

Name: **Catalina Central WY-030-16N92W10-2012, 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:

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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 **Catalina Central WY-030-16N92W10-2012, a subunit of Wild Horse Basin WYO-030-408** Acreage 6779.90

(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 on the north by the Rawlins Field Office checkerboard, broken ownership pattern, as well as state land. The unit is bound on the east by a 50 foot wide pipeline disturbance with Rawlins Field Office rights-of-way numbers WYW-0280360 and WYW-164057 and a 25 foot wide transmission line disturbance with Rawlins Field Office right-of-way number WYW-0285688. The unit is bound to the south and east by a 50 foot wide pipeline disturbance with Rawlins Field Office right-of-way number WYW-49454. The unit is bound to the west by private land, state land and Highway 789.

See **Catalina Outlier WY-030-16N92W22-2012, a subunit of Wild Horse Basin WYO-030-408.**

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The Catalina Central area under consideration is 6,779.90 acres of BLM public land. It is located within the following townships: 6th P.M., T. 16 N., R. 91 W., Sections 1-4 and 9-16; and T. 17 N., R. 92 W., Sections 33-35. The terrain consists mainly of a long ridge, which is the southernmost portion of Doty Mountain and divides the Cow Creek drainage from Muddy Creek. The elevation ranges from 7,205 feet at the highest point of the ridge, to 6,640 feet along Wyoming State Highway 789 in T. 16 N., R. 92 W., Sections 15-16. The dominant vegetation cover is sagebrush-grassland and piñon-juniper forest. The primary land uses are for oil & gas exploration and livestock grazing. There are three natural gas well pads within the unit and two access roads, maintained by mechanized equipment, which extend into the unit. There is also a communications site with a tall tower at the highest point of the ridge in T. 16 N., R. 91 W., Section 3. Among range improvements, there is one fence, two water wells, and four small ponds spread throughout 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 77.38 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) and 5.23 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 the large-scale fold-out aerial photo as well as photos 2 and 4-5. When hiking across the Catalina 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 30 oil and gas wells throughout the Catalina Central Unit (see examples in the large-scale fold-out aerial photo and 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, two of these wells have active injectors, one is dormant, nineteen have expired permits, one is a monitored well, four are permanently abandoned, two have pumping rods, and one well is shut-in. 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 Catalina Central Unit also contains four man-made reservoirs. When the casual observer encounters these reservoirs, 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 any of the four 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 casual observer would encounter a similar experience when seeking to replenish water supplies from other wells, and reservoirs within this unit. The numerous range improvements, including 2 water wells and 4 reservoirs, are 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 numerous oil and gas wells, primitive routes, wilderness inventory roads, and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the Catalina 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: Catalina Central WY-030-16N92W10-2012**

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