

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-077/ Juniper Canyon

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 Review – Intensive Inventory: Proposed Decision on the Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Area; USDI BLM – Oregon, October 1979.

b) **Inventory Unit Number(s)/ Name(s):** 1-77/ Juniper Canyon

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** Proposed Decision: Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas; USDI BLM - Oregon, October 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 (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
1-77	9,920	N	N	N	Y
1-77*	13,533	Y	N	N	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:

In 1979, the topography of the unit described as being typical of the Basin and Range Province with north to south trending fault block uplifts and depressions forming narrow

valleys in the center and western portions of the unit. A northeast running uplift leaves a high ridge on the northwest and a shallow valley on the northeast of the unit below Rock Camp Lake. The south end of the unit opens onto the flats of an ancient lakebed, which forms the Warner Valley. The dominant vegetation is big sagebrush and associated species. The central and southeast portions of the unit, (approximately 60 percent) were in a natural condition. The remainder of the unit did not meet the criteria for naturalness. There were three “ways” and a lakebed pit in the northeast portion of the unit, which were substantially noticeable. In the west portion of the unit, there were two “ways” and a cabin. The cabin and one “way” parallel to the boundary road was very noticeable. The second “way” was not substantially noticeable. This unit did not offer an outstanding opportunity for a visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit due to access potential, low vegetative cover, and the narrow width of the entire unit. The topographic exposure was such that people could not readily isolate themselves from others within the unit. The unit offered some opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, photography, and bird watching. However, these opportunities were not outstanding. The unit was known to have anthropological values, although no intensive cultural resources inventory had been accomplished.

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-077/Juniper Canyon

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

Between 2008 and 2016, the BLM conducted a field inventory of the area to update its road and wilderness inventory and to gather additional information. This fieldwork included photo documentation of the boundary and interior routes and a re-evaluation of wilderness characteristics for this area. Using both citizen provided and BLM photos, field logs, and staff field knowledge, the BLM completed route analysis and made boundary determinations within the area in 2017.

The BLM determined that the inventory unit is bounded by BLM Road 6155-00 and private land on the west; a large block of state land on the south; 7175-00 and 7175-B0 on the east; and 7256-E0 on the north.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Juniper Canyon inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 13,575 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:

Inventory Unit OR-015-077 is located approximately 38 miles north of Plush, Oregon. The current unit is approximately 9.5 miles long by 3 miles wide. The unit is very topographically diverse, comprised of numerous rims, canyons, tabletops, and drainages. The unit is comprised of by Mule Springs Valley and Mule Springs Butte/ rim along the western edge; Brushy Valley, Rock Camp Draw, and Rock Camp Lake to the northeast; Juniper Canyon running north to south in the center of the unit; and Little Draw along the southeast boundary. A wildfire burned through the northern third of the unit in 2001 and was allowed to revegetate naturally. Big sagebrush and associated grass species are the dominant vegetation across the unit, with a few pockets of western juniper trees in Juniper Canyon.

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

The 1979 inventory found that about 60% of the unit was generally natural in character and 40% was unnatural due to three “ways” and a lakebed pit. A cabin was also noted as being substantially noticeable; however, this structure is actually located outside the unit boundary on private land and therefore has no bearing on the naturalness of the unit.

The BLM found the following man-made developments/disturbances within the unit: 2,570 acres of wildfire, 197 acres of mow strips (fuel breaks), 45 acres of seeding, 45 acres of chemical treatments, 14 miles of motorized routes, 4 miles of reclaiming routes, 2 miles of fence lines, 1 mile of cat lines, 9 waterholes, 6 reservoirs, 1 wilderness therapy group campsite, 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 (1/4th 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 due to the units many rims, canyons, and drainages. In addition, the majority of the remaining 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, have been invaded by rabbit/ 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 X No N/A

The 1979 inventory found that the unit did not have outstanding opportunities for solitude, such that people could readily isolate themselves from others, due to access potential, low vegetative cover, topographic exposure, and the narrow width of the unit.

However, the BLM found the Juniper Canyon inventory unit is topographically diverse due to numerous rims, canyons, tabletops, drainages, lakebed depressions, and compartmentalized valleys. These features include Mule Springs Valley, Mule Springs Butte and rim (9 miles long and 600 feet high), Brushy Valley, Rock Camp Draw and Rock Camp Lake, Juniper Canyon (5 miles long and 300-400 feet deep), and Little Draw.

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 Juniper Canyon inventory unit possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude where one could avoid the sights and sounds of others in the area.

(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

The 1979 inventory found the unit offered some opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, photography, and bird watching. However, these opportunities were less than outstanding.

The BLM concluded that all activities listed above in combination with the diversity of camping, horseback riding, sightseeing, trapping, and wildlife viewing, and exploration are exceptional throughout the unit. The BLM noted that opportunities for hiking within Juniper Canyon and along the eastern rim represent unique opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

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

The BLM noted the presence of archeological values and raptor nesting sites, as well pronghorn antelope, sage-grouse, pigmy rabbit, mule deer, California bighorn sheep, and golden eagle habitat.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-077/ Juniper Canyon

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):



Chris Bishop: Outdoor Recreation Planner

6/4/18
Date


Jami Ludwig: Assistant Field Manager

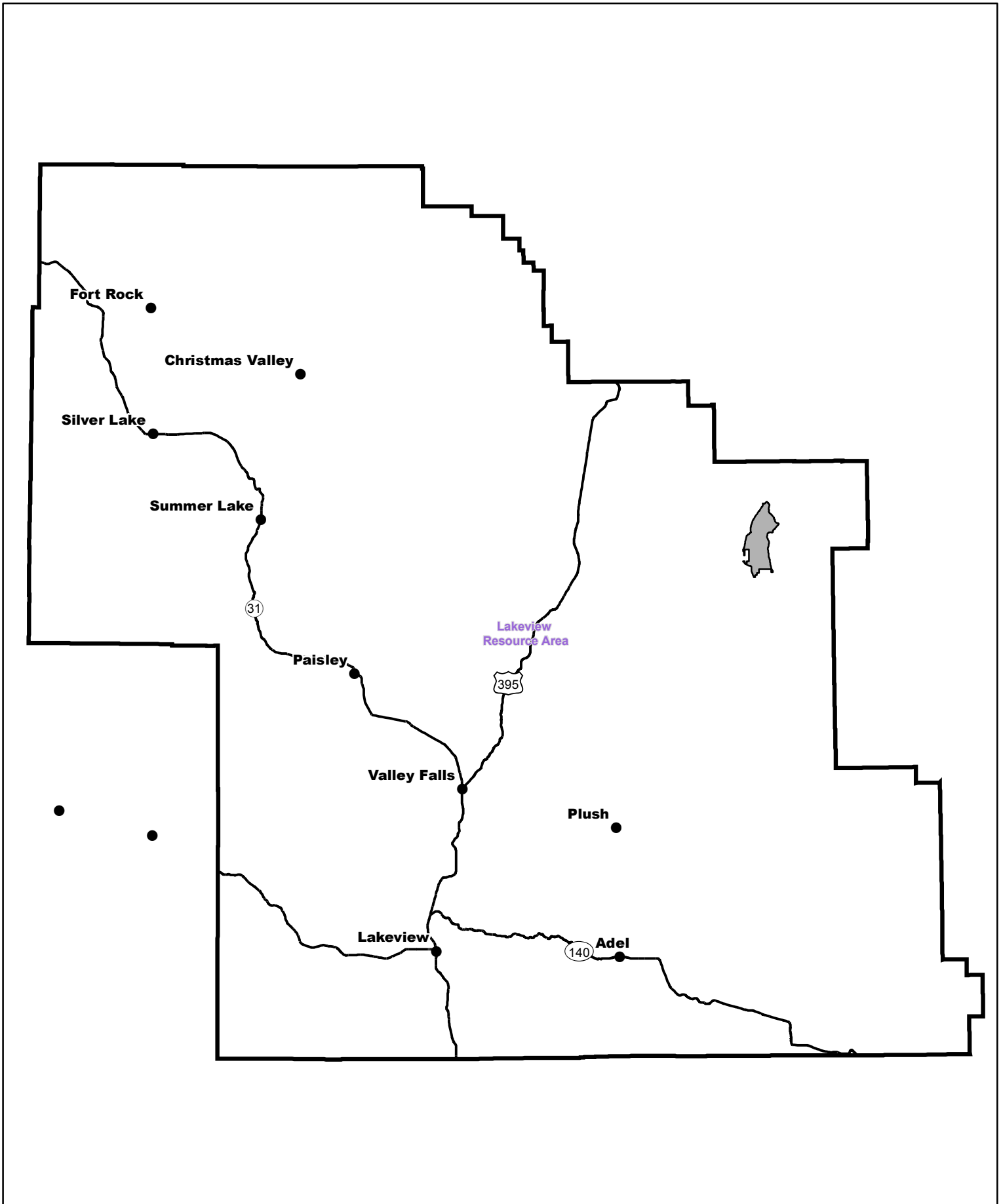
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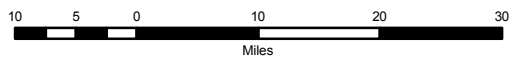

J. Todd Forbes
Field Manager

6/4/18
Date

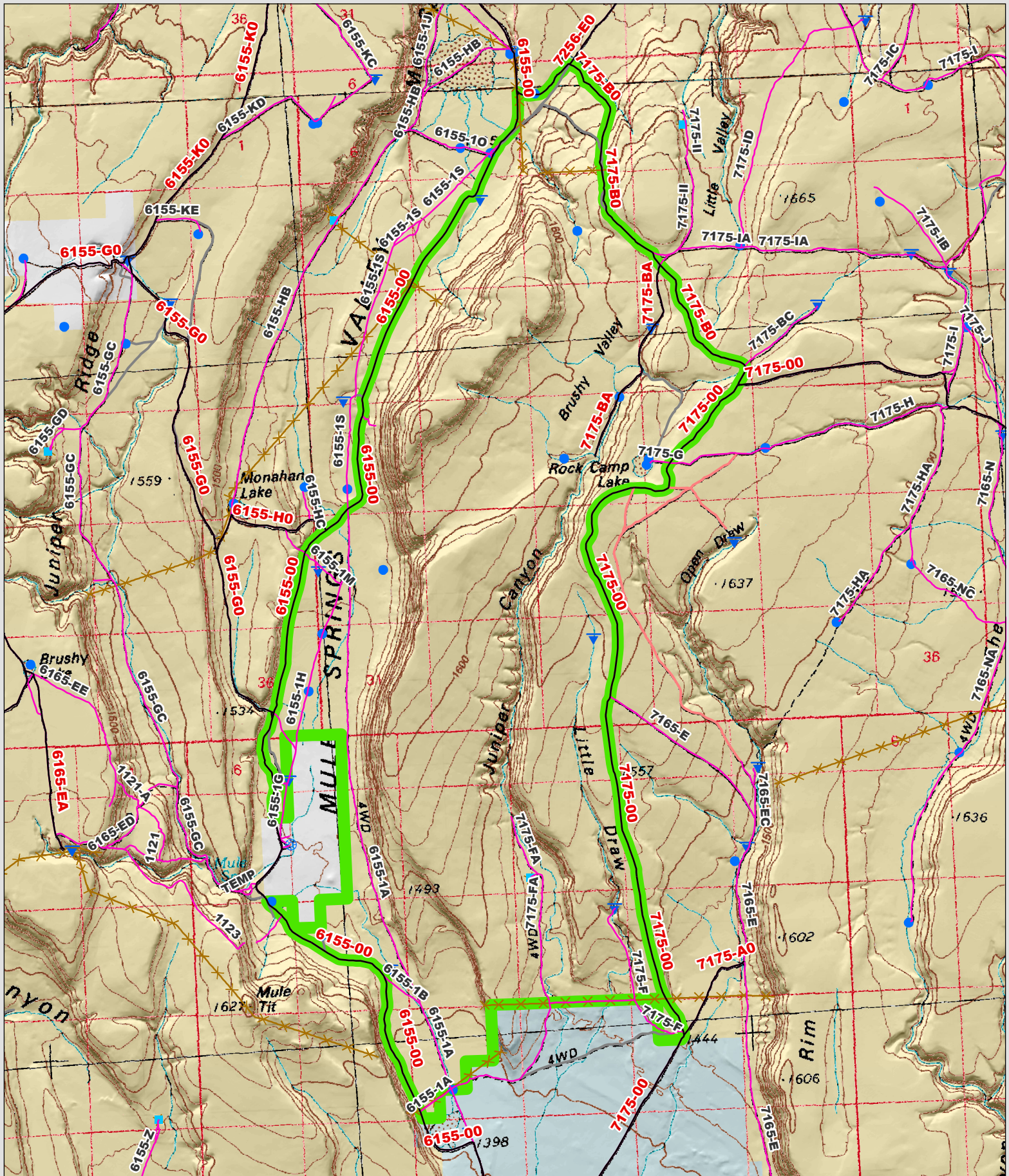
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.



Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



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Wilderness Character Inventory Unit

Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- Private/Unknown

Roads/Trails

- Motorized Routes
- Highways
- Reclaiming Routes
- Interim Routes

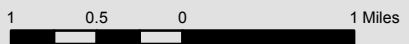
Pipelines and Ditches

- Ditch
- Water Pipeline
- Guzzler
- Fences

Water Developments

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

- Water Tank
- Waterhole
- Well - Water



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