

Year: 2020

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-104/ Colvin Lake

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 _____ (go to Form 2) Yes X (if more than one unit is within the area, list the names/numbers of those units.)

a) Inventory Source: Wilderness Review Initial Inventory: Final Decision on Public Lands Obviously Lacking Wilderness Characteristics and Announcement of Public Lands to be Intensively Inventoried for Wilderness Characteristics, August 1979

b) (Historic) Inventory Unit Number(s)/Name(s): 1-104/ Colvin Lake

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): U.S. Department of the Interior: Bureau of Land Management, Oregon, Proposed Initial Inventory Roadless Areas and Islands, Which Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics, 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/acreage and answer each question individually for each inventory unit):

Unit#/ Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
1-104	13,000	N	N	N	N/A
1-104*	13,114	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 2017 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 unit was bounded on the east by a 500 KV BPA powerline and by BLM roads and private property to the north, south, and west. The physical characteristics of the unit

were described as relatively flat in the west and central portions of the unit with rolling hills and some rims in the eastern portion of the unit. Vegetation consisted of low sagebrush with some remnant ponderosa pine, marginal juniper and some aspen groves. In 1979, the unit contained reservoirs and ways accessing reservoirs that were substantially noticeable along the eastern portion of the unit. The unit was found not to be in natural condition due to the cumulative effects of the 500 KV powerline and other obvious imprints of the works of man. The unit was also found to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

FORM 2

DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

a. Unit Number/Name: OR-015-104/ Colvin Lake

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

In 2018, the BLM received a citizen inventory from the Fitzgerald Partners. All these materials were considered during the BLM’s wilderness inventory process for this area.

Between 2008 and 2019, BLM staff conducted a field inventory of the area to update its road and wilderness inventory. Using BLM photos, field logs, and staff field knowledge, the BLM completed an analysis of motorized routes within the area in 2017 and revised this information in 2020 based on new citizen submitted information submitted.

The BLM determined that BLM Road 6145-00 meets the wilderness inventory definition of a boundary road; and along with private property boundaries, form the northern boundary of the unit. The east boundary is formed by the 500-KV BPA powerline and a small section of BLM Road 8165-00 right-of-ways, and the south boundary is formed by private and U.S. Forest Service land boundaries. However, a portion of route 6145-D0 that runs along the northwest and western boundaries of the unit was found to not meet the inventory definition of a boundary road. BLM also reviewed the Fitzgerald Partners submission, but did not make any route changes based on this information.

Based on these boundary road determinations, the BLM identified the Colvin Lake inventory unit to not only meet the minimum size criteria (13,462 acres), but that it was also contiguous with the Abert Rim WSA (25,067 acres).

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 located immediately to the east of the Abert Rim WSA, about 5 miles east of Valley Falls, Oregon. The unit is approximately 5 miles long and 4 miles wide. The unit contains 2 private inholdings totaling approximately 460 acres and has numerous private land parcels bordering the unit. Topography has not changed since the original inventory and can still be described as relatively flat in the west and central portions of the unit with rolling hills, numerous shallow drainages/sunken creek beds, and several large rims (200-400 feet tall) in the southern and eastern portions of the unit. Several small, narrow, juniper reduction and prescribed fire treatments have occurred between 2008-2010. However, many stands within area, with the highest density of trees, were not treated and those that were cut left many standing trees, including old growth, scattered across the unit.

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

Vegetation within the unit has noticeably changed since the 1970 inventory. Ponderosa pine stands have expanded in size and density due to juniper cuts and the introduction of prescribed fire to reduce competition and promote growth. Although small, targeted juniper cuts (2,180 acres) have occurred in the unit, once marginal western juniper stands have greatly expanded in height, width, and density. Large pockets of juniper can now be found on hill tops and small ridges in the northern portion of the unit (Colvin Lake, Fitzgerald Reservoir, the expansion of Colvin Timbers into the unit) and have expanded greatly near streams, springs and other riparian areas (Benefiel, Clover, Colvin, and Snyder Creeks). In addition, aspen and mountain mahogany stands have also greatly expanded in the northern half of the unit.

The Fitzgerald Partners noted that several of the manmade structures in the area were visible from long distances. The BLM reviewed all the information submitted but did not make any changes to this unit.

The BLM found the following man-made developments/disturbances within the unit: 10 waterholes, 2 dams, 4 reservoirs/ponds, 3 water diversions, 0.5 miles of ditches, 13 miles of pasture division fence, and approximately 8.5 miles of internal primitive motorized routes. Colvin Lake has a ROW for the waterbody and canal running to the northeast; Fitzgerald Reservoir has a ROW for the waterbody and canal running to the northwest; and a canal runs from the eastern boundary of the unit, near Sid Luce, to private property along Clover Creek. These developments are primarily along the northern and southwest edges of the unit. While, all of these developments existed on the ground in 1979, most were not mapped nor identified during the inventory in 1979 by BLM. In addition, during the original inventory, most of these developments were relatively new and the visual impacts were fresh and substantially noticeable. Now, almost 4 decades later, these developments are weathered and grown over with herbaceous grasses, sagebrush, and western juniper. As a result, developments now fade into the background of the unit and are only noticeable at a close distance (1/4th mile or less) and are thus substantially unnoticeable from further distances.

Based on a review of all the available information including photos, staff knowledge, and field review, the BLM concluded that the overall natural character within the area has greatly improved since the original inventory. On its own merits, the Colvin Lake unit appears in natural condition where the imprint of man is substantially unnoticeable. Furthermore, since the unit is now contiguous with Abert Rim WSA, which was found to have wilderness values in 1991, the Colvin Lake unit must be analyzed in the context of these now shared wilderness values. After considering wilderness values offered by both units, the BLM determined that the Colvin Lake unit and the WSA in fact contribute mutually additive effects to the natural condition of both units as a whole and thus the area was found to be in a natural condition primarily affected by the forces of nature.

(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 1991, the Abert Rim WSA, to the northwest, was found to have outstanding opportunities for solitude, especially in the southern half of the unit, due to topography of the rim and vegetative screening that isolate the visitor (Wilderness Study Report, 1991; p. 64).

Topographically, the Colvin Lake unit can be described as relatively flat in the west and central portions of the unit with rolling hills, numerous shallow drainages/sunken creek beds, and several large rims in the southern and eastern portions of the unit; many of which are 200-400 feet tall.

Vegetatively, once marginal western juniper stands have greatly expanded in height, width, and density. Sufficient pockets of juniper for screening purposes can now be found on hill tops and small ridges in the northern portion of the unit (Colvin Lake, Fitzgerald Reservoir, the expansion of Colvin Timbers into the unit) and have expanded greatly near streams, springs and other riparian areas (Benefiel, Clover, Colvin, and Snyder Creeks). Mountain mahogany and aspen stands, in some locations, also contribute to screening.

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 that the Colvin Lake unit, on its own merits, possesses sufficient combination of topographic and vegetative screening that one would be able to avoid the presence of others and experience outstanding solitude. Furthermore, the Colvin Lake unit and the Abert Rim WSA contribute mutually additive effects to outstanding opportunities for solitude, as the unit is now contiguous with Abert Rim WSA.

(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 1991, the Abert Rim WSA was found to have outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation due to the area's variety of plants, geological features, topography, wildlife,

and exhilarating views combined with wooded areas and springs offering outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, camping, sightseeing, photography, wildlife viewing, and horseback riding (Wilderness Study Report, 1991; p. 44).

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation activities within the Colvin Lake unit are outstanding. The combined diversity of hiking, backpacking, hunting, fishing, camping, sightseeing, photography, wildlife viewing, and horseback riding are exceptional. Primitive recreation opportunities associated with views along rims in the southern and western areas of unit, as well as, the presence of water from Colvin Lake, Fitzgerald Reservoir, and several creeks/springs (Benefiel, Clover, Colvin, and Snyder Creeks) particularly stand out as unique opportunities.

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 that outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation do exist within the unit on its own merits. These opportunities are further enhanced by the additive effect of outstanding primitive recreation opportunities present within the contiguous Abert Rim WSA to the west.

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

In 1991, the Abert Rim WSA was found to have numerous supplemental values including: one of the largest continuous fault scraps in North America, archaeological district on the National Register of Historic Sites and Places, the northernmost group of isolated ponderosa pines in the Warner Mountains, California bighorn sheep, nesting area for various raptors, deer winter range, and for educational and scientific purposes by geology and archaeology students.

Within the Colvin Lake unit, the BLM noted the presence of bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, warner sucker, priority sage-grouse habitat and possibly archaeological resources as potential supplemental values.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-104/ Colvin Lake

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 are 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

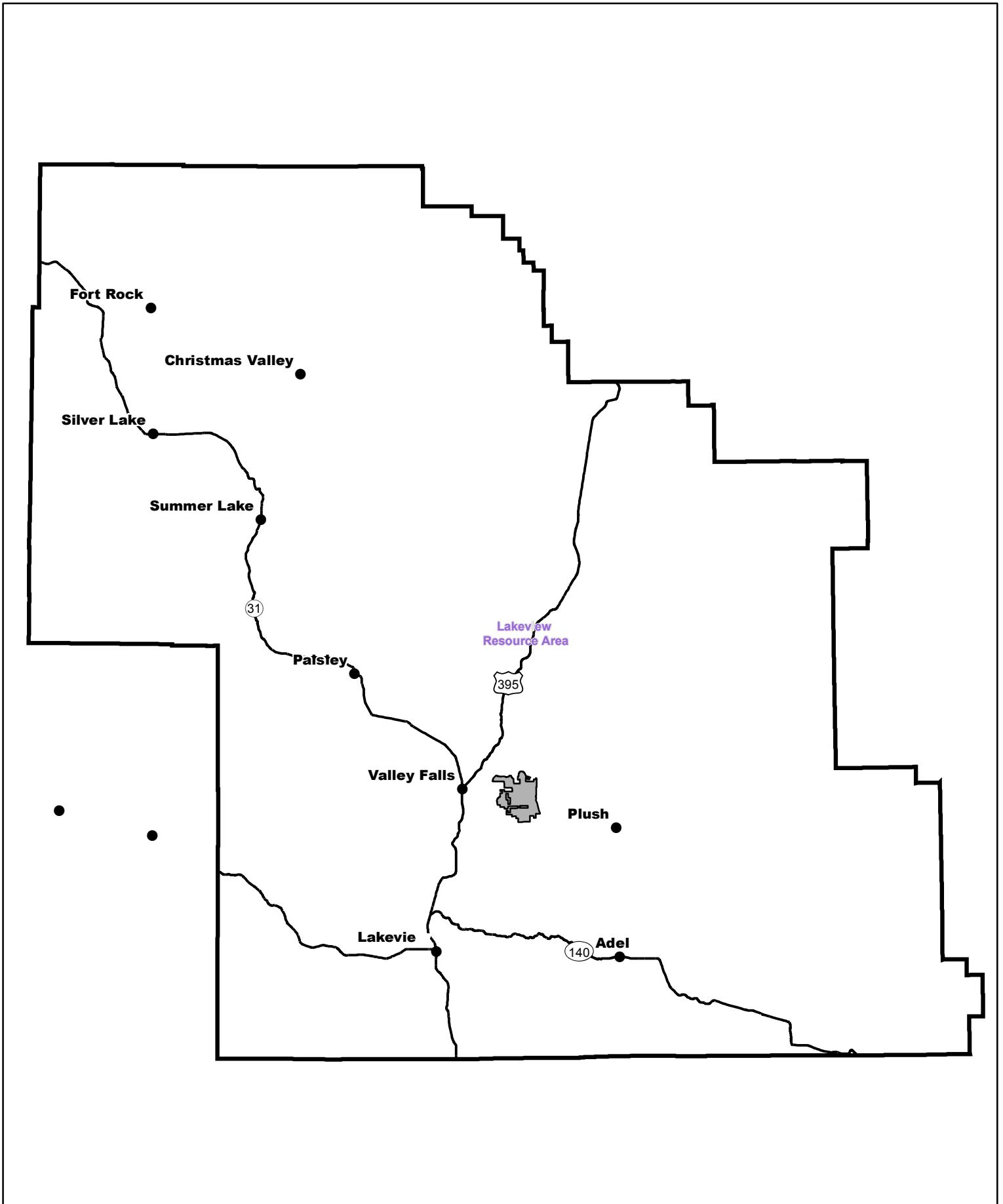
9/23/20
Date


Approved by:


Jami Ludwig
Field Manager


10/14/2020
Date

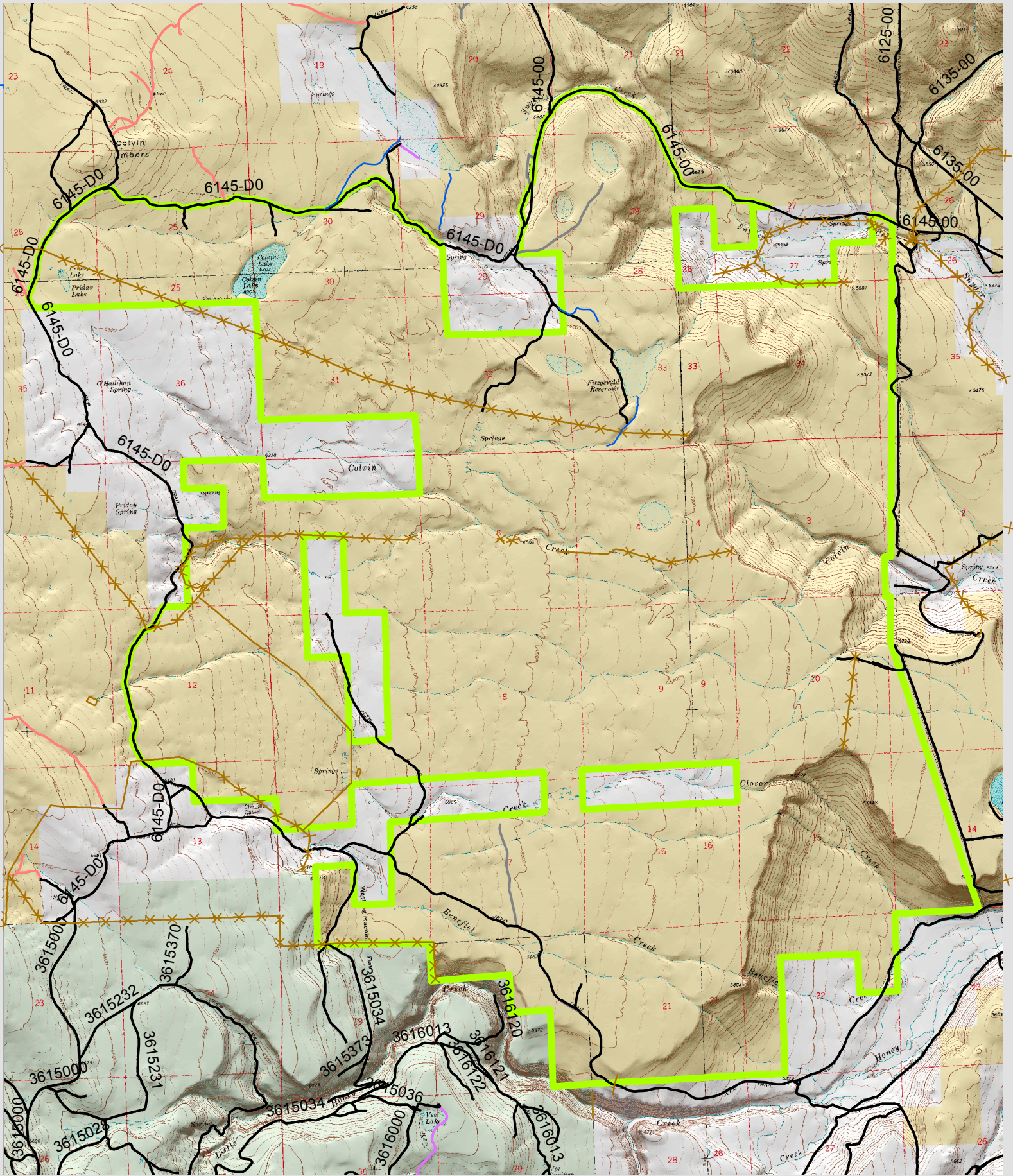
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.



 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.



Wilderness Character Inventory Unit

Ownership

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

Roads/Trails

- Motorized Routes
- Closed Routes
- Reclaiming Routes
- Motorized and Non-Motorized Trails

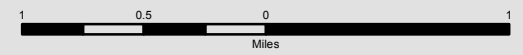
Pipelines and Ditches

- Ditch
- Water Pipeline
- Guzzler
- Fences

Water Developments

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

- Water Tank
- Waterhole
- Well - Water



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