

Name: **South of Minerals X Road WY-030-24N91W18-2012**

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: **South of Minerals X Road WY-030-24N91W18-2012** Acreage
22,252.26

(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 east by Minerals Exploration Rd., an aggregate surfaced road maintained by Carbon County, as well as a section of state land. The unit is also bound on the east by private land. The unit is bound on the south by private land. The unit is bound on the west by a formerly graded, Class 5, 4wd road.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The South of Minerals X Road area under consideration is 22,252.26 acres of BLM public land. The unit contains the following townships:

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION
t23n	r92w	6	t24n	r92w	21
t23n	r93w	1	t24n	r92w	20
t24n	r92w	34	t24n	r90w	17
t24n	r92w	33	t24n	r90w	18
t24n	r92w	32	t24n	r91w	13
t24n	r92w	31	t24n	r91w	14
t24n	r91w	26	t24n	r91w	15
t24n	r91w	27	t24n	r91w	16
t24n	r91w	28	t24n	r91w	17
t24n	r91w	29	t24n	r91w	18
t24n	r91w	30	t24n	r92w	13
t24n	r92w	25	t24n	r92w	14
t24n	r92w	26	t24n	r92w	15
t24n	r92w	27	t24n	r92w	16
t24n	r92w	28	t24n	r92w	17
t24n	r92w	29	t24n	r90w	8
t24n	r90w	20	t24n	r90w	7
t24n	r90w	19	t24n	r91w	12

t24n	r91w	24	t24n	r91w	11
t24n	r91w	23	t24n	r91w	10
t24n	r91w	22	t24n	r91w	9
t24n	r91w	21	t24n	r91w	8
t24n	r91w	20	t24n	r91w	7
t24n	r91w	19	t24n	r92w	12
t24n	r92w	24	t24n	r92w	11
t24n	r92w	23	t24n	r92w	10
t24n	r92w	22			

The South of Minerals X Road area contains one section of state land within the central portion of the unit. The topography consists, primarily, of rolling prairie, buttes, hills, and drainages created by Stewart Creek and other unnamed drainages. Elevation ranges from 6,800 feet on the hills and sand dunes above the drainages to, approximately, 6,650 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 109.86 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) and .45 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 1-2, 4-7, 12 and 14. When hiking across the South of Minerals X Road 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 area contains three oil and gas wells throughout the South of Minerals X Road Unit (see example in Photo 3). When examining the status of the oil and gas wells, all three of these wells were permanently abandoned between 1968 and 1990. 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 South of Minerals X Road Unit also contains one man-made reservoir (see Photos 8-10). When the casual observer encounters this man-made borrow pit and impounded reservoir, 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 the reservoir, the casual observer would notice that it 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 range improvements, including the one reservoir, one water well, and 14.42 miles of fence (see photos 1 and 11), 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 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 South of Minerals X Road 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: South of Minerals X Road WY-030-24N91W18-2012

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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Date: _____