

FORM 1

Castle Rock #1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

No _____ (Go to Form 2) Yes (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas.):

- a) Inventory Source: 1980 NV Intensive Wilderness Inventory
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): NV-060-130 (Castle Rock)
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Warm Springs 1:100,000
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Battle Mountain District / Tonopah Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source: 1980 NV Intensive Wilderness Inventory

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
060-130	22,300	Yes	No	No	No

FORM 2

Castle Rock #1

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier NV-060-120 Acreage 20,783
 (If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below),

Yes No

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines,

etc.): Area is bounded on all sides by maintained graded or paved roads. Prior boundary issues with original inventory have been resolved by pulling boundary out to county roads.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major

human uses/activities): Central area of unit shows little sign of human activity. Very little evidence of grazing ~~even~~. Some historic mining activity in spots along boundary, but it does not detract from naturalness of entire unit.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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

NOTE:

- * Additional information, field notes, etc, are available in project files located in Tonopah Field Office.
- * Friends of Nevada Wilderness - citizen proposed area. FNW files are also on file at TFO & in DFS digital storage.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

Layers of mountains and cathedral rocks offer outstanding ~~scenic~~ seclusion and solitude. Area seems to go on forever with topographic and vegetative screening by pinyon-juniper vegetation.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

hiking geologic study bouldering; canyon exploring. Area invites a hiker/explorer to go further into area and see what's over the next ridge, and the next.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes No N/A

Description: archeologic - lithic scatter is abundant; geologic interest; historic mining activity.

Summary of Analysis*

Castle Rock #1

Area Unique Identifier: NV-060-120

Summary

Results of analysis:

(Note: explain the inventory findings for the entirety of the inventory unit. When wilderness characteristics have been identified in an area that is smaller than the size of the total inventory unit, explain why certain portions of the inventory unit are not included within the lands with wilderness characteristics (e.g. the inventory found that certain parts lacked naturalness).

- 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes ___ No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes ___ No ___ N/A
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes ___ No ___ N/A
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes ___ No ___ N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

 B. Anderson ORP

 E. Arky ORP

 J. Kinsner Arch

 T. Anderson GBI 3/20-21/2013

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):



* 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 1610.5-3.

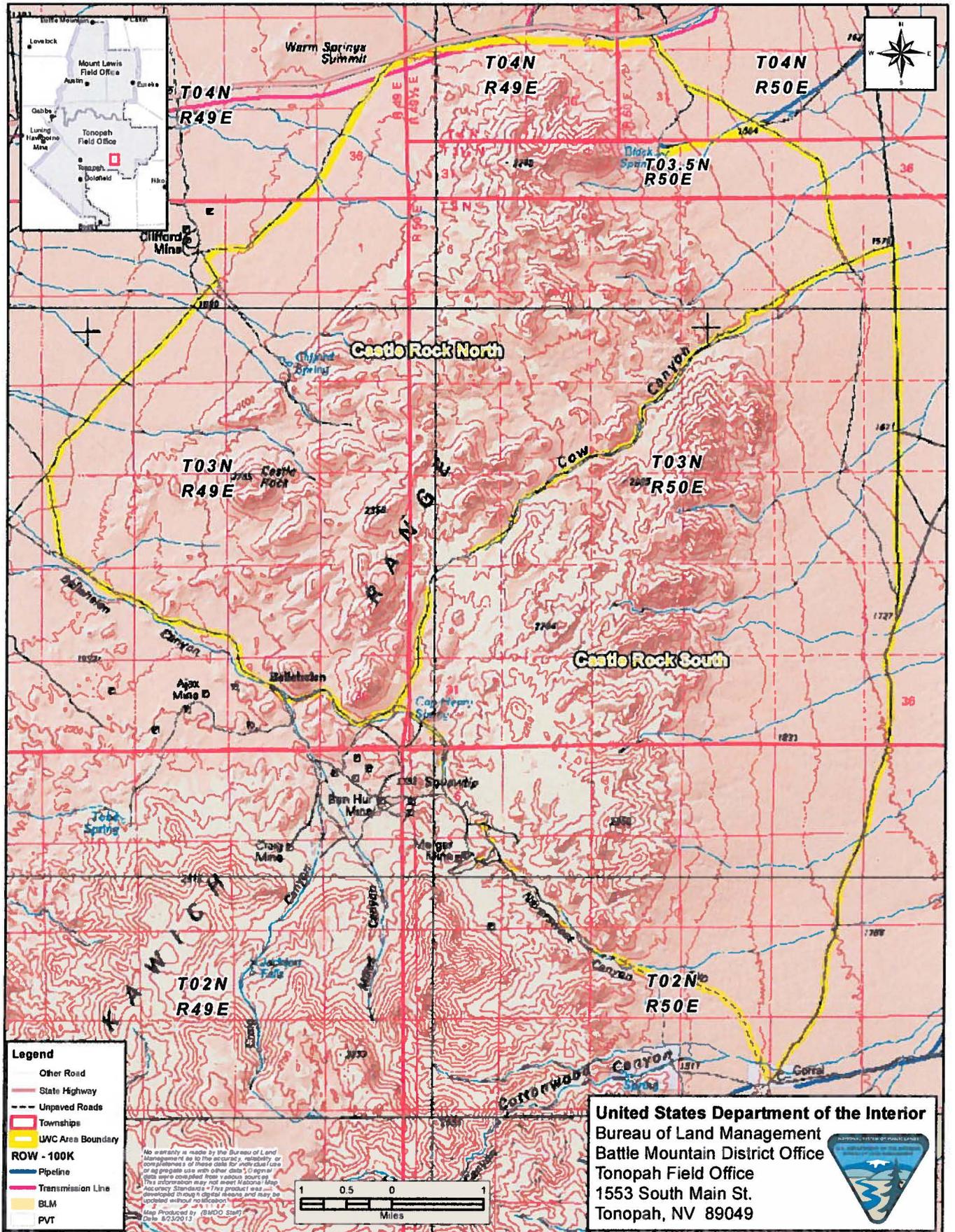
Name: Tim Coward

Title: Acting Field Mgr.

Date: 9/5/13

CASTLE ROCK

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics



**Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Nevada Wilderness Project (FNW)
Citizen-Submitted Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Information**

CITIZEN NAME: **Castle Rock Unit 1**

BLM UNIT NAME: **Castle Rock**

BLM UNIT NUMBER: **NV-060-130**

Narrative documentation of how the Citizen-Submitted information substantially differs from the information in the BLM inventory of the area's wilderness characteristics (as per BLM Manual 6310;.06; B; 1; b; ii.)

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory documented a total of 22,000 roadless acres. The 2012 FNW inventory documented 20,783 acres for Unit 130. The configurations of the BLM unit and the FNW unit fairly closely coincide.

2. Naturalness: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory found that 21,970 acres of Unit 130 were found to be in a natural condition. The 2012 FNW inventory described 20,783 acres as appearing natural.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory stated that for Unit 130: *"[t]he roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because topography is open and unvaried, vegetation is sparse and secluded spots are uncommon."*

The FNW Inventory found many outstanding opportunities for solitude in the rolling volcanic hills, the steep canyons and towering heights of Castle Peak, the dense pinyon/Juniper forests of the east side, and upon the expansive alluvial fan system on the west side of Unit 130. BLM guidelines for evaluating LWC have changed in the last 40 years. Under the BLM Manual 6310 policies, "[o]utstanding opportunities for solitude can be found in areas lacking vegetation or topographic screening." Also, under contemporary 6310 guidelines, an LWC unit not need "have outstanding opportunities on every acre" to meet the criteria for outstanding opportunities. (See Form 2 in the FNW Inventory documents for details on outstanding opportunities for solitude in this unit.)

B. Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The BLM 1980 inventory for Unit 130 stated: *"The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Lack of scenic values, low game populations, and absence of features of interest all adversely affect recreational opportunities. Water is also lacking."*

The 2012 FNW inventory described several pronghorn herds utilizing the resources on the alluvial system on the west side of Unit 130 and described how the unit provide critical winter habitat for the southern Kawich mule deer herd. The 2012 FNW inventory found high quality scenic values throughout the unit and features of interest including the towering volcanic cone of Castle Rock and enigmatic rock formations along the crest of the range. BLM guidelines for evaluating LWC have changed in the last 40 years. Under the BLM Manual 6310 policies, "[t]he presence of water is not essential for an outstanding primitive recreation opportunity." The 2012 FNW inventory found that this Unit offers both outstanding opportunities in several primitive and unconfined types of recreation and a diversity of recreational opportunities. (See Form 2 in the FNW Inventory documents for details.)

***Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Nevada Wilderness Project (FNW)
Citizen-Submitted Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Information***

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: The 1980 BLM Inventory for Unit 130 stated that the “BLM received three specific comments on this unit, mentioning roads, intrusions, or other resource values.”

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The 1980 BLM Inventory stated: *“[t]he evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.”*

Although this may have been an accurate assessment at the time, the 2012 FNW Inventory demonstrates that the wilderness characteristics of this area have substantially changed over the intervening four decades. The wilderness characteristics generated from the FNW 2012 Inventory for the unit substantially differ from the information in the BLM inventory of the area’s wilderness characteristics. Under current BLM Manual 6310 guidelines, FNW recommends that Castle Rock Unit 1 should be re-considered for LWC status.

**WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY
INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION (FORM 2)**

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: **Castle Rock Unit 1**

Acreage:

(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below),

YES

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc): **Castle Rock Unit 1 is comprised of the north-end Kawich Mountains. This unit is bounded by US Highway 6 to the north, a county road on the west, the Bellhelen road on the south and the Cow Canyon road on the East. The northeast boundary is defined by a seldom-used track that connects the Cow Canyon road to the US 6 fence (there is no access through that fence to reach US 6).**

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

YES

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities):

Enigmatic and diverse volcanic rock formations of the north Kawich Range proliferate within Castel Rock Unit 1. Rhyolite towers, spires, and domes break through the ridges and peaks. Violent rhyolitic volcanism erupted through this area 22-23 million years creating the welded ash-flow tuffs that form the core of this area. This area has been referred to as a region of "nested calderas." These multicolored formations create surprising vistas with every turn of the canyons. The Castle Rock itself on the southwest corner of the unit still presents the classic shape of an erupting volcano. Elevations in the unit vary from 5600 feet at the base of the alluvial fans to 7600 feet along central mountains.

Historic use of this area included mining for gold and silver in the early 1900s along the southern boundary of this unit in the Bellhelen mining district. These ore deposits formed in the contact zone between rhyolite calderas of the Castle Rock Unit and intrusive mass of the southern Kawich Range. Currently the area is used for hunting, rockhounding, hiking, camping, bouldering, sight seeing, photography, and backpacking.

The high alluvial surface on the western slope of the unit supports a sagebrush/grassland community that provides good habitat for pronghorn. Horned lizards abound in the alluvial washes. Moving up the fans, scattered juniper and pinion begin to appear along the upper arroyos. A variety of cacti can be found across the area including cholla, prickly pear, and hedgehog. Four springs in the heart of this area provide life-giving water to support the pronghorn antelope, mule deer, wild horses, coyotes, bobcat, and mountain lion found in this wild area: Black Rock and Clifford Springs on the western part of the range and Black and Radium Springs on the eastern side. Birds one is likely to encounter in this unit include: Golden Eagles, Turkey Vultures, Northern Harrier, Swainson's Hawks, Red-Tailed Hawks, Prairie

Falcons, American Kestrels, Mourning Doves, Common Nighthawks, Northern Flickers, Western Flycatchers, Ravens, Crows, and Pinion Jays.

The dryer, western slopes of the unit present the aspect of broad volcanic ridges artistically balanced between bare rock and scattered juniper/pinon and sagebrush communities. In many places, old volcanic cones, tuff falls, and carved ash-flows punctuate these hills creating fanciful formations such as the "camel." Reclusive pediocacti push-up through the gravelly soils on these upper slopes when seasonal storms bring an abundance of water. These remarkable plants tell a story as old as the great basin. It is the story of patience, endurance and survival. As we look into the 21st century and the climatic change that is coming our way, we, perhaps can learn something about ourselves from the abiding pediocactus. Once the top of the range is crossed, dense stands of pinion/juniper forest take route and tumble down the eastern slopes of the range. In addition to the pinion/juniper trees and the delightful cacti--sagebrush, snakeweed, rabbit brush, cliffrose, and mountain mahogany form the dominate components of the native vegetation in this beautiful area and contribute the naturalness and natural integrity of the unit.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

YES

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

The Castle Rock Unit 1 area is wild and remote. The area lacks any developed system of trails and envelops the visitor in the wildness and emptiness of the landscape. The massive alluvial complex on the western side of the area includes countless braiding, dividing and unbraiding channels rich with lizards, horned-toads and wildflowers. The absolute scale of this fan system allows the visitor to vanish into space and experience solitude. Despite the unimpeded vistas offered from these alluvial fans, the area is so big that a visitor vanishes in plain site, too small and too insignificant to stand out in the vastness of the desert. This is an outstanding opportunity for solitude-- to melt into distance and to vanish into unadulterated emptiness.

The volcanic foothills on the western side of the unit offer a completely different opportunity for solitude. This area is carved into numerous shallow canyons surrounded by bare rock formations each supporting shelf, walls, and overhanging niches that create outstanding opportunities for visitors to find a very personal and intimate refuge of solitude, sequestered from the rest of the world. Moving over the crest of the range to the eastside of the range, the sprawling pinion/juniper forests create a third outstanding opportunity for solitude among the dense trees and steep canyons. Without a compass and map, a visitor can easily become lost in this land of trees and rugged canyons.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

The open alluvial fan system on the west side of Castle Rock Unit 1 is unconfined recreation incarnate. Here, the direction you travel is not confined by landscape or vegetation. Only in these places do you have the choice to move in any direction you choose and to walk to where the earth meets the sky. These fans present an outstanding opportunity for unconfined recreation. The labyrinths of rock formations

and extinct volcanoes that comprise the core of this unit provide outstanding opportunities for visitors to hike, horseback ride, boulder, climb peaks, photograph, backpack, and sight-see through an area of scenic wonders. This unit also provides outstanding opportunities for wildlife watching, birding, and hunting. With the diverse volcanic activity in this area, outstanding opportunities abound for rock-hounding and geological sight seeing. The natural and stunning beauty of the unique rock formations is sure to inspire artists to sketch, paint, or write poems and create compelling story for amateur naturalist to unravel. Many signs of prehistoric occupation can be found throughout this region, from fragments of lithic industry to rock shelter occupation sites. This provides outstanding opportunities for amateur archaeologists.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

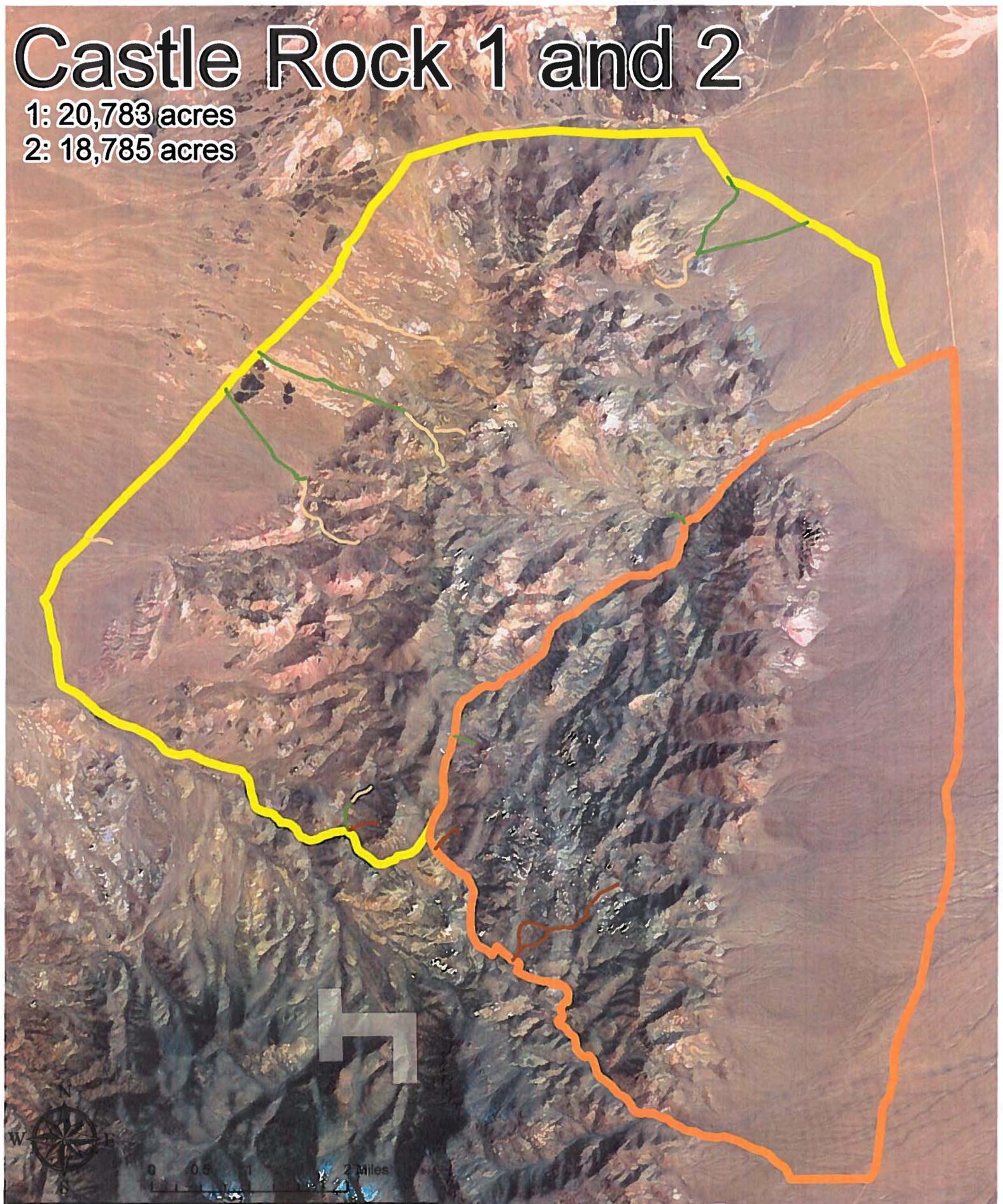
YES

Description:

Castle Rock Unit 1 has been studied by geologist because of the important role this area can tell about the tectonic forces that under-lie Nevada and contribute to the formation of the Basin and Range. The ancient volcanic activity of the region combined with the more recent faulting activity provide important details to understanding the larger story of the geological process currently shaping the terrain of central Nevada. Rhyolite ash-flow tuffs provide the dominant structural component for the upland sections of the Castle Rock area. These "glowing clouds" of hot gases, globs of lava, hot ash, and pumice blanketed the area 22 to 23 million years ago. Evidence of these ancient, fiery events abound within this unit awaiting discovery by students of geology. Several important archaeological habitation areas within this unit provide important evienc for how ancient peoples lived in Nevada. The broad alluvial fans of this unit provide excellent habitat for pronghorn antelope and the relatively snow-free lower elevations of this unit provide important winter habitat for the deer herds of the higher, southern Kawich Mountains. The 100 year old mining activity along the southern edge of the unit provide opportunities for visitors interested in history to explore and ponder how these early pioneer lived in worked in the wild lands of this unit that are essentially unchanged since the heyday of the Bellhelen mining district.

Castle Rock 1 and 2

1: 20,783 acres
2: 18,785 acres



Route Evaluation:

	Remains Open		Castle Rock 1
	Unconstructed two-track		Castle Rock 2
	Unreclaimed mining activity		Private Land

FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS

FORM 1

Castle Rock #2

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

No _____ (Go to Form 2) Yes (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas.):

a) Inventory Source: 1980 NV Intensive Wilderness Inventory

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): NV-060-120 (East Kawich)

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Warm Springs 1:100,000

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Battle Mountain District / Tonopah Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source: 1980 NV Intensive Wilderness Inventory

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
060-120	18,100	Yes	NO	NO	NO

FORM 2

Castle Rock #2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier NV-060-120 Acreage 18,785
(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below),

Yes No

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.):

Boundary is maintained county roads on east and north/west portions. The south/west boundary is formed by partially grown in primitive route a portion of which forms north boundary of Kawich WSA.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities):

Unit is quite natural with native vegetation and little/no evidence of modern man. Some historic mining activity in some areas.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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

NOTE :

- * Additional information, field notes, etc., are available in project file kept in Tonopah Field Office.
- * Friends of Nevada Wilderness - citizen proposed area. FNW files are also on file at TFO and in DFS digital storage.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

Deep canyons and dense vegetation on south side; bounded by WSA here also. Easy to get lost in this area and experience outstanding solitude. North portions remote; rolling with layers of topographic and vegetative screening.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

hiking, exploring, canyoneering. Area invites hiker to explore deeper into area and discover what it offers. Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes No N/A

Description: geology, archeology, historic mining evidence & artifacts.

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: NV-060-130 Castle Rock #2

Summary

Results of analysis:

(Note: explain the inventory findings for the entirety of the inventory unit. When wilderness characteristics have been identified in an area that is smaller than the size of the total inventory unit, explain why certain portions of the inventory unit are not included within the lands with wilderness characteristics (e.g. the inventory found that certain parts lacked naturalness).

- 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No N/A
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No N/A
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

<u>B. Andersen</u>	<u>ORP</u>	
<u>E. Arky</u>	<u>ORP</u>	
<u>J. Kinsner</u>	<u>Arch</u>	
<u>T. Andersen</u>	<u>GBT</u>	<u>3/20-21/2013</u>

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):



* 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 1610.5-3.

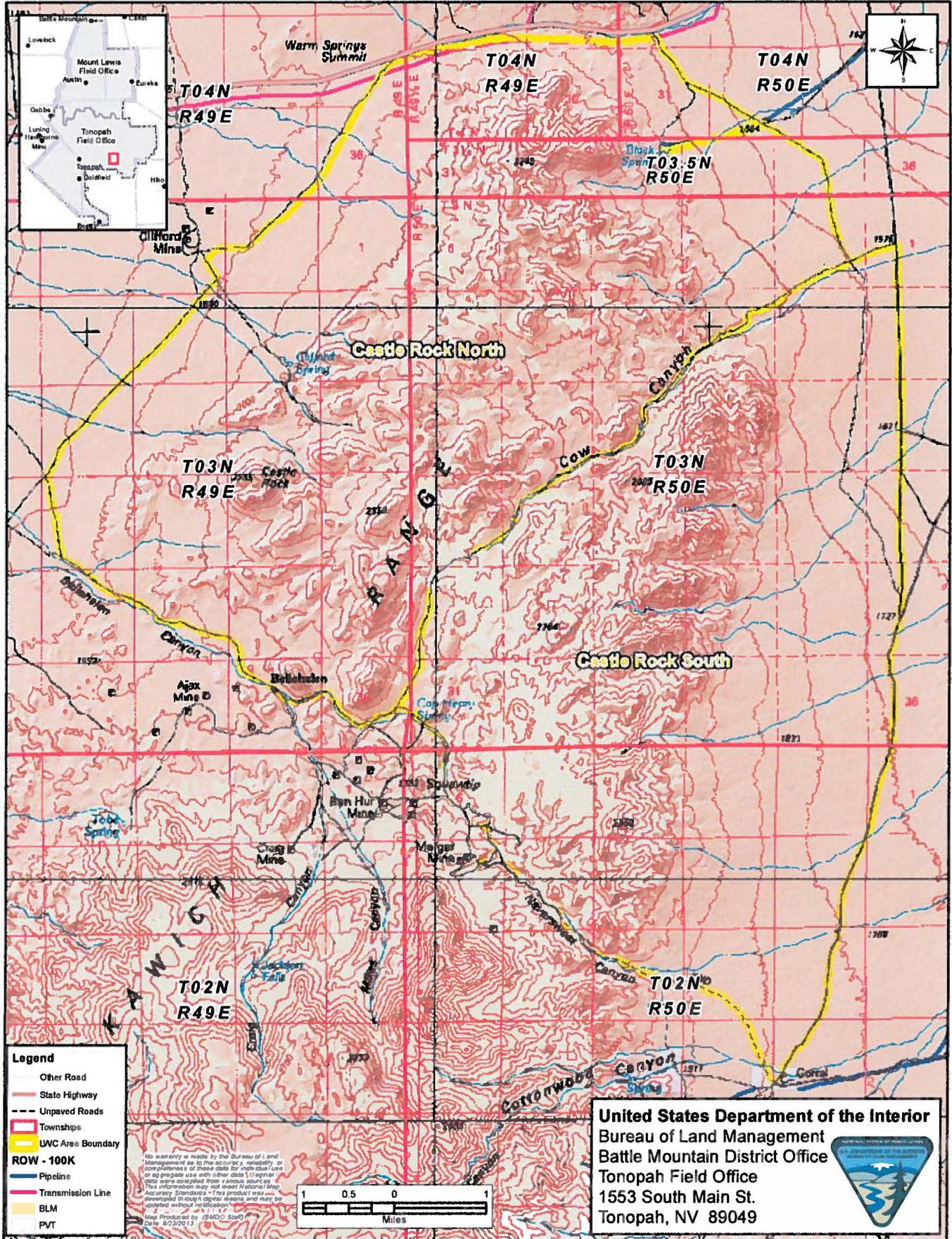
Name: Tim Coward

Title: Acting Field Mgr.

Date: 9/5/13

CASTLE ROCK

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics



**Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Nevada Wilderness Project (FNW)
Citizen-Submitted Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Information**

CITIZEN NAME: **Castle Rock Unit 2**

BLM UNIT NAME: **East Kawich**

BLM UNIT NUMBER: **NV-060-120**

Narrative documentation of how the Citizen-Submitted information substantially differs from the information in the BLM inventory of the area's wilderness characteristics (as per BLM Manual 6310;.06; B; 1; b; ii.)

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory documented a total of 18,050 roadless acres. The 2012 FNW inventory documented 18,785 acres for Unit 120. The configurations of the BLM unit and the FNW unit fairly closely coincide.

2. Naturalness: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory found that: "17,920 acres were found to be in a natural condition". 130 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness from mining activities. The 2012 FNW inventory found that the mining and exploration activity in Unit 120 ceased decades ago and these human impacts have eroded and revegetated to the point of being substantially unnoticeable. The 2012 FNW inventory described 18,785 acres as appearing natural.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory stated that for Unit 120: "*[t]he roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude because vegetation is low-growing or absent, topography is open, and no secluded spots exist*".

The FNW Inventory found many outstanding opportunities for solitude in the densely wooded rolling volcanic hills, rock formations, and potholes of along the crest of Unit 120, in the steep canyons of the eastern scarp, and on the expansive eastern alluvial fan system. BLM guidelines for evaluating LWC have changed in the last 40 years. Under the BLM Manual 6310 policies, "[o]utstanding opportunities for solitude can be found in areas lacking vegetation or topographic screening." Also, under contemporary 6310 guidelines, an LWC unit not need "have outstanding opportunities on every acre" to meet the criteria for outstanding opportunities. (See Form 2 in the FNW Inventory documents for details on outstanding opportunities for solitude in this unit.)

B. Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The BLM 1980 inventory for Unit 130 stated: "*The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Factors restricting recreational opportunities include lack of scenic values, low game populations, and absence of features of interest. Water is also lacking.*"

The 2012 FNW inventory described how Unit 120 provides critical winter habitat for the southern Kawich mule deer herd. The 2012 FNW inventory found high quality scenic values throughout the Unit and features of interest including a sheer, 1000 foot rhyolite wall rising abruptly from alluvial fan on the east side of the unit, rugged and steep canyons in the eastern escarpment, and inviting slick-rock formations rising above the pinyon/juniper forests along the crest of the unit. BLM guidelines for evaluating LWC have changed in the last 40 years. Under the BLM Manual 6310 policies, "[t]he presence of water is not essential for an outstanding primitive recreation opportunity."

***Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Nevada Wilderness Project (FNW)
Citizen-Submitted Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Information***

The 2012 FNW inventory found that this Unit offers both outstanding opportunities in several primitive and unconfined types of recreation and a diversity of recreational opportunities. (See Form 2 in the FNW Inventory documents for details.)

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: The 1980 BLM Inventory for Unit 130 stated that the “BLM received two specific comments on this unit, one mentioned roads and mining impacts and the other listed other resource values.”

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The 1980 BLM Inventory stated: *“[t]he evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.”*

Although this may have been an accurate assessment at the time, the 2012 FNW Inventory demonstrates that the wilderness characteristics of this area have substantially changed over the intervening four decades. The mining roads and impacts mentioned in the public comments have become substantially unnoticeable as a result of decades of reclamation by natural processes. The wilderness characteristics generated from the FNW 2012 Inventory for the Unit substantially differ from the information in the BLM inventory of the area’s wilderness characteristics. Under current BLM Manual 6310 guidelines, FNW recommends that this unit should be re-considered for LWC status.

**WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY
INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION (FORM 2)**

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: **Castle Rock Unit 2**

Acreage:

(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below),

YES

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc): **Castle Rock Unit 2 is comprised of the north-end Kawich Mountains. This unit is bounded by a county road on the east, the Bellhelen mining district on the southwest, the Cow Canyon road on the north and west. The southeast boundary is defined by a seldom-used track that serves as the northern boundary to the Kawich WSA.**

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

YES

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities):

The enigmatic and diverse volcanic rock formations of the north Kawich Range proliferate within Castel Rock Unit 2. Rhyolite towers, spires, and domes break through the ridges and peaks. Violent rhyolitic volcanism erupted through this area 22-23 million years creating the welded ash-flow tuffs that form the core of this area. This area has been referred to as a region of "nested calderas." These multicolored formations create surprising vistas with every turn of the canyons. Elevations in the unit vary from 5400 feet at the base of the alluvial fans on the east to 7500 feet along central mountains on the west side of this unit.

Historic use of this area included mining for gold and silver in the early 1900s along the southern boundary of this unit in the Bellhelen mining district. These ore deposits formed in the contact zone between rhyolite calderas of the Castle Rock Unit and intrusive mass of the southern Kawich Range. Currently the area is used for hunting, rockhounding, hiking, camping, bouldering, geological and biological sight-seeing, photography, and backpacking.

The low-relief alluvial surface on the eastern side of this unit supports a dwarf-brush and grassland community that provides good habitat for pronghorn. This alluvial fan system also provides a canvas for the daily paintings of sun and shadow as the sun sets over the mountains in the core of the unit. The alluvial fan system truncates against the volcanic core of this unit, which rises abruptly from the gentle relief of the valley floor. This sudden vertical relief produces steep walls and ridges and rugged canyons. One monumental formation on the east face of the range rises as a 1000-foot high, bare-rock rampart. This formation provides excellent habitat for nesting raptors and rock climbers alike. The exception to the sudden vertical relief typical of the eastern part of this unit is the long and gradual Cow Canyon,

• which forms the northern and western boundary of this unit. At the topographical top of this unit, in the central core and along the western side, the terrain becomes a gently rolling upland, shrouded with dense pinion/juniper forests and punctuated with bare-rock volcanic domes and spires. In addition to the pinion/juniper forests, sagebrush, snakeweed, rabbit brush, cliffrose, and mountain mahogany form the dominant components of the native vegetation in this beautiful area and contribute the naturalness and natural integrity of the unit. A variety of cacti can be found across the area including cholla, prickly pear, hedgehog, and pediocactus. Throughout this unit, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, wild horses, coyotes, bobcat, and mountain lion roam. Birds one is likely to encounter in this unit include: Golden Eagles, Turkey Vultures, Northern Harrier, Swainson's Hawks, Red-Tailed Hawks, Prairie Falcons, American Kestrels, Mourning Doves, Common Nighthawks, Northern Flickers, Western Flycatchers, Ravens, Crows, and Pinion Jays.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

YES

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

The Castle Rock Unit 2 area is wild and remote. The area lacks any developed system of trails and envelops the visitor in the wildness and emptiness of the landscape. The massive alluvial complex on the eastern explodes with wildflowers after seasonal rains. The absolute scale of this fan system allows the visitor to vanish into space and experience solitude. The history of the west involved people walking and moving (without mechanized assistance) through the flat, arid, and remote areas of the intermountain west. This was the wilderness of the 19th century: the wilderness of our forebearers. Including areas with these attributes within this unit ensures that future generations will have access to the type of solitude and unconfined movement that defined the western character.

The volcanic uplands and dense pinion/juniper forests on the western side of the unit offer a completely different opportunity for solitude. This area is carved into numerous shallow canyons punctuated by bare rock formations each supporting shelves, walls, overhanging niches, and tree filled potholes that create outstanding opportunities for visitors to find a very personal and intimate refuge of solitude, sequestered from the rest of the world. The steep slopes and rugged canyons of the eastern wall of the unit provide a third component of solitude, solitude that requires skills and confidence to explore. Without a compass and map, a visitor can easily become lost in this land of trees and rugged canyons.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

The open alluvial fan system on the east side of Castle Rock Unit 2 is unconfined recreation incarnate. Here, the direction you travel is not confined by landscape or vegetation. Only in these places do you have the choice to move in any direction you choose and to walk to where the earth meets the sky. These fans present an outstanding opportunity for unconfined recreation. The labyrinths of rock formations and extinct volcanoes that comprise the core of this unit provide outstanding opportunities for visitors to hike, horseback ride, boulder, climb peaks, photograph, backpack, and sight-see through an area of scenic wonders. This unit also provides outstanding opportunities for wildlife watching, birding, and hunting. With the diverse volcanic activity in this area, outstanding opportunities abound for rock-hounding and geological sight seeing. The natural and stunning beauty of the unique rock formations is sure to inspire artists to sketch, paint, or write poems and create compelling stories for amateur

naturalist to unravel. Many signs of prehistoric occupation can be found throughout this region, from fragments of lithic industry to rock shelter occupation sites. This provides outstanding opportunities for amateur archaeologists. The dense forests and steep canyons of this unit provide a challenge for the visitor with the skills to navigate rugged terrain. The 1000-foot rampart on above the eastern alluvial fans provides world-class opportunities for rock climbing and route finding.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

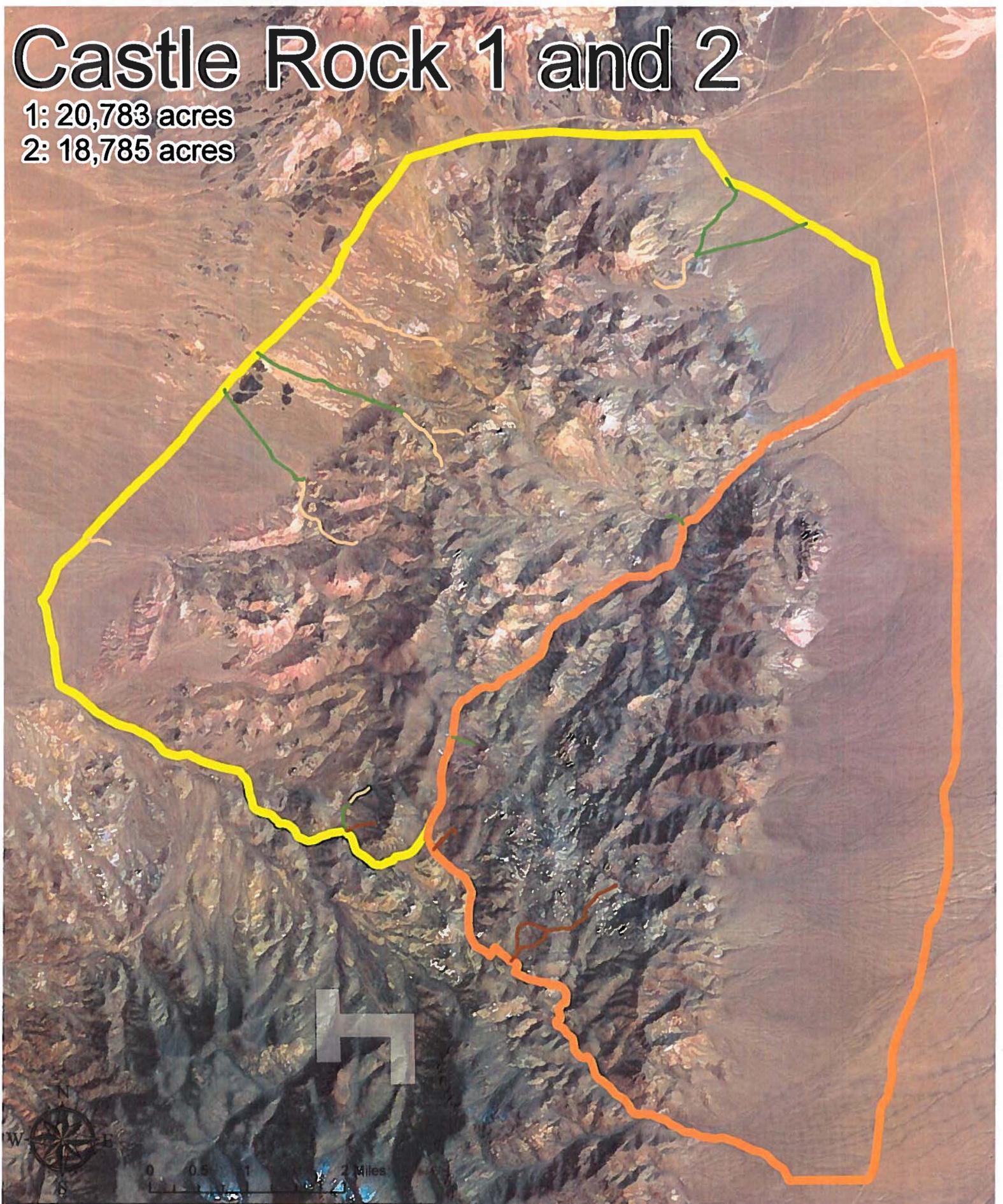
YES

Description:

Castle Rock Unit 2 has been studied by geologist because of the important role this area can tell about the tectonic forces that under-lie Nevada and contribute to the formation of the Basin and Range. The ancient volcanic activity of the region combined with the more recent faulting activity provide important details to understanding the larger story of the geological process currently shaping the terrain of central Nevada. Rhyolite ash-flow tuffs provide the dominant structural component for the upland sections of the Castle Rock area. These “glowing clouds” of hot gases, globs of lava, hot ash, and pumice blanketed the area 22 to 23 million years ago. Evidence of these ancient, fiery events abound within this unit awaiting discovery by students of geology. Several important archaeological habitation areas within this unit provide important evidence for how ancient peoples lived in Nevada. The broad alluvial fans of this unit provide excellent habitat for pronghorn antelope and the relatively snow-free lower elevations of the core of this unit provide important shelter and winter habitat for the deer herds of the higher, southern Kawich Mountains. Sharing a common border with the massive southern Kawich LWC, this unit provides assurance of connectivity for future migrations of wildlife in the unpredictable future of global climate change. The 100 year old mining activity along the southern edge of the unit provide opportunities for visitors interested in history to explore and ponder how these early pioneer lived in worked in the wild lands of this unit that are essentially unchanged since the heyday of the Bellhelen mining district.

Castle Rock 1 and 2

1: 20,783 acres
2: 18,785 acres



Route Evaluation:

- Remains Open
- Unconstructed two-track
- Unreclaimed mining activity

- Castle Rock 1
- Castle Rock 2
- Private Land



FORM 1

Confusion Hills

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

No _____ (Go to Form 2) Yes (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas.):

a) Inventory Source: 1980 Intensive Inventory

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): NV-060-212, NV-060-213 (*Confusion Hills*)

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Mt. Jefferson 1:100,000

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Battle Mountain District/Tonopah Field office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source: 1980 Intensive Inventory

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
<i>060-212</i>	<i>Yes 34,300</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>060-213</i>	<i>Yes 6,200</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>

FORM 2

Confusion Hills

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier NV-060-212/213 Acreage 44,781
(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below),

Yes No

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.): boundary is well established maintained
county roads around entire unit

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?
Yes No N/A

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities): The unit appears to be in an overall
natural state. There is a minor mining
disturbance in the southern portion of the
unit.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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 _____

- * More information is available in project files located in Tonopah Field Office
- * Friends of Nev. Wilderness - citizen nominated unit. Files stored on TFO & in DFS digital storage.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

It is difficult to find outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the proximity of roads to the rolling hills. Even though roads are few, they lead to areas in the unit that may have potential for solitude.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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 _____

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

Opportunities for primitive & unconfined recreation such as hunting, hiking, and camping exist within the unit but in no area was it considered to be outstanding.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes No _____ N/A

Description: *Petroglyphs along Jumbled Rock butch.*

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: _____

Summary

Results of analysis:

(Note: explain the inventory findings for the entirety of the inventory unit. When wilderness characteristics have been identified in an area that is smaller than the size of the total inventory unit, explain why certain portions of the inventory unit are not included within the lands with wilderness characteristics (e.g. the inventory found that certain parts lacked naturalness).

- 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes ___ No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes ___ No ___ N/A
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ___ Yes No ___ N/A
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes ___ No N/A

Check one:

___ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

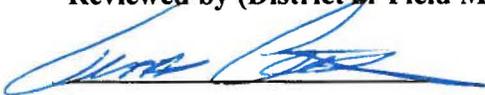
Prepared by (team members):

Ethan Arky 3/19/2013

John Kinsner

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):



* 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 1610.5-3.

Name: Tom Coward

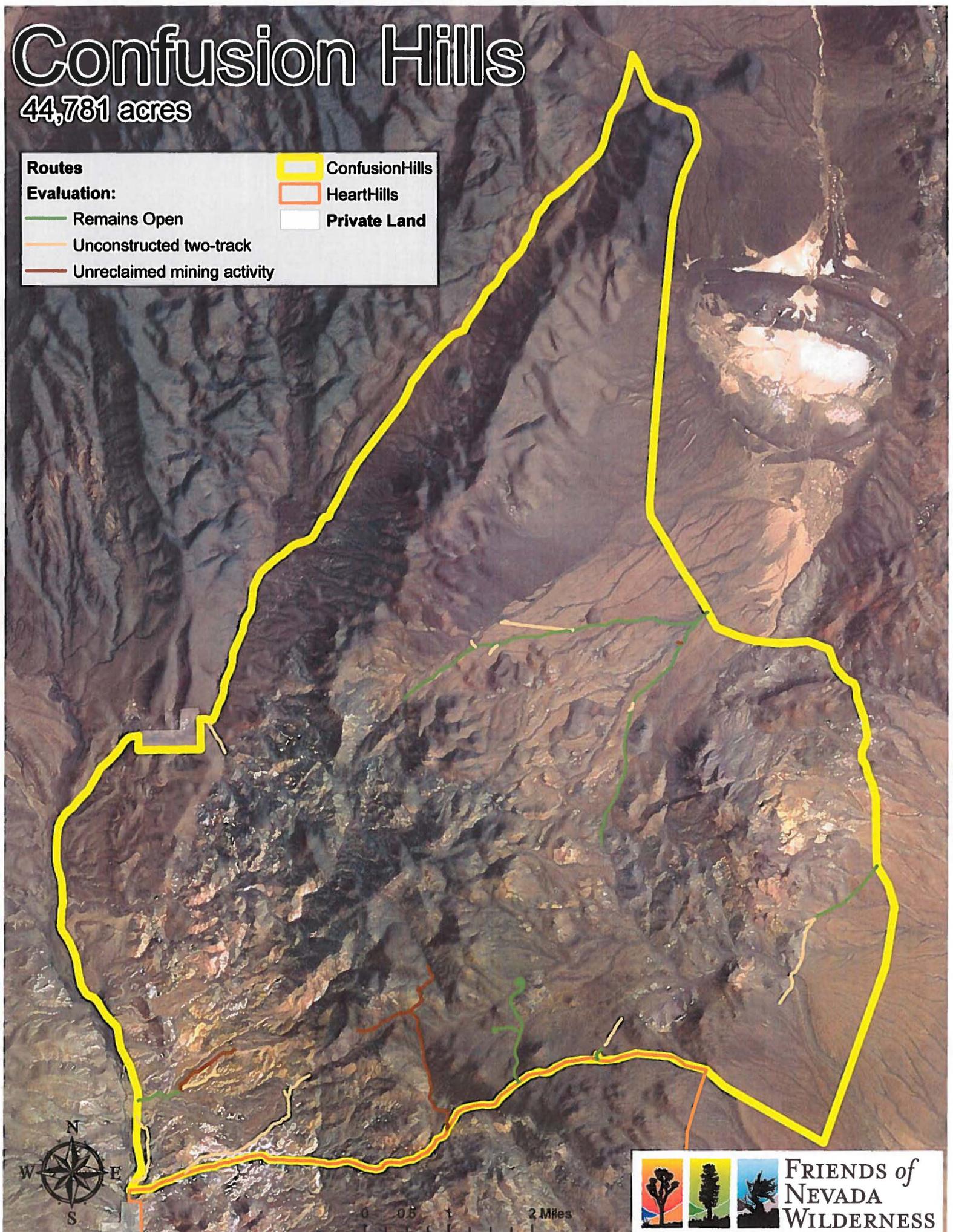
Title: Acting Field Mgr.

Date: 9/5/13

Confusion Hills

44,781 acres

Routes	 ConfusionHills
Evaluation:	 HeartHills
 Remains Open	 Private Land
 Unconstructed two-track	
 Unreclaimed mining activity	



0 0.5 1 2 Miles



**Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Nevada Wilderness Project (FNW)
Citizen-Submitted Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Information**

CITIZEN NAME: **Confusion Hills**

BLM UNIT NAME: **Lone Mountain**

BLM UNIT NUMBER: **NV-060-212**

BLM UNIT NAME: **Red Ring Mountain**

BLM UNIT NUMBER: **NV-060-213**

Narrative documentation of how the Citizen-Submitted information substantially differs from the information in the BLM inventory of the area's wilderness characteristics (as per BLM Manual 6310; .06; B; 1; b; ii.)

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory documented a total of 40,500 acres (34,300 acres for Unit 212 and 6,200 acres for Unit 213); the FNW Inventory describes this area as 44,781 acres. The FNW inventory describes this area as a single unit because the "route" used by the 1980 BLM boundary between Units 212 and Unit 213 was found by the 2012 FNW inventory to not have been constructed for most of its length and to have fallen into disrepair, disuse, and is, in many places, overgrown with pinyon and juniper to the point where it is no longer passable by vehicles. The configurations of the two BLM units and the single FNW unit fairly closely coincide. The FNW inventory refers to the two Units from the 1980 BLM inventory as a single, continuous unit.

2. Naturalness: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory found that "33,900 acres [of Unit 212] were found to be in a natural condition. 400 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness" and "6,200 acres [in Unit 213] were found to be in a natural condition." The intervening 4 decades since this inventory have allowed the natural processes to reclaim the boundary "route" between the two units and the mining exploration access routes within the Units. The 2012 FNW inventory found these human impacts within the unit were now substantially unnoticeable and that all 44,781 acres of the unit appeared natural.

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory stated that for Unit 212: *"[t]he roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The northern half of the unit is comprised of a narrow ridge and part of Sand Springs Valley. This area averages only two miles in width with an average relief of 500 feet. The southern half of the unit has a mining road, which penetrates the unit for about four miles. This situation restricts the user from being able to find a secluded spot and thus would prevent the user from avoiding the sights and sounds of man."*

The 2012 FNW inventory found that over the intervening 4 decades, the "mining road" described above as penetrating four miles into the southern half of Unit 212 has been eroded, revegetated, and overgrown by pinyon and juniper, making this unused route impassible by full-size vehicles. The prospects this complex of un-reclaimed mining exploration routes traditionally led to have not been accessed for decades. The "averaged" statistics used in the 1980 BLM inventory to describe the topography in the northern portion of Unit 212 do not accurately portray the spectacular topographical relief created by the dramatic, 1,500-foot rise of Andesite Ridge above Pritchard's Canyon to the west and above Little Smokey Valley to the east (not Sand Springs Valley as described in the 1980 BLM inventory).

**Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Nevada Wilderness Project (FNW)
Citizen-Submitted Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Information**

The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory stated that for Unit 213: “[t]he roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude. It is a relatively small mountain with little topographic variance. Vegetation is sparse and visitors would find it difficult to screen themselves from others in the unit.”

Guidelines for evaluating LWC have changed in the last 4 decades. Under the 6310 policies, “[o]utstanding opportunities for solitude can be found in areas lacking vegetation or topographic screening.” The 2012 FNW inventory found outstanding opportunities for solitude in expansive alluvial systems of the Little Smokey Valley and surrounding Red Ring Mountain. The 2012 FNW inventory also describes outstanding opportunities for solitude created by topographic and vegetative features in many places in this combined unit including the knife-edge of Andesite Ridge, the colorful canyons of the Confusion Hills, and dense pinyon/juniper forest of the south central core of the unit. Also, under contemporary 6310 guidelines, an LWC unit not need “have outstanding opportunities on every acre” to meet the criteria for outstanding opportunities. (See Form 2 in the enclosed FNW Inventory documents for details on outstanding opportunities for solitude in this Unit.)

B. Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The BLM 1980 inventory for Unit 212 stated: “The area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation as opportunities... are of low quality.” The BLM 1980 inventory for Unit 213 stated: “[t]he area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Those opportunities that do exist are common and of relatively low quality.” The 2012 FNW inventory found that the combined unit offers both outstanding opportunities in several primitive and unconfined types of recreation and a diversity of recreational opportunities. (See Form 2 in the FNW inventory documents for details.)

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: The 1980 BLM Inventory for Unit 212 stated that the “BLM received two specific comments on this unit. One mentioned naturalness and supplemental values while the other noted other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.” The 1980 BLM Inventory for Unit 213 stated the “BLM received two specific comments on this unit.

One discussed the area's naturalness and supplemental values and the second noted other resource values.”

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The 1980 BLM Inventory stated the same rationale for both Unit 122 and 213: “Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.”

Although this may have been an accurate assessment at the time, the 2012 FNW Inventory demonstrates that the wilderness characteristics of this area (the combined 212 and 213 Units) have substantially changed over the intervening four decades. The wilderness characteristics generated from the FNW 2012 Inventory for the combined unit substantially differ from the information in the BLM inventory of the area's wilderness characteristics. Under current 6310 guidelines, FNW recommends that this combined unit, Confusion Hills, should be re-considered for LWC status.

**WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY
INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION (FORM 2)**

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: **Confusion Hills**

Acreage:

(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below),

Yes No Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc): **The Confusion Hills Area is bounded by well-developed county roads on all three sides with minor offsets to accommodate one area of private property.**

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

YES

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities: **Historic human use of the Confusion Hills area included mining exploration. This exploration left un-reclaimed mining routes in the Cruiser Point area. Most of these un-reclaimed routes have fallen into disuse and are over-grown by pinyon and juniper trees and brush. In many places these routes have also been eroded and washed-out by seasonal storms. The overall impact on the naturalness of the area is negligible. On the south-central part of the area, two well-developed roads lead to two oil exploration well sites. These sites can be effectively excluded from the area with minimal impact on the natural integrity of the area.**

A maze of multicolored, ash-fall hills characterizes the southwest corner of the Confusion Hills. These formations create the fanciful landscape from which the name of the area is derived. Open stands of pinyon and juniper trees flow-over these low hills and queue-up along the shallow canyons. The Great Basin sagebrush community plants weave in and out of the trees, covering the hills where the soils are stable and developed enough to support vegetation. In many locations, the soil of these ash-derived hills is so unstable that vegetation cannot gain a foothold. In these areas only the most determined pinyon or juniper survives, growing in twisted and stunted forms that mimic the chaotic terrain. As the foothills climb toward Cruiser Peak and higher terrain, the pinyon and juniper become denser and form a diminutive forest. This extensive pinyon/juniper forest continues over the crest of the range and down toward the eastern boundary.

The vegetation thins again on the east side of the Confusion Hills area and the multicolored Red Ring Mountain dominates the eastern boundary dressed in a cloak spotted with pinyon and juniper.

Two very different natural habitats define the north half of the Confusion Hills. An extensive dwarf-sage brush and grass plant community covers the gently sloping alluvial fan system on the east side and

contrasts sharply with the 9-mile knife-edge of Andesite Ridge paralleling the northwest border. Andesite Ridge and the dwarf-sage brush plain meet in rolling, juniper and pinyon covered hills in the center of the Confusion Hills area. The high point of the Confusion Hills is an 8000 foot peak on the southern end of Andesite Ridge. Throughout the unit, a visitor may glimpse golden eagles, turkey vultures, hawks, falcons, or kestrels hunting on capricious air currents (see species list).

The Confusion Hills provide an ever-changing adaptations of natural habitats as the terrain makes incremental changes responding to variations in precipitation, soil types, and exposure to the relentless desert sun. A wide diversity of animals call this unit home, including: coyotes, bobcat, mountain lions, mule deer rabbits and rodents (see species list). The natural integrity of this corner of Nevada abides and for all visitors, the most dramatic attribute of the Confusion Hills is the appearance of naturalness.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

YES

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

Walking into the Confusion Hills is to immerse oneself into a remote and natural world where the primeval forces of the world still hold sway. Immersion into this unit is immersion into outstanding opportunities for solitude. The maze-like, colorful formations of the volcanic hills in the southwestern part of this unit provide outstanding opportunities to vanish into a land flush with vegetative and topographical screening. The dense pinion/juniper forests of the upper southern section offer opportunities to find uncompromised solitude in the sheltering fragrance of this diminutive forest. The extensive, open pinion/juniper woodlands of the eastern part of the Confusion Hills unit offer outstanding opportunities for solitude based on the pure scale of the region. Distances here are enormous and moving through this landscape under one's own power makes the space even large. After 15 minutes of travel, visitors become engulfed in the immensity of the unit and will find themselves utterly alone. Climbing to the top of the isolated of Red Ring Mountain on the eastern boundary of the unit provides visitors with the opportunity survey the scale of emptiness this Confusion Hills unit represents.

The extensive alluvial plains on the east side of the unit provide visitors with the outstanding opportunity of the wilderness within dwarf-sagebrush community. Despite the low aspect of the vegetation, this area is surprisingly well-watered and nourish grasslands combined with a profusion of wildflowers and herbaceous plants. This is the solitude of the plains; solitude the visitor will most likely share only with the rabbits, rodents, lizards, coyotes or perhaps a small band of passing pronghorn antelope. Andesite Ridge provides an outstanding opportunity for a unique form of solitude. This massive knife-like ridge provides a formidable challenge. A challenge that, when met, is rewarded by the solitude of elevation; solitude only you and the raven, soaring and celebrating in the unpredictable gusts atop the ridge, will know.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

The opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in the Confusion Hills unit are limited only by determination and imagination. Nearly every corner of the unit is accessible for recreation, from easy hiking through the colorful and winding arroyos of the volcanic foothills and the upland forests, to the

more challenging terrain of the rhyolitic ramparts of Cruiser Point and Andesite Ridge. Outstanding opportunities exist with this unit for photography, horseback riding, backpacking, hunting, wildlife watching, birding, rockhounding, botanical identification, bouldering, rock climbing, as well as opportunities for those who like to "collect" desert peaks and climb to the highest point in every one of the 300 mountain ranges of the state. The Confusion Hills unit shows evidence of extensive use by prehistoric peoples and provides outstanding opportunities for amateur archaeologists to explore lifestyles that involved lithic industry, petroglyphs, and pictographs. The never-ending patterns of light and shadow, fashioned from the changeable weather careening over the colorful formations of this unit create fascinating inspiration for artists and poets. Outstanding opportunities for sketching, painting, and creative writing can be found within the inspirational colors and wild nature of the Confusion Hills area.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

YES

Description:

The Confusion Hills unit includes a wide diversity of ecological habitats. The western boundary of this unit follows the well-watered Hot Creek Valley. The dryer uplands support extensive pinion/juniper forests. The eastern plains provide low sagebrush-steppe habitat. This complex of environments provides a critical case-study of the interaction between diverse habitats as the climate patterns shift. Retaining the natural integrity of this unit will assure that these natural interactions can continue to be monitored into an uncertain future. The area included within the Confusion Hills unit is rich in archaeological resources and provides valuable materials for the study of indigenous peoples in Nevada.

FORM 1

Emigrant Peak

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

No _____ (Go to Form 2) Yes (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas.):

a) Inventory Source: *1980 NV Intensive Wilderness Inventory*

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): *NV-050-0323 (Emigrant Peak)*

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): *Goldfield 1:100,000*

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): *Battle Mountain District/Ronopah Field Office*

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source: *1980 NV Intensive Wilderness Inventory*

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? <u>Yes</u> /No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
<i>050-0323</i>	<i>25,337</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>Yes</i>

FORM 2

Emigrant Peak

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier NV-050-0323 Acreage 25,719
(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below),

Yes No

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.):

Northern end of Silver Peak Range. Boundary is comprised of maintained county roads. Some lesser roads connect inside this boundary to modify unit LLC boundaries. ~~Emerson~~ Esmeralda County claiming proposed ROWs so FFW was modified accordingly.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities):

Wonderful unique geologic features - colors & textures. Portions of the unit resemble melted neopalian ice cream. Some temporary ATV tracks in accessible areas.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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

- * More information is available in project files stored in Tonopah F.O.
- * Friends of Nevada Wilderness - citizen nominated unit. FNV files also on file at TFO & in DFS digital storage

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

Jumbled layers of mountains
white rocks and volcanic hills backdrop
creates overwhelming solitude along eastern
portions; couldn't see valleys. Some ATV
tracks, but 1/2 erased by rain.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

lots to explore and contemplate here.
Scrambling slot canyons. Area's topography
invite the visitor deeper & deeper into the
interior of the unit.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes No N/A

Description: geologic, ecologic, scientific, historic
mining around perimeter

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: NV-050-0323 (Emigrant Peak)

Summary

Results of analysis:

(Note: explain the inventory findings for the entirety of the inventory unit. When wilderness characteristics have been identified in an area that is smaller than the size of the total inventory unit, explain why certain portions of the inventory unit are not included within the lands with wilderness characteristics (e.g. the inventory found that certain parts lacked naturalness).

- 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes ___ No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes ___ No ___ N/A
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes ___ No ___ N/A
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes ___ No ___ N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

___ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

B. Anderson	ORP
C. Worthington	PEC
Wade Krist	EPS
T. Andersen	GBT

4/2/13

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):



* 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 1610.5-3.

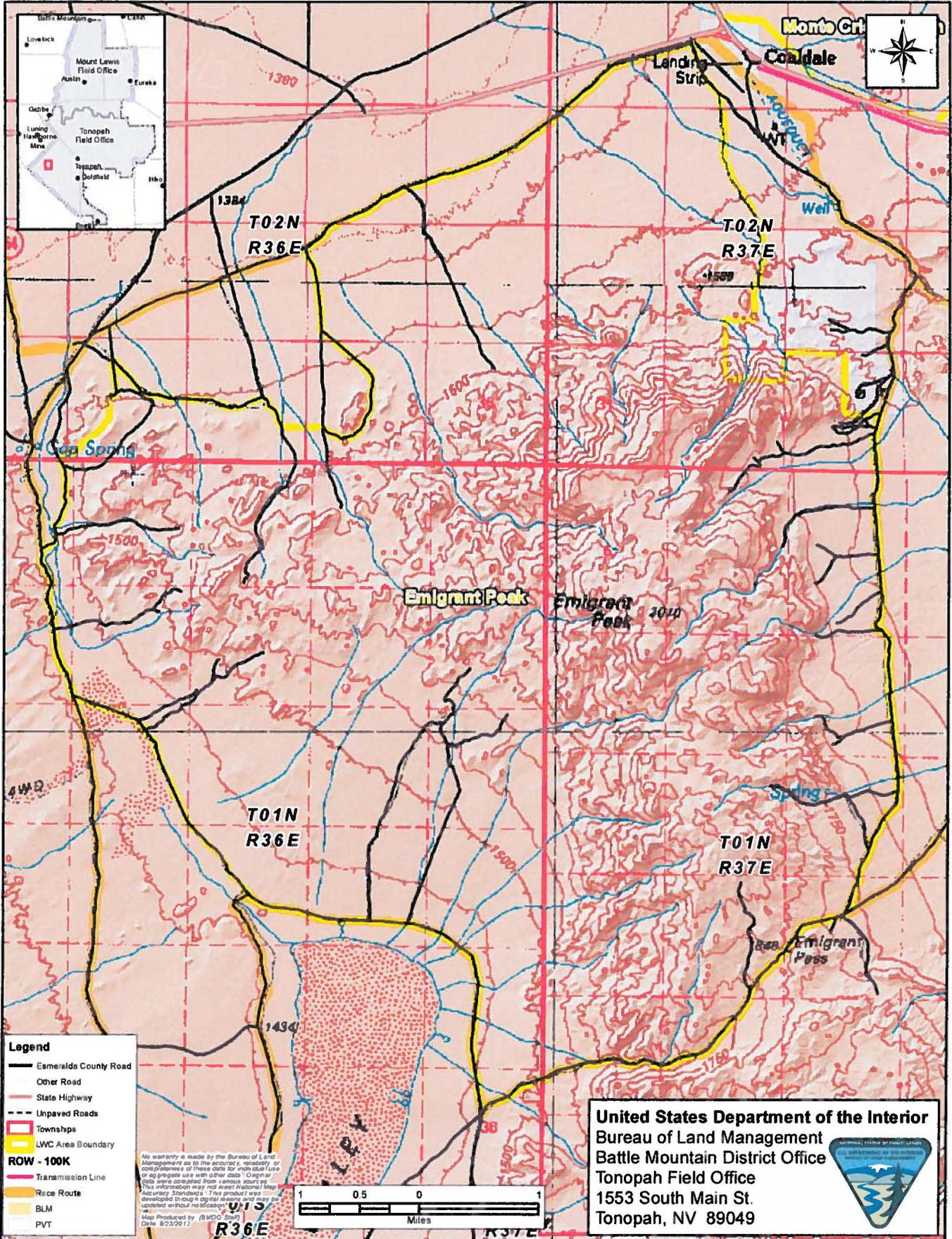
Name: Tim Coward

Title: Acting Field Mgr.

Date: 9/5/13

EMIGRANT PEAK

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics



**Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Nevada Wilderness Project (FNW)
Citizen-Submitted Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Information**

CITIZEN NAME: **Emigrant Peak**

BLM UNIT NAME: **Emigrant Peak**

BLM UNIT NUMBER: **NV-050-0323**

Narrative documentation of how the Citizen-Submitted information substantially differs from the information in the BLM inventory of the area's wilderness characteristics (as per BLM Manual 6310; .06; B; 1; b; ii.)

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory documented a total of 25,337 acres. The FNW Inventory describes this area as 27,719 acres. The configurations of both the BLM and the FNW units fairly closely coincide except minor variations in the boundaries.

2. Naturalness: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory found that, *"[t]here are several intrusion roads, many leading to mining activity. These intrusions impact 20,712 acres, leaving an area of 4,625 acres appearing natural."*

In the intervening nearly four decades since this inventory, the mining activities in this region have been virtually nonexistent. Natural processes have substantially reclaimed many of these impacts and remaining impacts appear as if nature is the predominate force working upon these lands. The most substantial impact within this unit is an old uranium exploration complex intruding in from the east nearly to the high point of the Unit. No viable ore deposits were found and these heavily constructed roads were abandoned and un-reclaimed. For four decades these constructed roads have been eroding and falling into disuse. The substantial constructed access road to this complex, cut into a near vertical wall on the east side of the unit, is so washed out as to be passable only by smaller ATVs. After the washout, the route sees very little traffic. The 2012 FNW inventory found most of the human impacts referred in the 1980 Inventory were now substantially unnoticeable and inaccessible by vehicles; all 27,712 acres of the unit "appear to [be] affected primarily by the forces of nature." Our inventory field crew recommended including the old, un-reclaimed uranium exploration mining scars within the unit and allowing nature to reclaim these human impacts (see the Route Analysis Forms provide with the FNW Inventory of this unit for more information).

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory stated that, *"[t]opographic screening provides some secluded spots, but these are not easily available and the opportunity for solitude is less than outstanding."*

The FNW Inventory found outstanding opportunities for solitude in labyrinth-like hills and canyons that make up the core of Unit 0323, in the steep and rocky canyons on the east side of the unit, and upon the massive alluvial fan systems on the north and south sides of the Unit. The opportunity to find the deeply secluded spots within the core of the unit does require effort and a degree of challenge to access, however the difficulty required to reach these remote opportunities for solitude, by definition, makes them "outstanding." Also, under contemporary BLM Manual 6310 guidelines, an LWC unit not need "have outstanding opportunities on every acre" to meet the criteria for outstanding opportunities. (See Form 2 in the FNW Inventory documents for details on outstanding opportunities

***Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Nevada Wilderness Project (FNW)
Citizen-Submitted Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Information***

for solitude in this Unit.)

B. Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The BLM 1980 inventory listed several high quality opportunities for recreation then stated that *the “quality was limited by a lack of vegetative diversity, lack of attractions to seek out, and lack of challenge to the recreationist.”*

BLM guidelines for evaluating LWC have changed in the last 40 years. Under the BLM Manual 6310 policies, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not impingent upon vegetative diversity and the “presence of ‘challenge’ and ‘risk’ are appropriate considerations, but not essential for an outstanding primitive recreation opportunity to exist in an area.” The 2012 FNW inventory of Unit 0323 describes outstanding opportunities for recreation. The convoluted nature of the canyons and hills combined with the stark vegetation and lack of water in the Unit provides opportunities for visitors to experience “challenge” and “risk” when engaged in primitive and unconfined recreation within this Unit. The 2012 FNW inventory found that Unit 0323 offers both outstanding opportunities in several primitive and unconfined types of recreation and a diversity of recreational opportunities (see the FNW inventory Form 2 submitted for this unit for more details.)

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: The 1980 BLM Inventory stated: “BLM received four specific comments on this unit. Three listed intrusions or roads, and one noted lack of outstanding opportunities. All four listed other resource values. Twelve additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities. These were considered along with those noted above during the intensive inventory.”

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The 1980 BLM Inventory stated: *“Even though comments were received citing both the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.”*

Although this may have been an accurate assessment at the time, the 2012 FNW Inventory demonstrates that the wilderness characteristics of this area have substantially changed over the intervening four decades. The wilderness characteristics generated from the FNW 2012 Inventory for Unit 0323 substantially differ from the information in the BLM inventory of the area’s wilderness characteristics. Under current BLM Manual 6310 guidelines, FNW recommends that this unit, Emigrant Peak, should be re-considered for LWC status.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY
INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION (FORM 2)

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: **Emigrant Peak**

Acreage:

(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).
In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below), **YES**

Yes No Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc)
The Emigrant Peak area is located on the northern-end of the Silver Peak Range and is bounded by improved county roads on all 4 sides (see maps).

(2) Does the area appear to be natural? **YES**

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities: **Currently the human use in the Emigrant Peak area consists of recreational use including camping, hiking, and hunting. Historically the human use of the area included mineral exploration. Most of the routes evaluated for this area originated from this mining activity, but many of these routes have fallen into disuse. The irresistible forces of nature have worked slowly and relentlessly to reclaim the abandoned exploration activity. In most places these activities have been eroded and re-populated with native vegetation making their impacts substantially negligible. Nine active claims remain within the area that cover portions of NW and SW quarters of section 5 and portions of NE and SE quarters of section 6 of T1N, R37E. The claimant is American Lithium Minerals Inc.**

The Emigrant Peak Area presents a wide diversity of natural terrains and habitats where nature integrity still abides. Natural processes as old as the earth continue to carve and sculpt these mountains into a spectacular complex of rugged canyons and colorful ridges surrounded by vast alluvial fans. The pure scale of this landscape swallows-up the visitor and makes one feel immersed in the desert. Rainfall in this area averages only about 5 inches per year and summer temperatures can rise to more than 110° F. The plant life reflects the struggles of survival in such sever conditions. The alluvial fans on the north and south side of Emigrant Peak reach all the way down to the white alkali dust of the dry lakes of Columbus Salt Marsh and the Fish Lake Valley respectively. Elevations vary from 4500 feet adjacent to the dry lakes up to almost 6800 feet atop Emigrant Peak. The sparse vegetation leaves the colorful formations bare and exposed to the catastrophic effects of the infrequent but violent storms. Dry washes provide avenues for exploring deep into the chaotic labyrinth of hills that form the heart of the area. Every twist and turn reveals new and surprising variations of color, texture, and rock formations. And within those formations a visitor can be completely alone and isolated from the frenetic activities of the human world.

Sparse salt-tolerant plants dominate the lower reaches of the alluvial fans. But on the upper reaches, particularly on the southwest side of the area, the vegetation increases in diversity and Mojave cacti enters the mix. These upper fans create spectacular natural gardens with a diversity of desert plants artfully arranged by nature with colorful rocks slowing being transported down to fill the basins below. The broad, gently sloping fans provide a visual contrast to the jumbled peaks of the uplands. These alluvial fans also provide a canvas for the daily paintings of sun and shadow as the sun rises and sets over the mountains. The Emigrant Peak area retains its treeless, desert aspect all the way to the top of Emigrant Peak where the Mojave vegetation transitions to sagebrush steppe on the highest peaks.

The marshes and pools of water in the Gap Spring region on the western edge the Emigrant Peak area represents one of the most outstanding natural resources for the region. These water resources offer a welcome oasis for a broad spectrum of wildlife and for human visitors alike.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

YES

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

Aside from the natural beauty and natural habitat the alluvial fans provide for the Emigrant Peak area, these fans also offer a critical component for solitude. The alluvial fans of the Emigrant Peak area put the mountains into context. Climbing from the bottom of an alluvial fan to reach the mountains is a journey into solitude. After ten minutes of walking, the scale of this desert becomes undeniable. The car you left by the side of the road has diminished into insignificance, swallowed by the emptiness of the desert. Slowly you realize that from the perspective of the road, you too have vanished. With an epiphany, you comprehend that, although you are walking through a predominately empty landscape without topographic relief or vegetation screening, you have nevertheless effectively vanished into pure space. This is the purest quality of solitude.

The canyons and hills of the central core of the Emigrant Peak area provide abundant possibilities for visitors to lose themselves within this convoluted terrain. The highest peaks of the area offer opportunities for the strongest and most diligent hikers to explore a landscape that is far beyond the reach of more casual visitors. The steep canyons of the east side of the Emigrant Peak area provides a maze of rock and near vertical walls where visitors can find a respite and convince themselves that the human world is far away in both distance and time.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

The Emigrant Peak area presents opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation that are limited only the imagination. The desert aspect of the area provides visitors with access to nearly every part of the region, provided that they have sufficient skills to navigate the varied and often challenging terrain. Every corner of the area offers spectacular opportunities for photography, from intimate portraits of plants, animals, and enigmatic rock formations to sweeping landscapes encompassing not only the dramatic terrain

of the area but sweeping backgrounds of distant mountains and valleys beyond. Sketch artists and painters can also find outstanding subject matter within the area. Gap Springs and several guzzlers within the area provide focal points for watching wildlife and assure that game species will be plentiful for hunters. Small, bare-rock plateaus and walls along the eastern edge of the area provide opportunities for rock climbing and slot-canyon exploration. Emigrant Peak itself provides a destination for those visitor who climb and "collect" desert peaks. Opportunities abound for hiking, horseback riding, and, for the person willing to carry his own water, backpacking. Burro packing could provide a visitors with a welcome companion in the empty landscape of the Emigrant Peak area and help make a living-history connection with the challenges the earliest prospectors faced in the region.

For the amateur geologist, the rocks of the Emigrant Peak area span more than 400 million years. The oldest components belong to seafloor sediments, scooped-up by the unrelenting march of the North American continent across the pacific. But the 17 to 20 million year old rhyolite-based volcanic rocks characterize the greatest mass of the materials exposed in the area. Prehistoric and historic use of the Emigrant Peak area by humans have left compelling traces and clues to how these people lived. Chert is common in the sedimentary rock and provided an important source for the raw material for early lithic cultures. And the northeast corner of the Emigrant Peak area offers access to adjacent historic mining operations including the early 20th century mine that gave Coaldale junction its name. Rockhounding combined with geological and historical sightseeing present additional outstanding recreational opportunities within the Emigrant Peak area.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

YES

Description:

The Emigrant Peak area provides an outstanding classroom for studying such diverse subjects as geology, geomorphology, ecology, botany, zoology, archaeology, and history. The dry lakebeds to the north and south of the unit speak of a time when expansive pluvial lakes formed in the Great Basin. When the Fish Lake Valley filled to capacity, it spilled along the west boundary of the Emigrant Peak area, through and spread water out into the desolate basin of Columbus Salt Marsh. Today only Gap Spring remains as a legacy of these wetter times. The Emigrant Peak area shows wide-spread use by prehistoric people and historic mining activities provides interesting insight into Nevada's history. The Emigrant Peak area marks the boundary between the southern, low lying Mojave-type desert environment with the higher, northern Great Basin desert ecology. Each change of elevation and turn of slope-aspect bring subtle changes to the plant communities. Rhyolite ash-flow tuffs provide the dominant structural component for the upland sections of the Emigrant Peak area. These "glowing clouds" of hot gases, globs of lava, hot ash, and pumice blanketed the area 17 to 20 million years ago. This volcanic material intruded, covered, and/or cooked the ancient, 400 million-year-old deep ocean sediments that formed the landscape at that time. This clash of elements provides an intriguing puzzle for students of geology.

FORM 1

Goblin Knob

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

No _____ (Go to Form 2) Yes (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas.):

a) Inventory Source: 1980 NV Extensive Wilderness Inventory

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): NV-060-132 Goblin Knob

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Warm Springs, 1:100,000

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): BMOO - Tonopah Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source: 1980 NV Extensive Wilderness Inventory

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
NV-060-132	✓	✓	No	No	yes

FORM 2

Goblin Knobs

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier NV-060-132 Acreage 64,563
(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below).

Yes No

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.): Area is bounded on the north by Hwy 375 and by maintained county roads on the east, south & west.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities): The area natural in appearance with core area mountain and rock formations. Vegetation is Great Basin shrub types in lower to mid-elevations transitioning to piñon-juniper shrub in mid-range.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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 _____

Additional information, field notes, maps and photos are in project files and digital records located in Tropic Field office.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

Several routes exist inside unit, decreasing feeling of, and opportunity for, solitude. Very prominent views of roads in valleys to east and west.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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 _____

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

While the rock formations that give the area its name are intriguing the recreation opportunities are not outstanding as primitive or unconfined.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A

Description: _____

Area is better suited for ERMA.

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: NV-060-132 Goblen Knobs

Summary

Results of analysis:

(Note: explain the inventory findings for the entirety of the inventory unit. When wilderness characteristics have been identified in an area that is smaller than the size of the total inventory unit, explain why certain portions of the inventory unit are not included within the lands with wilderness characteristics (e.g. the inventory found that certain parts lacked naturalness).

- 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No N/A
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No N/A
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

B. Anderson ORP

E. Arden ORP

J. Kinsler Arch

T. Anderson GBI 3/20/2013

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):



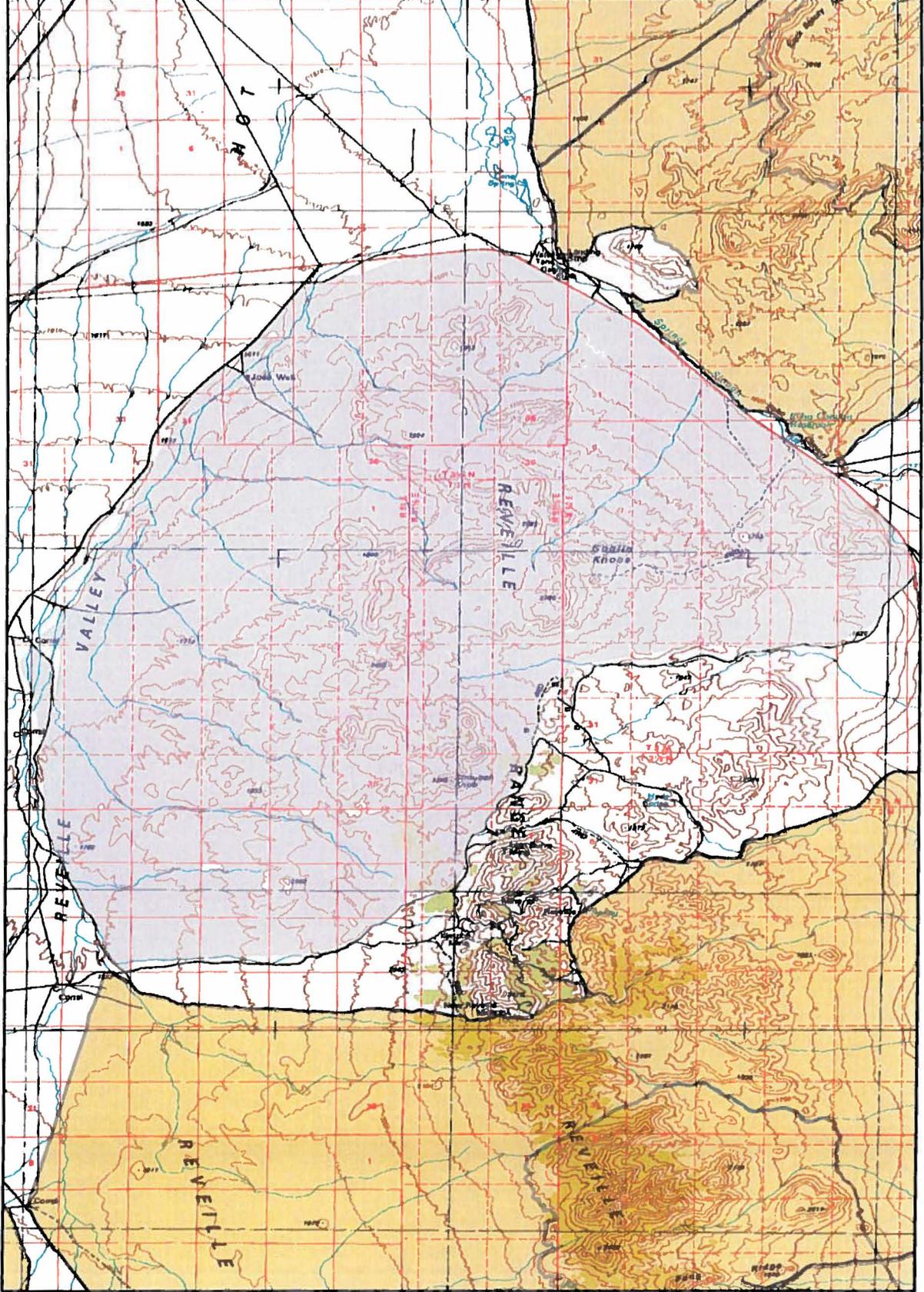
* This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

Name: Tim Coward

Title: Acting Field Mgr.

Date: 9/5/13

Goblin Knobs



FORM 1

Grant Range

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

No _____ (Go to Form 2) Yes (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas.):

a) Inventory Source: *1980 NV Intensive Wilderness Inventory*

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): *NV-060-166*

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): *Winn Canyon Range 1:100,000*

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): *BM00 - Tonopah F.O.*

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source: *1980 NV Intensive Wilderness Inventory*

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
<i>NV-060-166</i>	<i>4140</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>
	<i>(adjacent to USFS wilderness)</i>				

** deemed outstanding because contiguous to USFS Grant Range Wilderness*

FORM 2

Grant Range

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier NV-060-166 Acreage 4140

(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below).

Yes No

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.):

When considering unit is contiguous to USFS designated wilderness. Boundary on west is county road. Boundary fence with US Forest Service divides this unit from designated wilderness

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities):

area all alluvial fan slope with Great Basin shrub vegetation. Note: allotment fence borders eastern edge of unit. Road into north end of unit has cattle guard rather than fence gate.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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 _____

Additional information, maps & photos are in project file and digital records located at Tonopah Field Office.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

this is a barren open slope divided from
USFS wilderness by fence. No opportunities
for solitude

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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 _____

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

No special recreation opportunities

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A

Description: _____

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: NV-060-166 Grant Range

Summary

Results of analysis:

(Note: explain the inventory findings for the entirety of the inventory unit. When wilderness characteristics have been identified in an area that is smaller than the size of the total inventory unit, explain why certain portions of the inventory unit are not included within the lands with wilderness characteristics (e.g. the inventory found that certain parts lacked naturalness).

- 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No contiguous to
USFS wilderness
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No N/A
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No N/A
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

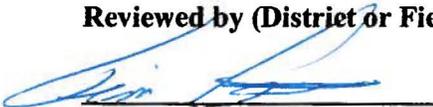
The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

B. Anderson ORP
E. Aky ORP
T. Anderson GBI
J. Kinsner Arch. 3/18/2013

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):



* 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 1610.5-3.

Name: Tim Coward

Title: Acting Field Manager

Date: 9/5/13

Grant Range



Heart Hills

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

No _____ (Go to Form 2) Yes (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas.):

- a) Inventory Source: 1980 NV Intensive Wilderness Inventory
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): NV-060-192 Slanted Buttes
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Mt. Jefferson 1:100,000
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Battle mtn/Tonopah F.O.

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source: 1980 NV Int. Wilderness Inv.

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
NV-060-192	23,900	Yes	No	No	No

FORM 2

Heart Hills

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier NO-060-192 Acreage 30,548 (base on FNV proposal)
(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below),

Yes No

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.):

The area as proposed by FNV is bounded by maintained roads on all sides. After BLM inventory & field checking, southeastern fringing and north eastern triangle were eliminated to return boundary to original 1981 inventory boundary. SW corner boundary now allotment fence and 2-track. Northeast boundary is a travelable road.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities):

southeastern portion of proposed area is not natural as it is cut off by grazing allotment fence. remaining area is natural. A small bit of historic disturbance exists on south portion; otherwise area is natural

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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

NOTE

* Addition information, field notes, maps, etc. are on file at Tonopah Field Office

* Friends of Nevada Wilderness - Citizen proposed area. FNW files are also on file at TFO.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

Remote and silent. Good topographic and vegetative screening. A person feels alone here. Many peak backgrounds to the west adds to feeling of solitude.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

outstanding opportunities for back-country exploration, hiking and scrambling in canyons and unique geologic features (i.e. the Needles)

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes No N/A

Description: geologic study, scenic surroundings to north and west.

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: NV-060-192 Heart Hills

Summary

Results of analysis:

(Note: explain the inventory findings for the entirety of the inventory unit. When wilderness characteristics have been identified in an area that is smaller than the size of the total inventory unit, explain why certain portions of the inventory unit are not included within the lands with wilderness characteristics (e.g. the inventory found that certain parts lacked naturalness).

- 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No N/A
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No N/A
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

B. Anderson ORP
T. Anderson GBI 3/19/2013

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):



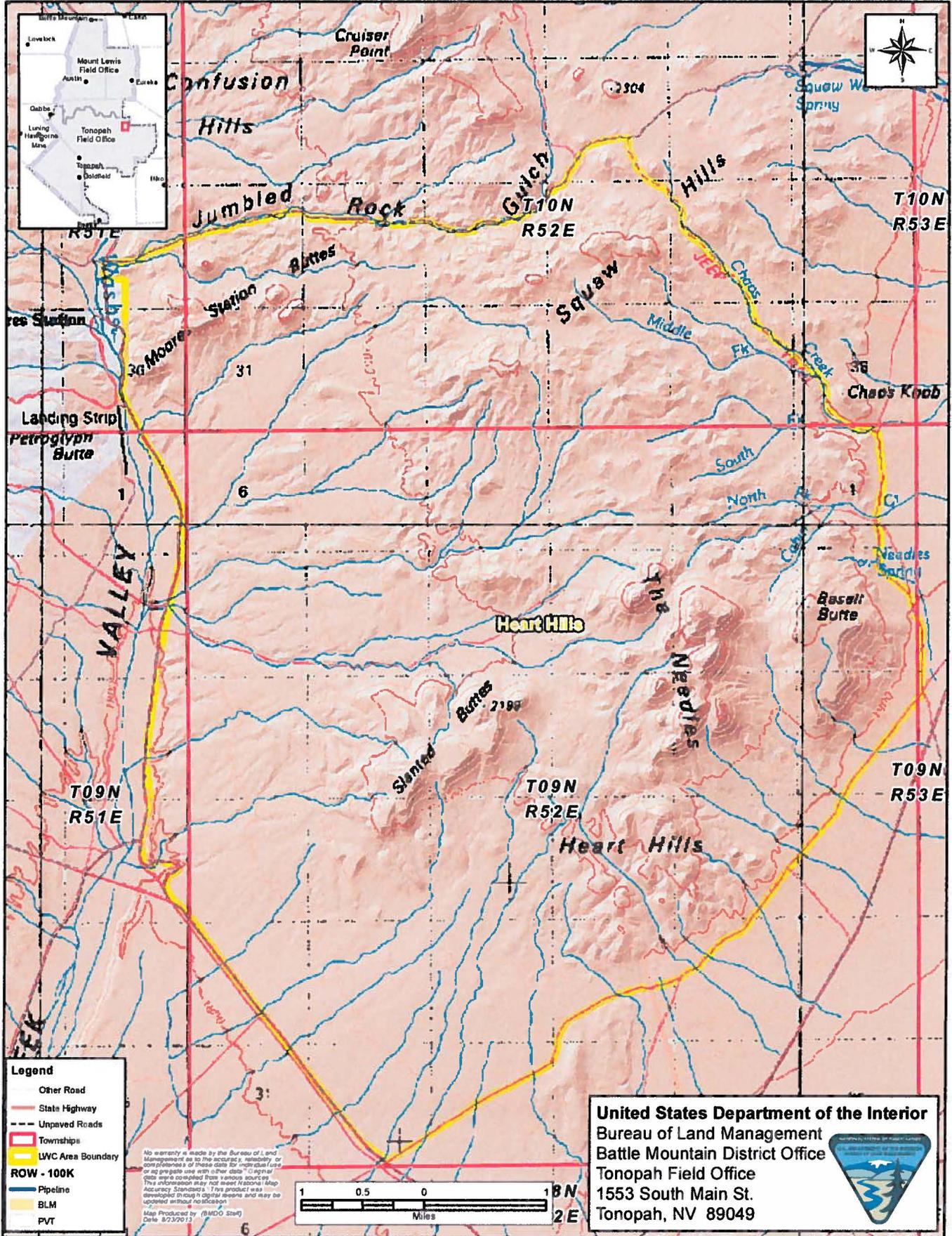
* This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

Name: Tim Coward
Date: 9/5/13

Title: Acting Field Manager, TFO

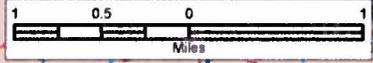
HEART HILLS

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics



- Legend**
- Other Road
 - State Highway
 - Unpaved Roads
 - Townships
 - LWC Area Boundary
 - ROW - 100K
 - Pipeline
 - BLM
 - PVT

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual uses or as they relate to other data. Digital 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.
 Map Produced by: (BLM/DG Staff)
 Date: 8/23/2013



United States Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management
 Battle Mountain District Office
 Tonopah Field Office
 1553 South Main St.
 Tonopah, NV 89049



**Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Nevada Wilderness Project (FNW)
Citizen-Submitted Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Information**

CITIZEN NAME: **Heart Hills**

BLM UNIT NAME: **Slanted Buttes**

BLM UNIT NUMBER: **NV-060-192**

Narrative documentation of how the Citizen-Submitted information substantially differs from the information in the BLM inventory of the area's wilderness characteristics (as per BLM Manual 6310; .06; B; 1; b; ii.)

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory documented a total of 23,900 acres. The FNW Inventory describes this area as 30,548 acres. The configurations of both the BLM and the FNW units fairly closely coincide except for southeastern and northeastern boundaries. The route the 1980 BLM uses for the southeastern boundary, is no longer used, has fallen into disuse, and has experienced extensive vegetation in the 4 decades since the inventory was conducted. Currently this "route" is substantially unnoticeable and impassible for most vehicles. The 2012 FNW inventory includes this "route" within Unit 192 and describes the wilderness characteristics of this unit as extending all the way to the maintained county road on the southeast side of the unit. The route the BLM 1980 inventory uses to define the northeast boundary was found by the FNW inventory to have never been a constructed "route" and was nothing more than a set of repeat-use tire tracks. Current use on the "route" is discontinuous and the central portion is overgrown with vegetation and trees. The 2012 FNW inventory includes this "route" within Unit 192 and describes the wilderness characteristics of this unit as extending all the way to the maintained county roads along the east and north sides of the unit. These two differences explain the discrepancy between the BLM and FNW acreage descriptions.

2. Naturalness: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory found that, *"23,450 acres were found to be in a natural condition. 70 acres were deleted due to a lack of naturalness. This area included a substantially noticeable way and a pipeline."*

Working from contemporary LWC guidelines, the FNW inventory found that all 30,548 acres of the Unit 192 "appear to [be] affected primarily by the forces of nature." Our inventory field crew recommended including several old mining exploration scars within the unit and allowing nature to reclaim these human impacts as well as the "routes" describe above (see the Route Analysis Forms provide with the FNW Inventory of this unit for more information).

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory stated that, *"[t]he roadless and natural portion of the area does not possess an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Topographic and vegetative characteristics within this unit do not provide enough natural screening so that users could effectively screen themselves from the sights and sounds of man."*

The FNW Inventory found outstanding opportunities for solitude in the rugged and steep Needles section in the core of Unit 192, on top of Black Butte, in the gently rolling Heart Hills, in the multicolored canyons weaving through the Slanted Buttes, in the volcanic slick-rock and pockets of the southwestern corner, and in the extensive pinyon-juniper forests in the northern section. BLM guidelines for evaluating LWC have changed since 1980. Under the BLM Manual 6310 policies,

***Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Nevada Wilderness Project (FNW)
Citizen-Submitted Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Information***

“[o]utstanding opportunities for solitude can be found in areas lacking vegetation or topographic screening.” The 2012 FNW inventory found outstanding opportunities for solitude upon the extensive alluvial fan systems on south sides of Unit 192. Also, under contemporary BLM Manual 6310 guidelines, an LWC unit not need “have outstanding opportunities on every acre” to meet the criteria for outstanding wilderness characteristics opportunities. (See the FNW inventory Form 2 submitted for this unit for more details on outstanding opportunities for solitude within this unit.)

B. Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The BLM 1980 inventory listed several high quality opportunities for recreation then stated: *“[t]he area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.”*

BLM guidelines for evaluating LWC have changed in the last 40 years. The 2012 FNW inventory found that Unit 192 offers both outstanding opportunities in several primitive and unconfined types of recreation and a diversity of recreational opportunities, from the risk and challenge of exploring the Needles and climbing to the top of Black Butte to easy wandering in the multicolored hills and canyons surrounding the Slanted Buttes (see the FNW inventory Form 2 submitted for this unit for more details).

4. Supplemental Values: The BLM 1980 inventory stated, *“[n]o ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted.”*

The FNW 2012 Inventory found outstanding for scientific, educational, scenic, and pre-historical values within Unit 192 (see the FNW inventory Form 2 submitted for this unit for more details).

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: The 1980 BLM Inventory stated: “BLM received ten specific comments on this unit, with most mentioning the area's naturalness and outstanding solitude and recreation. Several noted supplemental values. A few listed roads, intrusions and other resource values. Also received were 2,327 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria, and one stating it lacks the criteria.”

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The 1980 BLM Inventory stated: *“[e]ven though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.”*

Although this may have been an accurate assessment at the time, the 2012 FNW Inventory demonstrates that the wilderness characteristics of this area have substantially changed over the intervening four decades. The wilderness characteristics generated from the FNW 2012 Inventory for Unit 192 substantially differ from the information in the BLM inventory of the area's wilderness characteristics. Under current BLM Manual 6310 guidelines, FNW recommends that Unit 192, Heart Hills, should be re-considered for LWC status.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude): **The entire Heart Hills area provide outstanding opportunities for solitude, from the extensive alluvial fans on the south end to the dense pinion-juniper forest of the northern section. The alluvial fans provide visitor the opportunity to vanish into the simple immensity of this remote part of Nevada. The volcanic ash-falls and tuff formations provide a maze of topographical relief wherein visitors can find miles of nooks and crannies to lose themselves in. The high, rhyolitic volcanic formations of the Slanted Buttes, the Needles, and Moore's Station Buttes provide areas where intrepid visitors can challenge themselves to climb high above the more accessible areas of the surrounding rolling country and experience the solitude of eagles. The summit of Basalt Butte provides an outstanding opportunity for exploring a secluded valley, perched high above the surrounding desert. The extensive pinion/juniper forest of the northern end of this unit provide dense vegetative screen of sufficient size to hide an army of visitors. Throughout the Heart Hills, distant vistas create a sense of being immersed in an immense core of wildness.**

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

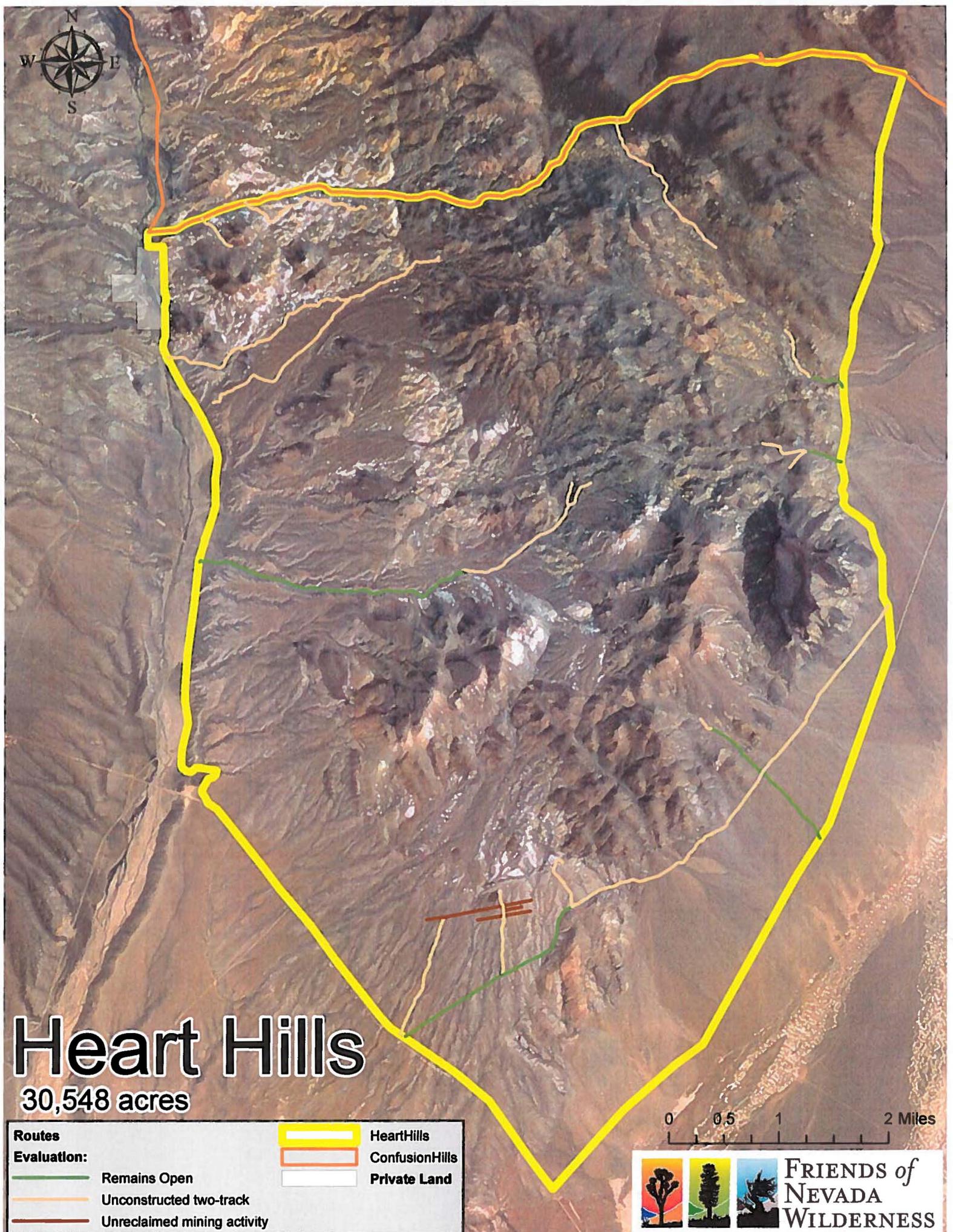
Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation): **The Heart Hills area provides a wide diversity of outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, from the casual visitor who only wants to stroll through gently rolling, natural terrain, to determined hikers and climbers intent on making it to the top of the highest points in the region. Photography, painting, and sketching opportunities abound throughout the area. A shifting pallet of light, shadows, and colors playing across the enigmatic, rhyolitic volcanic rocks and structures inspire many possibilities for artistic expression. Petroglyphs, pictographs, and stone housing circles provide outstanding opportunities for amateur archaeologists to contemplate how indigenous peoples lived in the Heart Hills area. Camping, backpacking, and hunting provide visitors outstanding opportunities to interact with the region. Essentially all of the Heart Hills is accessible for primitive and unconfined recreation, limited only by the skills and determination of the visitor. Except for the highest rugged peaks and the steep cliff faces, all of the Heart Hills unit offer outstanding opportunities for exploration by horseback riding.**

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

YES

Description:

The Heart Hills unit includes a wide diversity of ecological habitats. The dryer southern alluvial fans and low rolling volcanic formations contrast sharply with wetter uplands, which support extensive pinion/juniper forests. This complex of diverse environments provides a critical case-study of the interaction between diverse habitats as the climate patterns shift. Retaining the natural integrity of this unit will assure that these natural interactions can continue to be monitored into an uncertain future. This unit provides an outstanding classroom for studying such diverse subjects as geology, geomorphology, ecology, botany, and zoology. The area included within the Heart Hills unit is rich in archaeological resources and provides valuable materials for the study of indigenous peoples in Nevada.



Heart Hills

30,548 acres

Routes	
	HeartHills
	ConfusionHills
	Private Land

Evaluation:	
	Remains Open
	Unconstructed two-track
	Unreclaimed mining activity



FORM 1

Lone Mountain

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

No _____ (Go to Form 2) Yes (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas.):

- a) Inventory Source: *1980 NV Intensive Wilderness Inventory*
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): *NV-050-0317 (Lone Mountain)*
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): *Tonopah 1:100,000*
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): *Battle Mountain District/Tonopah Field Office*

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source: *1980 NV Intensive Wilderness Inventory*

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
<i>150-0317</i>	<i>38,239</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>Yes</i>

FORM 2

Lone Mountain

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier NV-050-317 Acreage 27,451
(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below).

Yes No

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.): Area is bounded by established and maintained roads. BLM inventory determined need to move western boundary to exclude mining patent & private land. Boundary rejoins proposed boundary at established route.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?
Yes No N/A

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities): Large reholding of private land on western portion of area. BLM decided to move boundary in to allow access to private land.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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 _____

NOTE

* Additional information, field notes, maps, etc., are located in project file in Tonopah Field office.

* Friends of Nevada Wilderness - citizen proposed area. FNW files are kept in Tonopah Field office & in digital files on DFS.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

This area, even though close to Tonopah is very remote & hard to get to. Roads are rough and driving is slow. Steep canyons and remoteness create outstanding opportunities for solitude.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

hunting bighorn & deer, rock scrambling and climbing (climbing area with set anchors in southwest portion of unit). Remote area hiking, exploring and navigation outstanding in this large, untouched, unit.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes No N/A

Description: historic mining, cave dwelling (historic) prehistoric cultural artifacts, wildlife.

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: NV-050-317

Lone Mountain

Summary

Results of analysis:

(Note: explain the inventory findings for the entirety of the inventory unit. When wilderness characteristics have been identified in an area that is smaller than the size of the total inventory unit, explain why certain portions of the inventory unit are not included within the lands with wilderness characteristics (e.g. the inventory found that certain parts lacked naturalness).

- 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes ___ No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes ___ No ___ N/A
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes ___ No ___ N/A
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes ___ No ___ N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

<i>B. Anderson</i>	<i>ORP</i>	<i>T. Anderson</i>	<i>GBT</i>
<i>A. Shellcross</i>	<i>Hydro.</i>	<i>W. Krist</i>	<i>EPS</i>
<i>E. Arky</i>	<i>ORP</i>	<i>M. Fast</i>	<i>GBT</i>
<i>J. Kinsner</i>	<i>Arch.</i>		<i>4/4/2013</i>

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

[Signature]

* 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 1610.5-3.

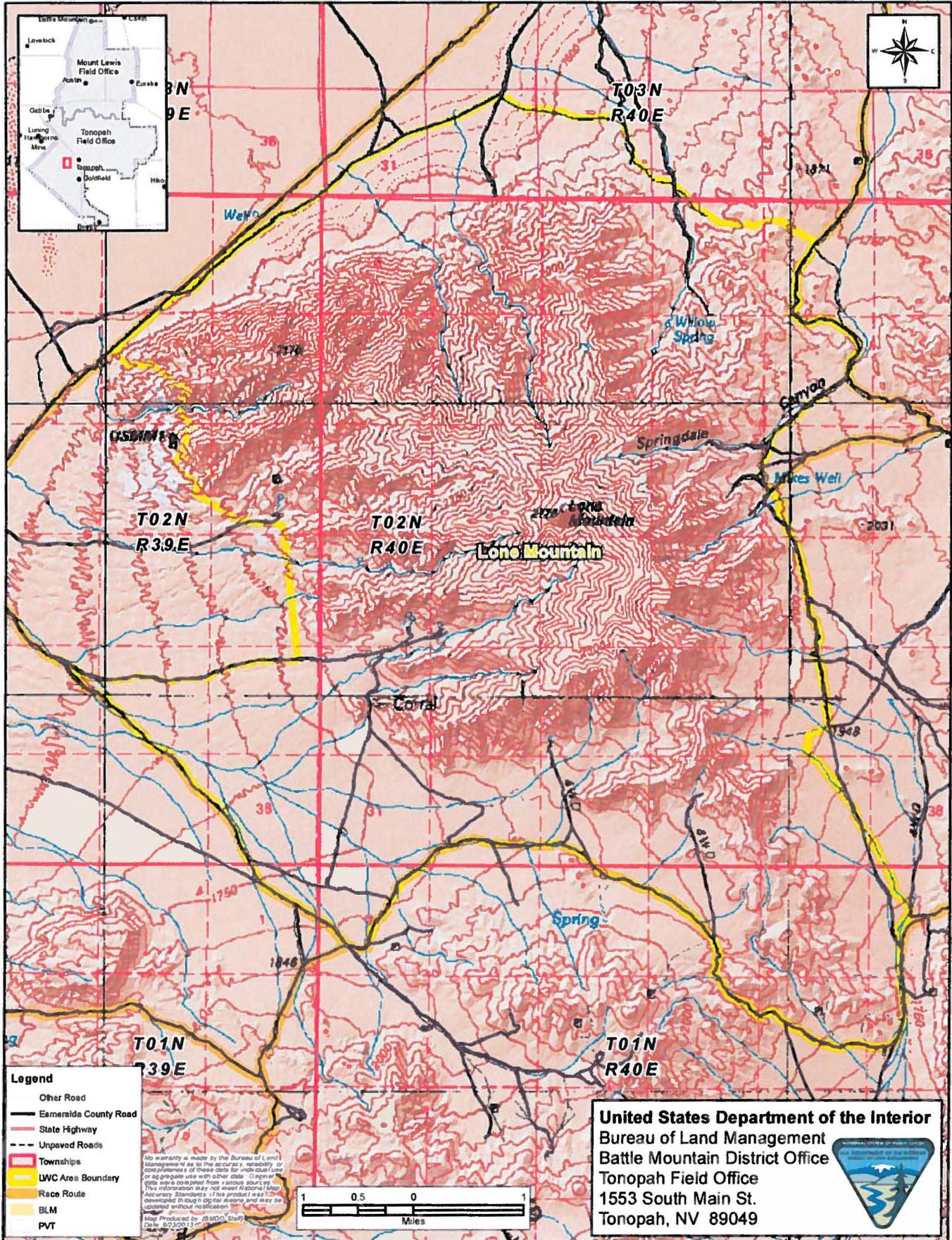
Name: Tim Coward

Title: Acting Field Mgr.

Date: 9/5/13

LONE MOUNTAIN

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics



**Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Nevada Wilderness Project (FNW)
Citizen-Submitted Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Information**

CITIZEN NAME: **Lone Mountain**

BLM UNIT NAME: **Lone Mountain**

BLM UNIT NUMBER: **NV-050-0317**

Narrative documentation of how the Citizen-Submitted information substantially differs from the information in the BLM inventory of the area's wilderness characteristics (as per BLM Manual 6310; .06; B; 1; b; ii.)

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory documented a total of 38,239 acres divided into six portions. Of these six units, the FNW information addresses only the unit defined in the BLM Inventory as NV-050-0317. The BLM defines this unit as having 23,703 acres; the FNW Inventory describes this area as 27,415 acres. The configurations of both the BLM and the FNW two units fairly closely coincide, except on the southwest side of the unit. The 1980 BLM southwest boundary coincides with a route that the 2012 FNW inventory found washed-out and discontinuous. The FNW Inventory recommends wilderness characteristics of this unit continue to the improved and maintained road indicated on the map.

2. Naturalness: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory found that, based on the presence of *"many intrusions around and just outside the unit boundaries, including roads, ways, shafts, pits, scraped areas, and tailings,"* 9,553 acres of 0317 were *"unnatural."*

The intervening four decades since this inventory have allowed the natural process to substantially reclaim these intrusions. The 2012 FNW inventory found that these human impacts were now substantially unnoticeable and that all 27,415 acres of the unit appeared natural. Guidelines for evaluating LWC have also changed. Under the BLM Manual 6310 policies, any unnatural impacts *"just outside the unit boundaries,"* can no longer be *"considered in assessing naturalness of an area."*

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory claimed that, *"[s]ome areas of seclusion were available in 0317, but the opportunity for solitude was not found to be outstanding."*

The 2012 FNW inventory found the rugged and forested terrain in the core of Unit 0317 offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. The 1980 BLM inventory claimed that rolling hills and broad plains below the central mountain were vegetated with *"primarily low desert shrubs" and this type of terrain was "inadequate to offer secluded spots."* Guidelines for evaluating LWC have changed. Under the 6310 policies, *"[o]utstanding opportunities for solitude can be found in areas lacking vegetation or topographic screening."* The 2012 FNW inventory found outstanding opportunities for solitude in many places on the extensive alluvial fan systems and rolling hills surrounding the central mountain of Unit 0317. Also, under contemporary BLM Manual 6310 guidelines, an LWC unit not need *"have outstanding opportunities on every acre"* to meet the criteria for outstanding opportunities. (See Form 2 in the FNW Inventory documents for details on outstanding opportunities for solitude in this Unit.)

B. Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The BLM 1980 inventory stated: *"In 0317, the opportunity for primitive recreation was not found to be outstanding because of the lack of*

***Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Nevada Wilderness Project (FNW)
Citizen-Submitted Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Information***

recreational challenge, lack of specific attractions to seek out, and lack of vegetative diversity.”

The 2012 FNW inventory found: Unit 0317 offers outstanding opportunities for challenge in navigating and climbing the rugged central peaks; the imposing scale of these towering peaks offers an outstanding specific attraction and outstanding opportunities for technical rock climbing and bouldering; and that Unit 0317 offers one of the most vegetative diverse areas in the region. (See the section 4 of the Form 2 in the FNW Inventory documents for more complete descriptions recreation.) Guidelines for evaluating LWC have changed in the last four decades. Under the BLM Manual 6310 policies, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not impingent upon vegetative diversity. The 2012 FNW inventory found that Unit 0317 offers both outstanding opportunities in several primitive and unconfined types of recreation and a diversity of recreational opportunities (See Form 2 in the FNW Inventory documents for details).

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: From the 1980 Inventory: “BLM received five specific comments on this unit. All five discussed roads, intrusions, lack of outstanding opportunities, or other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria. Thirteen, additional comments were received during the initial inventory that could not be checked earlier due to accelerated inventory priorities.”

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The 1980 BLM Inventory stated: *“Even though comments were received citing the presence and absence of wilderness characteristics, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.”*

Although this may have been an accurate assessment at the time, the 2012 FNW Inventory demonstrates that the wilderness characteristics of this area have substantially changed over the intervening four decades. The wilderness characteristics generated from the FNW 2012 Inventory for Unit 0317 and submitted to the BLM substantially differ from the information in the BLM inventory of the area’s wilderness characteristics. Under current BLM Manual 6310 guidelines, FNW recommends that this unit, Lone Mountain, should be re-considered for LWC status.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY
INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION (FORM 2)

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: **Lone Mountain**

Acreage:

(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).
In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below),

YES

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc)
The Lone Mountain area is bounded by improved county roads on all 4 sides (see maps).

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

YES

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities: **Currently the human use in the Lone Mountain area consists of recreation including camping, hiking, rock climbing, sight seeing, mountain climbing, rock hounding, photography, and hunting. Historically the human use of the area included mineral exploration. Most of the routes evaluated for this area originated from this mining activity, but many of these routes have fallen into disuse. The irresistible forces of nature have worked slowly and relentlessly to reclaim the abandoned exploration activity. In most places these activities have been eroded and re-populated with native vegetation making their impacts substantially negligible.**

The Lone Mountain area presents a wide diversity of natural terrain and habitats. Natural processes as old as the earth continue to carve and sculpt this mountain into a spectacular complex of rugged and steep canyons covered with a relatively high density of trees compared to surrounding areas. Pinion and Juniper forests cloak the upper elevations while alkali-tolerant plant communities comprise the foot of this area immediately adjacent to the salt flats. The range of rainfall in the Lone Mountain can vary wildly from an average of only about 5 inches per year at the base of the mountain to thunderstorms and flash floods triggered by the towering heights of this prominent mountain. These downpours can unleashing half this much water in a single event. Likewise, the precipitous height of Lone Mountain assures that the temperatures can change as much as 20 degrees from sweltering summer temperatures over 100 degrees at the base, dropping to a comfortable 80 degrees at the summit on the same day. The long alluvial fans issuing from the canyons of Lone Mountain resulted from eons of rain and flash floods relentless wearing away this majestic mountain. The alluvial fans create a systems of ramps covered with constantly changing desert vegetating and habitat slowly yielding to the upland sagebrush community at the foot of the spectacularly carved-granite walls and summits that comprise the Lone Mountain itself. The geologic history of Lone Mountain spans at least 500 million years when continental-derived sediments deposited as layers beneath the sea. Then 70 million years ago as upheavals far beneath the earth forced this area above the sea, quartz-monzonite pluton intruded into these sediments. With more faulting and fracturing from pressures deep in the earth 20 million years ago, dikes and sills shot through the fractures creating stripes of different rock within the pluton and surrounding sediments. The 20 million years of stretching and block

faulting that formed the Basin and Range brought Lone Mountain high above the surrounding terrain, now buried deep beneath the Quaternary sediments of the surrounding valleys. It is the nature of the hard and resistant granitic rock of Lone Mountain that has allowed it to remain defiant and craggy while less-durable rock have long ago eroded into the valley fill. All components of this remarkable story of natural history are plainly written upon Lone Mountain for even the most casual visitor to marvel at. One cannot look upon Lone Mountain today without seeing the relentless battle between the earth and the elements revealed on the landscape.

Lone Mountain is truly a mountain island in the inhospitable alkali desert of central Nevada. And like an island, Lone Mountain has become a sanctuary for many species from the snakes, lizards, and scorpions haunting the lower reaches of the alluvial fans, to the rabbits, mice, squirrels, horned toads, and coyotes of the mid and upper fans, to the mule deer, bobcat, mountain lion, and desert bighorn sheep that prowl the magnificent heights of the area. Ridges throughout the area show the distinctive signatures of bighorn sheep bedding sites. Above all, magnificent raptors soar along the highest ridges while ravens tumble and play in the unpredictable gusts above the summits. Springs provide life-giving water in the deep recesses of the larger canyons and support riparian vegetation and amphibians. High on the southern edge of the area are isolated natural gardens of Mohave type cacti and Joshua trees. These might be northern-most reaches of this vegetation habitat in Nevada. Elevations vary from 4500 feet adjacent to the dry lakes and sand dunes of the Big Smokey Valley up to 9100 feet atop Lone Mountain summit providing a remarkable range of habitats for plants and wildlife. (See attached species list.) Standing as a solitary sentinel between the southern and northern deserts, and between the lowlands and the higher elevations, the Lone Mountain area supports one of the most diverse systems of natural integrity to be found anywhere.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

YES

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

The pure scale of this mountain swallows-up the visitor and makes one feel a sense of protection in the desert. Aside from the natural beauty and natural habitats the many aspects of the Lone Mountain area provide, these traits also offer a critical component for solitude. The abrupt nature Lone Mountain, fueled by active faults provides an area of eroding ridges. Down-cutting in the alluvial fans creates system of deeper channels within channels. These two systems combine to form a complex landscape flush with outstanding opportunities for topographic relief and screening. Starting from the foot of the alluvial fan were the channels flatten-out and braid into the sands and clays of the Big Smokey Valley and following a dry wash up to the vertical walls of Lone Mountain is a journey into solitude. After ten minutes of walking, the scale of this landscape becomes undeniable. The car you left by the side of the road has diminished into insignificance, swallowed by the emptiness of the desert. Slowly you realize that from the perspective of the road, you too have vanished. At every twist and turn of the alluvial channel you enter a new crevice or canyon. With an epiphany, you comprehend that, you have slipped into the heart of a truly monumental mountain and you have effectively vanished into a natural world. This is the purest quality of solitude.

The canyons and hills of the Lone Mountain area provide abundant possibilities for visitors to lose themselves within this monumental terrain. The dense pinion/juniper forests offer luxuriant vegetation screen. The highest peaks of the area offer opportunities for the strongest and most diligent hikers to explore a landscape that is far beyond the reach of more casual visitors. Atop the summit one is rewarded with incredible 360 degree views of the lower valleys, dry lakes and surrounding ranges of the Nevada desert. On the far western horizon, occasional glimpses of the Sierra Nevada are visible beyond the state

line. Atop Lone Mountain, visitors can find a respite and convince themselves that the human world is far away in both distance and time. This is a world they share only with soaring eagles.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

The Lone Mountain area presents outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation that are limited only by the imagination. Every corner of the area offers spectacular opportunities for photography, from intimate portraits of plants, animals, and enigmatic rock formations to sweeping landscapes encompassing not only the dramatic terrain of the area but sweeping backgrounds of distant mountains and valleys beyond. In the mornings and evenings, Lone Mountain casts long, intricate shadows across the foothills, alluvial fans, and for miles across surrounding valleys. The canyon areas provide focal points for watching wildlife and concentrate the desert rainfall into springs of life-giving water to assure that game species will be plentiful for hunters. The quartz-monzonite core of Lone Mountain occurs in numerous solid-rock walls creating outstanding opportunities for rock climbing, bouldering, and slot-canyon exploration. Isolated domes, pinnacles, and boulders of quartz-monzonite punctuate the alluvial fans surrounding Lone Mountain and provide artistic and intriguing opportunities for exploration or simply a very personal retreat to spend an afternoon in reflection. Lone Mountain itself provides a destination for those visitors who climb and "collect" desert peaks. A summit register atop the peak testifies to the distance people are willing to travel from to climb this beautiful mountain. Opportunities abound for hiking, horseback riding, and, for the person willing to carry his own water, backpacking.

For the amateur geologist, the rocks of the Lone Mountain area span more than 400 million years. For visitors interested in archaeology, prehistoric and historic use of the Lone Mountain area by humans have left compelling traces and clues to how these people lived. Discovering the remnants of isolated sites where early pioneers labored to eke-out a living, helps the visitor make a tangible connection with the challenges the earliest prospectors faced in the region. Rock-hounding combined with geological and historical sightseeing present additional outstanding recreational opportunities within the Lone Mountain area.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

YES

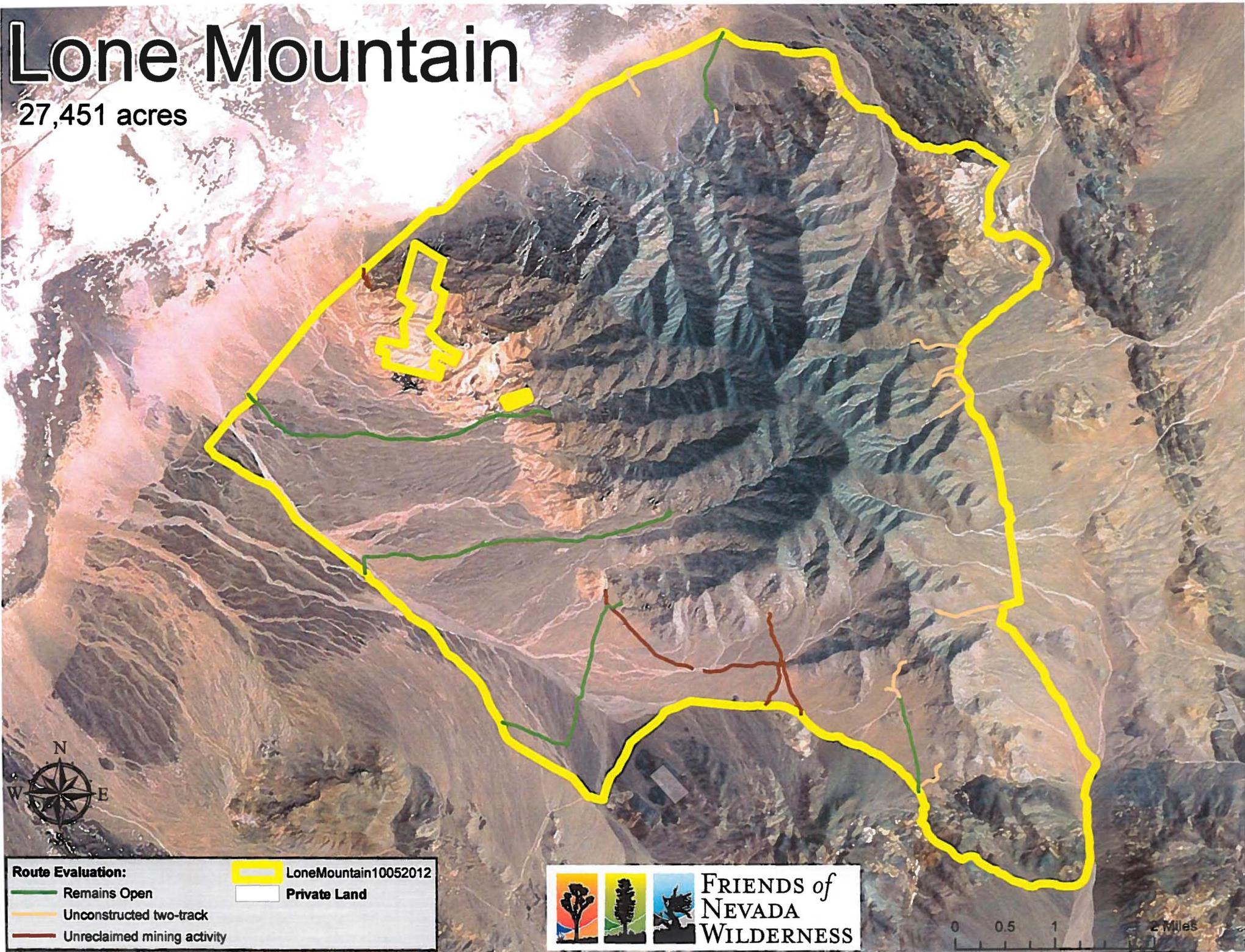
Description:

The Lone Mountain area provides an outstanding classroom for studying such diverse subjects as geology, geomorphology, ecology, botany, zoology, archaeology, and history. The dry lakebeds and sand dunes of the Big Smokey Valley to the north of the unit speak of a time when expansive pluvial lakes formed in the Great Basin. The Lone Mountain area shows wide-spread use by prehistoric people and historic mining activities provides interesting insight into Nevada's history. Lone Mountain also carries evidence of Tonopah's history in the form of fragments of old trails and roads and the stumps of trees felled 100 years

ago to fuel the silver boom. Atop the summit of Lone Mountain, the historic ruins of one of the oldest structures in the region still stands: the geodetic survey station constructed by A. F. Rodgers in 1887. The Lone Mountain desert bighorn sheep herd is probably the only indigenous herd remaining in the central part of Nevada. This herd provides important genetic stock for repopulation other areas in Nevada.

Lone Mountain

27,451 acres



Route Evaluation:

- Remains Open
- Unconstructed two-track
- Unreclaimed mining activity

- LoneMountain10052012
- Private Land



FRIENDS of
NEVADA
WILDERNESS

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

FORM 1

Magruder

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

No _____ (Go to Form 2) Yes (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas.):

a) Inventory Source: 1980 Intensive Wilderness Inventory

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): NV-050-0349 (Magruder)

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Last Chance Range 1:100,000

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Battle Mountain District/Tonopah Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source: 1980 NV BLM Intensive Wilderness Inventory

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
<i>050-0349</i>	<i>Yes 19,651</i>	<i>12,870 ac</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>Yes</i>

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier NV-050-0349 Acreage 19,651 Magruder
(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below),

Yes No

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.): Unit is bounded by State Route 266 to the north. Tule Canyon to the south. Two unnamed roads bound Magruder Mtn. to the east and west.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities): A majority of the unit appears natural. Past mining disturbance is visible on the northeast side. A buried pipeline is visible running from a Spring in the unit, all the way to the town of Gold Point, NV.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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 _____

* More information is available in project file
~~is~~ kept at Tropicah Field Office

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

The unit doesn't offer areas where outstanding solitude can be found. The mountain is steep, however it is narrow which makes it difficult to escape the omnipresent sights and sounds of vehicles on State Route 266.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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 _____

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

Opportunities for hunting, hiking, horseback riding exist, but they are not outstanding.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes _____ No N/A _____

Description: No supplemental values were observed, however the 1980 intensive inventory states that the unit contains a threatened and endangered plant - Heuchera duranii

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: NV-050-0349

Summary

Results of analysis:

(Note: explain the inventory findings for the entirety of the inventory unit. When wilderness characteristics have been identified in an area that is smaller than the size of the total inventory unit, explain why certain portions of the inventory unit are not included within the lands with wilderness characteristics (e.g. the inventory found that certain parts lacked naturalness).

- 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No N/A
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No N/A
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

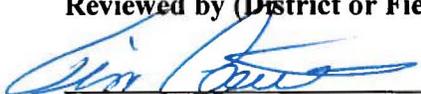
Prepared by (team members):

Ethan Arky 4/2/2013

John Kinsner

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):



* 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 1610.5-3.

Name: Tim Coward

Title: Acting Field Mgr.

Date: 9/5/13

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

APPENDIX D – PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s): Ethan ArkyInventory Area Unique Identifier NV-050-0349

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #
4/2/13	0576	N	View from SW side					1
4/2/13	0577	334° N	Boundary view from S/SW side					2
4/2/13	0578 79 80	N, SW	Magruder Mtn. Death valley & Sierra Nevadas					3
4/2/13	0581	N	Magruder Mtn.					4
4/2/13	0582	316°	Magruder Mtn. wide view					5
4/2/13	0583	207° SW	Magruder Mtn. From the NE					6
4/2/13	0584	120° SE	Magruder Mtn. looking SE					7

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics-Magruder Mountain

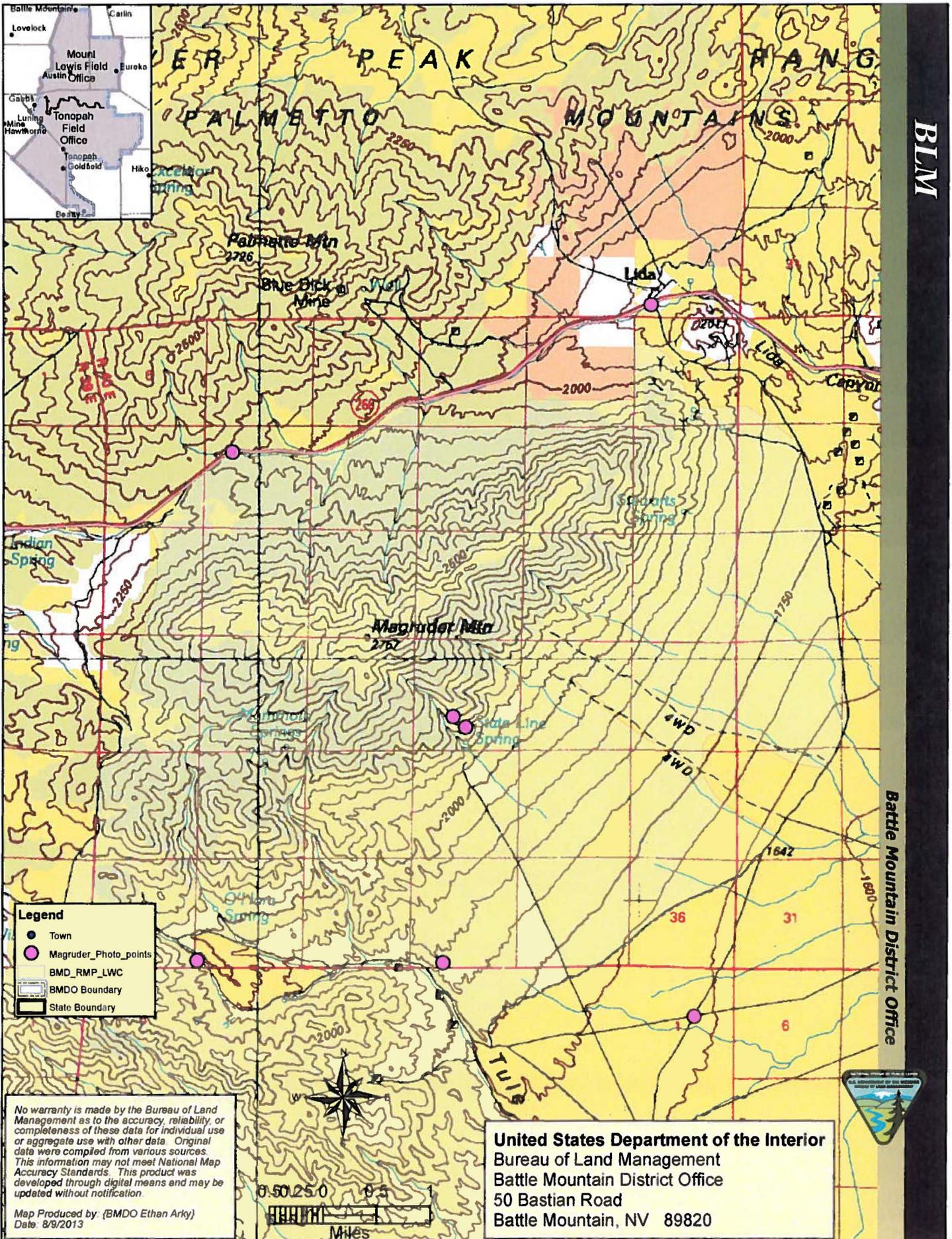


Photo point 1-View from SW side.



Photo point 2-Boundary view from S/SW side.



Photopoint 3-From Magruder Mtn. looking towards Death Valley NP and the Sierra Nevada Mtns.





Photo point 3-Same location, but looking north towards the summit.



Photo point 4-Magruder Mtn.



Photo point 5-Magruder Mtn. wide view



Photo point 6-Magruder Mtn. from the NE



Photo point 7-Magruder Mtn. looking SE



FORM 1

Monte Cristo North

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

No _____ (Go to Form 2) Yes (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas.):

a) Inventory Source: *1980 NV Intensive Wilderness Inventory*

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): *NV-050-0306 (Pilot Peak)*

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): *Tonopah 1:100,000*

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): *Battle Mountain District/Tonopah Field Office*

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source: *1980 NV Intensive Wilderness Inventory*

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
<i>150-0306</i>	<i>59,274</i>	<i>33,900 acres</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>Yes</i>

FORM 2

Monde Cristo North

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier NV-050-306 Acreage 55,324
 (If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below),

Yes No

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.):

Area boundary is maintained roads
around most of the unit. In the north-
east and east end of area, a large mining
disturbance has been excluded. Boundary on
west is power lines and in northwest, OHV race
route.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities):

very large expansive area
dominated by geologic features, Great Basin
desert scrub, canyons and large plateaus
on top.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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

NOTE:

- * Additional information, maps, field notes, etc., are located in the project files in the Tonopah Field Office
- * Friends of Nevada Wilderness - citizen proposed area, FNW files are on file in TFO and digitally stored on DFS.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

Vast plateaus on top, deep canyons and convoluted land forms create outstanding opportunities for solitude.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

hiking, exploring, bouldering, exploring canyons, big game hunting for desert bighorn, etc.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes No N/A

Description: historic mining, geological study, scenic values, wildlife

Summary of Analysis*

Monte Cristo North

NV-
Area Unique Identifier: 050-306

Summary

Results of analysis:

(Note: explain the inventory findings for the entirety of the inventory unit. When wilderness characteristics have been identified in an area that is smaller than the size of the total inventory unit, explain why certain portions of the inventory unit are not included within the lands with wilderness characteristics (e.g. the inventory found that certain parts lacked naturalness).

- 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No N/A
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No N/A
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

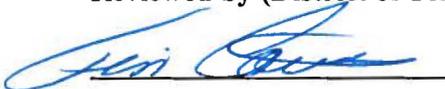
The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

B. Andersen	ORP	W. Krist	EPS
C. Worthington	PEC	T. Andersen	GBI
E. Arky	ORP	A. Shellcross	Hydro.
J. Kinsner	Arch	M. Fast	GBI

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):



* 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 1610.5-3.

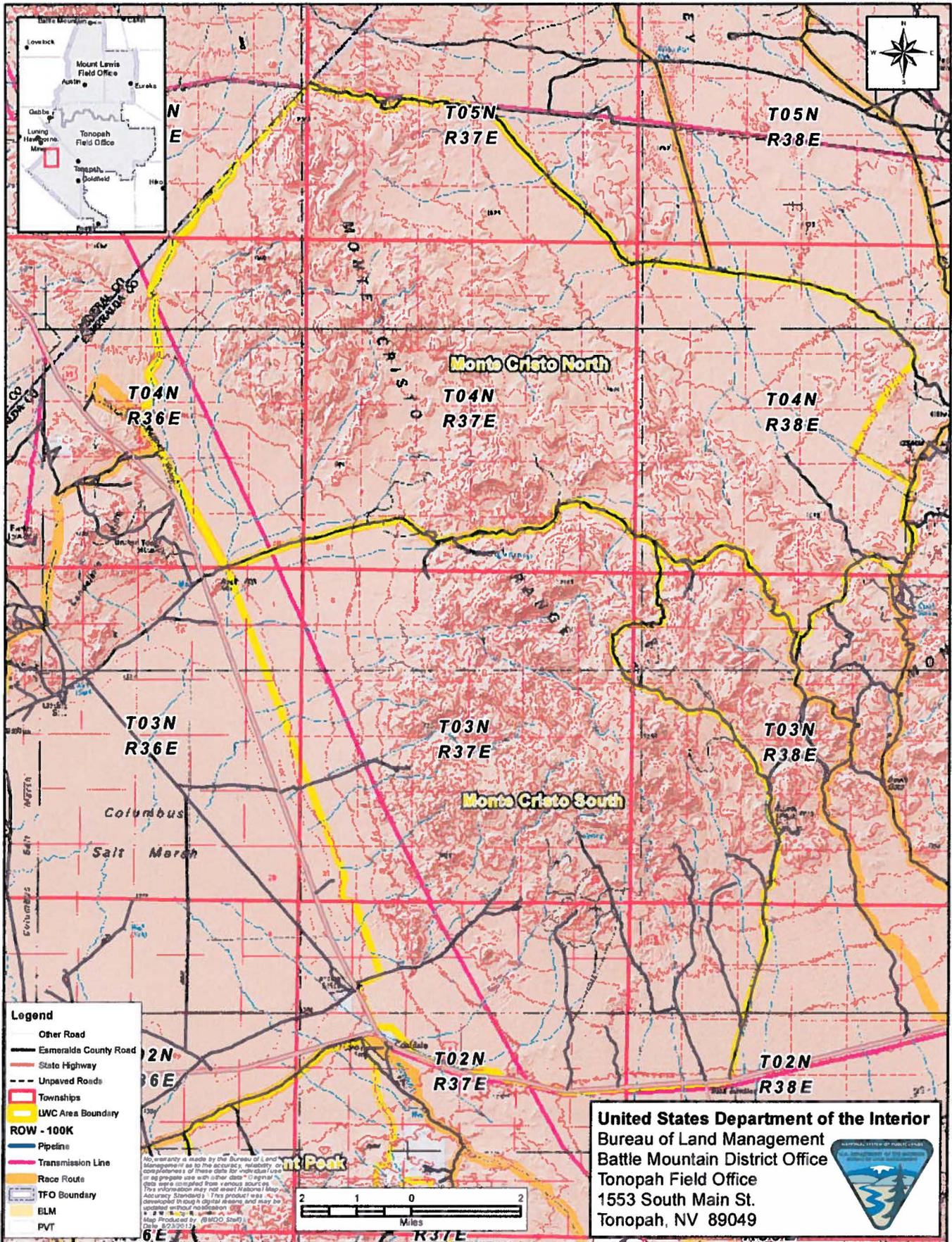
Name: Tim Coward

Title: Acting Field Mgr.

Date: 9/5/13

MONTE CRISTO

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics



United States Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management
 Battle Mountain District Office
 Tonopah Field Office
 1553 South Main St.
 Tonopah, NV 89049



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data. Digital data were collected from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through a digital process and may be updated without modification. © 2002 Map Produced by: BLM/DPO Date: 8/23/02

**Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Nevada Wilderness Project (FNW)
Citizen-Submitted Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Information**

CITIZEN NAME: Monte Cristo Range #2 (North)

BLM UNIT NAME: Pilot Peak

BLM UNIT NUMBER: NV-050-0306

Narrative documentation of how the Citizen-Submitted information substantially differs from the information in the BLM inventory of the area's wilderness characteristics (as per BLM Manual 6310; .06; B; 1; b; ii.)

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory documented a total of 59,274 acres. The FNW Inventory describes this area as 55,324 acres. The configurations of both the BLM and the FNW units fairly closely coincide.

2. Naturalness: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory found that, *"[t]here are mining and mineral assessment impacts in the southwestern and southeastern corners. Because of their locations, these intrusions are visible for a great distance. There is another intrusion road in the northeast. There is an unnatural portion of 25,374 acres. The remainder of the unit, 33,900 acres, appears natural."*

The intervening nearly four decades since this inventory have allowed the natural process to substantially reclaim these intrusions. The 2012 FNW inventory found that these human impacts were now substantially unnoticeable and that all 55,324 acres of the unit appeared natural. Specifically, the "impacts" described in the southwestern and northeastern sections have been unused for nearly 40 years and have substantially eroded and revegetated. Many of the "mineral assessment impacts" (mining exploration activities described above) are nearly impossible to find on the ground. The current mining activity on the southeast side of Unit 0306 has been removed from the FNW Inventory. Guidelines for evaluating LWC have also changed. Under the BLM Manual 6310 policies, any unnatural impacts "just outside the unit boundaries," can no longer be "considered in assessing naturalness of an area."

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory stated that, *"Topographic screening provides the only available secluded spots, but these are not numerous enough to provide outstanding opportunity for solitude."*

BLM guidelines for evaluating LWC have changed since 1980. Under the BLM Manual 6310 policies, "[o]utstanding opportunities for solitude can be found in areas lacking vegetation or topographic screening." The 2012 FNW inventory found outstanding opportunities for solitude in many places throughout this extensive unit. The massive scale of the alluvial fan systems and the volcanic hills unfolding over 55,324 acres of Unit 0306 creates outstanding opportunities for solitude without the need for screening. Also, under contemporary BLM Manual 6310 guidelines, an LWC unit not need "have outstanding opportunities on every acre" to meet the criteria for outstanding opportunities. (See the FNW inventory Form 2 submitted for this unit for more details about outstanding opportunities for solitude.)

**Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Nevada Wilderness Project (FNW)
Citizen-Submitted Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Information**

B. Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The BLM 1980 inventory listed several high quality opportunities for recreation then stated: *“The lack of vegetative diversity and lack of challenge to the recreationist makes the opportunity for primitive recreation less than outstanding.”*

BLM guidelines for evaluating LWC have changed in the last 40 years. Under the BLM Manual 6310 guidelines, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not impingent upon vegetative diversity and the “presence of ‘challenge’ and ‘risk’ are appropriate considerations, but not essential for an outstanding primitive recreation opportunity to exist in an area.” The 2012 FNW inventory found, however, Unit 0306 does indeed offer outstanding opportunities for challenge in simply hiking across such an expansive landscape completely devoid of shade or water. The 2012 FNW inventory found that Unit 0306 offers both outstanding opportunities in several primitive and unconfined types of recreation and a diversity of recreational opportunities (see the FNW inventory Form 2 submitted for this unit for more details.)

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: The 1980 BLM Inventory stated: *“BLM received seven specific comments on this unit. Most mentioned roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. One discussed naturalness and six noted other resource values. Also received were 2,288 general comments stating the unit meets the wilderness criteria.”*

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The 1980 BLM Inventory stated: *“Even though comments were received both supporting and opposing WSA designation, the evidence available to the Bureau indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.”*

Although this may have been an accurate assessment at the time, the 2012 FNW Inventory demonstrates that the wilderness characteristics of this area have substantially changed over the intervening four decades. The wilderness characteristics generated from the FNW 2012 Inventory for Unit 0306 substantially differ from the information in the BLM inventory of the area’s wilderness characteristics. Under current BLM Manual 6310 guidelines, FNW recommends that this unit, Monte Cristo #2 (north) should be re-considered for LWC status.

**WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY
INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION (FORM 2)**

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: **Monte Cristo Unit 2 (North)**

Acreage: **55,324**

(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below).

YES

If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc)

The Monte Cristo area is bounded by improved county roads on all 4 sides (see maps).

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

YES

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities:

Currently the human use in the Monte Cristo area consists of recreational use including hiking, camping, weekend exploration, and hunting. Historically the human use of the area consisted mostly of mineral exploration. Most of the routes evaluated for this area serve currently or historically the purpose of accessing these mines, but many of these routes and mines have fallen into disuse and disrepair.

Ecologically speaking, the area of desert within the boundaries of this unit of the Monte Cristo Range is pristine. The higher country is comprised of scattered juniper trees and a community of shrubs typical of other Great Basin ranges where junipers are found (i.e., Great Basin big sage, Baily's greasewood, Two-wing saltbrush, or shadscale, etcetera). The low lands and alluvial fans around the proposed wilderness is comprised of native bunch grasses, shadscale, Bally's saltbrush, sage in a few areas such as in a number of drainages and canyons. The alluvial fans are fascinating desert communities and as good of untrammled examples of a healthy Great Basin desert ecosystem as one might find. These areas abound with life such as multiple reptile species, small mammals, numerous bird species, and a rich diversity of insects and arachnids. In the higher areas within this unit one can expect to observe bighorn sheep as they are quite ubiquitous.

Evidence of volcanism and change made only through a depth of unfathomable time is the universal landscape. Conjuring within the imagination images of the aesthetically richest Southwestern high desert landscape, one can easily loose themselves in the canyons and cliffs in this unit. The power of this place to transform a person from the surrounding landscape outside the proposed wilderness boundary dotted with mine exploration drilling pads, road scars, mine claim posts, the highway, its litter, and the ritualistic ambition of people to pave their paths with beer bottles, poached road signs, and abandoned cars is profound and enchanting. Perceivable threats to this area seem mostly to be due to off-road

vehicular use and the mine exploration in the area. Where once molten rock and ash violently spewed across the landscape from belching fumaroles, vents, and cinder cones, now wildflowers blow in a warm desert breeze where they grow through pink and white tuff, grey, green, and brown andesite, and scattered sedimentary rock 24 to 11 million years old.

The geology of this region is nothing less than breathtaking. One can step out of a car and into a geologic showroom composed largely of volcanic debris. Quaternary (less than 1.8 million years old) alluvial fans (unconsolidated sediments eroded from older rocks) fills sandy wash beds and arroyos and underlies the gentle fan-shaped slopes leading from the bedrock areas to the highway far below. Some older sedimentary rocks (chert, argillite, shale, siltstone, sandstone, and limestone), which were deposited during the Cambrian to Devonian Periods (between about 500 and 350 million years ago) occur within this locality occasionally as rock fragments in the tuffs.

I have spent a lifetime outdoors and find many places around the Great Basin to be unique and remarkable, but the area here described is special. I challenge anyone to enter the Monte Cristo Range and not be moved. The rich biodiversity, geology, esthetics, and overall general feel of the place is sure to seep into you as it has me.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

YES

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

I deem this region to be one of the Great Basin's few remaining strongholds for native richness in desert quality of and desert solitude. The silence here is powerful and enchanting. Few are the distant static high jet engine roars, hums of vehicles, and seldom does a person encounter others. When one enters the boundaries of this proposed wilderness area a sort of drawbridge may be imagined closing in behind guarded by the sentinels of time and space. A person can walk or ride a horse for days within this area and conceivably avoid anthropomorphic signs save but a broken desert side-notched Northern Paiute projectile point once hafted on a rosewood arrow fletched with sage grouse feathers no doubt loosed from a juniper bow some one and a half thousand years ago from a concealed hunter behind a stand of Great Basin rye grass at a grazing pronghorn antelope. The Great Basin frontier known to John C. Fremont is a thing of the past in all but one or two rare corners of Nevada – this is one such place. The Great Basin frontier is here alive and thriving, teeming with wildlife and adorned with quite possibly the most spectacular geologic landforms the Great Basin has to offer. If the Great Basin can be imagined as a concert of grassland and high desert sagebrush plains and spectacular snow-capped mountains standing against the sun and wind, and symphonies of serenading coyotes in silver moonlight, the Monte Cristo Range is it's grand finale. The ghostly canyon corridors and whispers in the wind that flows like rivers down them, the windswept juniper trunks with their dead claws reaching to the sky, the golden eagles hanging a mile above the hot desert floor, and the shade-seeking jackrabbits, within whose eyes lives the wild essence of the desert – the beating heart of the west is in these rolling Monte Cristo hills, and when after you are at last captured by this supernatural hold the place has on people, you are awoken back to earth by the rolling of distant thunder or the whistling song of a canyon wren.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

Road ways around the Monte Cristo Range are well maintained by the county allowing a person access. A person might hunt bighorn sheep, antelope, or chukar, hike, backpack, drift horseback, and capture photographs of probably the most impressive landscapes the desert has to offer, the quality of which is limited by only a person's ability and imagination. This is a place in which to go on a walkabout, to visit as some do a church on Sunday, to worship the essence of the desert, and to fade into a wrinkle of time and lose yourself in that which the Great Basin has reserved for those who feel a sense of place and wish to be in touch with the land. This is a sacred place that offers one unconfined recreation and limitless opportunities to wander and feel the beating heart of the wild untrammled west as experienced by Native Americans who called this region home and the first white explorers who found in this area a true friend of all those who wish to walk the hills or sit a horse meandering the arroyos and ridges and dream. Wildlife here goes on with life as it has evolved with no help from man and his poor power to improve or detract.

Any student of geology, ecology, prehistory, or history will be sure to find the Monte Cristo Range a buffet of opportunity fit to feed anyone's curiosity and field of study. The hunter will find in these hills opportunity limited by their ambition and love of the chase and respect for that which they seek. The photographer may find no need to travel beyond the boundaries of this proposed wilderness in order to capture that rare and one-of-a-kind picture, framed by desert and cobalt sky. The geologist may find their path here leads to a record in time 400 million years old in the spires and outcroppings of stone that eagles perch upon that offers a sight you will not likely find elsewhere. And as for everyone else, this is a place to disappear into, a landscape championed by all that is wild and free, an explorer's paradise, and a home in which one may close the door behind and step into time and an expanse of pristine Great Basin desert unlike all others.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

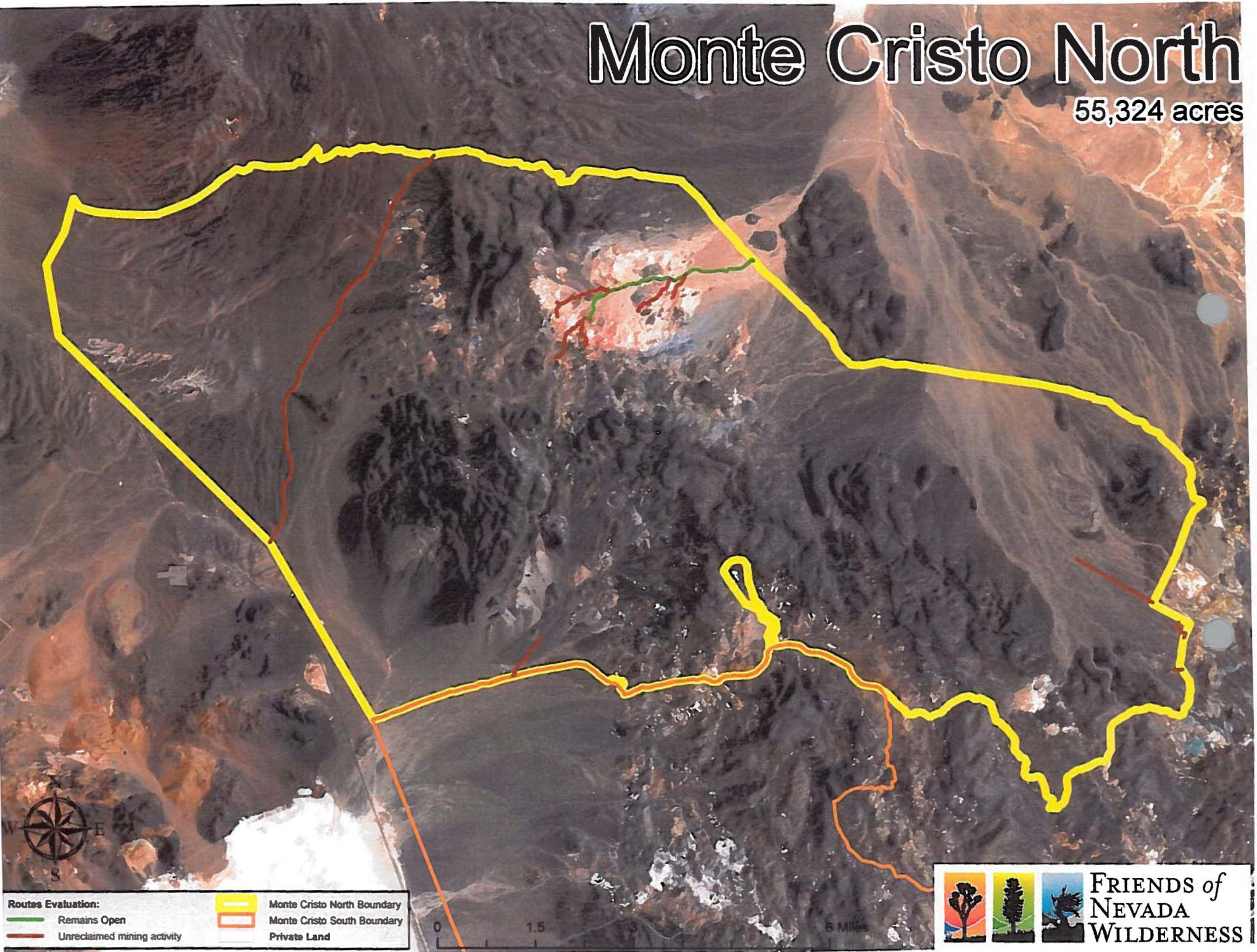
YES

Description:

As I endeavor to become a biology teacher, I found in the Monte Cristo Range a legacy through wilderness designation I might one day leave behind to all those who I touch with my profound love of the Great Basin. A place for students of all ages to wander in search of what they study. This is a place in which subjects such as geology, geomorphology, seismology, ecology, zoology, archaeology, and history can be easily fulfilled. Whirlwinds on dry lakebeds adjacent to the Monte Cristo Range may conjure the dreamer's most deep and spiritualistic apparitions and the wanderer's deepest ambition to travel the Great Basin as one would have taken for granted a hundred and fifty years ago. This is an area once called home to Native Americans and is worthy of all the acclaim given to areas of perceived greater importance upon which Native peoples left signs of their presence. This area has been greatly underestimated in the past by people who spent little or no time here. I challenge anyone to enter this area and find their outdoor ambitions not fulfilled and their soul not moved.

Monte Cristo North

55,324 acres



Routes Evaluation:	
	Remains Open
	Unreclaimed mining activity
	Monte Cristo North Boundary
	Monte Cristo South Boundary
	Private Land



FORM 1

Monte Cristo South

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

No _____ (Go to Form 2) Yes (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas.):

a) Inventory Source: 1980 NV Intensive Wilderness Inventory

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): NV-050-0312 (Rock Hill)

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Tonopah 1:100,000

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Battle Mountain District/Tonopah Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source: 1980 NV Intensive Wilderness Inventory

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? <u>Yes</u> /No (acres)	Naturalness? <u>Yes</u> /No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
<u>050-0312</u>	<u>41,392</u>	<u>16,950 acres</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>Yes</u>

FORM 2

Monte Cristo South

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier NV-050-312 Acreage 47,331
(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below),

Yes No

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.): Area boundary is maintained gravel roads on the east and north, power lines on the west and U.S. Hwy 95 on the south.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities): this area has experienced mining activity in the past, but that activity has faded from the landscape. A small amount of historic mining evidence remains in areas near the edge of the unit. The unit itself remains natural with abundant and colorful rock formations.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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

NOTE

- * Additional information, maps and field notes are located in the project file in the Tonopah Field office.
- * Friends of Nevada Wilderness - citizen proposed area. FNW report and documentation are on file at TFO and in digital form on DFS.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

vast, large unit with canyons and broken land forms create outstanding opportunities for solitude. Lots of layers in the landscape to lose oneself in. From canyons, only distant mountains are in view!

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

area appeals to hiker/explorer and draws one in. Hot canyon exploration scrambling, hunting, wildlife view all readily available and outstanding.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes No N/A

Description: geology & geologic features historic mining remains, wildlife including desert bighorn, antelope, raptors and passerine birds

Summary of Analysis*

Monte Cristo South

Area Unique Identifier: NV-050-312

Summary

Results of analysis:

(Note: explain the inventory findings for the entirety of the inventory unit. When wilderness characteristics have been identified in an area that is smaller than the size of the total inventory unit, explain why certain portions of the inventory unit are not included within the lands with wilderness characteristics (e.g. the inventory found that certain parts lacked naturalness).

- 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No N/A
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No N/A
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

B. Andersen	ORP	Wade Krist	EPS
C. Washington	PEC	T. Andersen	GBT
E. Arky	ORP	A. Shellcross	Hydro
J. Kinsler	Arch.	M. Fast	GBT

(Name, Title, Date)

4/3/2013

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

* 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 1610.5-3.

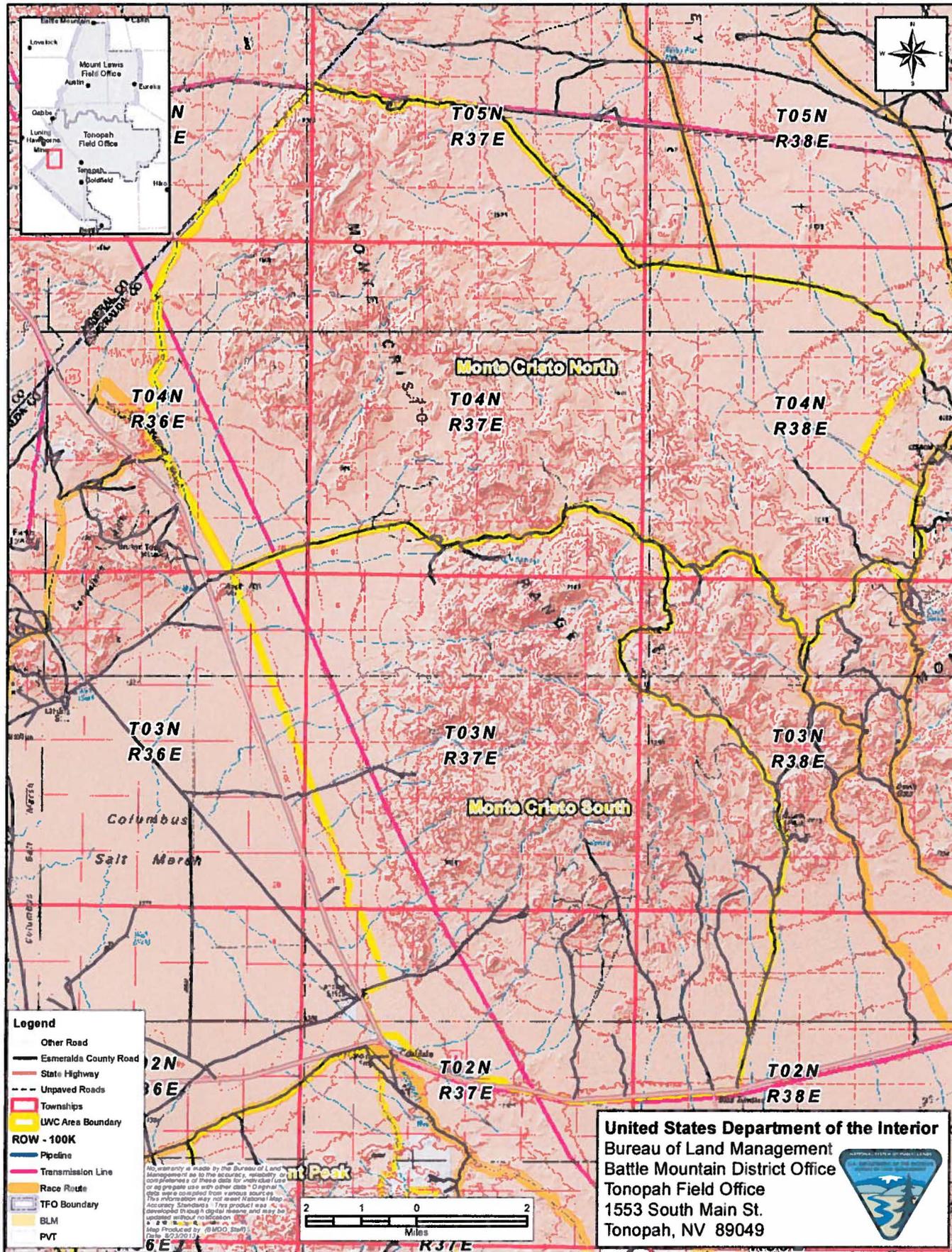
Name: Tim Coward

Title: Acting Field Manager, TFO

Date: 9/5/13

MONTE CRISTO

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics



**Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Nevada Wilderness Project (FNW)
Citizen-Submitted Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Information**

CITIZEN NAME: **Monte Cristo Range #1 (South)**

BLM UNIT NAME: **Rock Hill**

BLM UNIT NUMBER: **NV-050-0312**

Narrative documentation of how the Citizen-Submitted information substantially differs from the information in the BLM inventory of the area's wilderness characteristics (as per BLM Manual 6310; .06; B; 1; b; ii.)

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory documented a total of 41,392 acres. The FNW Inventory describes this area as 47,332 acres. The configurations of both the BLM and the FNW units fairly closely coincide except for the southern boundary, which the 1980 BLM inventory describes as "follow[ing] several mining access roads." The "roads" the 1980 inventory mention have fallen into disuse and disrepair, as the active mining in the area ceased nearly 30 years ago. The FNW Inventory utilized the paved highway as south boundary of this unit to the point where it intersects with east boundary road. The east boundary of the FNW unit differs slightly from the east boundary of the BLM Unit 0312. These differences account for the disparate acreage.

2. Naturalness: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory found that, *"[t]he western boundary powerline has a great impact and mining and road intrusions impact the northeastern and southern portions. A portion, 24,442 acres, was identified as unnatural. The remainder of the unit, 16,950 acres, appears natural."*

By contemporary guidelines under the BLM Manual 6310 policies, any unnatural impacts "just outside the unit boundaries," can no longer be "considered in assessing naturalness of an area." The highway forming the west and south boundary and the powerline along the west boundary are outside of the unit and do not produce the "pervasive and omnipresent" impacts that would disqualify naturalness and wilderness characteristics within the Unit. The intervening nearly four decades since this inventory, the mining activities in this region have been virtually nonexistent. Natural processes have substantially reclaimed many of these impacts and remaining impacts appear as if nature is the predominate force working upon these lands. The 2012 FNW inventory found that these human impacts were now substantially unnoticeable, considering the scale and size of Unit 0312 and that all 47,332 acres of the unit "appear to [be] affected primarily by the forces of nature." Our inventory field crew recommended including the old mining scars within the unit and allowing nature to reclaim these human impacts (see the Route Analysis Forms provide with the FNW Inventory of this unit for more information).

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory stated that, *"[t]opographic screening provides a number of secluded spots, but these are few and the overall opportunity for solitude was not found to be outstanding."*

The FNW Inventory found outstanding opportunities for solitude in the ash hills of the southern part of the Unit 0312 as well as the hilly-highlands in the central portion of the unit. BLM guidelines for evaluating LWC have changed since 1980. Under the BLM Manual 6310 policies, "[o]utstanding opportunities for solitude can be found in areas lacking vegetation or topographic screening." The

***Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Nevada Wilderness Project (FNW)
Citizen-Submitted Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Information***

2012 FNW inventory found outstanding opportunities for solitude upon the massive alluvial fan systems on the west and south sides of Unit 0312. Also, under contemporary BLM Manual 6310 guidelines, an LWC unit not need “have outstanding opportunities on every acre” to meet the criteria for outstanding opportunities. (See the FNW inventory Form 2 submitted for this unit for more details on outstanding opportunities for solitude within this unit.)

B. Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The BLM 1980 inventory listed several high quality opportunities for recreation then stated that the *“quality was limited to less than outstanding by the lack of vegetative diversity, lack of objectives or points of interest, and lack of recreational challenge.”*

BLM guidelines for evaluating LWC have changed in the last 40 years. Under the BLM Manual 6310 policies, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not impingent upon vegetative diversity and the “presence of ‘challenge’ and ‘risk’ are appropriate considerations, but not essential for an outstanding primitive recreation opportunity to exist in an area.” The 2012 FNW inventory describes one of the most outstanding opportunities for recreation in the southern ash hills of the Unit 0312. This recreational opportunity has been reiterated in recent years by the statewide interest in creating a state park in this region to protect this natural resource. The 2012 FNW inventory found that Unit 0312 offers both outstanding opportunities in several primitive and unconfined types of recreation and a diversity of recreational opportunities (see the FNW inventory Form 2 submitted for this unit for more details.)

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: The 1980 BLM Inventory stated: “BLM received seven specific comments on this unit. All seven mentioned roads, intrusions, lack of outstanding opportunities, or other resource values.”

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The 1980 BLM Inventory stated: *“The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.”*

Although this may have been an accurate assessment at the time, the 2012 FNW Inventory demonstrates that the wilderness characteristics of this area have substantially changed over the intervening four decades. The wilderness characteristics generated from the FNW 2012 Inventory for Unit 0312 substantially differ from the information in the BLM inventory of the area’s wilderness characteristics. It is also apparent from the regional interest that public opinion about the recreational potential of this Unit has changed as well. Under current BLM Manual 6310 guidelines, FNW recommends that this unit, Monte Cristo #1 (south), should be re-considered for LWC status.

**WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY
INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION (FORM 2)**

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: **Monte Cristo Unit 1**

Acreage:

(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below), **YES**

Yes No Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc

The Monte Cristo area is bounded by improved county roads on all 4 sides (see maps).

(2) Does the area appear to be natural? **YES**

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities: **Currently the human use in the Monte Cristo area consists of recreational use including hiking, camping, photography, rock-hounding, backpacking, amateur astronomy, and hunting. Historically the human use of the area included mineral exploration. Most of the routes evaluated for this area originated from mining exploration activity, but many of these routes have fallen into disuse and are in the process of being reclaimed by nature. Over all, the Monte Cristo Unit 1 area seems to be a landscape dominated by the forces of nature wherein human activity appears to be ephemeral and negligible to the much more persuasive and determined directives of weather, water, wind, and geology. The Scenic Nevada organization describes the southern section of this area as "a geological display-case and a real Nevada treasure." They also state: "Flora and fauna are minimal, but desert bighorn sheep are seen here on a regular basis. A wet spring brings an abundance of wild flowers among the cholla cactus and other desert plants. Although relatively unspoiled, the soil in the area is fragile and can be disturbed easily. Many tourists enjoy this region for its beauty, geology, hiking and photographic appeal."**

The remainder of the Monte Cristo Unit 1 area is equally spectacular with a diversity of natural ecosystems punctuated by surprising and wondrous geological features. The core of this area is comprised of rhyolitic volcanic materials that erupted through the region 12 to 17 million years ago. These violently erupted volcanic materials produced the colorful tuffs, pyroclastic materials, and ash falls composed of ash, crystals, molten rock fragments, and pumice. These materials provide the medium from which the varied and eccentric formations of the area were sculpted. From 15 through 6 million years ago, gray, green, and brown andesite intrusions and eruptions created the highest and most resistant rock of this range. Many of these rocks show columnar forms called "post pile" formations. The final, fiery component added to this area 5 million years consisted of far-spreading basalt flows forming cap stones currently found mountains and ridges in the northern portion of the area. Scattered through the Monte Cristo Unit 1 area, sandstones, shales, and dolomites from more than 250 million years ago can still be found in isolated outcrops completely out of context in this area of tumbled geologic time. Each of these diverse rock types engender

unique habitats and ecosystems.

Meager alkali-tolerant saltbrush communities form the lowest component of the ecosystems in the Monte Cristo Unit 1. To the casual observer in mid-summer, this plant community at the base of the alluvial fans looks more dead than alive. With spring rains or summer thunderstorms, however, this habitat comes alive with perennial plants and wildflowers. Lizards, horned-toads, kangaroo rats, and arachnids haunt these low elevations. Climbing up the alluvial fans, upland sagebrush desert vegetation provides habitat for a greater diversity of wildlife including rodents, jackrabbits, coyotes and bobcat (see attached species list). Pronghorn antelope and wild horses are frequent visitors to these upper alluvial fan areas as well. In the highest part of this area, sagebrush grasslands support a healthy population of Desert Bighorn sheep. Scattered stands of juniper trees cling in the upper elevations to the relative coolness of north facing slopes.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

YES

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

The complex habitats, geology, and geomorphology of the Monte Cristo area, provide many outstanding opportunities for solitude. The vast alluvial fan systems issuing from the south and west sides of this area provide the visitor with their first opportunity for solitude. In this modern, technologically-burdened world, no place is free from the intrusion of distant mechanized transportation. Whether it is the rumble of commercial jets high overhead, of the sight of distant lights on a nearly empty highway, no place is free of such intrusions. It is the open nature of the immense alluvial fan system of the Monte Cristo itself, however, that creates such a total sense of solitude. Although you can see, it slowly dawns on you that you cannot be seen from either the distant highway or the airways far overhead. As you look to the minutia of earth and plants and habitats and stones passing beneath your feet; as you and become lost in the innumerable braiding, twinning's, and unbraiding of dry water courses around you; you understand solitude based on nothing but scale. You know as you tower over the countless worlds and lives beneath your feet that the larger human world assuredly towers over you. For in this moment, in the eyes of that world you are as alone and as indiscernible as the tiny pebbles beneath you feet. Moving further up these fans your solitude becomes complete as you physically vanish in "plain sight."

Monte Cristo Unit 1 is an area so remote that there is not a single feature within that bears a formal name. This lack of human-imposed credentials serves to deepen the experience of solitude and helps the visitor embrace the idea that he or she *could* be the first human to venture into this empty and forgotten world. The unique geomorphology of the landscape gives the visitor a feeling of being in another world. From exploring mazes of colorful canyons of the south end to the rolling and undulating hills of the west side there are many opportunities for solitude. The vast scale of land and wildness of this range alone becomes undeniable. The rocks and formations appear to silently cry out to remain unmolested and be left alone to contemplate this realm of solitude. As you enter further into the Monte Cristo area, all sense of civilization diminishes into insignificance, swallowed by the emptiness of the desert. The undulating topography presents unending opportunities for solitude. At every twist and turn you enter a new canyon or hilltop presenting a fresh view of untouched terrain. With an epiphany, you comprehend that, you have slipped into the heart of this range and you have effectively vanished into nature itself. You merge into this landscape that, at first glance, seemed so "foreign."

The highest peaks, reaching 7200 feet, offer opportunities for the diligent hiker to explore a landscape that is far beyond the reach of more casual visitors. The persistent presence of the alkali flats of the Columbus

Salt Marsh to the west and the sand and dry lake beds in the deep-end of the Big Smokey Valley to the south breed a never ending succession of towering dust-devils that congregate and morph into blanketing dust storms at the first touch of approaching weather. These storms often bring shrouds of dust into the Monte Cristo Range deepening the sense of mystery and solitude within this area.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

The Monte Cristo area presents opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation that are limited only by the imagination. The desert aspect of the area provides visitors with access to nearly every part of the region, provided that they have sufficient skills to navigate the varied and often challenging terrain. Excellent views of Lone Mountain and the Emigrant Peak area can be seen to the immediate south while from the higher ridges, the majestic White Mountains and Boundary Peak loom on the western horizon. Every corner of the area offers spectacular opportunities for photography, from intimate portraits of wildlife, and enigmatic rock formations to sweeping landscapes encompassing not only the dramatic terrain of the area but sweeping backgrounds of distant mountains and valleys beyond. Varied volcanic rocks, sculpted only by the hands of wind and water, create a true wonderland of enigmatic and colorful hoodoos. Canyon areas provide focal points for watching wildlife. Outstanding opportunities exist with this unit for horseback riding, backpacking, hunting, birding, rockhounding, botanical identification, bouldering, and rock climbing. Exploration of the Monte Cristo unit with a burro would provide the visitor with an outstanding opportunity to make a "living-history" connection with the challenges the first pioneers face in this empty, and relentless desert. This unit shows evidence of use by prehistoric peoples and provides outstanding opportunities for amateur archaeologists to explore lifestyles that involved lithic industry. The never-ending patterns of light and shadow, fashioned from the relentless desert sun and stark rock formations create fascinating inspiration for artist and poets. Outstanding opportunities for sketching, painting, and creative writing can be found within the inspirational colors and wild nature of the Monte Cristo area. The combination of dark skies and open horizons in the southern part of the area provide outstanding opportunities for stargazing and amateur astronomy.

For the amateur geologist, the rocks of the Monte Cristo area span more than 250 million years. Prehistoric and historic use of the Monte Cristo area by humans have left compelling traces and clues to how these people lived. Rockhounding combined with geological and historical sightseeing present additional outstanding unconfined recreational opportunities within the Monte Cristo area.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

YES

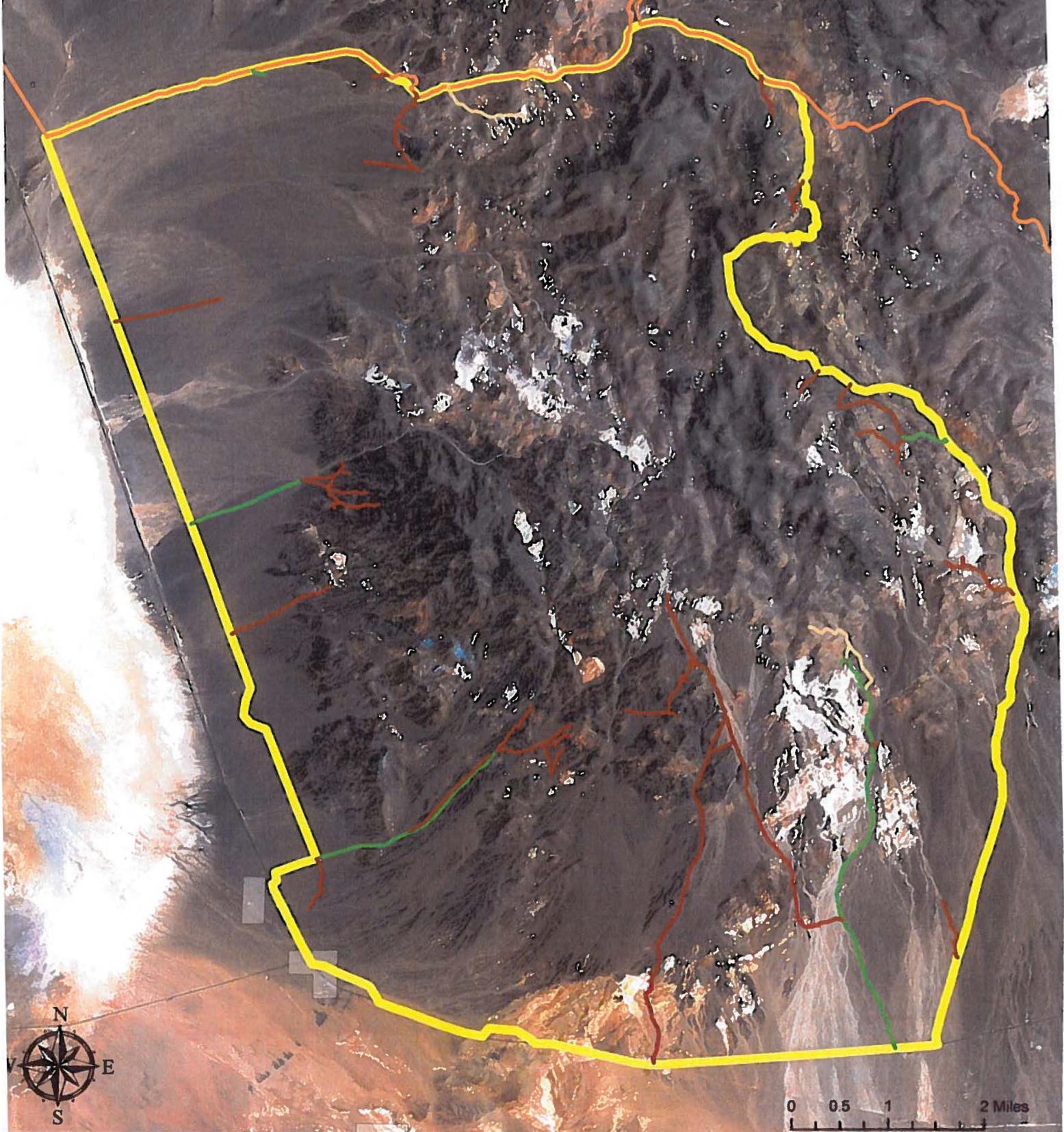
Description:

The Monte Cristo area provides an outstanding classroom for studying such diverse subjects as geology, geomorphology, seismology, ecology, zoology, archaeology, and history. The dry lakebeds to the north and

south of the unit speak of a time when expansive pluvial lakes formed in the Great Basin. Use by prehistoric people and historic mining activities provide insight into Nevada's history. The paucity of rainfall in the Monte Cristo Range arises because it lies astride the quavering dividing line between dry summers and summer monsoons that meanders across Nevada in this region. The Monte Cristo area provides an outstanding natural laboratory for observing and tracking changes in rainfall regime and climate. The immense variety of rocks and minerals present an excellent venue for amateur and professional geologists alike. Lava flows and tuffs deposited on the slopes of the volcano or in valleys nearby created volcanic sandstones and other tuffaceous sedimentary rocks, which were deposited in nearly horizontal layers. Today these same layers are tilted providing irrefutable evidence of forces that create mountains and define the Great Basin. Numerous large and small faults can be seen in this area. The Monte Cristo Unit 1 area provides an excellent case study for the processes that create and destroy mountains.

Monte Cristo South

47,332 acres



Routes Evaluation:

- Remains Open
- Unconstructed two-track
- Unreclaimed mining activity

- Monte Cristo South Boundary
- Monte Cristo North Boundary
- Private Land



FORM 1

Stone Cabin Hills

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

No _____ (Go to Form 2) Yes (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas.):

- a) Inventory Source: *1980 NV Intensive Wilderness Inventory*
- b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): *NV-060-078 (Stone Cabin Hills)*
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): *Mt. Jefferson & Warm Springs 1:100,000*
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): *Battle Mountain District/Tonopah Field office*

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source: *1980 NV Intensive Wilderness Inventory*

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
<i>060-078</i>	<i>24,000</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>Yes</i>

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier NV-060-078 Acreage 24,000 Stone Cabin Hills
(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below),

Yes No

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.): The unit is located in the north end of Stone Cabin Valley. FS139 divides the unit, and the Hot Creek Range to the east.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities): The unit is in a natural state, and is covered in pinyon and juniper.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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 _____

* More information and field notes are available in project file located at Tropic Field office

* Additional photos in digital storage in TFO

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

The units open topography and proximity to roads does not allow for outstanding opportunities for solitude. A few canyons on north end but unit is mostly rolling ridges ~~much like~~ up to single ridge.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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 _____

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

The narrow, steep topography does not allow for outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Not enough recreation opportunities - not outstanding to carry unit.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A

Description: _____

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: NV-060-078

Summary

Results of analysis:

(Note: explain the inventory findings for the entirety of the inventory unit. When wilderness characteristics have been identified in an area that is smaller than the size of the total inventory unit, explain why certain portions of the inventory unit are not included within the lands with wilderness characteristics (e.g. the inventory found that certain parts lacked naturalness).

- 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes ___ No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes ___ No ___ N/A
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ___ Yes No ___ N/A
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? ___ Yes No N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

<u>Ethan Arky</u>	<u>ORP</u>	<u>3/21/2013</u>
<u>John Kirsner</u>	<u>Arch</u>	
<u>Bruce Andersen</u>	<u>ORP</u>	
<u>Terril Andersen</u>	<u>GBI</u>	

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):



* 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 1610.5-3.

Name: Tim Coward

Title: Acting Field Manager, TFO

Date: 9/5/13

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

APPENDIX D – PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s): Ethan Arley

Inventory Area Unique Identifier NV-060-078

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #
3/21	0523	356° NXT	face from the south					1
3/21	0524	288° W	wild horses					2
3/21	0525	284° W	2-track from McIntyre Summit					3
3/21	0526	324° NW	wide view rock spire					4
3/21	0527	324° NW	up-close rock spire					5

Photo point 1-Face from the south



Photo point 2-Wild horses



Photo point 3-Two-track road from McIntyre Summit



Photo point 4-Wide view of rock spire



Photopoint 5-Close-up of rock spire



FORM 1

Volcanic Hills

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

No _____ (Go to Form 2) Yes (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas.):

a) Inventory Source: *1980 NV Intensive Wilderness Inventory*

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): *NV-050-0324 (Volcanic Hills)*

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): *Benton Range 1:100,000*

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): *Battle Mountain District/Tonopah Field office*

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source: *1980 NV Intensive Wilderness Inventory*

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
<i>050-0324</i>	<i>25,444</i>	<i>9,910 acres</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>

FORM 2**Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics**

Area Unique Identifier Volcanic Hills NV-050-0324 Acreage 27,444
 (If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below),

Yes No

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines,

etc.): Boundary on north is US Hwy 6, on the west and southwest boundary is State Route 264, and east and southeast boundary is State Route 773.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major

human uses/activities): Unit is a lava dome in northern third of area with very little vegetation. Eastern and southern portions rolling ridges and valleys with desert brush vegetation of various species. Boundary roads are dominant in viewshed from much of unit.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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 _____

- * This was a citizen proposed LWC unit. Friends of Nevada Wilderness information available in FNV project files kept in Tonopah Field Office
- * More information, field notes and photos are available at TFO.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

While there is opportunity for solitude in some of the canyon areas, most of the unit lack this level of solitude with barren open slopes, hills and ridges. Surrounding boundary roads (highways) and abundant agricultural areas to south severely impact solitude and opportunities for solitude.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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 _____

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

The unit offers ~~no~~ little outstanding opportunities for recreation. Some geologic meaning and study is available, but hiking, camping, birding and other opportunities are not ~~at all~~ special.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A

Description: _____

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: Volcanic Hills (NV-050-0324)

Summary

Results of analysis:

(Note: explain the inventory findings for the entirety of the inventory unit. When wilderness characteristics have been identified in an area that is smaller than the size of the total inventory unit, explain why certain portions of the inventory unit are not included within the lands with wilderness characteristics (e.g. the inventory found that certain parts lacked naturalness).

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

<u>Bruce Andersen - ORP</u>	<u>Wade Krist - EPS</u>
<u>Chris Worthington - PEC</u>	<u>Alden Shellcooss - Hydro</u>
<u>Ethan Arky - ORP</u>	<u>Michele Fast - GBI</u>
<u>John Kinsner - Arch.</u>	
<u>Terri Andersen - GBI</u>	<u>4/1/2013</u>

(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):



* 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 1610.5-3.

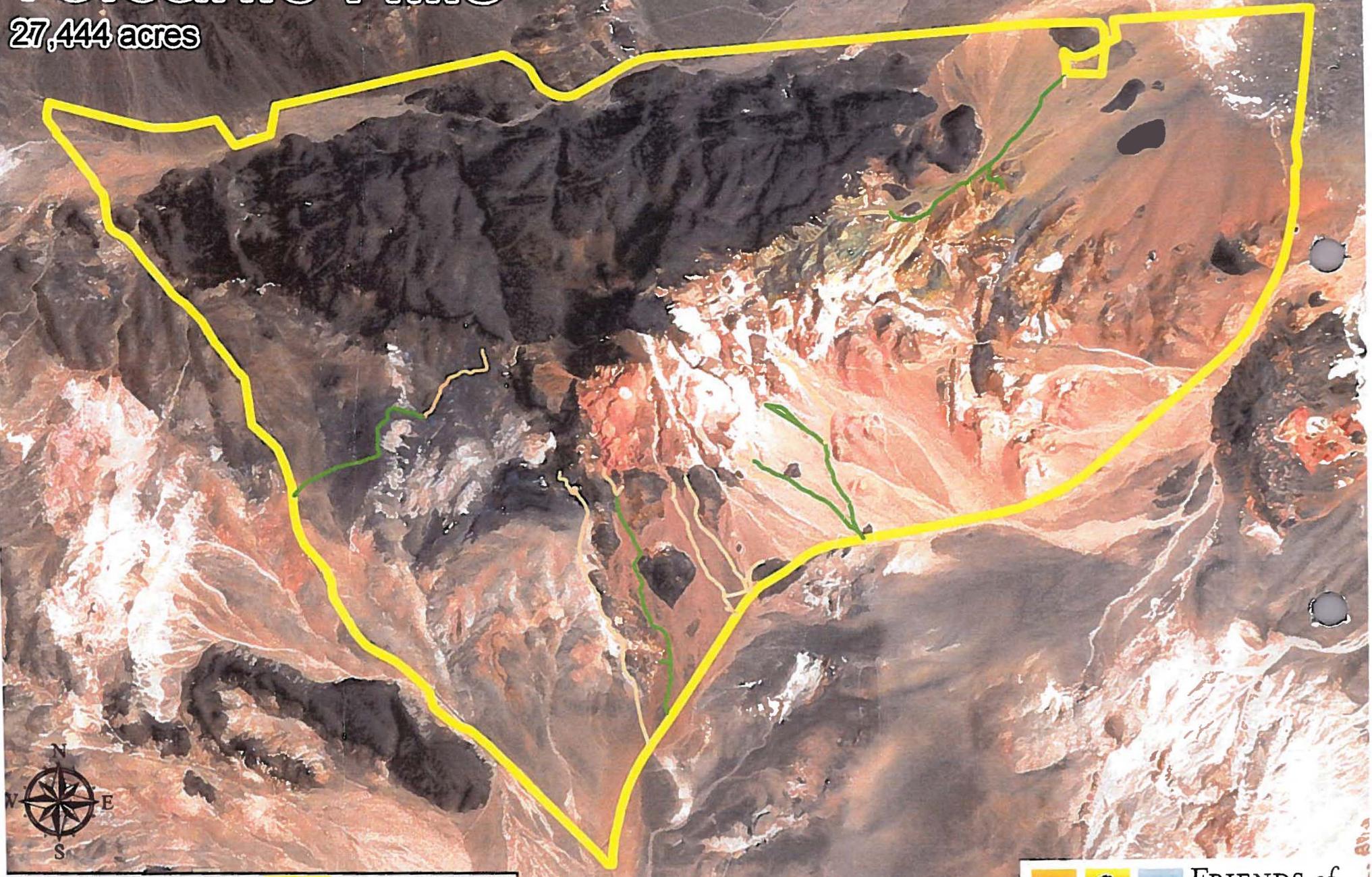
Name: Tom Coward

Title: Acting Field Mgr.

Date: 9/5/13

Volcanic Hills

27,444 acres



Route Evaluation:

	Remains Open		Volcanic Hills Boundary
	Unconstructed two-track		Private Land



**FRIENDS of
NEVADA
WILDERNESS**

**Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Nevada Wilderness Project (FNW)
Citizen-Submitted Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Information**

CITIZEN NAME: **Volcanic Hills**

BLM UNIT NAME: **Volcanic Hills**

BLM UNIT NUMBER: **NV-050-0324**

Narrative documentation of how the Citizen-Submitted information substantially differs from the information in the BLM inventory of the area's wilderness characteristics (as per BLM Manual 6310; .06; B; 1; b; ii.)

CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORIED:

1. Size: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory documented a total of 25,444 acres. The FNW Inventory describes this area as 27,444 acres. The configurations of both the BLM and the FNW units fairly closely coincide.

2. Naturalness: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory found that, *"[t]here are several material sites, mining sites, and intrusion ways and roads. A cement plant is adjacent to the northwest corner. These intrusions impact 15,534 acres, leaving an area of 9,910 acres appearing natural."*

The materials sites and cement plant are excluded from Unit 0324. By contemporary guidelines under the 6310 policies, any unnatural impacts "just outside the unit boundaries," can no longer be "considered in assessing naturalness of an area." During the intervening nearly four decades since this inventory, the mining activities in this region have been virtually nonexistent. Natural processes have substantially reclaimed many of these impacts and remaining impacts appear as if nature is the predominate force working upon these lands. The 2012 FNW inventory found that these human impacts were now substantially unnoticeable, and the materials sites and cement plant did not affect the naturalness of the area. Working from contemporary LWC guidelines, the FNW inventory found that all 27,444 acres of the Unit 0324 "appear to [be] affected primarily by the forces of nature." Our inventory field crew recommended including the old mining scars within the Unit and allowing nature to reclaim these human impacts (see the Route Analysis Forms provide with the FNW Inventory of this unit for more information).

3. Outstanding Opportunities for:

A. Solitude: The BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory stated that, *"[t]opographic screening would provide only a few secluded spots, and the opportunity for solitude is less than outstanding."*

The FNW Inventory found outstanding opportunities for solitude in the spectacular, deeply carved rhyolitic formations on the southern and eastern portions of this area, in the stair-step basalt rims in the northern portions, and on the broad, rounded summit of Unit 0324. BLM guidelines for evaluating LWC have changed since 1980. Under the BLM Manual 6310, "[o]utstanding opportunities for solitude can be found in areas lacking vegetation or topographic screening." The 2012 FNW inventory found outstanding opportunities for solitude upon the alluvial fan systems on the west, east, and south sides of Unit 0324. Also, under contemporary BLM Manual 6310 guidelines, an LWC unit not need "have outstanding opportunities on every acre" to meet the criteria for outstanding wilderness characteristics opportunities. (See the FNW inventory Form 2 submitted for this unit for more details on outstanding opportunities for solitude.)

***Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Nevada Wilderness Project (FNW)
Citizen-Submitted Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Information***

B. Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation: The BLM 1980 inventory listed several high quality opportunities for recreation then stated that they *“are limited by the lack of vegetative diversity and lack of objectives or attractions to seek out.”*

BLM guidelines for evaluating LWC have changed in the last 40 years. Under the BLM Manual 6310, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not impinging upon vegetative diversity or “attractions.” However, the 2012 FNW Inventory identified the summit of Unit 0324 is a destination that attracts visitors from all over the country, as testified by the summit register. The 2012 FNW inventory found that Unit 0312 offers both outstanding opportunities in several primitive and unconfined types of recreation and a diversity of recreational opportunities (see the FNW inventory Form 2 submitted for this unit for more details).

4. Supplemental Values: The BLM 1980 inventory stated, *“[n]o ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value were noted in the unit.”*

The FNW 2012 Inventory reiterated the importance of Unit 0324 for wildlife habitat, especially for populations of desert bighorn. FNW Inventory also found the schizophrenic nature of the geology of the unit to have outstanding scientific value and that the cacophony of colors and textures that make up this unit create spectacular unmatched scenic values. (See the FNW inventory Form 2 submitted for this unit for more details).

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS: The 1980 BLM Inventory stated: “BLM received four specific comments on this unit. Most noted roads, intrusions, and lack of outstanding opportunities. Three listed other resource values.”

RATIONALE FOR DECISION: The 1980 BLM Inventory stated: *“The evidence available to the Bureau, supported by public comments, indicates the area does not possess the necessary criteria for WSA designation.”*

Although this may have been an accurate assessment at the time, the 2012 FNW Inventory demonstrates that the wilderness characteristics of this area have substantially changed over the intervening four decades. The wilderness characteristics generated from the FNW 2012 Inventory for Unit 0324 substantially differ from the information in the BLM inventory of the area’s wilderness characteristics. Public of this Unit has changed as well. Under current 6310 guidelines, FNW recommends that this unit, Volcanic Hills, should be re-considered for LWC status.

**WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY
INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION (FORM 2)**

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: **Volcanic Hills**

Acreage:

(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below),

Yes No Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc

The boundaries of the Volcanic Hills are defined by US Highway 6 on the north, NV State Route 264 on the west, and NV State Route 773 on the east, with minor alterations to exclude active gravel pits from the area.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural? **YES**

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities:

Current human uses for Volcanic Hills include hiking, camping, sightseeing, and hunting. Historically there is evidence of mining exploration in the eastern part of the area. None of these activities currently adversely affect the natural integrity of the area or the apparent naturalness. To the casual visitor, the area appears to be dominated by the forces of nature.

The high, central peak forms the most striking feature of the Volcanic Hills area. Ice Age, black basalts cover the northern half of the peak and unit with layered lava flows interspaced with long-winding rock walls stepping all the way down to Highway 6 along the north boundary. The core of the mountain, however, is formed from 17-20 million year old rhyolitic tuffs. These tuffs are exposed with a fascinating diversity of rock types, formations, and colors on the south side of the peak. Natural processes as old as the earth continue to carve and sculpt these mountains into a spectacular complex of rugged canyons and colorful ridges surrounded by vast alluvial fans. These two, very different rock types create two unique natural systems. The basalt dominated northern part of the area supports an extensive sagebrush community with a native grass component. In southern, rhyolitic tuff part of the area, the vegetation is more sparse and comprised of shadscale brush community. Desert Bighorn sheep constitute the dominant large animal population of the area. Sheep trails and bedding areas abound throughout the area. Although the area lacks permanent surface water, two guzzlers help support the Desert Bighorn sheep and other wildlife species including a variety of lizards, birds, rodents, rabbits, bobcats, and coyotes (see species list). At higher elevations the bighorn sheep trails create an intricate highway system for these regal creatures. Along the high, sparsely-vegetated ridges on the south side of the unit, cozy bighorn sheep beds abound with views that both the sheep and humans enjoy. Atop these rocky slopes and perched on volcanic boulders or gracefully soaring overhead and inheriting these big skies are golden eagles. These raptors, among others, claim these Hills as home and provide an important accent to

this magnificent artwork of wilderness. The rhyolite volcanic crags of the south side of the units provide excellent habitat for nesting raptors including golden eagles.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

YES

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

Although the Volcanic Hills area is bounded by three highways, the area within is wild and empty. The long alluvial fans of the southwest and eastside provide an outstanding opportunity to vanish into pure space. The undulations and crenulations of the lava fields of the northern half of the area affords visitors with outstanding opportunities to lose themselves and find solitude within the basalt boulders. The rugged, sculpted rhyolitic tuff formations along the south side of the unit offer outstanding opportunities to explore and find solitude in narrow canyons and in the mazes of enigmatic rock outcrops. A visitor to this area is engulfed in a sense of remoteness as he or she makes the journey from the surrounding foothills and ascend up into the area's higher topography. Within the deep heart and center of the Volcanic Hills sheer silence takes over, accompanied only by the occasional drift of wind. A lucky sighting of sheep may be the only other presence encountered by a visitor. The canyon walls and caves in the southeast part of this unit provide a comforting portal from which to experience the quietness and overwhelming vistas this remarkable landscape. The Volcanic Hills compose a letter of solitude within the larger envelope of untouched region that enclose it.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

Flat, arid, and remote is unconfined recreation. In areas with these attributes, the direction you travel is not confined by landscape or vegetation. The alluvial fans of the Volcanic Hills area provide outstanding opportunities for this type of recreation. Only in these places do you have the choice to move in any direction you choose and to walk to where the earth meets the sky. The Volcanic Hills areas offer opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation that are limited only the imagination. The elevations vary from 5,000 ft at the base of the alluvial fans to 7,400 feet atop the highest peak. This area provides visitors with access to nearly every part of the region, provided that they have sufficient skills to navigate the varied and often challenging terrain. Photographic opportunities abound, whether it is of the elusive wildlife, the incredible panoramic views in any direction or of the rare and awe-inspiring geological diversity. Every corner of the area offers spectacular opportunities for photographers, sketch artists, and painters. The Volcanic Hills provides outstanding opportunities for wildlife watching and hunters alike. The rugged, rhyolite formations on southern part of the peak provide outstanding opportunities for rock climbing and cliff exploration. A summit register on the highest peak of the Volcanic Hills provides documentation of the visitors who climb and "collect" desert peaks. The mostly rolling and undulating rocky hills offer a welcoming and challenging terrain for hiking or backpacking. The surrounding desert foothills provide suitable terrain and a scenic setting for casual horseback riding. Skilled riders can find many challenging routes into the higher and more rugged terrain of the central core of the unit. For visitors to the Volcanic Hills, the constantly changing vistas visible from this area are unparalleled. Atop the 7,400 ft summit above, one is rewarded with the 360 degree visual ability to gaze hundreds of miles away among the surrounding and mostly wild and remote desert, as well as Boundary Peak, Nevada's highest mountain. The play of light and shadow on the neighboring White

Mountains and in Fish Lake Valley creates an ever-changing kaleidoscope of colors and patterns. On the eastern side of the area, neighboring Emigrant Peak and Lone Mountain provide breath-taking vistas for visitors willing to explore the rugged canyons, colorful formations and steep walls. Rock hounding for agate, jasper, and petrified wood combined with geological sightseeing present additional outstanding recreational opportunities within the Volcanic Hills area. The chert in the region was extensively used by indigenous peoples. Visitors interested in archaeology can find outstanding opportunities to marvel at and document the artifacts these people left behind.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

YES

Description:

The Volcanic Hills area includes many complex geological features and provides many opportunities for studying volcanic and tectonic processes in Nevada. The Volcanic Hills provide important habitat for the Silver Peak Range bighorn sheep during cool, wet periods. These sheep tend to use the southern and eastern portions of the Volcanic Hills area and drift back and forth from here to Gap Springs on a regular basis. The chert associated with the rhyolite formations in the Volcanic Hills created a very important source of lithic material for indigenous peoples. This area is an important resource for archeological studies in the Great Basin.