

# Wilderness Characteristics Inventory

## Alkali Draw

### Ross Butte – South Desert – Jonah Landscape

Area Identifier: WYD01-6300-203

Completed by Pinedale Field Office



January 9, 2013

**Area Number WYD01-6300-203**

**Descriptive Name Alkali Draw**

**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:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**FORM 2**

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

Area Number: WYD01-6300-203

Acreage: 9,683

Descriptive Name: Alkali Draw

(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 area/sub-area separately. In completing steps (1) – (5), use additional space as necessary.

This unit is west of the Jonah Gas Field and south of Pinedale Anticline Gas Field. The south and east boundaries are a pipeline right-of-way; the west boundary is the Burma Road, BLM Road #5406, private and Wyoming State Lands; the northern boundary is a pipeline right-of-way.

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

This unit contains 9,640 acres of BLM managed public lands in Sublette County, in Southwest Wyoming. There is varying landforms of rolling sage brush hills, buttes, plateaus, rock outcroppings and badlands. This unit is located in an arid, dry climate. The vegetation is dominated by sagebrush and grasses such as Bottlebrush squirrel tail, Indian ricegrass, Thickspike wheatgrass, Sandberg's bluegrass and rhizomatous wheat grass.

Livestock grazing hunting and driving for pleasure are the primary human uses and activities. Other uses and activities are recreational OHV use, wildlife watching, camping and collecting antler sheds. The majority of travel occurs during the summer months when the area is free of snow and the roads are dry. Ranchers access the area generally during the summer to manage cattle, maintain stock watering facilities and other range improvements. .

Big game wildlife common to the area are mule deer and pronghorn antelope. Other animals utilizing this environment are rabbits, coyotes, reptiles, raptors, sage grouse and numerous other bird species. The area provides crucial winter range for antelope. The area contains sage grouse winter concentration areas and two sage grouse leks.

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(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes  No

Description:

The area appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature and the work of humans is substantially unnoticeable. The view shed is pristine with few intrusions. There are 6 known range improvement features including 5 miles of livestock fence that are visible when viewed within the near proximity of the fence. A scattering of primitive two track roads provide access within this remote and lightly visited area.

A noticeable amount of off highway vehicle use in the form of single track trails is confined to a small area of badlands located on the western edge of the unit near private land on BLM Road 5406 (Burma Road). These ATV and motorcycle routes were created by recreational OHV enthusiasts. The routes are visible, but largely unnoticeable and do not substantially distract from the scenic quality of the landscape.

(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

Description:

This unit provides the visitor excellent opportunities to experience solitude. The topographical variety and large expanse of landscape provides the visitor with opportunities for the visitor to avoid the sights, sounds and evidence of other people.

(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

Description:

The unit provides the visitor excellent opportunities to experience dispersed, undeveloped recreation which do not require facilities, motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or mechanized transport. The area is known for paleontological resources, hunting, horseback riding, photography and wildlife viewing.

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

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

The unit contains paleontological resources; sage grouse leks, winter concentration areas, nesting habitat; and crucial winter range for antelope.

**Area Number** WYD01-6300-203

**Descriptive Name** Alkali Draw

**Summary of Analysis**

**Area Number:** WYD01-6300-203

**Descriptive Name:** Alkali Draw

**Summary**

Results of analysis:

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

Check one:

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:**

**Team members:**

Name	Title
John Huston	AFM Resources
Martin Hudson	Recreation Planner
Jed Gregory	NRS (Resource Data Manager)
Dale Woolwine, Mark Thonhoff, Rusty Kaiser, Josh Hemenway	Wildlife Biologist
Travis Ames, RC Lopez	Rangeland Management Specialists
Sheryl McCulloch	Realty Specialist
Brian Roberts	NRS

**Reviewed by:**  **Date:** 2-11-13

**Print Name:** Shane DeForest

**Title:** Pinedale Field Manager

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

**Area Number** WYD01-6300-203

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**APPENDIX 1**

**PHOTO LOG**

**Photographer(s):** Martin Hudson

**Inventory Area Unique Identifier:** WYD01-6300-203

<b>Date</b>	<b>Frame #</b>	<b>Camera Direction</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>UTM Northing</b>	<b>UTM Easting</b>	<b>Photo Point #</b>
9/18/2012	461	E	concentrated ATV use area on western edge of Unit 203	4708500	597290	4
8/24/2011	IMG_5226	SW	Typical Landscape view in unit 203	4709890	600180	2
8/24/2011	IMG_5227	SE	Typical Landscape view in unit 203 along with typical 2 track found in unit.	4709890	600180	2
8/24/2011	IMG_5228	SW	Typical Landscape view in unit 203	4708906	601389	3
8/24/2011	IMG_5229	W x NW	Typical Landscape view in unit 203	4708906	601389	3

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Photo 461



Photo 5226

Area Number WYD01-6300-203

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Photo 5227



Photo 5228

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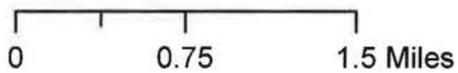
Photo 5229



**ID - WYD01-6300-203**  
**9680 Acres**

Aerial Imagery taken July 2009

1:53,661



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, completeness, or reliability of the information presented.

**Legend**

-  Land with Wilderness Characteristics Review
-  Improved Roads
-  Pindale Field Office

