

Year: 2018 Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-138/ Buckaroo Pass

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):** 1-138/ Buckaroo Pass

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
1-138	12,640	Y	N	N	N/A
1-138*	13,340	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 central portion of the unit was broken topography with minor peaks and rims falling away to the east as west to sagebrush valleys. The elevation in the center of the unit was slightly above 6,000 feet and the valley on either side are near 5,000 feet. The contours of the slopes in the unit were moderate with some minor rims.

Vegetation in the unit was a sagebrush community. The unit had one spring development and one reservoir, which was noticeable only in the immediate area of the development. The unit was found to be essentially free of the works of man and primarily affected by the forces of nature. The moderate slopes on the unit in conjunction with low vegetative cover would leave one very exposed to others on the same side of the unit over a great distance. The unit did not leave a person with the feeling that one could readily avoid others in the unit. The unit did not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The unit offered limited opportunity for day use hiking and some scenic vistas of the surrounding country. Because of its small size, the unit did not provide for an outstanding primitive or unconfined recreation experience. No supplemental values were recognized, although some archaeological values were thought to be present.

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-138/ Buckaroo Pass

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size? Yes X 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 7116-00 on the west; 7106-00, 6166-00, and private lands on the north; 6156-00 on the east; and 7116-00 on the south. Due to changes in road determinations in the northeast corner of the area, approximately 9 acres were removed from the unit.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Buckaroo Pass inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 13,340 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 28 miles east of Plush, Oregon. The unit is approximately 5.5 miles long by 3.5 miles wide. The unit is dominated by a large, severely, eroded plateau (5,000-6,300 feet), with number canyons and broken rims around its entire circumference. The eastern quarter of the unit is comprised of Ryegrass Valley, while the southwest corner descends to the northern extent of Guano Valley. The southern border of the unit is comprised of Buckaroo Pass. Overall, the inventory unit is made-up of countless rims, tabletops, buttes, ridges, and eroded drainages. In 1994, a wildfire burned approximately 900 acres near the southern border. Additionally, a large prescribed burn, covering almost 80% of the unit, was implemented in 1999. Vegetation consists grasses and rabbit brush, with numerous large mosaic islands of sagebrush across the unit.

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

In 1980, the unit had one spring development and one reservoir, which was noticeable only in the immediate area of the development. The unit was found to be essentially free of the works of man and primarily affected by the forces of nature.

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: 10,012 acres of a prescribed burn, 951 acres of wildfire, 220 acres of chemical treatments, 11.5 miles of motorized routes, 1.5 miles of reclaiming routes, 6 miles of fence lines, 3 waterholes, 2 reservoirs, one developed spring, and 1 trough.

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 (1/4th 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 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 inventory 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 X No N/A

In 1980, the inventory concluded that the moderate slopes on the unit in conjunction with low vegetative cover would leave one very exposed to others on the same side of the unit over a great distance. The unit did not leave a person with the feeling that one could readily avoid others in the unit. The unit did not offer 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. The unit is very topographically diverse as it is dominated by a large, severely, eroded plateau, with number canyons and broken rims around its entire circumference. The eastern quarter of the unit is comprised of Ryegrass Valley, while the southwest corner descends to the northern extent of Guano Valley. The southern border of the unit is comprised of Buckaroo Pass. Overall, the inventory unit is made-up of countless rims, tabletops, buttes, ridges, and eroded drainages. 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 Buckaroo Pass inventory unit possess 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 X No N/A

In 1980, the unit was found to have limited opportunity for day use hiking and some scenic vistas of the surrounding country. Because of its small size, the unit did not provide for an outstanding primitive or unconfined recreation experience.

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, stargazing, and exploration, are exceptional. The BLM determined that the numerous potential routes for hiking/horseback riding along the rim of the plateau, as well as, hiking up the units many eroded canyons represent unique opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

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

The BLM found the unit to possess archaeological and geological values as well as the presence of pigmy rabbit, pronghorn antelope, California bighorn sheep, mule deer, various bat species, and sage-grouse habitat.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-138/ Buckaroo Pass

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

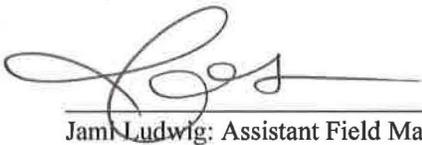
Conclusion (Check One):

- 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

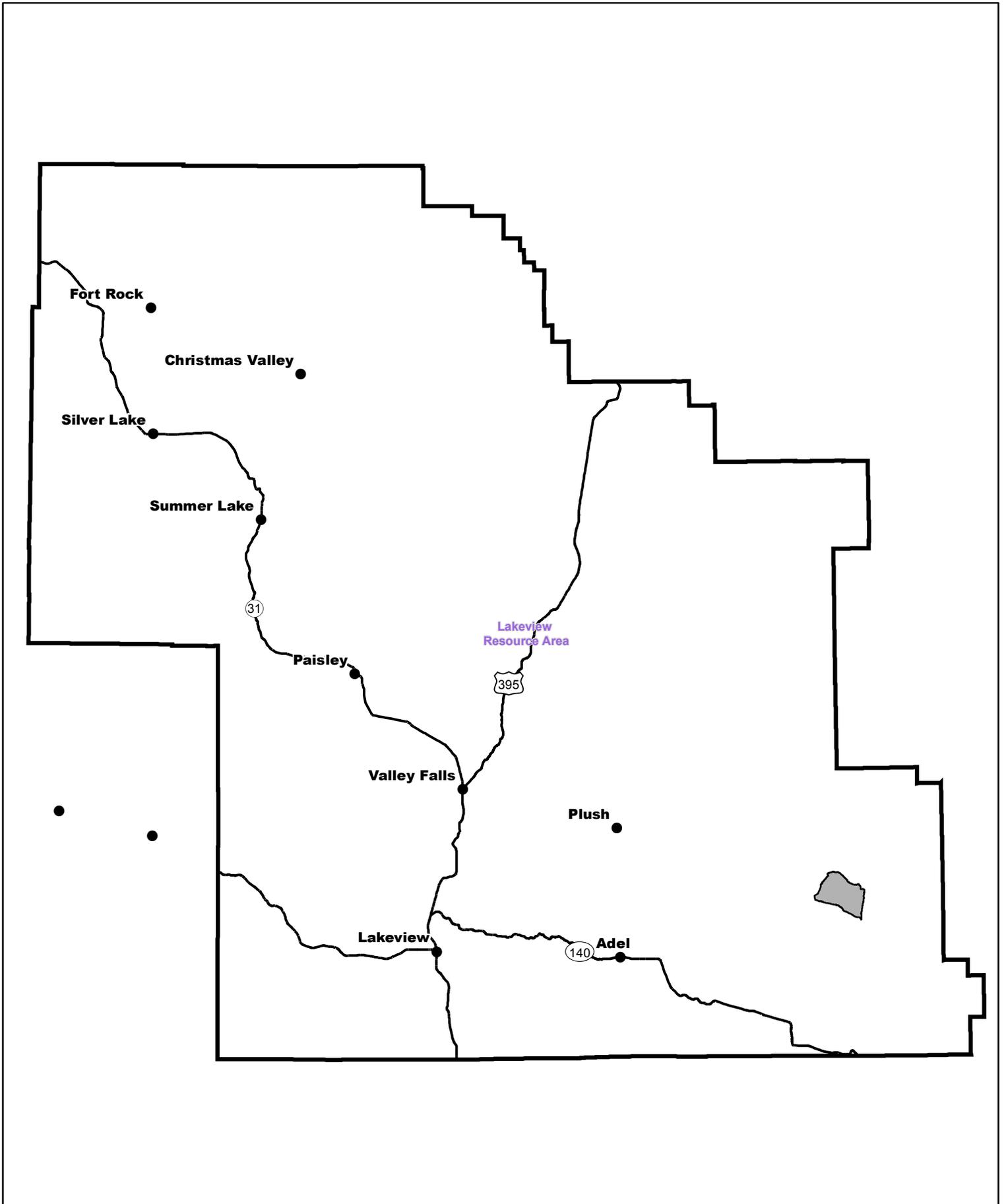
 6/4/18
Date

Approved by:

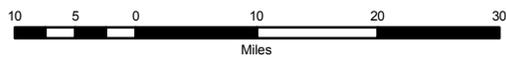

J. Todd Forbes
Field Manager

 6/4/18
Date

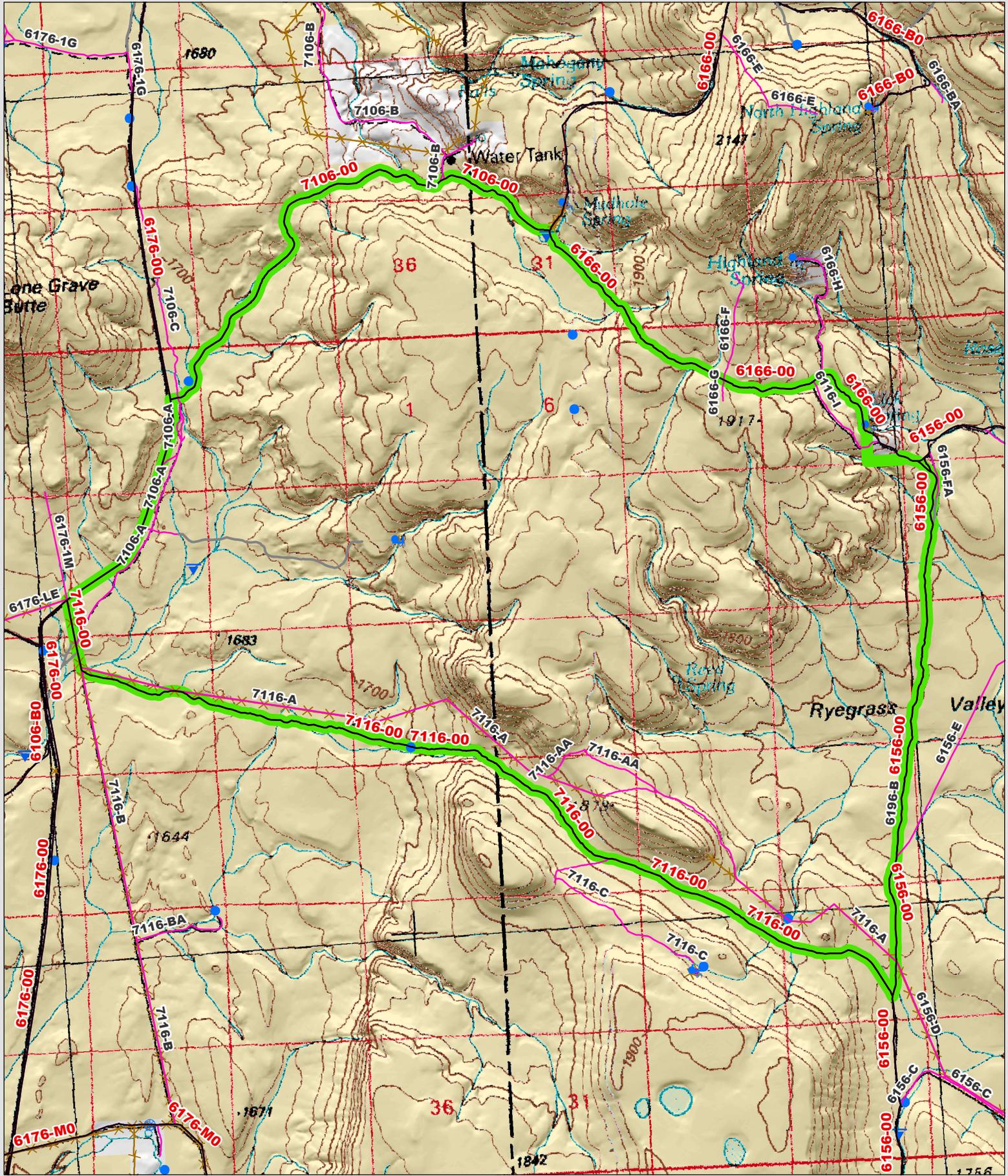
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.

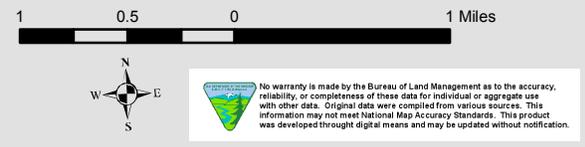


 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



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<p>Wilderness Character Inventory Unit</p> <p>Ownership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bureau of Land Management U.S. Forest Service State Private/Unknown 	<p>Roads/Trails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motorized Routes Highways Reclaiming Routes Interim Routes 	<p>Pipelines and Ditches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ditch Water Pipeline Guzzler Fences 	<p>Water Developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dam Reservoir Spring Development Trough Water Diversion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Tank Waterhole Well - Water 	<p>1 0.5 0 1 Miles</p>  <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>
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