

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-043C/ Sheeplick Draw\*

**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):** 1-43(1-45) and PP&L #OR-01-04-17 (19)/ St. Patrick; 1-41 and PP&L #OR-01-04-20/ Squaw 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.

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

**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
1-41	25,600	Y	Y	N	Y
1-41B*	8,691	Y	N	N	N/A
1-43, 1-45	19,800	Y	Y	N	Y
1-43C*	10,828	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:***

Historic Unit 1-41 was described as flat to gently rolling, the northern two-thirds dropping gently. Low north south rim through the center of the north half. Several southeast to northwest low rims in the south half. The southern third broke to the south, comprised of a very large ridge, broken by rims and draws. The unit contained many small basins with lakebeds. Sheep Lake was in the center of the unit. Vegetation was desert shrubs with a few bands of juniper along rims and draws. The unit contained some livestock waterholes with “ways” leading to them and a very small seeding in the northwest corner. Outside intrusions included ranches, county roads, and hay fields. Overall, the unit was found to be pristine or nearly so, where evidence of man’s activities were minimal. The area was also found to spacious as the topography, size or shape of the area provided seemingly complete isolation (solitude). The unit offered some antelope and deer hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and dry camping. Scenic quality was medium. Overall, the unit lacked outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Supplemental values included possible archaeological sites in the southwest. Initially the unit was found to contain the essential characteristics of a wilderness area. However, the unit was ultimately dropped from wilderness consideration due the need of future projects requiring intensive management of the vegetation for mule deer benefits including water development (reservoirs) and seedings. In addition, use of vehicles on interior routes would negatively affect other users in the area being as the unit was relatively open.

Historic Unit 1-43/45 was described as a gently north sloping plateau with small to moderate size rims running north to south, with a steep faced rim on the west boundary. The south edge of the area broke off into the Summer Lake Basin. The unit also contained St. Patrick Mountain in the northeast corner. Vegetation consisted of desert shrubs with juniper along rims. Internal intrusions included a few “ways” accessing water holes/reservoirs. Outside intrusions included a distant subdivision and ranch/ farm improvements over three miles away, which could only be seen from the highest points of the unit. Man’s activities were found to be minimal within the unit. The inventory team was leaning toward finding solitude and recommended further analysis. Recreational opportunities included some medium quality deer and antelope hunting, hiking, horseback riding, dry camping though considered less than outstanding. The unit was ultimately dropped from wilderness consideration due to unmanageability of access by people from the local town who used the area for limited recreation and viewing wild horses. Additional rationale included the need for construction of water developments for wild horses. Lastly, the inventory concluded that users in the area would be aware of other users as the unit was relatively open.

**FORM 2**

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY  
CONDITIONS**

**Unit Number/Name:** OR-015-043C/ Sheeplick Draw

**(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 103,460-acre Diablo Mountain proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA) Addition. ONDA's proposal is comprised of three additions including a North Addition (20,245 acres), a South Addition (20,170 acres), and an East Addition (63,045 acres). 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. 71 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. As such, the BLM found the original inventory units are contiguous with each other and must be evaluated on combined merits for wilderness characteristics. However, the BLM did not find ONDA's proposed North Addition to be contiguous with the Diablo Mountain WSA.

The BLM determined that the inventory unit is bounded by BLM Roads 7114-A0, BLM interim numbered roads 7114-C0, 7114-CA, 7124-AC, 7124-K0, 7134-L0, a PacifiCorp 500-KV power line right-of-way, and private lands to the north; 6104-00 and 6104-C0 to the east; 7134-00, State Highway 31 right-of-way, and private lands to the west; 6104-C0, county right-of-ways for 4-16 and 4-16A, BLM interim numbered road 2134-00, 7124-D0, 7124-E0, and private lands to the south. Due to changes in boundary determinations (roads and power line right-of-ways buffer corrections) and cutout of unnatural features (mineral pit), approximately 81 acres were removed from this unit. Portions of BLM Roads 7124-00 and 7104-B0 no longer meet the definition of a boundary road. Thus, portions of historic inventory units (1-41, 1-43/45) have been combined to form the new unit boundary. This evaluation focuses on these combined units and will hereby be referred to as the Sheeplick Draw inventory unit.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Sheeplick Draw inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 19,631 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 4 miles northeast of Summer Lake, Oregon. The unit is approximately 12 miles long by 4 miles wide, with one 160-acre inholding in the western third of the unit. Topographically the unit is very diverse numerous points (Flatiron Point, 5,429 ft. high), ridges, buttes, rims, draws, and drainages. The unit ranges in elevation from 4,295 ft. to 5,830 feet. There are approximately a dozen moderate to large rims and associated canyons (200-900 ft. high/deep) running from the highlands in the north toward the Summer Lake Basin to the south. The unit also contains a half a dozen drainages including Sheeplick Draw (2.5 miles and 700 ft. elevation change), Watson Draw (3.5 miles and 1,000 ft. elevation change), and Juniper Canyon (4.5 miles and 850 ft. elevation change). In addition, the unit contains dozens of large, deep, depressed lakebeds and small, closed-in, valleys (25-100 ft. deep) including Pattern Reservoir, Rock Lake, St. Patrick Lake, Spur Rowel Lake, Section Line Waterhole, and the southern Twin Lake. Vegetatively, approximately 1,000 acres of the unit is covered in moderate to high-density western juniper stands, with old-growth characteristics in the western third of the unit, but also in isolated patches along drainages and rims in the east. The remaining vegetation is scattered juniper, sagebrush, rabbit brush, and grass. Wildfires burned approximately 2,242 acres in the western third of the unit in 2017.

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

In 1977, Unit 1-41 contained some livestock waterholes with “ways” leading to them and a very small seeding in the northwest corner. Outside intrusions included ranches, county roads, and hay fields. Overall, the unit was found to be pristine or nearly so, where evidence of man’s activities were minimal. Unit 1-43/45 included a few “ways” accessing water holes/reservoirs. Outside intrusions included a distant subdivision and ranch/ farm improvements over three miles away, which could only be seen from the highest points of the unit. Man’s activities were found to be minimal within the unit.

In 2005, ONDA found their 20,245-acre North Addition of the Diablo Mountain proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA) to appear natural throughout, with the works of man substantially unnoticeable. ONDA found their North Addition is contiguous with other units from the original inventory, the Diablo Mountain WSA, and the

greater 103,460-acre Diablo Mountain proposed WSA Addition. As such, the North Addition of the Diablo Mountain proposed WSA no longer stands alone and therefore a review of naturalness must look at the new area as a whole. When looked at from this perspective, ONDA states the few manmade developments found within the area would not have a cumulative impact to the entirety of the area because of its immense size (pg. 68 of ONDA 2005). However, as noted above, the BLM found the proposed North Addition is not contiguous with the Diablo Mountain WSA and therefore the natural character must be evaluated individually on its own merits.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 2,242 acres of wildfire, 1,323 acres of mechanical/fuel treatments, 193 acres of chemical treatments, 10 acres of mow strips (fuel breaks), 4 acres of seeding, 7.5 miles of fence lines, 16.5 miles of motorized routes, 4 miles of reclaiming routes, 2 miles of cat lines, 326 feet of ditch, 9 waterholes, and 5 reservoirs.

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 (to a lesser degree) 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. Although a portion of the unit burned in 2017, the fire served to rehab resentments of slash piles and tree boles left behind from fuel treatments. In addition, cat lines were utilized during the fire as little as possible and post fire rehab efforts were successful.

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 1-41 was found to be spacious as the topography, size or shape of the area provided seemingly complete isolation (solitude). A review of solitude within Unit 1-43/45 found opportunities for solitude and recommended further analysis for a final determination of wilderness characteristics.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified their 20,245 acre North Addition of the Diablo Mountain proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA) to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude due to size and shape no longer being limiting factors as units are both contiguous with each other and with the Diablo Mountain WSA. ONDA stated that when looking at the Diablo Mountain Proposed WSA as a whole, one can easily find outstanding opportunities for solitude. Moreover, because Diablo

Mountain WSA already has outstanding opportunities for solitude, the proposed East Addition will enhance these existing opportunities greatly (pg. 69 of ONDA 2005). However, as noted above, the BLM found the proposed North Addition is not contiguous with the Diablo Mountain WSA and therefore solitude must be evaluated individually on its own merits.

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 numerous points (Flatiron Point, 5,429 ft. high), ridges, buttes, rims, draws, and drainages. The unit ranges in elevation from 4,295 ft. to 5,830 feet. There are approximately a dozen moderate to large rims and associated canyons (200-900 ft. high/deep) running from the highlands in the north toward the Summer Lake Basin to the south. The unit also contains a half a dozen drainages including Sheeplick Draw (2.5 miles and 700 ft. elevation change), Watson Draw (3.5 miles and 1,000 ft. elevation change), and Juniper Canyon (4.5 miles and 850 ft. elevation change). . In addition the unit contains dozens of large, deep, depressed lakebeds and small, closed-in, valleys (25-100 ft. deep) including Pattern Reservoir, Rock Lake, St. Patrick Lake, Spur Rowel Lake, Section Line Waterhole, and the southern Twin Lake. Vegetatively, approximately 1,000 acres of the unit is covered in moderate to high-density western juniper stands, with old-growth characteristics in the western third of the unit, but also in isolated patches along drainages and rims in the east. Due to the above-described topographic and vegetative 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 Sheeplick Draw 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 1977, historic Unit 1-41 offered some antelope and deer hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and dry camping. Scenic quality was medium. Overall, the unit was found to lack outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Unit 1-43/45 offered some medium quality deer and antelope hunting, hiking, horseback riding, dry camping, though, considered less than outstanding.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified their 20,245-acre North Addition of the Diablo Mountain proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA) to provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation due to size and shape no longer being limiting factors as units are both contiguous with each other and with the Diablo Mountain WSA. ONDA stated that when looking at the Diablo Mountain Proposed WSA as a whole, one could easily find outstanding opportunities for recreation including hiking, horseback riding, hunting, photography, sightseeing, and

wildlife viewing. Moreover, because Diablo Mountain WSA already has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, the proposed East Addition will enhance these existing opportunities greatly (pg. 69 of ONDA 2005). However, as noted above, the BLM found the proposed North Addition is not contiguous with the Diablo Mountain WSA and therefore primitive and unconfined recreation must be evaluated individually on its own merits.

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 hiking/ horseback riding along the unit's rims and drainages 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, golden eagle, California bighorn sheep, and sage-grouse habitat.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

**Unit Number and Name:** OR-015-043C/ Sheeplick Draw

**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):

  
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4/4/18  
Date

  
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4/4/18  
Date

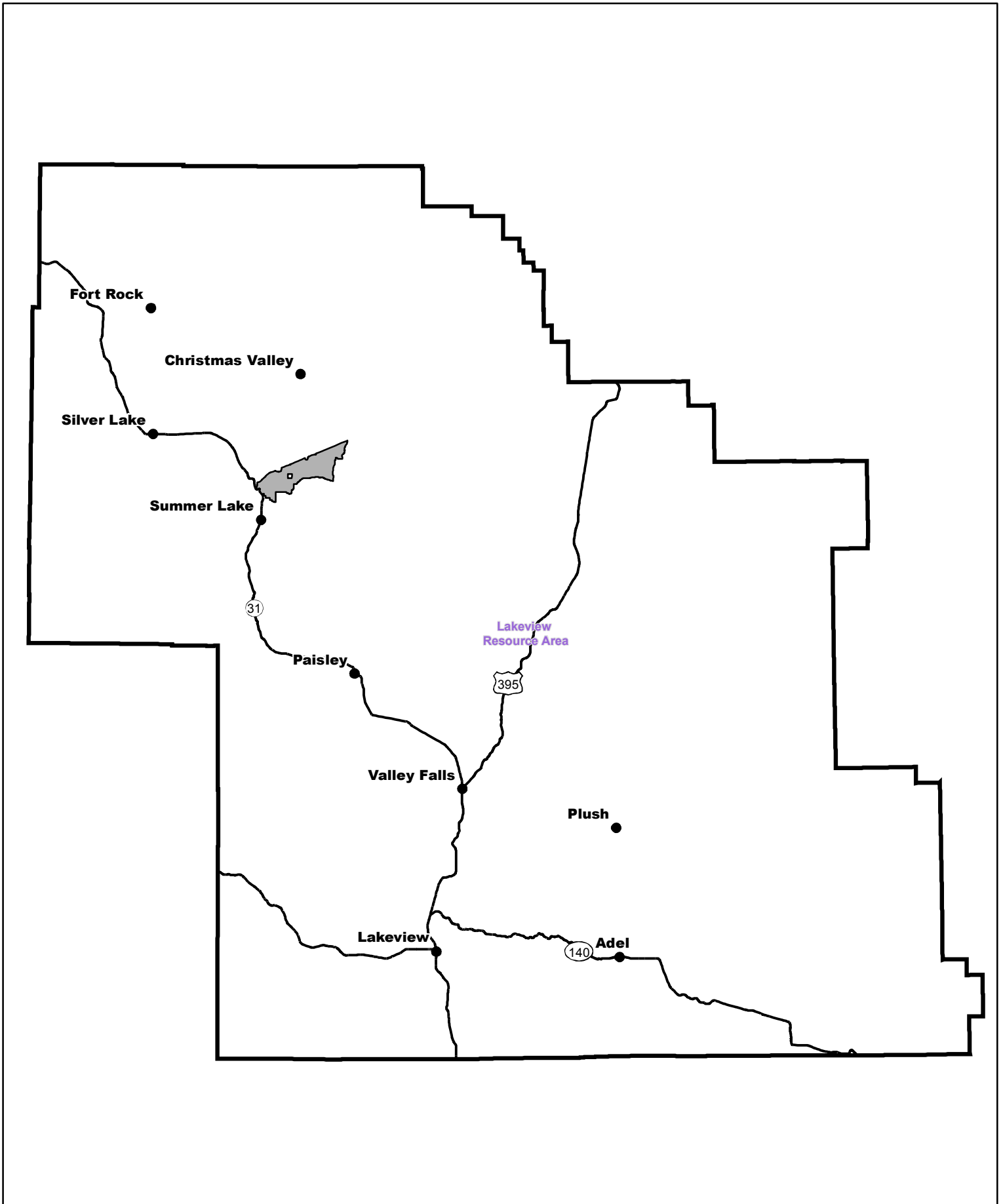
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J. Todd Forbes  
Field Manager

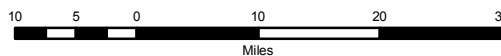
6/4/18  
Date


*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.*



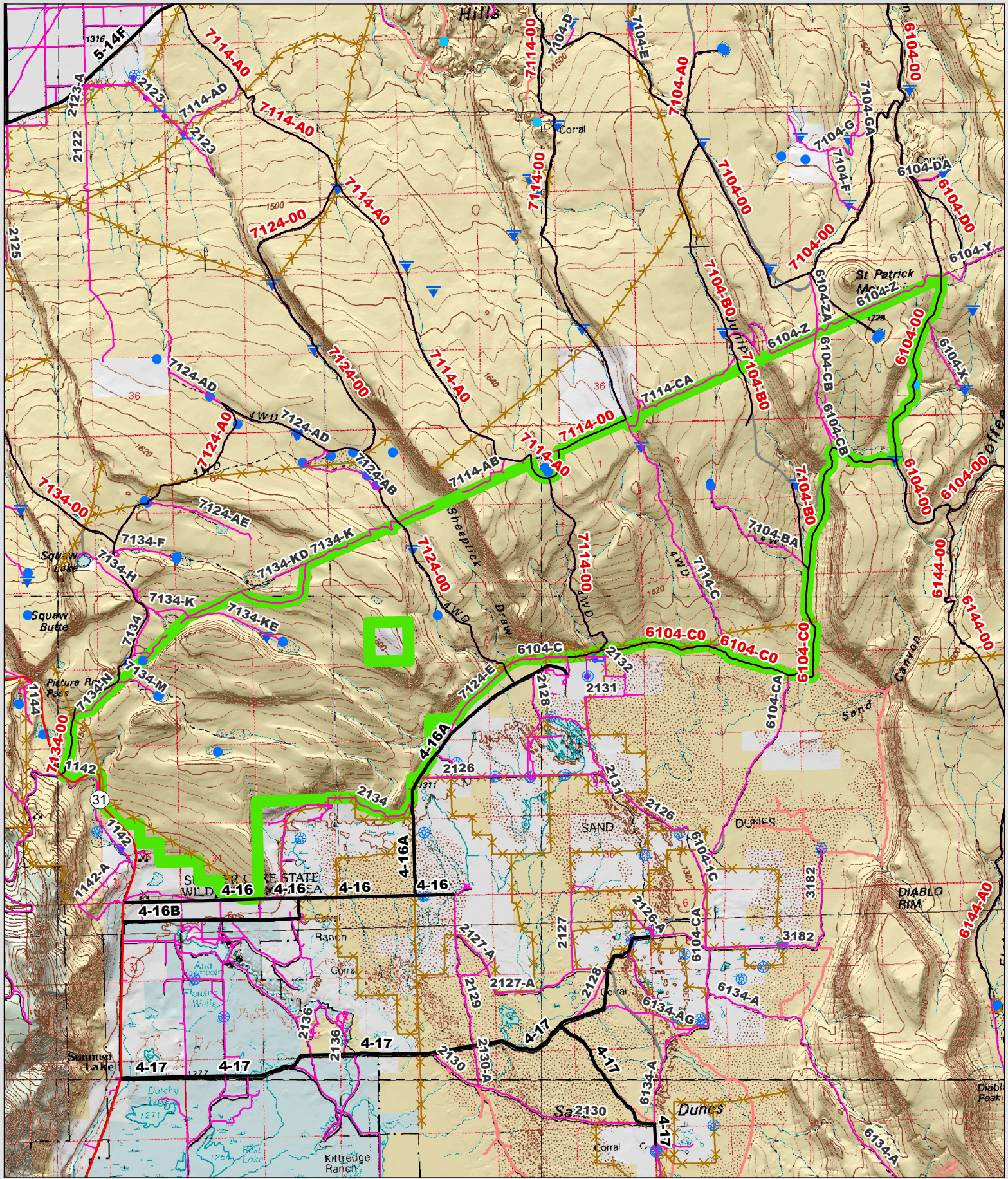


 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



 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.





**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 Tank
- Waterhole
- Well - Water

2 1 0 2 Miles

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