

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-035B/ Alkali Buttes

**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 – Proposed Initial Inventory: Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, April 1979.

b) **Inventory Unit Number(s)/ Name(s):** OR-1-35/ Alkali Buttes

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** Proposed Initial Inventory: Roadless Areas and Islands Which Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics; USDI BLM - Oregon, April 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 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
1-35	14,000	Y	N	N	N/A
1-35*	6,464	Y	N	N	N/A

\* The inventory of this unit was updated in 2012. However, due to a State Office-sponsored Wilderness Inventory Consistency Evaluation and subsequent guidance, the 2012 inventory analysis and findings are being replaced by this current 2018 inventory review. Documentation of the 2012 inventory can be found in the wilderness inventory project record.

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

The previous inventory in 1979 noted the unit contained some sand dunes, sagebrush flats, and the rims of Alkali Buttes. One bladed road crossed the middle of the unit. The inventory noted the unit was impacted by Highway 395 along the eastern boundary. A chemical dump was noted approximately 2 miles to the south. The area was found to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive or unconfined recreation due to the flat topography and hazards associated with the chemical dump. The unit was dropped from further review in August 1979.

**FORM 2**

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY  
CONDITIONS**

**Unit Number/Name:** OR-015-035B/ Alkali Buttes

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

Between 2008 and 2016, BLM staff conducted field inventory in the area as part of a process to update its road and wilderness inventories and to gather additional information to supplement ONDA's wilderness information. This fieldwork included photo documentation of the boundary and interior routes and a re-evaluation of wilderness characteristics for this area. Using both ONDA and BLM photos, field logs, and staff field knowledge, the BLM completed route analysis within the area in 2017.

The BLM determined that the inventory unit is bounded by BLM Roads 6170-00 on the southwest; 6170-A0 on the south; Highway 395 right-of-way on the east; BLM interim numbered road 1113 on the north; and BLM interim numbered road 6160-F0 on the northwest.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Alkali Buttes inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 6,464 acres of BLM-administered lands.

Additional background on the process that the BLM followed during this evaluation is contained in the document, *Wilderness Inventory Maintenance Process for the Lakeview Resource Area, BLM* and in the *Route Analysis Forms*. Both documents can be found in the wilderness inventory file.

**DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS:**

The current unit is located approximately 3 miles north of Alkali Lake, Oregon. The unit is approximately 4 miles long by 3 miles wide. Topographically the unit is dominated by Alkali Buttes, an ancient caldera, with numerous points, saddles, ridges, folds, drainages, and aspects around the circumference of the formation. Centrally located within the unit, Alkali Buttes' peaks and points range from approximately 450–750 ft. higher than the surrounding

terrain, while the caldera's depression is approximately 200-450 ft. deep. The surrounding area of the unit is comprised of a sagebrush-covered sand dunes (10-50 ft. tall), forming the northern end of Alkali Lake to the south and the southern end of Alkali Valley to the north. Vegetatively, the unit is covered with sagebrush, rabbit brush, and crested wheatgrass seedings. A wildfire burned over half of the area in 1983.

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

In 1979, the original inventory noted a bladed road crossed the middle of the unit (currently the northern border), Highway 395 along the eastern boundary, and a chemical dump approximately 2 miles to the south.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 3,947 acres of wildfire, 2,183 acres of seeding, 1 mile of motorized routes, 1 mile of reclaiming routes, and 1 historic (rehabbed) mineral pit immediately adjacent to Highway 395.

Presently, almost 4 decades after the original inventory, these developments are weathered and grown over with herbaceous grasses, rabbit brush, and sagebrush. As a result, developments now fade into the background of the unit and are largely only noticeable at a close distance (1/4<sup>th</sup> mile or less) and are thus substantially unnoticeable from further distances. The topography of the area also plays a large role in screening disturbances and man-made developments. Additionally, areas that were seeded or allowed to revegetate naturally after wildfire have been invaded by rabbit bush, sagebrush, and grasses and have returned to a natural, post fire, appearing condition.

Based on a review of all the available information including photos, staff knowledge, and field review, the BLM concluded that the unit appears in a natural condition where the imprints of man are substantially unnoticeable.

**(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

In 1979, the area was found to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude due to flat topography and hazards associated with the chemical dump.

The BLM determined that there are several outstanding opportunities for solitude across the unit, particularly within and near Alkali Buttes, due to topographic screening. Centrally located within the unit, Alkali Buttes, an ancient caldera, dominates the unit with numerous points, saddles, ridges, folds, drainages, and aspects around the circumference of the formation. Alkali Buttes' peaks and points range from approximately 450-750 ft. higher than the surrounding terrain, while the caldera's depression is approximately 200-450 ft. deep. The surrounding area of the unit is comprised of a sagebrush-covered sand dunes (10-50 ft. tall), forming the northern end of Alkali Lake to the south and the southern end of Alkali Valley to the north. Due to the above-described compartmentalized topography within the unit, one would easily be able to avoid the sights and sounds of others within the unit.

Thus, for the reasons specified above and based on a review of all the available information including (BLM and citizen provided) photos, staff knowledge, and field review, the BLM concluded the Alkali Buttes inventory unit possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude.

**(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

The area was found to lack outstanding opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation due to the flat topography and hazards associated with the chemical dump.

The BLM finds the combination and diversity of hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, camping, wildlife observation, exploration, scenery, photography, trapping, hunting, and stargazing, are exceptional. The BLM determined that hiking peak to peak around the circumference of Alkali Butte's caldera represents a unique opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.

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

The BLM found the unit to possess archaeological and geological values.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

**Unit Number and Name:** OR-015-035B/ Alkali Buttes

**Summary 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 a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?        X   Yes         No         NA
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values?        X   Yes         No         NA

**Conclusion (Check One):**

- X   The area- or a portion of the area- has wilderness character: *(items 1, 2 and 3 must be checked "yes")*.
- The area does not have wilderness character: *(any of items 1, 2 and 3 are checked "no")*.

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


  
Chris Bishop: Outdoor Recreation Planner

  6/4/18    
Date

  
Jami Ludwig: Assistant Field Manager

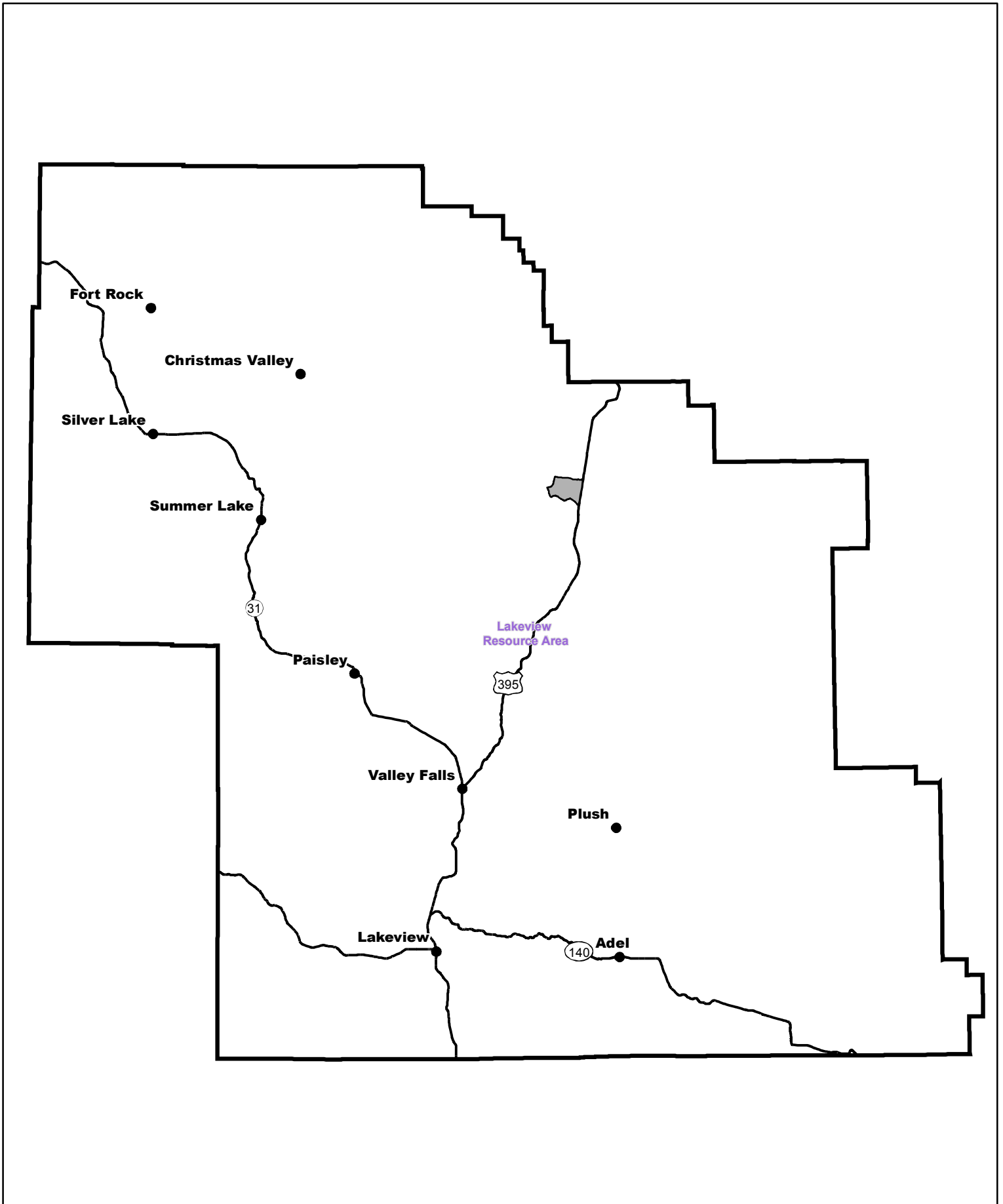
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Date


**Approved by:**

  
J. Todd Forbes  
Field Manager


  6/4/18    
Date

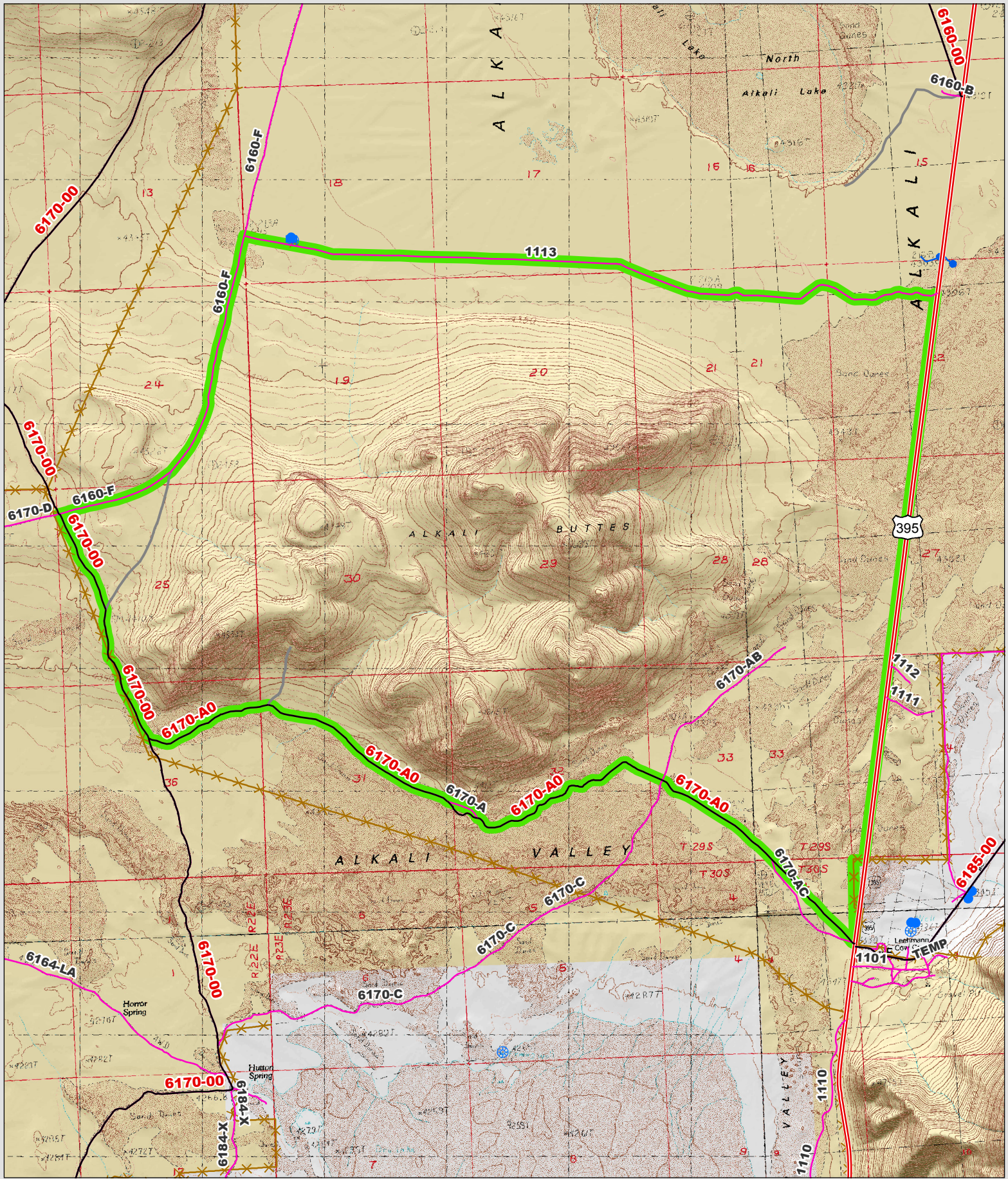
*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.*



 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



 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 were 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.



<p><b>Wilderness Character Inventory Unit</b></p> <p><b>Ownership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Bureau of Land Management</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: lightgreen; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> U.S. Forest Service</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: white; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Private/Unknown</li> </ul>	<p><b>Roads/Trails</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; border-bottom: 2px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Motorized Routes</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; border-bottom: 2px solid red; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Highways</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; border-bottom: 2px dashed gray; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Reclaiming Routes</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; border-bottom: 2px dashed magenta; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Interim Routes</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pipelines and Ditches</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: blue; border-radius: 50%; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Ditch</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: magenta; border-radius: 50%; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Water Pipeline</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: cyan; border-radius: 50%; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Guzzler</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; border-bottom: 2px dashed orange; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Fences</li> </ul>	<p><b>Water Developments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Dam</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid blue; border-radius: 50%; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Reservoir</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Spring Development</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Trough</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Water Diversion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: blue; border-radius: 50%; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Water Tank</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: blue; border-radius: 50%; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Waterhole</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid blue; border-radius: 50%; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Well - Water</li> </ul>	<p>0.8      0.4      0      0.8 Miles</p> <p style="text-align: center;">N ↑ W ←    → E S ↓</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; font-size: 8px;"> <p>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 were 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.</p> </div>
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