

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-065/ Saunders Rim

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:

- 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 Inventory – Final Intensive Inventory Decisions; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, November 1980.

b) Inventory Unit Number(s)/ Name(s): 1-64/ Twin Buttes; 1-65/ Saunders Rim; 1-66/ Unnamed; 1-67/ Nub

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):

- a. 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.
- b. Intensive Wilderness Inventory - Final Decisions; USDI BLM - Oregon, November 1980.

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
1-64	22,080	Y	N	N	N/A

1-64*	23,273	Y	N	N	N/A
1-65	17,000	Y	N	N	NA
1-66	8,000	N	N	N	NA
1-65; 1-66*	25,868	Y	N	N	NA
1-67	6,520	Y	N	N	N/A
1-67*	6,910	Y	N	N	N/A

* The inventory of this unit was updated in 2010. However, due to a State Office-sponsored Wilderness Inventory Consistency Evaluation and subsequent guidance, the 2010 inventory analysis and findings are being replaced by this current 2018 inventory review. Documentation of the 2010 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 1-64 was described as generally flat to low rolling terrain, with minor rims at several locations within the unit. The most noticeable geographic feature was the northern butte of the Twin Buttes in the southwest corner of the unit. The unit contained several small dry lakebeds. The vegetation was a big sagebrush community. The unit contained two minor “ways” leading to water developments and a small mining area on the eastern boundary. However, it remained in a generally natural condition unaffected by the works of man. Though there was minor topographic relief in portions of the northern end of the unit, the generally flat to rolling contours with no vegetation for screening left a person exposed to the presence of others within the unit. The unit did not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The unit had no outstanding features or points of interest which would focus visitor attention or present any outstanding recreation opportunities. Lakebeds in the unit may possess some archeological values, although none were documented.

Historic Unit 1-65 was described as sage basins, a few low rolling hills, and rims. Saunders Rim was the most significant feature in the unit. It was located in the eastern portion of the unit and rose approximately 250 feet. There were three lakebeds in the unit. The unit had four lakebed pits, a well, six miles of fence and a “way.” These intrusions did not significantly affect the naturalness of the unit. A 500 KV power line located adjacent to the east boundary was substantially noticeable from approximately 20 percent of the unit. The majority of the unit was in a generally natural condition. The unit provided only a minor degree of solitude because of small size, lack of significant topographic relief and absence of vegetative screening. One would not easily avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. The unit had only minimal opportunities for unconfined and primitive recreation. There were some opportunities for hunting and trapping but they were not outstanding.

Historic Unit 1-66 was described as a broken upland, with rim rock, shallow draws and small dry lake basins. The northern half of the unit was a grass seeding, while the south half contained big sagebrush. A 500 KV power line dominated the east half of the unit. Natural elements were dominated by the works of man.

Historic Unit 1-67 was described as sage flats with low hills offering slight topographic relief. There was one lakebed and four reservoirs in the unit. There were three “ways”, one and one-fourth miles of fence line, and four reservoirs in the unit. These intrusions were somewhat noticeable; however, the area appeared to be in a generally natural condition. The size of the unit, in conjunction with topographic exposure and low vegetation, limited a person's opportunity for solitude, such that, one could not experience outstanding solitude. Recreational opportunities were limited within the unit. Hunting and trapping were the primary recreational activities; however, these values were not considered outstanding within the unit. Archaeological sites were believed to be in the unit, though none were documented.

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-065/ Saunders Rim

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

In 2005, the BLM received a citizen proposal from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) for the 58,306-acre Saunders Rim 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. They identified this large area as having no interior routes, which met the BLM wilderness inventory definition of a road (see Map, p. 194 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 the inventory unit is bounded by BLM Roads 6184-B0 and 6194-A0, and BLM interim numbered road 6194-AD to the north; Bonneville Power Administration right-of-ways for a 500-KV power line and access road (BLM interim numbered road 7144-00) to the east; 6184-00 to the south; 6104-00 and BLM interim numbered road 6194-D0 to the west. Approximately 1.5 acres of concentrated areas of unnatural features were removed from the unit including a pipelines, wells, well house, water storage tank, solar panels, propane tank, and troughs. Portions of BLM Roads 6194-00 and 6184-B0 no longer meets the definition of a boundary road. Due to findings that sections of BLM Roads no longer meet the wilderness definition of a road, historic inventory units (1-64, 1-65, 1-66, and 1-67 have been combined to form the new unit boundary. This evaluation focuses on these combined units and will hereby be referred to as the Saunders Rim inventory unit.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Saunders Rim

inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 59,452 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 11 miles west of Alkali Lake, Oregon. The unit is approximately 14.5 miles long by 8.5 miles wide. The unit ranges in elevation from 4,400 ft. to 5,353 feet. The area is very topographically diverse and is dominated by Saunders Rim (150–300ft. high), which runs 14 miles from the northeast to the southwest in the northern third of the unit. The unit has numerous buttes, points, tabletops, ridges, and rims. The southern two-thirds of the unit is comprised of numerous rims (75-250 ft. high), canyons, and drainages trending from the northwest to the southeast. The southwest corner of the unit is dominated by the northern Twin Butte (375 ft. high). In addition the unit contains dozens of large, deep, draws, drainages, depressed lakebed, playas, and small, closed-in, valleys (40-75 ft. deep) including Walking Plow lake, Diatomite Reservoir, Saunders, West Saunders, Sammy Horse Horse Pen, Camp Tank, Snipe, and a few more Brattain and ZX numbered waterholes. Vegetation consists of a shrub-steppe biotic community, which includes sagebrush, grass, and low growing perennials. A wildfire in 1984 burned approximately 2,613 acres in the southwest corner of the unit.

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

Historic Unit 1-64 contained two minor “ways” leading to water developments and a small mining area on the eastern boundary. However, it remained in a generally natural condition unaffected by the works of man. Unit 1-65 contained four lakebed pits, a well, six miles of fence and a “way.” These intrusions did not significantly affect the naturalness of the unit. A 500 KV power line located adjacent to the east boundary was substantially noticeable from approximately 20 percent of the unit. The majority of the unit was in a generally natural condition. Unit 1-66 was dominated by the works of man including a 500 KV power line on the east half of the unit and a grass seeding on the northern half of the unit. Unit 1-67 contained three “ways”, one and one-fourth miles of fence line, and four reservoirs in the unit. These intrusions were somewhat noticeable; however, the area appeared to be in a generally natural condition.

In 2005, ONDA found their 58,306-acre Saunders Rim proposed WSA to be in a natural condition, primarily affected by the forces of nature. ONDA acknowledged manmade developments within the unit such as a water guzzler and lakebed pits. However, considering the size of their proposal, ONDA concluded that these few manmade features would not have a cumulative impact to the area as a whole. Furthermore, ONDA removed areas with power lines and seedings from their proposed unit boundary and noted the power lines are only noticeable when in close proximity due to rolling terrain (see pg. 191 of ONDA 2005).

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 2,849 acres of seedings, 2,613 acres of wildfire, 740 acres of chemical treatments, 232 acres of mow strips (fuel breaks), 1 mineral pit and 6 abandoned mine disturbances (4.5 acres), 7 miles of fence lines, 49 miles of motorized routes, 18 miles of reclaiming routes, 19 waterholes, 2 reservoirs, 1 wildlife guzzler, and 1 trough.

Presently, almost 4 decades after the original inventory, these developments are weathered and grown over with herbaceous grasses, rabbit brush, and sagebrush. 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 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 seeded or allowed to revegetate naturally 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 1979/1980, historic Units 1-64, 1-65, 1-66, and 1-67 were all found to lack outstanding opportunities. Unit 1-64 offered some minor topographic relief in portions of the northern end of the unit, however, the generally flat to rolling contours of the unit with no vegetation for screening left a person exposed to the presence of others. Unit 1-65 provided only a minor degree of solitude; however, because of the unit's small size, lack of significant topographic relief, and absence of vegetative screening one would not easily avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. Unit 1-66 was dropped before being evaluated for solitude. Unit 1-67 was found to lack characteristics of solitude as the size of the unit in conjunction with topographic exposure and low vegetation, limited a person's opportunity for solitude, such that, one could not experience outstanding solitude.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified their 58,306-acre Saunders Rim proposed WSA as having outstanding opportunities for solitude as former units are contiguous with one another and no longer stand-alone. Thus, the reasons for their elimination no longer apply. ONDA noted their proposed unit forms a much larger area with a more diverse landscape than the units by themselves. The rolling topography throughout the area would provide screening from other visitors and offer hikers and horseback riders a sense of outstanding solitude (see pg. 192 of ONDA 2005).

The BLM determined that there are several outstanding opportunities for solitude across the unit due to topographic screening and size. The unit ranges in elevation from 4,400 ft. to

5,353 feet. The area is very topographically diverse and is dominated by Saunders Rim (150–300ft. high), which runs 14 miles from the northeast to the southwest in the northern third of the unit. The unit has numerous buttes, points, tabletops, ridges, and rims. The southern two-thirds of the unit is comprised of numerous rims (75-250 ft. high), canyons, and drainages trending from the northwest to the southeast. The southwest corner of the unit is dominated by the northern Twin Butte (375 ft. high). In addition the unit contains dozens of large, deep, draws, drainages, depressed lakebed, playas, and small, closed-in, valleys (40-75 ft. deep) including Walking Plow lake, Diatomite Reservoir, Saunders, West Saunders, Sammy Horse Horse Pen, Camp Tank, Snipe, and a few more Brattain and ZX numbered waterholes. Due to the above-described topographic 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 Saunders Rim 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 X No N/A

In 1979/1980, historic Units 1-64, 1-65, 1-66, and 1-67 were not found to possess outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Unit 1-64 lacked outstanding features or points of interest which would focus visitor attention or present any outstanding recreation opportunities.

Unit 1-65 had only minimal opportunities for unconfined and primitive recreation. There were some opportunities for hunting and trapping, but they were found to be less than outstanding. Unit 1-66 was dropped before being evaluated for recreation opportunities. Hunting and trapping were noted within Unit 1-67 as primary recreational activities; however, these values were not considered outstanding within the unit.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified 58,306-acre Saunders Rim proposed WSA as having outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation based on sheer size as former units are contiguous with one another and no longer stand-alone. The resulting, much larger, unit has a more diverse landscape with rolling topography throughout the area that would offer hikers and horseback rides a sense of outstanding recreation. ONDA noted that hunting and trapping would also be outstanding in the area, as well as, archaeological exploration at any of the unit's dry lakebeds (p. 192 of ONDA 2005).

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 through the unit's diverse topography, as well as, hiking/ horseback riding along Saunders Rim represent unique opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

(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, pygmy rabbit, golden eagle, California bighorn sheep, and sage-grouse habitat.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-065/ Saunders Rim


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):

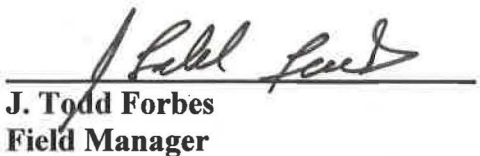

Chris Bishop: Outdoor Recreation Planner

 6/4/18
Date


Jami Ludwig: Assistant Field Manager

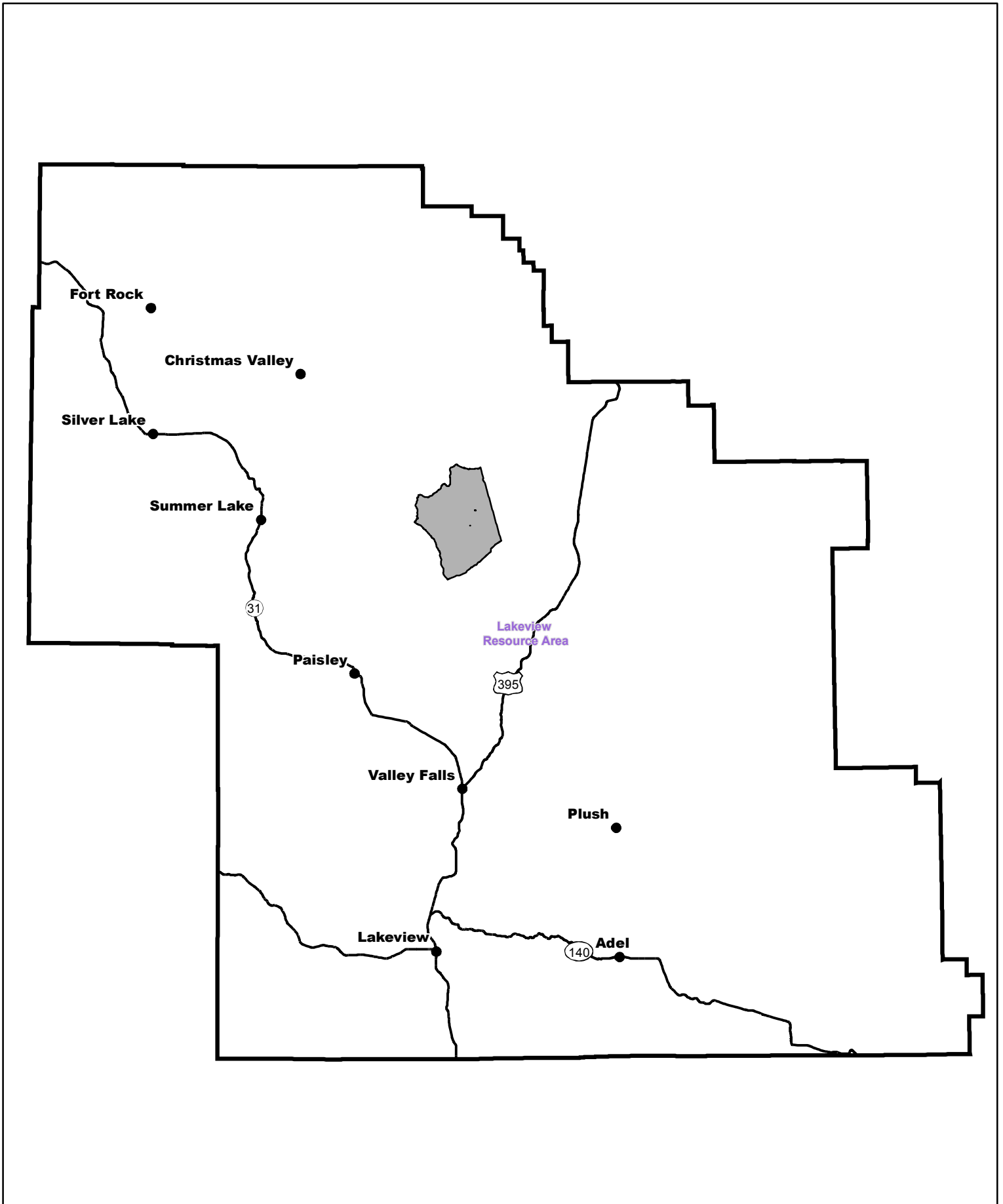
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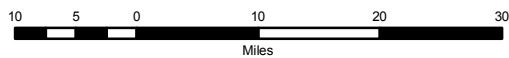

J. Todd Forbes
Field Manager


 6/4/18
Date

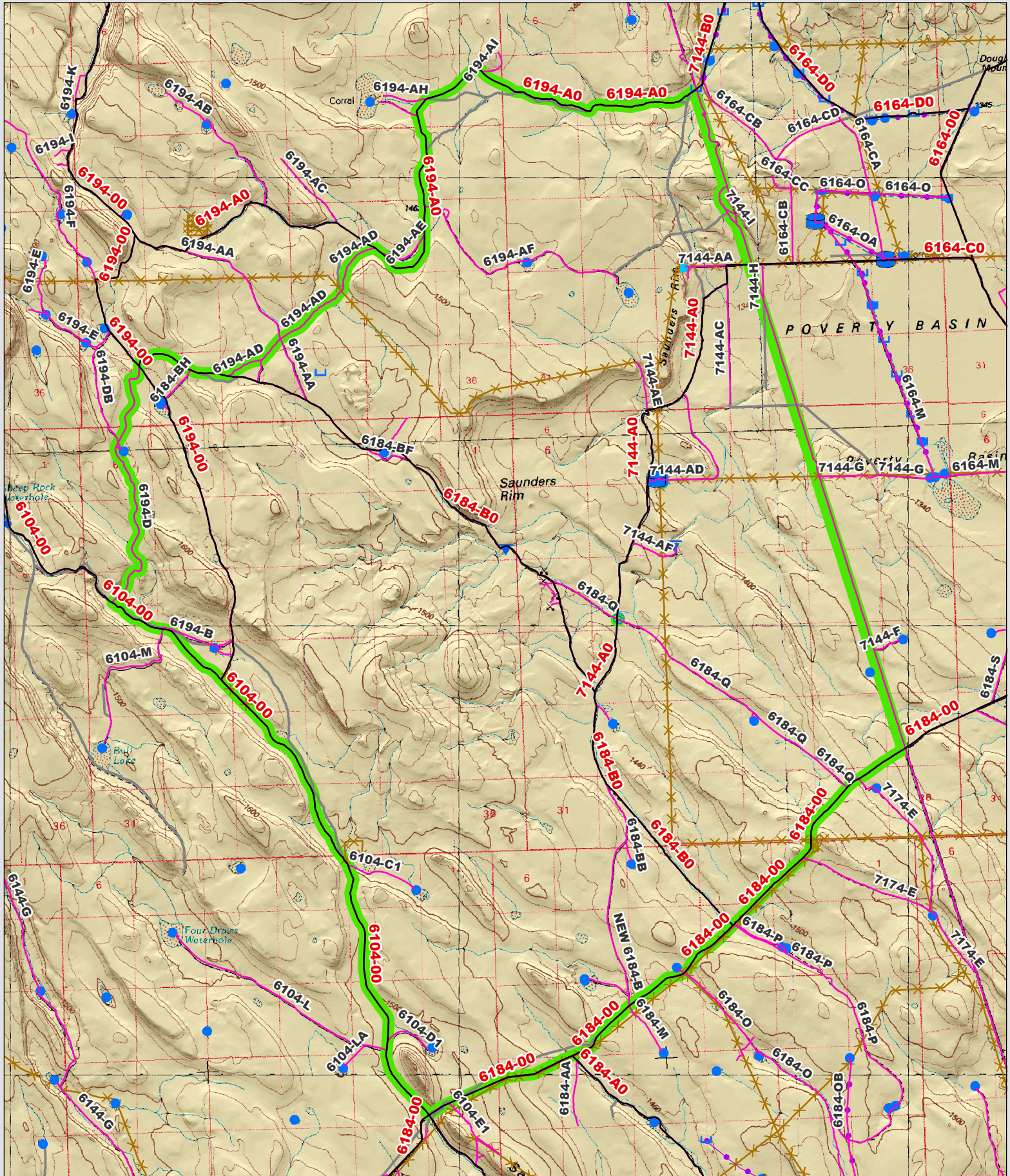
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.



 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



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<p>Wilderness Character Inventory Unit</p> <p>Ownership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bureau of Land Management U.S. Forest Service Private/Unknown 	<p>Roads/Trails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motorized Routes Highways Reclaiming Routes 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"> Dam Reservoir Spring Development Trough Water Diversion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Tank Waterhole Well - Water 	<p>2 1 0 2 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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