

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory

Upper West Buckhorn Draw

Ross Butte - South Desert – Jonah Landscape

Area Identifier: WYD01-6300-206

Completed by Pinedale Field Office



September 23, 2013

Area Number WYD01-6300-206

Descriptive Name Upper West Buckhorn 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: _____

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

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FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Number: WYD01-6300-206

Acreage: 29,904

Descriptive Name: Upper West Buckhorn Draw

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes 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.

The north unit boundary is BLM Rd. 5404/5401 and Wyoming State Land. The east boundary is a gas pipeline ROW and BLM Rd. 5407. The southern boundary is the PFO and RSFO boundary fence. The west boundary is BLM Rd. 5402 and Wyoming State Land.

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

The unit consists of 29,904 acres of BLM land. The unit is located in Sublette County, Wyoming, east of the Green River between the upper drainage of Chapel Canyon Draw and Yellow Point Ridge (T. 28 N., R. 110 and 109 W.).

The topography consists of buttes, rock outcrops, badlands, plateaus, flat open expanses and shallow canyons. Ecologically the area is in arid high-desert steppe that receives on average 7-9 inches of precipitation annually.

The vegetation is dominated by shrubs such as Sagebrush, Rabbitbrush, Spiny horsebrush and Greasewood. Winterfat, Saltbush, Phlox and Mock goldenweed are the dominant forbs while Limber pine may occur on ridges. Indian ricegrass, Bottlebrush squirreltail, Thickspike fescue, Sandburg's bluegrass and Letterman's Needle Grass grass are the primary grasses.

The unit contains no constructed and maintained roads; however primitive routes to access several of the water wells appear heavily traveled. About 30 miles of primitive 2-track routes provide access through the unit where topography allows. The majority of routes appear lightly traveled, while a few routes heavily traveled. Some routes are vegetated and barely visible. Grazing permittees and the hunting/driving for pleasure public, most commonly use the network of routes. The majority of motorized travel occurs during the relatively dry summer months when the routes are accessible.

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The primary human uses of the area are livestock grazing and hunting. Ranchers access the area to manage livestock and maintain rangeland improvements. Seasonally occurring recreational activities are hunting, antler gathering, rock-hounding, sightseeing, and photography. The area is most easily accessible in the late spring, summer and fall. Travel can be difficult during period's spring snowmelt or rainfall. Recreational OHV use is not apparent. Visitation is low and occurs primarily during the big game hunting and summer grazing season.

(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 work of humans is substantially unnoticeable. The view shed is generally pristine with few human created features. There are about 14 known range improvements, one reclaimed, plugged and abandoned gas well pad and gas pipeline. Several functional water wells, with troughs and or stock ponds provide livestock with water in the northwest and eastern segments of the unit. Each of these water wells are regularly visited by the permittee during the grazing season. The northwest water well is attracts ones attention from vantage points within a mile or so of the well site. Functional and nonfunctional stock ponds, an abandoned windmill and a stock pond and trough comprise the remainder of the visible rangeland improvements. There are no allotment fences within the unit. Stock ponds and primitive routes are dispersed and substantially unnoticeable to persons unfamiliar with the landscape.

Visitors view a landscape of canyons with contrasting vegetation and soils. A generally flat, sagebrush, or saltbush dominated plateau is typical of the landscape within the east-southeast portion of the unit. The unit appears to be infrequently visited (see LWC unit 206 photos).

(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 offers a visitor the opportunity to avoid the sights, sounds and evidence of other people. The unit is of sufficient size and topographical variation to offer opportunities for outstanding 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

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Description:

The unit provides opportunities for visitors to experience activities that offer dispersed, undeveloped recreation which do not require facilities, motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or mechanized transport. The predominate area activities are rock hounding, hunting, trapping, horseback riding, photography and wildlife watching. Actual visitation is not known, but visitor use appears to be light.

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

Yes _____ No _____

Description:

The majority of the unit is crucial mule deer and antelope winter range. The area supports a high density of nesting raptors and provides habitat for wintering sage grouse.

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Summary of Analysis

Area Number: WYD01-6300-206

Descriptive Name: Upper West Buckhorn 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
Kyle Hansen	AFM Resources
Martin Hudson	Recreation Planner <i>Martin Hudson 10/25/13</i>
Jed Gregory	NRS (Resource Data Manager)
RC Lopez	Rangeland Management Specialist
Dale Woolwine	Wildlife Biologist
Sam Drucker	Cultural Resource Specialist

Reviewed by: *Shane DeForest* Date: 10/31/13

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.

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APPENDIX 1

PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s): Martin Hudson

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: WYD01-6300-206 Upper West Buckhorn Draw

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description All Views Look Into LWC Unit	Long.	Lat.	Photo Point #
07/10/2013		WSW All views looking into unit	View from east boundary pipeline. East side mostly flat to rolling, shallow drainages	109 47 44.226	042 23 23.694	1
same		WNW	Julian Bloom well and stock pond (active). Accessed from lightly used route.	109 48 59.426	042 24 28.963	2
same		SSW	Moderately used route in east central portion of unit.	109 49 42.546	042 24 11.184	3
same		NW	Stock pond (dry/intact)	109 50 34.506	042 23 49.626	4
same		NE	Reclaimed gas well pad. Accessed via reclaimed pipeline.	109 51 05.466	042 23 52.466	5
same		ESE	Reclaimed gas pipeline. Generally not used for motorized access.	109 51 08.22	042 23 46.29	6
same		W	Central area of unit typical of unit topography except E and SE areas.	109 52 54.318	042 24 11.346	7
same		N	Central area of unit, same location as pp7. Accessed via seldom traveled route	109 52 54.408	042 24 11.148	8
same		ENE	In unit view of a basin. BLM RD. 5404 in distant view. Not noticeable except when a vehicle is present.	109 54 25.422	042 35.628	9

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07/10/2013		NE	Heavily used water haul route to livestock tank and water distribution system.	109 54 34.356	042 23 19.968	10
same		N	Same heavily used water haul route and sub route going to a water trough.	109 54 44.574	042 23 15.474	11
same		S	Sugar Loaf water well (abandoned) and stock tank.	109 55 20.184	042 21 56.004	12
same		W	FO boundary fence (right side of fence) and seldom traveled route (in draw to right).	109 55 01.608	042 21 20.112	13
same		NW	Moderate to heavy use water haul route (alternate) and diverging less used route going to Antelope Well (unknown condition)	109 51 34.734	042 21 23.73	14
same		NW	Distant reclaimed gas pipeline. View from SE unit boundary (BLM Road 5707).	109 49 51.906	042 22 00.408	15

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