

Name: **East Flat Top Stock Trail WY-030-13N92W7-2012, 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:

M:\gis_workareas\Pionke\CCSM\Chris LWC Shapefile\LandWildCharc1979(1)

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 **East Flat Top Stock Trail WY-030-13N92W7-2012, a subunit of Wild Horse Basin WYO-030-408** Acreage 9261.42

(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 irregularly shaped. The unit is bound to the north and east by a Class 3 Light Duty Road of aggregate surface maintained by industry with Rawlins Field Office right-of-way WYW-123033. The unit is bound to the northwest by a 50 foot wide pipeline disturbance under Rawlins Field Office rights-of-way numbers WYW-133335 and WYW-75999. The unit is bound to the southwest by a Class 3 Light Duty Road with aggregate surface maintained by industry with Rawlins Field Office rights-of-way numbers WYW-77743 and WYW-159986. The unit is bound to the southwest by BLM Road 3318, a.k.a. Shell Creek Truck Trail, and by a state land parcel. The unit is bound to the west by a 50 foot wide pipeline disturbance with Rawlins Field Office right-of-way number WYW-34517. The unit is bound to the southeast by a Class 3 Light Duty Road of aggregate surface maintained by industry with Rawlins Field Office right-of-way number WYW-75984.

See **East Flat Top Central WY-030-16N90W34-2012, a subunit of Wild Horse Basin WYO-030-408** and **East Flat Top Hang-Out WY-030-13N93W4-2012, a subunit of Wild Horse Basin WYO-030-408** and **East Flat Top Outlier WY-030-14N93W18-2012, a subunit of Wild Horse Basin WYO-030-408.**

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The East Flat Top Stock Trail area under consideration is 9,261.42 acres of BLM public land. It is located within the following townships: 6th P.M., T. 13 N., R. 92 W., Sections 1-11 and 17-21; and T. 14 N., R 93 W., Sections 29-35; and T. 13 N., R. 93 W., Sections 1 and 12-13. The terrain consists mainly of the lower slopes of East Flat Top, the Cottonwood Creek drainage, the Middle Prong of Red Creek drainage, and other small drainages leading to the main stem of Red Creek. The elevation ranges from 7,280 feet in T. 14 N., R. 93 W., Section 15, to 6,300 feet in T. 13 N., R. 93 W., Section 19. The dominant vegetation cover is sagebrush-grassland. The primary land uses are for oil & gas exploration and livestock grazing. There are twelve natural gas well pads within the unit and nine access roads, maintained by mechanized equipment, which extend into the unit. All of the wells are located in the northern half of the unit. There are seven small ponds and one dam which creates a small reservoir. The ponds are spread throughout the area and the dam is located on the eastern boundary on Cottonwood Creek.

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 30.80 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) and 22.81 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, 2, 4, 12-22, and 24-28. When hiking across the East Flat Top Stock Trail 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 24 oil and gas wells throughout the East Flat Top Stock Trail Unit (see locations in large-scale aerial photo and examples in photos 6, 20, and 24-25). 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, eight wells have expired permits, 11 wells are flowing, one has ND status, one has a notice of intent to abandon, two are permanently abandoned, and one 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 East Flat Top Stock Trail Unit also contains nine man-made reservoirs (see locations in large-scale aerial photo and examples in photos 2, 4-11, 18, and 25-26). 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.

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 nine 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 nine reservoirs, were constructed, primarily, for 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 and wilderness inventory roads, and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the East Flat Top Stock Trail 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: East Flat Top Stock Trail WY-030-13N92W7-2012

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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