

Name: **Battle Spring Flat WY-030-24N94W28-2012**

**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): \_ Seven Lakes Initial Inventory WY-030-409\_\_\_\_\_**

**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):

**The unit consists of approximately 400,000 acres north of the checkerboard and west of U.S. Highway 287. Man's activities are noticeable almost everywhere. Many roads, pipelines, power lines and telephone lines crisscross the area. In spite of the fact that many roadless tracts of 5,000 acres are found in the area, none have wilderness potential.**

Inventory Source: M:\gis\_workareas\Recreation\WSA\LandWilderCharc1979.shp

<b>Area #/Name</b>	<b>Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)</b>	<b>Naturalness? Yes/No</b>	<b>Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No</b>	<b>Outstanding Primitive &amp; Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No</b>	<b>Supplemental Values? Yes/No</b>
Seven Lakes Initial Inventory WY-030-409	Yes (400,000 acres)	No	No	No	No

**FORM 2**

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

a. Area Number/Name: **Battle Spring Flat WY-030-24N94W28-2012** Acreage: **20,833.72**

(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 north by BLM Road 3217 a.k.a. Hadsell Rd. The unit is bound on the west by Jim Bridger – Mustang 230kV Transmission Line. The unit is bound on the east by County Road 23 a.k.a. Wamsutter – Crooks Gap Rd. The unit is bound on the south by state and private land.

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

The Battle Spring Flat Unit under consideration is **20,833.72** acres of BLM public land. The topography consists, primarily, of rolling prairie, buttes, hills, and drainages including Battle Spring Draw within the Battle Spring Flat area. Elevation ranges from 6,583 feet on the hilltops above the drainages to 6,474 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
t23n	r95w	24	t24n	r95w	36
t23n	r94w	17	t24n	r93w	30
t23n	r94w	18	t24n	r94w	25
t23n	r95w	13	t24n	r94w	26
t23n	r94w	12	t24n	r94w	27
t23n	r94w	11	t24n	r94w	28
t23n	r94w	10	t24n	r94w	29
t23n	r94w	9	t24n	r94w	30
t23n	r94w	8	t24n	r95w	25
t23n	r94w	7	t24n	r93w	19
t23n	r95w	12	t24n	r94w	24
t23n	r93w	6	t24n	r94w	23
t23n	r94w	1	t24n	r94w	22

t23n	r94w	2	t24n	r94w	21
t23n	r94w	3	t24n	r94w	20
t23n	r94w	4	t24n	r94w	19
t23n	r94w	5	t24n	r95w	24
t23n	r94w	6	t24n	r93w	18
t23n	r95w	1	t24n	r94w	13
t24n	r93w	31	t24n	r94w	14
t24n	r94w	36	t24n	r94w	15
t24n	r94w	35	t24n	r94w	16
t24n	r94w	34	t24n	r94w	17
t24n	r94w	33	t24n	r94w	18
t24n	r94w	32	t24n	r95w	13
t24n	r94w	31			

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes  No  N/A

Description: The 56.31 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) and 9.74 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, 5, 9, 12 and 14. When hiking across the Battle Spring Flat 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 12 oil and gas wells throughout the Battle Spring Flat Unit (see unit map). Evidence of oil and gas development is demonstrated in photos 2-4, 6, 10-11, 13, and 15. 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, two have expired permits, four are flowing, five are permanently abandoned, and one is temporarily abandoned. 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.

The numerous range improvements, including six water wells (equipped with solar panels and tanks) and 2.13 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 oil and gas wells, primitive routes, wilderness inventory roads, and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the Battle Spring Flat 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: Battle Spring Flat WY-030-24N94W28-2012**

### 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:

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**Reviewed by:**

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

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