

Year: 2020 Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-082P/ Rincon Southwest Addition

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 Review – Intensive Inventory: Final Decisions On 30 Selected Units in Southeast Oregon and Proposed Decisions On Other Intensively Inventoried Units; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, March 1980.

b) Inventory Unit Number(s)/ Name(s): 2-82H/ Rincon

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Intensive Wilderness Inventory: Final Decisions For 30 Selected Inventory Units and Proposed Decisions For Other Intensive Inventory Units; USDI BLM - Oregon, March 1980.

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Lakeview District, Lakeview Resource Area & Burns District, Andrews 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
2-82H	103,850	Y	Y	Y	Y
2-82P*	2,773	Y	Y	Y	N

* The inventory of this unit was updated in 2012. However, due to a State Office-sponsored Wilderness Inventory Consistency Evaluation and subsequent guidance, the 2012 inventory analysis and findings are being replaced by this current 2018 inventory review. Documentation of the 2012 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 2-82H was described as having diverse topography. The elevation ranged from 4,000 feet in the northwest corner to a high point of nearly 6,000 feet in the Lone Mountain area in the southern portion. Catlow Rim extended south almost 15 miles and reached an elevation of 6,000 feet at Square Mountain in the northwestern corner of the subunit. The rim had several deep canyons and was characterized by rugged rock cliffs that faced west. A flat open valley was found between Catlow Rim and the western boundary road, with several areas of dry lake beds. A large plateau with some rolling hills resided between the rim and the eastern boundary road. The southern area consisted of Lone Mountain, the highest point in the subunit with an elevation of 6,520 feet. The mountain contained pinnacles and columns of rhyodacitic rock which extend approximately four to five miles across the southwestern corner of the subunit. East of Lone Mountain the area was comprised of a wide, nearly flat valley which rose steeply to Oregon End Table on the eastern side. Oregon End Table extended five miles north to south and three miles east to west at the widest point. This area was extremely rocky and was characterized by rim rock around the plateau's edge. A large stand of junipers located at Juniper Springs in the southeast corner. The rest of the subunit was vegetated with big sage, rabbitbrush, grass and mountain mahogany.

Nine miles of fences, 41 miles of "ways," 18 stock and wildlife reservoirs, five guzzlers, one well, and three miles of pipeline were located within the subunit. In addition, approximately 4,000 acres of a crested wheatgrass seeding were located in the far southwestern corner. However, only 3,055 acres were substantially noticeable. Along the eastern boundary, approximately 2,200 acres of the Rincon crested wheatgrass seeding comprised an obvious intrusion. In total, 5,255 acres of seeding in the subunit were substantially noticeable. The works of man were also substantially noticeable in 1,000 acres in the far southeastern corner of the subunit. The area included the Oregon End Well and powerline and a "way" leading up to the Oregon End Table. A gravel pit was located in the northwestern corner in section five and was substantially noticeable in an area of about 200 acres. In total, approximately 6,455 acres in the subunit contained substantially noticeable works of man. Because of the large size of the subunit and the dispersal of the developments, the works of man appeared to be substantially unnoticeable.

Except for the area around Juniper Springs the subunit lacked vegetative screening. However, due to the diverse topography and large size of the area, opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of others were outstanding.

The size of the area and the diverse topography created a challenge for the visitor. The subunit offered outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, photography, and sightseeing.

The Lone Mountain area was an interesting geologic area. The unit contained cultural resources and crucial antelope range.

The final decision dropped the crested wheatgrass seeding in Hawk Valley from the unit boundary.

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-082P/ Rincon Southwest Addition

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

In 2018, the BLM received a citizen inventory from the Schadler Ranch. All these materials were considered during the BLM's wilderness inventory process for this area.

Between 2008 and 2019, 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 and revised this information in 2019 based on new citizen submitted information submitted.

The BLM determined that the inventory unit is bounded by BLM Roads 6126-00 to the south; 6126-D0 to the west; and is contiguous with the Rincon Wilderness Study Area (WSA) to the north and east. Due to changes in boundary determinations (roads) and cutouts of unnatural features (pipelines along a portion of the western boundary) approximately 8 acres were removed from the inventory unit. BLM also reviewed the Schadler submission but did not make any route changes based on this information.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Rincon Southwest Addition does not meet the minimum size criteria at approximately 2,739 acres of BLM-administered lands. However, it does meet one of the exceptions to the size criteria; namely, that it is contiguous with BLM's 103,850-acre Rincon WSA to the east.

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 44 miles east of Adel, Oregon. The unit is approximately 4 miles long by 1.5 miles wide. The unit constitutes the east half of Hawk Valley, at an elevation of 5,500 feet. Vegetation consists largely of an old crested wheatgrass seeding that has been invaded by sagebrush, rabbit brush, bitterbrush, and native grasses.

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

9 miles of fences, 41 miles of “ways,” 18 stock and wildlife reservoirs, five guzzlers, one well, three miles of pipeline, 4,000 acres of a crested wheatgrass seeding, a gravel pit, and a power line were located within the subunit. In total, approximately 6,455 acres (largely crested wheatgrass seedings) in the subunit contained substantially noticeable works of man, and was removed from the final inventory unit. Due to the large size and the dispersal of developments, the works of man appeared to be substantially unnoticeable on the remaining portions of the subunit.

The Schadler Ranch noted that several of the manmade structures in the area were visible from long distances. The BLM reviewed all the information submitted but did not make any changes to this unit.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/ disturbances: 2,700 acres of seeding and chemical treatments, 1 miles of reclaiming routes, 0.5 mile of motorized routes, and 1 mile of fence line.

Presently, almost 4 decades after the original inventory, these developments are weathered and grown over with herbaceous grasses, sagebrush, and rabbit brush. 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, based on its own merits, that the Rincon Southwest Addition appears in a natural condition where the imprint of man are substantially unnoticeable. Furthermore, since the unit is now contiguous with the Rincon WSA, the Rincon Southwest Addition must be analyzed in the context of these now shared wilderness values. After considering wilderness values offered by both units, the BLM determined that the Rincon Southwest Addition and the WSA contribute mutually additive effects to the natural condition of both units as a whole. Thus, the area was found to be in a natural condition primarily affected by the forces of nature.

(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 1980, the much larger historic Unit 2-82H (which became Rincon WSA) was found to possess outstanding opportunities for solitude, where one could avoid the sights and sounds of others, due to topography and the large size of the area. Outstanding opportunities for solitude specifically noted included: the rolling hills found within much of the area, the rugged rock outcroppings around Lone Mountain, and the rims and elevation differences associated with Catlow Rim and Oregon End Table.

The BLM determined that the Rincon Southwest Addition on its own merit, provides limited opportunities for solitude and ultimately lacks adequate size or screening to provide

outstanding opportunities. The unit is approximately 4 miles long by 1.5 miles wide. The unit constitutes the east half of Hawk Valley, at an elevation of 5,500 feet. Vegetation consists largely of an old crested wheatgrass seeding that has been invaded by sagebrush, rabbit brush, bitterbrush, and native grasses. However, opportunities would be enhanced by the additive effect of outstanding opportunities for solitude present within the 103,850-acre Rincon WSA to the east and must be analyzed in the context of these now shared wilderness values.

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 that one would be able to avoid the sights and sounds of others within the Rincon Southwest Addition due to the contiguous values of the Rincon WSA.

(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 1980, the much larger historic Unit 2-82H (which became Rincon WSA) was found to possess outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, photography, and sightseeing as the area's size and diverse topography created a challenge for the visitor. The Lone Mountain formation was noted as an area of geologic interest.

The BLM determined that the Rincon Southwest Addition on its own merit, provides limited opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and ultimately lacks adequate size to provide outstanding opportunities. However, opportunities for recreation would be enhanced by the additive effect of outstanding primitive recreation opportunities present within the 103,850-acre Rincon WSA to the east and must be analyzed in the context of these now shared wilderness values.

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 that outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are present within the Rincon Southwest Addition due to the contiguous values of the Rincon WSA.

(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, California bighorn sheep, and sage-grouse habitat.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-082P/ Rincon Southwest Addition

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):

 The area- or a portion of the area- has wilderness character:
(items 1, 2 and 3 must be checked "yes").

 X 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, Lakeview Resource Area

 9/23/20

Date

Approved by:

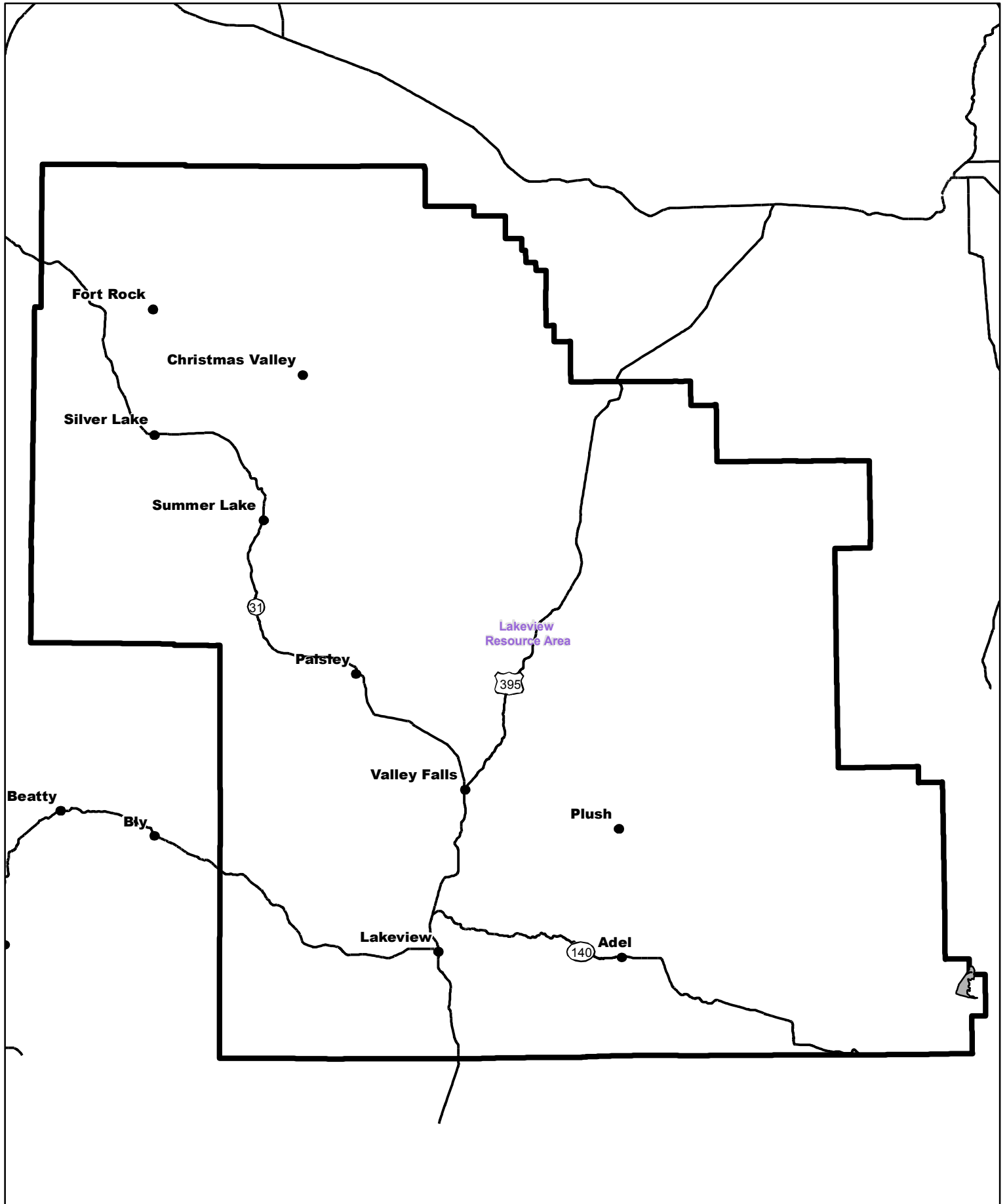


Jami Ludwig
Field Manager, Lakeview Resource Area

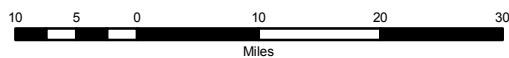
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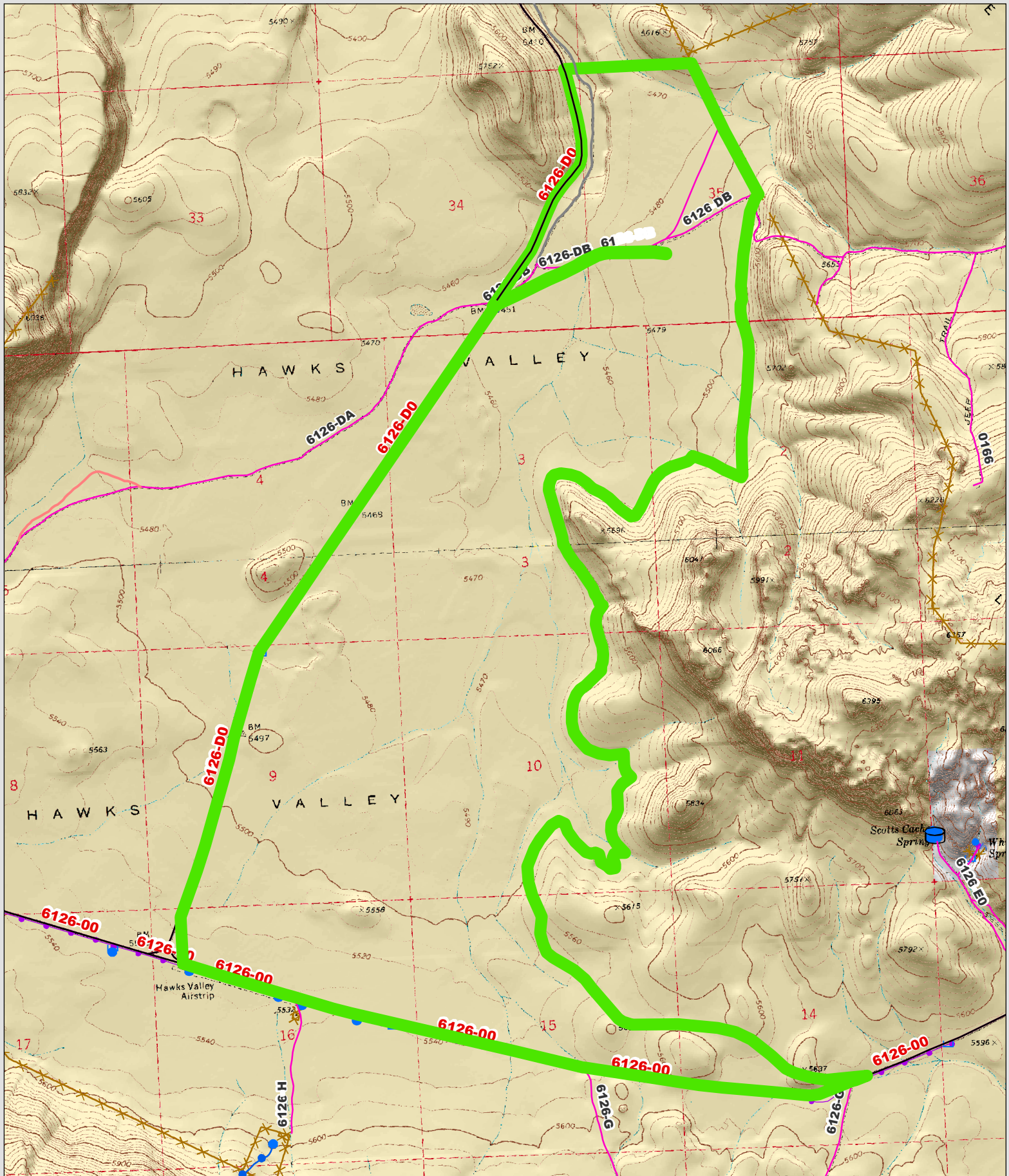
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.



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 Developments

- Water Tank
- Waterhole
- Well - Water



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