

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-091/ Rabbit Hills Northeast

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 (if more than one unit is within the area, list the names/numbers of those units):

a) Inventory Source:

- a. Wilderness – Proposed Initial Inventory: Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, April 1979.
- b. Wilderness Review – Initial Inventory: Final Decision on Public Lands Obviously Lacking Wilderness Characteristics and Announcement of Public Lands to be Intensively Inventoried for Wilderness Characteristics; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, August 1979.

b) Inventory Unit Number(s)/ Name(s): 1-91/ Rabbit Hills Northeast

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

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory unit is associated with the area, list each unit/acreage 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

1-91*	10,565	Y	N	N	N/A
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* The inventory of this unit was updated in 2011. However, due to a State Office-sponsored Wilderness Inventory Consistency Evaluation and subsequent guidance, the 2011 inventory analysis and findings are being replaced by this current 2018 inventory review. Documentation of the 2011 inventory can be found in the wilderness inventory project record.

Summarize any known primary reasons for prior inventory findings listed in this table:

Historic Unit 1-91 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.” The unit did not appear generally natural. The lack of vegetative and topographic cover in the area, combined with the relatively narrow shape of the unit, precluded and outstanding opportunity for solitude. The unit also did not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Agricultural use on surrounding lands was also extensive and intruded on potential wilderness values in the area.

FORM 2

DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-091/ Rabbit Hills Northeast

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

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 the inventory unit is bounded by BLM Roads 6155-C0 on the north; 6155-00 on the west; 6155-C0 and BLM interim numbered roads 6155-CJ, 6155-CR, 6155-CS, and 6155-CT on the east; and BLM interim numbered roads 6155-CF, 6155-CS, 6155-P0, and 6155-PB on the south. Due to changes in boundary determinations (road corrections), approximately 7,000 acres were removed from the southern and northern portions of the original inventory unit.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM identified the Rabbit Hills Northeast inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 10,448 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 miles north of Plush, Oregon. The unit is approximately 9.5 miles long by 2 miles wide. The unit is dominated by the flat, western, dry lakebed of the Warner Valley. Elevation across the unit ranges from 4,475 – 4,600 feet. Approximately 2 miles of the lower reaches of the Rabbit Creek drainage (0-15 ft. deep) crosses the unit near the southern boundary. Vegetation consists of grasses, sagebrush, and greasewood. Wildfires burned approximately 1,071 acres along the western boundary of the unit in 1984.

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

In 1979, historic Unit 1-91 contained two airstrips, a bulldozed trail, and numerous “ways” in the lower portion of the unit. In addition, Agricultural use on surrounding lands was extensive and intruded on naturalness of the area. Overall, the unit did not appear generally natural.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 1,071 acres of wildfire, 925 acres of seedings, 1.5 acres of mechanical/fuel treatments, 5.5 miles of fence lines, 15 miles of motorized routes, 1 mile of reclaiming routes, and two water developments.

Presently, almost 4 decades after the original inventory, these developments are weathered and grown over with herbaceous grasses, sagebrush, and greasewood. 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. Areas that were seeded or allowed to revegetate naturally after fire, have been invaded by sagebrush/greasewood 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 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 insufficient vegetative and topographic cover in combination with the relatively narrow shape of the unit.

The BLM acknowledges that there are limited opportunities for solitude within the Rabbit Hills Northeast inventory unit. However, these opportunities are less than outstanding as the area's characteristic landscape lacks vegetative screening and existing topographic screening (mostly flat with rolling hills) along with the unit's shape 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 Rabbit Hills Northeast inventory unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude.

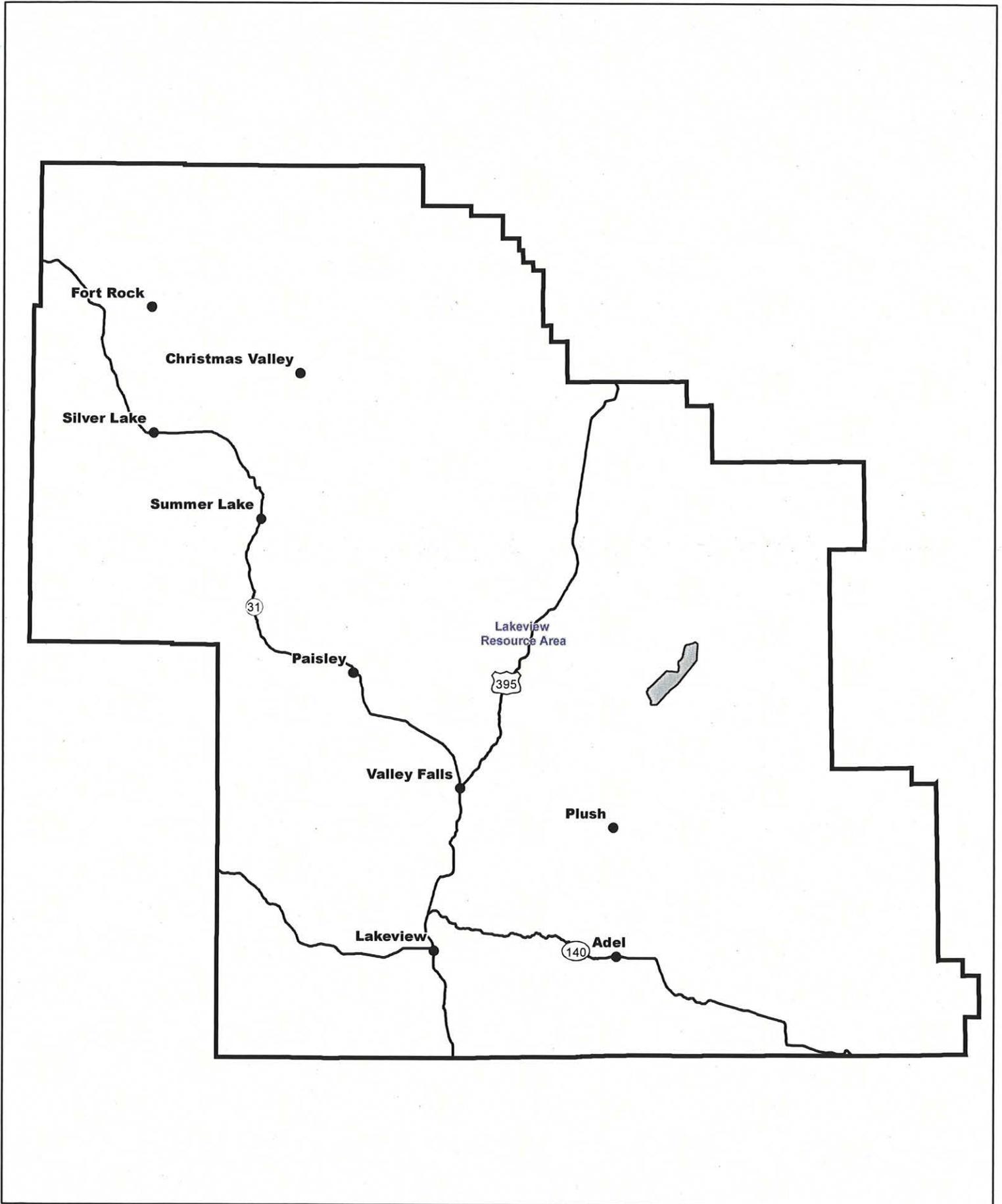
(4) Does the unit (or the remainder of the unit if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation? Yes ___ No X N/A ___

In 1979, historic Unit 1-91 was found to lack outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined recreation.

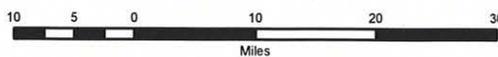
The BLM finds the unit offers limited opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, camping, wildlife observation, exploration, scenery, photography, stargazing, trapping, and hunting. However, the BLM determined that the unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for a primitive and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

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

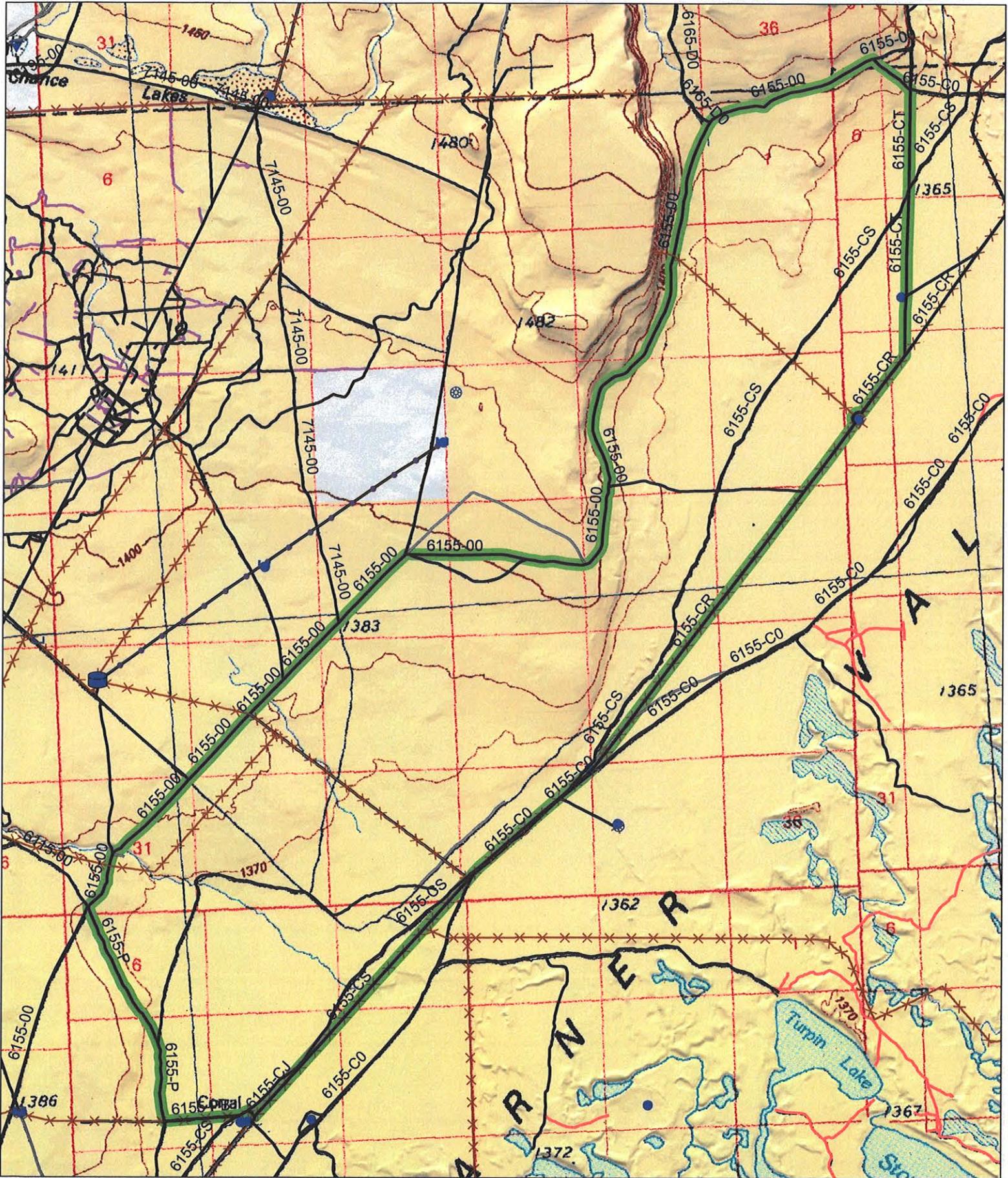
The BLM found the unit to possess archaeological and geological values as well as the presence of mule deer, pronghorn antelope, white-tailed antelope squirrel, and sage-grouse habitat.



 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.



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