

Name: **Barrel Springs Draw Central WY-030-16N93W31-2012, a subunit of Wild Horse Basin WYO-030-408**

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record

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

No _____ Yes (if yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas):

a) **Inventory Source:** _____ Wild Horse Basin _____

b) **Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s):** _____ Wild Horse Initial Inventory _____

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** _____ Wild Horse Basin; WY-030-048 _____

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

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:

M:\gis_workareas\Pionke\CCSM\Chris LWC Shapefile\LandWildCharc1979(1)

Area #/Name	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
Wild Horse Basin WYW-030-408	Yes (375,000 acres)	No	No	No	No

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Number/Name **Barrel Springs Draw Central WY-030-16N93W31-2012, a subunit of Wild Horse Basin WYO-030-408** Acreage 6299.89

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

The unit is bound by the following constraints: 1) to the north by a Class 3 Light Duty Road of aggregate surface maintained by industry with Rawlins Field Office right-of-way number WYW-86418, as well as a section of state land and a 50 foot wide pipeline disturbance with Rawlins Field Office right-of-way number WYW-121139; 2) to the west by the CIG pipeline corridor and BLM Road 3317 a.k.a. Windmill Draw Road; 3) to the south by BLM Road 3333 a.k.a. Windmill Draw Road; and 4) to the east by a Class 3 Light Duty Road of aggregate surface maintained by industry with right-of-way WYW-149087.

See **Barrel Springs Draw Outlier WY-030-16N94W13-2012, a subunit of Wild Horse Basin WYO-030-408.**

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The Barrel Springs Draw Central area under consideration is 6,299.89 acres of BLM public land. It is located within the following townships: 6th P.M., T. 15 N., R. 93 W., Sections 4-8; T. 16 N., R 93 W., Sections 19-20 and 29-32; T. 15 N., R. 94 W., Section 1-2 and 11-12; and T. 16 N., R. 94 W., Sections 24-25 and 35. The terrain consists mainly of a rim with several small drainages that lead to either Windmill Draw, Red Wash, or South Barrel Springs Draw. The elevation ranges from 7,084 feet in T. 15 N., R. 94 W., Section 1, to 6,560 feet near Mexican Flats Reservoir No. 1 in T. 16 N., R. 93 W., Section 29. The dominant vegetation cover is sagebrush-grassland. The primary land uses are for oil & gas exploration and livestock grazing. There are nine natural gas well pads within the unit and eight access roads, maintained by mechanized equipment, which extend into the unit. Among range improvements, there are four fences, one of which crosses the area. The area also contains a number of unimproved two-track trails accessible only by 4wd vehicles. The primary, dispersed recreational activity in the area is hunting.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

Description: The 11.03 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) and 16.11 miles of wilderness inventory roads (i.e., well access roads) detract from the unit's naturalness. Examples of these primitive routes and wilderness inventory roads are demonstrated in photos 1-4. When hiking across the Barrel Springs Central Unit, the casual observer cannot escape the constant view of primitive routes. These primitive routes create noticeable linear intrusions and disturbances that interrupt the experience of any wilderness character briefly encountered in areas untrammelled by the works of man.

The area contains 22 oil and gas wells throughout the Barrel Springs Central Unit (see example in Photo 4). These oil and gas installations within the unit represent permanent improvements and loss of primeval character. When examining the status of the oil and gas wells, three of these wells have an active permit, three have an expired permit, nine are flowing, two are permanently abandoned, one well has a notice of intent to abandon, and four are producing gas wells. Despite the variation in status, these wells remain as existing installations that detract from the naturalness and are substantially noticeable to the casual observer while hiking through the unit. All wells, which are not abandoned, are managed as active wells and receive commercial vehicle traffic for periodic maintenance. This traffic would interrupt the casual observer's experience of wilderness character due to road dust plumes and the contrast between the white coloration of these vehicles moving across the tan, brown, and olive landscape. Well pads do not receive final reclamation approval until they have been plugged and abandoned. Visual contrasts created by surface disturbances, including well pad turn-arounds, soil exposure around the facilities, and a rectangular area of wheat grass, remain until final reclamation is established.

In sum, the cumulative impacts on naturalness including the numerous oil and gas wells, primitive routes, and wilderness inventory roads have impaired the naturalness in the Barrel Springs Central Unit to a level that is incompatible with the definitions of wilderness provided in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (incorporated in FLPMA 1976):

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

(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

Description:

(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

Description:

(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 Name and/or Number: Barrel Springs Draw Central WY-030-16N93W31-2012

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 N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities of 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 Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

___X___ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

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