

Name: **Boggy Meadows Rim WY-030-25N88W28-2012**

**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:** N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s):** N/A

**c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**d) BLM District (s)/Field Office(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ N/A

**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: N/A

**FORM 2**

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

a. Area Number/Name: **Boggy Meadows Rim WY-030-25N88W28-2012** Acreage: **5,224.53**

(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.

The unit is bound on the northeast by a Class 5 4WD Road that has been previously graded, the Platte – Bairoil 115kV Transmission Line right-of-way, and a pipeline right-of-way. The unit is bound on the southeast by a Class 5 4WD Road that has been previously graded. The unit is bound on the south by private land. The unit is bound on the west by a pipeline right-of-way.

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

The Boggy Meadows Rim Unit under consideration is 5224.53 acres of BLM public land. The topography consists, primarily, of rolling prairie and drainages created run-off from Boggy Meadows Rim. Elevation ranges from 6,700 feet on the rim above the drainages to 6,500 feet at the bottom of the drainages. The dominant vegetation cover is mountain big sagebrush on the slopes and uplands of the unit and wet meadow cover along creeks and draws. The primary land use is livestock grazing. The primary, dispersed recreational activity in the area is hunting. The unit contains the following townships:

| TOWNSHIP | RANGE | SECTION | TOWNSHIP | RANGE | SECTION |
|----------|-------|---------|----------|-------|---------|
| t24n     | r88w  | 4       | t25n     | r88w  | 26      |
| t24n     | r88w  | 5       | t25n     | r88w  | 27      |
| t24n     | r88w  | 6       | t25n     | r88w  | 28      |
| t25n     | r88w  | 35      | t25n     | r88w  | 29      |
| t25n     | r88w  | 34      | t25n     | r88w  | 23      |
| t25n     | r88w  | 33      | t25n     | r88w  | 22      |
| t25n     | r88w  | 32      | t25n     | r88w  | 21      |
| t25n     | r88w  | 31      | t25n     | r88w  | 20      |

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes  No  N/A

Description: The 26.26 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) and .12 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 3 and 7-9. When hiking across the Boggy Meadows Rim Unit, the casual observer cannot escape the constant view of primitive routes and well access roads. 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 nine oil and gas wells throughout the Boggy Meadows Rim Unit (see unit map). Evidence of oil and gas development is demonstrated in photos 1-2 and 5-6. When examining the status of the oil and gas wells, one of these wells has notice of intent to abandon and eight wells are permanently abandoned. Given that these wells have been fully reclaimed and are no longer substantially noticeable to the casual observer, they were not found to detract from the naturalness of the unit.

The range improvements, including one water well and 5.05 miles of fence, were developed, 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, wilderness inventory roads, and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the Boggy Meadows Rim 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: Boggy Meadows Rim WY-030-25N88W28-2012**

### 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: Christopher D. Jones**

Team members:

| Name               | Title                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
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**Reviewed by:**

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

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