

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-190/ Sheldon 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 Inventory – Final Intensive Inventory Decisions; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, November 1980.
- b. Final Intensive Inventory, Public Lands Administered by BLM California Outside the California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness, December 1979.

**b) Inventory Unit Number(s)/ Name(s):** NA

**c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):** Intensive Wilderness Inventory - Final Decisions; USDI BLM - Oregon, November 1980.

**d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):** Lakeview District, Lakeview Resource Area; Northern California District, Applegate Field Office.

**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
1-190	<5,000	NA	NA	NA	NA
1-190*	450	Y	N	N	NA

\* 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:***

In 1979/1980, this unit was not evaluated during the inventory process, presumably because it did not meet the minimum size requirement.

**FORM 2**

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY  
CONDITIONS**

**Unit Number/Name:** OR-015-190/ Sheldon Rim

**(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 46,451-acre Sheldon Contiguous proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA) Addition. 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. 203 of ONDA 2005).

In Oregon, ONDA's proposed WSA is comprised largely of lands administered by the State of Oregon that are not managed for wilderness values. The State of Oregon has no state legislation similar to the federal Wilderness Act. Further, the BLM has no management jurisdiction over state lands nor is it under any legal obligation to inventory for wilderness character on state lands. In Nevada, ONDA's proposal includes lands managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. Most, but not all of these refuge lands have been recognized as having wilderness values. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for making wilderness character determinations on these lands, not the BLM. For these reasons, the BLM limited its inventory update to BLM lands within the proposal. The BLM determined that the Sheldon Contiguous proposed WSA Addition is not one large roadless unit, but is comprised of smaller inventory units, which must be evaluated individually.

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 Road 6102-A0 and BLM interim numbered road 6102-AF on the west; State of Oregon lands to the east; and the Sheldon Contiguous (CA-020-1012) WSA to the south.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Sheldon Rim inventory unit does not meet the minimum size criteria at approximately 475 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 24,130-acre Sheldon Contiguous WSA (CA-020-1012) located to the south.

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 inventory unit is located about 17 miles southeast of Adel, Oregon, and about 28 miles northeast of Ft. Bidwell, California. The unit is roughly triangular-shaped approximately two miles long by 0.5 miles wide. The northern tip of the unit is relatively flat, while the southern tip is comprised of the northeast shoreline of Antelope Flat. A central plateau and associated small to moderate rims (75-150 ft. high) runs east to west. The unit ranges in elevation from 5,785 ft. to 5,993 feet. Vegetation consists of scattered juniper, sagebrush, rabbit brush, and grass. A Wildfire burned approximately 37 acres along the western boundary of the unit in 1974.

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

In 1979/1980, this unit was not evaluated for naturalness during the inventory process, presumably because it did not meet the minimum size requirement.

In 2005, ONDA found their 46,451-acre Sheldon Contiguous proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA) Addition to be primarily affected by the forces of nature. ONDA noted "a few manmade features, such as a fence line that surrounds Sheldon National Antelope Refuge, a lakebed pit, and several "ways." However, these few manmade features do not have a cumulative impact on the area as a whole. Overall, the areas rolling, sagebrush and juniper covered hills, canyons, riparian areas, and colorful scarps appear primarily affected by the forces of nature. Moreover, this addition will further enhance the natural characteristics already found within Sheldon Contiguous WSA (p. 201 of ONDA 2005)." However, the BLM found that this proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is comprised of smaller inventory units, within which the natural character must be evaluated individually.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 96 acres of chemical treatments, 37 acres of wildfire, 37 acres of seeding, 1.5 miles of fence lines, and 0.5 miles of motorized routes.

Presently, almost four decades after the original inventory, these developments are weathered and grown over with herbaceous grasses, and sagebrush. As a result, these developments 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 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 allowed to revegetate naturally after fire have been invaded by rabbit brush/sagebrush/grass 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, based on its own merits, that Sheldon Rim unit appears in natural condition where the imprint of man are substantially unnoticeable. Furthermore, since the unit is now contiguous with the Sheldon Contiguous WSA, the Sheldon Rim unit 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 Sheldon Rim unit 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 1979/1980, outstanding opportunities for solitude were not evaluated during the inventory process, presumably because it did not meet the minimum size requirement.

BLM's much larger Sheldon Contiguous unit (CA-020-1012) to the south was found in 1979 to provide some opportunities for solitude on its own merit, however, these opportunities were enhanced due to a proposed wilderness area on the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge that was found to be contiguous.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified their 46,451-acre Sheldon Contiguous proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA) Addition to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. ONDA noted "one could easily find outstanding opportunities for solitude thanks to the juniper trees, the rolling topography, and large canyons found throughout the area...Moreover, these outstanding opportunities found in this addition will further enhance the outstanding opportunities found in the Sheldon Contiguous WSA (p. 201 of ONDA 2005)." However, the BLM did not find this proposal to be one large roadless area, but comprised of smaller inventory units that must be evaluated individually.

The BLM determined that the Sheldon Rim inventory unit on its own merit, provides limited opportunities for solitude, but ultimately lacks adequate size or screening to provide outstanding opportunities. Topographically, the northern tip of the unit is relatively flat, while the southern tip is comprised of the northeast shoreline of Antelope Flat. A central plateau and associated small to moderate rims (75-150 ft. high) runs east to west. The unit ranges in elevation from 5,785 ft. to 5,993 feet. Vegetation consists of scattered juniper, sagebrush, rabbit brush, and grass. However, opportunities would be enhanced by the additive effect of outstanding opportunities for solitude present within the 24,130-acre Sheldon Contiguous WSA to the south 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 Sheldon Rim inventory unit due to the contiguous values of the Sheldon Contiguous 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 1979/1980, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation were not evaluated during the inventory process, presumably because it did not meet the minimum size requirement.

BLM's much larger Sheldon Contiguous unit (CA-020-1012) to the south was found in 1979 to provide some opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation on its own merit, however, these opportunities were enhanced due to a proposed wilderness area on the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge that was found to be contiguous.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified their 46,451-acre Sheldon Contiguous proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA) Addition to provide outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. ONDA noted one could easily find outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation thanks to "the juniper trees, the rolling topography, and large canyons found throughout the area. Each of these would offer hikers, backpackers, and horseback riders a sense of outstanding recreation. In addition, the riparian areas and wildlife would offer outstanding opportunities for wildlife viewing and hunting, while the painted effected on the western scarp would allow great photographic opportunities. Moreover, these outstanding opportunities found in this addition will further enhance the outstanding opportunities found in the Sheldon Contiguous WSA (p. 201 of ONDA 2005)." However, the BLM did not find this proposal to be one large roadless area, but comprised of smaller inventory units that must be evaluated individually.

The BLM determined that the Sheldon Rim inventory unit on its own merit, provides limited opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, but 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 24,130-acre Sheldon Contiguous WSA to the south 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 Sheldon Rim inventory unit due to the contiguous values of the Sheldon Contiguous 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, pygmy rabbit, and sage-grouse habitat.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

**Unit Number/Name:** OR-015-190/ Sheldon Rim

**Summary Results of Analysis:**

1. Does the area meet the size requirements?      Yes    \_\_\_ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural?            Yes    \_\_\_ No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?      Yes    \_\_\_ No    \_\_\_ NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values?      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").

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

Date

6/4/18

*Retired - CRD*  
Roger Farschon: Ecologist

Date

  
Jami Ludwig: Assistant Field Manager

Date

6/4/18

**Approved by:**

  
J. Todd Forbes: Lakeview Field Mgr.

Date

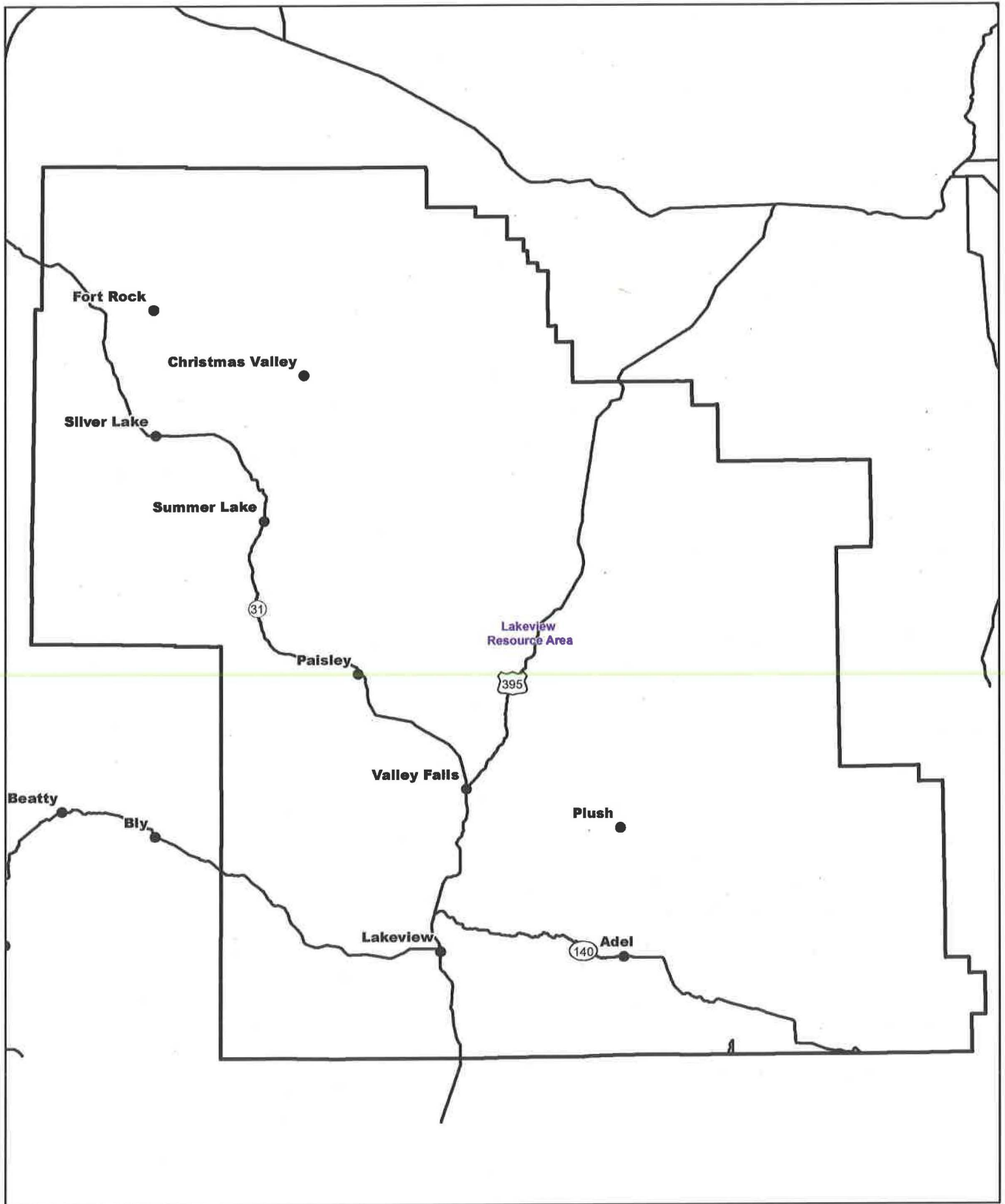
6/4/18

  
Craig R. Drake: Applegate Field Mgr.

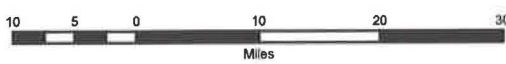
Date


8/8/18

*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.*

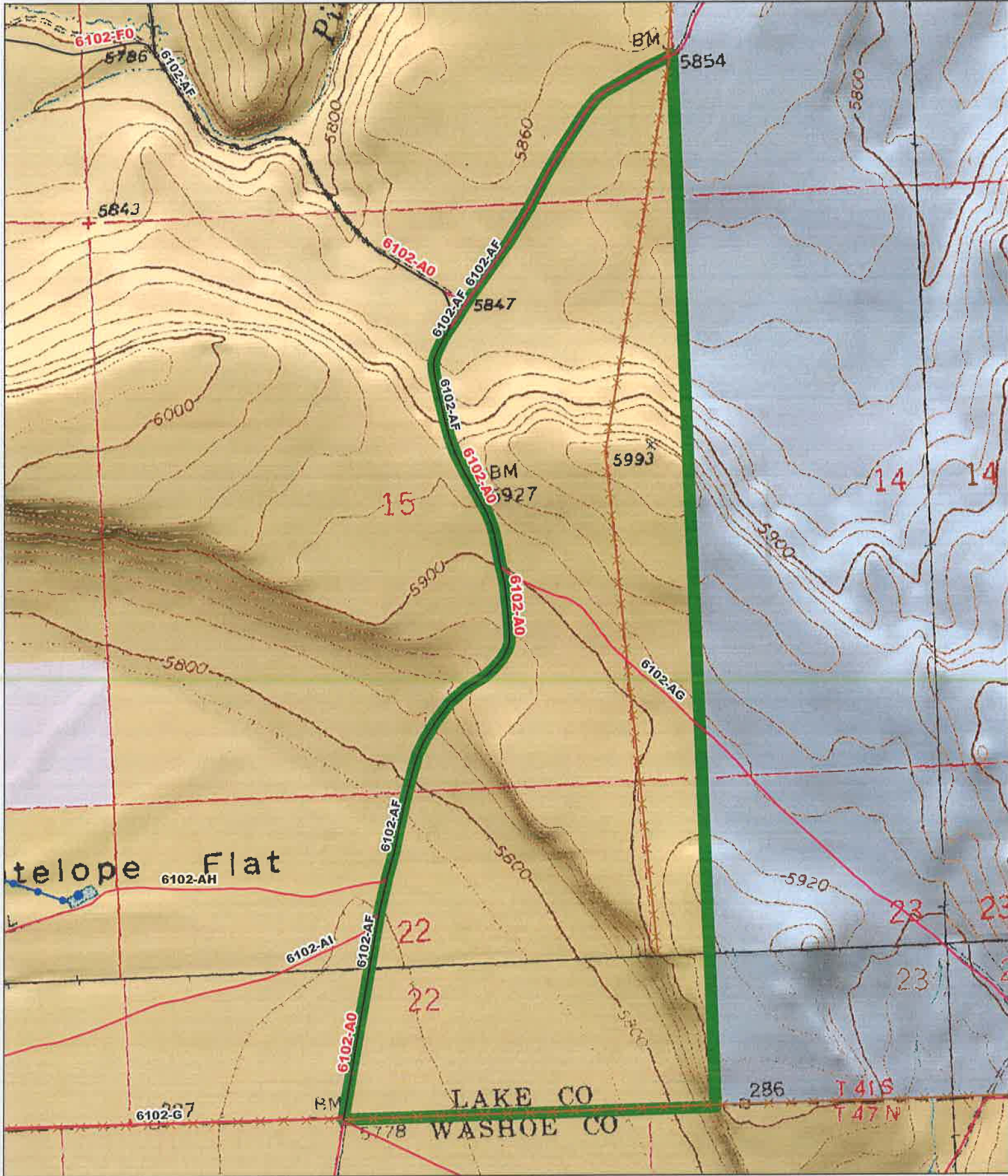


 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



 The accuracy 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.





**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
- Gutter
- Fences

**Water Developments**

- Dam
- Reservoir
- Spring Development
- Trough
- Water Diversion

**Water Features**

- Water Tank
- Waterhole
- Well - Water

0.25 0.125 0 0.25 Miles

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.