

Name: **Bucklin Reservoirs-Whiskey Gap WY-030-28N88W29-2012**

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 Yes _____ (if yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas):

a) Inventory Source: BLM Rawlins FO 1979 Wilderness Inventory Hard Copy Files

b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s): Ferris Mountains Inventory WY-030-407

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming Wilderness Review Serial No. 66700

d) BLM District (s)/Field Office(s): High Desert District/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):

This unit consists of approximately 43,500 acres southeast of Muddy Gap. The area is rugged, slopes are very steep, and rock outcrops of limestone and granite are found throughout the area. It appears to meet the criteria set forth in the 1964 Wilderness Act for wilderness areas.

Inventory Source: M:\gis_workareas\Recreation\WSA\LandWilderCharc1979.shp

Area #/Name	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
Ferris Mountains Inventory WY-030-407	Yes (43,500 acres)	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Number/Name: **Bucklin Reservoirs-Whiskey Gap WY-030-28N88W29-2012**
Acreage: **9,622 acres**

(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 west by private and State of WY land. The unit is bound on the north by U.S. Hwy 220. The unit is bound on the south by state land. The unit is bound on the east by private and state land.

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

The Bucklin Reservoirs-Whiskey Gap unit under consideration is 9,622 acres of BLM public land. It is located within the following townships:

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION
t27n	r88w	10	t28n	r88w	27
t27n	r88w	9	t28n	r88w	28
t27n	r88w	8	t28n	r88w	29
t27n	r88w	7	t28n	r88w	30
t27n	r88w	3	t28n	r89w	25
t27n	r88w	4	t28n	r89w	24
t27n	r88w	5	t28n	r88w	22
t27n	r88w	6	t28n	r88w	21
t27n	r89w	1	t28n	r88w	20
t28n	r88w	34	t28n	r88w	19
t28n	r88w	33	t28n	r88w	18
t28n	r88w	32	t28n	r88w	17
t28n	r88w	31	t28n	r88w	16

The topography consists, primarily, of rolling prairie, buttes, hills, and drainages created by runoff from the Ferris Mountains. Elevation ranges from, approximately, 7,200 feet on the hilltops above the drainages to 6,500 feet at the bottom of the drainages at Muddy Creek and Whiskey Creek. 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.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

Description: The 35.39 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) detract from the unit's naturalness. Examples of these primitive routes are demonstrated in photos 4-6 and 10-11. When hiking across the Bucklin Reservoirs-Whiskey Gap 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 Bucklin Reservoirs-Whiskey Gap Unit contains a substantially noticeable, man-made, reservoir. This reservoir is a man-made borrow pit (see photos 7 and 8). When the casual observer encounters this borrow pit, the linear and textual contrast on the landscape attracts the attention of the observer to this obvious man-made 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 the reservoir within the unit, the casual observer would notice that this is not a natural pond 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 casual observer would encounter a similar experience when seeking to replenish water supplies from a water well within this unit. The numerous range improvements, including one water well, one reservoir, and 5.04 miles of fence, are also impacted by commercial grazing operations giving 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 primitive routes and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the Bucklin Reservoirs-Whiskey Gap 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: Bucklin Reservoirs-Whiskey Gap WY-030-28N88W29-2012

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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Team members:

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Date: _____