

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-136/ Beatys 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 Inventory – Final Intensive Inventory Decisions; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, November 1980.

b) **Inventory Unit Number(s)/ Name(s):** 1-136/ Beatys Butte

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** Intensive Wilderness Inventory - Final Decisions; USDI BLM - Oregon, 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):

Unit #	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
1-136	5,580	Y	N	N	N/A
1-136*	6,219	Y	N	N	N/A

\*The inventory of this unit was updated in 2009. However, due to a State Office-sponsored Wilderness Inventory Consistency Evaluation and subsequent guidance, the 2009 inventory analysis and findings are being replaced by this current 2018 inventory review. Documentation of the 2009 inventory can be found in the wilderness inventory project record.

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

The majority of the unit was found to be hilly, rugged terrain. The western edge of the unit has low rolling hills, which become sage flats towards the boundary. Sagebrush is the primary vegetation cover. The unit was in a generally natural condition and appeared affected

primarily by the forces of nature. Man-made features/improvements in the unit included Hood Spring and a minor “way” in the northwest corner of the unit. These features were substantially unnoticeable and did not have a significant impact on the naturalness of the unit. The unit offered moderate opportunities for solitude, due to the unit’s relatively small size, private inholdings, and lack of vegetative screening. The unit did not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. This unit offered potential for hiking, photography, wildlife observation, and hunting. However, these opportunities were limited by the small size and private inholdings. The unit was found to have potential for archaeological values, though none were recorded at the time.

**FORM 2**

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY  
CONDITIONS**

**Unit Number/Name:** OR-015-136/ Beatys Butte

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

In 2005, the BLM received a citizen proposal from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) for the 82,532-acre Spaulding Addition 2 proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA). ONDA included in their information a narrative report, maps, photos, photo and route logs, and GIS data. All of these materials were considered during the BLM’s wilderness inventory update for this area. The photos submitted by ONDA were taken in 2004. They identified this large area as having no interior routes, which meet the BLM wilderness inventory definition of a road (see Map, p. 216 of ONDA 2005). Additional photos were taken in the area in 2007 and provided to the BLM.

Between 2007 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 several of the routes ONDA identified as “ways” are boundary roads. The Spaulding Addition 2 proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is comprised of several smaller inventory units, which must be evaluated individually and must stand on their own merits rather than be added to the wilderness values of the existing Spaulding WSA.

The BLM determined that the inventory unit is bounded by BLM Road 6176-00 and private land on the west; BLM Road 6166-A0 and private lands on the east; BLM Roads 6166-00, 6196-00, and private land on the south; and the north boundary is a combination of checker-boarded BLM and private lands. Due to changes in boundary, road determinations, and a close review of checker-boarded lands (errors in section corner offsets), the BLM included an

additional 1,975 acres to the north. In addition, the boundary of this unit was changed to remove unnatural features (mineral pit).

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Beatys Butte inventory unit was found to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 8,459 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 inventory unit is located approximately 29 miles east of Plush, Oregon. The unit is approximately 4.5 miles long by 5 miles wide and contains 4 private inholdings (976 acres). The unit is dominated by the Beatys Butte (7,918 ft.) formation in the center of the unit, and is among the highest points in the state of Oregon, with spectacular view of the Steens Mountains to the east. The Beatys Butte is comprised of numerous features including points, saddles, ridges, folds, drainages, and aspects around the circumference of its formation. The western portion of the unit is comprised of tabletops, ridges, and erosion features including the drainages of West Road Gulch. The eastern portion of the unit is comprised of the steep ridges, points, and slopes of Beatys Butte, as well as, Mustang Basin and the upper drainages of East Road Gulch. While the northern portion of the unit is comprised of a highly eroded 1,000-foot Butte overlooking Guano Slough, Black Canyon, Guano Reservoir, and the Catlow Valley. A wildfire burned the eastern half of the unit in 2000. Overall, vegetation in the unit is predominantly grasses and sagebrush. Note: the actual peak of Beatys Butte is 65 feet higher in elevation and few hundred feet north of BLM lands on private property.

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

In 1980, the unit was in a generally natural condition and appeared affected primarily by the forces of nature. Man-made features/improvements in the unit included Hood Spring and a minor “way” in the northwest corner of the unit. These features were substantially unnoticeable and did not have a significant impact on the naturalness of the unit.

ONDA’s 2005 inventory stated that their Spaulding Addition 2 proposed WSA appeared in a natural condition, primarily affected by the forces of nature. Overall, ONDA concluded that because their proposed unit is part of a large contiguous unit, manmade features do not have cumulative impact on the area. However, as noted above, the BLM found that this proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is comprised of several smaller inventory units, within which the natural character must be evaluated individually.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/ disturbances: 3,824 acres of wildfire, 502 acres of chemical treatments, 5.5 miles of motorized routes, 1 mile of fence lines, 1 mile of above-ground pipelines, 3 reservoirs, 4 developed springs, and 2 troughs.

Presently, almost 4 decades after the original inventory, these developments are weathered and grown over with herbaceous grasses 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. In addition, the majority of disturbances are located near the perimeter of the unit and, as such, have a small area of influence. Furthermore, areas that were allowed to revegetate naturally after prescribed burns and wildfire have been invaded by grasses, rabbit brush and sagebrush. This portion of the unit has 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 inventory unit appears in a natural condition where the imprints of man are substantially unnoticeable.

**(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?** Yes  No  N/A

The 1980 inventory found this unit had moderate opportunities for solitude due to its relatively small size, private inholdings, and the lack of topographic or vegetative screening. Overall, the unit did not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger Spaulding Addition 2 proposed WSA as having outstanding opportunities for solitude based on sheer size as their proposal is contiguous with other inventory units and therefore no longer stands alone. ONDA noted the diverse topography of the area would easily allow visitors to avoid the sights and sounds of others (p. 213 of ONDA 2005). However, the BLM did not find this proposal to be one large roadless area, but is comprised of a number of smaller inventory units that must be evaluated individually.

The BLM determined that there are several outstanding opportunities for solitude across the area due to topographic screening. Topographically, Beatys Butte, which rises to an elevation of 7,918 ft., is a dominant and diverse formation, with numerous points, saddles, ridges, folds, drainages, and aspects around the circumference of its formation. The western portion of the unit is comprised of tabletops, ridges, and erosion features including the drainages of West Road Gulch. The eastern portion of the unit is comprised of the steep ridges, points, and slopes of Beatys Butte, as well as, Mustang Basin and the upper drainages of East Road Gulch. While the northern portion of the unit is comprised of a highly eroded 1,000-foot Butte. Due to the above-described compartmentalized topography, one would easily be able to avoid the sights and sounds of others.

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 Beatys Butte inventory unit possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Yes  No  N/A

The 1980 inventory found potential for hiking, photography, wildlife observation, and hunting. However, these opportunities were limited by the unit's small size and private inholdings.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger Spaulding Addition 2 proposed WSA as having outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation based on sheer size as their proposal is contiguous with other inventory units and therefore no longer stands alone. ONDA noted the unit offered outstanding opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, photography, sightseeing, wildlife viewing, hunting, and camping (ONDA 2005; p. 213). However, the BLM did not find this proposal to be one large roadless area, but is comprised of a number of smaller inventory units that must be evaluated individually.

The BLM finds that all activities listed above, in combination with the diversity of trapping, exploration, and star gazing are exceptional. The BLM determined that the numerous potential routes for hiking to the top of Beatys Butte, one of the highest points in the state of Oregon, represent 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 as well as the presence of golden eagle, pigmy rabbit, pronghorn antelope, California bighorn sheep, mule deer, various bat species, mollusks, and sage-grouse habitat.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

**Unit Number and Name:** OR-015-136/ Beatys Butte

**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

  
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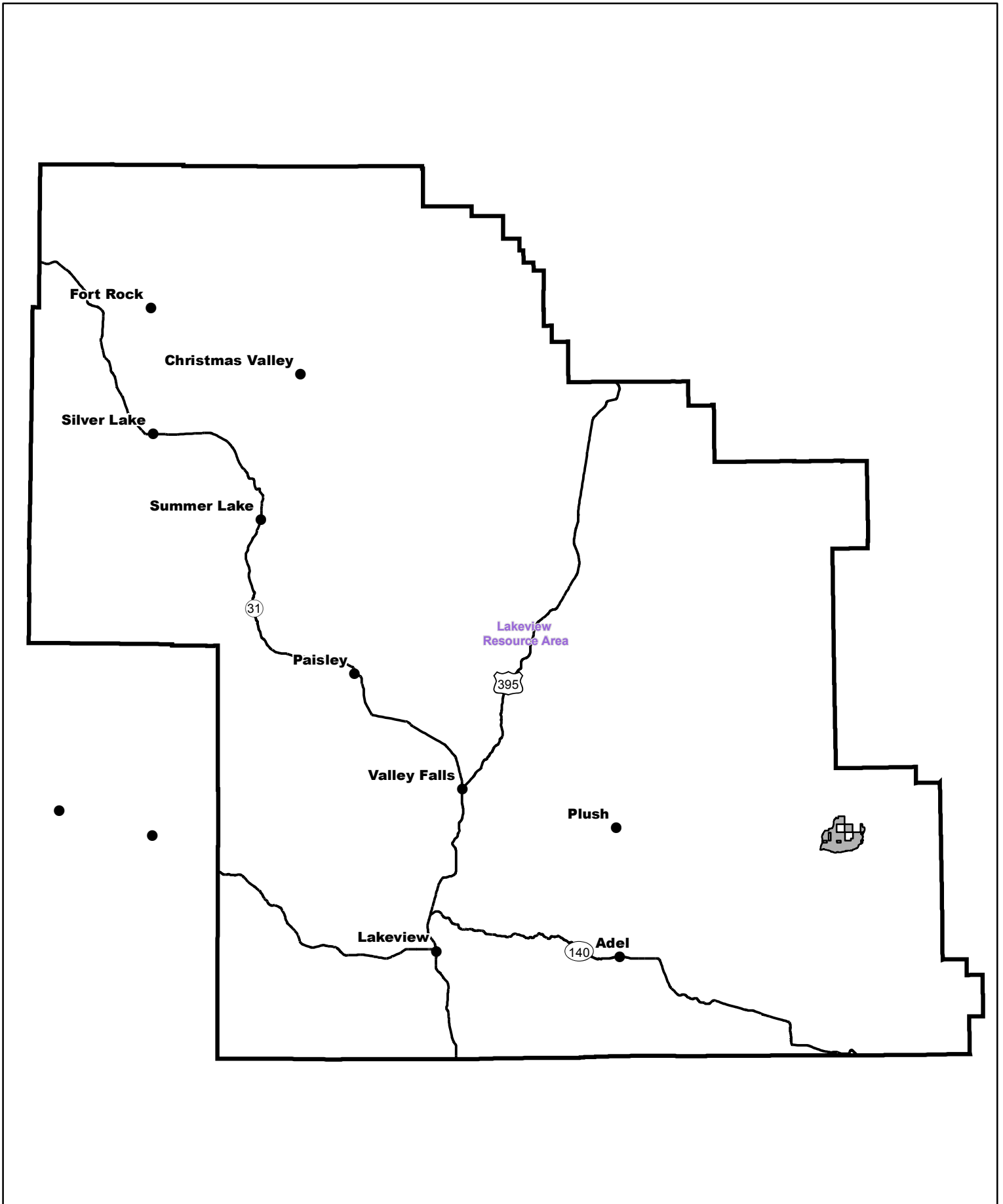
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**Approved by:**

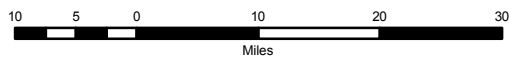
  
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  6/9/18    
Date

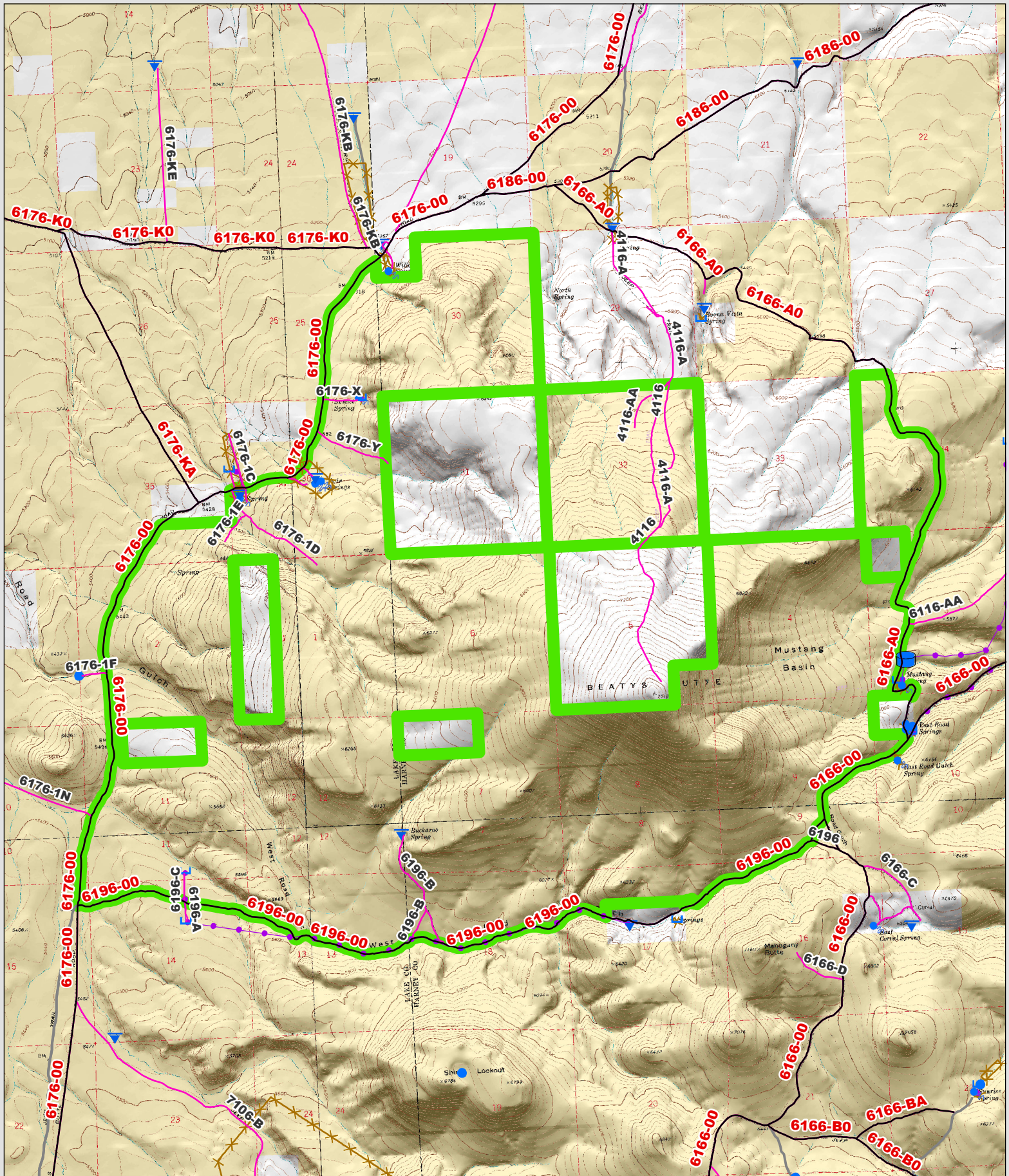
*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.*



 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



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**Wilderness Character Inventory Unit**

**Ownership**

- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- State
- Private/Unknown

**Roads/Trails**

- Motorized Routes
- Highways
- Reclaiming Routes
- Interim Routes

**Pipelines and Ditches**

- Ditch
- Water Pipeline
- Guzzler
- Fences

**Water Developments**

- Dam
- Reservoir
- Spring Development
- Trough
- Water Diversion

- Water Tank
- Waterhole
- Well - Water

1 0.5 0 1 Miles

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