

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-007/ Painter Ranch

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): 1-7/ Painter Ranch

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.

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Lakeview District, Lakeview Resource Area.

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

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
1-7	8,000	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
1-7*	10,555	N	N/A	N/A	N/A

* The inventory of this unit was updated in 2009. However, due to a State Office-sponsored Wilderness Inventory Consistency Evaluation and subsequent guidance,

the 2009 inventory analysis and findings are being replaced by this current 2018 inventory review. Documentation of the 2009 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, Historic Unit 1-7 contained approximately 8,000 acres of public land located 12 miles northeast of Christmas Lake. The area was described as a gently rolling upland with big sagebrush and scattered juniper. Roads formed the boundaries of the unit. Two powerlines--500 KV and 75 KV--impacted the western portions of the unit. Topography and a lack of vegetative screening prevented the finding of outstanding opportunities for solitude or unconfined recreation on the unit.

FORM 2

DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-007/ Painter Ranch

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

In 2005, the BLM received a citizen proposal from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) for the 62,328-acre Moonlight Butte 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. 156 of ONDA 2005).

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

The BLM determined that the inventory unit is bounded by BLM Road 6141-00 on the north; BLM interim numbered roads 6141-J0, 6141-M0, and a pipeline buffer on the east; BLM Road 6141-C0 and private lands on the south; and right-of-ways for County Road 5-12B, residential power lines, Bonneville Power Administration power

lines, and private lands on the west. Due to changes in boundary determinations (right-of-way buffer corrections) and cutout of unnatural features (pipelines) approximately 5,035 acres were removed from this unit.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Painter Ranch inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 5,520 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 17.5 miles northeast of Christmas Valley, Oregon. The unit is approximately 4 miles long by 3 miles wide. Topographically, the unit is comprised of gently rolling uplands. The unit ranges in elevation from 4,470 ft. in the southwest to 4,800 ft. in the northeast. Approximately 1.75 miles of Peters Creek drainage (10-20 ft. deep) runs east to west through the north portion of the unit. Vegetatively, over 4,000 acres of the unit is covered in moderate to high-density western juniper stands, with old-growth characteristics. The remaining vegetation is scattered juniper, sagebrush, rabbit brush, and grass.

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

In 1979, Historic Unit 1-7 was found to be unnatural due to the presence of two power lines (500 KV and 75 KV) within the western portions of the unit.

ONDA's 2005 inventory concluded that their Moonlight Butte Proposed WSA appears in a natural condition, primarily affected by the forces of nature. ONDA noted that existing water developments were not noticed in the field and due to their proposal being contiguous with other units, any existing developments would not be substantially noticeable to the overall area. Power lines running adjacent to the area would be noticeable from close distance, but the rolling topography and stands of juniper trees would make these un-noticeable (p. 153-154 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 unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 143 acres of chemical treatments, 43 acres of wildfire, 6 miles of motorized routes, 5 miles of fence lines, 2 reservoirs, and 2 waterholes.

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 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 allowed to revegetate naturally after fire 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 No N/A

In 1979, Historic Unit 1-7 was found to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude due to limited topography and vegetative screening.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger 62,328-acre Moonlight Butte 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. These contiguous units form an area much larger with a more diverse landscape than any of the units by themselves. Juniper trees and the rolling topography throughout the area provide screening from other visitors and offer hikers and horseback riders a sense of outstanding solitude. Furthermore, ONDA noted that the sagebrush lands, although they don't offer vegetative screening, certainly offer one a sense of isolation and solitude (p. 154 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 unit due to vegetative screening. Vegetatively, over 4,000 acres of the unit is covered in moderate to high-density western juniper stands, with old-growth characteristics. Due to the above-described vegetative screening throughout the unit, one would easily be able 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 Painter Ranch 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 1979, Historic Unit 1-7 was found to lack outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger 62,328-acre Moonlight Butte Proposed WSA as having outstanding opportunities for recreation based on sheer size as their proposal is contiguous with other inventory units and therefore no longer stands alone. These contiguous units form an area much larger with a more diverse landscape than any of the units by themselves. One could easily find outstanding opportunities for wildlife viewing, camping, and hunting at any of the ephemeral lakes. Juniper trees and the rolling topography throughout the area offer hikers and horseback riders a sense of outstanding recreation. 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 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 options for exploration and route finding among dense, old-growth, juniper stands 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 of pronghorn antelope, mule deer, elk, pigmy rabbit, and sage-grouse habitat. Additionally, approximately 2 miles of ONDA's 750-mile Oregon Desert Trail ("virtual"/ GPS track) crosses the southwestern portion of the inventory unit.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-007/ Painter Ranch


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

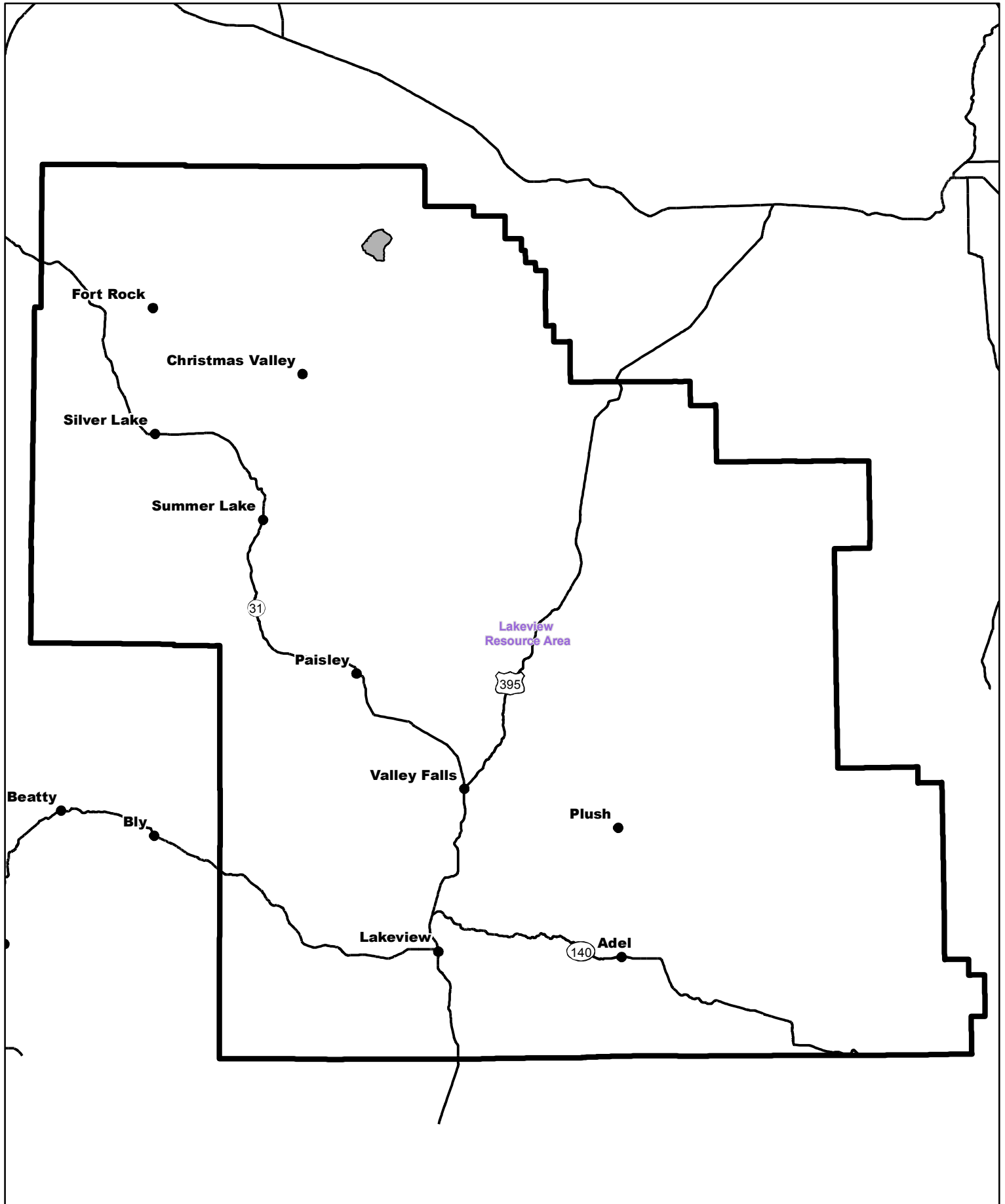
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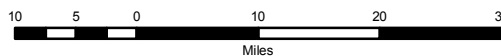

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 6-4-18
Date

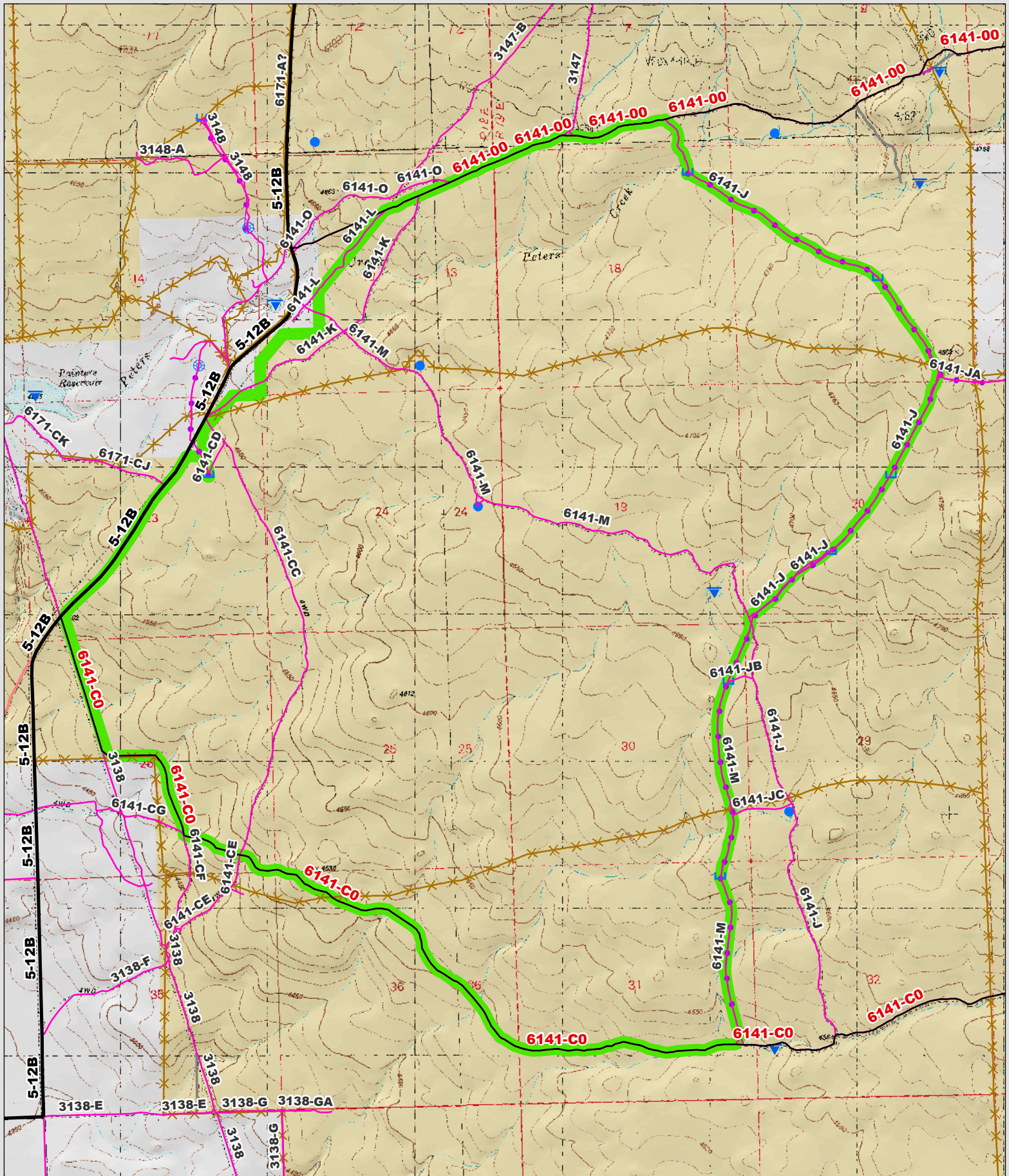
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.



 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



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Wilderness Character Inventory Unit

Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- 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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