

Name: **Blackhall WY-030-14N83W27-2012**

**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   X   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:

**FORM 2**

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

a. Area Number/Name **Blackhall WY-030-14N83W27-2012** Acreage 7186.41

(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 irregularly shaped. The unit is bound on the east and north by private and state land. The unit is bound to the west by private land and by County Road 211 a.k.a. Blackhall Mountain Road. The unit is bound to the south by Forest Service land.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The area has 7,186 acres in four to five parcels of land narrowly connected by quarter mile strips of public land. The area has sagebrush grassland and forested lands that have been clear-cut. The clear-cut areas have extensive evidence of stumpage and other logging impacts. The inholdings have ranch buildings and other improvements that are visible from the public land in this unit.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes  No  N/A

Description: This disjointedness detracts from the unit a great deal. The inholdings detract from a visitor's ability to have a wilderness experience. The quarter mile strips are all fenced and would impede a visitor's ability to access the whole area. The area has sagebrush grassland and forested lands that have been clear-cut.

The 38.66 miles of primitive routes (i.e., two-track trails) detract from the unit's naturalness. Examples of these primitive routes are demonstrated in photos 2-3. When hiking across the Blackhall 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 untrammled by the works of man.

The Blackhall Unit also contains three man-made reservoirs (see locations in the large-scale aerial photo). When the casual observer encounters these man-made borrow pits and impounded reservoirs, the linear and textual contrast on the landscape attracts the attention of the observer to these modifications constructed with mechanized equipment. As an example, the Blackhall Unit contains a rectangular, man-made, earthen dam which covers .855 surface acres and impounds Cherokee Trail Reservoir in Section 22, T 14 N, R 83 W. When the casual observer encounters

the earthen dam, the linear and textual contrast on the landscape attracts the attention of the observer to this obvious man-made, geometric modification constructed with mechanized equipment.

The casual observer is often attracted to bodies of water while hiking. Water adds interest and diversity to the landscape. When arriving at any of the three reservoirs, the casual observer would notice that it is not a natural lake and that they have encountered an impounded, muddy borrow pit. The hiker seeking refreshment from clean water, would quickly notice that this “reservoir” is designed for cattle operations where the water is unfit for human consumption or swimming. The numerous range improvements, including the three reservoirs, one spring, and 16 fences, were constructed, primarily, for commercial grazing operations. These improvements give the casual observer a perception that they are visitors to a cattle range rather than a wilderness untrammelled by the works of man. While the presence of cattle is compatible with a natural landscape for wilderness inventory purposes, the noticeable presence of numerous grazing-related developments in this unit is not.

In sum, the cumulative impacts on naturalness including the numerous primitive routes and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the Blackhall 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: Blackhall WY-030-14N83W27-2012**

### 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.

**Prepared by: Robert Epp**

Team members:

| Name            | Title                                  |
|-----------------|--|
| Chris Jones     | BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner         |
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**Reviewed by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis Carpenter, Field Manager

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