

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-044/ Post 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: BLM Wilderness Inventory files for Pacific Power and Light Company (PP&L) Transmission Line: PP&L Roadless Area Inventory Files (1977).

b) Inventory Unit Number(s)/ Name(s): 1-41 and PP&L #OR-010-04-16/ Post Lake

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
1-44	Y	N	N	N
1-44*	Y	N	N	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 1977, the unit was described as gently sloped to the north foothills, broken by shallow draws and low ridges running north to south. Vegetation consisted of desert shrubs with a scattering of junipers along draws and ridges. Internal intrusions included some livestock reservoirs and waterholes with “ways” leading to them. Outside intrusions included a subdivision and farmlands to the north, which could be seen from most of the area. Overall, the unit was found to be pristine or nearly so, the evidence of man’s activities were minimal. The unit lacked outstanding opportunities for solitude. The unit was found to offer low quality deer hunting, hiking and horseback riding; however, opportunities were determined to be less than outstanding. Supplemental values were not present.

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-044/ Post Lake

(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 57,827-acre Black Hills proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA) Addition. 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. They identified this large area as having no interior routes, which met the BLM wilderness inventory definition of a road (see Map, p. 18 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 some of the routes ONDA identified as “ways” are boundary roads. Black Hills proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is comprised of smaller inventory units, which must be evaluated individually.

The BLM determined that the inventory unit is bounded by BLM Roads 7114-00 and 7104-00 on the west and south; 6104-00 on the east; and private lands to the north. The unit contains a cherry stemmed right-of-way along BLM interim numbered road 2120-B0 for access to private property near the northern boundary. BLM also cherry

stemmed BLM interim numbered road 7104-F0 for access to private property near the southern boundary. Due to changes in boundary determinations (a road right-of-way buffer correction) and cutout of unnatural features (mineral pit) approximately 175 acres were removed from this unit.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM identified the Post Lake inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 10,830 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 3 miles southeast of Christmas Valley, Oregon. The unit is approximately 6.5 miles long by 4 miles wide, with a 320-acre inholding in the northeast corner and a 280-acre inholding in the southern corner. Topographically the unit is very diverse with points, ridges, buttes, rims, draws, and drainages. The unit ranges in elevation from 4,425 ft. to 5,500 feet. The unit is largely comprised by a north-facing slope with highland ridges and rims running north to the south. A moderate to large rim (150-375 ft. high) runs 6 miles north to south through the center of the unit. The unit also contains approximately 18 miles of drainages (20 to 300 ft. deep) running north to south across the unit. In addition, the unit contains Post Lake, a lakebed depression (15 to 30 ft. deep) and a few minor outlying buttes of the Black Hills formation the northwest corner of the unit. Vegetatively, approximately 1,500 acres of the unit is covered in moderate to high-density western juniper stands, with old-growth characteristics along the central rim and main drainages and rims in the western and eastern thirds of the unit. The remaining vegetation is scattered juniper, sagebrush, rabbit brush, and grass.

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

In 1977, Unit 1-44 contained some livestock reservoirs and waterholes with “ways” leading to them. Outside intrusions included a subdivision and farmlands to the north, which could be seen from most of the area. Overall, the unit was found to be pristine or nearly so, the evidence of man’s activities were minimal.

In 2005, ONDA found their 57,827-acre Black Hills proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA) to appear natural throughout, with the works of man substantially unnoticeable. ONDA noted there are a few manmade features that can be found throughout the unit such as “ways”, fences, and a power line along the southern boundary. However, many of the “ways” are overgrown, fences do not have a cumulative impact on the area, and the power line is only noticeable when in close proximity (0.5 miles) because of rolling topography and juniper trees act as screening.

Therefore, the Back Hills proposed WSA is primarily affected by the forces of nature (p. 15 of ONDA 2005). However, as noted above, the BLM found that this proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is comprised of smaller inventory units, within which the natural character must be evaluated individually.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 16 acres of mow strips (fuel beaks), 5 miles of fence lines, 7 waterholes, 3 reservoirs, 5 miles of motorized routes, 3.5 miles of reclaiming routes.

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 topography and 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.

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

In 1977, historic Unit 1-44 was found to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified their 57,827-acre Black Hills proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA) to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. ONDA noted the unit consists of rolling hills, rim rock, juniper stands, and ephemeral lakebeds; all of which for outstanding opportunities for solitude. However, the BLM did not find this proposal to be one large roadless area, but is in fact comprised 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 topographic and vegetative screening. Topographically the unit is very diverse with points, ridges, buttes, rims, draws, and drainages. The unit ranges in elevation from 4,425 ft. to 5,500 feet. The unit is largely comprised by a north-facing slope with highland ridges and rims running north to the south. A moderate to large rim (150-375 ft. high) runs 6 miles north to south through the center of the unit. The unit also contains approximately 18 miles of drainages (20 to 300 ft. deep) running north to south across the unit. In addition, the unit contains Post Lake, a lakebed depression (15 to 30 ft. deep) and a few minor outlying buttes of the Black Hills formation the northwest corner of the unit. Vegetatively, western juniper stands have greatly expanded in height, width, and density. Approximately 1,500 acres of

the unit is covered in moderate to high-density western juniper stands, with old-growth characteristics along the central rim and main drainages and rims in the western and eastern thirds of the unit. 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 Post Lake inventory unit 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 N/A

In 1977, historic Unit 1-44 offered low quality deer hunting, hiking and horseback riding; opportunities were determined to be less than outstanding.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified their 57,827-acre Black Hills proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA) to provide outstanding opportunities for recreation. ONDA noted that hikers, backpackers, and horseback riders would enjoy the diverse terrain of the unit. Wildlife viewers and hunters would the area because the diverse terrain and ephemeral lakes would attract wildlife, Botanists would enjoy the Black Hills Botanical Area, where they could fine Cusick's Buckwheat and Haden's Cymopterus (Bureau Sensitive Species). While "ways" would provide great hiking and horseback access to the area. However, the BLM did not find this proposal to be one large roadless area, but is in fact comprised 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 of the unit's main 6-mile long central rim and over 18 miles drainages spread across the area 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 mule deer, pronghorn antelope, pygmy rabbit, and sage-grouse habitat.

In the 2003 *Lakeview Resource Management Plan/Record of Decision*, the BLM designated the 3,049-acre Black Hills Area of Critical Environmental Concern/Research Natural Area (ACEC/RNA) for botanical values. The northwest corner of the unit contains 158 acres of this ACEC.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-044/ Post 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):



Chris Bishop: Outdoor Recreation Planner

 6/4/18
Date


Jami Ludwig: Assistant Field Manager

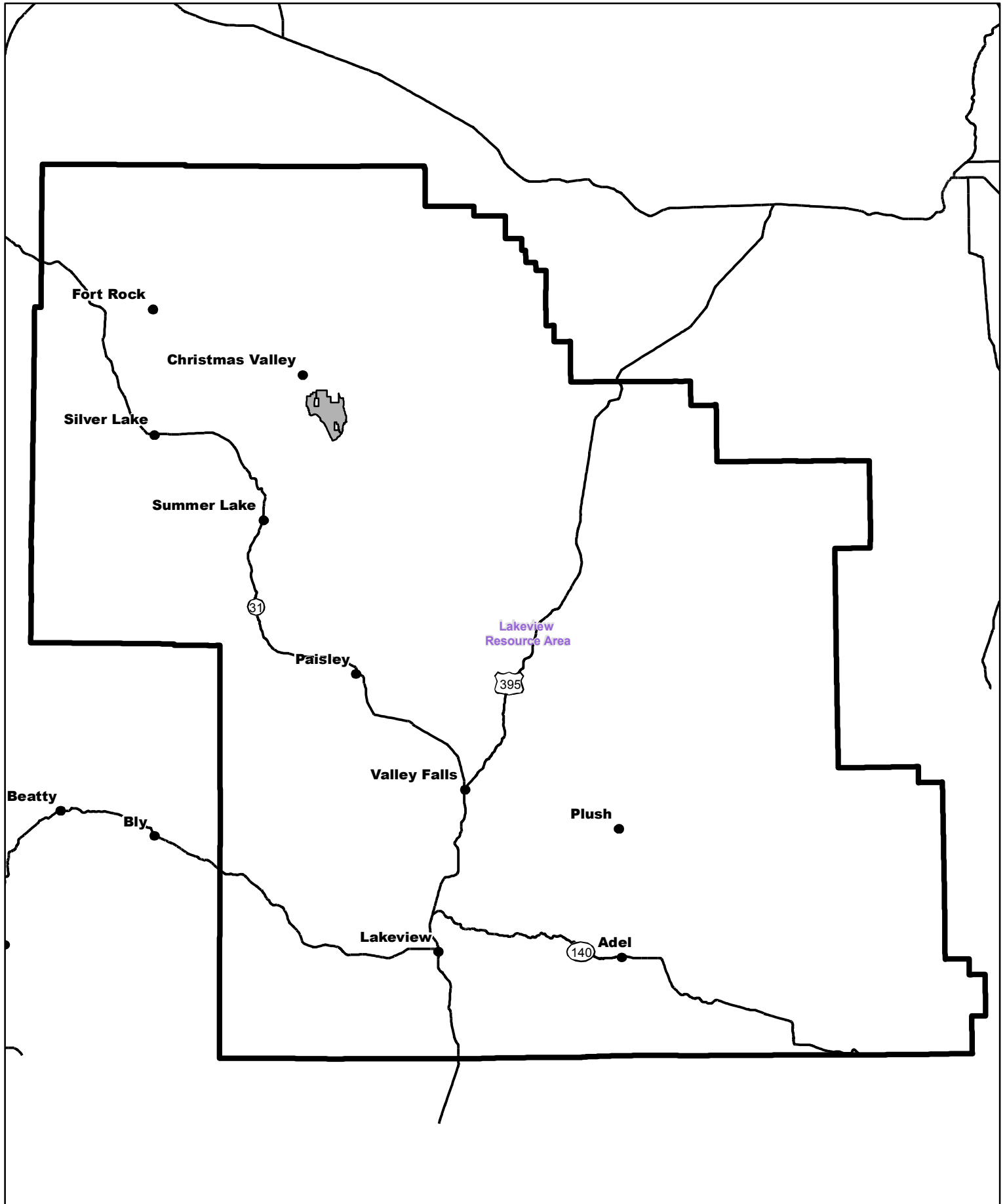
 6/4/18
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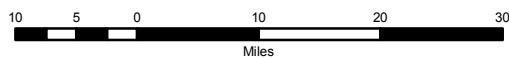

J. Todd Forbes
Field Manager


 6-4-18
Date

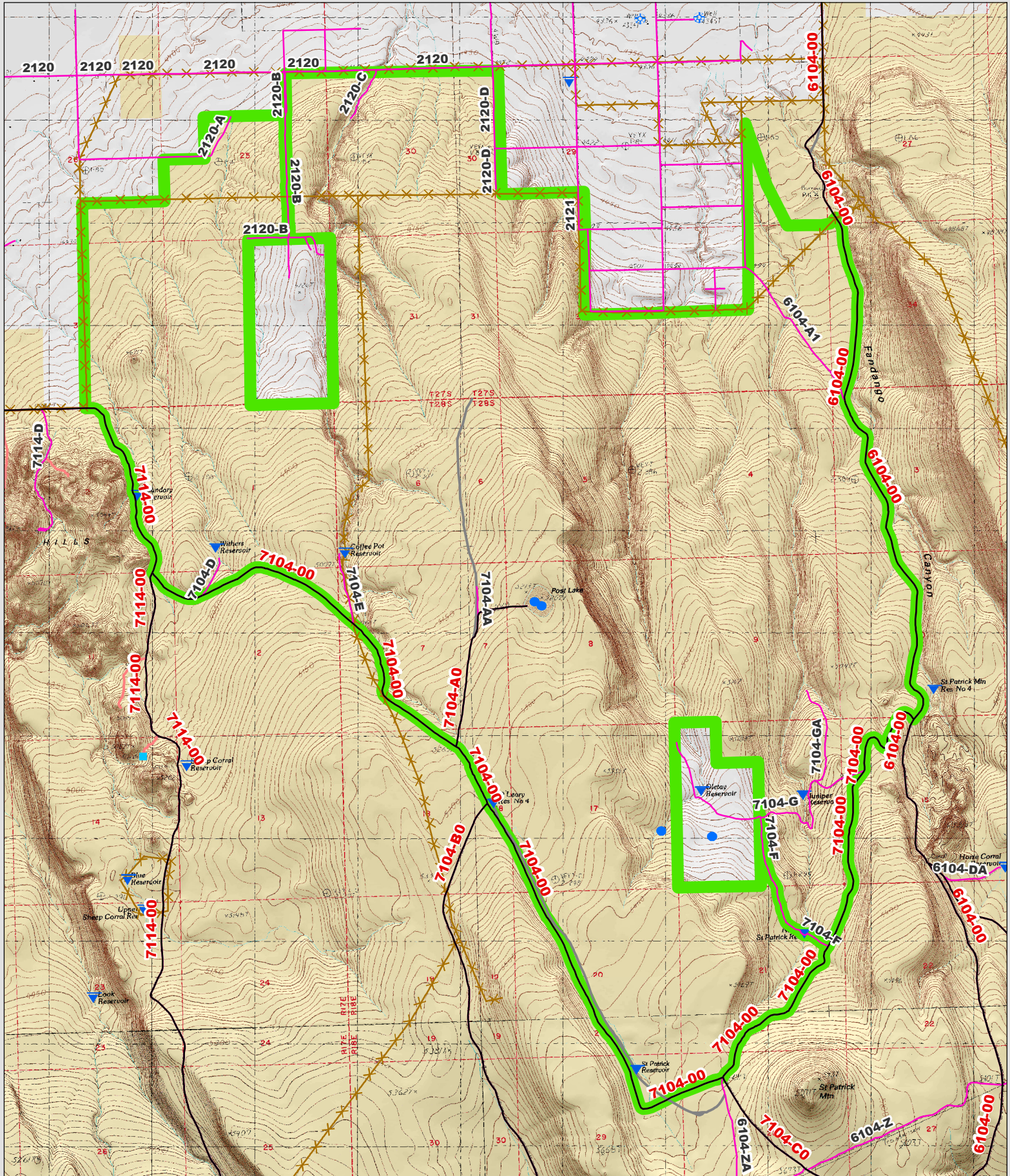
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.



 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



 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.



Ownership

- Wilderness Character Inventory Unit
- 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 Features

- Water Tank
- Waterhole
- Well - Water

1 0.5 0 1 Miles

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