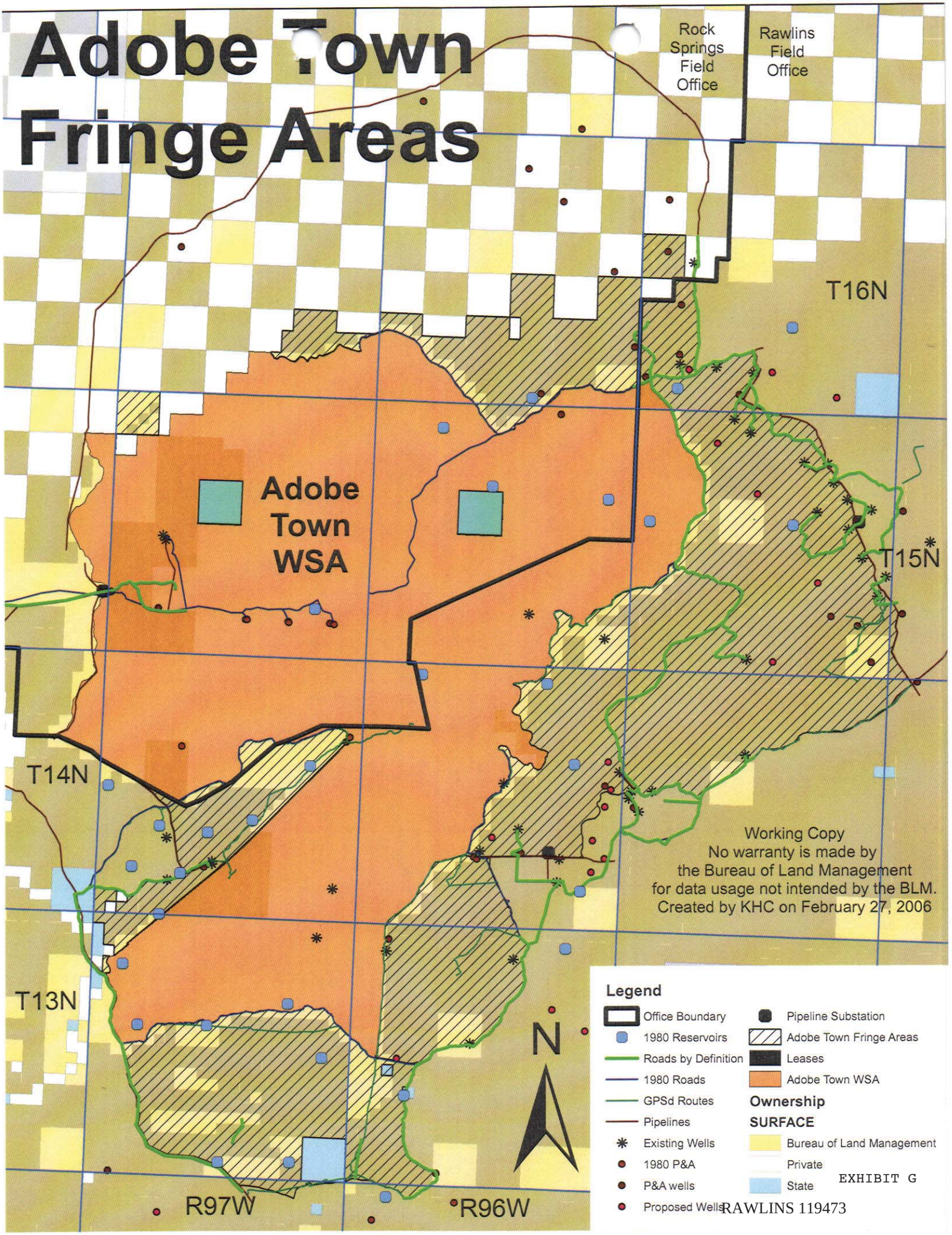
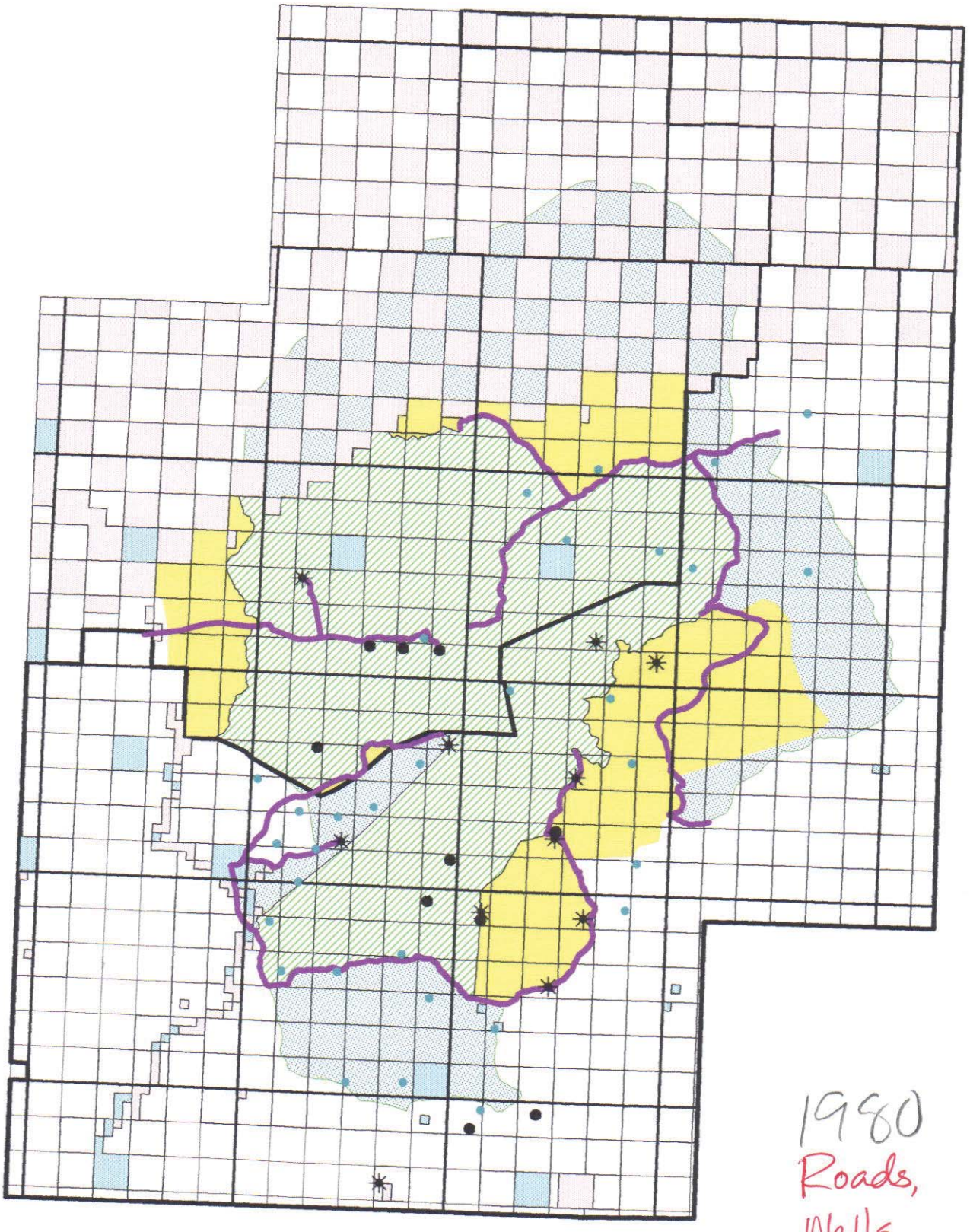
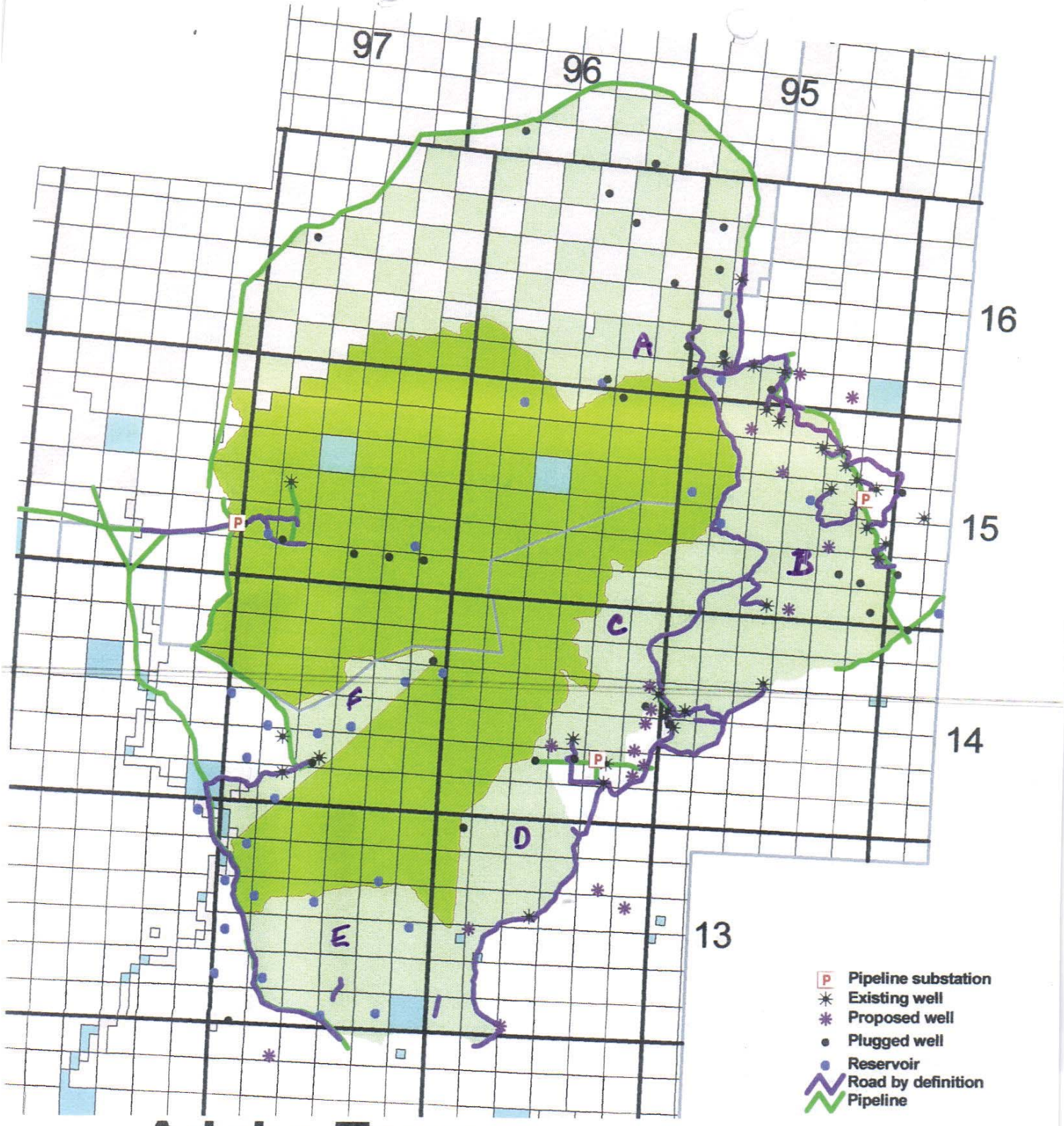

Adobe Town Fringe Areas
Rock Springs Field Office
Rawlins Field Office
T16N
T15N
T14N
T13N
Adobe Town WSA
R97W
R96W
N
Working Copy
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for data usage not intended by the BLM.
Created by KHC on February 27, 2006
Legend
Office Boundary
1980 Reservoirs
Roads by Definition
1980 Roads
GPSd Routes
Pipelines
Existing Wells
1980 P&A
P&A wells
Proposed Wells
Pipeline Substation
Adobe Town Fringe Areas
Leases
Adobe Town WSA
Ownership
SURFACE
Bureau of Land Management
Private
State

EXHIBIT G



1980
Roads,
Wells
& Reservoirs



Adobe Town Area Inventory November 2001

RAWLINS 119475

Area	Area in Acres
A	9231
B	23557
C	10569
D	7536
E	14027
F	5830
Total	70,750

WY- 030 - 411 **Adobe Town Fringe**

INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION

Revised After IM 2003-275

I. Description:

The original citizens' proposal was comprised of approximately 206,400 acres, 87,162 acres of which were in the existing Adobe Town WSA. For evaluation purposes, private, state, checkerboard and other non-contiguous BLM lands were eliminated from this inventory. Minor adjustments to the inventory boundary were also made in the interest of manageability considerations, none of which would alter the outcome of the inventory evaluation. The total acreage within the adjusted evaluation area is approximately 71, 200. The proposal is located primarily in T13-16N, R 95-97W in southeastern Sweetwater County, Wyoming, surrounding the Adobe Town WSA.

The major human uses in the unit include livestock grazing management and big game hunting in the fall. Oil and gas leases exist in the majority of the proposal, and some of the area has been developed for oil and gas.

Most of the proposal area was included in the initial wilderness inventory conducted in the Great Divide Resource Area, and portions of it were later included in the intensive inventory conducted prior to the creation of the Adobe Town WSA.

II. Wilderness Character Analysis:

A. Naturalness:

The imprints of man are substantially unnoticeable in portions of the proposed area, however the presence of oil and gas industrialization and range management activities are noticeable, particularly from access routes developed for these industries. Numerous reservoirs, wells and associated roads and facilities are scattered throughout the inventory area. Only the size of the proposal prevents these impacts from detracting from the sense that the area is largely natural.

Summary: Does the area generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of people's work substantially unnoticeable?

YES __X__ NO _____

B. Outstanding Opportunity for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

1. Solitude

Some portions of the inventory area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Other areas, primarily in T15-16N, R95W and T14N, R96W have substantial new and existing mineral development that impairs the sense of solitude with industrial traffic, dust and noise. These townships make up nearly half of the inventory area. The presence of the adjacent WSA is a significant contributor to those areas that do offer outstanding soiltude.

RAWLINS 119477

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

YES__X__ NO_____

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

This area would be suitable for activities such as hiking, hunting, backpacking, rock hounding, wild horse viewing, photography, and primitive camping. The area is expansive, with open vistas, so visitors would find the area a desirable place to participate in non-motorized recreation activities. Unconfined recreational opportunities are considered to be outstanding, in part due to the proximity to the Adobe Town WSA.

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?

YES __X____ NO _____

C. Value:

While cultural sites, limited wildlife, wild horses, and badlands geological formations are present in the inventory area, none of them are present in quality or quantity that is exceptional in the region. These resources are not in unique, relevant or important in the region.

YES _____ NO __X____

D. Need:

Trend: Impacts to this area have remained fairly stable for the long term, but increased mineral development is probable. Almost all of these lands are leased.

Risk: Foreseeable visitation and grazing levels do not pose a threat to the condition of this area, although there is potential for conflicts between visitors and industrial traffic. Management objectives for this area call for multiple use, including mineral development. The most unique geologic formations and ecosystems are within the existing Adobe Town WSA, not in this inventory area and therefore not at risk.

YES _____ NO __X____

E. Practical to Manage:

Almost the entire inventory area is leased for oil and gas. Managing for wilderness character (NSO or more restrictive actions) would constitute a taking. Evidence of industrial development is already evident from most roads or vehicle routes near the area's perimeter. The lack of unique or regionally significant resources makes management of ordinary resources for naturalness unreasonable.

YES _____ NO __X____

III. Summary:

Results of wilderness character analysis:

A.	Does the area appear to be natural?	Yes
B.	Does the area have outstanding opportunities for:	
	Solitude	Yes
	Primitive and unconfined type of recreation?	Yes
C.	Is the area of sufficient value to warrant protection?	No
D.	Does the area need protection (trend and risk)?	No
E.	Would the area be practical to manage for wilderness character?	No

IV. Conclusion:

_____ The area or a portion of the area has wilderness character.

___X__ The area does not have wilderness character.

Prepared by: Krystal Clair Date: 03/29/2006

Title: Outdoor Recreation Planner, Rawlins Field Office

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Title: Field Manager, Rawlins Field Office

Briefing Paper on the Adobe Town Fringe Evaluations

Rawlins Field Office, February 2006

- The Adobe Town WSA, which covers 85,710 acres shared by the Rawlins and Rock Springs Field Office, is managed according to H-8550-1, Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review. This acreage includes 3360 acres of split estate and 1280 acres of state land. The WSA was studied under Section 603 of FLPMA and the Adobe Town-Ferris Mountains EIS was filed in January 1988. The WSA contains very colorful and rugged desert badlands that are portions of an ancient inland sea, rich with paleontological and archaeological resources. The Skull Creek Rim area contains virtually no evidence of modern man.

- In 2001, when the Rawlins Field Office was reviewing the Adobe Town Citizens' Proposal for Wilderness, wilderness characteristics were evaluated for the "fringe areas" according to the criteria contained in the Wilderness Inventory and Study Procedures Handbook (H-6310-1) dated January 10, 2000. These criteria included size, naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation, and supplemental values. Portions were found to have wilderness characteristics per the 2001 evaluation.

- IM No. 2003-195, dated 6/23/2003, rescinded H-1610-1, making the 2001 evaluation of wilderness character invalid.

- Instruction Memorandum No. 2003 - 275 - Change 1, Consideration of Wilderness Characteristics in Land Use Planning, Attachment 1, defined "wilderness characteristics" as:

  - Features of the land associated with the concept of wilderness that may be considered in land use planning when BLM determines that those characteristics are reasonably present, of sufficient value (condition, uniqueness, relevance, importance) and need (trend, risk), and are practical to manage.

- In reviewing the data gathered in the 2001 field inventory of the Adobe Town Citizens' Proposal for Wilderness ("fringes"), the Rawlins Field Office staff concluded that the fringes did not possess wilderness characteristics according to the above definition due to a lack of sufficient value and need.

- The Rawlins Field Office staff then completed ACEC Relevance and Importance forms for the Adobe Town fringes and concluded that these areas did not meet ACEC criteria.

- In light of these conclusions, the Rawlins Field Office staff intends to withdraw consideration of special protections for the fringes, including the proposed VRM Class II, and leave it as VRM Class III.

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