

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-221/ Horsehead Mountain

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:

- a. BLM Wilderness Inventory files for Pacific Power and Light Company (PP&L) Transmission Line: PP&L Roadless Area Inventory Files (1977)
- b. Wilderness – Proposed Initial Inventory: Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, April 1979.
- c. 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.
- 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

c) 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. Intensive Wilderness Inventory: Final Decisions For 30 Selected Inventory Units and Proposed Decisions For Other Intensive Inventory Units; USDI BLM - Oregon, March 1980.

- d. 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
Small Unnumbered Units/ Cox Canyon Area*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

* The inventory of this unit was updated in 2013. However, due to a State Office-sponsored Wilderness Inventory Consistency Evaluation and subsequent guidance, the 2013 inventory analysis and findings are being replaced by this current 2018 inventory review. Documentation of the 2013 inventory can be found in the wilderness inventory project record.

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

No summaries are available for these small units, presumably because they all were found to be smaller than 5,000 acres during the previous inventory and were not documented in detail.

FORM 2

DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-221/ Horsehead Mountain

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

In 2007, the BLM received a citizen proposal from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) for the 462,828-acre Buzzard Creek 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. They identified this large area as having no interior routes, which met the BLM wilderness inventory definition of a road (see Map, p. 14 of ONDA 2007).

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 many of the routes ONDA identified as "ways" are boundary roads. Buzzard Creek proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is comprised of smaller inventory units, which must be evaluated individually.

The BLM determined that the inventory unit is bounded by BLM Roads 6110-A0, BLM interim numbered road 6110-CD, and private lands on the west, north and east; and 6110-C0 and 6110-00 on the south. Due to changes in boundary determinations (road corrections) and cutouts of unnatural features (abandoned mining disturbance and water tank), approximately 3.5 acres were removed from this unit. Portions of BLM Road 6110-A0 and 6110-B0 no longer meet the definition of a boundary road. Thus, portions of two historic small-unnumbered inventory units have been combined to form the new unit boundary. This evaluation focuses on these combined units and will hereby be referred to as the Horsehead Mountain inventory unit.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Horsehead Mountain inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 5,485 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 northeast of Alkali Lake, Oregon. The unit is approximately 4 miles long by 3 miles wide. Topographically, Horsehead Mountain (600-925 high) comprises eastern two-thirds of the unit. Horsehead Mountain is dominant and diverse, with numerous steep peaks, points, saddles, ridges, rims, folds, drainages, and aspects around the circumference of its formation. The unit contains three main drainages spread across the area. The eastern drainage forms the eastern bowl of Horsehead Mountain runs 2 miles (50-100 ft. deep) and drops 725 feet to the eastern boundary. The central drainage runs 2.5 miles (25-75 ft. deep) and drops 650 feet from the western slope of the mountain to the southern boundary. The eastern drainage breaks up the rolling topography of the western third of the unit and forms the upper portion of Smoke Out Canyon (75-150 ft. deep), with of half a dozen arms fanning out in all directions (totaling 3.5 miles). Approximately 2,000 acres of the unit (mostly in the western two-thirds, with half a dozen stands in the east) 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. Wildfires burned approximately 2,885 acres of the eastern third of the unit in 1969 and 2001.

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

In 2007, ONDA found their 462,828-acre Buzzard Creek proposed WSA to be primarily affected by the forces of nature. ONDA notes their proposed WSA does contain some manmade developments such as fence lines, “ways”, stock tanks, and corrals. However, these few developments are substantially noticeable only at close proximity and do not dominate the landscape. ONDA stated that “ways” are overgrown and lakebed pits only visible from close proximity. Thus, these disturbances are negligible when examining the vast Buzzard Creek proposal as a whole (p. 10 of ONDA 2007). However, as noted above, the BLM found that this proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is comprised of smaller inventory units, within which the natural character must be evaluated individually.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 2,885 acres of wildfire, 2,247 acres of seedings, 700 square feet of abandoned mining disturbance, 6 miles of fence lines, 8 miles of motorized routes, 2 miles of reclaiming routes, 1.5 miles of cat lines, 300 feet of pipeline, 11 reservoirs, 2 waterholes, 1 water tank, 1 developed spring, 1 water trough, 2 wildlife guzzlers, and 2 primitive wilderness therapy group campsites.

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. Areas that were seeded or allowed to revegetate naturally after fire have been invaded by rabbit brush/ sagebrush 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

In 2007, ONDA found their 462,828-acre Buzzard Creek proposed WSA to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude based on its sheer size. ONDA notes endless rolling hills, rim rock, ridges, and juniper stands further enhance these opportunities (p. 11 of ONDA 2007). However, the BLM did not find this proposal to be one large roadless area, but is comprised of smaller inventory units that must be evaluated individually.

The BLM determined that there are several outstanding opportunities for solitude across the unit due to topographic and vegetative screening. Topographically, Horsehead Mountain

(600-925 high) comprises eastern two-thirds of the unit. Horsehead Mountain is dominant and diverse, with numerous steep peaks, points, saddles, ridges, rims, folds, drainages, and aspects around the circumference of its formation. The unit contains three main drainages spread across the area. The eastern drainage forms the eastern bowl of Horsehead Mountain runs 2 miles (50-100 ft. deep) and drops 725 feet to the eastern boundary. The central drainage runs 2.5 miles (25-75 ft. deep) and drops 650 feet from the western slope of the mountain to the southern boundary. The eastern drainage breaks up the rolling topography of the western third of the unit and forms the upper portion of Smoke Out Canyon (75-150 ft. deep), with of half a dozen arms fanning out in all directions (totaling 3.5 miles). Vegetatively, western juniper stands have greatly expanded in height, width, and density. Approximately, 2,000 acres of the unit (mostly in the western two-thirds, with half a dozen stands in the east) 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 Horsehead Mountain 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 2007, ONDA's inventory identified their 462,828-acre Buzzard Creek proposed WSA to provide outstanding opportunities for recreation based on its sheer size. ONDA stated an area of this size cannot help but provide for a diverse and exceptional recreational experience. People could spend days hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and camping without covering the whole area. The many water features and geologic structures add to the interest of the area. There are outstanding opportunities in the area for wildlife viewing, rock hounding, hunting, and photography. During the inventory, wildlife observed included many birds of prey, pronghorn, coyotes, four badgers, and numerous bird species (p. 11 of ONDA 2007). However, the BLM did not find this proposal to be one large roadless area, but is comprised 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 from peak to peak within the Horsehead Mountain formation, as well as, exploration of the units many miles of drainages 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 mule deer and sage-grouse habitat.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-221/ Horsehead Mountain

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):



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6/4/18
Date


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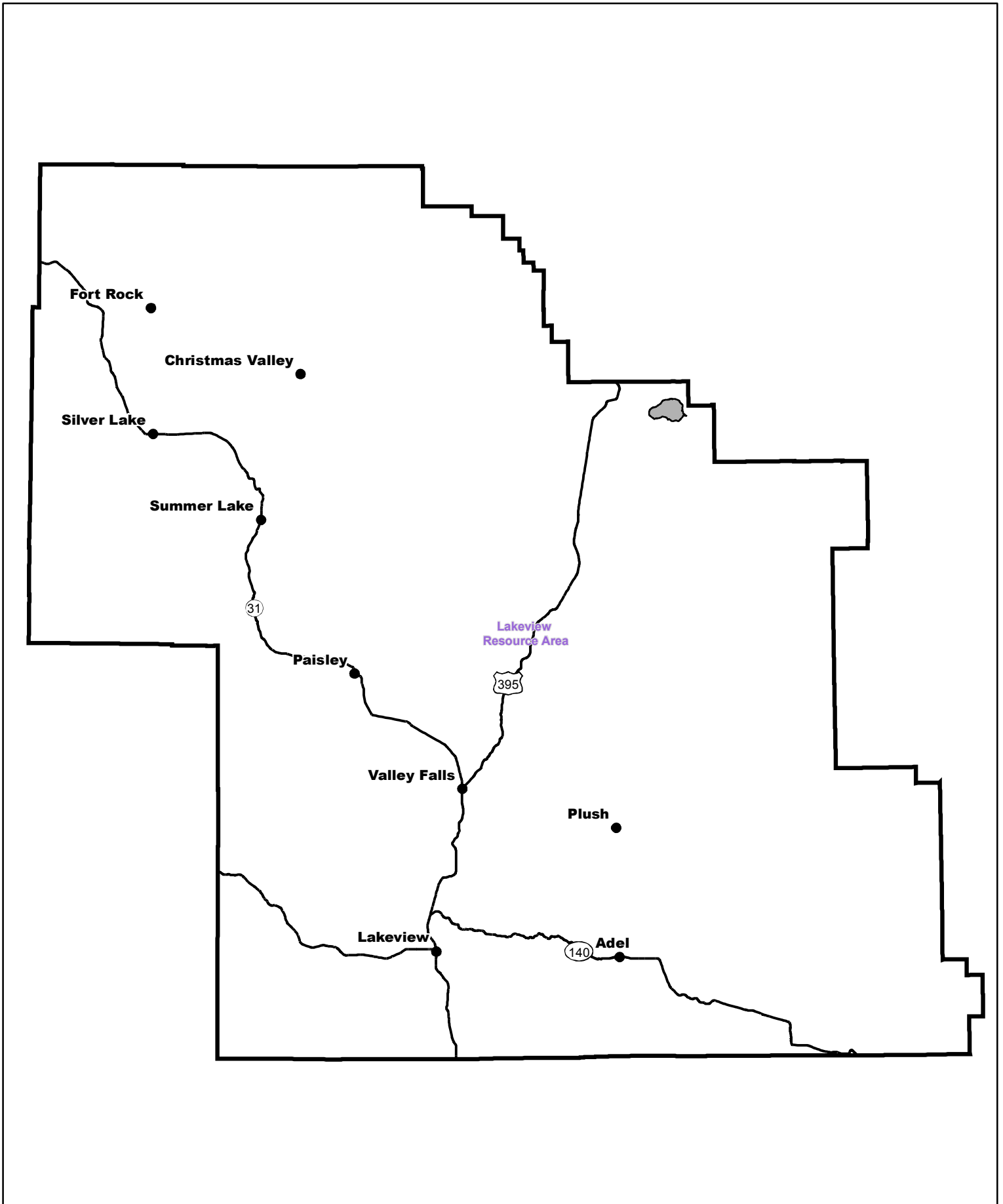
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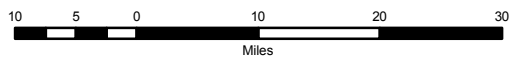

J. Todd Forbes
Field Manager

6/4/18
Date

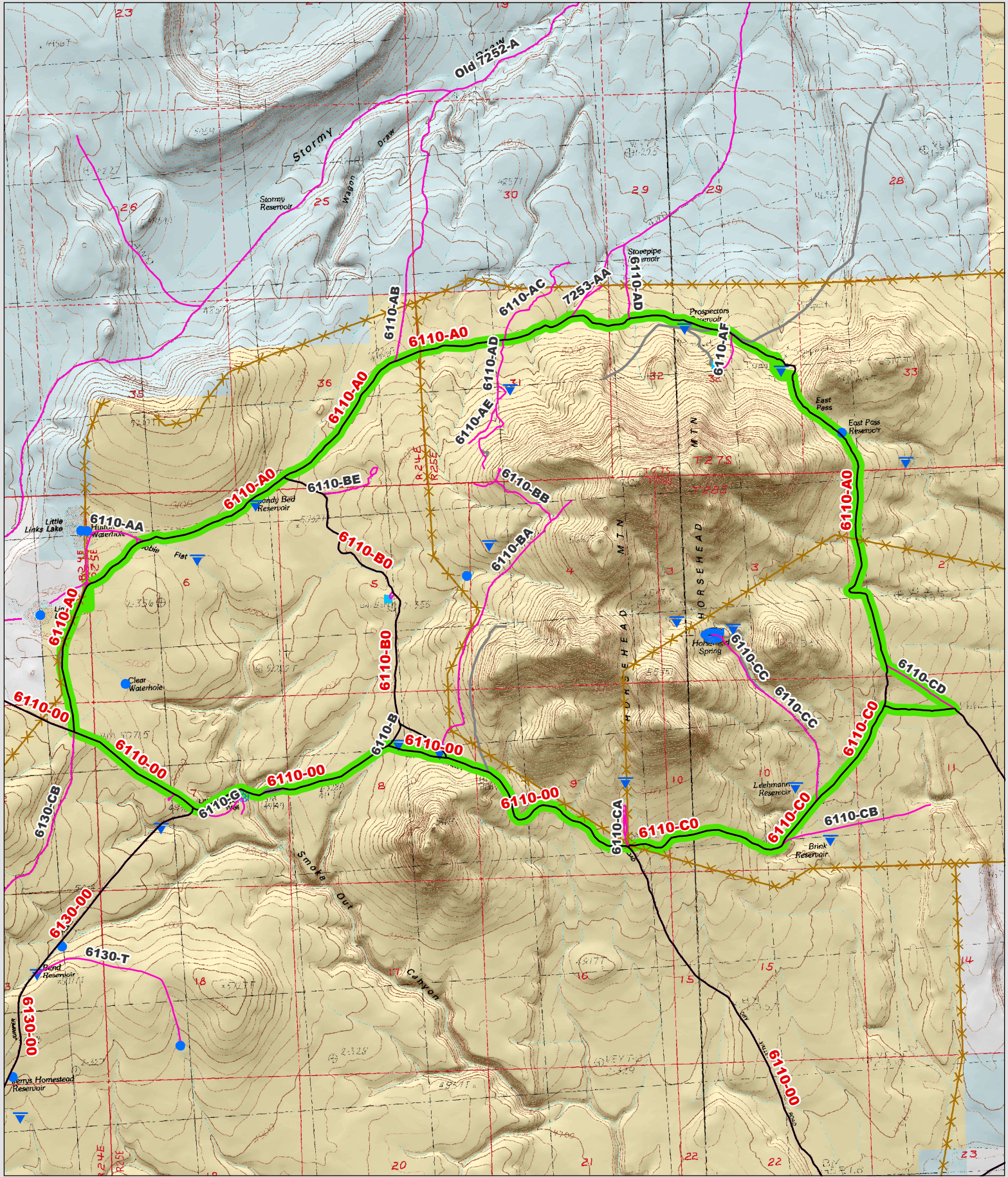
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.



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	Roads/Trails	Pipelines and Ditches	Water Developments	
Ownership	Motorized Routes	Ditch	Dam	 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.
Bureau of Land Management	Highways	Water Pipeline	Reservoir	
U.S. Forest Service	Reclaiming Routes	Guzzler	Spring Development	
Private/Unknown	Interim Routes	Fences	Trough	
			Water Tank	
			Waterhole	
			Well - Water	
			Water Diversion	