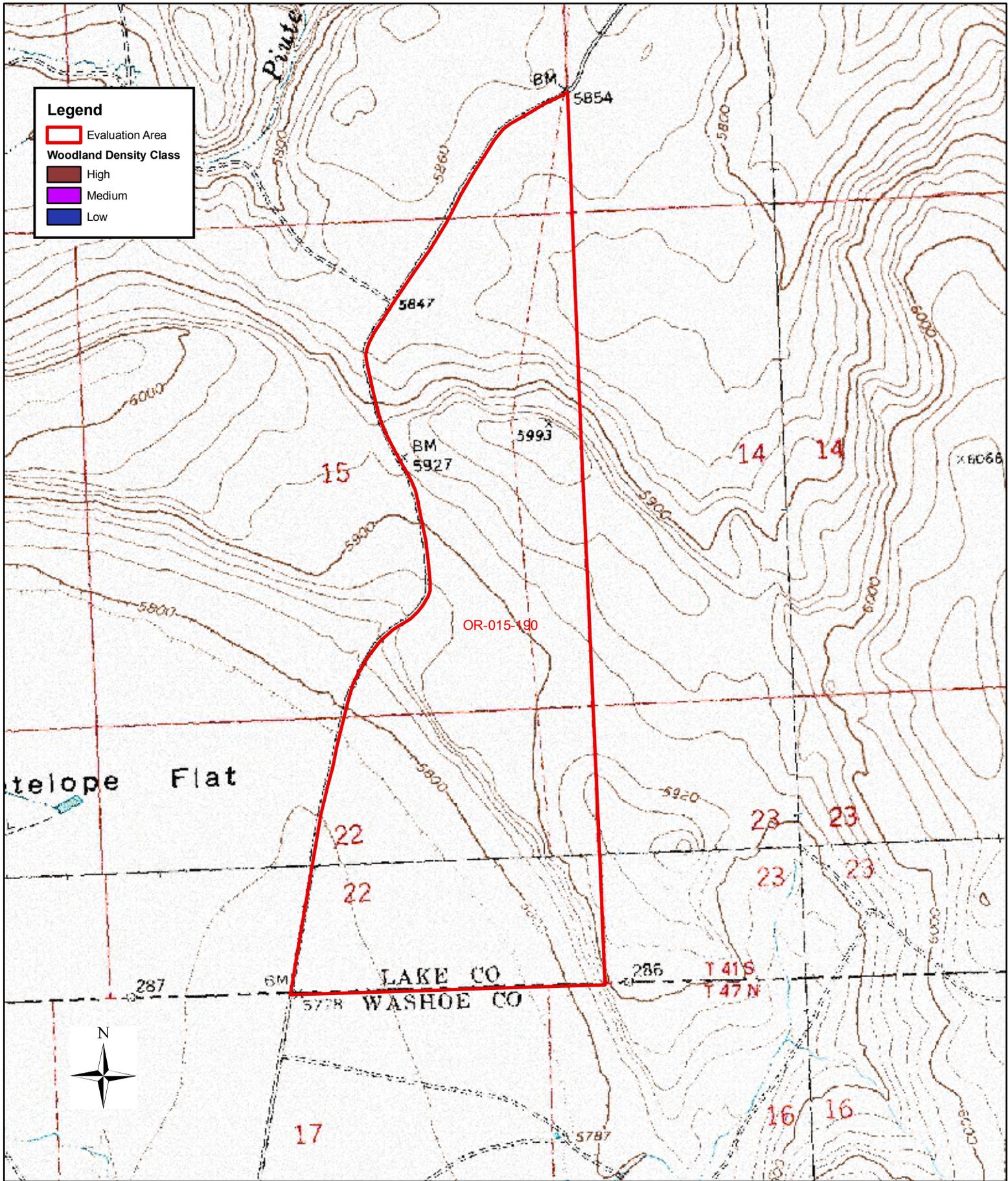


Map 2 - Wilderness Character Inventory - Sheldon Rim - Contiguous Area



0.02505 0.1 Miles

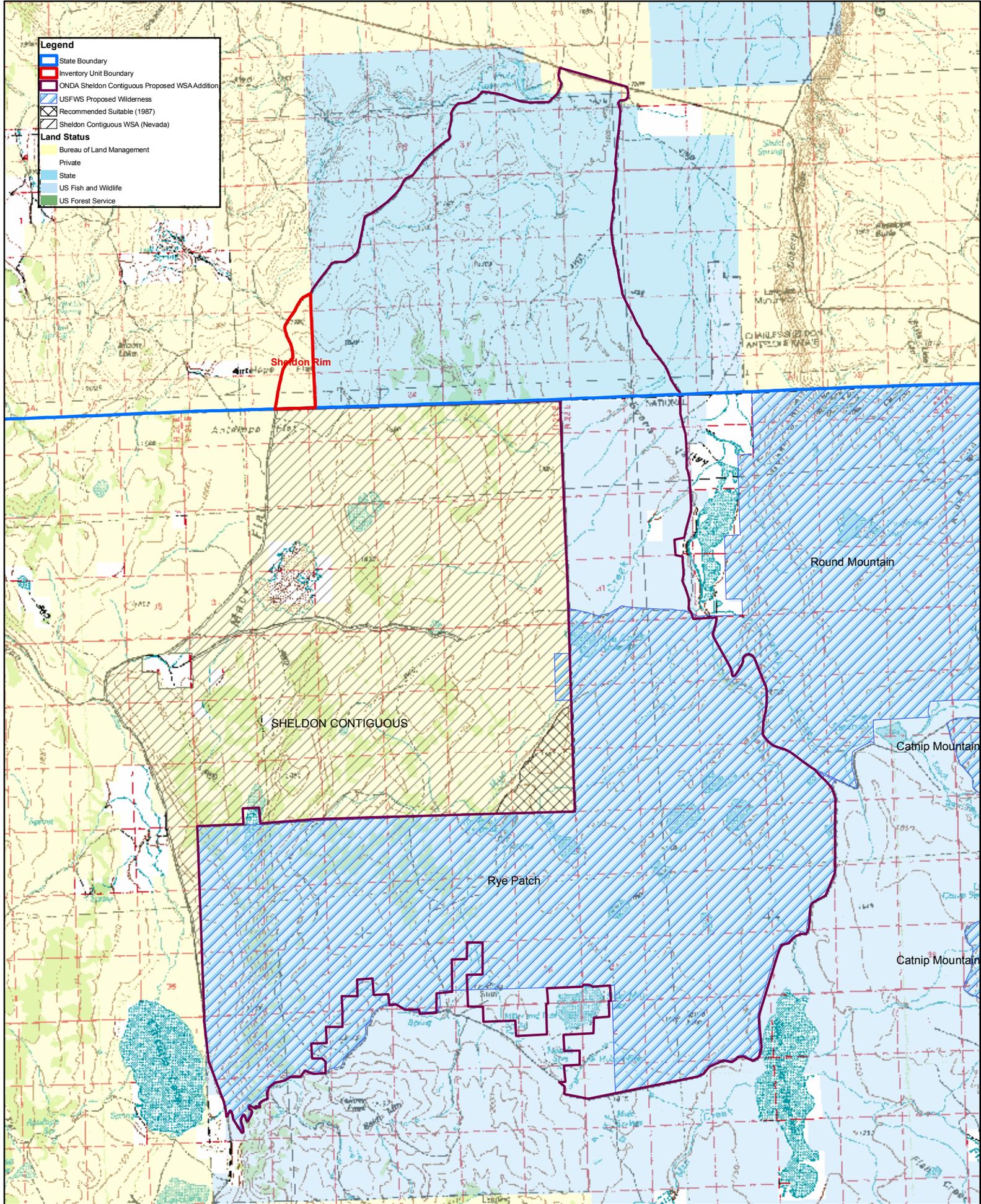
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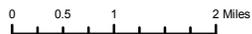
Map 3 - Vegetative Screening Based on Woodland Density Classes

0.0 0.1 0.2 Miles

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Map 4 - Relationship of Sheldon Rim Inventory Unit to Existing WSA's in the Area



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