

Area Number WYD03-14N98W-2011
Descriptive Name North Cow Creek Unit

FORM 1

Documentation to BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?

No X (if No, go to Form 2) 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: _____

Area Number/ Descriptive Name	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No

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FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Number: WYD03-14N98W-2011 Acreage: 10,046 within RFO

Descriptive Name: North Cow Creek Unit

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes X No _____

Describe the boundaries of the area (roads, property lines, ect.). 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 are/sub-area separately. In completing steps (1) – (5), use additional space as necessary.

The eastern boundary is a pipeline (WYW-73117) that runs south and mirrors the Adobe Town Wilderness Study Area until the section line between Sections 20 and 21 of T.14 N., R. 97 W., where it drops due south and meets with the southern boundary. The southern boundary is a constructed, maintained, regularly used road with a right-of-way (WYW-148722), that meets the western boundary. The western boundary is a well-defined road called the Cow Camp Road a/k/a the Bitter Creek to Powder Wash Road with rights-of-way (WYW-148722 and WYW-158963) that meet with the northern boundary. The northern boundary is a pipeline (WYW-117938) that crosses the Cow Camp Road in a northeasterly direction until it meets BLM Road 4412 (ROW WYW-74441), where it runs parallel in an easterly direction to meet with the eastern boundary (Oil Shale LWC Inventory Map). Additionally acres to the north of BLM Road 4412 (ROW WYW-74441) are managed by the Rock Springs Field Office and the total acres of the entire LWC acres shown on this inventory map are 16,151 acres.

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

Original acres 10,046.27. This area is typical open rolling topography, including sagebrush, flats, barchan dunes, and desert pavement, with some playas present. The vegetation is comprised of salt desert shrub communities. This unit is located in south central Wyoming, in the south-eastern corner of Sweetwater County. The land management of this unit is shared by both the Rock Springs and Rawlins Field Offices. The uses present include, wild horse management areas, recreational shooting and hunting, sightseeing, hiking, livestock grazing, camping, wildlife viewing, OHV use and oil & gas development.

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(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

Description:

Overall, majority of this unit is unaffected by human intrusions, and most disturbances exist along the boundary and road edges. These include abandoned well pads, two-track roads, range facilities (stock ponds and linear fence), and pipeline right-of-way infrastructure. The intrusions that caused redefinition of the original boundary include, a pipeline right-of-way in the northwest corner and two abandon well pads on the southern border.

The extreme southwest corner was incorrectly identified as part of this unit, polygon 22 on the map comprised on 1,268.94 acres. Therefore, it will be analyzed in a separate analysis.

Additionally, the northern portion, bisected by ROW WYW-74441, is represented by polygons 17, 19 and 20 (comprised of 4,069.21 acres). These three polygons are within the Rock Springs Field Office and adjoins the Adobe Town Wilderness Study Area. These area will be analyzed in a separate analysis.

Minus the two above areas that be will analyzed separately, an Intrusions map and an accompanying table with the acreage corrections describe the remaining LWC acreage. The original acreage was 10,046.27 and the adjusted polygon is 9,601.37 acres.

(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:

Lack of manmade intrusions, vegetative screening, and topographic variations, including rolling hills, sandstone outcrops and sand dunes.

(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:

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Hunting, wild horse viewing, wildlife viewing, primitive camping, hiking, mountain biking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, sightseeing for botanical, zoological, and geological features, rock hounding, horseback riding, and backpacking. When considering the definition for "outstanding" that says "superior" and "standing out among others of its kind," The area may not be outstanding for primitive and unconfined recreation. It offers similar opportunities to others of its kind and is not superior. However, because of the size of the area and lack of access roads, the opportunity for solitude is outstanding. When you consider the density of roads and activities in other areas of its kind, visitors could definitely get away from other people in this area better than others. Even though it is relatively flat and open, visitors can get more than a mile from any potential disturbances.

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

Yes No N/A

Description:

Crucial wildlife habitat, unique scenic and geological values and access to scenic overlooks.

Summary of Analysis

Area Number: WYD03-14N98W-2011

Descriptive Name: North Cow Creek Unit

Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No N/A
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).

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by:

Team members:

Name	Title
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Reviewed by: Rebecca A. Spurgin Date: 9/8/11
Print Name: Rebecca A. Spurgin
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APPENDIX C- ROUTE ANALYSIS

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road for wilderness inventory purposes.)

Wilderness Inventory Area Name and/or Number: _____
(Include Transportation Plan identifier, if known: include route number supplied by citizen information when available).

I. LOCATION: refer to attached map and BLM corporate data (GIS),
See Attached Oil Shale LWC Inventory Map
List photo point references (where applicable): _____

II. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE:

Examples: Rangeland/Livestock facilities (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment).

III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:

Is a road right-of-way associated with this route? Yes No

IV. CONSTRUCTION:

Is there evidence that the route was originally constructed using mechanical means? Yes No

Examples:

Paved Bladed Graveled Roadside Berms Cut/Fill Other

Describe:

The eastern boundary is a pipeline (WYW-73117) that runs south and mirrors the Adobe Town Wilderness Study Area until the section line between Sections 20 and 21 of T.14 N., R. 97 W., where it drops due south and meets with the southern boundary.

The southern boundary is a road with a right-of-way (WYW-148722), that meets the western boundary.

The western boundary is a well-defined road called the Cow Camp Road a/k/a the Bitter Creek to Powder Wash Road with rights-of-way (WYW-148722 and WYW-158963) that meets with the northern boundary.

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The northern boundary is a pipeline (WYW-117938) that crosses the Cow Camp Road in a northeasterly direction until it meets BLM Road 4412 (ROW WYW-74441), where it runs parallel in an easterly direction to meet with the eastern boundary. This is a constructed, maintained and regularly used road.

V. IMPROVEMENTS:

Is there Evidence or Documentation of Improvements using hand tools or machinery? Yes X No

By Hand Tools By Machine X

Examples:

Bladed X Surfaced Culverts X Stream Crossings Bridges

Drainages Barriers Other

Describe:

Existing ROWs. See Summary VIII.

VI. MAINTENANCE:

A. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?
Yes X No

By Hand Tools(Yes/No) By Machine (Yes/No) Yes

Describe:

Existing ROWs. See Summary VIII.

B. If the route is in passable condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by the BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable?
Yes X No

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Describe:

Existing ROWs. See Summary VIII.

VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:

Yes X No _____

Describe evidence (*e.g.* direct: vehicle tracks observed, or indirect: evidence or use associated with purpose(s) of the route, such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis (*i.e.* regular use relative to the purpose(s) of the route).

Existing ROWs. See Summary VIII.

VIII. SUMMARY:

To meet the definition of a road, items V, VI-A or B, and VII must be checked yes.

Road: Yes X No _____

Explanation:

All boundaries were either BLM authorized pipeline or road ROWs. There was not an effort to collect extensive documentation on improvements, maintenance, regular or continuous use since these boundary/route analysis have been already established as being constructed, maintained and to have regular use.

Evaluator(s): *Debra A. Spurrin*
Acting PM

Date: *9/8/11*