

Name: **Grindstone Spring WY-030-13N95W33-2012**

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

**b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**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:

**FORM 2**

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

a. Area Number/Name **Grindstone Spring WY-030-13N95W33-2012** Acreage 11,872.53

(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 BLM Road 3318 a.k.a. Shell Creek Truck Trail. The unit is bound to the west by BLM Road 3311 a.k.a. Carson Springs Road. The unit is bound on the east by a Class 5 4WD Road that has been graded. The unit is bound on the south by BLM Road 3330 a.k.a. Cherokee Trail.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The Grindstone Spring area under consideration is 11872.53 acres of BLM public land. It is located within the following townships:

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION
t13n	r95w	33	t13n	r96w	29
t13n	r95w	32	t13n	r95w	21
t13n	r95w	31	t13n	r95w	20
t13n	r96w	36	t13n	r95w	19
t13n	r96w	35	t13n	r96w	24
t13n	r96w	34	t13n	r96w	23
t13n	r96w	33	t13n	r96w	22
t13n	r96w	32	t13n	r96w	21
t13n	r95w	28	t13n	r96w	20
t13n	r95w	29	t13n	r95w	18
t13n	r95w	30	t13n	r96w	13
t13n	r96w	25	t13n	r96w	14
t13n	r96w	26	t13n	r96w	15
t13n	r96w	27	t13n	r96w	16
t13n	r96w	28	t13n	r96w	17

The dominant vegetation cover is sagebrush-grassland. The primary land uses are for oil & gas exploration and livestock grazing. The primary, dispersed recreational activities in the area are hunting and hiking.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes  No  N/A

Description: The 26.34 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) and 1.24 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 1-12. When hiking across the Grindstone Spring 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 three oil and gas wells throughout the Grindstone Spring Unit (see locations in unit map). When examining the status of the oil and gas wells, all three of these wells were either permanently abandoned or had had expired permits between 1996 and 2009. All three of these wells have been reclaimed and were not found to detract from the naturalness or to be substantially noticeable to the casual observer.

The Grindstone Spring Unit also contains six man-made reservoirs (see locations on unit map and example in photo 19). 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 this 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 six reservoirs, the casual observer would notice that it is not a natural lake and that they have encountered an impounded, muddy borrow pit surrounded with dikes. 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 six reservoirs, one spring, and 8.15 miles of fence, were constructed, 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 Grindstone Spring 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: Grindstone Spring WY-030-13N95W33-2012**

### 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
Chris Jones	BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner
Robert Epp	BLM Range Management Specialist
Lynn McCarthy	BLM GIS Specialist
Natasha Keierleber	BLM Archaeologist
Kelly Owens	BLM Hydrologist
Kelly Fischer	BLM Wildlife Specialist
Nyle Layton	BLM Minerals Physical Scientist
Tim Novotny	BLM AFM Resources
Fred Peck	BLM Recreation Assistant

**Reviewed by:**

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

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