

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-095/ Diablo South*

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):** 1-95/ ZX Ranch

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/acreage 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
1-95	21,120	Y	N	N	None
1-95*	18,679	Y	Y	Y	N

* 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:

Historic Unit 1-95 was described as sage flats in the southern and western portions. The majority of the unit contained rolling hills and draws. The vegetative cover was representative of the sagebrush community. Desert saltbrush was found on the western portion. This unit contained four lakebed pits, six miles of “ways” and approximately eight miles of fence line. The impacts of man were not substantially noticeable within the majority of the unit because the developments were located on its periphery. The unit did not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of its small size, lack of vegetative screening and exposure of an individual to others within the unit. This unit offered only limited hunting opportunities. Other recreational opportunities within the unit were found to be extremely poor. Supplemental values were unknown.

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-095/ Diablo South

(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 103,460-acre Diablo Mountain proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA) Addition. ONDA’s proposal is comprised of three additions including a North Addition (20,245 acres), a South Addition (20,170 acres), and an East Addition (63,045 acres). 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. They identified this large area as having no interior routes, which met the BLM wilderness inventory definition of a road (see Map, p. 71 of ONDA 2005).

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 some of the routes ONDA identified as “ways” are boundary roads. The Diablo Mountain proposed WSA Addition is not one large roadless unit, but is comprised of smaller inventory units, which must be evaluated individually.

The BLM determined that the inventory unit is bounded by BLM Roads 6124-B0, a right-of-way along BLM Road 6124-00, and is contiguous with Diablo Mountain WSA on the east; BLM interim numbered road 6124-K0 and private lands to the south; BLM Road 6134-00, BLM interim numbered road 6134-B0, private lands, and is contiguous with Diablo Mountain WSA on the west. Due to changes in boundary determinations (roads right-of-way

buffer corrections) and cutout of unnatural features (mineral pit), approximately 2,462 acres were removed from this unit. Portions of BLM Road 6134-A0 and BLM interim numbered road 6124-BB no longer meet the definition of a boundary road.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Diablo South inventory unit to not only exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 18,658 acres of BLM-administered lands, but to also found it is contiguous with BLM's 113,120-acre Diablo Mountain WSA located to the north.

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:

This unit is located approximately 5 miles northeast of Paisley, Oregon. The unit is approximately 8.5 miles long by 6.5 miles wide. Topographically the unit is very diverse with numerous moderate rims, buttes, draws, drainages, and closed in basins. The unit ranges in elevation from 4,380 ft. to 5,340 feet. There are approximately half a dozen moderate rims (100-700 ft. high, 25 miles in total) running in a southeast to northwest orientation across the unit. In addition, the unit contains a half a dozen of moderate depressed lakebeds and small, closed-in valleys (50 – 200 feet deep). Vegetatively, the unit is comprised of sagebrush, rabbit brush, saltbrush, and grass. A wildfire burned approximately 3,385 acres in the eastern and central portion of the unit in 1983.

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

In 1980, Unit 1-95 contained four lakebed pits, six miles of “ways” and approximately eight miles of fence line. The impacts of man were not substantially noticeable within the majority of the unit because the developments were located on its periphery.

In 2005, ONDA found their 20,170-acre South Addition of the Diablo Mountain proposed WSA to appear natural throughout, with the works of man substantially unnoticeable. ONDA found their South Addition is contiguous with the Diablo Mountain WSA. As such, the South Addition of the Diablo Mountain proposed WSA no longer stands alone and therefore a review of naturalness must look at the new area as a whole. When looked at from this perspective, ONDA states the “few manmade developments found within the area would not have a cumulative impact to the entirety of the area because of its immense size...rolling hills...and rimrock. Each of these would screen any manmade feature and make them noticeable only from close distances (pg. 69 of ONDA 2005).” However, as noted above, the BLM found that this proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is comprised of smaller inventory units, within which the natural character must be evaluated individually.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 3,385 acres of wildfire, 2,674 acres of seeding, 43 acres of mechanical treatments (mow strips), 18 miles

of fence lines, 37 feet of pipeline, 10.5 miles of motorized routes, 1.5 miles of cat lines, 3 waterholes, 1 well, 3 troughs, and 1 wildlife guzzler.

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. Furthermore, many of the disturbances are located near the perimeter of the unit and, as such, have a small area of influence. Areas that were seeded or allowed to revegetate naturally after fire have been invaded by rabbit/ sagebrush and have returned to a natural, post fire, appearing condition. In addition, cat lines, now over 30 years old, have also largely revegetated naturally or have been seeded.

Based on a review of all the available information including photos, staff knowledge, and field review, the BLM concluded, based on its own merits, the Diablo South unit appears in a natural condition where the imprint of man are substantially unnoticeable. Furthermore, since the unit is now contiguous with the Diablo Mountain WSA, the Diablo South 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 Diablo South unit and the WSA contribute mutually additive effects to the natural condition of both units as a whole. 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 1980, Unit 1-95 was found to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude because of its small size, lack of vegetative screening, and exposure of individuals to others within the unit.

BLM's much larger Diablo Mountain WSA to the north was found in 1980 to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude, due its size and rugged terrain.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified their 20,170-acre South Addition of the Diablo Mountain proposed WSA to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude due to size and shape no longer being limiting factors as the unit is contiguous with the 113,120-acre Diablo Mountain WSA. ONDA stated that when looking at the Diablo Mountain Proposed WSA as a whole, one can easily find outstanding opportunities for solitude. Moreover, because Diablo Mountain WSA already has outstanding opportunities for solitude, the proposed South Addition will enhance these existing opportunities greatly (pg. 69 of ONDA 2005). However, as noted above, the BLM found that this proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is comprised of smaller inventory units, within which opportunities for solitude must be evaluated individually.

The BLM determined that the Diablo South inventory unit on its own merit, provides outstanding opportunities for solitude across the unit due to topographic screening.

Topographically the unit is very diverse with numerous moderate rims, buttes, draws, drainages, and closed in basins. The unit ranges in elevation from 4,380 ft. to 5,340 feet. There are approximately half a dozen moderate rims (100-700 ft. high, 25 miles in total) running in a southeast to northwest orientation across the unit. In addition, the unit contains a half a dozen of moderate depressed lakebeds and small, closed-in valleys (50 – 200 feet deep). Due to the above-described topographic screening throughout the unit, one would easily be able to avoid the sights and sounds of others. In addition, these opportunities would be enhanced by the additive effect of outstanding opportunities for solitude present within the 113,120-acre Diablo Mountain WSA to the north and must be analyzed in the context of these now shared wilderness values.

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 that one would be able to avoid the sights and sounds of others within the Diablo South inventory unit.

(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

In 1980, Unit 1-95 was found to offer only limited hunting opportunities. Other recreational opportunities within the unit were determined to be extremely poor.

BLM's much larger Diablo Mountain WSA to the north was found in 1980 to provide a less than outstanding opportunity for hiking and backpacking due to limited variety of terrain and lack of water. However, the BLM's 1991 Wilderness Study Report stated, "Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are outstanding within the WSA. The diverse and broken terrain offers excellent opportunities for hiking and backpacking along the eastern half of the WSA in the draws and mountain area."

The BLM determined that the Diablo South inventory unit on its own merit, possesses the combination and diversity of hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, camping, wildlife observation, exploration, scenery, photography, stargazing, trapping, and hunting are exceptional. In addition, these opportunities for recreation would be enhanced by the additive effect of outstanding primitive recreation opportunities present within the 113,120-acre Diablo Mountain WSA to the north and must be analyzed in the context of these now shared wilderness values.

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 that outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are present within the Diablo South inventory unit based on its own merit and the contiguous values of the Diablo Mountain WSA.

(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 pronghorn antelope, California bighorn sheep, golden eagle, kestrel, and sage-grouse habitat.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-095/ Diablo South

Summary Results of Analysis:

- 1. Does the area meet the size requirements? Yes No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No NA
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No NA

Conclusion (Check One):

- 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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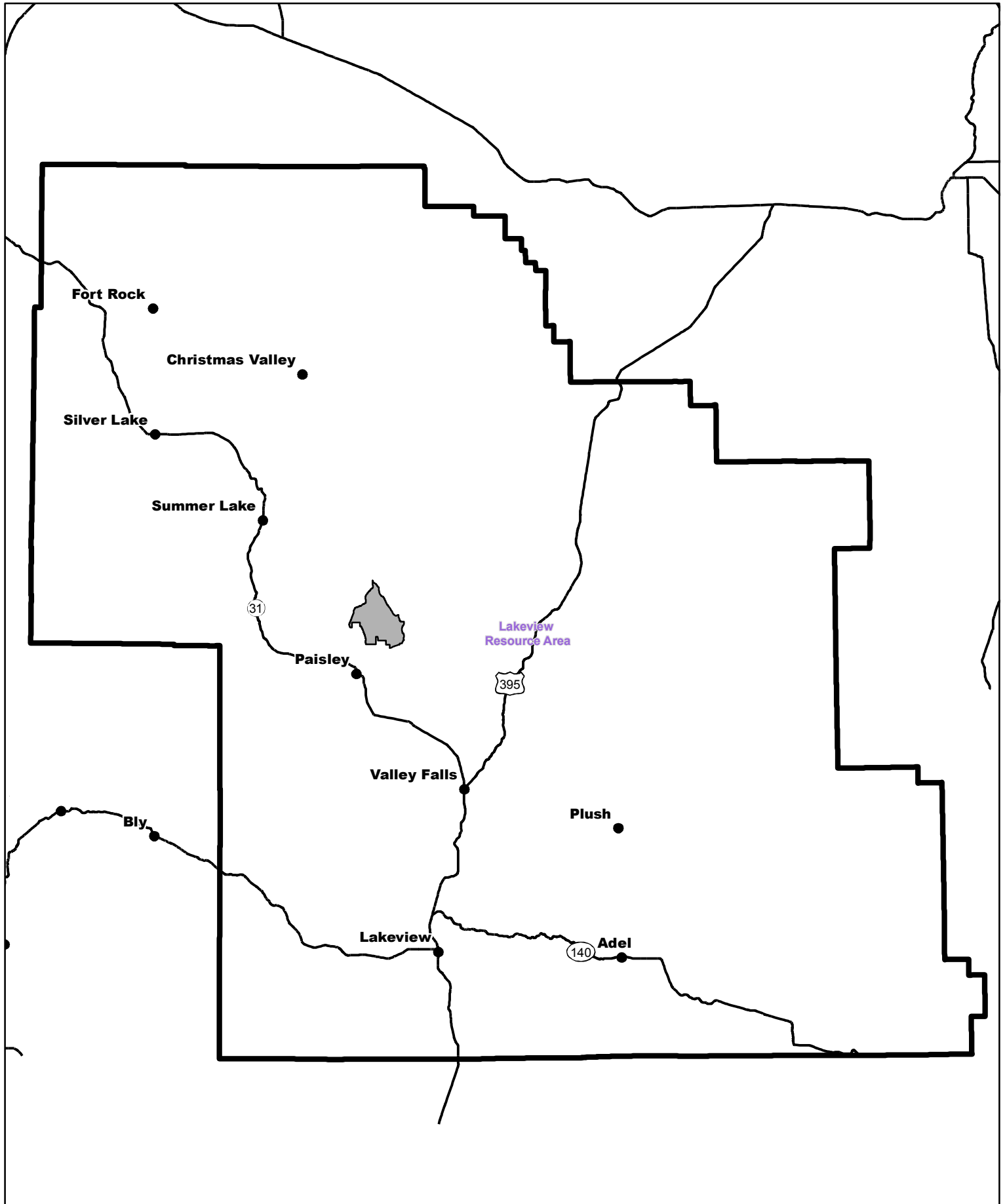
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Date


Approved by:

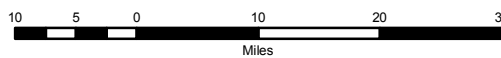

J. Todd Forbes
Field Manager


6/4/18
Date

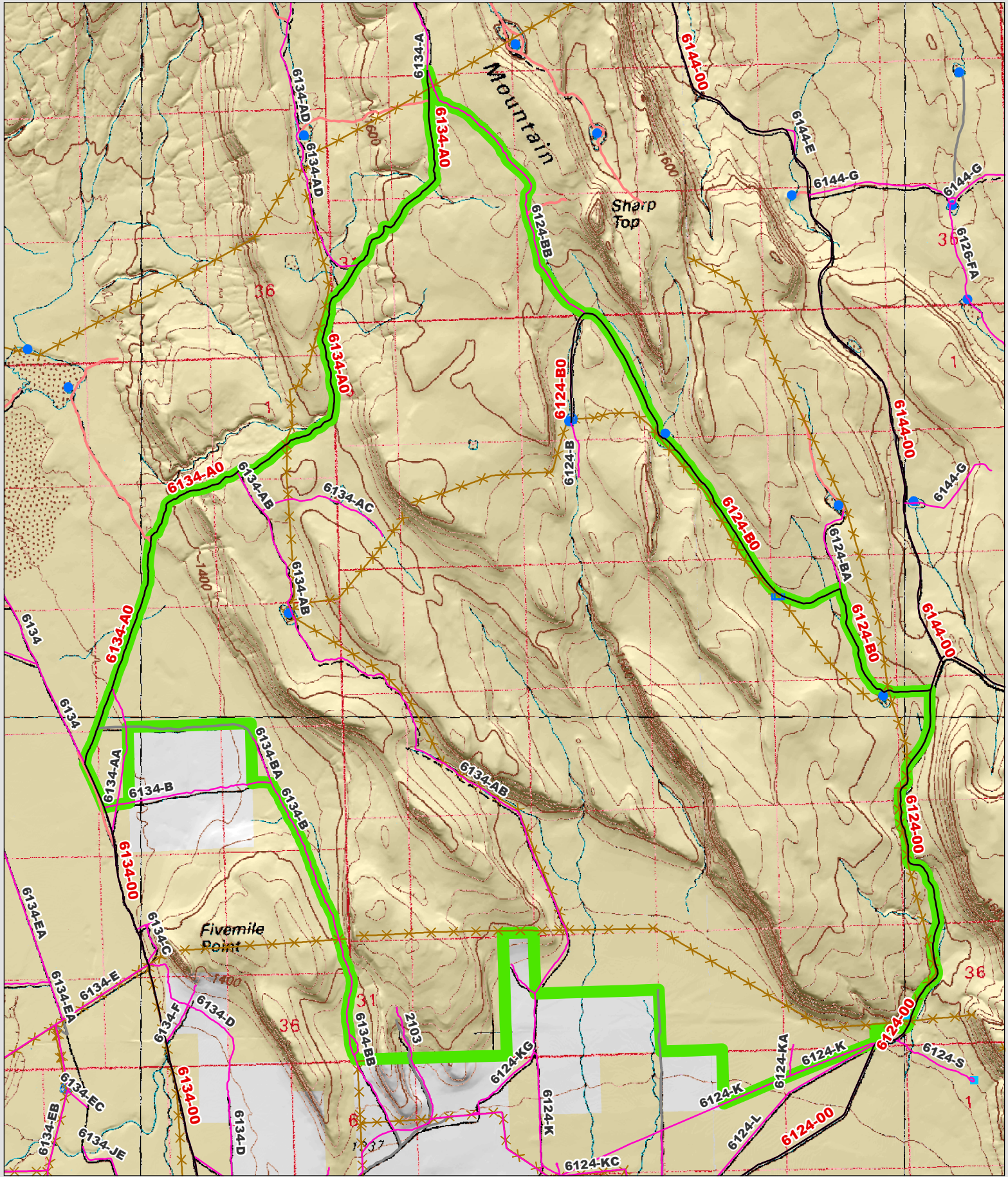
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.



 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.



Wilderness Character Inventory Unit

Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- 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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