Wilderness Characteristics Inventory

Area Identifier: Oyster Ridge

WYD09-LWC-002

WYD01-6300-421

Completed by Kemmerer and Pinedale Field Offices

July 18, 2014

Area Number WYD01-6300-421/WYD09-LWC-002
Descriptive Name: Oyster Ridge

FORM 1

Documentation to BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record

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

No X (if No, go to Form 2) **Yes** ____ if yes and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas):

a) Inventory Source: Bureau of Land Management

b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s): _____

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): _____

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): _____

2. **BLM Inventory Finds 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: _____

Area Number/ Descriptive Name	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Number: WYD01-6300-421 / WYD09-LWC-002 **Acreage:** 12,590

Descriptive Name: Oyster Ridge

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes X **No** _____

Area Number WYD01-6300-421/WYD09-LWC-002
Descriptive Name: Oyster Ridge

Describe the boundaries of the area (roads, property lines, etc.). If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception. If more than one inventory area is involved, list the acres in each and evaluate each are/sub-area separately. In completing steps (1) – (5), use additional space as necessary.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include acreage, land ownership, location, topography, vegetation and summary of the major human uses/activities).

This unit has approximately 12,590 acres of land managed by the BLM. This unit is bounded in the north by BLM road 5304 and WY State Lands, bounded on the west by BLM road 5308, Lincoln County road 306, private and state lands, bounded in the south by a maintained road and private land, bounded on the east by maintained roads, private and State lands. This unit is located in Lincoln County, WY.

Topography for the unit is varied from rolling hills of moderate slopes to steep drainages with narrow ridgelines. A Big Sagebrush plant community, characteristic of desert shrub and prairie, is typical of the unit. Riparian vegetation and some cottonwood/aspen trees exist within some portions of Fontenelle Creek, tributary creeks and springs in the unit.

The major human uses in this unit are hunting, sightseeing, camping, wildlife viewing, OHV use, and livestock grazing. Visitor use is low. Encounters with other people are unlikely. Seeing other people is more likely to occur during the fall to hunt big game and early spring to collect antler sheds. The unit contains federal leases for mineral development.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes X **No** _____

Description:
This area is primarily unaffected by human intrusions and appears natural. There are motor vehicle created two-track routes within the unit. Some routes are regularly driven on while others are seldom or never used. Some roads may attract one's attention, others have become indistinct features within the landscape and do not distract from the area's naturalness. The few known human created features are a small portion of derelict fence and one stockpond. Images of the unit landscape are attached.

(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 X **No** _____

Description: The general lack of manmade intrusions, topographic variety and low visitation provide outstanding opportunities for visitors to experience 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 X **No** _____

Description: The area offers visitors outstanding opportunities to pursue recreation activities in a primitive setting with few regulatory restrictions.

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

Yes X **No** _____

Description: A portion of the California National Historic Trail (the Sublette Cutoff) crosses the area, also referred to as the Emigrant Trail. These units contain crucial winter range for mule deer and elk. Breeding and nesting habitat for the Greater Sage-grouse exists within the unit.

Area Number WYD01-6300-421/WYD09-LWC-002
Descriptive Name: Oyster Ridge

Summary of Analysis

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: **WYDO1-6300-421/WD09-LWC-002**

Summary
Results of analysis:

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

Check one:

X The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

___ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by:

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Date: 7/28/2014

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Date: 7-21-14

* This form documents information that constitutes and inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not present a formal land use allocation.

Area Number WYD01-6300-421/WYD09-LWC-002
Descriptive Name: Oyster Ridge

PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s): Martin Hudson

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: WYD09-002 / WYD01-6300-421 / Oyster Ridge

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Photo
10/27/11	421pp1S.jpg	SE	Looking SE into unit from two track route.	4665948 541038.6	1
10/27/11	421pp2sw.jpg	SW	Looking SW into unit from RS2477 Lincoln Co. claimed Rd.	4665350 54829.9	2
10/27/11	404_421.pp3sw .jpg	SW	Looking at both units 404 and 421 from BLM Road 5304 north boundary. Unit 421 is on right side of photo (west side of drainage)	4667036 545089.7	3
7/15/14		SW	View from immigrant trail.	4652522 543090	1
7/15/14		SE	View from immigrant trail.	4652544 543090	2
7/15/14		NW	View from immigrant trail.	4653607 542945	3
7/15/14		NE	View from immigrant trail.	4653607 542945	4
7/15/14		NW	View from immigrant trail.	4651333 542738	5

Area Number WYD01-6300-421/WYD09-LWC-002
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Photo 1 of 3: WYHD01-6300-421 LWC Oyster Ridge
View SE into unit from moderately used two track route (west boundary).

Photo 2 of 3: WYHD01-6300-421 LWC Oyster Ridge
View SW into unit from RS2477 Lincoln County claimed road (east boundary).

Area Number WYD01-6300-421/WYD09-LWC-002
Descriptive Name: Oyster Ridge

Photo 3 of 3: WYHD01-6300-421 LWC Oyster Ridge
View SW into unit from BLM Road 5304 (north boundary). Actual unit is visible on right side of drainage.

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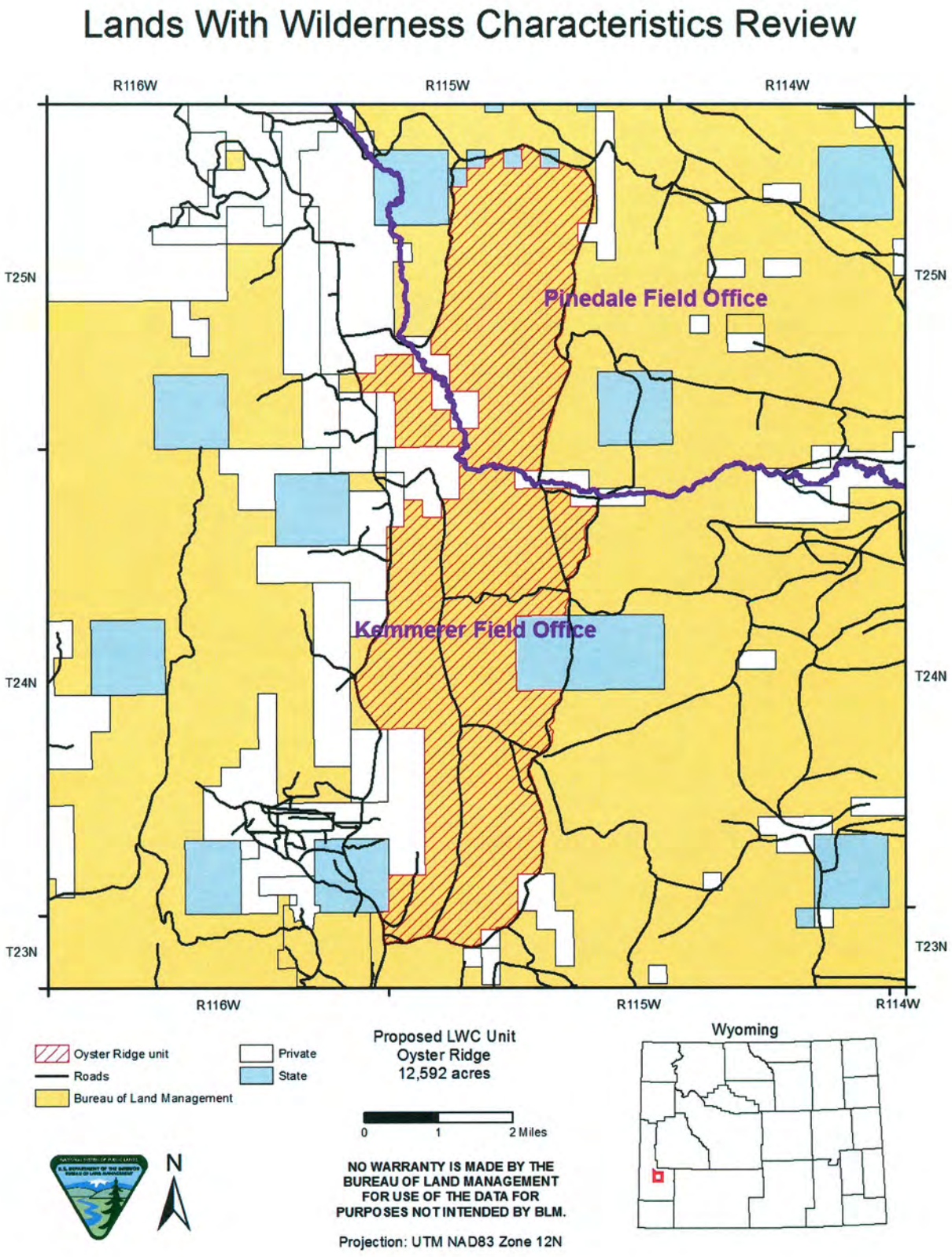
Map of unit for WYD09