

Year: 2020

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-072/ Juniper 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:** \_Wilderness Inventory – Final Intensive Inventory Decisions; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, November 1980.
- b) **Inventory Unit Number(s)/Name(s):** 1-72 (Subunits A, B, C) Juniper Mountain
- c) **Map Number(s)/Name(s):** Intensive Wilderness Inventory - Final Decisions; USDI BLM - Oregon, 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):

Unit #	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
I-72A	6,440	N	N	N	N/A
I-72B	1,160	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
I-72C	4,160	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1-72 (A,B,C)*	11,604	N	N	N	N/A

\* 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 2018 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, the unit was subdivided into three inventory units. Only subunit A was found to meet the size criteria at 6,440 acres. The entire subunit was described as being dominated by the works of man and was not in a natural condition due to a large cattle camp, four miles of “ways,” four reservoirs, a wildlife guzzler, and fence line. The small size of the subunit and its exposure, even considering the juniper cover on the mountain, allow no significant degree of solitude anywhere in the area. The unit was found to contain several types of wildlife and provides a vantage point from which to view the scenery of the surrounding country. However, the large number of human developments in the area was found to prevent the recreation experience from being wilderness in character. Possible supplemental values noted were archaeological and wildlife (birding).

## FORM 2

### DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

**Unit Number/Name:** OR-015-072/ Juniper Mountain

**(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 67,948-acre Juniper Mountain proposed WSA. ONDA included in their information a narrative report, maps, photos, photo and route logs, and GIS data with their route and photo point data. All of these materials were considered during the BLM’s wilderness inventory process for this area. The photos submitted by ONDA were taken in July of 2004 and June of 2005. Additional photos were submitted in 2007. They identified the Juniper Mountain proposed WSA as one large area (comprised of four former inventory units: 1-71, 1-72, 1-85, and 1-86) which they believe have no interior routes which meet the wilderness inventory definition of a boundary road. In 2008, the BLM received an additional citizen inventory from the Laird Ranch. All these materials were considered during the BLM’s wilderness inventory process for this area.

From 2008 to 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 several of the routes ONDA identified as “ways” are boundary roads. The Juniper Mountain proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit,

but is comprised of several smaller inventory units, which must be evaluated individually.

The unit is bounded by BLM Road 7155-A0 on the west; BLM Road 7155-0-00 and 6185-0-00 on the east; and BLM interim numbered road 7155-AE on the north. All of these BLM routes were found to meet the wilderness inventory definition of a road and, as such, form the unit boundary. The boundary of this unit was changed to remove unnatural features (cabin, corrals, and outbuildings) along the western boundary. In addition, 1,162 acres were removed from the unit on the northern boundary as BLM interim number road 7155-AE was found to meet the wilderness definition of a road.

The original 1980 unit subdivided and evaluated the area as three smaller subunits based on the presences of additional roads that existed at that point in time. For the purposes of this evaluation, the three former subunits are considered one single unit as the routes dividing the subunits no longer meet the wilderness inventory definition of a road.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Juniper Mountain inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 10,442 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 five miles southeast of Alkali Lake, Oregon. The unit is approximately 8 miles long by 3 miles wide and contains one private 80-acre parcel at Coffee Pot Springs. The unit encompasses Juniper Mountain proper, which rises about 1,300 feet above the surrounding sagebrush flats. Higher elevations support dense western juniper woodlands, while lower elevations are a rolling sagebrush flats.

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

In 1980, the unit was described as being dominated by the works of man and was not in a natural condition due to a large cattle camp, four miles of “ways,” four reservoirs, a wildlife guzzler, and fence line. This unit did not meet the criteria for naturalness as the existing disturbances were found to be substantially noticeable, such that, the unit did not appear to be primarily affected by the forces of nature.

ONDA’s 2005 inventory concluded that because the units within their proposed Juniper Mountain proposed WSA are contiguous, forming an area 67,948-acre in size,

the few manmade developments within the area would not have a cumulative impact on the area as a whole. The Juniper Mountain proposed WSA appears primarily affected by the forces of nature, such that, even from the top of Juniper Mountain, where most of the area can be viewed, the area has an appearance of naturalness throughout. Rationale for their finding further stated that “ways” are rehabilitating into native habitat, reservoirs are hardly noticeable because of rolling terrain that they can only be seen from close distances. However, the BLM found that ONDA’s proposal did not represent one large roadless unit, but is comprised of several smaller inventory units, which must be evaluated individually. The Laird Ranch noted that several of the manmade structures in the area were visible from long distances. The BLM reviewed all the information submitted and made its own determination of the impacts of these manmade structures on naturalness.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 4,926 acres of chemical treatments (aerial/backpack), 2,265 acres of wildfire, 647 acres of seeding, 38 acres of a firewood cutting unit, 11.5 miles of motorized routes, 4.5 miles of closed routes, 8 miles of fence lines, 1.3 miles of ditches, 250 feet of pipelines, 11 waterholes, 6 reservoirs, 3 spring developments, 3 guzzlers, and 3 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 (1/4<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 removed from the unit (cabin, corrals, and outbuildings). The vegetation on about two-thirds of the unit has not changed significantly since 1980. In 2001, a lightning-caused wildfire burned across the northern third of the unit and killed approximately 30-40% of the western juniper overstory on Juniper Mountain proper. Although evidence of the fire remains, fire in and of itself represents a natural and acceptable disturbance from a wilderness character perspective. Areas that were seeded as well as areas that were 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 original 1980 inventory, which evaluated the much smaller subunit 1-72A (6,440 acres), found the unit offered no significant degree of solitude due to its small size, even with consideration of juniper cover on the mountain.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger 67,948-acre 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 Juniper Mountain area, which provides screening from other visitors and offers hikers and horseback riders a sense of outstanding solitude. ONDA also noted a number of expansive juniper forests adding to the sense of solitude in the area. However, the BLM found that ONDA's proposal did not represent one large roadless unit, but is comprised of several smaller inventory units, which must be evaluated individually.

Considering the three former inventory subunits are now collectively one unit, the BLM determined that there are several outstanding opportunities for solitude across the area due to topographic and vegetative screening. Topographically, Juniper Mountain is a dominant and diverse formation, with numerous points, saddles, ridges, folds, and aspects around the circumference of the horseshoe formation. Although, a wildfire in 2001 burned over a large area of juniper trees in the northwest area of the unit, over 3,000 acres of the juniper trees remain. In these areas, western juniper has expanded in height, width, density and distribution since the original inventory, with dozens of distinct stands sufficient for vegetative screening. One would easily be able to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the area.

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 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

The original 1980 inventory, which evaluated the much smaller subunit 1-72A (6,440 acres), found the unit to lack outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation due to the large number of human developments. However, several types of wildlife viewing and scenery from the viewpoint of Juniper Mountain was noted.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger 67,948-acre 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, backpacking, exploration, sightseeing, hiking, and horseback riding. However, the BLM found that ONDA's proposal did not represent

one large roadless unit, but is comprised of several smaller inventory units, which must be evaluated individually.

The BLM concluded that all activities listed above in combination with the diversity of hunting, trapping, and camping are exceptional. The BLM determined that opportunities for hiking along the horseshoe rim of Juniper Mountain represent a unique and outstanding 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 mule deer, pronghorn antelope, pygmy rabbit, California bighorn sheep, and sage-grouse habitat.

Additionally, the BLM designated about 6,335 acres surrounding Juniper Mountain as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and a Research Natural Area (RNA) in 2003. This designation recognizes the “relevant and important” natural system/process values of a fully mature old growth juniper woodland in the High Desert Province, as well as providing a good example of an intact western juniper/big sagebrush/Idaho fescue plant community in the Basin and Range Ecosystem.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

**Unit Number and Name:** OR-015-072/ Juniper Mountain

**Summary Results of Analysis:**

- 1. Does the area meet the size requirements?       Yes     No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural?             Yes     No
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?       Yes     No     NA
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values?       Yes     No     NA

**Conclusion (Check One):**

- 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

9/23/20  
Date

  
Jami Ludwig: Assistant Field Manager

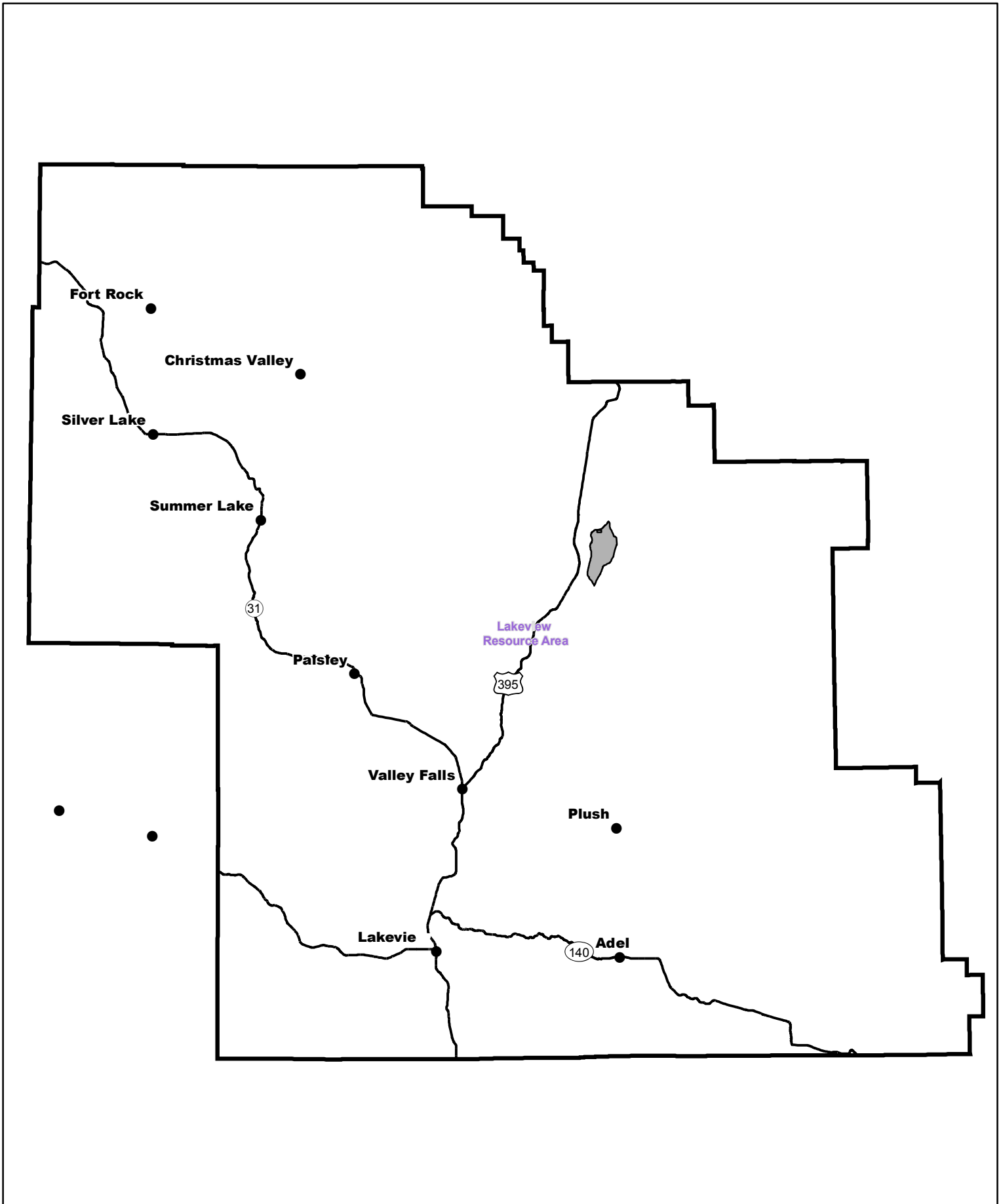
10/14/2020  
Date


**Approved by:**

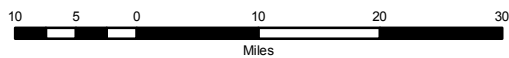
  
J. Todd Forbes  
Field Manager


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 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.*

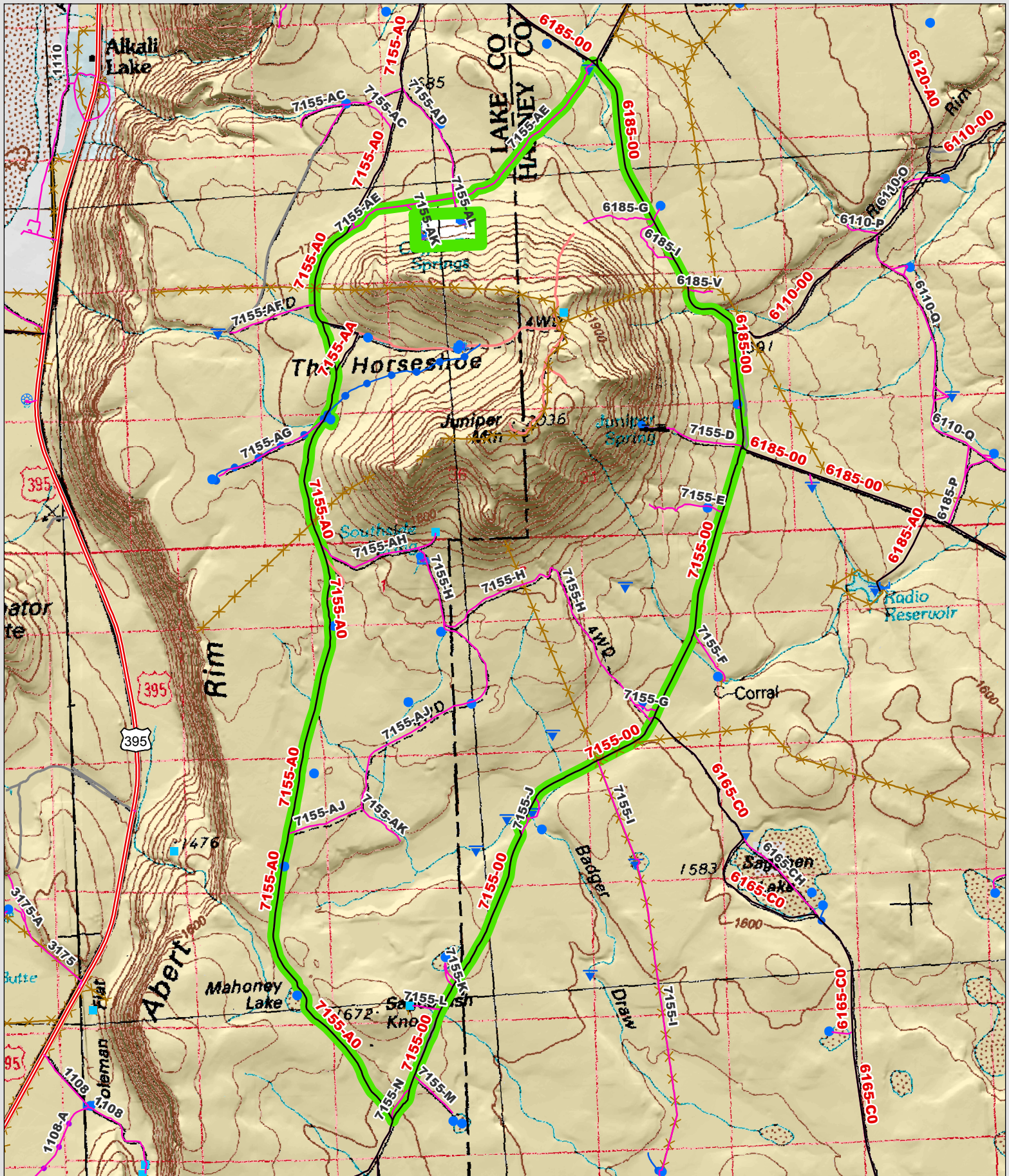


 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



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<p> Wilderness Character Inventory Unit</p>	<p><b>Roads/Trails</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Motorized Routes</li> <li> Highways</li> <li> Reclaiming Routes</li> <li> Interim Routes</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pipelines and Ditches</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Ditch</li> <li> Water Pipeline</li> <li> Guzzler</li> <li> Fences</li> </ul>	<p><b>Water Developments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Dam</li> <li> Reservoir</li> <li> Spring Development</li> <li> Trough</li> <li> Water Diversion</li> </ul>	<p><b>Water Features</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Water Tank</li> <li> Waterhole</li> <li> Well - Water</li> </ul>	<p>1 0.5 0 1 Miles</p>
<p><b>Ownership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Bureau of Land Management</li> <li> U.S. Forest Service</li> <li> State</li> <li> Private/Unknown</li> </ul>	<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>				