Wilderness Characteristics Inventory

Area Identifier: WYD09-LWC-003 / WYD01-6300-404

Fontenelle Gap

Completed by the Kemmerer and Pinedale Field Offices

April 21, 2014

Area Number **WYD09-LWC-003 / WYD01-6300-404**
Descriptive Name: Fontenelle Gap
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: _____

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

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Descriptive Name: Fontenelle Gap
FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Number: **WY090-LWC-003 / WYD01-6300-404** **Acreage:** 12,733

Descriptive Name: **Fontenelle Gap**

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes **X** **No** _____

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 (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.): This unit is located within the Kemmerer and Pinedale Field Offices (FO). A unique unit number is assigned for each FO. The unit is bound on the north and east by BLM Road 5307 and private land. The west boundary is an improved route (RS 2477 Lincoln County claimed), private and WY State Lands. The west, south and east boundary in the Kemmerer Field Office are improved roads and private land.

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

This unit is approximately 12,723 acres of land managed by the BLM in Lincoln County, WY.

Topography for the unit consists of numerous drainages with varying slopes and steep canyons. A big sagebrush plant community, characteristic of desert shrub and prairie, is typical for the unit. Commonly seen plants in the lower elevations in this unit include juniper, Wyoming big sagebrush, saltbushes, rabbitbrush, spiny hopsage, snowberry, numerous forbs and rhizomatous grasses and bunchgrasses. Higher elevation plants include mountain big sagebrush, black sagebrush, true mountain mahogany, curl-leaf mountain mahogany and numerous forbs and grasses. Riparian vegetation dominated by willows exists on Fontenelle Creek, tributary creeks, mesic meadows and springs. Some springs support isolated stands of aspen trees and associated riparian habitat.

The major human uses in this unit are hunting, wildlife viewing, livestock grazing, antler gathering and some camping. Visitor use is low. The likelihood of seeing other people is more likely during the fall when people hunt and during the spring when people collect antler sheds.

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(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes X **No** _____

Description: This area is primarily unaffected by human intrusions and appears natural. A few primitive two-track routes exist. Few, if any, human-created features exist such as fences, stock ponds and water developments. The majority of primitive routes appear lightly used and largely indistinguishable from the undisturbed landscape. The primitive routes do not substantially distract from the areas 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 X **No** _____

Description: The general lack of man-made 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 opportunities to pursue recreational activities in a primitive setting with few regulatory restrictions. Activities can be enjoyed such as hunting, wildlife viewing, camping and hiking. BLM lands are closed to motorized vehicles from January 1 through April 31 to protect crucial winter range for big-game. The operation of motorized vehicles is limited to existing routes.

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

Yes X **No** _____

Description: This unit contains crucial winter range for mule deer and elk. Breeding, nesting and core habitat for the Greater sage-grouse exists within the unit. This unit contains habitat for five BLM sensitive species: meadow pussytoes, Cedar Rim thistle, large-fruited bladderpod, Beaver Rim phlox and tufted twinpod. None of these species have been found within the unit at this time due to lack of surveys in the area, but they are known to occur in several areas just outside the unit boundary.

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Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: **WYD09-LWC-003, WYD01-6300-404**

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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Approved by:

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Signature:	[signature]	**Date:**	4-22-14

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

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Lands With Wilderness Characteristics Review

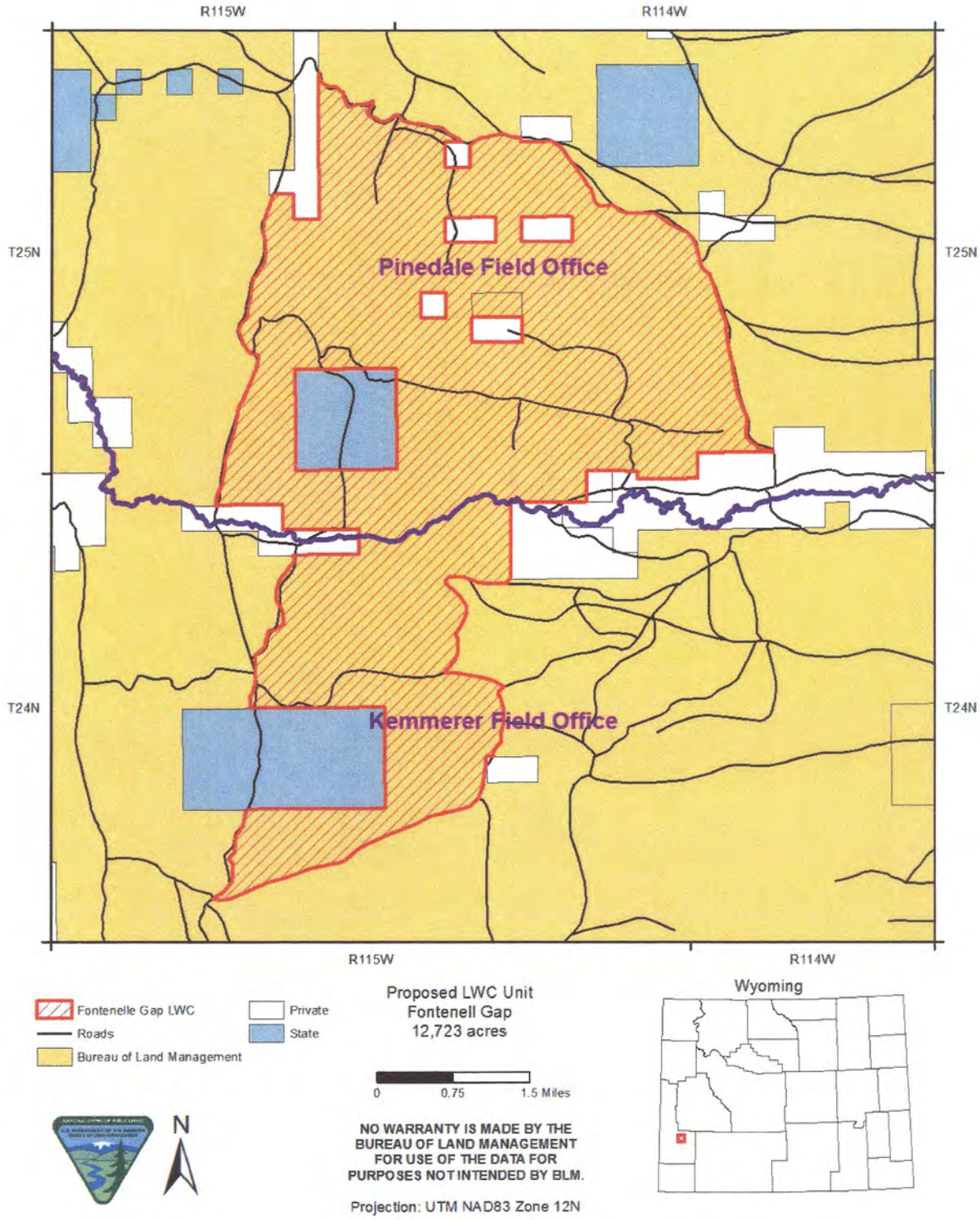

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PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s): Martin Hudson

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: WYD09-LWC-003/WYD01-603-404 / Fontenelle Gap

Date	Photo Point #	Frame #	View Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location
10/27/11	1	404pp1.jpg	W	Primitive route going into unit from BLM Rd. 5307, east boundary	4661850 551424.4
same	2	404pp2s.jpg	SE	Looking into unit from claimed RS2477 Lincoln County route, west boundary	4665350 553829.9
same	3	404_421.3sw.jpg	SW	Looking at unit from BLM, Rd.5304, north boundary (left side of drainage)	4667036 545089.7
same	4	404pp4e.jpg	E	Looking from primitive route located just south of BLM Rd. 5304, north boundary	4666754 545919.3

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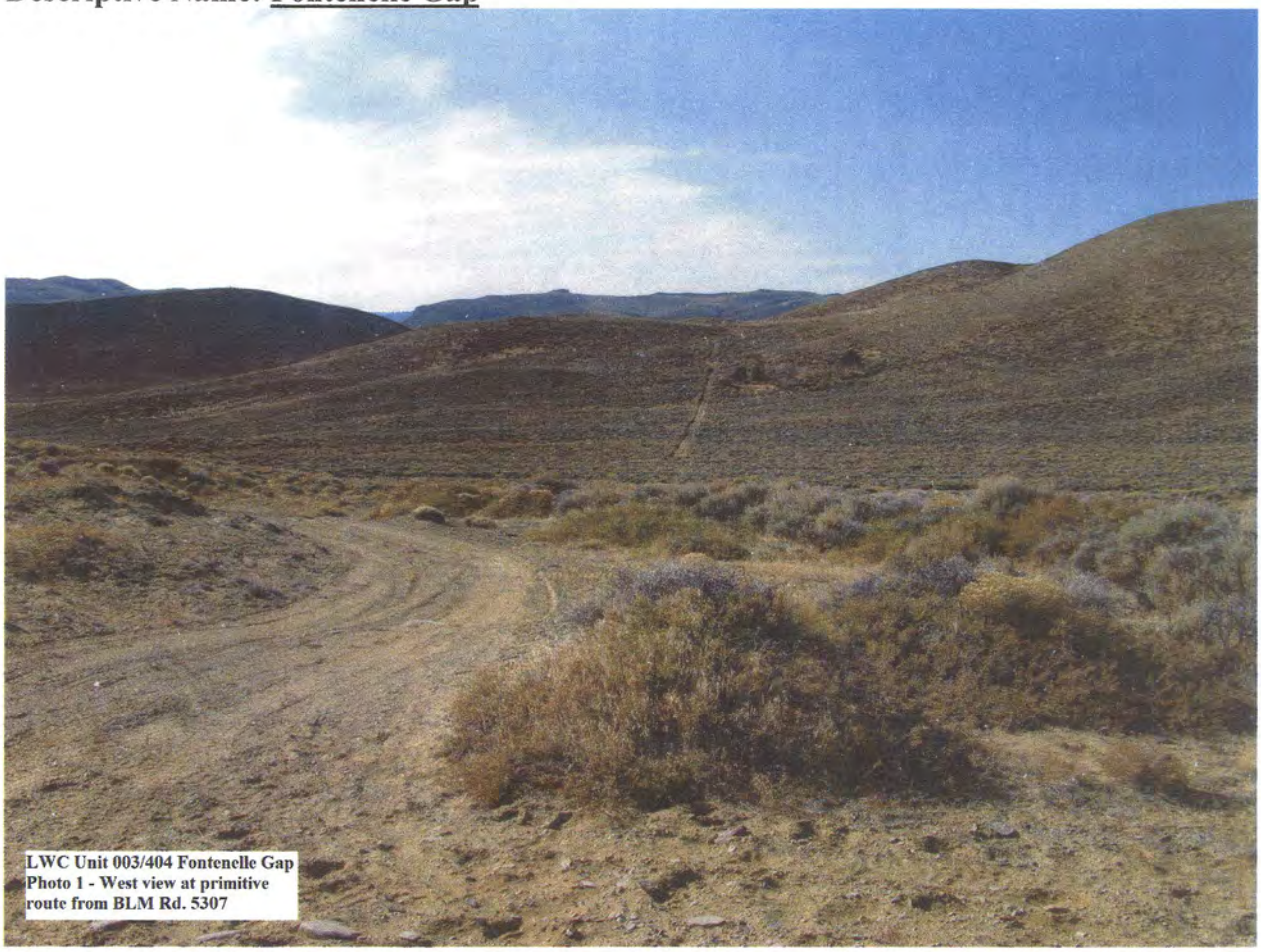

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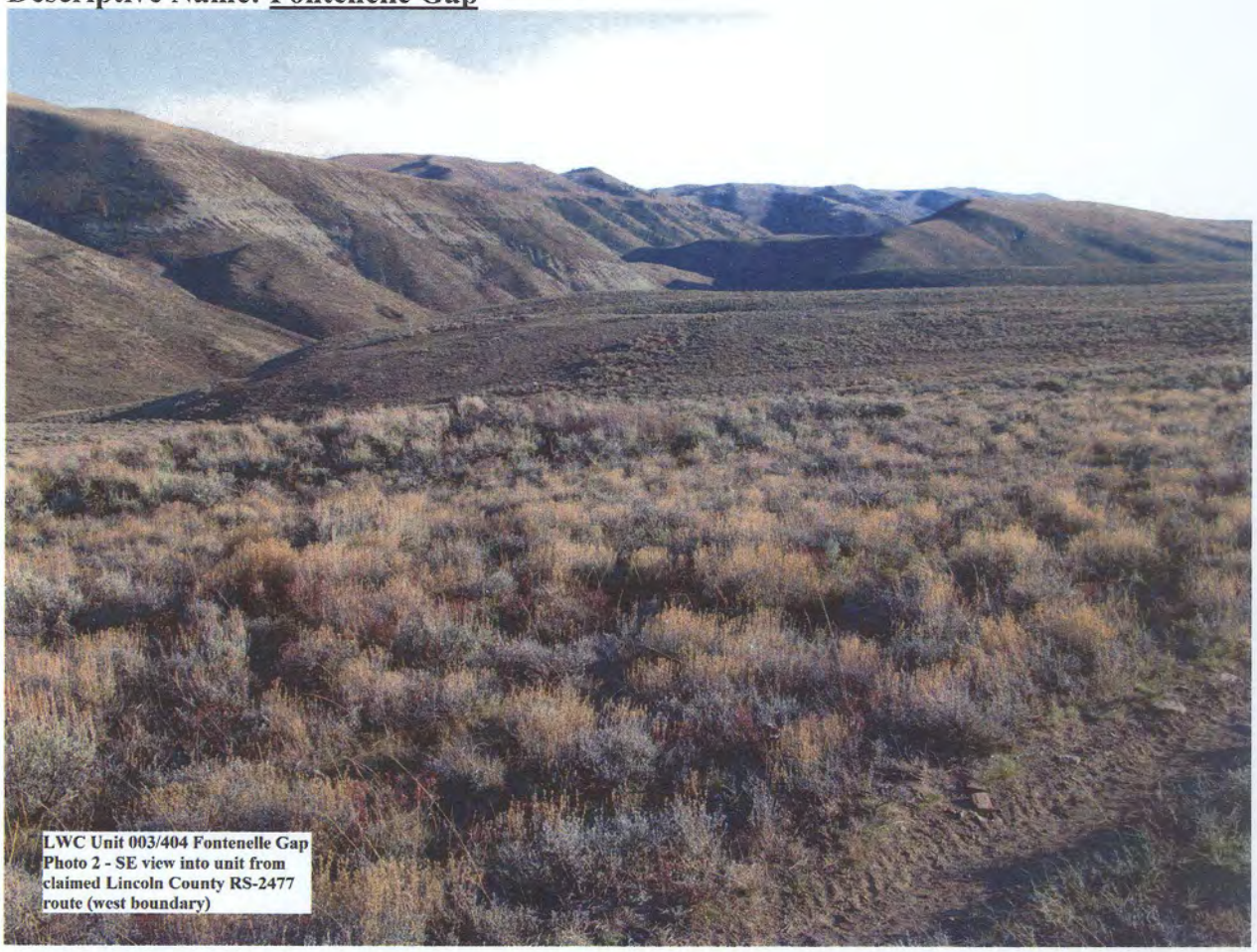

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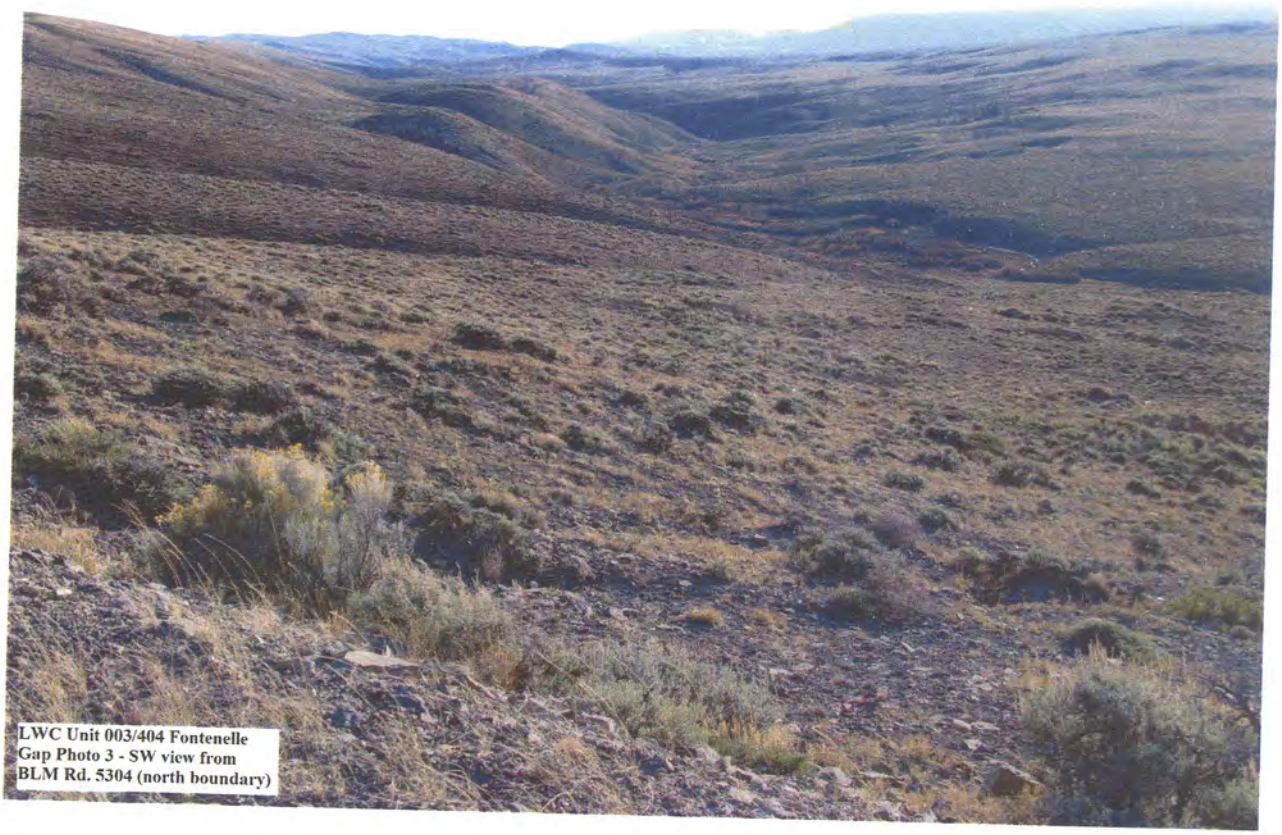

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