

Appendix A

Wilderness Characteristics

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION

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** X (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas.):

a) Inventory Source: Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming Wilderness Inventory Situation Evaluation, January 1979.

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

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Rawlins, WY

2. BLM Inventory Findings 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):

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/ WY-030-409	Yes 400,000 acres	No	No	No	No

FORM 2**Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics
Evaluation of Lost Creek ISR Permit Area as a subsection of WY-030-409**Area Unique Identifier Seven Lakes/WY-030-409 Acreage: 400,000Lost Creek Permit Area Acreage (area being analyzed): 4,254 (plus adjacent lands)

If the inventory consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below),

Yes X No

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc).

The Permit Area is located in the northeast portion of Sweetwater County, south-central Wyoming. The Permit Area is within Township 25 North and Ranges 92 and 93 West of the Sixth Principal Meridian; and approximately centered at 42 degrees, eight minutes North latitude and 107 degrees, 51 minutes West longitude. It includes portions or the entirety of Sections 13 and 23 to 26 of Township 25 North, Range 93 West, and Sections 16 to 21 and 29 to 31 of Township 25 North, Range 92 West.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No X N/A

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description: (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities):

The 4,254 acres that create the Permit Area is owned almost entirely by BLM; most of the adjacent lands are BLM-owned as well. Approximately 15 percent of the Permit Area (Township 25 North, Range 92 West, Section 16) is owned by the State of Wyoming. Additionally, most of the surrounding land is also owned by the BLM. The Permit Area is geographically located in the northeastern portion of the Great Divide Basin. The regional rolling landscape has draws, rock outcroppings, ridges, and bluffs. The Permit Area is characterized by low relief (without notable geographic features), sagebrush-dominated plains, dissected by small, ephemeral drainage networks. The drainages are entirely ephemeral; there

is no perennial surface water present. Five major land uses have been identified: livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, dispersed recreation, minerals and energy development, and infrastructure. Three grazing allotments are found within the Permit Area: Stewart Creek, Cyclone Rim, and Green Mountain. The Permit Area also falls within the Sage Grouse Core Area and two Horse Management Areas, identifying the region as habit for these particular species. Dispersed recreation activities of the region include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, wild horse viewing, hunting, hiking, picnicking, rock hounding, horseback riding, mountain biking, and camping. Minerals and energy development in the region includes uranium, oil and natural gas, wind power, and coal and coal bed methane. Infrastructure in and around the project area includes dirt roads, fences, wells, and power lines.

While most of the human influence would be substantially unnoticeable when examined alone, the cumulative effect of the dirt roads, fences, wells, and power lines creates a landscape that has been significantly impacted by man. As such, the region was determined to not meet the naturalness criteria, and could not be considered as land with wilderness characteristics. See the attached photo documentation, which demonstrates several forms of human influence on the Permit Area and adjacent lands.

- (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 X

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 X

Description:

- (5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

Description:

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

ROUTE ANALYSIS

ROUTE ANALYSIS¹

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road² for wilderness inventory purposes.)

Wilderness Inventory Area Unique Identifier: Lost Creek ISR Permit Area

Route or Route Segment³ Name and/or Identifier: East and West Access Road

(Include Transportation Plan Identifier, if known; include route number supplied by citizen information when available.)

I. LOCATION: refer to attached map Figure 2 Aerial Photo of the Permit Area and BLM corporate data (GIS). List photo point reference (where applicable) or reference attached photo log:

Describe: The East Access Road travels from Sooner Road to the Lost Creek Permit Area. The West Access Road travels from Wamsutter-Crooks Gap Road to the Lost Creek Permit Area. The two roads meet in the middle of the Permit Area

II. ROUTE CONTEXT

A. Current Purpose⁴ (if any) of Route: (Examples: Rangeland/Livestock facilities (Stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Recreation, Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment).

Describe: This road is used to access a Mine Site. There is also a significant amount of rangeland that could be accessed via this roads.

¹ This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR part 4 or 1610.5-3.

² Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

- a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.
- b. Mechanical mean – Use of hand or power machinery or tools
- c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

³ If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (See Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria.

⁴ The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does not provide context for factors on which such a determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by the BLM when the need arises.

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

1. Is there a ROW associated with this route?
 Yes _____ No _____ Unknown X

2. If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW?

3. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?
 Yes _____ No _____ Unknown or N/A _____

Explain:

III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA

A. Evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means:

Yes _____ (if either A.1 or A.2 is checked "yes" below) No X (if both A.1 and A.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Construction: (Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?) Yes _____ No X

Examples: Paved____ Bladed____ Graveled____ Roadside Berms____ Cut/Fill____
 Other____

Describe: _____

2. Improvements: (Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?) Yes ____ No X If "yes": by Hand Tools ____ by Machine ____

Examples: Culverts____ Hardened Stream Crossings____ Bridges____
 Drainage____ Barriers____ Other____

Describe: _____

B. Maintenance: (Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure *relatively* regular and continuous use?): Yes ____ (if either B.1 or B.2 I checked "yes" below) No X (is bother B.1 and B.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?
 Yes_____ No X If "yes": by Hand Tools _____ by Machine _____

Explain: _____

2. If the route or route segment is in good⁵ condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable?

Yes _____ No X

Explain: _____

- C. Relatively regular and continuous use: (Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?) Yes X No _____

Describe evidence (e.g., direct, vehicles or vehicle tracks observed, or indirect, evidence of use associated with purpose of the route such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a *relatively* regular basis (i.e., regular and continuous use relative to the purpose(s) of the route).

Vehicle tracks are observed on this road frequently, as such, regular vehicle use is expected.

IV. CONCLUSION

Does the route or route segment meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road (i.e., are items III.A and III.B and all checked yes)?

Yes _____ = Wilderness Inventory Road

No X = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

Explanation:

Evaluator(s): Samantha Fox and Justin Seweryn Date: October 19, 2011

⁵ Good condition would be a condition that ensures regular and continuous use relative to the purposes of the route. Consider whether the route can be clearly followed in the field over its entire course and whether all or any portion of the route contains any impediments to travel.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY
INVENTORY MAPS

Figure 1 Land Ownership Within and Near the Lost Creek Project

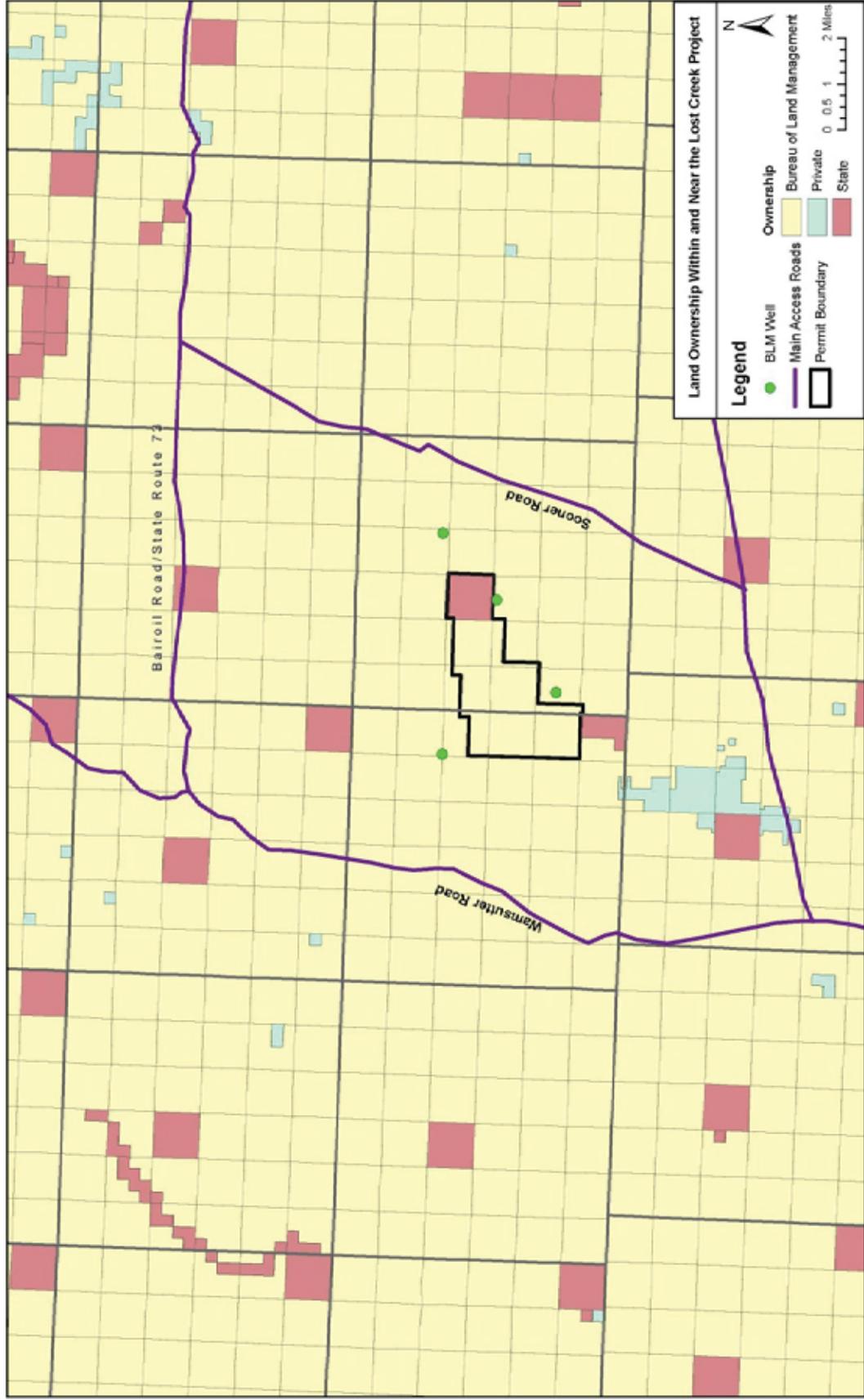


Figure 2 Aerial Photo of the Permit Area

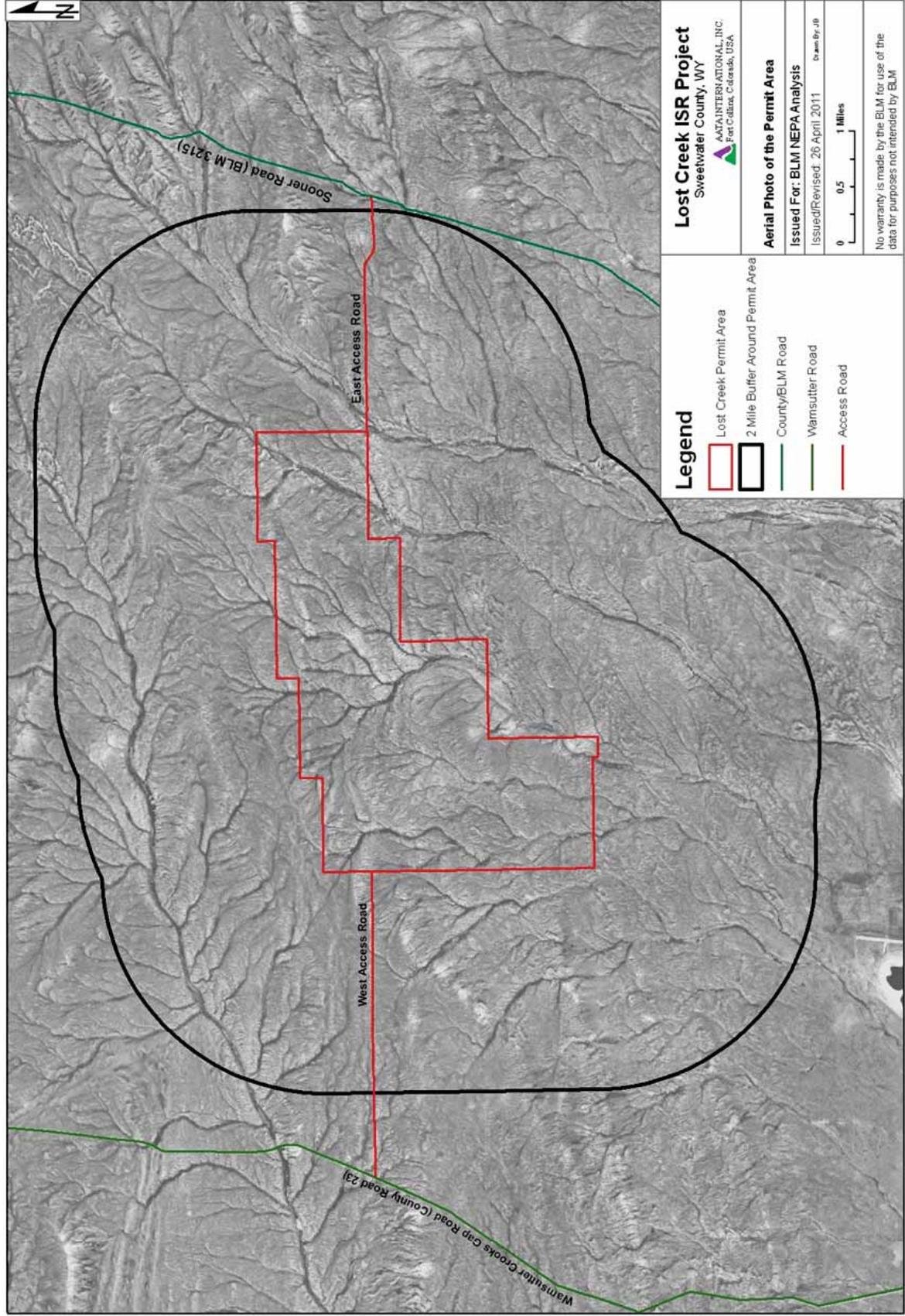


Figure 3 Existing Road Disturbance

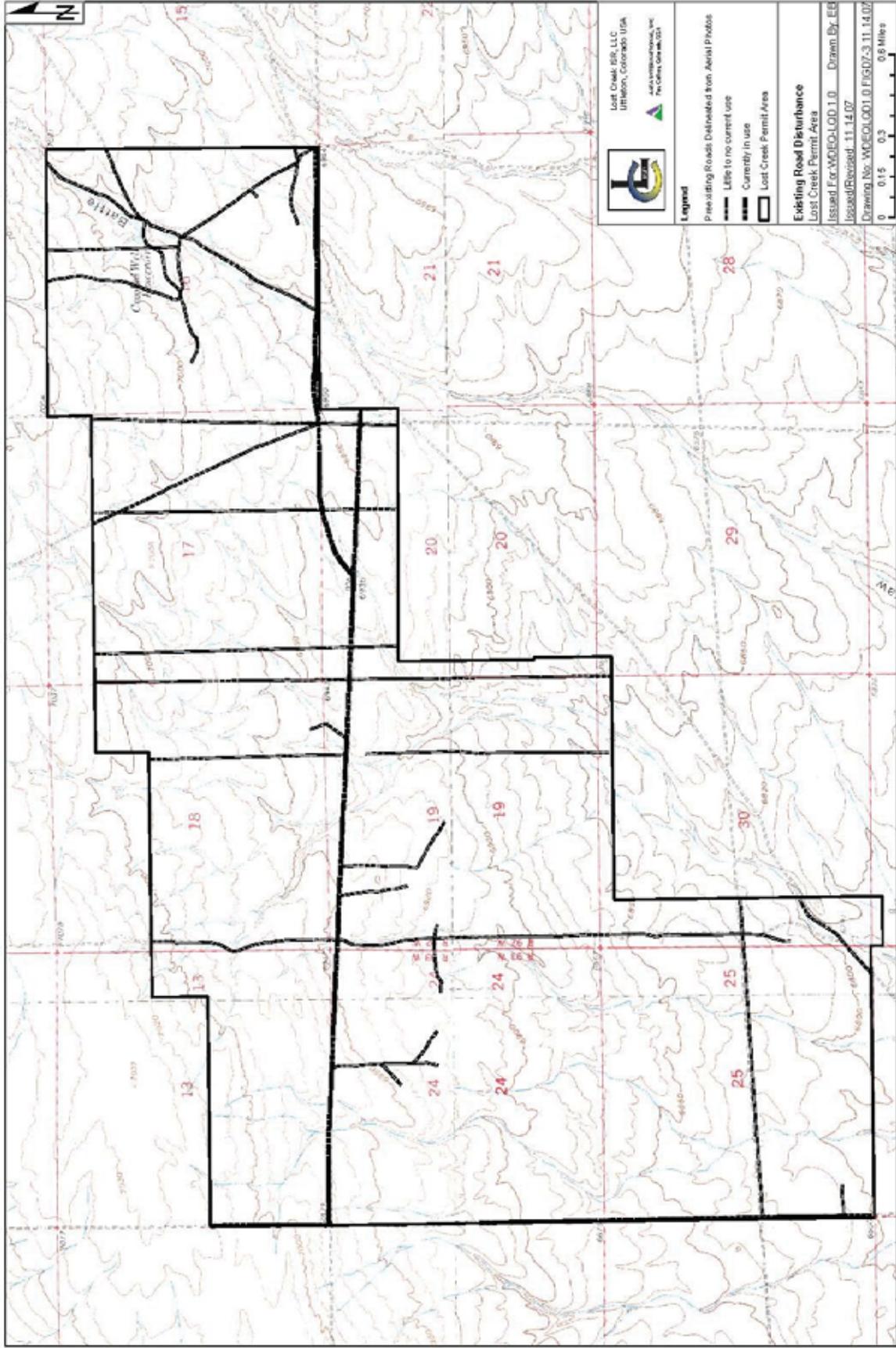
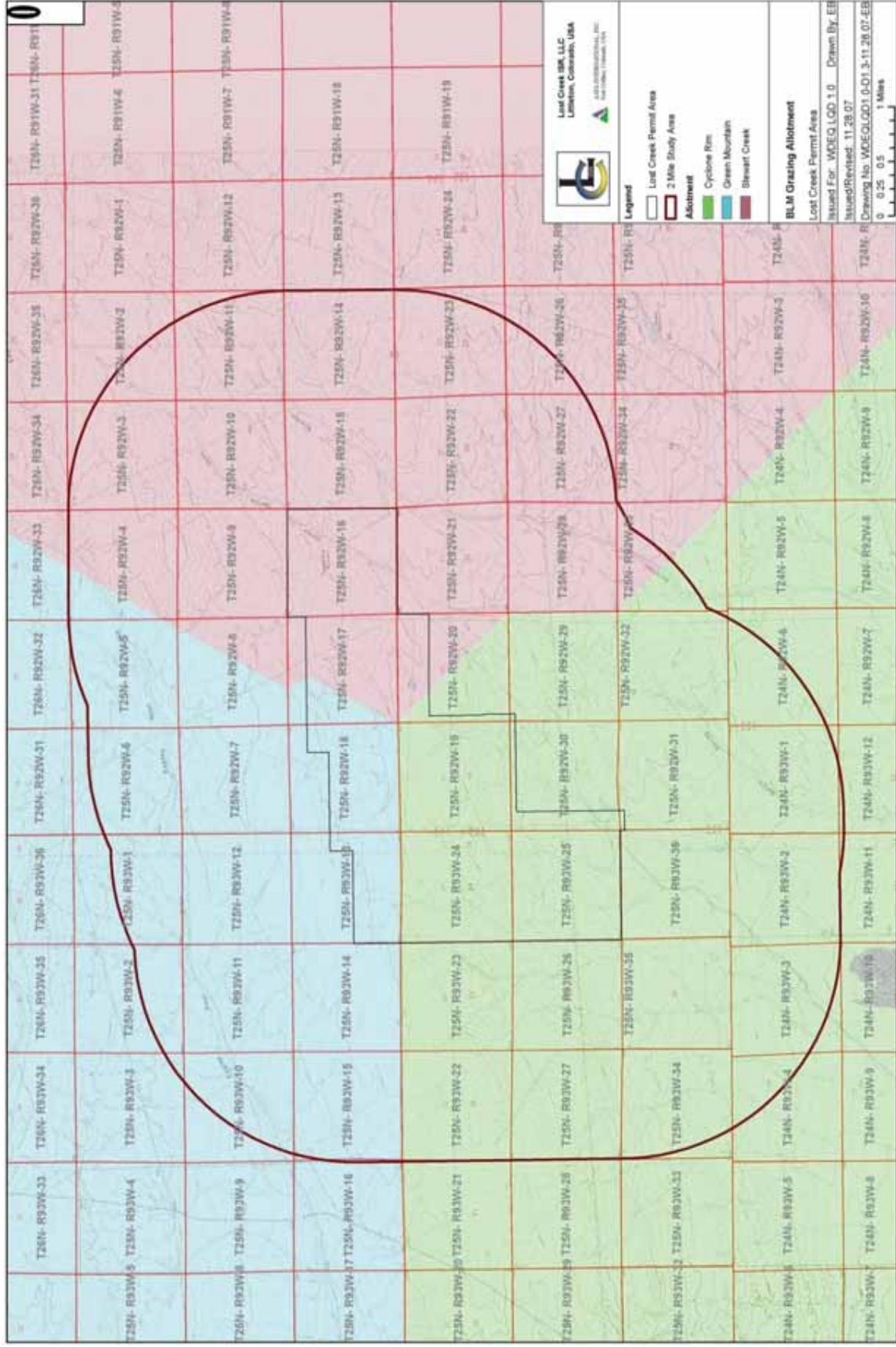


Figure 4 BLM Grazing Allotment



WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

PHOTOLOGPhotographer(s): Ethan Brown and Justin SewerynInventory Area Name & No.: Seven Lakes Inventory Unit, WY-030-049Subunit: Lost Creek ISR Permit Area

No.	Date	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location
1	10/17/2011	N	View from center of Lost Creek Permit Area facing north	0263877 4668203
2	10/17/2011	NE	View from center of Lost Creek Permit Area facing northeast	0263877 4668203
3	10/17/2011	E	View from center of Lost Creek Permit Area along potential Project Access Road, facing east	0263877 4668203
4	10/17/2011	SE	View from center of Lost Creek Permit Area facing southeast	0263877 4668203
5	10/17/2011	S	View from center of Lost Creek Permit Area facing south	0263877 4668203
6	10/17/2011	SW	View from center of Lost Creek Permit Area facing southwest	0263877 4668203
7	10/17/2011	W	View from center of Lost Creek Permit Area along potential Project Access Road, facing west	0263877 4668203
8	10/17/2011	NW	View from center of Lost Creek Permit Area facing northwest	0263877 4668203
9	10/17/2011	W	Mineral Exploration Road, looking west	N 42° 02.822" W 107° 51.717"
10	10/17/2011	E	BLM Well 4451, facing east	0266496 4668264
11	10/17/2011	S	BLM Well 4777, facing south	023575 4665834
12	10/17/2011	SW	Deep injection well water tank, facing southwest	0261372 4665688
13	10/17/2011	E	Deep injection well located in the southwest portion of the Permit Area, facing east	0261372 4665688
14	10/17/2011	N	Power lines and drilling operation along the western boundary of the permit area, looking north	0260941 4666716
15	10/17/2011	W	Fencing in the northwest corner of the Permit Area, facing west	0264224 4668437
16	10/17/2011	SE	Fencing in the northwest corner of the Permit Area, looking southeast.	0260986 4668437



1. View from center of Lost Creek Permit Area facing north



2. View from center of Lost Creek Permit Area facing northeast



3. View from center of Lost Creek Permit Area along potential Project Access Road, facing east



4. View from center of Lost Creek Permit Area facing southeast



5. View from center of Lost Creek Permit Area facing south



6. View from center of Lost Creek Permit Area facing southwest



7. View from center of Lost Creek Permit Area along potential Project Access Road, facing west



8. View from center of Lost Creek Permit Area facing northwest



9. Mineral Exploration Road, looking west



10. BLM Well 4451, facing east



11. BLM Well 4777, facing south



12. Deep injection well water tank, facing southwest



13. Deep injection well located in the southwest portion of the Permit Area, facing east



14. Power lines and drilling operation along the western boundary of the permit area, looking north



15. Fencing in the northwest corner of the Permit Area, facing west



16. Fencing in the northwest corner of the Permit Area, looking southeast