

Name: **Rush Creek WY-030-27N87W3-2012**

**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:** N/A

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: **Rush Creek WY-030-27N87W3-2012**, Acreage 7026.96

(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 west by BLM Road 3148 a.k.a. Pete Creek Road as well as state and private land. The unit is bound on the south by BLM Road 3149 a.k.a. Pole Canyon Road. The unit is bound on the east by a pipeline right-of-way.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The Rush Creek area under consideration is 7,026.96 acres of BLM public land. The unit contains the following townships:

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION
t27n	r87w	27	t27n	r87w	10
t27n	r87w	28	t27n	r87w	9
t27n	r87w	23	t27n	r87w	8
t27n	r87w	22	t27n	r87w	1
t27n	r87w	21	t27n	r87w	2
t27n	r87w	13	t27n	r87w	3
t27n	r87w	14	t27n	r87w	4
t27n	r87w	15	t27n	r87w	5
t27n	r87w	16	t28n	r87w	35
t27n	r86w	7	t28n	r87w	34
t27n	r87w	12	t28n	r87w	33
t27n	r87w	11	t28n	r87w	28

The topography consists, primarily, of rolling prairie, buttes, ridges, hills, and drainages that flow into Rush Creek. Elevation ranges from 7,600 feet on the foothills of the Ferris Mountains above the drainages to, approximately, 6,500 feet at the bottom of the drainages. 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. The primary, dispersed recreational activity in the area is hunting.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes  No  N/A

Description: The 47.87 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 1-2, 5, and 8-9. When hiking across the Rush Creek 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 numerous range improvements, including two springs (photos 3-4) and 4.82 miles of fence (photos 4 and 6-7), were developed, 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 and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the Rush Creek 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: Rush Creek WY-030-27N87W3-2012**

### 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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**Reviewed by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis Carpenter, Field Manager

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_