

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-005/ Saddle Butte South\*

**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):** OR-1-5/ Unknown

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.

\*Note: Unit name was changed to better reflect values and features found within the unit, and to reduce confusion of similarly named inventory units.

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
1-5	9,000	N	N	N	N/A
1-5*	10,618	N	N/A	N/A	N/A

\* 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:*

This unit was eliminated from further review in 1979. The unit was described as having terrain that was low, rolling tableland with a few buttes. Vegetation was primarily sagebrush with scattered juniper. A 500-KV BPA power line was noted as a major impact that impaired the natural condition of the west side of the unit. In addition, the long narrow aspect of the unit precluded any outstanding opportunities for solitude or unconfined recreation.

**FORM 2**

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY  
CONDITIONS**

**Unit Number/Name:** OR-015-005/ Saddle Butte South

**(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 a 500-KV BPA power line right-of-way on the west; BLM Road 6171-00 and private land on the north; County Road 5-12B right-of-way, BLM Road 6171-BO, and BLM interim numbered roads 3151-00, 3151-A0, 3151-AA, 6171-AC, and 6171-AD to the east; and private lands to the south. A segment of BLM interim numbered road 3151-00, used for mineral pit access on the east side of the unit, was cherry stemmed. Additionally, due to portions of 6171-A0 being found to no longer meet the wilderness definition of a road, changes in boundary determinations (road and power line right-of-ways buffer corrections), and cut-outs of unnatural features mineral pit, pipeline) approximately 3,345 acres were added to the unit.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Saddle Butte South inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 13,964 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 19 miles northeast of Christmas Valley, Oregon. The unit is approximately 9.5 miles long by 3.75 miles wide. Topographically, the unit is comprised

of half a dozen moderate buttes (including Trail Butte and Saddle Butte 100 - 250 ft. high, in the central third of the unit. The northern half of the unit also includes 9 ephemeral lake depressions (10-40 ft. deep). In addition, North Fork Peters Creek drainage runs approximately 5.5 miles (10-25 ft. deep) through the southern half of the unit. The remaining area is comprised of rolling hills, small buttes, and minor drainages on the northern and southern ends of the unit. Overall, the unit ranges in elevation from 4,580 – 5,257 feet. Vegetatively, the vast majority of the unit (over 10,000 acres) 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. Lastly, a wildfire burned approximately 768 acres the central-western portion of the unit in 1968.

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

In, 1979, the inventory was determined to be unnatural as a 500-KV BPA power line was deemed to impair the natural condition of the west side of the unit.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 768 acres of wildfire, 626 acres of seeding, 14.5 miles of motorized routes, 11.5 miles of fence line, 6 miles of cat lines, 6 waterholes, and 1 reservoir.

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 (1/4<sup>th</sup> 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. Additionally, areas that were seeded or allowed to revegetate naturally after wildfire have been invaded by juniper, rabbit bush, sagebrush, and grasses 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

The original inventory in 1979 determined that the unit precluded any outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the unit's long narrow shape.

The BLM determined that there are several outstanding opportunities for solitude across the unit due to topographic and vegetative screening. Topographically, the unit is comprised of half a dozen moderate buttes (including Trail Butte and Saddle Butte 100 - 250 ft. high, in the central third of the unit. The northern half of the unit also includes 9 ephemeral lake

depressions (10-40 ft. deep). In addition, North Fork Peters Creek drainage runs approximately 5.5 miles (10-25 ft. deep) through the southern half of the unit. The remaining area is comprised of rolling hills, small buttes, and minor drainages on the northern and southern ends of the unit. Overall, the unit ranges in elevation from 4,580 – 5,257 feet. Vegetatively, western juniper stands have greatly expanded in height, width, and density. The vast majority of the unit (over 10,000 acres) is covered in moderate to high-density western juniper stands providing excellent screening. Due in large part to the above-described vegetative screening throughout the unit, and topographic screening to a lesser degree, 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 Saddle Butte South 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

The original inventory in 1979 determined that the unit precluded any outstanding opportunities for unconfined recreation due to the unit's long narrow shape.

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, as well as, hiking up 5.5 miles of the North Fork Peters Creek drainage 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, and sage-grouse habitat.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

**Unit Number and Name:** OR-015-005/ Saddle Butte South

**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

  4/4/18    
Date

  
Jami Ludwig: Assistant Field Manager

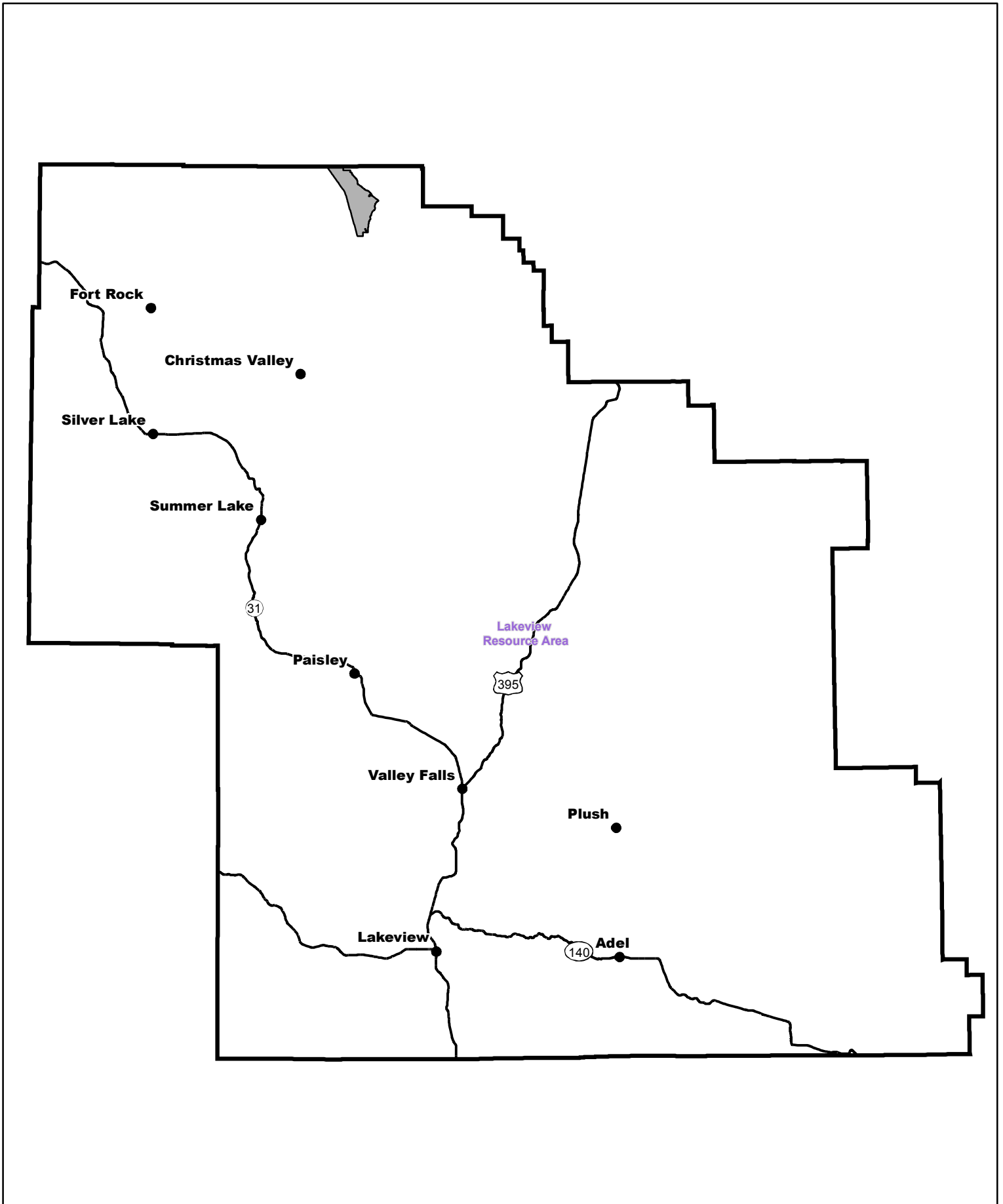
  6/4/18    
Date


**Approved by:**

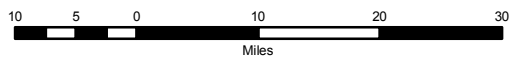
  
**J. Todd Forbes**  
Field Manager


  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.*

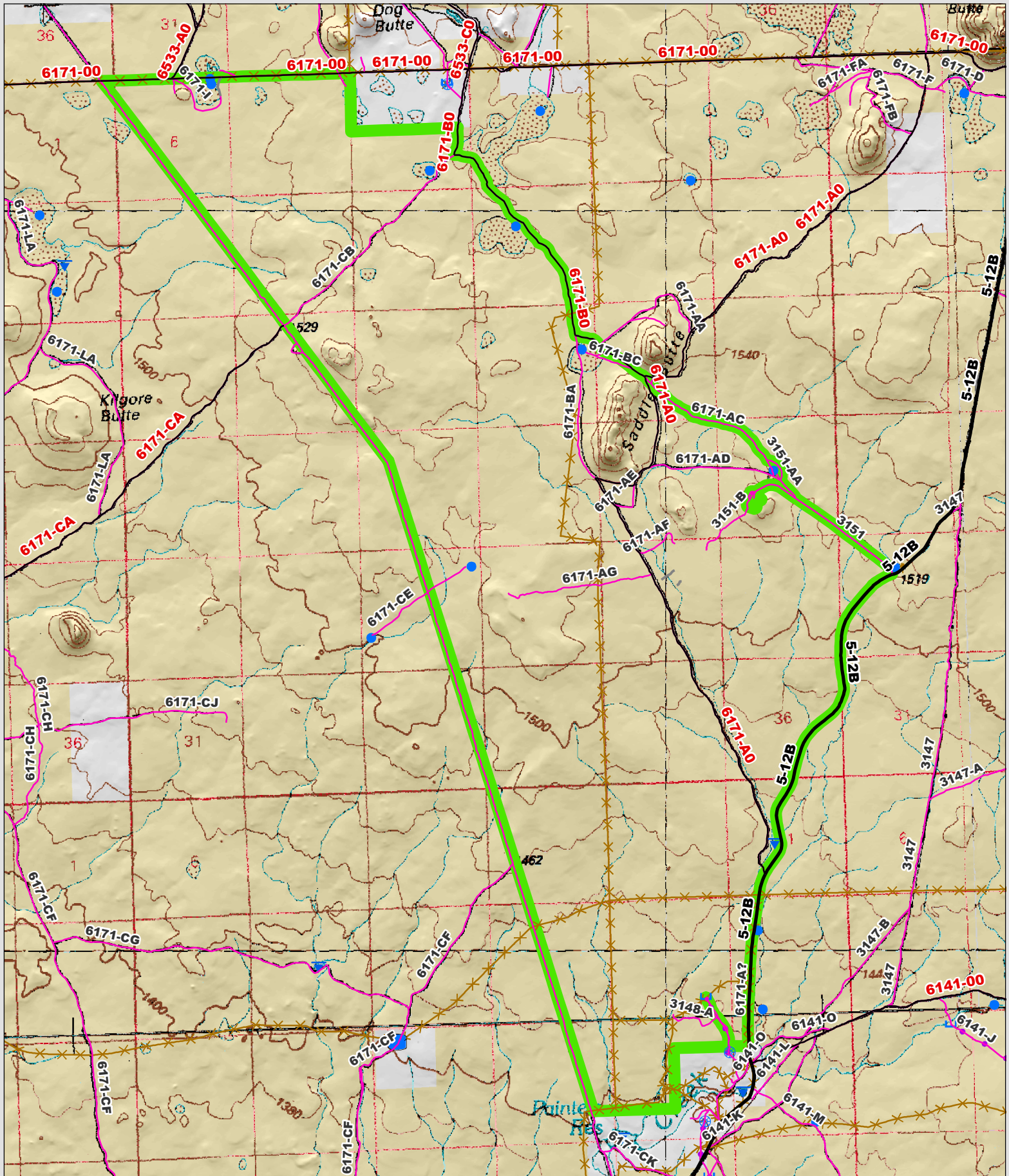


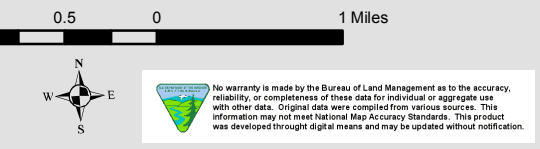
 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



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<p><b>Wilderness Character Inventory Unit</b></p> <p><b>Ownership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Bureau of Land Management</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: lightgreen; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> U.S. Forest Service</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: white; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> State</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: white; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Private/Unknown</li> </ul>	<p><b>Roads/Trails</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Motorized Routes</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid red; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Highways</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid gray; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Reclaiming Routes</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px dashed magenta; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Interim Routes</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pipelines and Ditches</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Ditch</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid magenta; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Water Pipeline</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Guzzler</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px dashed orange; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Fences</li> </ul>	<p><b>Water Developments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px solid blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Dam</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px solid blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Reservoir</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px solid blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Spring Development</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px solid blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Trough</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px solid blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Water Diversion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Water Tank</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Waterhole</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Well - Water</li> </ul>	<p>1 0.5 0 1 Miles</p>  <p>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>
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