

Year: 2018 Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-120A/ Sucker Creek\*

**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):

No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes  X  (if more than one unit is within the area, list the names/numbers of those units.):

a) **Inventory Source:** Wilderness Inventory – Final Intensive Inventory Decisions; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, November 1980.

b) **Inventory Unit Number(s)/ Name(s):** 1-120A/ Coleman Rim

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

d) **BLM District(s)/Field Office(s)** 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
1-120A	6,160	N	N	N	Unknown
1-120A*	7,143	Y	Y	N	Y

\* 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 1-120A was described as having several fault block terraces (including Coleman Rim) rising in elevation from west to east in the southwest portion of the area. Elevation dropped from south to north descending to the flats of Coleman Valley. Vegetation was sagebrush with scattered juniper. Topography was generally a downslope from south to north with minor variation in contour presenting an open slope over most of the unit. The southern portion of the subunit was affected by two “ways” and two reservoirs in the central portion of the subunit. There was a number of reservoirs along the base of Coleman Rim which disturbed the naturalness of that area. This subunit had a large number of developments for its size. It did not appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. The subunit offered some degree of solitude along the rims and in juniper stands. The subunit did not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of its narrow shape and small size. The subunit offered a moderate opportunity for hunting, while the potential for hiking and backpacking was limited by the narrow shape and size of the subunit. The subunit had a potential for archaeological values, though none were documented.

## **FORM 2**

### **DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS**

**Unit Number/Name:** OR-015-120A/ Sucker Creek

**(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 15,665-acre Sucker Creek 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. 228 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 in fact boundary roads. Sucker Creek proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is comprised of smaller inventory units, which must be evaluated individually.

The BLM determined that the inventory unit is bounded by BLM Roads 6172-00 and private lands to the north; 6172-00 to the west and east; and BLM interim numbered roads 6172-A0 and 6172-AA to the north east.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Sucker Creek inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 7,118 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 8 miles south of Adel, Oregon. The unit is approximately 5 miles long by 4 miles wide. The unit ranges in elevation from 4,515 ft. to 6,047 feet. Topographically the unit is dominated several moderate broken fault block terraces (50 to 550 ft. high) along the western and eastern boundaries. Remaining portions of the unit consist of an open, low angle, north facing aspect slope with a few drainages (15 – 50 ft. deep) running to the north, including Sucker Creek (1.5 miles long) along the eastern boundary. In addition, the unit contains three depressed lakebeds (10 – 25 ft. deep) near Bug Lake, Stove, and Cow Trail waterholes. Vegetatively, approximately 2,500 acres of the unit is covered in moderate to high-density western juniper stands, with old-growth characteristics along the western, eastern, and interior rims and drainages. The remaining vegetation is scattered juniper, sagebrush, rabbit brush, and grass.

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

In 1980, Unit 1-120A contained two “ways” to the south and two reservoirs in the central portion of the subunit. There was a number of reservoirs along the base of Coleman Rim which disturbed the naturalness of that area. This subunit was found to have a large number of developments for its size. Overall, the unit did not appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

In 2005, ONDA found their 15,665-acre Sucker Creek proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA) to appear impacted primarily by the forces of nature. ONDA noted there are a few manmade features that can be found within the unit such as “ways” and reservoirs. However, the “ways” are overgrown with native vegetation and are not obtrusive. While, reservoirs would not have an impact within the heart of the WSA due to the area’s hills, juniper stands, and their location along the border, which would allow for them to be excluded easily. Furthermore, because ONDA’s proposed WSA forms a contiguous area, approximately 15,665 acres in size, the few man made features within the unit would not have a cumulative impact to the area overall (p. 225 of ONDA 2005). However, as noted above, 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: 7 miles of motorized routes, 4.5 miles of fence lines, 362 feet of pipelines, 6 waterholes, 2 reservoirs, 1 developed spring, 1 trough, and remnants of geothermal energy exploration from the 1980s (small areas of ground disturbance and a few capped well heads).

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.

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 1980, historic Unit 1-120A offered some degree of solitude along rims and within juniper stands. However, due to the unit's narrow shape and small size, the area was found to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified their 15,665-acre Sucker Creek proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA) to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude because units are now contiguous with each other and an unknown unit. ONDA noted that the small size and narrow shape of the unit is no longer a factor and that there is more than enough terrain to allow visitors to avoid the sights and sounds of others. Additionally, ONDA pointed out that although the unit possesses gentle slopes, the unit's many junipers and rims allow for cover (p. 226 of ONDA 2005). However, the BLM did not find this proposal to be one large roadless area, but is in fact comprised of smaller inventory units that must be evaluated individually.

The BLM determined that there are several outstanding opportunities for solitude across the unit due to topographic and vegetative screening. Topographically the unit is dominated several moderate broken fault block terraces (50 to 550 ft. high) along the western and eastern boundaries. Remaining portions of the unit consist of an open, low angle, north facing aspect slope with a few drainages (15 – 50 ft. deep) running to the north, including Sucker Creek (1.5 miles long) along the eastern

boundary. In addition, In addition the unit contains three depressed lakebeds (10 – 25 ft. deep) near Bug Lake, Stove, and Cow Trail waterholes. Vegetatively, western juniper stands have greatly expanded in height, width, and density. Approximately 2,500 acres of the unit is covered in moderate to high-density western juniper stands, with old-growth characteristics along the western, eastern, and interior rims and drainages. Due to the above-described compartmentalized topography and vegetative conditions within the unit, one would easily be able to avoid the sights and sounds of others within the unit.

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 Sucker Creek 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

In 1980, historic Unit 1-120A offered moderate opportunities for hunting, while the potential for hiking and backpacking was determined to be limited by the narrow shape and size of the subunit.

In 2005, ONDA’s inventory identified their 15,665-acre Sucker Creek proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA) to provide outstanding opportunities for recreation as subunits are now contiguous with each other an unknown unit. ONDA noted that “hikers and backpacker would enjoy walking along the diverse terrain of sagebrush, juniper, and rims. Hunters, horseback riders, and wildlife viewers would enjoy May Lake, which would certainly attract wildlife throughout the season (p. 226 of ONDA 2005).” However, the BLM did not find this proposal to be one large roadless area, but is in fact comprised of smaller inventory units that must be evaluated individually.

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 of the units many miles of drainages and rims as well as viewing interesting cultural, wildlife, and botanical values found within the Rahilly-Gravelly Area of Critical Environmental Concern and Research Natural Area (ACEC/RNA) 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, great horned owl, California bighorn sheep, and sage-grouse habitat.

Furthermore, this unit falls completely within the Rahilly-Gravelly Area of Critical Environmental Concern and Research Natural Area (ACEC/RNA) which was designated in 2003 during the Lakeview RMP process. This designation is intended to recognize and protect important cultural, wildlife, and botanical values. The ACEC/RNA “contains scattered western juniper stands, tall sagebrush mosaic, and low sagebrush on lithic soil flats”. In particular, the area contains three vegetation community cell needs of the Oregon Natural Heritage Program (Draft RMP/EIS, Appendix I, p. A-247 and Proposed RMP/Final EIS, p. 2-58):

- 1) Western juniper/big sagebrush-bitterbrush
- 2) Mountain brush
- 3) Bitterbrush-sagebrush, mountain snowberry/Thurber needlegrass mosaic

In addition, the BLM sensitive plant species, Cooper’s goldflower occurs in the surrounding area. The Draft RMP/EIS also noted the presence of “known critical habitat for greater sage-grouse” (Appendix I, p. A-247).

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

**Unit Number and Name:** OR-015-120A/ Sucker Creek

**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):**

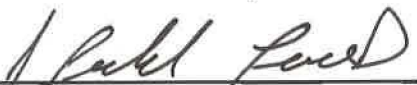
  
Chris Bishop: Outdoor Recreation Planner

6/4/18  
Date

  
Jami Ludwig: Assistant Field Manager

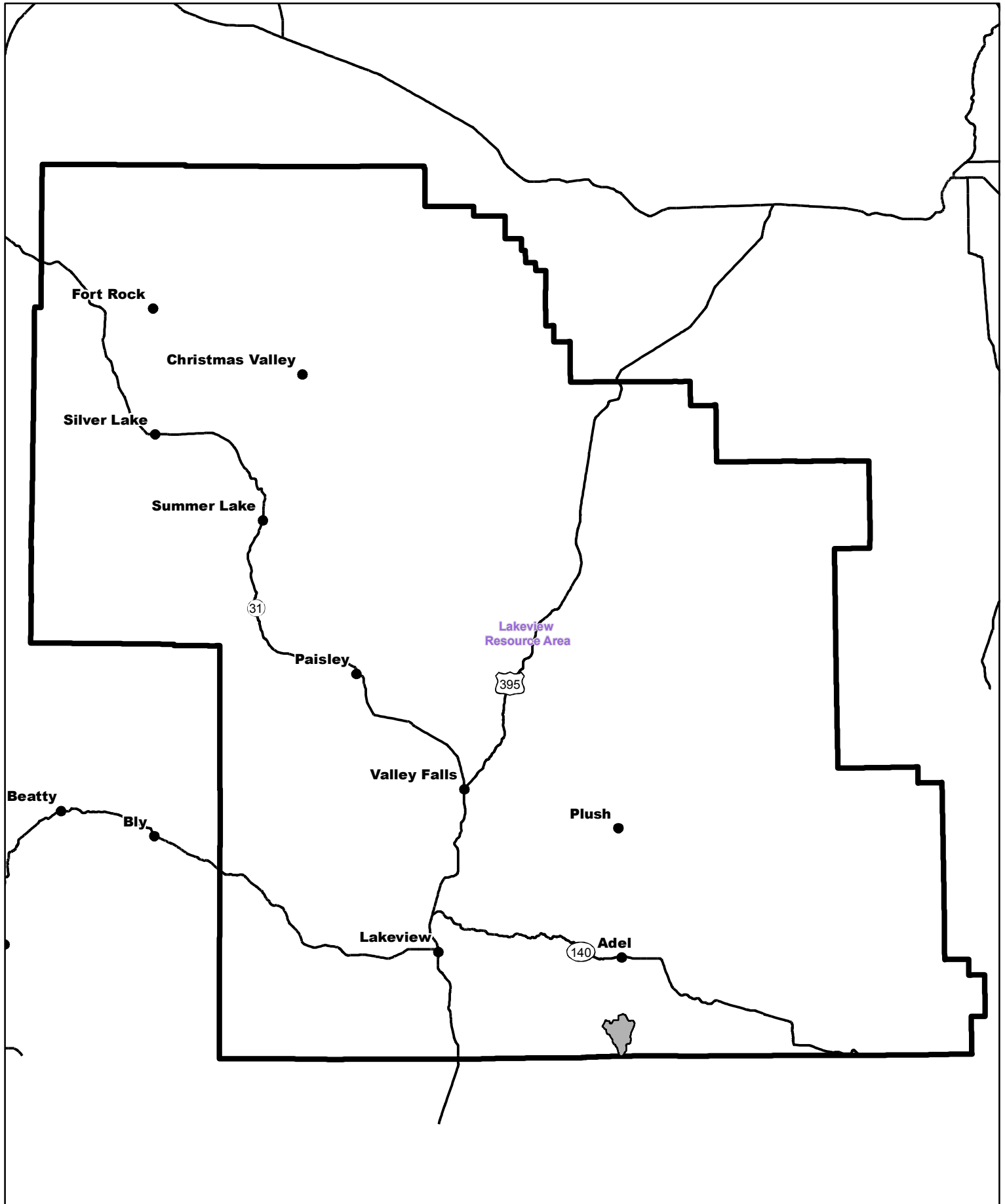
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**Approved by:**

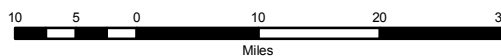
  
J. Todd Forbes  
Field Manager


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.*

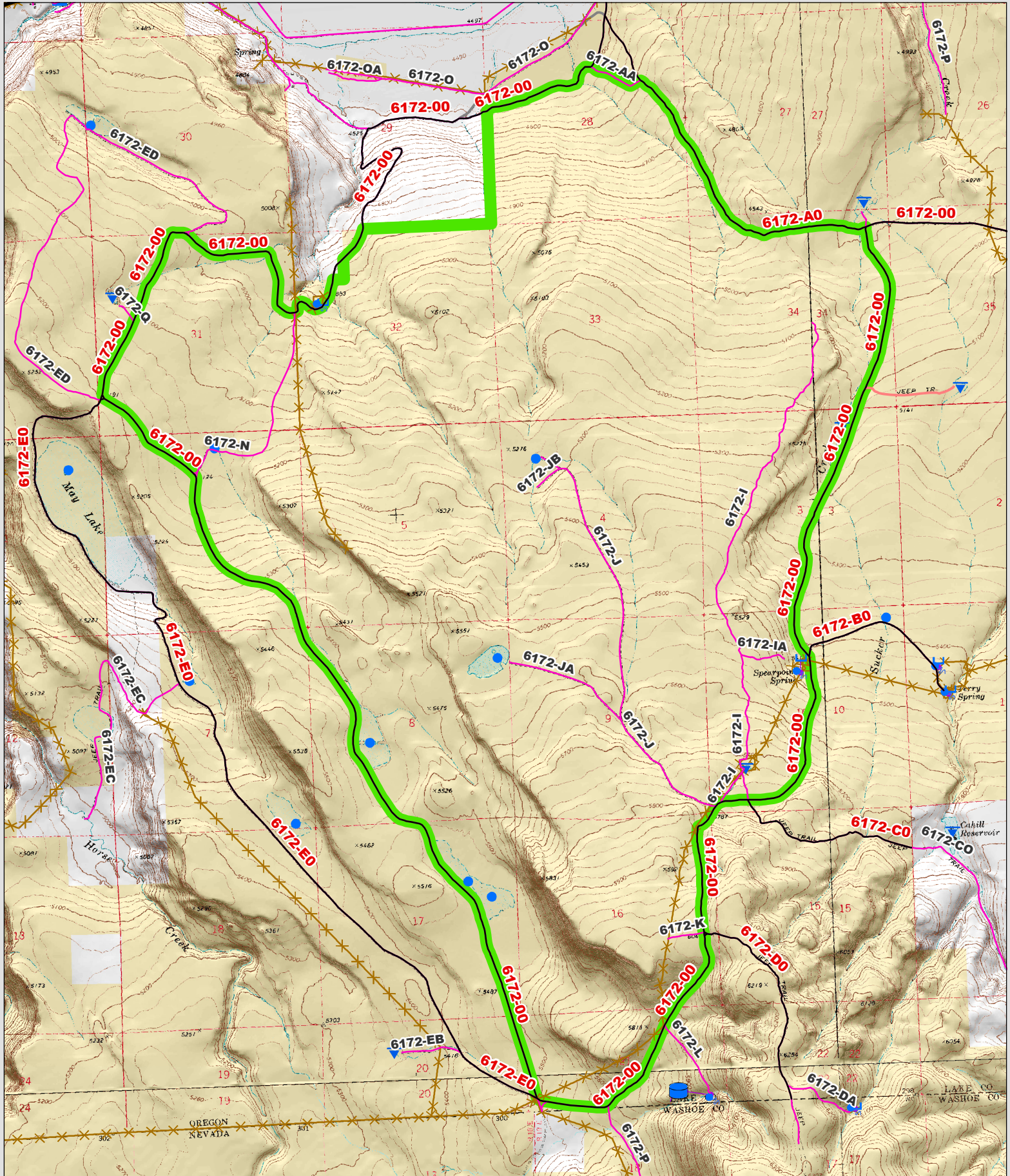


 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



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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> Private/Unknown</li> </ul>	<p><b>Roads/Trails</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; border-bottom: 2px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Motorized Routes</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; border-bottom: 2px solid red; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Highways</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; border-bottom: 2px dashed gray; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Reclaiming Routes</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; 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: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: blue; border-radius: 50%; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Ditch</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: magenta; border-radius: 50%; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Water Pipeline</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: cyan; border-radius: 50%; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Guzzler</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; 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: 10px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Dam</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Reservoir</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Spring Development</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Trough</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; 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: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: blue; border-radius: 50%; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Water Tank</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: blue; border-radius: 50%; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Waterhole</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: blue; border: 1px solid blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Well - Water</li> </ul>	<p>0.8      0.4      0      0.8 Miles</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;"> <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> </div>
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