

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Number/Name WY-030-412-N Area B Acreage 59,310

(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 acreage in each and evaluate each area/sub-area separately. In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

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

This unit is comprised of 90,564 acres of ELM-administered public lands located in T.13, 14, 15, and 16 N., R. 98, 99, 100, and 101 W. The area is located approximately 45 miles southeast of Rock Springs in south-central Sweetwater County, Wyoming. The area includes badlands, buttes, rims, flats, and basins. Major geological features include Kinney Rim and Rifes Rim. The landscape is primarily rangelands vegetated by sagebrush, grasses, saltbush, greasewood, and junipers, with occasional cottonwoods and willows along drainages.

Major human uses of the area include livestock grazing management, oil and gas exploration and development, and big game hunting in the fall.

Narrative: The Kinney Rim North Inventory Area was broken into two subunits to incorporate the checker board land pattern and solid block BLM- administered lands.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description:

Evidence of man's activities is found throughout this sub-unit. An improved road leading to an oil and gas well is located in the northwest portion of the area in R 101 W., T. 14 & 15 N. This improved road totals one and a half miles. Another improved access road leading to oil and gas wells is found in the middle of the area located in R. 100 W., T. 14 N. This improved road totals approximately 5 ½ miles. There is an improved County Road (4-77) leading to private land in T. 14 N., R.101 W. This improved road is approximately one mile long. There are plugged and abandoned gas wells with differing success on well pad and road reclamation. There is evidence of 20 old seismic lines that creates linear intrusions upon the landscape. There are 13 livestock reservoirs located in the sub-unit. There are four livestock water wells located in the sub-unit. There is 1 producing oil and gas well in the area. There is a horse trap located in Section 8, R. 99 and T. 14 N.

(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:

This sub-unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude because most of the area lacks topographic and vegetative screening to shield user activities from one another.

The sub-unit is bounded by a State Highway on the western boundary, an improved County Road on the southern boundary, and the checkerboard land pattern configuration on the north boundary. The outside influences of man in the form of vehicular traffic and Jack of land management controls on private land could influence solitude within the northern part of this sub-unit.

Access on existing improved roads within the sub-unit impacts the user's ability to escape the sights and sounds of man. The northern portion of the Vermillion Basin Oil and Gas project lies throughout the middle of this area. Activities from oil and gas development would impede upon one's ability to find solitude.

(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:

This sub-unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation because the area lacks the diversity of possible activities and does not possess one activity of outstanding quality. The area is typical Wyoming rangeland with a lack of intrinsic features such as unique topographic features or diverse vegetation types. The quality of primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities is influenced by man's past and current activities in the form of livestock improvements and oil and gas developments.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A _____

Description:

This area contains remnants of the historic Cherokee Trail and wild horses from the Salt Wells Wild horse Herd Management Area.

Summary of Analysis

Area Name and/or Number: WY-030-412-N Area B

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 for 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).

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

A determination of wilderness characteristics cannot be made until additional inventory can be completed.

Prepared by:

Team members:

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(Name, Title)

Reviewed by:

_____ Date: _____