

Year: 2020

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-123/ Fish 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  Yes  (if more than one unit is within the area, list the names/numbers of those units):

a) **Inventory Source:** Wilderness – Proposed Initial Inventory: Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, April 1979.

b) **Inventory Unit Number(s)/ Name(s):** 1-123/ Calderwood Reservoir - Fish Lake

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** Proposed Initial Inventory: Roadless Areas and Islands Which Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics; USDI BLM - Oregon, 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 and answer each question individually for each inventory unit):

Unit #	Size (acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
1-123	6,200	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
1-123*	7,335	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 1979, this unit was described as containing broken rims and dry lake bottoms. Native vegetation was sagebrush; however over 2,500 acres had been sprayed and seeded. Because

of these land treatments, man's work dominated the unit. Solitude, primitive recreation, and supplemental values were not evaluated.

## FORM 2

### DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

**Unit Number/Name:** OR-015-123/ Fish Lake

**(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 424,570-acre Hart Mountain Proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA). 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. The photos submitted by ONDA were taken in 2004. They identified this large area as having no interior routes, which met the BLM wilderness inventory definition of a road (see Map, p. 96 of ONDA 2005). In 2018, the BLM received an additional citizen inventory from the O'Keeffe ranch. All these materials were considered during the BLM's wilderness inventory process for this area.

Between 2008 and 2019, 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 the submitted citizen inventories mentioned above 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 in boundary roads. Hart Mountain proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is comprised of several smaller inventory units, which must be evaluated individually. BLM also reviewed the O'Keeffe submission, but did not make any route changes based on this information.

The BLM determined that the inventory unit is bounded by BLM Roads 6152-00 and 6132-00 on the north and east; and 6152-A0 on the west. Additionally, due to changes in boundary and road determinations, several unnatural features (well house, propane tank, pipeline, and water tank) were removed in the southwest, while 17 acres were added to the southern tip of the inventory unit.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Fish Lake inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 7,330 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 7 miles east of the town of Adel, Oregon. The inventory unit is approximately 7.5 miles long by 1.5 miles wide. The inventory unit is very topographically diverse with broken rims, buttes, peaks, ridges, tabletops, canyons, and drainages. The unit is dominated by Fish Creek and associated canyon, draining south to north over 5 miles, and incorporates two large waterbodies (Calderwood Reservoir and Fish Lake). Additionally there are 3 large rims running through the center of the unit (ranging from 3 to 6 miles long and 200 to 600 feet tall). Elevation within the unit ranges from 4,735 feet near Calderwood Reservoir to 5,625 feet atop a point on the southwest rim. The inventory unit is largely covered with sagebrush, grass, and scattered western juniper. However, there are 3 stands of western juniper (approximately 200 acres) within the Fish Creek drainage in the central portion of the unit. Additionally, a prescribed burn (1986) and a wildfire (1974) burned almost 350 acres in the central-eastern portion of the unit.

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

In 1979, 500 acres of the unit had been recently sprayed and seeded with crested wheatgrass. Due to the visual impacts of this treatment, the BLM determined that the unit was dominated by man's work and was not in a natural condition.

ONDA's 2005 inventory concluded that their Hart Mountain Proposed Wilderness Study Area appears in a natural condition, primarily affected by the forces of nature. "Many of the manmade developments [are]...deteriorated making them appear more natural in the landscape, they do not have a cumulative impact to the area (p. 92-93 of ONDA 2005)." However, as noted above, the BLM found that this proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is comprised of several smaller inventory units, within which the natural character must be evaluated individually.

The O'Keeffe Ranch 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 unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 2,572 acres of chemical treatments, 1,199 acres of seeding, 216 acres of wildfire, 125 acres of prescribed burns, 12 miles of motorized routes, 3 miles of reclaiming routes, 3 miles of fence lines, 8 waterholes, 2 dams, 2 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 (1/4<sup>th</sup> 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. In addition, the majority of disturbances are located near the perimeter of the unit and, as such, have a small area of influence. Furthermore, areas that were allowed to revegetate naturally or seeded after prescribed burns and wildfire have been invaded by grasses, rabbit brush and sagebrush. These portions of the unit has 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

In 1979, outstanding opportunities for solitude were not evaluated.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger 424,570-acre Hart Mountain Proposed WSA as having outstanding opportunities for solitude based on sheer size as their proposal is contiguous with other inventory units and therefore no longer stands alone. As such, the sights and sounds of others could easily be avoided. ONDA noted that there are still flat and exposed slopes, but they do not dominate the entirety of the proposed WSA and one could easily find areas that have topographic screening. However, the BLM did not find this proposal to be one large roadless area but is comprised of a number of smaller inventory units that must be evaluated individually.

The BLM determined that there are several outstanding opportunities for solitude across the area due to topographic and vegetative screening. The inventory unit is very topographically diverse with broken rims, buttes, peaks, ridges, tabletops, canyons, and drainages. The unit is dominated by Fish Creek and associated canyon, draining south to north over 5 miles, and incorporates two large waterbodies (Calderwood Reservoir and Fish Lake). Additionally there are 3 large rims running through the center of the unit (ranging from 3 to 6 miles long and 200 to 600 feet tall). Elevation within the unit ranges from 4,735 feet near Calderwood Reservoir to 5,625 feet atop a point on the southwest rim. Western juniper stands have greatly expanded in acreage (200), height, width, and density. Sufficient pockets of juniper for screening purposes can now be found within the Fish Creek drainage, in the central portion of the unit. Due to the above-described compartmentalized topography and vegetative conditions within the unit, one would easily be able to avoid the sights and sounds of others within 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 Fish Lake 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

In 1979, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation were not evaluated.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger 424,570-acre Hart Mountain Proposed WSA as having outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation based on sheer size as their proposal is contiguous with other inventory units and therefore no longer stands alone. ONDA considered potential opportunities for hunting, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, wildlife observation, and photography as outstanding (p. 93 of ONDA 2005). However, the BLM did not find this proposal to be one large roadless area, but is comprised of a number of smaller inventory units that must be evaluated individually. The BLM finds that all activities listed above in combination with the diversity of camping, exploration, sightseeing, and stargazing are exceptional. The BLM determined that opportunities for hiking along the units large rims, ranging from 3 to 6 miles long and 200 to 600 feet tall, represent 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 ravens, pigmy rabbit, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, California bighorn sheep, and sage-grouse habitat.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

**Unit Number and Name:** OR-015-123/ Fish 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):**

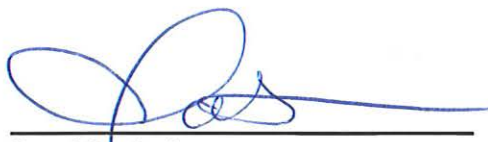
- X   The area- or a portion of the area- has wilderness character: *(items 1, 2 and 3 must be checked "yes")*.
- The area does not have wilderness character: *(any of items 1, 2 and 3 are checked "no")*.

**Prepared by** (Member Names and Titles):

  
Shane Garside: Outdoor Recreation Planner

  2/14/2020    
Date

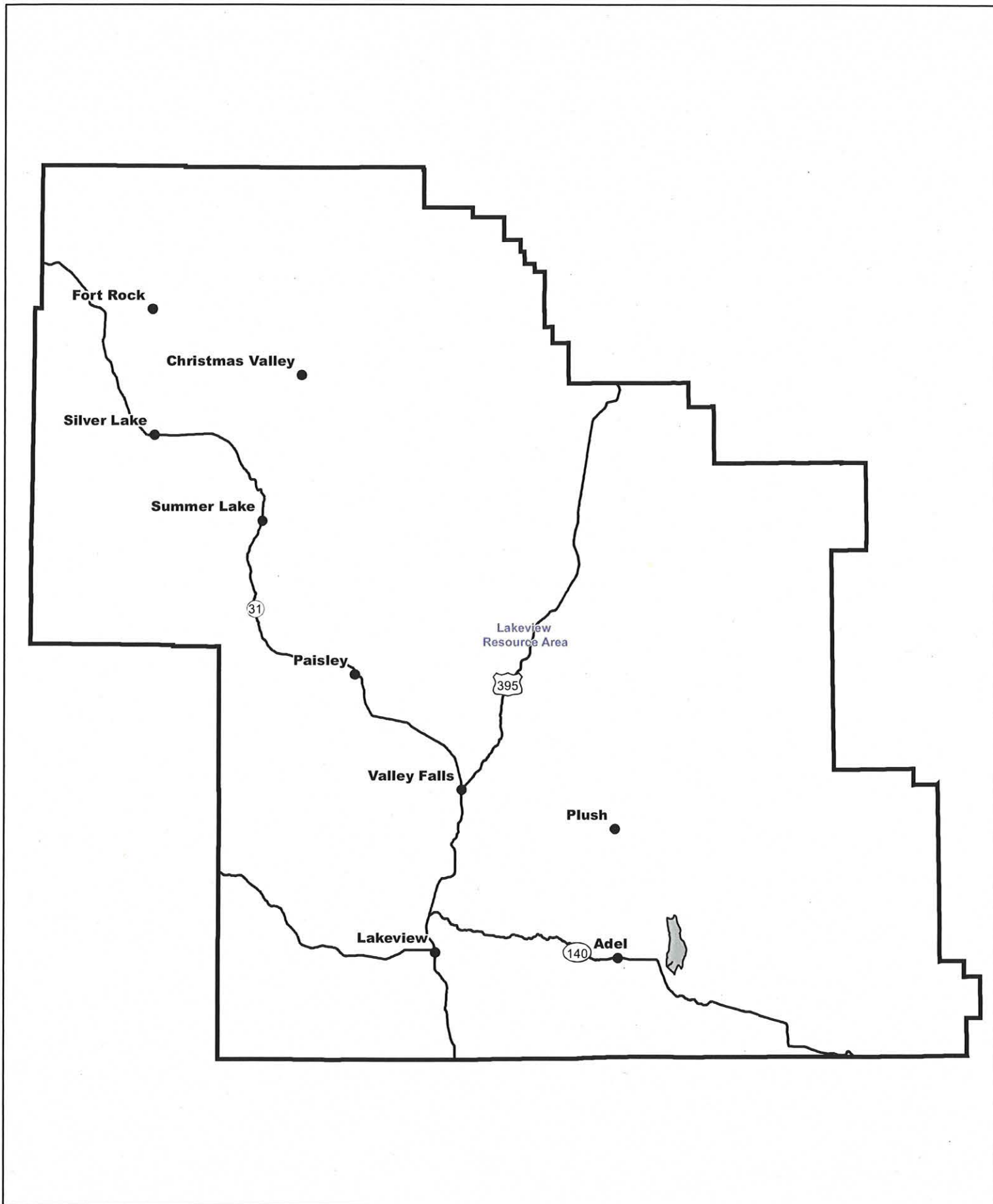
**Approved by:**

  
Jami Ludwig  
Field Manager

  2/14/20    
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.*



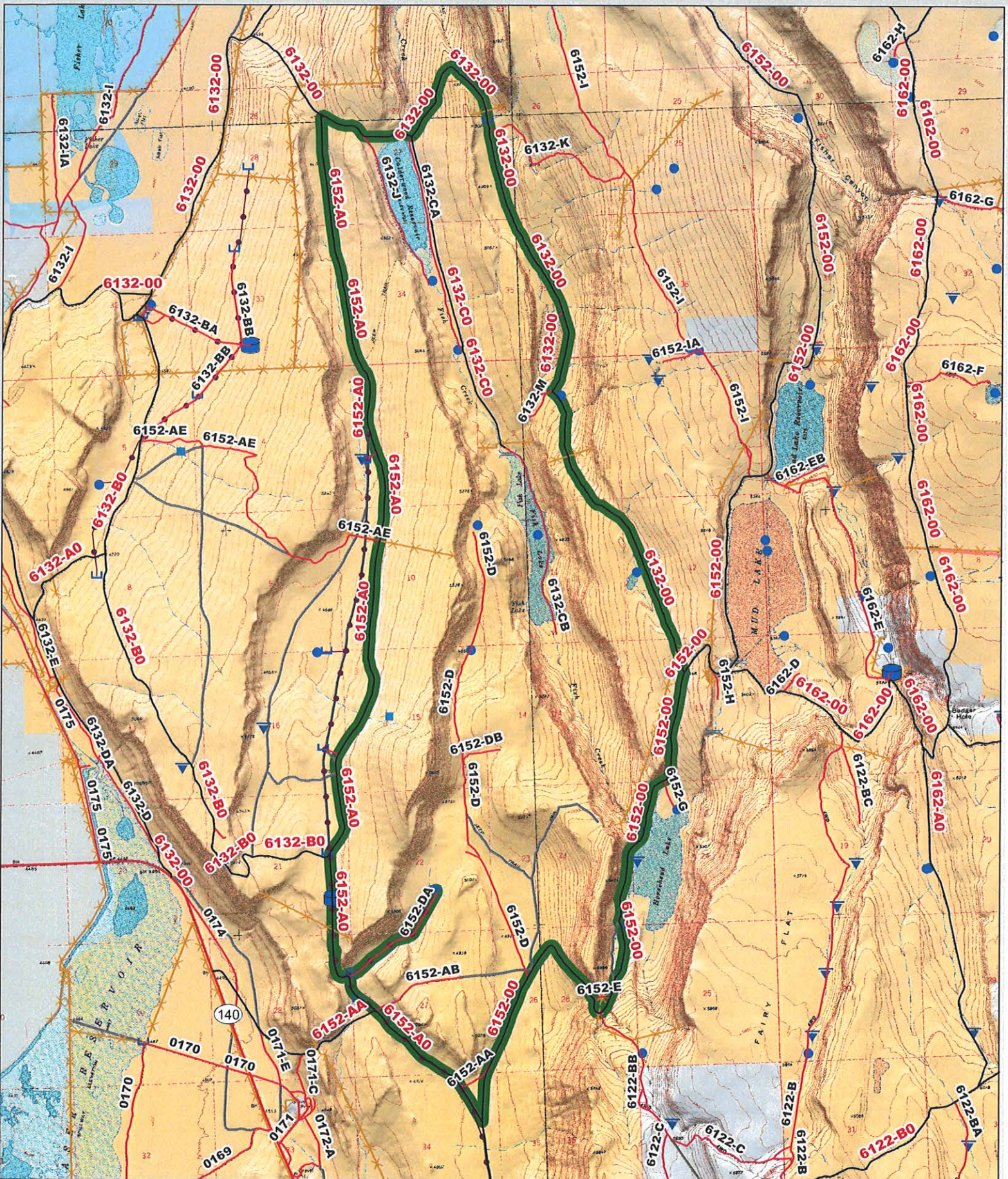


Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



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<p><b>Ownership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #FFD700; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Bureau of Land Management</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #90EE90; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> U.S. Forest Service</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> State</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #FFFFFF; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Private/Unknown</li> </ul>		<p><b>Roads/Trails</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Motorized Routes</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid red; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Highways</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px dashed red; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Reclaiming Routes</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px dashed black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Interim Routes</li> </ul>		<p><b>Pipelines and Ditches</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Ditch</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Water Pipeline</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #0000FF; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Guzzler</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px dashed black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Fences</li> </ul>		<p><b>Water Developments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Dam</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Reservoir</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Spring Development</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Trough</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Water Diversion</li> </ul>		<p><b>Water Features</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Water Tank</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Waterhole</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Well - Water</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Scale:</b> 1 0.5 0 1 Miles</p>						<p><small>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.</small></p>			