

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-062/ Whiskey Lake

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

b) **Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s):** 1-59/ Whiskey Mountain; 1-60/ Coffee Lake; Whiskey Mountain; 1-62, 63/ Whiskey Lake

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.

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
1-59	7,800	Y	N	N	N/A
1-59*	7,772	Y	N	N	N/A
1-60	6,440	Y	N	N	N/A
1-60*	6,576	Y	N	N	N/A
1-62	48,560	N	N	N	N/A
1-62*	16,457	Y	N	N	N/A
1-63*	29,537	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 1-59 was described as one fault block ridge with a steep escarpment on the east and a low-angle slope on the west. One small canyon cut into the ridge near the center of the unit. There were several dry lakebeds along the valley bottom on the western perimeter. Low sage was the primary vegetation in the unit. The majority of the unit was found in a natural condition, though a few minor lakebed pits near the west boundary were noted. The unit was found to lack solitude, as it would have been difficult to be isolated from others. The west portion of the unit contained a highly exposed slope and overall the unit was extremely narrow (maximum width one and one-half miles) and lacked screening. The narrow shape and small size of the unit precluded any outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreational activities.

Historic Unit 1-60 was describes as having a north-south trending, east-facing basalt rim rising several hundred feet above the east boundary of the unit. From the top of the rim west, the unit consisted of the downslope of a fault block formation. The unit was sage covered and offered only minor relief. The unit contained two lakebed pits on the northeast side of the unit, which had some minor visual impact, though, the unit was found to be in an apparently natural condition. Since the majority of the unit was comprised of uplifted slopes with low relief, and taking into account the unit's small size and narrow configuration, there was very little opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others. Because of its small size and lack of any significant feature representing a recreation value, the unit did not offer any outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Historic Unit 1-62 was described as having a general elevation across the unit of about 5,000 feet. The highest point was Tough Peak at 5,625 feet near the northern boundary. The unit was a broad sage area of low rolling contours with some minor north-to-south trending rims. Approximately 30 ephemeral lake basins were noted within the unit. The country was very open with a large field of view from almost anywhere in the unit. The unit contained approximately 28 miles of vehicle "ways" used to maintain water developments and manage grazing in the unit. There were nine large lakebed pits, six had substantial pit water developments. The unit was not substantially free of the works of man. In one respect, the intrusions did not appear substantially noticeable because of the size of the unit. However, a person traversing the area on foot would repeatedly encounter disturbances. Thus, the overall impression gained from such a hike would be that the area was not essentially natural. The unit possessed sufficient size to offer some degree of solitude and isolated areas. However, one would not be able to avoid the presence of others in the broad expanses of most of the unit. Because of the high degree of visibility, the unit did not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The unit did present some opportunities for hunting and wildlife observation. However, the lack of potable water within the unit and distances of repetitive rolling terrain with no features offering any degree of attraction to the recreationist represented a less than outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation. Supplemental values were not documented in the unit although archeological values may be associated with the numerous dry lakebeds.

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-062/ Whiskey Lake

(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 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 the inventory unit is bounded by BLM Roads 6144-00, 6144-A0, and the Diablo Mountain WSA boundary on the west; 6104-00 on the east; 6184-00 and a Oregon Department of Transportation right-of-way along 6124-00. Approximately 412 acres of concentrated areas of unnatural features were removed from the unit including a mineral pit, pipelines, wells, water storage tanks, and troughs. Portions of BLM Roads 6144-00, 6144-A0, and 6104-B0 no longer meet 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 (1-59, 1-60, 1-62) have been combined to form the new unit boundary that is contiguous with the Diablo Mountain WSA to the west. This evaluation will focus on these combined units and will hereby be referred to as the Whiskey Lake inventory unit.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Whiskey Lake inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 62,726 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 12 miles east of Summer Lake, Oregon. The unit is approximately 20 miles long by 7.5 miles wide. Topographically the unit is very diverse numerous points, ridges, buttes, rims, tabletops, canyons, and drainages. The unit ranges in elevation from 4,395 ft. to 5,664 feet. The northern third of the unit is dominated by a 10.5-mile long rim (400 -750 ft. high) running from the northwest to the southeast, with the first 2 miles atop of an extremely steep razor back formation. The central third of the unit is comprised of the Whiskey Hills, a cluster of half a dozen buttes/points over 54,00 ft. in elevation (200 – 550 ft. higher than the surrounding area) including Tough Peak at 5,625 feet. The south-central area of the unit is comprised of numerous wide canyon drainages and moderate rims (100-300 ft. high/deep), each running 3 to 6 miles long north to south. The southern border of the unit opens up to broad rolling hills and valleys. The southeastern edge is comprised of a moderate rim running north to south 10 miles long (200-400 ft. high). While the westernmost edge of the unit is comprised of a Diablo Flat, a broad, gently sloping plateau, rising to the east, with numerous minor drainages. In addition the unit contains dozens of large, deep, draws, drainages, depressed lakebeds, playas, and small, closed-in, valleys (30-100 ft. deep) including Four Draws, King Dogs, Sheep Rock, Devil Well, Jacking Hole, Broken Coffee Pot, ZX Well, and Sprinkle waterholes, as well as Bull, Coffee, Dog, Whiskey, West Whiskey, East Whiskey, Murphys lakes and State Game Reservoir 7. Vegetation consists of a shrub-steppe biotic community, which includes sagebrush, grass, and low growing perennials. A wildfire in 1983 burned approximately 2,069 acres in the southwest corner of the unit.

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

In 1980, Unit 1-59 contained a few minor lakebed pits near the west boundary and was overall found to be in a natural condition. Unit 1-60 contained two lakebed pits on the northeast side of the unit, which had some minor visual impact, though, the unit was found to be in an apparently natural condition. Unit 1-62 contained approximately 28 miles of vehicle “ways,” nine large lakebed pits, six had substantial pit water developments. The unit was not substantially free of the works of man. Though, the intrusions did not appear substantially noticeable because of the size of the unit. However, a person traversing the area on foot would repeatedly encounter disturbances. Thus, the area was found to not be natural.

In 2005, ONDA found their 63,045 acre East Addition of the Diablo Mountain proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA) to appear natural throughout, with the works of man substantially unnoticeable. ONDA noted that of historic Unit 1-62 is the only original inventory unit in their proposal that was eliminated because the area appeared unnatural due to 28 miles of “ways” and large lakebed pits. ONDA's inventory determined these “ways” no longer have a great impact on the current unit because they are either deteriorated or overgrown, while others are small and only noticeable from short distances. Furthermore, these impacts would be even less noticeable now that their unit is contiguous with the greater 103,460-acre Diablo Mountain proposed WSA Addition. As such, the East Addition of the Diablo Mountain proposed WSA no longer stands alone and 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).

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 2,069 acres of wildfire, 446 acres of seedings, 259 acres of chemical treatments, 196 acre of mow strips (fuel breaks), 46 miles of motorized routes, 15 miles of reclaiming routes, 10.5 miles of fence lines, 1 mile of ditch, 1 mile of cat lines, 34 waterholes, and 2 wildlife guzzlers.

Presently, almost 4 decades after the original inventory, these developments are weathered and grown over with herbaceous grasses 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 after fire have been invaded by rabbit/ sagebrush and have returned to a natural, post fire, appearing condition.

Since the unit was found to be contiguous with Diablo Mountain WSA, the area must be analyzed in the context of these now shared wilderness values. As such, after considering values offered by both areas, the BLM determined that the Whiskey Lake unit and the Diablo Mountain WSA contribute mutually additive effects to the natural condition of both units. 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.

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 unnaturalsness and the remainder is of sufficient size) **have outstanding opportunities for solitude?** Yes X No N/A

In 1980, historic Unit 1-59 was found to lack solitude, as the west portion of the unit contained a highly exposed slope and overall the unit was extremely narrow (maximum width one and one-half miles) and lacked screening. Unit 1-60 unit was comprised of uplifted slopes with low relief, and taking into account the unit's small size and narrow configuration, there was very little opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others. Unit 1-62 possessed sufficient size to offer some degree of solitude in isolated areas. However, one would not be able to avoid the presence of others in the broad expanses of most of the unit. Because of the high degree of visibility, the unit did not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified their 63,045-acre East 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).

The BLM determined that there are several outstanding opportunities for solitude across the unit due to topographic screening and size. Topographically the unit is very diverse numerous points, ridges, buttes, rims, tabletops, canyons, and drainages. The unit ranges in elevation from 4,395 ft. to 5,664 feet. The northern third of the unit is dominated by a 10.5-mile long rim (400 -750 ft. high) running from the northwest to the southeast, with the first 2 miles atop of an extremely steep razor back formation. The central third of the unit is comprised of the Whiskey Hills, a cluster of half a dozen buttes/points over 54,00 ft. in elevation (200 – 550 ft. higher than the surrounding area) including Tough Peak at 5,625 feet. The south-central area of the unit is comprised of numerous wide canyon drainages and moderate rims (100-300 ft. high/deep), each running 3 to 6 miles long north to south. The southern border of the unit opens up to broad rolling hills and valleys. The southeastern edge is comprised of a moderate rim running north to south 10 miles long (200-400 ft. high). While the westernmost edge of the unit is comprised of a Diablo Flat, a broad, gently sloping plateau, rising to the east, with numerous minor drainages. In addition the unit contains dozens of large, deep, draws, drainages, depressed lakebed, playas, and small, closed-in, valleys (30-100 ft. deep) including Four Draws, King Dogs, Sheep Rock, Devil Well, Jacking Hole, Broken Coffee Pot, ZX Well, and Sprinkle waterholes, as well as Bull, Coffee, Dog, Whiskey, West Whiskey, East Whiskey, Murphys Lakes and State Game Reservoir 7. Due to the above-described topographic screening throughout the unit, one would easily be able to avoid the sights and sounds of others.

Since the unit was found to be contiguous with Diablo Mountain WSA, the area must be analyzed in the context of these now shared wilderness values. As such, after considering values offered by both areas, the BLM determined that the Whiskey Lake unit and the Diablo Mountain WSA contribute mutually additive effects to the solitude of both units.

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 Whiskey Lake 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 1980, the narrow shape and small size of Unit 1-59 was found to limit any outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreational activities. Likewise, Unit 1-60 was found to lack outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of its small size and lack of any significant feature representing a recreation value. Unit 1-62 was found to possess some opportunities for hunting and wildlife observation. However, the lack of potable water within the unit and distances of repetitive rolling terrain with no features

offering any degree of attraction to the recreationist represented a less than outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified their 63,045-acre East 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 can 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).

The BLM finds the combination and diversity of hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, camping, wildlife observation, exploration, scenery, photography, stargazing, trapping, and hunting are exceptional.

Since the unit was found to be contiguous with Diablo Mountain WSA, the area must be analyzed in the context of these now shared wilderness values. As such, after considering values offered by both areas, the BLM determined that the Whiskey Lake inventory unit and the Diablo Mountain WSA contribute mutually additive effects to opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation of both units.

The BLM determined that options for exploration and route finding peak to peak through the unit's diverse topography in the north; hiking/ horseback riding the 10.5-mile long rim, in the northern portion of the unit, in combination with the 10-mile long rim along the southeastern boundary; and traversing numerous miles of wide, deep, canyons in the southern half of the unit 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 various bats, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, pygmy rabbit, golden eagle, prairie falcon, California bighorn sheep, and sage-grouse habitat. Additionally, approximately 5.5 miles of ONDA's 750-mile Oregon Desert Trail ("virtual"/ GPS track) overlaps the northern portion of the inventory unit.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-062/ Whiskey Lake

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):

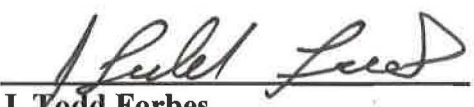

Chris Bishop: Outdoor Recreation Planner

6/4/18
Date


Jami Ludwig: Assistant Field Manager

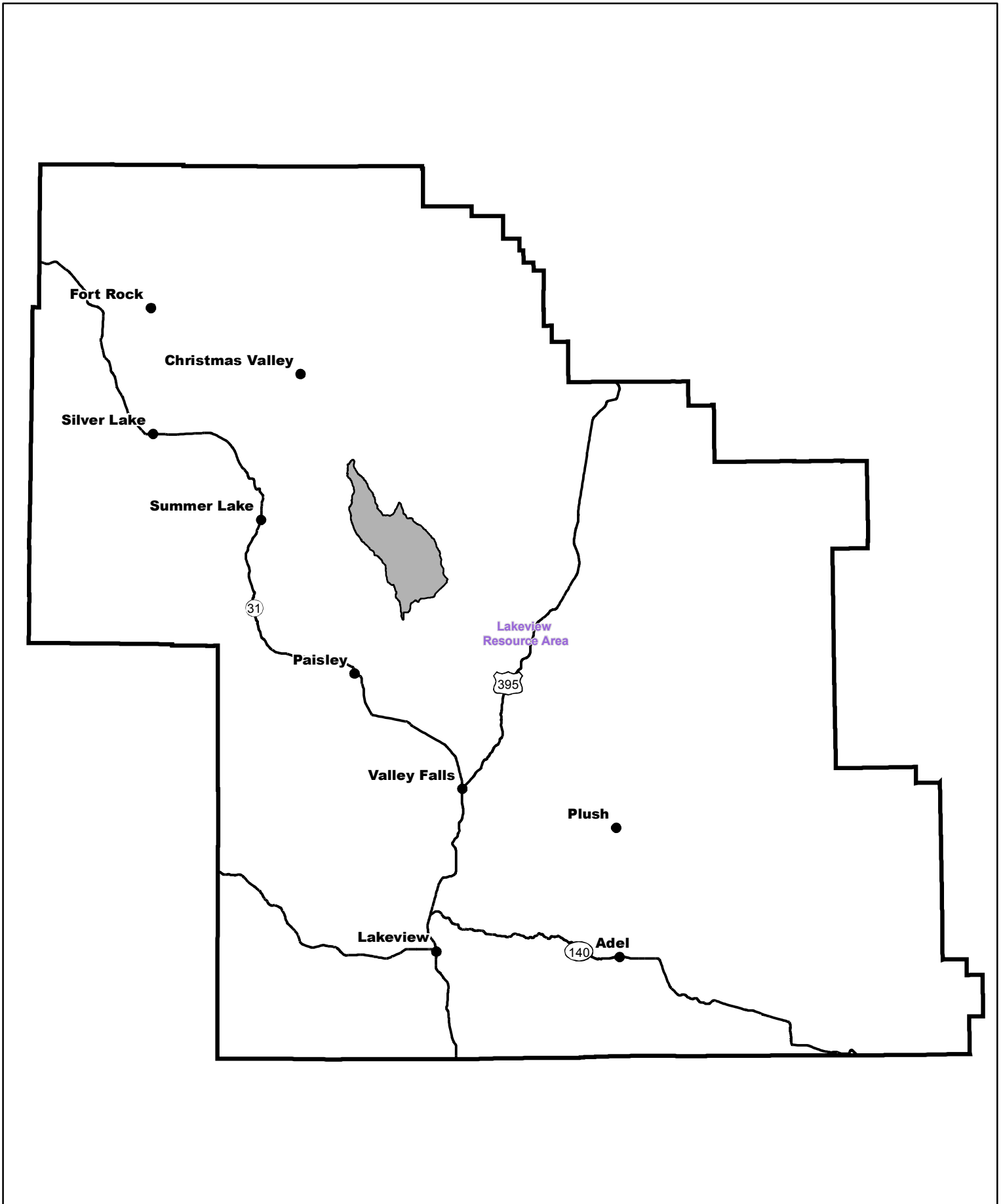
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Approved by:

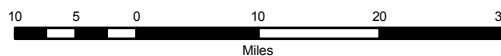

J. Todd Forbes
Field Manager


6/4/18
Date

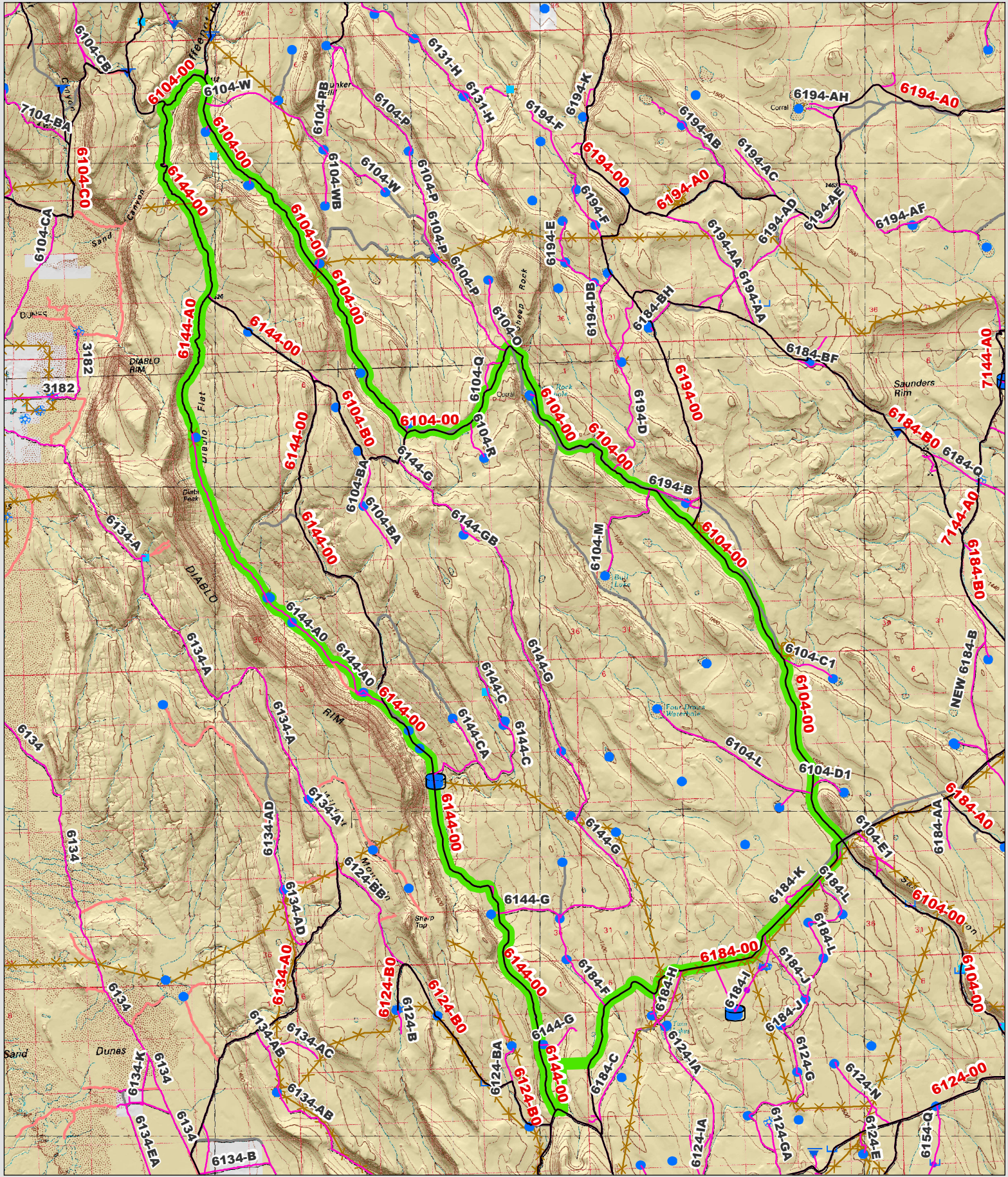
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.



 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



 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	Motorized Routes	Ditch	Dam	Water Tank
Ownership	Highways	Water Pipeline	Reservoir	Waterhole
Bureau of Land Management	Reclaiming Routes	Guzzler	Spring Development	Well - Water
U.S. Forest Service	Interim Routes	Fences	Trough	Water Diversion
Private/Unknown				

3 1.5 0 3 Miles

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