

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-091D/ Northwest Warner Valley

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 – Proposed Initial Inventory: Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, April 1979.

b) **Inventory Unit Number(s)/Name(s):** 1-91

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** 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.

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
1-91	36,000	N	N	N	N/A
1-91D*	5,841	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 unit was described as a flat lake bottom with sagebrush and greasewood cover. The northern portion of the unit contained two airstrips and at least one bulldozed trail across the unit. The lower portion of the unit had numerous “ways.” Agricultural use on surrounding lands is also extensive and intrudes on potential wilderness values in the area. With the flat terrain and low cover in the area, combined with the relatively narrow shape of the unit, opportunities for solitude or unconfined recreation were poor.

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-091D/ Northwest Warner Valley

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

Between 2007 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 the inventory unit is bounded by BLM Roads 6155-00, 7165-00, and state lands to the north; BLM interim numbered roads 6155-X0 to the west; 6155-V0 to the south; and 8185-H0 to the east.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Northwest Warner Valley inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 5,841 acres of BLM-administered lands.

Additional background on the process 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 29 miles northeast of Plush, Oregon. It is approximately 4.5 miles long by 2.5 miles wide. The entire unit fall within north Warner Valley. The area is a flat, dry lake bottom with greasewood, sagebrush, and grass. A dry shoreline along the northern boundary of the unit provides the only topographical relief. Overall, the unit ranges in elevation from 4,477 to 4,627 feet.

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

In 1979, the northern portion of unit 1-91 contained two airstrips and at least one bulldozed trail across the unit. The lower portion of the unit had numerous “ways.” Agricultural use on surrounding lands is also extensive and intrudes on potential wilderness values in the area. Overall, the unit was not in a natural condition.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 49 acres of mow strips, and 2.5 mile of reclaiming routes.

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. Furthermore, many of the 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 1979, historic Unit 1-91 was found to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude due to flat terrain and low cover in the area, combined with the relatively narrow shape of the unit.

The BLM acknowledges that there may be limited opportunities for solitude within the Northwest Warner Valley inventory unit. The entire unit fall within north Warner Valley. The area is a flat, dry lake bottom with greasewood, sagebrush, and grass. A dry shoreline along the northern boundary of the unit provides the only topographical relief. Overall, the unit ranges in elevation from 4,477 to 4,627 feet. These opportunities are less than outstanding as the area’s characteristic landscape lacks vegetative screening and existing topographic screening is insufficient to effectively allow those recreating in the area to avoid the sights and sounds of others.

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 Northwest Warner Valley inventory unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude.

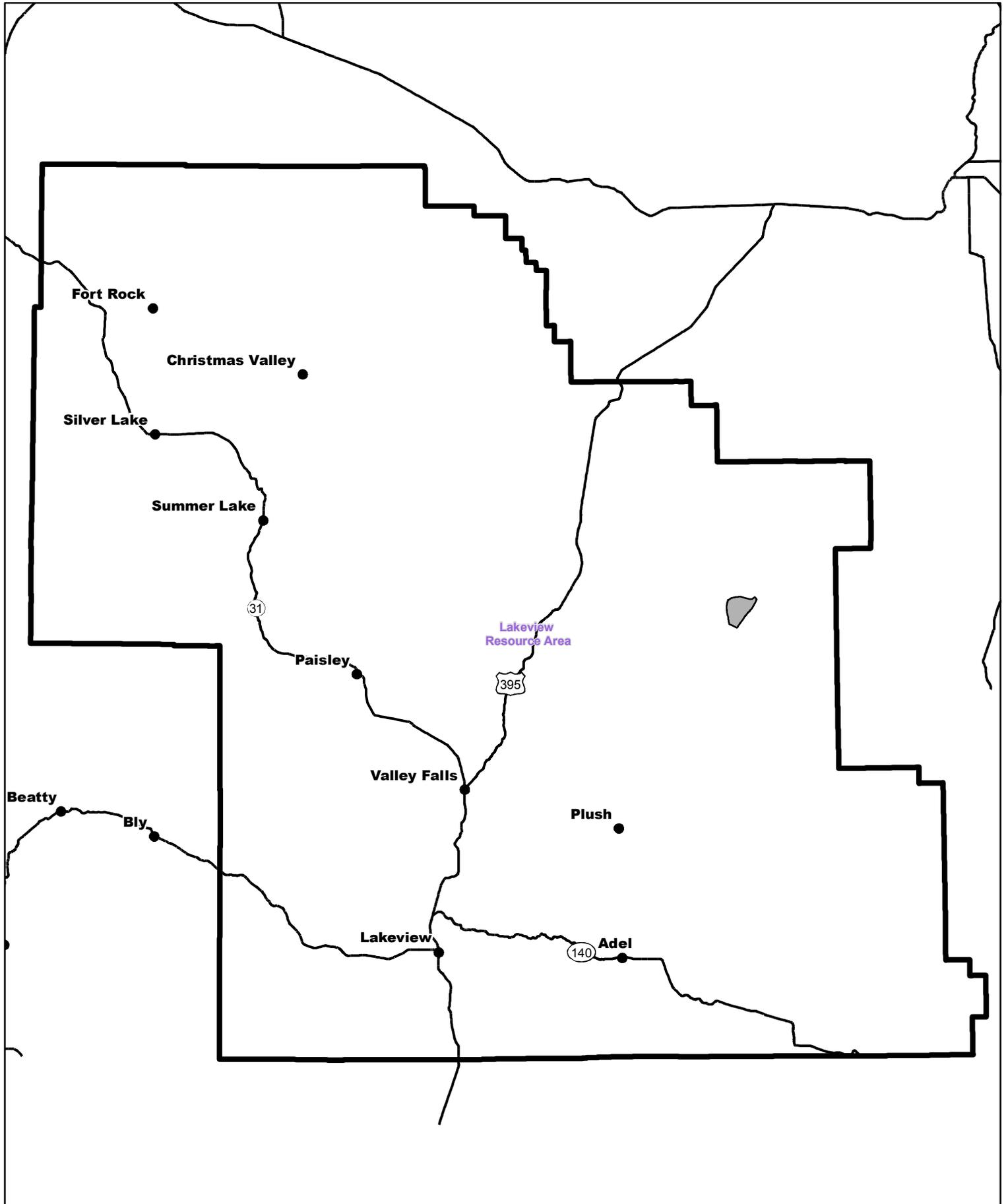
(4) Does the unit (or the remainder of the unit if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) **have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?** Yes _____ No X N/A _____

In 1979, historic Unit 1-91 was found to lack outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation due to flat terrain and low cover in the area, combined with the relatively narrow shape of the unit.

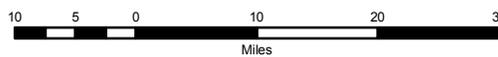
The BLM finds the unit offers limited opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, camping, wildlife observation, exploration, scenery, photography, stargazing, trapping, and hunting. However, the BLM determined that the unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation through either the diversity of recreational activities possible in the area or by the outstanding quality of one opportunity relative to opportunities found within the Lakeview Resource Area.

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

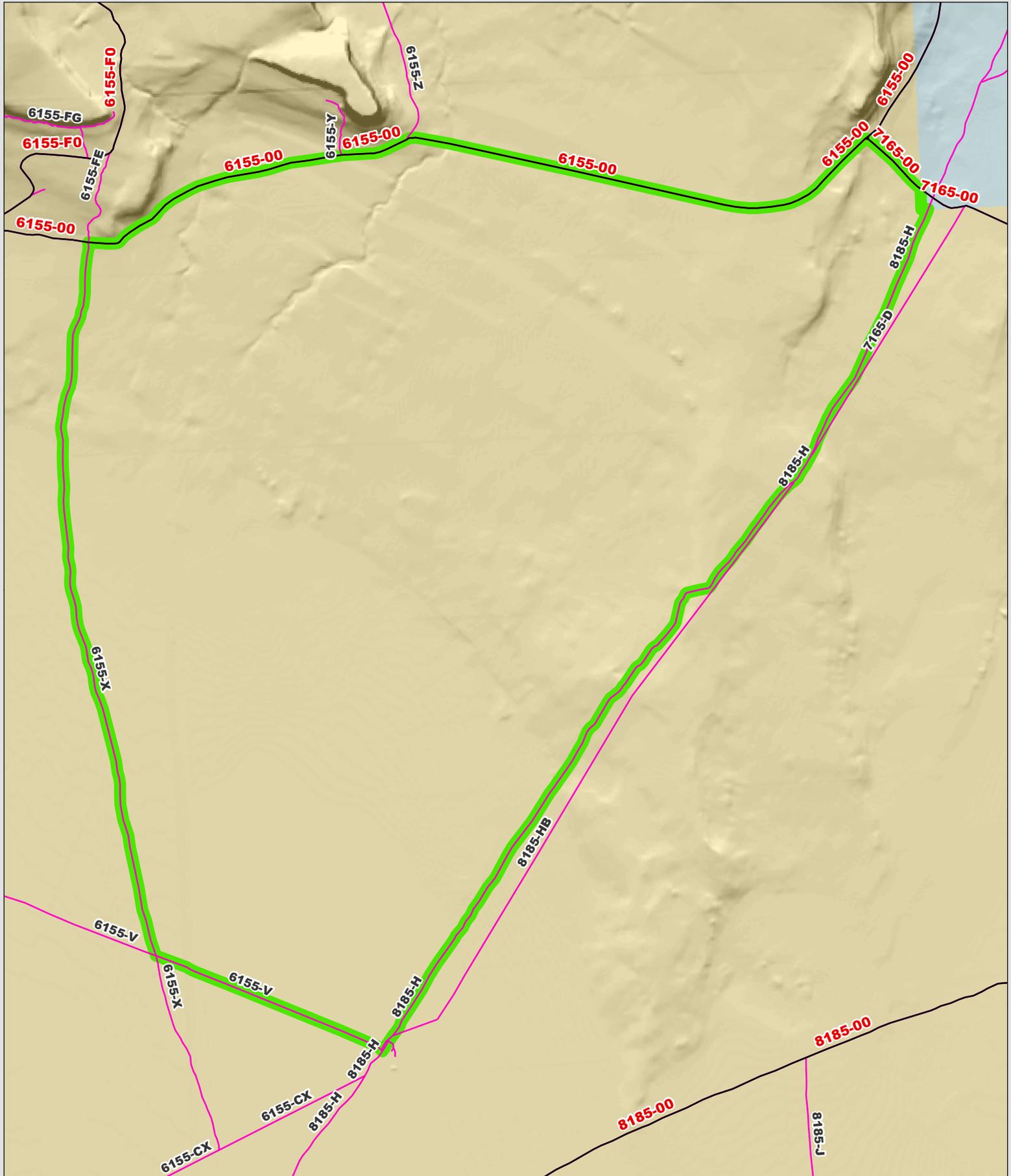
Supplemental values were not evaluated as the unit was determined to lack both outstanding opportunities for solitude and or primitive and unconfined recreation, and therefore does not meet the minimum wilderness criteria.



 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

0.65 0.325 0 0.65 Miles

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