

Name: **Moss Agate WY-030-28N79W12-2012**

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: N/A _____

b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s): _ N/A _____

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A

d) BLM District (s)/Field Office(s): ___ N/A

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):

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Number/Name: **Moss Agate WY-030-28N79W12-2012** Acreage 5,771.47

(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 and southwest by BLM Road 3141 a.k.a. Lone Tree Rd. which is maintained by the BLM. The unit is bound on the south by Wyoming State Highway 487. The unit is bound on the northwest by a Class 4 Unimproved Road which has been previously graded.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The Moss Agate area under consideration is 5,771.47 acres of BLM public land. The unit contains the following townships:

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION
t28n	r78w	19
t28n	r79w	24
t28n	r79w	23
t28n	r79w	22
t28n	r78w	18
t28n	r79w	15
t28n	r79w	14
t28n	r79w	13
t28n	r78w	8
t28n	r78w	7
t28n	r79w	10
t28n	r79w	11
t28n	r79w	12
t28n	r78w	5
t28n	r78w	6
t28n	r79w	1
t28n	r79w	2

The topography consists, primarily, of the Moss Agate and foothills of the Shirley Ridge. Elevation ranges from 7,550 feet on the ridges and hills above the drainages to, approximately, 7,000 feet at the bottom of the drainages. The dominant vegetation cover in the unit consists of Mountain Big Sagebrush along the hills and wet meadow cover along creeks and draws. The primary land use is recreational hunting, camping, and OHV riding.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

Description: The 15.97 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) and 2.30 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 Photo 1 and within the unit map. When hiking across the Moss Agate 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 two oil and gas wells throughout the Moss Agate Unit (see locations in unit map). When examining the status of the oil and gas wells, both of these wells were permanently abandoned in 1967. These wells have been fully reclaimed and were not found to detract from the naturalness or to be substantially noticeable to the casual observer.

The Moss Agate Unit also contains six man-made reservoirs (see locations in unit map and example in photo 4). 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, borrow pit. The hiker seeking refreshment from clean water, would quickly notice that this "reservoir" has been contaminated by cattle operations where the water is unfit for human consumption or swimming. The numerous range improvements, including the six reservoirs, one water well (Photo 3), and 3.43 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 Moss Agate 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: Moss Agate WY-030-28N79W12-2012

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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Team members:

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