



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Rawlins Field Office
P.O. Box 2407 (1300 North Third Street)
Rawlins, Wyoming 82301-2407

In Reply Refer To:
8500
Kinney Rim South

MAR 19 2003

Mr. Erik Molvar
Biodiversity Conservation Alliance
P.O. Box 1512
Laramie, Wyoming 82070

Dear Mr. Molvar:

This letter is in response to your "Citizens' Wilderness Inventory," submitted in March 2002 for the Kinney Rim South area that included approximately 118,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management-administered public lands in Wyoming and Colorado. You provided information on potential wilderness characteristics in the Rawlins, Rock Springs, and Little Snake Field areas.

This information was compared to our existing data bases and field reviews within the Kinney Rim South area. We evaluated this information using guidance provided in the Wilderness Inventory and Study Procedures Handbook H-6310-1. As a result of this evaluation, it was determined that the public lands located in the Kinney Rim South area do not have wilderness characteristics.

We have enclosed the inventory evaluation report for your information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ted Murphy, Assistant Field Manager for Minerals, at (307) 352-0321; John Husband, Field Manager, at (970) 826-500; or me at (307) 328-4200.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten Signature]
ACTING
Field Manager

Enclosures

cc: Field Manager, Rock Springs (w/o encls.)
Field Manager, Little Snake (w/o encls.)
Eric Finstick, CSO (931) (w/o encls.)
Gene Schaaf, WSO (930) (w/o encls.)
Andy Tenney, WSO (930) (w/o encls.)
Brenda Neuman, WSO (921) (w/o encls.)

EXHIBIT F

H-6310-1-Wilderness Inventory and Study Procedures
INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION

Name & No. WY030/040-CO100-Kinney Rim South

I. Description:

This unit is comprised of 118,143 acres of BLM-administered public lands located in T. 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 N., R.97, 98 and 99 W. The area is located in south-central Sweetwater County, Wyoming and northern Moffat County, Colorado. The area is made up of rolling hills of stabilized sand dunes, incised with a few washes. The topography becomes more like badlands in the Colorado portion of the area where it drops below the face of Kinney Rim. The major geological feature in this unit is Kinney Rim. The vegetation is primarily sagebrush, grasses, rabbit brush, and a few scattered junipers.

The major human uses in the unit include livestock grazing management, oil and gas exploration and development, and big game hunting in the fall.

II. Wilderness Character Analysis:

A. Size:

Approximate Acreage:

Inventory area= 118,143 acres of BLM-administered lands

Subunit(s) C= 50,476 acres of BLM

D= 37,705 acres of BLM

E= 29,962 acres of BLM

Contiguous WSA (or other lands with wilderness character): Yes

Narrative: The Kinney Rim South Inventory unit was broken into three sub-units for ease of inventory and each sub-unit boundary is based on an improved road, two-track trail, or non-public land boundary. Sub-unit E is contiguous with the Adobe Town WSA on its northern tip. Small portions of Area D and Area E are within Colorado.

AREA C:

Summary: 1. Does the area have at least 5,000 acres of contiguous land or is it of sufficient size to make practicable and use in an unimpaired condition?

YES X NO _____

AREA D:

Summary: 1. Does the area have at least 5,000 acres of contiguous land or is it of sufficient size to make practicable and use in an unimpaired condition?

YES _____ NO _____

AREA E:

Summary: 1. Does the area have at least 5,000 acres of contiguous land or is it of sufficient size to make practicable and use in an unimpaired condition?

YES _____ NO _____

B. Naturalness:

AREA C:

Narrative: The imprints of man are distributed fairly evenly throughout the area. There are 3 plugged wells and one existing well in the north half of the area, as well as one well under construction in the center of the area at the end of a 4.5 mile crowned and ditched road. Several prominent seismic lines bisect the area. They have become major thoroughfares for vehicular traffic, which prevents them from revegetating. The area contains many two-track trails that create visual intrusions in the area. There are 16 man-made reservoirs in the area which rise primarily out of low relief terrain. The reservoirs are distributed across the eastern half of the area. There are two dump sites containing non-hazardous refuse. The wide crowned and ditched route over Kinney Rim, Sweetwater County Road 19, is visible from almost all of Area C.

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 _____ NO _____

AREA D:

Narrative: The imprints of man are noticeable throughout much of Area D. The western half of the area has 4 active oil and gas wells, 7 plugged and abandoned gas wells, and one water well. Several seismic lines scar the area with strong linear features which are not revegetating due to vehicular use and low yearly precipitation. The area contains many two-track trails that create visual intrusions. There are 7 corrals, wreckage from an old water tower structure, and three dumps that add to the visibility of human presence. 5 livestock reservoirs rise above the flatter ground beyond the alluvial fans below the rim. These developments intrude noticeably on the area.

Name & No. WY-030/040-CO100-Kinney Rim South

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 _____ NO X _____

AREA E: Narrative: The imprint of man is quite evident in much of Area E. Four crowned and ditched roads protrude into Area E along with one large pipeline substation. There is a maze of old seismic lines that imposes linear scarring across much of the area. There is a high number of two-track trails within the unit which creates a visual intrusion upon the landscape. There are 17 reservoirs, 4 corrals, 15 plugged and abandoned gas wells, 2 dump sites, wreckage from a water tower and a dwelling, an abandoned wind sock, a wild horse trap, and a log structure which make mans' presence evident.

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 _____ NO X _____

C. Outstanding Opportunity for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation
1. Solitude

AREA C:

Narrative: Overall all, Kinney Rim lacks the vegetative screening to shield user activities from one another. It would be difficult for a few user groups to feel isolated in this country. The sights and sounds of man's current activities are present throughout this area. This area does not posses outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

YES _____ NO X _____

AREA D:

Narrative: The sights and sounds of man's activities in Area D affect the possibility for outstanding opportunities for solitude in this area. This area is rangeland and lacks diverse topographical and vegetative features to shield user's activities from one another.

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

YES _____ NO X _____

AREA E:

Narrative: Area E does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude due to man's activities and lack of topographic and vegetative screening.

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

YES _____ NO X _____

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

AREA C:

Narrative: This area would be suitable for activities such as hiking, hunting, backpacking, rock hounding, photography, wild horse viewing, and primitive camping. The area is not what is generally perceived as scenic, so most recreationists, with the exception of hunters and wild horse viewers, would more likely choose other areas in which to recreate. Unconfined recreational opportunities are not considered to be outstanding in this area.

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

YES _____ NO X _____

AREA D:

Narrative: This area would be suitable for activities such as hiking, hunting, backpacking, photography, wild horse viewing, and primitive camping. The area is not what is generally perceived as scenic, so most recreationists, with the exception of hunters and wild horse viewers, would more likely choose other areas in which to recreate. Unconfined recreational opportunities are generally not considered to be outstanding in this area.

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

YES _____ NO X _____

AREA E:

Narrative: This area would be suitable for activities such as hiking, hunting, backpacking, rock hounding, photography, wild horse viewing, and primitive camping. The area is not what is generally perceived as scenic, so most recreationists, with the exception of hunters and wild horse viewers, would more likely choose other areas in which to recreate. Unconfined recreational opportunities are generally not considered to be outstanding in this area.

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

YES _____

NO X

D. Supplemental Values:

AREA C:

Narrative: The Adobe Town Herd Management Area supports one of the largest wild horse herds in Wyoming.

Summary: Does the area contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value?

YES X

NO _____

AREA D:

Narrative: The Adobe Town Herd Management Area supports one of the largest wild horse herds in Wyoming.

Summary: Does the area contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value?

YES X

NO _____

AREA E:

Narrative: The Adobe Town Herd Management Area supports one of the largest wild horse herds in Wyoming.

Summary: Does the area contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value?

YES X

NO _____

III. Summary:

AREA C:

Results of wilderness character analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? X Yes ___ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ___ Yes X No
3. Does the area have outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ___ Yes X No
4. Does the area have supplemental values? X Yes _____ No

AREA D:

Results of wilderness character analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? X Yes ___ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ___ Yes X No
3. Does the area have outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ___ Yes X No
4. Does the area have supplemental values? X Yes ___ No

AREA E:

Results of wilderness character analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? X Yes ___ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ___ Yes X No
3. Does the area have outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ___ Yes X No
4. Does the area have supplemental values? X Yes ___ No

IV. Conclusion:
Check one:

Area C:

- The area or a portion of the area has wilderness character.
 The area does not have wilderness character.

Area D:

- The area or a portion of the area has wilderness character.
 The area does not have wilderness character.

Area E:

- The area or a portion of the area has wilderness character.
 The area does not have wilderness character.

Prepared by: Krystal Clair

Date: 9/27/02

Title: Outdoor Recreation Planner, Rawlins Field Office

Approved by: Kurt G. Kotten

Date: 14 Feb 2003

Title: Field Manager, Rawlins Field Office

Approved by: Fred A. Miller

Date: 2-18 03

Title: Field Manager, ~~Rock Springs~~ Field Office

Approved by: John S. Husel

Date: 3/10/03

Title: Field Manager, Little Snake Field Office (concur with findings of the Rawlins and Rock Springs Field Office Managers' on the Kinney Rim South portions within Colorado).