

Name: Separation Rim WY-030-25N89W34-2012

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 _____ Yes (if yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas):

a) Inventory Source: BLM Rawlins FO 1979 Wilderness Inventory Hard Copy Files _____

b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s): _ Seven Lakes Initial Inventory WY-030-409 _____

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): ___ Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming Wilderness Review Serial No. 66700 _____

d) BLM District (s)/Field Office(s): ___ High Desert District/Rawlins Field Office _____

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):

The unit consists of approximately 400,000 acres north of the checkerboard and west of U.S. Highway 287. Man's activities are noticeable almost everywhere. Many roads, pipelines, power lines and telephone lines crisscross the area. In spite of the fact that many roadless tracts of 5,000 acres are found in the area, none have wilderness potential.

Inventory Source: M:\gis_workareas\Recreation\WSA\LandWilderCharc1979.shp

Area #/Name	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
Seven Lakes Initial Inventory WY-030-409	Yes (400,000 acres)	No	No	No	No

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Number/Name: **Separation Rim WY-030-25N89W34-2012** Acreage 6,002.45

(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 by BLM 3204 a.k.a. Bull Springs Road. The unit is bound on the south by private land. The unit is bound on the east by private and state land. The unit is bound on the west by a Class 5 4WD Road that was formerly graded as well as by private and state land and Bull Springs Road.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The Separation Rim area under consideration is 6002.45 acres of BLM public land. The unit contains the following townships:

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION
t24n	r89w	10	t25n	r89w	36
t24n	r89w	9	t25n	r89w	35
t24n	r89w	8	t25n	r89w	34
t24n	r89w	7	t25n	r89w	33
t24n	r89w	1	t25n	r89w	32
t24n	r89w	2	t25n	r89w	26
t24n	r89w	3	t25n	r89w	27
t24n	r89w	4	t25n	r89w	28
t24n	r89w	5	t25n	r89w	29
t24n	r89w	6			

The topography consists, primarily, of rolling prairie, buttes, hills, and drainages created by Separation Rim. Elevation ranges from 6,800 feet on the rim above the drainages to, approximately, 6,600 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 27.83 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) and .10 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 5, and 9-11. When hiking across the Separation Rim 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 untrammled by the works of man.

The Separation Rim Unit also contains a substantially noticeable, man-made, reservoir (see examples in photos 1 and 4). This reservoir is a borrow pit which is impounded on all sides with rectangular pit walls and a dike to impound the previously flowing water (see Section 2, T 22 N, R 89 W). The dike covers .21 surface acres. When the casual observer encounters the earthen impoundment, the linear and textual contrast on the landscape attracts the attention of the observer to this obvious man-made modification 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 the reservoir, the casual observer would notice that this body of water is not a natural lake and that they have encountered an impounded, muddy borrow pit. The hiker seeking refreshment from clean water, would quickly notice that this "reservoir" is designed for cattle operations where the water is unfit for human consumption or swimming. The casual observer would encounter a similar experience when seeking to replenish water supplies from other wells and reservoirs within this unit. The numerous range improvements, including the reservoir, two water wells (equipped with solar panels and tanks) and two fences, 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 untrammled 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.

The range improvements, including two springs, an enclosure, and 4.88 miles of fence (see examples in photos 6-8), 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 untrammled by the works of man. While the presence of cattle is compatible with a natural landscape for wilderness inventory purposes, the noticeable presence of 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 Separation Rim 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 untrammled 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: Separation Rim WY-030-25N89W34-2012

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.

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Team members:

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Date: _____