

Year: 2020

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-125/ Greaser Ridge*

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 Inventory – Final Intensive Inventory Decisions; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, November 1980.

b) **Inventory Unit Number(s)/ Name(s):** 1-125/ Horsehead Lake

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 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
1-125	12,000	N	N	N	N/A
Small Unnumbered Units/ Hart Mtn South Area*	N/A	N/A	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 1980, unit 1-125 was described as being typical of the northern portion of the basin and range province with faulted lava flows leaving steep escarpments, with flat plateaus between. The unit contained four north to south trending scarps. Fairy Flat was a large plateau area contained within the unit. The southeast portion of the unit was a sage flat located above Greaser Basin. The unit contained five dry lakebeds of significant size. Vegetation on the unit was primarily big sagebrush with stands of juniper along the rim. The unit did not meet the naturalness criteria and was found to be significantly affected by the works of man. There were six “ways” and numerous trails; cumulatively these had a substantial impact on the unit. There were eight reservoirs in the unit, which were substantially noticeable and had a considerable impact on Fairy Flat. A 600-acre drilled seeding existed in the southwest portion of the unit and a 340-acre drilled seeding existed in the northwest portion of the unit. These seedings represented significant intrusion on naturalness. Portions of the unit offered some minor degree of solitude. The unit as a whole did not offer an outstanding opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others. The unit offered opportunities for hiking, backpacking, photography, wildlife observation and hunting. These opportunities were not outstanding within the unit.

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-125/ Greaser Ridge

(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 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 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 6122-B0, BLM interim numbered road 6122-C0, and private lands on the north; 6122-00 on the east; U.S. Highway 140 right-of-way on the south; and 6152-00 on the west. Due to changes in boundary determinations (including road right-of-way buffer corrections) and the finding that BLM Road 6122-B0 meets the wilderness definition of a road, approximately 4,123 acres were removed from the northern third of historic inventory Unit 1-125. This evaluation focuses on this reduced unit and will hereby be referred to as the Greaser Ridge inventory unit.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Greaser Ridge inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 8,840 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:

This unit is located approximately 9 miles southeast of Adel, Oregon. The unit is approximately 5 miles long by 5 miles wide. Topographically, the unit is dominated by the broken eastern rims of Greaser Ridge (550-1,100 ft. high), which runs 8 miles parallel to the eastern, southern, and western boundaries of the unit. The unit ranges in elevation from 4,580 ft. to 6,222 feet. Apart from the rim, the western half of the unit is very diverse with numerous ridges, peaks, buttes (100-300 ft. tall), and drainages. The central upper plateau is comprised of a large depression (300-450 ft. deep) near Blackbird Waterhole. While, the northeastern plateau consists of half a dozen, sunken, lakebed derisions (20-40 ft. deep) including Gibson Lake. The southeast corner is characterized by the western half of Greaser Basin (550 ft. deep). While the southernmost border area contains approximately 4 miles of Greaser Canyon, with numerous unique geological rock formations. Approximately 1,000 acres of the unit (mostly along the central and eastern slopes of Greaser Ridge) is covered in moderate to high-density western juniper stand, much of which is old-growth. The remaining vegetation is scattered juniper, sagebrush, and grass.

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

In 1980, Unit 1-125 contained six “ways” and numerous trails; eight reservoirs two drill seedings (940 acres) in the southwest and northwest portions of the unit. The unit did not meet the naturalness criteria, and was found to be significantly affected by the works of man.

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: 605 acres of seedings, 485 acres of chemical treatments, 120 acres of mechanical treatments (chaining), 1 abandoned mine site (less than 1 acre), 3 miles of fence lines, 9.75 miles of motorized routes, 5.5 miles of reclaiming routes, 5 waterholes, and 2 reservoirs.

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 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.

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 X No N/A

In 1980, unit 1-125 offered some minor degree of solitude. However, the unit as a whole was not found offer an outstanding opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others.

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 (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 determined that there are several outstanding opportunities for solitude across the area due to topographic and vegetative screening. Topographically, the unit is dominated by the broken eastern rims of Greaser Ridge (550-1,100 ft. high), which runs 8 miles parallel to the eastern, southern, and western boundaries of the unit. The unit ranges in elevation from 4,580 ft. to 6,222 feet. Apart from the rim, the western half of the unit is very diverse with numerous ridges, peaks, buttes (100-300 ft. tall), and drainages. The central upper plateau is comprised of a large depression (300-450 ft. deep) near Blackbird Waterhole. While, the northeastern plateau consists of half a dozen, sunken, lakebed derisions (20-40 ft. deep) including Gibson Lake. The southeast corner is characterized by the western half of Greaser Basin (550 ft. deep). While the southernmost border area contains approximately 4 miles of Greaser Canyon, with numerous unique geological rock formations. Western juniper stands have greatly expanded in height, width, and density. Approximately 1,000 acres of the unit (mostly along the central and eastern slopes of Greaser Ridge) is covered in moderate to high-density western juniper stand, much of which is old-growth. 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 Greaser Ridge 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 1980, unit 1-125 offered opportunities for hiking, backpacking, photography, wildlife observation and hunting. However, these opportunities were not found to be outstanding within the unit.

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 the combination and diversity of hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, camping, wildlife observation, exploration, scenery, photography, stargazing, trapping, and hunting are exceptional. The BLM determined that hiking along Greaser Ridge and opportunities for viewing petroglyphs (some of the highest concentrations in the world) along lakebed rims and drainages throughout the unit represent 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 mule deer, pygmy rabbit, pronghorn antelope, California bighorn sheep, golden eagle, and sage-grouse habitat.

Additionally, approximately 2,048 acres of this unit is within the High Lakes Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), which was established in 2003 to protect unique cultural values.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-125/ Greaser Ridge

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

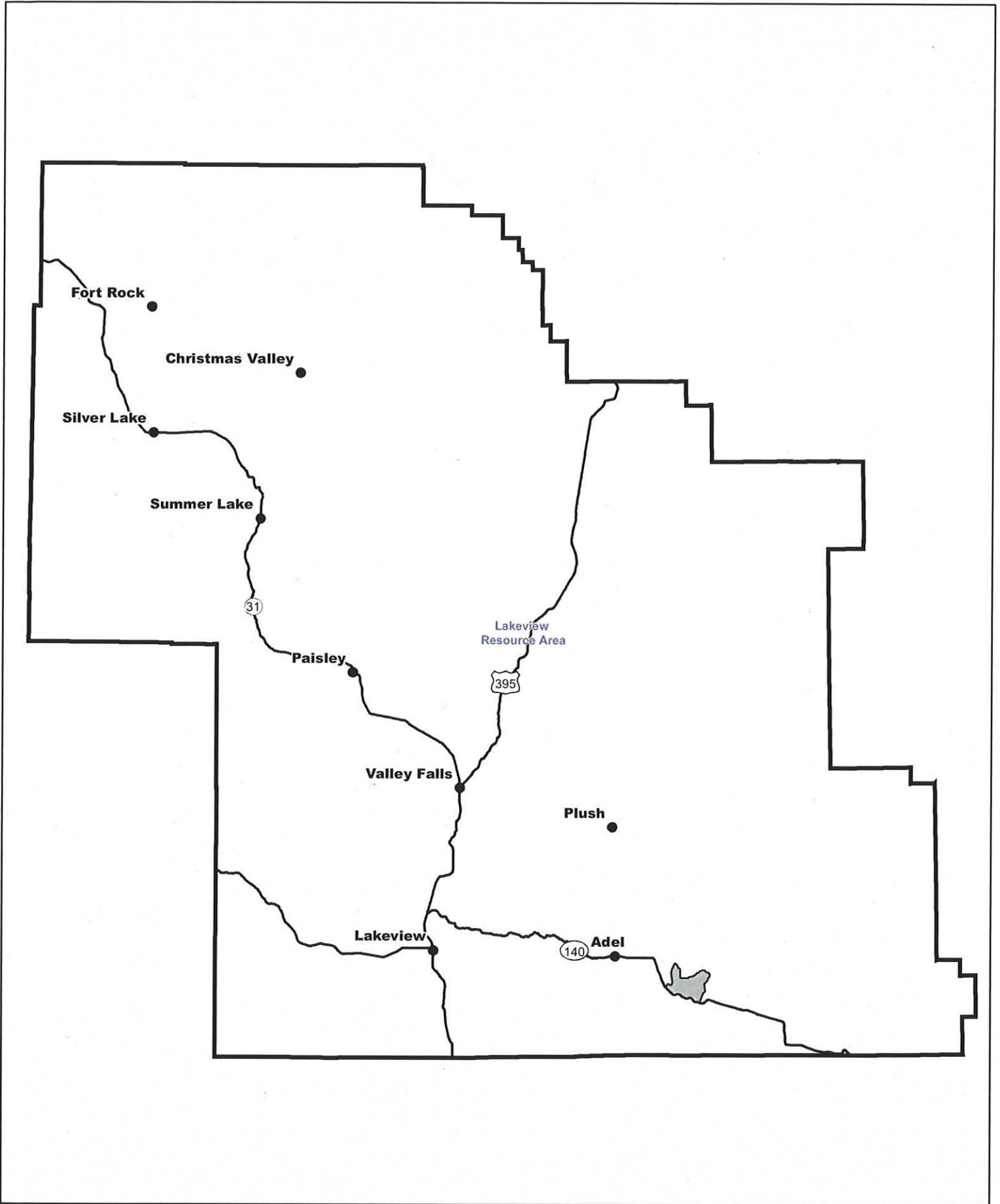
 2/14/2020
Date

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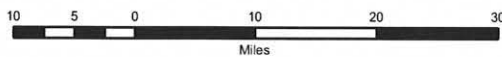

Jami Ludwig
Field Manager


 2/14/20
Date

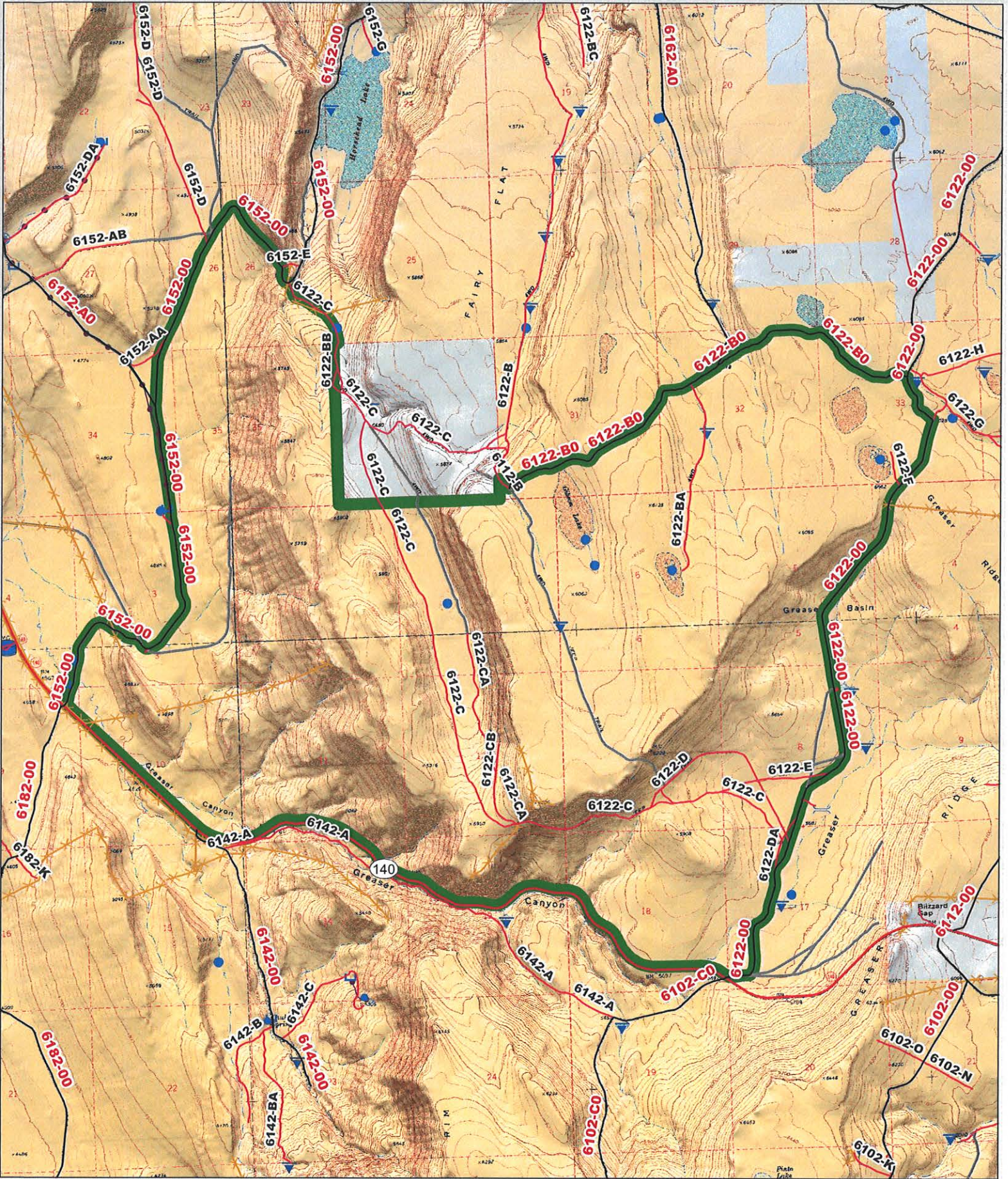
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.



 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



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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

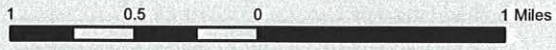
Pipelines and Ditches

- Ditch
- Water Pipeline
- Guzzler
- Fences

Water Developments

- Dam
- Reservoir
- Spring Development
- Trough
- Water Diversion

- Water Tank
- Waterhole
- Well - Water



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