

**WILDERNESS INVENTORY MAINTENANCE
IN BLM OREGON/WASHINGTON**
(Source: Oregon State Office Internal Guidance as of July 2007)

Year: 2009

Inventory Unit Number/Name: Bald Butte

**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 X (if more than one unit is within the area, list the names/numbers of those units.):

- a) **Inventory Source:** Wilderness Review; Intensive Inventory, Oregon & Washington, March, 1980, pages 169-172.
- b) **Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s):** Wagonfire Mountain, Subunits 2-43B and D.
- c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** BLM Intensive Wilderness Inventory; Oregon; March, 1980.
- d) **BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):** Burns District, Oregon; Three Rivers Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
Wagonfire Mtn. 2-43A	9,590	Y	N	N	N
Wagonfire Mtn. 2-43B	10,600	Y	N	N	N
Wagonfire Mtn. 2-43D	7,985	N	N	N	N
Wagonfire Mtn. 2-43F	13,100	Y	N	N	N
Total	41,275				

**FORM 2 - DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS
INVENTORY CONDITIONS**

Unit Number/Name: **Bald Butte**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: **23,650**

Yes X No

Citizen Information Received: The BLM received GIS data from Oregon Natural Desert Assoc. (ONDA) for a 196,015-acre proposed Lonesome Lakes WSA in September, 2007. More information including a narrative report, maps, photographs and route logs was received in May, 2008. This information was considered as part of the wilderness characteristics inventory maintenance update process for BLM Bald Butte Unit. Information in ONDA's report was considered and incorporated, as appropriate, in this document. ONDA's photos, taken in July, 2001, and their evaluation indicated there were no boundary roads within their proposed Lonesome Lakes WSA.

BLM's Boundary Road Determination Process: BLM conducted an analysis of routes in the Wagontire Mountain Unit, 2-43, which entailed field visits to verify the mechanical/tool construction of the routes and their current condition in May, 2008, and August, 2009. All the boundary roads are part of BLM's current transportation system as identified in BLM's Facility Asset Management System database.

Boundary changes since 1980: Boundaries within the original 1979 Wagontire Mountain, 2-43 Inventory Unit was divided by roads and non-BLM lands (private and state) into six subunits. Two of the six subunits (C and E) were eliminated from further review because they were less than 5,000 acres in size. The remaining four subunits (A, B, D and F), separated by various roads and private and State lands, met the minimum size criteria and were intensively inventoried in 1980.

Two of the boundary roads separating the original subunits B, C and D are now cherry-stem interior boundary roads. The North Butte Valley Road, BLM 7245-0-1DO, is a constructed route, but has not been maintained for many years. The intent of the BLM is to maintain the route in the future from the junction of Wagontire Lookout Road, BLM 7249-1-00, westward about four miles to the East and West Wagontire Allotments' division fence. BLM does not intend to maintain the remaining section of road continuing southwest onto private land in North Butte Valley. Photographs were taken at specific point locations and GPS photo points, BB-1 through BB-7 were recorded.

The other cherry-stem road is the Sourdough Lake Road, BLM 7245-0-1CA. The route provides access between North Butte Valley Road and Black Canyon Road, BLM 7245-0-1CO. It is primarily used by permittees for livestock management during the spring- through-fall grazing season and by hunters in the fall. The Sourdough Lake area is usually accessed from the west via the Black Canyon Road because about three miles of the Sourdough Lake Road off the North Valley Butte Road is extremely rocky

and has not been recently maintained. BLM does not intend to maintain this road section in the future.

Current Unit Boundaries: (See BLM Unit Character Map):

ONDA's photo points and the photos for each location were reviewed. ONDA's narrative indicated the routes within their Lonesome Lakes proposed WSA (196,015 acres in size) are unmaintained ways and not maintained by mechanical means.

Based on current field checks and the knowledge of the area, BLM identified the Wilderness Inventory Maintenance (WIM) unit boundaries listed below. The roads have been mechanically constructed and improved or maintained at some time in the past. The roads are currently in useable condition for Bureau personnel, grazing permittees and other publics using pickup trucks and SUV's, including 4-wheel drive vehicles, to access the Wilderness Inventory Unit. These roads will be maintained in the future as needed.

Vehicle use occurs on a relatively regular basis. The grazing permittee utilizes the routes to manage livestock operations, including releasing and gathering cattle, distributing salt and mineral blocks and checking and maintaining range developments. BLM personnel use the routes for monitoring wildlife, botanical and range values and condition, constructing, maintaining and checking human developments and installations, wildfire suppression, and recreation use. Most public use is associated with hunting, camping and recreation use in late summer and fall.

N. boundary: BLM Road 7245-0-1BA, Chandler Butte-Burrows Lake Road and BLM 7245-0-1CO, Black Canyon Road

ONDA Photo Points: BT-24

BLM route analysis Photo Points: L-7; L-11; L-23; BB-8 through 11; BB-12, photos 38, 39; BB-19, 20; BB-21, photos 70, 72

E. boundary: BLM Road 7249-0-100, Wagontire Lookout Road and BLM Road 7249-0-1AO, W. Wagontire-W. Sheep Mountain Road

ONDA Photo Points: BT-4, 5; BT-14, 15; BT-22; BT-25

BLM route analysis Photo Points: L-7, 8, 9; L-12; BB-1

S. boundary: Private land and BLM Road 7245-0-1EO, Walter Lake 2nd Road

ONDA Photo Points: BT-8

BLM route analysis Photo Points: None

W. boundary: Private land and BLM Road 7245-1-100, Hay Lake -Deep Valley Road

ONDA Photos: BQ-24; BQ-29; BQ-33, 34

BLM route analysis Photo Points: L-19, 20, 21

Note: Other ONDA photo pts. did not appear to be of boundary roads for this BLM unit.

The following BLM photo references show examples of current road conditions in the Bald Butte Unit. There are also other BLM photos on file for this unit.

•BB-1-4-W shows the junction of North Butte Valley Road with Wagontire Lookout Road, a much more-traveled road. The North Butte Valley Road has been brush-beaten to remove the dominant big sagebrush vegetation 25-30 feet from the road's edges to act as a wildfire break. Some sagebrush and rabbitbrush have reestablished in the center and along the edges of the road. Rabbitbrush is a plant that grows in disturbed areas and is usually an invading species along with cheatgrass, thistle and other weed species. It is an indicator plant that shows the soil surface has been bladed, disked, ripped, plowed, burned or disturbed in some manner and is often found in and along bladed travel routes.

•BB-2-6-E shows low berms on either side of the road. The berms are low due to brush-beating and weathering. Big sagebrush has reestablished and is evident on top of the berms, a common occurrence for a road constructed years ago, but not recently maintained.

•BB-2-7-W; BB-3-9-E; BB-3-10-W show a typical road surface with sandy soils and small gravels. Big sagebrush and rabbitbrush are growing in the center of the road again.

•BB-4-12-E and W show rock on the berms from mechanical blading and crested wheatgrass mixed with rabbitbrush growing along and in the road center. The road was seeded with wheatgrass along with the rest of the surrounding area.

•BB-5-15-E and W show the road bladed through dominant big sagebrush vegetation which is growing on rocky berms. The center of the road is relatively bare with some small sagebrush seedlings and grasses repopulating the road surface. If this route had not been mechanically constructed, big sagebrush would still be growing in the road's center and be much larger and more extensive.

•BB-8-26-W; BB-9-29-W, Chandler Butte Road, show a road that was most likely constructed in the mid to late 1940's when the reservoirs were constructed in this area. A metal peg in the dam of Drift Fence Reservoir indicates the reservoir was constructed in 1948. Rabbitbrush and grasses are growing in and along the road surface which extends through an area of dominant big sagebrush vegetation.

•L19-27-N and L20-28-N, Hay Lake-Deep Valley Road, show a well-traveled road during the summer and fall seasons. This road has been constructed through very sandy soils with low, weathered berms higher than the road's surface. Maintaining this road on a regular basis would only speed the lowering of the road's surface and conditions would still remain the same.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No N/A

1980 Unit Description: Bald Butte Unit is composed of the original Wagontire Mountain subunits 2-43B and D which were separated by the Sourdough Lake Access Road. Subunit 2-43B, south and southwest of the road, contained two reservoirs, approximately five miles of vehicle ways, four miles of fenceline, and about 920 acres of crested wheat seeding. The seeding is located in the east portion of the subunit and was substantially noticeable. The remainder of the unit appeared to be in a basically natural condition.

Subunit 2-43D, northeast of the road, contained approximately six miles of fence, six reservoirs and about six miles of vehicle ways. These developments were substantially unnoticeable. Approximately 2,250 acres of crested wheat had been seeded for wildfire rehabilitation and was substantially noticeable. The elimination of about 3,100 acres (some areas within the boundaries of the seeding were not seeded) combined with the other developments in the subunit made man's imprint substantially noticeable.

Current Condition Description: The combining of the two 1980 inventory subunits, 2-43B and D, has created a much larger unit which is in a natural condition even with the number of human developments present (see the Bald Butte Unit Character Map). As noted in the section, **Boundary changes since 1980**, two roads, Sourdough Lake Road and North Butte Valley Road, which were boundaries for subunits 2-43B, C and D, are now interior cherry-stem boundary roads.

The cherry-stem portions of these routes will continue to be utilized to check the seeding, fences, reservoirs and to access range condition monitoring sites. The permittee will continue to use the routes to check livestock, water levels in reservoirs, and place salt and mineral blocks at various locations. Hunters will continue using the roads during the fall hunting seasons, if they have vehicles to traverse the roads, even the sections BLM does not intend to maintain in the future.

Sagebrush, the dominant natural vegetation, has also become reestablished in the 2,313-acre crested wheat seeding (that portion of a large seeding within this unit). The seeding is now not noticeable to the casual observer throughout much of the rehabilitated wildfire area.

ONDA's report noted that their proposed WSA is primarily affected by the forces of nature and is in a natural condition. The individuals inventorying the proposed area did not notice the crested wheat seeding. The report also indicated the original BLM Wagontire Mountain Unit, 2-43, should not be subdivided into subunits because there are no roads within the unit.

The seeding would not have a cumulative impact to naturalness within the BLM unit, as a whole, because the two original subunits are now contiguous. The primary human uses are associated with livestock grazing. The unit is within three grazing allotments, East Wagontire, West Wagontire and a small, northwest corner of Capehart Lake. Pasture fences have been built through the centers of East Wagontire and West Wagontire Allotments to divide both into three pastures.

The fences are not obvious to the casual observer except where they cross the Wagon tire Lookout Road and along several small sections of Chandler Butte-Burrows Lake Road and Black Canyon Road. There are six small livestock reservoirs scattered around the unit and most are obvious to the casual observer since they have been constructed next to the most-travelled boundary roads and interior cherry-stem boundary roads. However, they do not detract from naturalness due to the size of the unit. This unit appears to be in a natural condition.

The unit currently has the following developments (See Unit Character Map):

Fences: 20 miles
Reservoirs: 5
Seedings: 2,313 acres
Boundary roads: 63.6 miles
Non-boundary roads: 31.4 miles
Pipelines: 1.7 miles
Wells: 1
Troughs: 2
Waterholes: 2
Brushbeat: 62 acres

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

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

1980 Unit Description: The southwestern half of Bald Butte Unit is the original subunit 2-43B. The description indicated a general lack of topographic or vegetative screening which prevented the area from offering outstanding opportunities for solitude. The northeastern half of the Bald Butte Unit is the original subunit 2-43D which was described as having scattered pockets of heavy juniper and somewhat diverse topography which created some areas of solitude. However, because of the relatively small size of the area (even smaller with the elimination of the seeded area) it did not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Current Condition Description: The topography in the northeastern half of the unit is composed of drainages off the western slopes of Wagon tire Mountain which flow south and southeastward to the lower valleys between Wagon tire Mountain and Big Juniper Mountain. These drainages create a convoluted topography with scattered, higher elevation, juniper-covered hills and buttes and plateaus that turn to more open, sagebrush-covered plateaus, buttes and small valleys as they descend to the lower large flats and valleys such as North Butte Valley and the lower, surrounding countryside.

The topographic break between the high-plateau country with scattered stands of juniper and the more open, sagebrush-covered hills, buttes and flats is a line generally running northwest to southeast from Chandler Butte to Bald Butte and continuing southeastward to the South Creek drainage.

The BLM Wagontire Mountain fire lookout is situated so personnel can see vast areas with high-powered viewing instruments. All the surrounding area is regularly scanned during the fire season. No locations go unchecked and the only areas which remain unseen are small sections of the deeper canyons. Any activities which involve vehicles, camps/camping activities, hunting, firefighting, and moving of cattle are likely observed.

Therefore, the northeastern portion of this WIM unit has small areas providing solitude because of topographic and vegetative screening. Much of the southwestern portion of the unit with its vast, open areas does not provide outstanding solitude due to the lack of vegetative and topographic screening. Therefore, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

ONDA indicated in their report that the area provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. This is because ONDA considered all the BLM subunits as contiguous, within their large, proposed Lonesome Lakes WSA.

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

Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A ☐

1980 Unit Description: All subunits offered opportunities for hiking, hunting, horseback riding, and wildlife viewing, but none were outstanding. These opportunities in subunit 2-43D were good in much of that area because of the topography and vegetation, but were not outstanding.

Current Condition Description: The opportunities noted in the 1980 description are still present in the WIM unit. None are outstanding. Big game (deer, antelope, and elk) numbers have diminished in the last fifteen to twenty years in this particular area of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Wagontire hunting unit, so wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities are less than when the original wilderness inventory was completed.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A ☐

1980 Unit Description: None known.

Current Condition Description: No inventories for species of concern have been conducted in the unit at this time. There may be habitat for, and the presence of, the pygmy rabbit, sage-grouse and burrowing owl in the southwestern half of the unit's lower-elevation, open, sagebrush-covered areas. There are no known sage-grouse leks in this unit. The unit may also be habitat for the Pallid bat, Townsend's big-eared bat,

Ferruginous hawk and Northern sagebrush lizard. All species noted are Federal Species of Concern.

ONDA's report indicated their proposed Lonesome Lakes WSA provides prime habitat for the greater sage-grouse, a species of concern, and may also be home to the pygmy rabbit, sage-grouse and burrowing owl. However, their proposed WSA is a much larger area.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: **Bald Butte, 2-43**

Summary Results of Analysis:

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

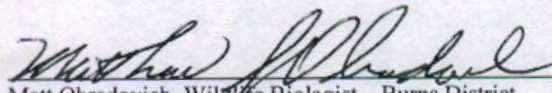
Conclusion (Check One):

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

☒ The area does not have wilderness character.

Prepared by: **David E. Vickstrom**

Coordinating Personnel:


Matt Obradovich, Wildlife Biologist – Burns District

12/11/09
Date


Rob Sharp, Range Specialist-Burns District

12-10-2009
Date

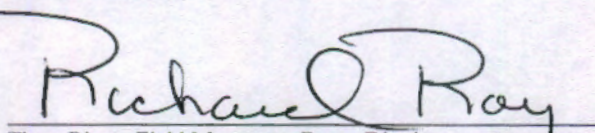

Willie Street, Range Specialist – Burns District

12-10-2009
Date


Dave Vickstrom, Wilderness Specialist – Burns District

12-2-2009
Date

Approved by:


Three Rivers Field Manager – Burns District

12-14-09
Date

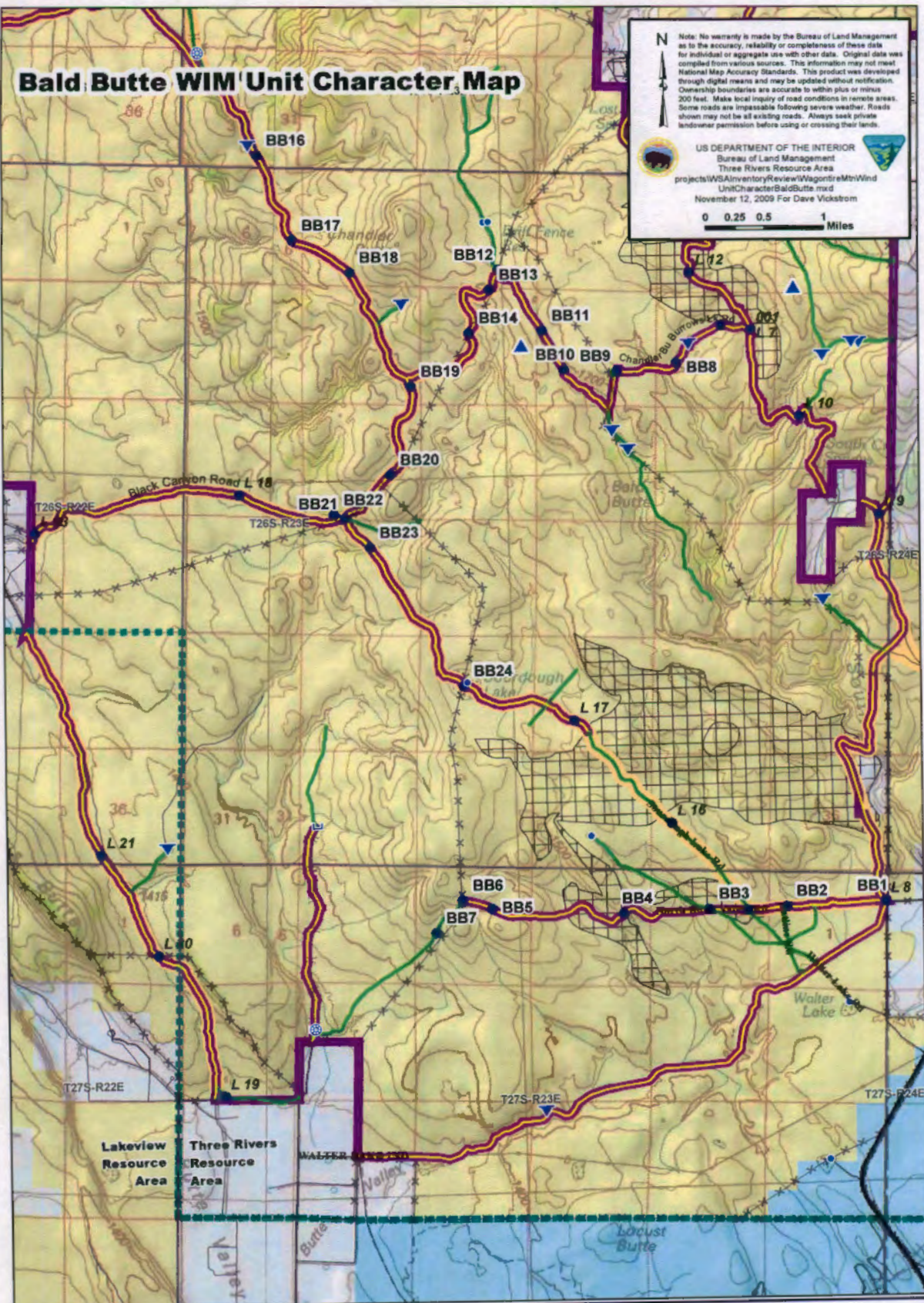
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.02

Bald Butte WIM Unit Character Map

Note: No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification. Ownership boundaries are accurate to within plus or minus 200 feet. Make local inquiry of road conditions in remote areas. Some roads are impassable following severe weather. Roads shown may not be all existing roads. Always seek private landowner permission before using or crossing their lands.

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Bureau of Land Management
Three Rivers Resource Area
projects\WSAInventoryReview\WagonfireMtnWind
UnitCharacterBaldButte.mxd
November 12, 2009 For Dave Vickstrom

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bald Butte WIM Unit 23,649.57 acres Adjacent WIM Units Non-Boundary Routes 31.4 Miles Boundary Roads 63.6 Miles BLM Photo Points Proposed MET Tower Resource Area Boundary Seedings 2,313 Acres | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RESERVOIR 5 TROUGH 2 WATERHOLE 2 WELL 1 FENCE 20 Miles PIPELINE 1.7 Miles BRUSHBEAT 62 Acres | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paved Road Non-Paved Improved Road Non-Boundary Routes Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area Private (White) State |
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