

Year: 2020

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-116/ Tucker Hill

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 _____ (go to Form 2) 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. Oregon and Washington. U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management; April 1979.

b) **Inventory (historic) Unit Number(s)/ Name(s):** OR-1-116 / Tucker Hill

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** Bureau of Land Management, Oregon, Final Decision-Initial Wilderness Inventory, public lands and Islands which do not have wilderness characteristics and units to be intensively inventoried, August 1979.

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/acreage and answer each question individually for each inventory unit):

Unit#	Date	Acres	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
1-116	1979	10,800	N	N	N	N/A
1-116*	2011	8,320	N	N/A	N/A	N/A

* The inventory of these units 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 2017 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:

In 1979, topography was described as a ridge of hills to the north and sloping flat valley to the south. Sagebrush and scattered juniper were listed as the vegetation types present. Human disturbances included mining claims with assessment work, gravel pit operations, a sagebrush spray project, and a 1,800-acre crested wheatgrass seeding. After review, the BLM determined that there was clear and obvious evidence that the unit did not appear to be primarily affected by the forces of nature and, therefore, did not contain wilderness characteristics.

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

a. Unit Number/Name: OR-015-116/ Tucker Hill

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

In 2018, the BLM received citizen inventory from the O'Leary Ranch. All these materials were considered during the BLM's wilderness inventory process for this area.

Between 2008 and 2019, BLM staff conducted a field inventory of the Tucker Hill area to update its road and wilderness inventory. Using BLM photos, field logs, and staff field knowledge, the BLM completed an analysis of motorized routes within the area in 2017 and revised this information in 2019 based on new citizen submitted information submitted..

The BLM determined that Tucker Hill was bounded by the following: to the north by private lands and BLM Interim Roads 6174-M0 and 1126-00; to the southeast by private lands and County Road 2-10 (Clover Flat Road) right-of-way; and to the west by private lands, County Road 2-10A (Clover Flat Road) right-of-way, and a buried phone line right-of-way. Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM identified the Tucker Hill inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at 8,314 acres of BLM administered lands. BLM also reviewed the O'Leary submission, but did not make any route changes based on this information.

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 15 miles southeast of the town of Paisley, Oregon. The topography is diverse with flat plateaus, broken upland rims, knolls, and drainages. Dominant vegetation types include grasses and sagebrush with encroaching stands of

juniper. Most of the unit falls within the Red Knoll Area of Critical Environmental Concern, which was designated in the Lakeview RMP/ROD in 2003 to protect cultural resources in the area.

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

In 1979, the unit was described as having terrain consisting of foothills with sage and scattered juniper. Mining claims and gravel pits dominated the northern half of the unit. While the southern portion contained spray and seeding operations. Topography was noted as flat and allowed man's actions to dominate the unit.

The O'Leary Ranch noted several manmade structures and disturbances in the area. The BLM reviewed all the information submitted but did not make any changes to this unit.

The BLM found the unit to currently contain the following man-made developments/disturbances: 6,528 acres of weed treatments, 1,383 acres of crested wheatgrass seedings, 273 acres of prescribed fire, 6.3 miles of fence lines, 3.5 miles of closed routes, 1.4 miles of motorized routes, 350 feet of pipelines, 6 developed springs, 5 reservoirs, 2 waterholes, and 3 troughs.

Most of the developments/disturbances in the unit were implemented prior to the original 1979 wilderness inventory. Now, almost 4 decades later, these developments are weathered and grown over with herbaceous grasses, sagebrush, and western juniper. 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. In addition, BLM Interim Road 6174-M0 was found to meet the definition of a road for wilderness characteristics purposes, as such, substantially noticeable mining and gravel pit operations in the northern half of the area, that supported decisions in 1979 to drop the area from consideration, are no longer being analyzed as part of the unit.

Based on a review of all the available information including photos, staff knowledge, and field review, the BLM concluded that the natural condition of the unit has improved since the original inventory. The Tucker Hill unit appears in natural condition where the imprint of man is substantially unnoticeable. Thus, the unit overall was found to be 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, the inventory found that opportunities for solitude were severely limited, particularly in the narrow northern half of the unit. The inventory described the southern portion of the unit to be flat with scattered juniper.

The BLM agrees with the original assessment that the northern half of the inventory is limited by the unit's narrow shape and that some areas in the southern portion are flat. However, the team determined the northern portion is no longer included in the unit and that overall, the unit is very topographically diverse. The unit is dominated by a large rim and plateau running north to south with lateral fallen/broken ridges, and drainages sloping to knolls and nobs arranged around its circumference providing excellent topographic screening. In addition, juniper have increased in height, width, density, and distribution since the original inventory. Scattered pockets of juniper in the northwest corner of the area and a band of high-density juniper along Willow Creek to the south provide outstanding opportunities for vegetative screening. A visitor would be able to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people in the area due to the unit's size, configuration, topographic and vegetative screening. The unit possesses a high expectation for users to find seclusion.

For these reasons specified above and based on review of all available information including photos, staff knowledge, and field review, the BLM concluded that the Tucker Hill unit possess 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 1979, the inventory concluded that opportunities for unconfined recreation were severely limited in the unit due to its narrow shape.

The BLM agrees with the original assessment that unconfined recreation in the northern half of the inventory is limited by the unit's narrow shape. However, the team determined the northern portion is no longer included in the unit and that that southern portion of the area, measuring 4.5 by 5 miles wide and 8,320 acres in size, is more than sufficient to provide for primitive and unconfined recreation. Tucker Hill inventory unit offers a variety of dispersed primitive recreation opportunities including hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, camping, photography, sightseeing, hunting and wildlife viewing (mule deer, pronghorn, sage grouse, raptors, and big horn sheep). The unit also possesses an aspect of challenge and risk due to elevation gain and topography of the large, long, rim running north to south with lateral fallen/broken ridges, and drainages sloping to knolls and nobs. This unit stands out geologically and possesses an attractive draw for primitive minded users seeking unconstrained recreational pursuits.

For the variety of activities and opportunities specified above and based on review of all available information including photos, staff knowledge, and field review, the BLM concluded the Tucker Hill unit possess outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values? Yes No N/A

In 1979, the inventory did not evaluate supplemental values within the unit.

The majority of this unit falls within the Red Knoll ACEC. The Lakeview Resource Management Plan describes the resource values of relevance and importance in the ACEC to be cultural, wildlife, and geological. “High density and wide variety of sites important for research and traditional cultural values. Presence of ancient beach erosion terraces. Unique plant communities containing Bureau sensitive plant species. Critical sage-grouse habitat.” Other supplemental values in the unit include use by raptors for nesting and foraging, as well as, intermittent use by bighorn sheep.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-116/ Tucker Hill

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 are 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):


Shane Garside: Outdoor Recreation Planner

 9/23/20
Date

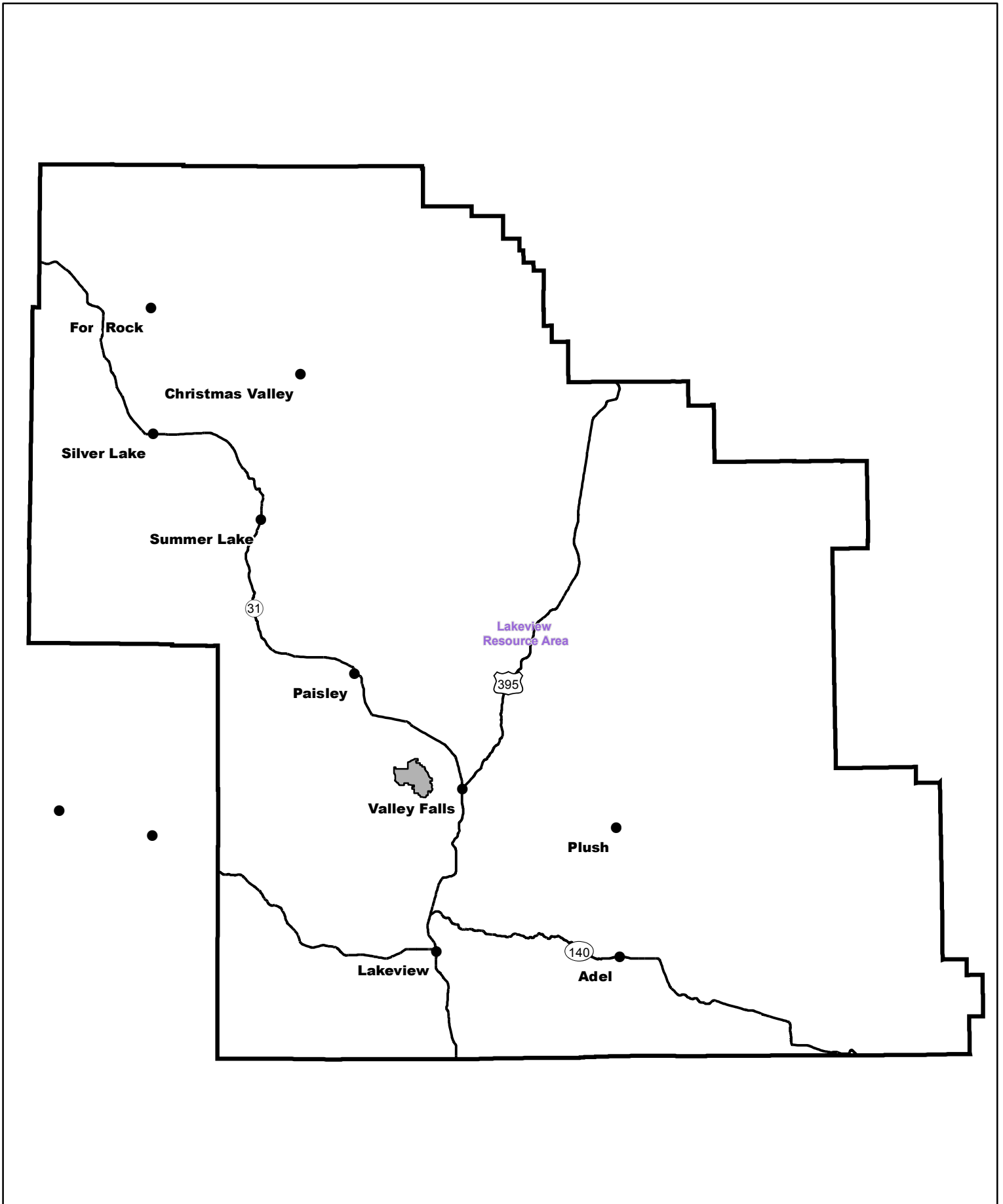
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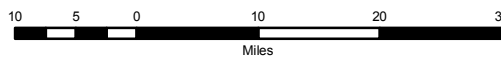
Jami Ludwig
Field Manager


 10/14/2020
Date

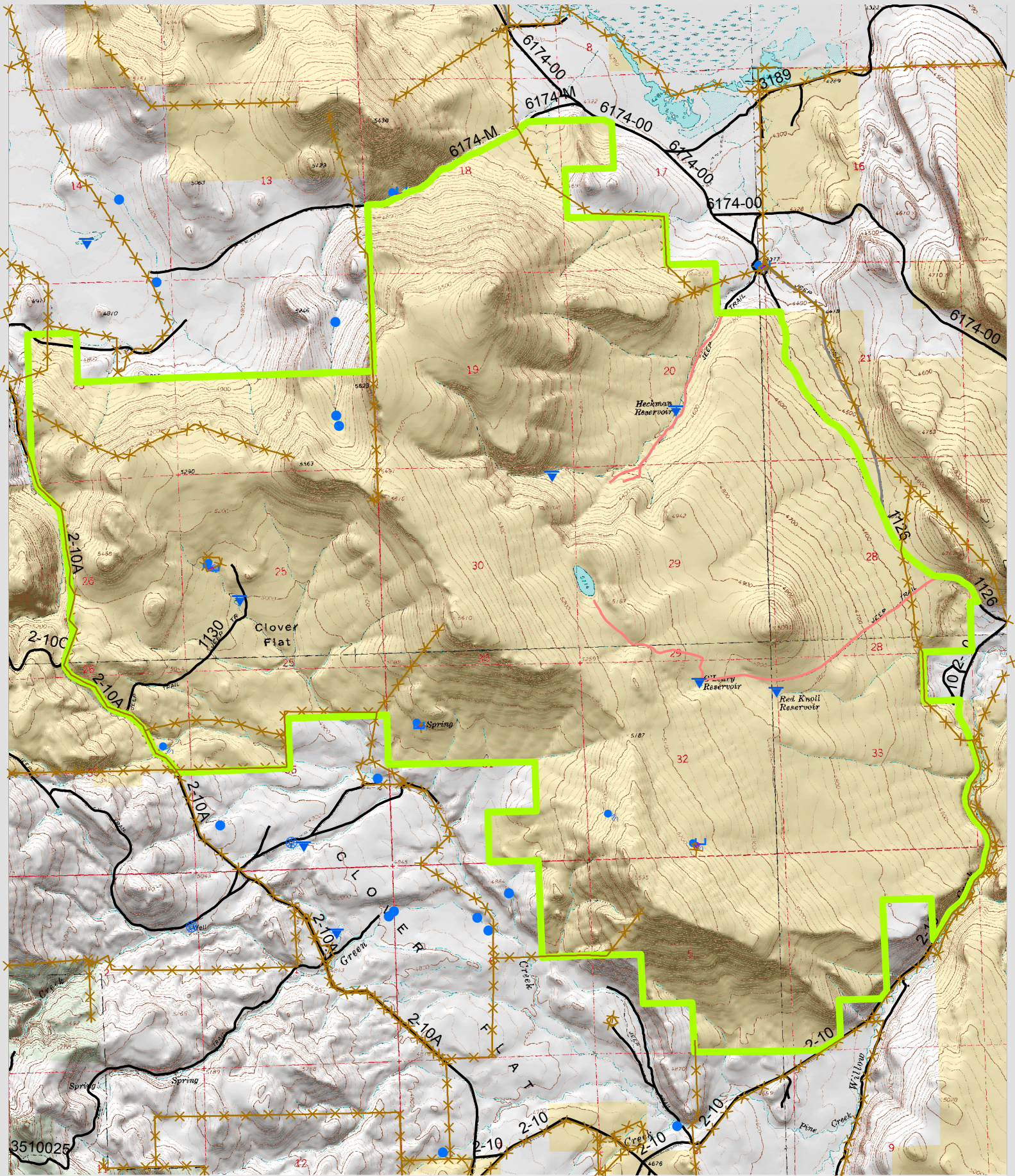
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.



 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



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Ownership

- Wilderness Character Inventory Unit
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- State
- Private/Unknown

Roads/Trails

- Motorized Routes
- Closed Routes
- Reclaiming Routes
- Motorized and Non-Motorized Trails

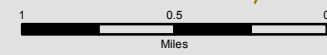
Pipelines and Ditches

- Ditch
- Water Pipeline
- Guzzler
- Fences

Water Developments

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

- Water Tank
- Waterhole
- Well - Water



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