

Name: **Rendle Butte WY-030-16N89W15-2012**

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 X (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): Wild Horse Basin WYO-030-408 _____

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Wild Horse Basin WYO-030-408. Hand drawn on 2006 Rawlins, WY 1:100,000 Surface Management Status map _____

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 WYO-030-408	Yes (375,000 acres)	No	No	No	No

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Number/Name **Rendle Butte WY-030-16N89W15-2012** Acreage 7109.21

(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 Rendle Butte area is surrounded on all sides by state land. Hydrology Road, BLM 3306, borders on the northwest, Rendle Butte Road borders on the south and west boundaries of the unit.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The Rendle Butte area under consideration is 7109.21 acres of BLM public lands. It is located within the following townships: Township 16, Range 89, Sections 1-4, 8-11, 14-15, 17, 20-23, 26, 28, and 29; Township 17, Range 89, Sections 26-27, and 33-35. The topography consists, primarily, of steep canyons created by Muddy Creek, Rendle Lake Draw, Pole Gulch, Canary Grove Draw, and Rendle Rim. Elevation ranges from 7,486 from Muddy Creek to 7,963 feet at the rim of Rendle Butte. 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. Among range improvements, fences occur throughout as well as the following: Littlefield Reservoir, unnamed reservoir, Ketchum Lake Stock Reservoir, Ketchum Buttes Reservoir 1, Ketchum Buttes Reservoir 8, and Beaver Dams Spring. The area also contains one oil and gas well and a number of unimproved routes and trails. The primary, dispersed recreational activity in the area is hunting.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

Description: The 79.36 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 1-3. When hiking across the Rendle Butte 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 untrammled by the works of man.

The area contains two oil and gas wells throughout the Rendle Butte Unit (see locations in large-scale aerial photo). 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, one of these wells is flowing and one has an expired permit. 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 Rendle Butte Unit also contains six man-made reservoirs (see locations in large-scale aerial photo). 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 six 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 six reservoirs, three fences, and one spring 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 two oil and gas wells, numerous primitive routes, and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the Rendle Butte 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: