

Name: Uranium Mine West WY-030-24N93W31-2012

**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

<b>Area #/Name</b>	<b>Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)</b>	<b>Naturalness? Yes/No</b>	<b>Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No</b>	<b>Outstanding Primitive &amp; Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No</b>	<b>Supplemental Values? Yes/No</b>
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: **Uranium Mine West WY-030-24N93W31-2012, a subunit of Wild Horse Basin WYO-030-408** Acreage 14394.14

(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 the Rawlins Field Office Boundary. The unit is bound on the west by County Road 23 a.k.a. Wamsutter-Crooks Gap Rd. The unit is bound on the east by a Class 5 4WD Road that has been previously graded as well as private and state land. The unit is bound on the south by County Road 63.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The Uranium Mine West area under consideration is 14394.14 acres of BLM public land. The unit contains the following townships:

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION
t24n	r93w	31	t24n	r93w	4
t24n	r93w	27	t24n	r93w	5
t24n	r93w	28	t24n	r93w	6
t24n	r93w	29	t24n	r94w	1
t24n	r93w	30	t25n	r93w	35
t24n	r93w	22	t25n	r93w	34
t24n	r93w	21	t25n	r93w	33
t24n	r93w	20	t25n	r93w	32
t24n	r93w	19	t25n	r93w	31
t24n	r93w	14	t25n	r93w	26
t24n	r93w	16	t25n	r93w	27
t24n	r93w	17	t25n	r93w	28
t24n	r93w	18	t25n	r93w	29
t24n	r93w	11	t25n	r93w	23
t24n	r93w	10	t25n	r93w	14
t24n	r93w	9	t25n	r93w	15
t24n	r93w	8	t25n	r93w	22
t24n	r93w	7	t25n	r93w	15
t24n	r94w	12	t25n	r93w	16

t24n	r93w	2	t25n	r93w	21
t24n	r93w	3	t25n	r93w	20

The Uranium Mine West area contains an area of state land within the western portion of the unit. The topography consists, primarily, of rolling prairie, buttes, hills, and drainages created by Spring Draw, Eagle's Nest Draw, Osborne Draw, and Stratton Draw. Elevation ranges from 7,000 feet on the buttes 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 73.72 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) detract from the unit's naturalness. Examples of these primitive routes and wilderness inventory roads are demonstrated in photos 1-2, 6-9, 11, and 13. When hiking across the Uranium Mine West 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 area contains seven oil and gas wells throughout the Uranium Mine West Unit. When examining the status of these oil and gas wells, it was determined that these wells were permanently abandoned between 1965 and 1968. 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 range improvements only include one water well, which was constructed, primarily, for commercial grazing operations. When considered alone, this minor range improvement was not found to detract from the naturalness of the unit. However, when considered, cumulatively, with the other impacts within the unit, this range improvement was found to detract from the naturalness of the unit.

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 Uranium Mine West 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: Uranium Mine West WY-030-24N93W31-2012**

### 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.

**Prepared by: Christopher D. Jones**

Team members:

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**Reviewed by:**

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

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