

Year: 2020

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-71/ Gray's Butte

**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: Oregon and Washington Final Intensive Inventory Decisions November 1980

b) **Inventory Unit Number(s)/Name(s):** 1-71/ Gray's Butte

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** U.S. Department of the Interior: Bureau of Land Management Oregon: Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decisions November, 1980

d) **BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):** Lakeview District, Lakeview Resource Area, Lakeview, Oregon

**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):

<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Size (historic acres)</b>	<b>Natural Condition? Y/N</b>	<b>Outstanding Solitude? Y/N</b>	<b>Outstanding Primitive &amp; Unconfined Recreation? Y/N</b>	<b>Supplemental Values? Y/N</b>
1-71^	25,040	N	N	N	Y
1-71*	25,636	N	N	N	N/A

^ Including 250 acres of private/state lands inholdings.

\* The inventory of this unit was updated in 2008. However, due to a State Office-sponsored Wilderness Inventory Consistency Evaluation and subsequent guidance, the 2008 inventory analysis and findings are being replaced by this current 2017 inventory review. Documentation of the 2008 inventory can be found in the wilderness inventory project record.

*Summarize any known primary reasons for prior inventory findings listed in this table):*  
In 1980, unit 1-71 was described as long and narrow, running 20 miles along the northern end of Abert Rim and varies in width from 1 to 3 miles wide. The unit above the rim is sagebrush flats, while the unit below the rim is covered with crested wheatgrass seedings along highway 395. The area contains six substantially unnoticeable small reservoirs, Highway Well Rest Area, a developed cattle camp and overall was not found to meet the wilderness criteria. The unit offered no reasonable opportunity for solitude due primarily to flat terrain and the long narrow shape. The unit also offered little other than hunting in the way of unconfined recreation potential. However, the unit was found to possess supplemental values associated with bighorn sheep.

## **FORM 2**

### **DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS**

**Unit Number/Name:** OR-015-71/ Gray's Butte

**(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 67,948-acre Juniper Mountain proposed 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 wilderness inventory maintenance process for this area. The photos submitted by ONDA were taken in July of 2004 and June of 2005. Additional photos were provided in 2007. They proposed the Juniper Mountain proposed WSA was one large area (comprised of four former inventory units: 1-71, 1-72, 1-85, and 1-86) having no interior routes which meet the wilderness inventory definition of a boundary road. In 2018, the BLM received an additional citizen inventory from the O'Leary Ranch. All these materials were considered during the BLM's wilderness inventory process for this area.

Between 2008 and 2019, BLM conducted a field inventory of the area to update its road and wilderness inventory 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 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 fact, still boundary roads. The BLM found the Juniper Mountain proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is made of several smaller units that are similar, though not exactly the same, as those units identified during the 1979 and 1980 wilderness inventory

effort. BLM also reviewed the O'Leary submission, but did not make any route changes based on this information.

The Grays Butte unit is bounded to the west by state land, U.S. Highway 395 right-of-way, three mineral site right-of-ways, a power line right of way, and interim road 7135-B0; on the south by County Road 3-10 (Hogback Road) right-of-way; on the east by BLM Roads 6165-00, 7155-00, 7155-A0, and interim road 7155-AE; and on the north by a power line and BLM Road 6185-00. The boundary of this unit was changed to remove approximately 600 acres of right-of-ways and disturbance (rest area, mineral pits, and water storage tanks). Additionally, a portion of interim road 7135-B0 was determined to not meet the definition of a road. However, the route persisted as a boundary to cut out a high concentration of unnatural features (pipelines). A portion of route 7155-A0 was also found to no longer meet the definition of a road, which resulted in approximately a 1,200-acre addition to the unit.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM identified the Grays Butte inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 26,222 acres of BLM-administered land.

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 immediately east of U.S. Highway 395 and Alkali Lake, Oregon. The unit is approximately 20 miles long and 1 to 4 miles wide. The unit is dominated by Abert Rim running north to south and Gray's Butte in the northern portion of the area. Areas east of the rim are comprised of sagebrush, rolling terrain and several small, ephemeral lakes, while the western half of the area below the rim is comprised of crested wheatgrass and mainly flat terrain with a few foothills and minor rims. The unit contains one 340-acre inholding in the southern third of the area.

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

In 1980, portions of the unit above the rim were described as generally natural with the exception of six small waterholes that were so dispersed they were substantially unnoticeable. Below the rim, approximately 7,500 acres of the unit consisted of crested wheatgrass seeding. The western boundary of the unit also included Highway Well Rest Area and a developed cattle camp, which were found to be substantially noticeable human imprints on the landscape.

ONDA's 2005 Juniper Mountain proposed WSA inventory found that unit 1-71 has reverted to native vegetation and noted that they could not find evidence of the cow camp mentioned in the 1980 BLM inventory. ONDA also proposed to exclude Highway Well and a nearby seeding from their proposal. The inventory concluded that the area as whole

appears to have healthy native vegetation and other aspects of the unit appear completely natural.

The O'Leary Ranch noted several manmade structures and disturbances in the area. 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: 22 waterholes, 3 reservoirs, 8 troughs, 6 guzzlers, 12.5 miles of fence line, 1 mile of ditch lines, 22.5 miles of motorized routes, 6.5 miles of reclaiming routes, 1,266 acres of historically plowed ground, 1,204 acres of chemical weed treatments, 2,878 acres of drill seedings, and 674 acres of wildfire.

Presently, almost 4 decades after the original inventory, these developments are weathered and grown over with herbaceous grasses, sagebrush, and a few pockets of western juniper. 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 of the area also plays a large role in screening disturbances and man-made developments. Areas that possessed obvious visual impacts and/or high concentrations of disturbances have been excluded from the unit (Highway Well Rest Area, large water tanks, several mineral pits, and a pipeline). Additionally, like ONDA, the BLM could not locate evidence of a historic cattle camp within the unit.

Based on a review of all the available information including photos, staff knowledge, and field review, the BLM concluded that the natural condition of the unit has improved since the original inventory. The Grays Butte unit appears in natural condition where the imprint of man is substantially unnoticeable. Thus, the unit overall was found to be primarily affected by the forces of nature.

**(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?**

Yes  No  N/A

The original 1980 inventory found the unit offered no reasonable opportunity for solitude due primarily to flat terrain and the unit's long narrow shape.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger Juniper 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. Additionally, the proposal states that there is extensive topographic diversity in the Gray's Butte area, which provides screening from other visitors and offers hikers and horseback riders a sense of outstanding solitude.

The BLM determined that there are opportunities for solitude along Abert Rim's many draws, folds, and broken rims. Additionally, the northern portion of the unit is a topographically diverse formation dominated by Gray' Butte (approx. 6200 ft.), with several sharp peaks, steep ridges, and many closed in ravines and drainages that 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 Gray's Butte unit possess outstanding opportunities for solitude.

**(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?**      Yes   X   No        N/A       

The original 1980 inventory found the unit offered little in the way of unconfined recreation potential other than some hunting opportunities.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger Juniper Mountain proposed WSA as having outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation based on sheer size as their proposal is contiguous with other inventory units and therefore no longer stands alone. Recreation activities abound with outstanding opportunities for wildlife viewing, photography, and backpacking.

The BLM finds all activities listed above in combination with the diversity of hunting, camping, horseback riding, exploration, and sightseeing are exceptional. The BLM determined that opportunities for hiking along Abert Rim and within the Gray's Butte area represent unique opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

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

The original 1980 inventory found the unit to possess supplemental values associated with bighorn sheep. The BLM also noted the presence of raptor nesting (golden eagle), chucker, pigmy rabbit, pronghorn, deer winter range, and priority sage-grouse habitat as potential supplemental values.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

**Unit Number and Name:** OR-015-71/ Gray's Butte

**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

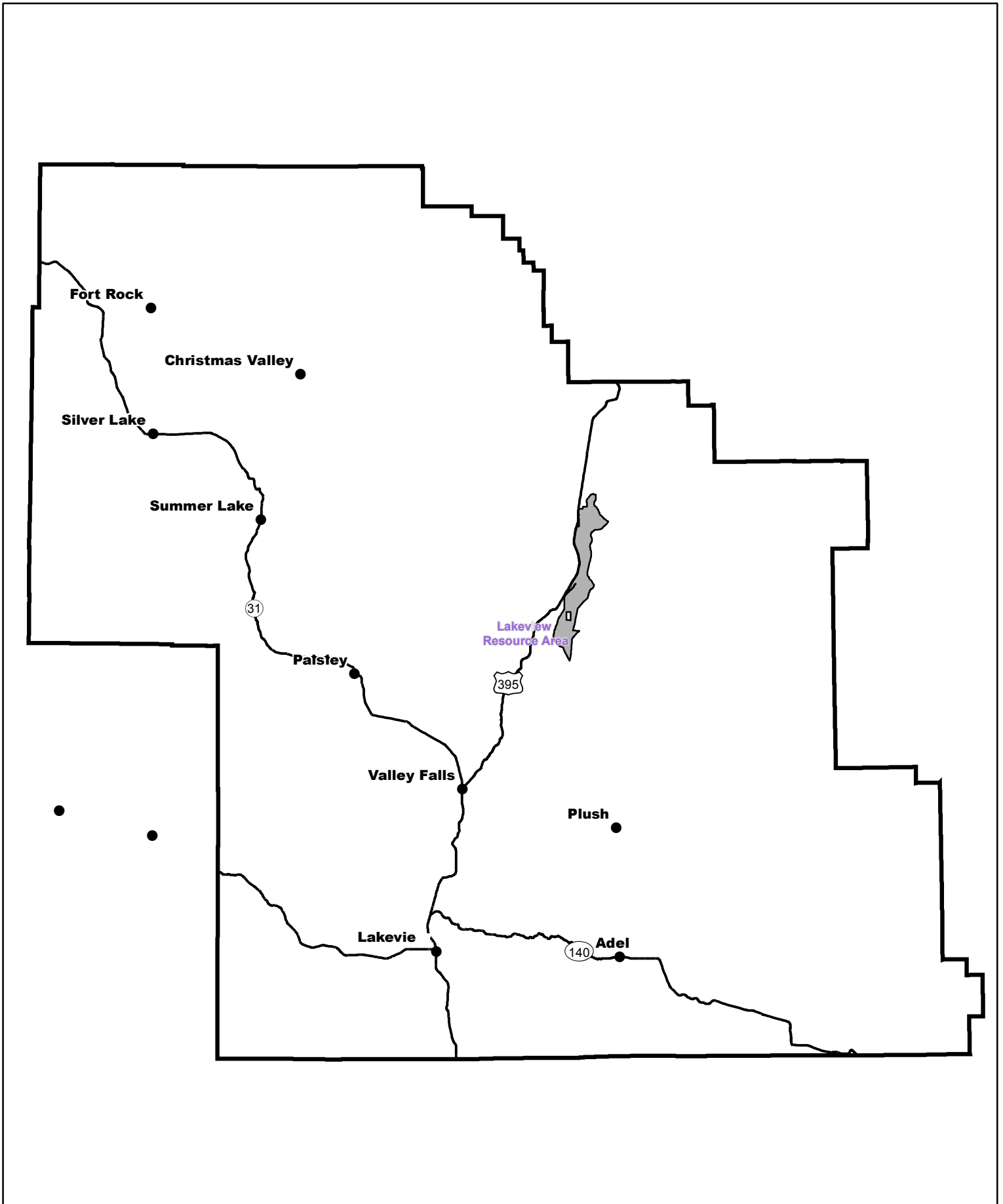
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**Approved by:**

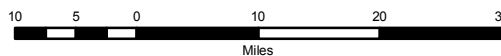
  
Jami Ludwig  
Field Manager


  10/14/2020    
Date

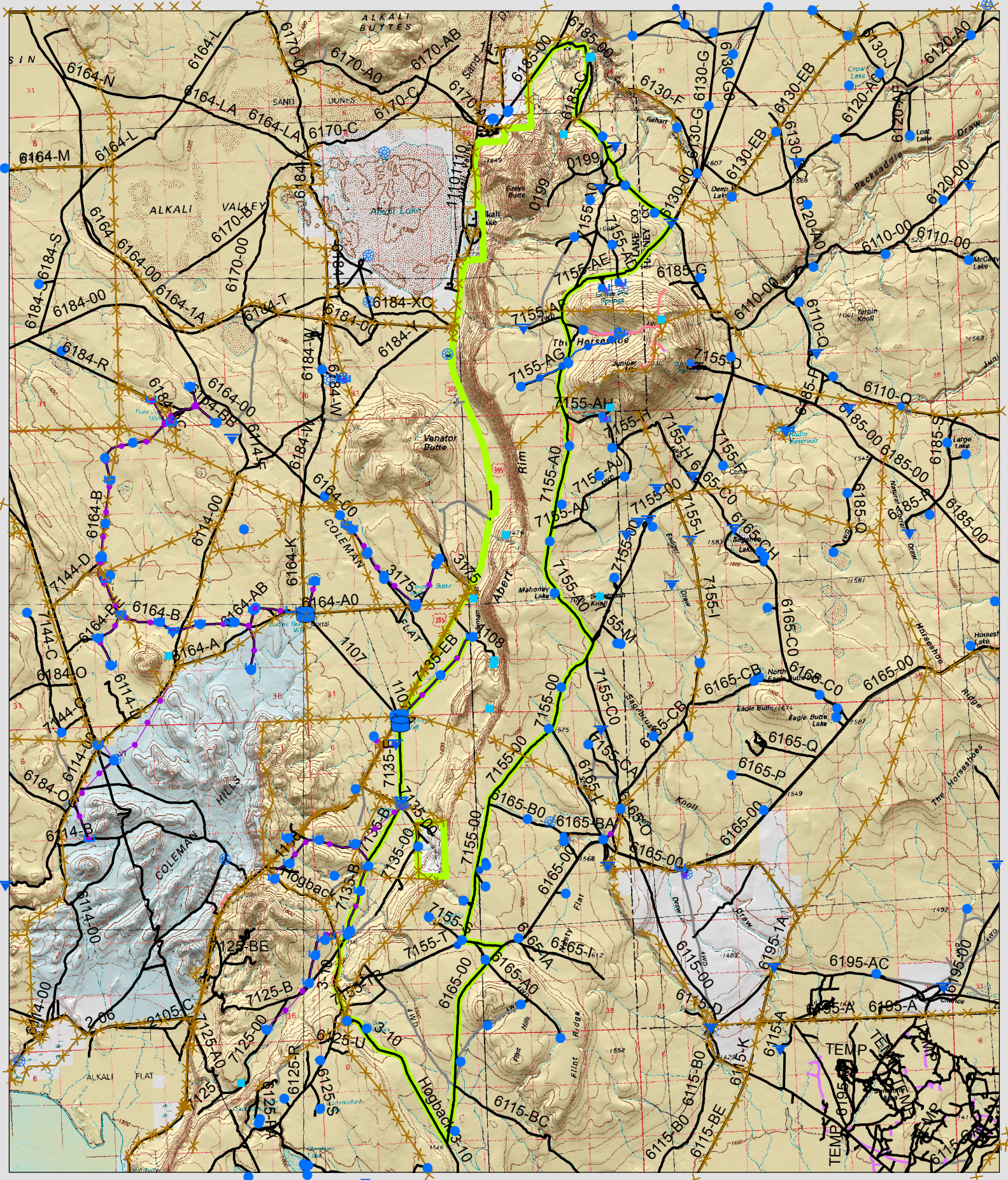
*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.*



 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



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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: #90EE90; 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: #FFFFE0; 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 gray; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Closed Routes</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px dashed gray; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Reclaiming Routes</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px dashed purple; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Motorized and Non-Motorized Trails</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pipelines and Ditches</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #0000FF; border-radius: 50%; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Ditch</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FF00FF; border-radius: 50%; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Water Pipeline</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #00FFFF; border-radius: 50%; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Guzzler</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px solid 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: 15px; background-color: #0000FF; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Dam</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #0000FF; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Reservoir</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Spring Development</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Trough</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; 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: 15px; background-color: #0000FF; border-radius: 50%; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Water Tank</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #0000FF; border-radius: 50%; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Waterhole</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #0000FF; border-radius: 50%; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Well - Water</li> </ul>	<p>1 0.5 0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles</p> <p>W N E S</p> <p> 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.</p>
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