

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-117E/ Fish Creek Parcel E

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 Name(s)/Number(s):** 1-117B/ Monument Flat (Fish Creek Rim)

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 |
|---------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 1-117B | 18,520 | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| 1-117E* | 40 | Y | Y | Y | Y |

* 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:

Unit 1-117B was described as fairly narrow and contained portions of sage covered Monument Flat on the west. The southern end dropped abruptly into Deep Creek Canyon and contained a small canyon, Sweeney Canyon. The eastern portion contained Lynch's Rim, a dramatic fault scarp which rose some 1,300 feet above the Warner Valley and Warner Lakes. Above the rim and within the subunit there were minor basalt scarps and the vegetation was generally dense with juniper and aspen groves, mountain mahogany, big sagebrush and bitterbrush, with an understory of Idaho fescue. Naturalness was described as the following: Indian, Crump and Cleland Springs. Cleland Springs was an enclosed and developed spring. A closed road which was returning to a natural appearance led to a microwave tower in the southeast corner of the subunit. The microwave tower represented the most apparent work of man in the subunit. The "way" into Cleland Spring and Development at Cleland was noticeable, but only in the immediate area. The subunit also contained a TV repeater east of Cleland Springs. However, it was barely noticeable unless the visitor is at the site. The topography and density of vegetative growth on the majority of the unit masked the works of man. The unit remained in a generally natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable. Topography and cover on the east and southern portions of the subunit offered outstanding opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of others. Travel through the subunit offered one a true sense of isolation and closeness to a natural environment. The unit offered high potential for hunting and wildlife observation. The scenic values for photography and general hiker or backpacker were outstanding in character. Though the perimeter of the area is readily accessible, the terrain and character of the area provided outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit was known to contain archeologic materials, though detailed inventories were not been completed.

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-117E/ Fish Creek Parcel E

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

Between 2006 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.

In 1980, much of this area was evaluated as part of the Fish Creek Rim (117B) inventory unit. Most of the Fish Creek Rim unit later became a designated wilderness

study area. It appears that some of the lands on the very northern end of the unit were dropped from the final WSA determination due to inter-mingled private land ownership. Since 1989, there have been changes in land ownership patterns along the northern end of the WSA. Three parcels (approximately 413 acres) representing recent acquisitions were evaluated for wilderness character during the Lakeview RMP process in 2001.

However, one isolated parcel of BLM land (approximately 40 acres) was in inadvertently left out of the 2001 RMP process. This unit has been assigned the name of Fish Creek Parcel E.

The BLM determined that Fish Creek Parcel E inventory unit is bounded by private lands on the north, east, and southwest corner; and contiguous with the Fish Creek Rim WSA to the west and southeast.

Thus, based on these boundary determinations, the BLM found the Fish Creek Parcel E inventory unit does not meet the minimum size criteria at approximately 40 acres of BLM-administered lands. However, it does meet one of the exceptions to the size criteria; namely, that it is contiguous with BLM's 16,690-acre Fish Creek Rim WSA (OR-1-117).

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 7.5 miles south of Plush, Oregon. The unit is approximately 0.25 miles long by 0.25 miles wide. The unit is entirely composed of the northeast facing slope of Lynchs Rim (5,300 - 6,400 ft.) Vegetatively, the unit is comprised of approximately 30 acres of moderate to high density juniper, along with sagebrush and grasses.

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

Historic Unit 1-117B was found to contain a few developed springs and "ways," and a microwave/ TV tower. However, the topography and density of vegetative growth on the majority of the unit masked the works of man. The unit was found to be in a generally natural condition with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.

The 1991 Wilderness Study Report described the Fish Creek Rim WSA as possessing minor spring developments, several miles of fence line, waterholes, reservoirs, "ways," TV antennae/ microwave facility, and a 750-KV power line just outside the

western boundary. However, all disturbances were noted as extremely localized and screened by topography and vegetation. Overall, the unit was found to be in an essentially natural condition primarily influenced by the forces of nature.

The unit currently lacks any known man-made developments or disturbances and was therefore found to be in a predominantly natural condition.

Based on a review of all the available information including photos, staff knowledge, and field review, the BLM concluded the Fish Creek Parcel E unit appears in natural condition where the imprint of man is substantially unnoticeable. Furthermore, since the unit is now contiguous with the Fish Creek Rim WSA, the Fish Creek Parcel E 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 Fish Creek Parcel E 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 No N/A

Historic Unit 1-117B was found to possess outstanding opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of others. Travel through the subunit would provide a visitor a true sense of isolation and closeness to a natural environment due to topography and vegetative cover on the east and southern portions of the subunit.

The 1991 Wilderness Study Report found opportunities for solitude within the Fish Creek Rim WSA to be outstanding due to the large size of the unit and wooded areas containing mountain mahogany or juniper below the rim.

The BLM determined that there are opportunities for solitude across the unit due to some topographic and vegetative screening. The unit is composed of the northeast rocky facing slope of Lynchs Rim (5,300 - 6,400 ft.) and is covered by of moderate to high density juniper on well over half of the unit. Due to the above-described topography and vegetative conditions within the unit, one would be able to avoid the sights and sounds of others within the unit to some degree.

Additionally, these opportunities for solitude would be enhanced by the additive effect of outstanding solitude present within the contiguous 16,690-acre Fish Creek Rim WSA 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 Fish Creek Parcel E inventory unit due to the contiguous values of the Fish Creek 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

Historic Unit 1-117B was found to possess high potential for hunting and wildlife observation. Opportunities for photography, hiking, and backpacking were also considered outstanding.

The 1991 Wilderness Study Report found opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation within the Fish Creek Rim WSA to be outstanding. The following recreation opportunities were described: easy to extremely rugged hiking, with the most challenging opportunities on the east-facing scarp; good camping areas above the rim in mountain mahogany and aspen groves; excellent deer and antelope hunting; observation and photography of mammals, birds, plants, geologic features and rock art; sightseeing from Lynchs Rim with spectacular views of the Warner Lakes, Hart Mountain, the Warner Mountains, Drakes Peak, the Fremont National Forest, and Deep Creek.

The BLM determined that the Fish Creek Parcel E inventory unit provides opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation to some degree though hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, camping, wildlife observation, exploration, scenery, photography, stargazing, trapping, and hunting.

Additionally, opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation would be enhanced by the additive effect of outstanding opportunities present within the contiguous 16,690-acre Fish Creek Rim WSA 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 Fish Creek Parcel E inventory unit due to the contiguous values of the Fish Creek Rim WSA.

(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 mule deer, California bighorn sheep, and golden eagle habitat.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-117E/ Fish Creek Parcel E

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


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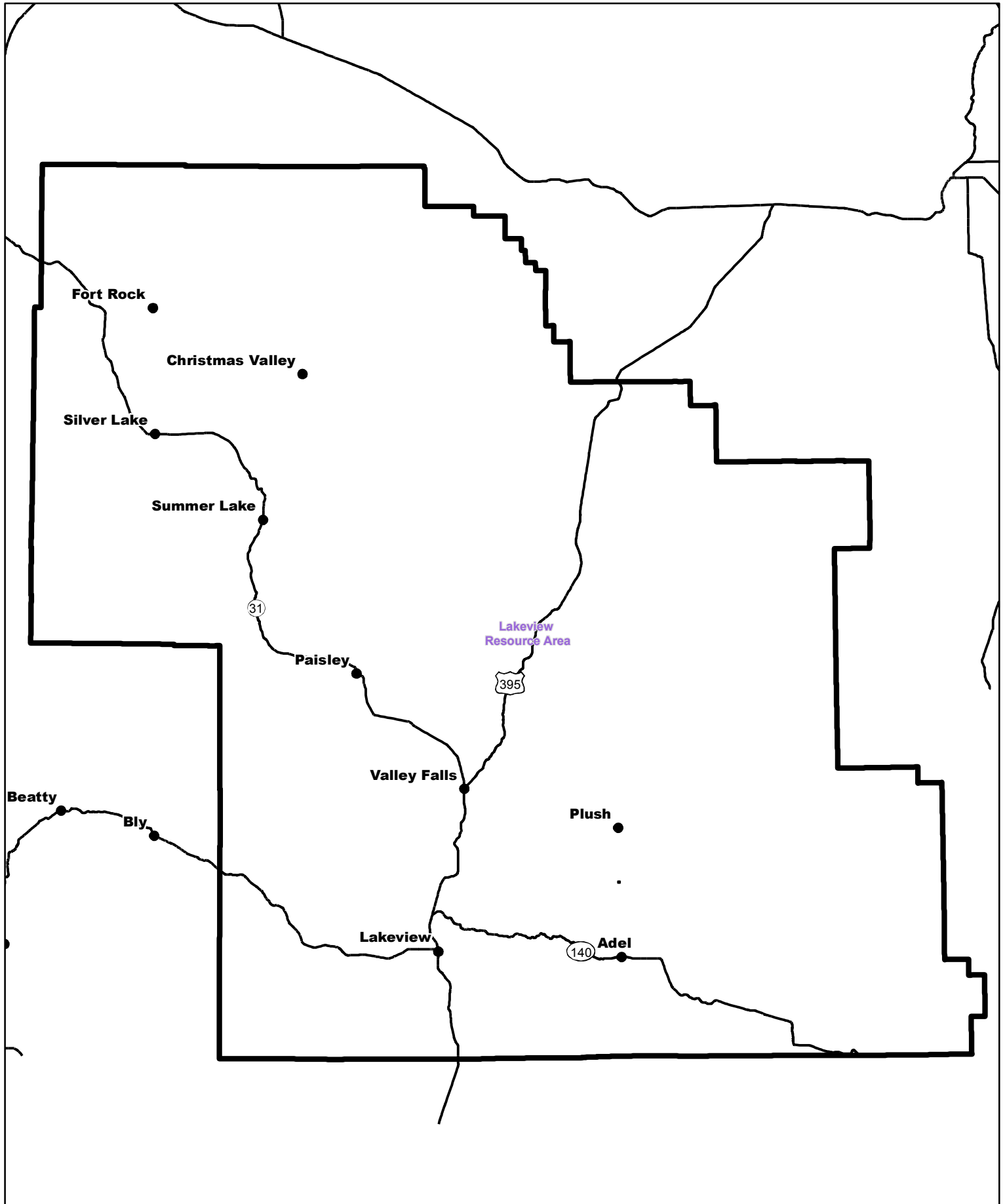
 6/4/18
Date


Approved by:

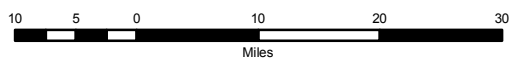

J. Todd Forbes
Field Manager


 6-4-18
Date

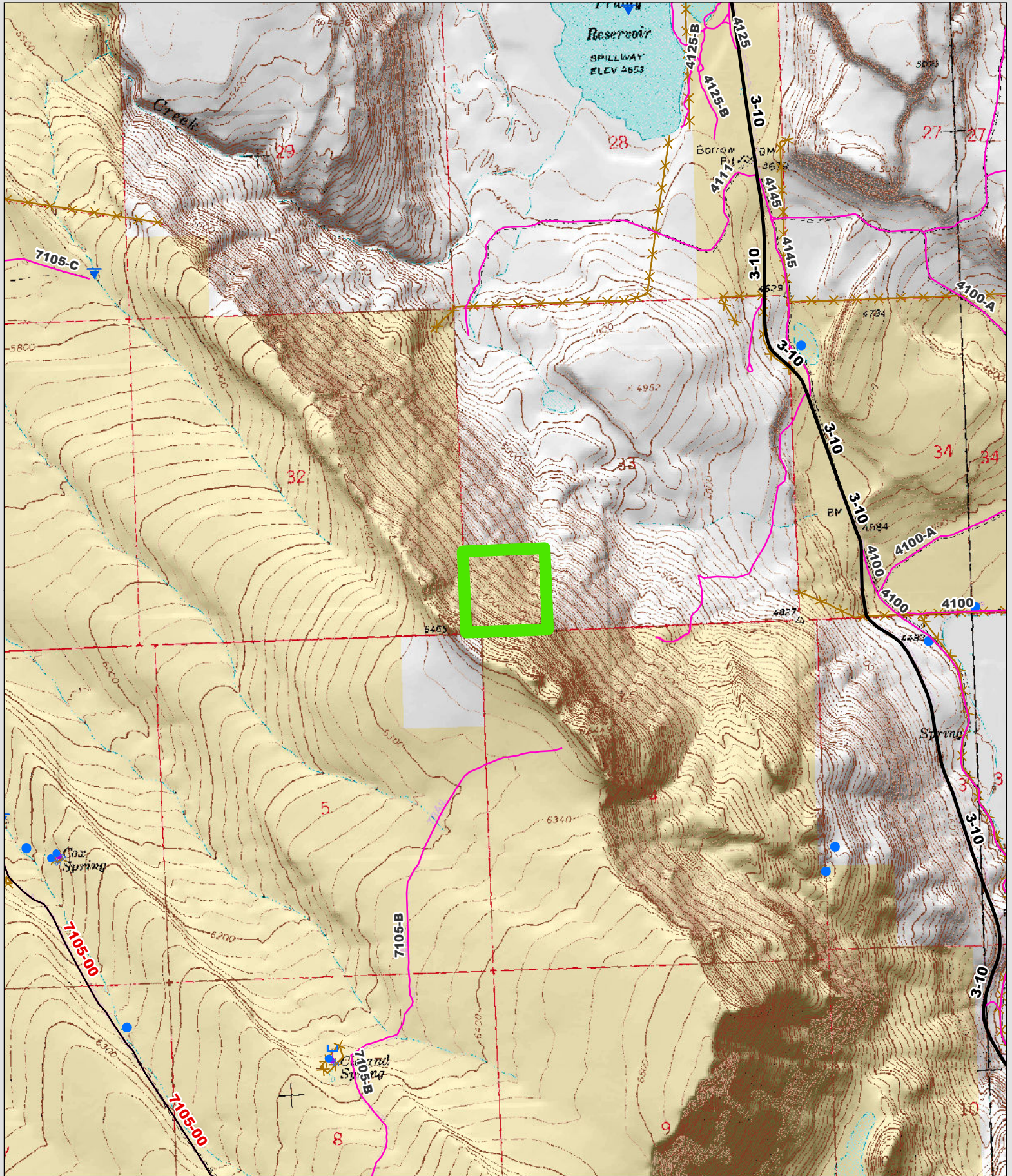
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.



 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

0.45 0.225 0 0.45 Miles

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