

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-208/ Duncan Creek*

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(s):

- a. Wilderness – Proposed Initial Inventory: Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, April 1979.
- b. 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; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, August 1979.
- c. Wilderness Review – Intensive Inventory: Proposed Decision on the Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Area; USDI BLM – Oregon, October 1979.
- d. Wilderness Review – Intensive Inventory: Final Decisions On 30 Selected Units in Southeast Oregon and Proposed Decisions On Other Intensively Inventoried Units; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, March 1980.
- e. Wilderness Inventory – Final Intensive Inventory Decisions; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, November 1980.

b) Inventory Unit Number(s)/ Name(s): N/A

b) Map Name(s)/Number(s):

- a. Proposed Initial Inventory: Roadless Areas and Islands Which Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics; USDI BLM - Oregon, April 1979.
- b. Final Decision - Initial Wilderness Inventory: Public Lands and Islands Which Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics and Units To Be Intensively Inventoried; USDI BLM - Oregon, August 1979.
- c. Proposed Decision: Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas; USDI BLM - Oregon, October 1979.

- d. Intensive Wilderness Inventory: Final Decisions For 30 Selected Inventory Units and Proposed Decisions For Other Intensive Inventory Units; USDI BLM - Oregon, March 1980.
- e. 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
1-208*	7,314	N	N/A	N/A	N/A

* The inventory of this unit was updated in 2010. However, due to a State Office-sponsored Wilderness Inventory Consistency Evaluation and subsequent guidance, the 2010 inventory analysis and findings are being replaced by this current 2018 inventory review. Documentation of the 2010 inventory can be found in the wilderness inventory project record.

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

The original 1979/1980 inventory did not include information regarding wilderness characteristics of this unit, presumably because it did not meet the size requirements at that time.

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-208/ Duncan Creek

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

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 the inventory unit is bounded by BLM Roads 6177-00, 7107-00, and private lands to the east; a residential power line right-of-way and Fremont-Winema National Forest Lands to the south; a Bonneville Power Administration power line right-of-way and private lands to the west; and BLM Interim numbered Roads 1150-00 and 1150-A0 to the north. In addition, BLM Road 6197-00 was cherry stemmed out of the unit. Due to changes in boundary determinations (roads and power line rights-of-ways buffer corrections) and cut-outs of unnatural features (dam, campground, gazebo, boat launch), approximately 529 acres were added to the unit.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Duncan Creek inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 7,844 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 unit is located approximately 6 miles southeast of Silver Lake, Oregon. The unit is approximately 6.5 miles long by 3.5 miles wide. Topographically, the unit contains a mixture of different geologic landforms consisting of Dead Indian Rim, (800 ft. tall), 5 mile long fault block with broken rims on the east, Duncan Creek Canyon (100 to 350 ft. deep) running 6 miles south to north, and Duncan Reservoir, a 50 acre body of water centrally located in the unit. The unit also contains 2 ephemeral lake depressions including La Brie and Cottonwood Lakes. Approximately 2,000 acres of the southern, eastern, and central portions of the unit, near rims, creeks, and elevations above 5,300 feet is covered in moderate to high-density western juniper stands, much of which is old-growth. The remaining vegetation is scattered juniper, sagebrush, rabbit brush, and grass. Additionally, a wildfire burned approximately 400 acres in the southwest corner of the unit in 2002.

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

The original 1979/1980 inventory did not include information regarding the naturalness of this unit, presumably because it did not meet the size requirements at that time.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 571 acres of fuel treatments/prescribed burns, 400 acres of wildfire, 117 acres of chemical treatments, 71 acres of seeding, 4.5 miles of fence, 10.5 miles of motorized routes, 1 mile of reclaiming routes, 1.5 miles of cat lines, 0.25 miles of ditches, 12 waterholes, and 1 reservoirs.

Presently, almost 4 decades after the original inventory, these developments are weathered and grown over with herbaceous grasses, sagebrush, and juniper. 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 and vegetation 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. Additionally, areas that were seeded or allowed to revegetate naturally after wildfire and prescribed burns have been invaded by juniper, rabbit bush, sagebrush, and grasses 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 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 1979/1980 inventory did not include information regarding solitude within this unit, presumably because it did not meet the size requirements at that time.

The BLM determined that there are several outstanding opportunities for solitude across the unit due to topographic and vegetative screening. Topographically, the unit contains a mixture of different geologic landforms consisting of Dead Indian Rim, (800 ft. tall), 5 mile long fault block with broken rims on the east, Duncan Creek Canyon (100 to 350 ft. deep) running 6 miles south to north, and Duncan Reservoir, a 50 acre body of water centrally located in the unit. The unit also contains 2 ephemeral lake depressions including La Brie and Cottonwood Lakes. Vegetatively, western juniper stands have greatly expanded in height, width, and density. Over 2,000 acres of moderate to high-density western juniper stands within the unit provide sufficient screening in the southern, eastern, and central portions of the unit, near rims, creeks, and elevations above 5,300 feet. Due to the above-described compartmentalized topography and vegetative screening throughout the unit, 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 Duncan Creek inventory unit possesses 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 1979/1980 inventory did not include information regarding primitive and unconfined recreation within this unit, presumably because it did not meet the size requirements at that time.

The BLM finds the combination and diversity of hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, camping, wildlife observation, exploration, scenery, photography, fishing, trapping, and hunting, are exceptional. The BLM determined that options for hiking along Dead Indian Rim, down Duncan Creek Canyon, or fishing in Duncan Reservoir represents a unique opportunities 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 various bat species, elk, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, golden eagle, kestrel, and sage-grouse habitat.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-208/ Duncan Creek

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

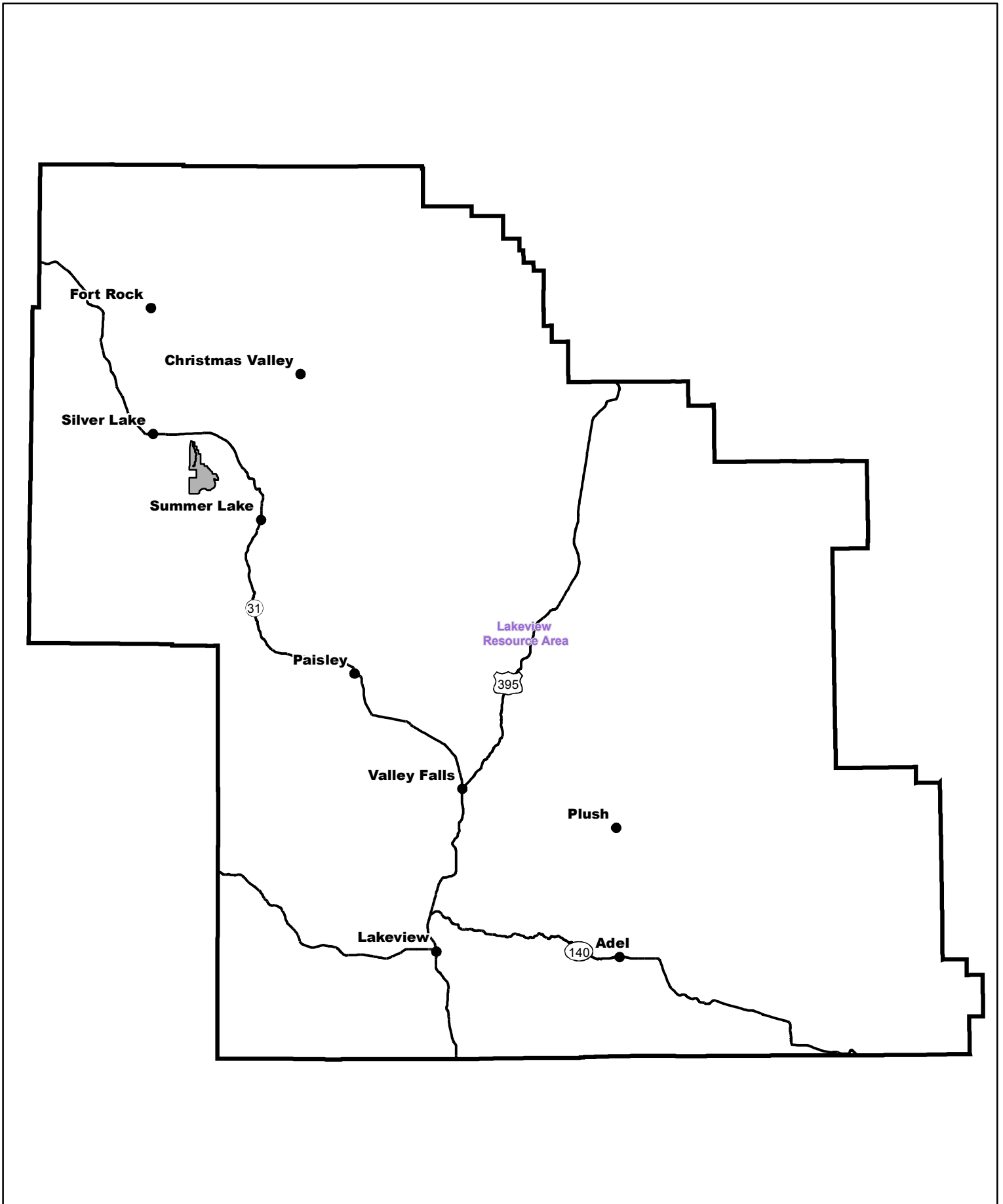
6/4/18
Date


Approved by:

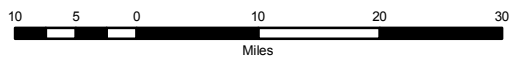

J. Todd Forbes
Field Manager


6/4/18
Date

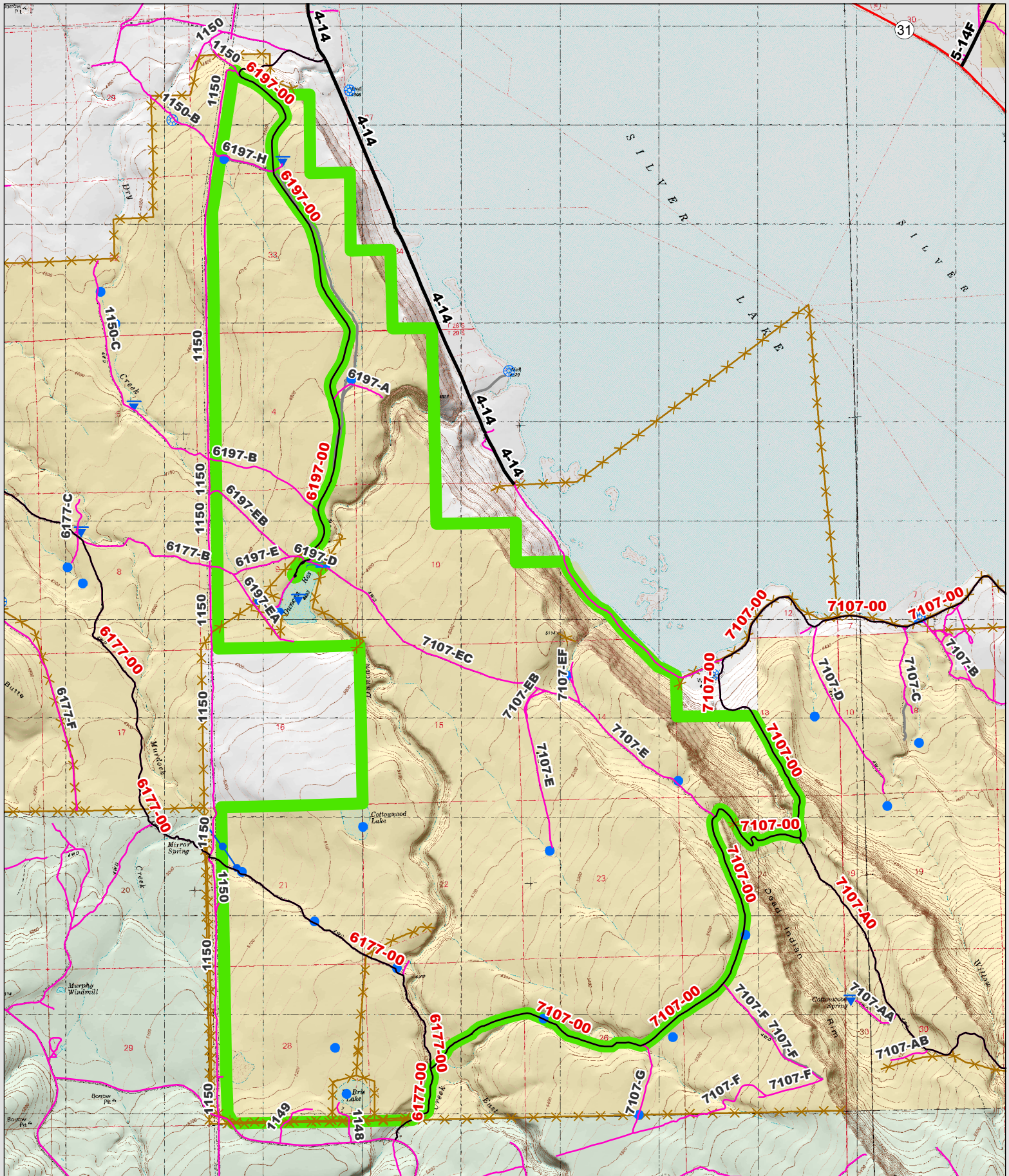
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.



 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



 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
- 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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