

Year: 2020

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-129/ Jack 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 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 Number(s)/ Name(s): 1-129/ Jack 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.

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
1-129	10,000	N	N	N	N
1-129*	11,475	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 1980, this unit was described as flat sagebrush country south of Hart Mountain Refuge. The unit had minor topographic relief located along faults. Seven ephemeral lakes were located in the unit; Jack Lake was the largest of these lakes at approximately 3.5 miles long and a quarter mile wide. The unit contained approximately 12 miles of “ways” and 7

lakebeds with numerous constructed pits and dikes. These intrusions were determined to be substantially noticeable due to the small size of the unit and lack of topographic relief. Due to the narrow shape and relatively small size of the unit, in conjunction with its limited topography and low-growing vegetation, it would be difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of others. As a result, the unit did not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The unit offered low potential for hiking and good hunting opportunities. However, the unit did not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit offered some potential for the presence of archaeological values, but none were specifically identified at the time.

FORM 2

DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-129/ Jack 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 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 7136-00 and 6106-00 on the east; 7136-B0 on the south; 6162-00 and 6162-B0 on the west; and .U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands to the north. Additionally, two private inholdings (approximately 284 acres) were removed from inventory unit.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Jack Lake inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 11,191 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 15 miles northeast of the town of Adel, Oregon. The inventory unit is approximately 9 miles long by 2.5 miles wide and is largely covered with sagebrush and grass. Topography is characterized by shallow to moderately deep (100 ft.) canyons and rims running the full length of the unit from the northwest to the southeast, along the east and west boundaries. In the southeast, the upper reaches of Jack Creek runs 4 miles within the unit. The central portion of the unit is dominated by seven large depressed ephemeral lakebeds (45-100 feet deep) including School Section Lake, Jack Lake, Moon Lake, Weed Lake, Egg Lake, Corral Lake, and an unnamed lake. Western junipers are scattered across the unit, atop canyon and along lakebed rims, with the highest concentration in the northwest corner near School Section Lake. Additionally, the majority (10,295 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.

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

In 1980, the unit was described as having approximately 12 miles of “ways” and 7 lakebeds with numerous constructed pits and dikes. These intrusions were determined to be substantially noticeable.

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: 144 acres of chemical treatments, 12 miles of motorized routes, 4 miles of closed routes, 13.5 miles of fence line, 230 feet of pipeline, 8 waterholes, 7 reservoirs, 1 developed spring, and 2 troughs.

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 No N/A

In 1980, the unit was found to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude due to size, shape, low-growing vegetation, and lack of topographic relief.

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. 92-93 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. Topography of the unit is characterized by shallow to moderately deep (100 ft.) canyons and rims running the full length of the unit from the northwest to the southeast, along the east and west boundaries. In the southeast, the upper drainages of Jack Creek runs 4 miles within the unit. The central portion of the unit is dominated by seven large depressed ephemeral lakebeds (45-100 feet deep) including School Section Lake, Jack Lake, Moon Lake, Weed Lake, Egg Lake, Corral Lake, and an unnamed lake. Western juniper stands have greatly expanded in height, width, and density. Sufficient pockets of juniper for screening purposes can now be found atop canyons and along lakebed rims, with the highest concentration in the northwest corner near School Section Lake. 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 Jack 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 1980, the unit was found to possess a mixed bag of recreation opportunities as the inventory described a low potential for hiking, but very good hunting opportunities. However, ultimately, the unit was determined to lack outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

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 found primitive recreation 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 viewing petroglyphs (some of the highest concentrations in the world) along lakebed rims throughout the unit represent a unique opportunity 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 of red-tailed hawk, pigmy rabbit, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, and sage-grouse habitat.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-129/ Jack 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

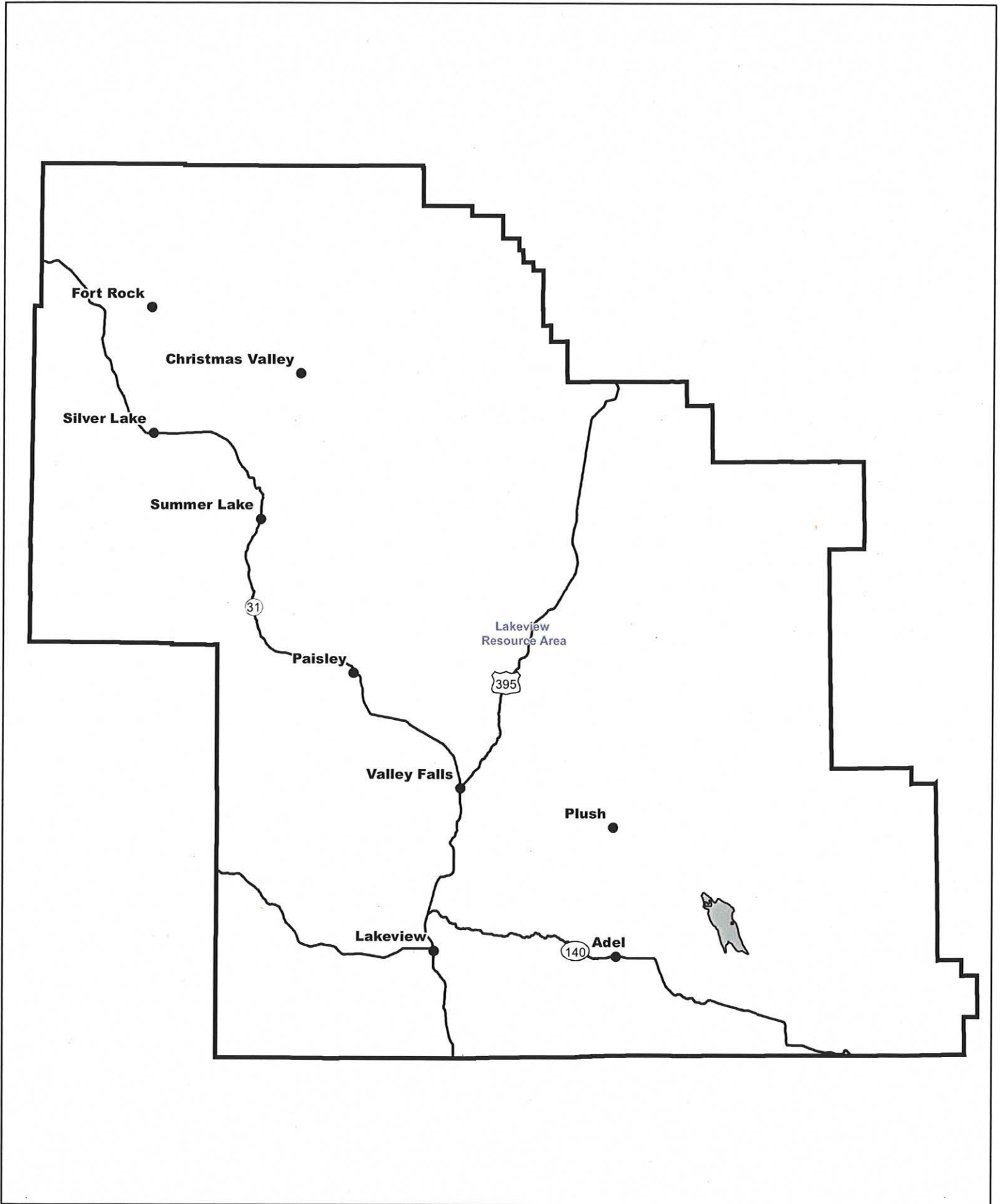
 2/14/2020
Date


Approved by:

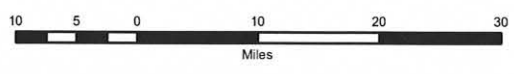

Jami Ludwig
Field Manager


 2/14/20
Date

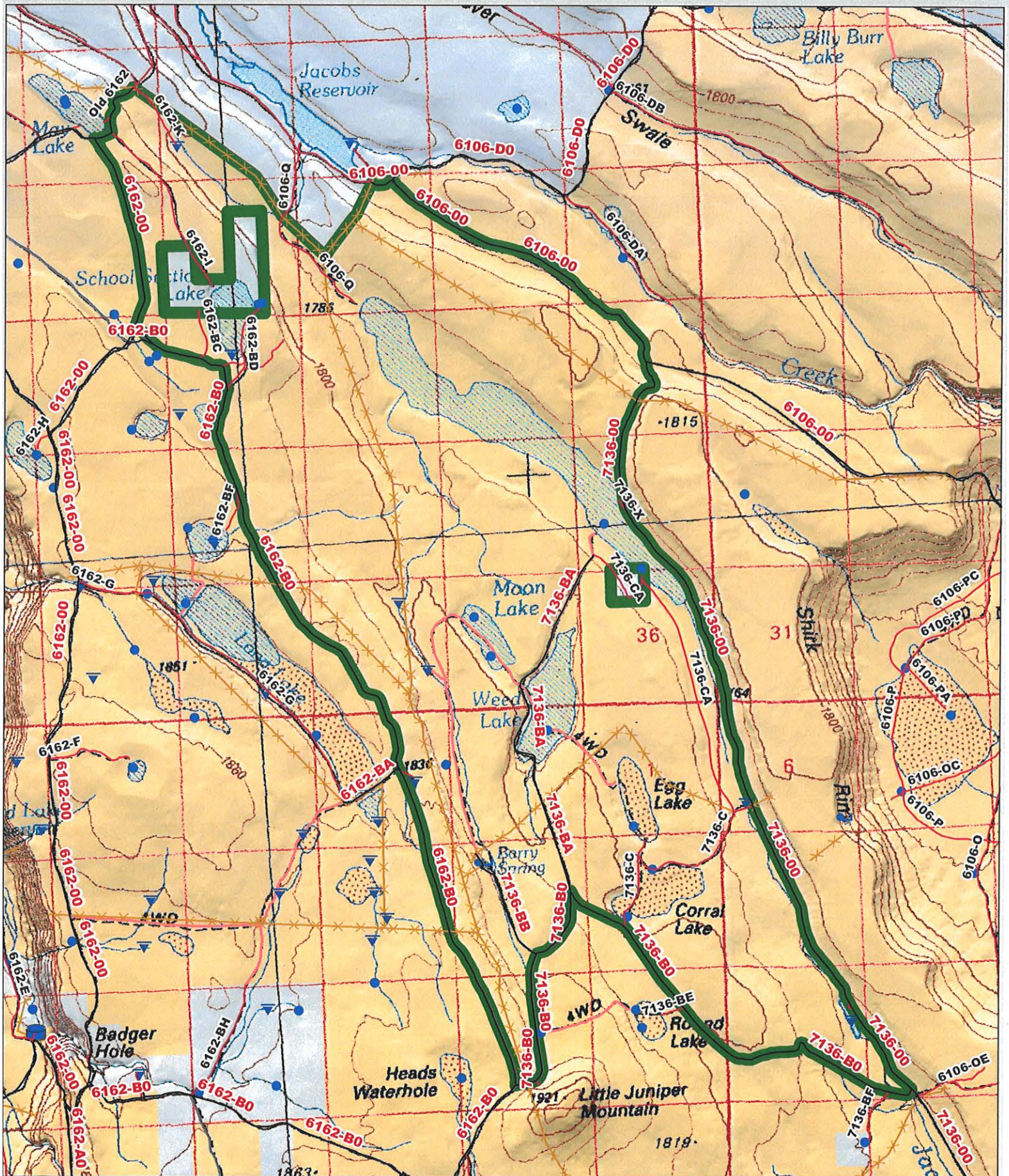
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.



 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



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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

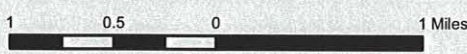
Pipelines and Ditches

- Ditch
- Water Pipeline
- Guzzler
- Fences

Water Developments

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

- Water Tank
- Waterhole
- Well - Water



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