

Name: **Rotten Springs WY-030-13N95W24-2012**

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 **Rotten Springs WY-030-13N95W24-2012** Acreage 6,105.95

(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 northeast by BLM Road 3318 a.k.a. Shell Creek Truck Trail. The unit is bound to the west by a Class 5 4WD Road that was previously graded. The unit is bound on the east by a pipeline right-of-way. The unit is bound on the south by BLM Road 3330 a.k.a. Cherokee Trail.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The Rotten Springs area under consideration is 6,105.95 acres of BLM public land. It is located within the following townships:

| TOWNSHIP | RANGE | SECTION | TOWNSHIP | RANGE | SECTION |
|----------|-------|---------|----------|-------|---------|
| t13n | r95w | 36 | t13n | r95w | 24 |
| t13n | r95w | 35 | t13n | r95w | 23 |
| t13n | r95w | 34 | t13n | r95w | 22 |
| t13n | r95w | 33 | t13n | r95w | 21 |
| t13n | r94w | 30 | t13n | r94w | 18 |
| t13n | r95w | 25 | t13n | r95w | 13 |
| t13n | r95w | 26 | t13n | r95w | 14 |
| t13n | r95w | 27 | t13n | r95w | 15 |
| t13n | r95w | 28 | t13n | r95w | 16 |
| t13n | r94w | 19 | | | |

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 2.98 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) and 1.7 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 1-5, 11-12, and 14. When hiking across the Rotten Springs Unit from the western boundary to the eastern boundary, the casual observer would only encounter three primitive routes and one wilderness inventory road (i.e., well access road).

The area contains seven oil and gas wells throughout the Rotten Springs Unit (see locations in unit map). When examining the status of the oil and gas wells, all seven of these wells were either permanently abandoned or had had expired permits between 1981 and 2009. All of the abandoned wells have been reclaimed and the expired permit status wells were never constructed. Therefore, they were not found to detract from the naturalness or to be substantially noticeable to the casual observer.

The Rotten Springs Unit also contains two man-made reservoirs (see locations on unit map and examples in photos 8-9). 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 total range improvements included the two reservoirs, two springs, one water well, and 9.3 miles of fence. However, while traveling through the central portion of the unit from west to east, the casual observer would only encounter one reservoir and no other range improvements with the exception of a fence at the eastern border.

In sum, the cumulative impacts on naturalness including the numerous primitive routes, wilderness inventory roads, and permanent range improvements have not impaired the naturalness in the Rotten Springs 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: The Rotten Springs unit offers opportunities for hunting, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, photography, bird watching, and sightseeing. The vast majority of the unit requires non-motorized access for participation in recreation opportunities. There is an absence of a foot trail system which increases opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The central portion of the unit can be very remote and, thus, provides challenge and risk for the casual Wyoming hiker.

(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: Rotten Springs WY-030-13N95W24-2012

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).

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: _____