

Year: 2020

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-096B/ Coglan Buttes North*

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):** 1-96/ Coglan Buttes

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.

*Note: Unit name was changed to better reflect values and features found within the unit, and to reduce confusion of similarly named inventory units.

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
1-96	32,000	N	N	N	Y
1-96B*	22,006	N	N/A	N/A	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:

In 1980, the unit included the steep cliffs of Coglan Buttes on the west border and broad, low-angle slopes descending toward Abert Lake to the east of the cliffs. The majority of the unit was broad, sagebrush-covered flats with very little topographic relief. The unit contained 23 miles of “ways,” some of which had historical blading. Shores Waterhole was a substantial impact on about 2,560 acres of the unit due its large size. There were a total of five reservoirs, several watering stations, a guzzler, and a radio repeater site located in the unit. These disturbances were dispersed throughout the unit and collectively had a substantial impact on the unit's natural character. The unit was found to have minimal potential for solitude due to the lack of vegetative and topographic screening. It was noted that the cliffs of Coglan Buttes offered some isolated sites where solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation could be achieved, but overall the unit did not offer outstanding opportunities. Possible supplemental values were noted as archaeological and geological values, though none were specifically identified at the time.

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-096B/ Coglan Buttes North

(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 55,268-acre Coglan Buttes proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA). ONDA included in their information a narrative report, maps, 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 July of 2004 and June of 2005. They identified the area as having no interior routes, which meet the BLM’s wilderness inventory definition of a road. In 2018, the BLM received an additional citizen inventory from the O’Leary Ranch. All these materials were considered during the BLM’s wilderness inventory process for this area.

Between 2008 and 2019, the 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 and revised this information in 2019 based on new citizen submitted information submitted.

The BLM determined that several of the routes ONDA identified as “ways” are boundary roads. The BLM found the Coglan Buttes proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is comprised of several smaller inventory units (3 which meet the size criteria); which must be evaluated individually. This evaluation focuses on the Coglan Buttes North unit (OR-015-

096B). BLM also reviewed the O’Leary submission, but did not make any route changes based on this information.

The BLM determined that the inventory unit is bounded on the northwest by BLM Road 6124-00 (Sand Hollow) right-of-way; on the east by BLM Roads 6124-00, 6124-A0 (Coglan Butte) and 6154-00 (Big Basin); on the west by private lands, a buried telephone line right-of-way, and BLM interim numbered road (2100); and on the south by BLM interim numbered road (6154-F). The boundary of this unit was changed to remove approximately 45 acres of internal right-of-ways and disturbances including a mineral pit, access routes, communications sites, and telephone/power lines along the western boundary. BLM interim numbered route 6154-G0 was determined to not meet the definition of a road, as such, the unit boundary changed to include approximately 100 acres in the southeast corner of the unit.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Coglan Buttes North inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 22,054 acres of BLM-administered lands.

Additional background on the process 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 unit is approximately 14.5 miles long and 3 miles in wide. The unit is located approximately 8 miles east of Paisley, Oregon. The unit contains approximately 22,054 acres of BLM-administered lands. The area is dominated by the steep cliffs and drainages of the Coglan Buttes formation running north to south through the center of the unit. The western extent of the unit can be described as a sandy, alkali flat, with clumped vegetation. While the eastern edge is characterized by a low angle sagebrush plateau.

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

In 1980, the unit was described as containing 23 miles of “ways,” some of which had historical blading. Shores Waterhole was a substantial impact on about 2,500 acres of the unit due its large size. There were a total of five reservoirs, several watering stations, a guzzler, and a radio repeater site located in the unit. These disturbances were dispersed throughout the unit and collectively had a substantial impact on the unit's natural character.

ONDA’s 2005 inventory concluded that their proposed 55,268-acre Coglan Buttes proposed WSA appeared in a generally natural condition. Rationale for this finding was due to their assessment that guzzlers are not permanent structures, have limited visibility due to topography, and could be removed; unnatural features such as the radio repeater, tower, power lines, and a gravel pit should be cut out of the unit; and while the unit does contain seedings, they blend into the landscape and appear natural.

The O'Leary Ranch noted several man made structures and disturbances in the area. The BLM reviewed all the information submitted but did not make any changes to this unit.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 1,018 acres of chemical weed treatments and non-native seedings, 15 acres of wildfire, 13 acres of fuel break mowing, 15.5 miles of motorized routes, 3 miles of reclaiming routes, 8.5 miles of fence lines, 6 abandoned mine sites (1.5 acres), 11 wildlife guzzlers, 4 waterholes, a reservoir, a trough, and a well.

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. Areas that possessed obvious visual impacts and/or high concentrations of disturbances have been removed from the unit (radio repeater, two communication structures, and a mineral pit).

The unit boundary has changed since the 1980 inventory. Currently, the Coglan Buttes North unit only comprises the western two-thirds of the historic Coglan Buttes (1-96) unit. Many of the negative impacts to naturalness from the original inventory have been excluded from the unit or are now located along the boundary (Shores Waterhole), substantially reducing negative impacts within the unit.

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

The original 1980 inventory found the unit lacked both vegetative and topographic screening and offered only minimal potential for solitude. The inventory acknowledged solitude could be achieved in isolated sites within the cliffs of Coglan Buttes. However, ultimately the inventory determined it would be very difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory found their larger Coglan Buttes proposed WSA and the original individual units within the proposal to have plentiful topographic and vegetative screening on their own. ONDA cited rolling topography, rimrock, tall sagebrush, and sheer size as evidence of outstanding opportunities for solitude.

The BLM determined that while the unit lacks vegetative screening, the area is topographically diverse with numerous opportunities for solitude along the rim of the Coglan Buttes (White Point, 6,209 ft.), the many deeply eroded drainages (Coglan Canyon, Big Basin), rolling buttes and tabletops across the majority of the central portion of 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 Coglan Buttes North unit possesses sufficient topographic screening that one would easily be able to avoid the sights and sounds of others and experience 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 original 1980 inventory found the unit offered little opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation with exception of the Coglan Buttes area. Opportunities for birding and hunting were mentioned, but determined to be less than outstanding.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory found their larger Coglan Buttes proposed WSA and the original individual units within the proposal to have plentiful opportunities for hiking, backpacking, photography, birding, horseback riding, and exploration of area's diverse geology.

The BLM finds all activities listed above in combination with the diversity of hunting, camping, sightseeing, and wildlife viewing (bighorn sheep) as exceptional opportunities. The BLM determined that hiking along the unit's escarpment, running 14.5 miles atop the entire length of the unit, in combination with the area's many rims and buttes 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 California bighorn sheep, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, golden eagle, prairie falcon, and sage-grouse habitat.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-096B/ Coglan Buttes North

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):


Shane Garside: Outdoor Recreation Planner

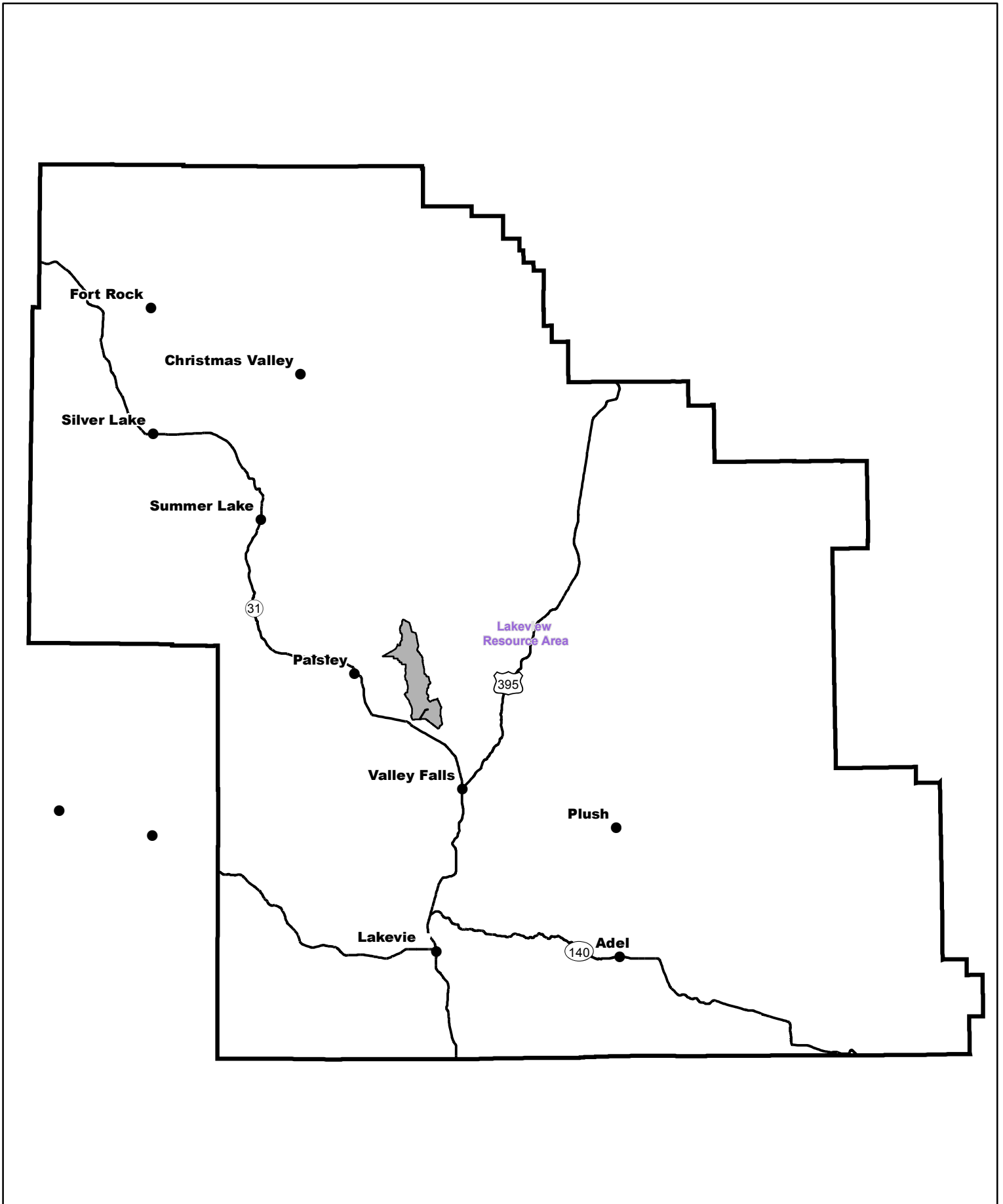
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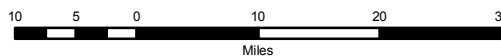

Jami Ludwig
Field Manager


 10/14/2020
Date

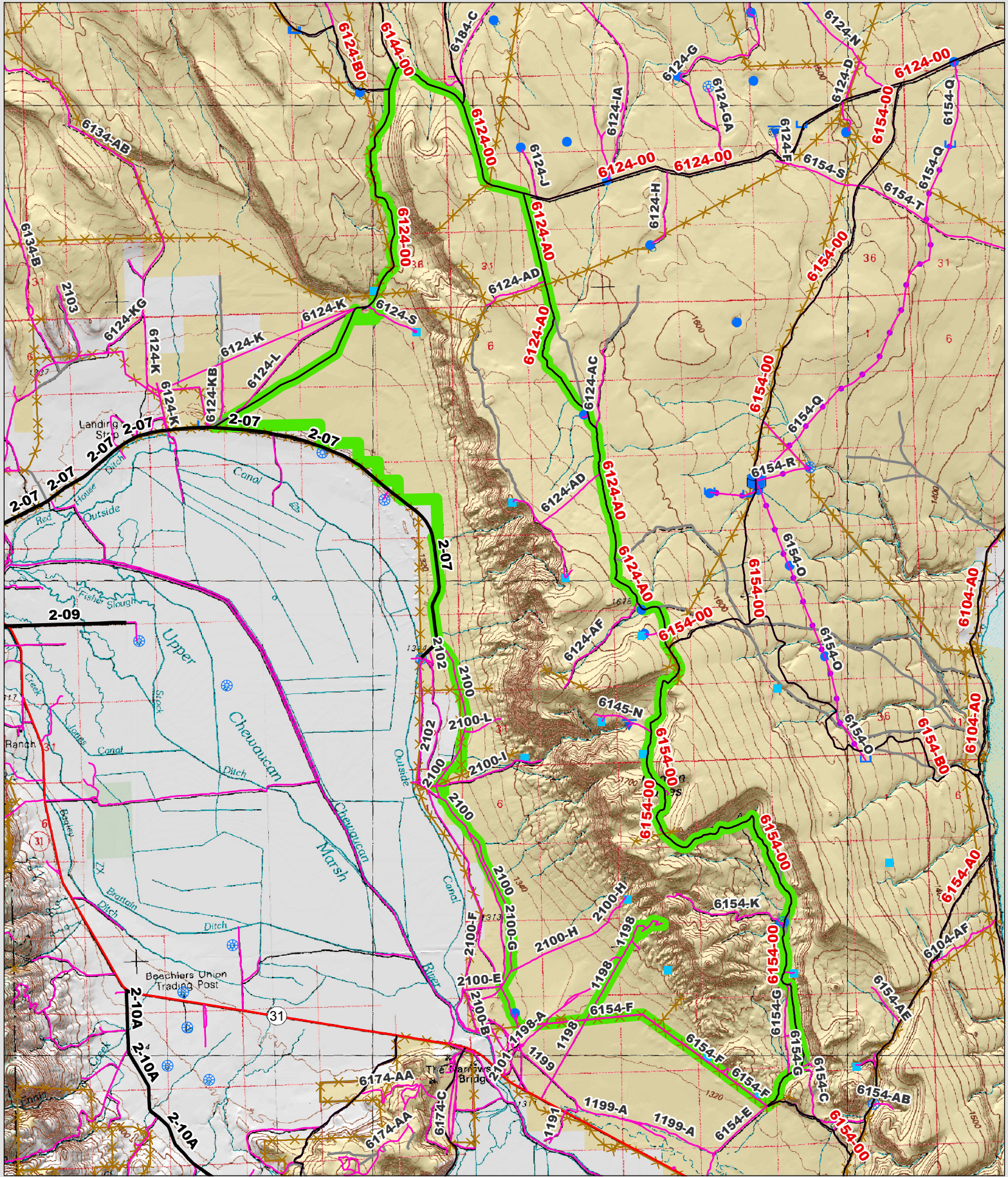
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.



 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 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>2 1 0 2 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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