

## H-6300-1-WILDERNESS INVENTORY MAINTENANCE

### APPENDIX A – PERMANENT DOCUMENTATION FILE

The permanent documentation file should include the following:

1. **Inventory Area Evaluation:** Appendix B.
2. **Route Analysis:** Appendix C.
3. **Inventory Maps:** Inventory maps used in conducting and documenting findings of wilderness inventories must be retained. Maps should depict the area name or number, boundary, and any photo points.
4. **Photo Documentation:** Documentation could include a descriptive log and photographs (Appendix D).
5. **Miscellaneous:** Include additional notes, forms, and documents.

## H-6300-1-WILDERNESS INVENTORY MAINTENANCE

### APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION

#### Evaluation of Current Conditions:

1) Document and review the existing BLM wilderness inventory findings on file regarding the presence or absence of individual wilderness characteristics, using Form 1, below.

2) Consider relevant information regarding current conditions available in the office to identify and describe any changes to the existing information use interdisciplinary team knowledge, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc., and document your findings on Form 2, below. Document current conditions regarding wilderness characteristics, as opposed to potential conditions that may result from a future planning decision.

Conduct field reviews as necessary to verify information and to ascertain current conditions. Reach conclusions on current conditions including boundaries, size of areas and presence or absence of wilderness characteristics. Fully explain the basis for each conclusion on Form 2, including any critical differences between BLM and citizen information.

Document your findings regarding current conditions for each inventoried area. Describe how the present conditions are similar to, or have changed from, the conditions documented in the original wilderness inventory. Document your findings on Form 2 for each inventory area. Cite to or attach data considered, including photographs, maps, GIS layers, field trip notes, project files, etc.

## Citizen's Wilderness Proposal

A coalition of environmental conservation organizations, led by the Wyoming Wilderness Association, submitted "Wilderness at Risk – The Citizen's Wilderness Proposal for Wyoming BLM Lands" on February 13, 2004. The narrative report calls for additional protection to wildlands across the State of Wyoming. Within the High Plains District, Buffalo Field Office, the coalition proposes additions to Fortification Creek, Gardner Mountain, and North Fork WSAs. The map provided was sufficient to determine the boundaries of the citizen wilderness proposals (CWPs).

The narrative describes natural resource values and outlines potential wilderness characteristics of the area. However, the CWP does not provide any new information regarding the wilderness values of the area. Detailed information regarding the status of roads and other boundary features was not provided. A single photograph of the scenery was provided with the proposal, but photographic documentation of any new evidence was absent.

**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 more than one unit is within the area, list the names/numbers of those units.)

a) **Inventory Source:** 1979 Fortification Creek Wilderness Inventory

b) **Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s):** Fortification Creek (WY-060-204)

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** Gillette and Buffalo 1:100K Quads

d) **BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):** High Plains District/Buffalo Field Office

**2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:**

*Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory unit is associated with the area, list each unit and answer each question individually for each inventory unit):*

The BLM Buffalo Field Office conducted an inventory of wilderness characteristics in the Fortification Creek area in 1978 and 1979 in accordance with the requirements of Section 603(c) of the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). As a result of this study, the BLM determined that a portion of the Fortification Creek area met the requirements of the wilderness study process. In total, 12,419 acres were recommended to Congress as a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) for further examination and were subsequently designated as the Fortification Creek WSA. The BLM-administered lands outside of the WSA, including the acreage that constitutes the CWP, did not meet the wilderness inventory requirements (BLM, 1979). Table 1 summarizes the findings of the 1979 Fortification Creek Wilderness Inventory. Figure 1 illustrates the administrative boundaries of the Fortification Creek WSA and the CWP. For the purposes of this analysis, the CWP was divided into subunits based on road inventory data.

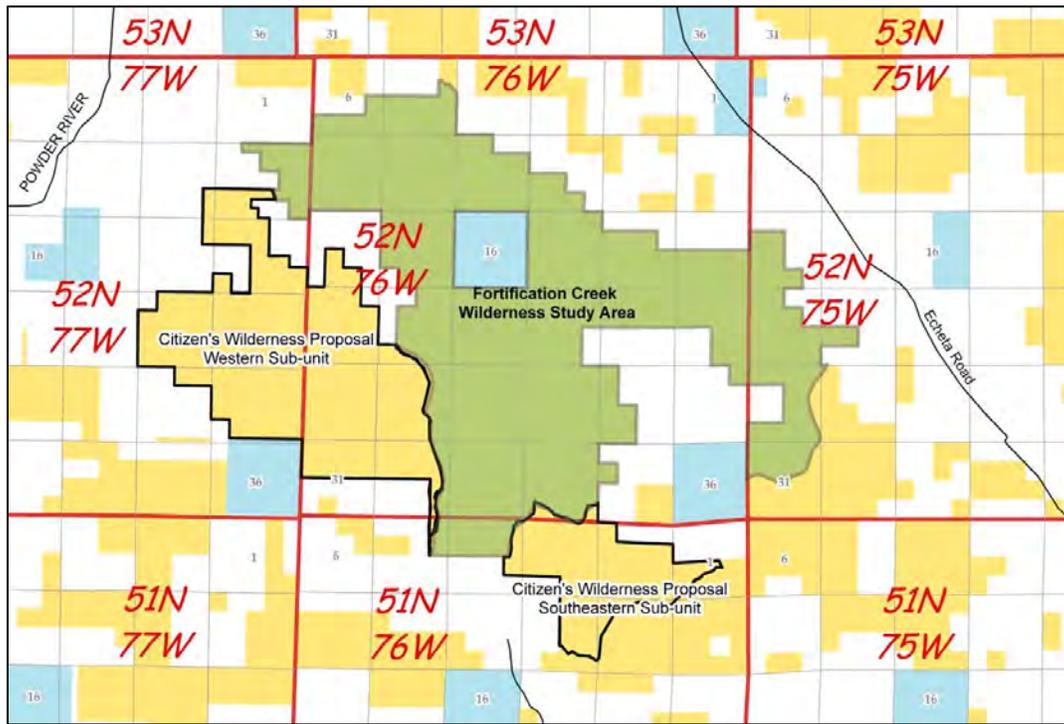
Table 1. Summary of Findings of 1979 Fortification Creek Wilderness Inventory (BLM, 1979).

Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
Fortification Creek WSA	12,419	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Fortification Creek CWP- Southeastern Sub-Unit	1,705*	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fortification Creek CWP- Western Sub-Unit	5,420*	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

\* Calculated in ArcGIS 9.3.

Figure 1. Fortification Creek Wilderness Study Area and Citizen's Wilderness Proposal Sub-Units.



**FORM 2**

**Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics**

a. Area Number/Name: Fortification Creek Citizen's Wilderness Proposal- Southeast Sub-Unit  
Acreage: 1,705 acres

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

The CWP Southeastern sub-unit is 1,705 acres and is separated from the Fortification Creek WSA by a mechanically constructed and maintained road, adjacent to a fenceline, currently used for livestock operations. The boundary road has been verified to be an existing constructed route passable to vehicles and used regularly. Tracks indicated that a vehicle had been on the road within a week prior to the BLM road verification visit December 21, 2010. The southeastern sub-unit consists of BLM administered lands outside of the Fortification Creek WSA in T 52 N R 76 W Section 34 and T 51 N R 76 W Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 10 and 11. The entire southeastern sub-unit is located within Campbell County, Wyoming. The sub-unit boundary is formed by two roads in conjunction with land tenure. Figures 2 and 3 include aerial imagery (NAIP, 2006) depicting the existing roads in the Fortification Creek CWP southeastern sub-unit.

Figure 2. 2006 Aerial Imagery Depicting Northern Boundary Road of Fortification Creek Citizen's Wilderness Proposal Southeastern Sub-Unit.



Figure 3. 2006 Aerial Imagery Depicting Southern Boundary Road of Fortification Creek Citizen's Wilderness Proposal Southeastern Sub-Unit.



**DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS:**

*(Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).*

Elevations within the CWP southeastern sub-unit range from approximately 4,160 ft to 4,690 ft. Slopes exceed 25% in much of the area and can exceed 30%. Vegetation in the Fortification Creek area is characterized as a mosaic of vegetation types that includes mixed grasslands, shrublands, overflow draw bottoms, and juniper woodlands. Crested wheatgrass, an invasive species and an indicator of human modification, is noticeable and prevalent throughout the southeastern sub-unit. An intermittent stream runs through Cedar Draw.

The sub-unit is within elk crucial winter, parturition, and yearlong range. While elk are the primary wildlife species of interest, other wildlife are present throughout the area including pronghorn antelope, mule deer, raptors, small mammals, game birds, waterfowl, amphibians, reptiles, and migratory birds.

Adjacent landowners are the Hayden Trust to the west and Floyd Land & Livestock Company to the east. The southeastern sub-unit is within the Fort Creek and Windmill Draw grazing allotments.

Fort Creek (Allotment #12151)

- Permittee: Kerry Hayden

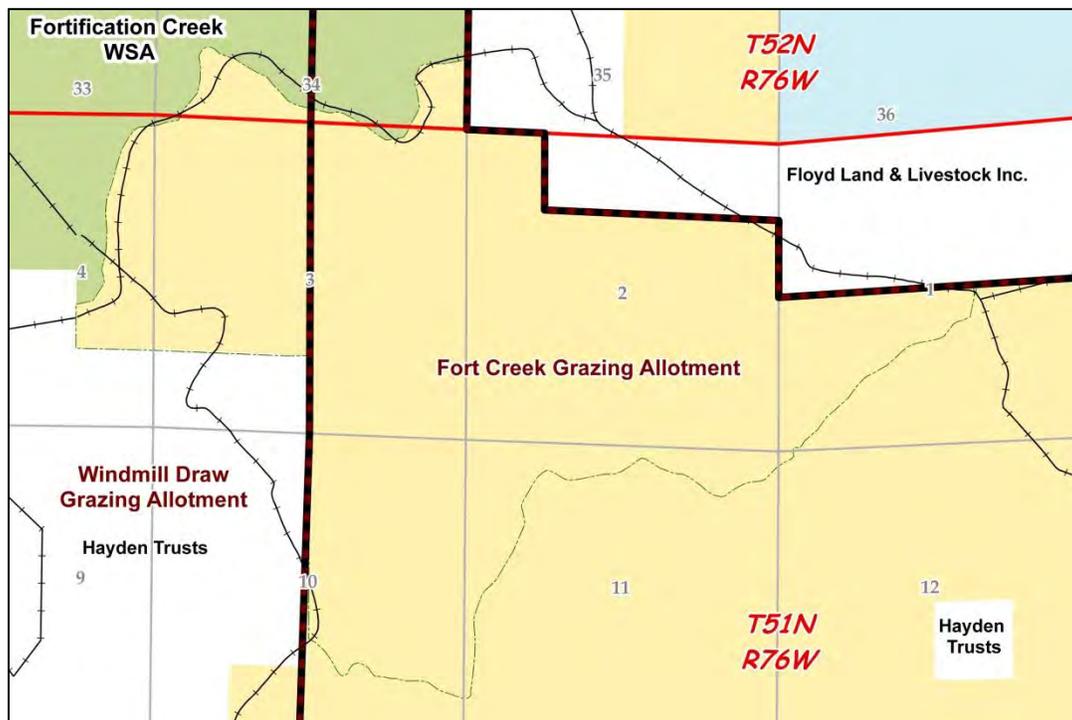
- Lease #4907242
- 172 Cattle 3/1-2/28 on 31% Public Forage
- 640 AUMs total

Windmill Draw (Allotment #16508)

- Permittee: Lora Amie Revocable Trust
- Lease #4914472
- 245 Cattle 3/1-2/28 on 53% Public Forage
- 1558 AUMs total

The portion of the allotment within the CWP southeastern sub-unit is largely one pasture, with portions of T 51 N R 76 W Sec 3, 4 and 10 being part of a second pasture. Land tenure, grazing allotment boundaries and approximate fence locations are depicted in Figure 4.

Figure 4. Land Tenure and Range Management Features within the Fortification Creek Citizen's Wilderness Proposal Southeastern Sub-Unit.

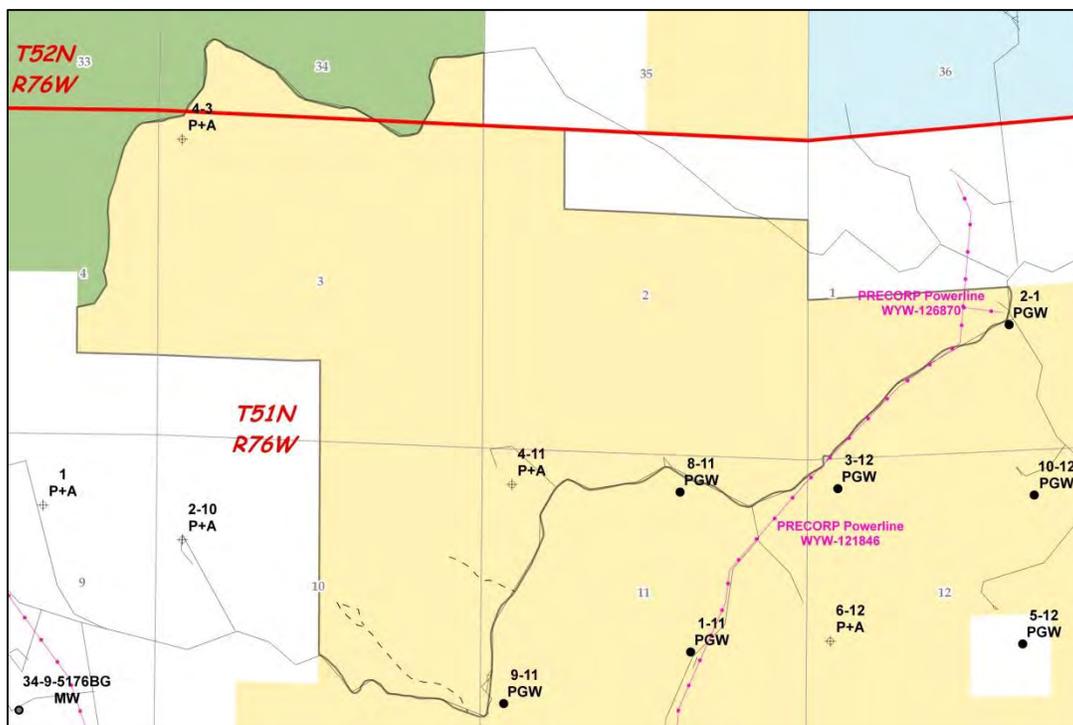


\*\* Fencelines displayed as hatched lines; boundary of sub-unit is displayed as a faint green line.

The State Engineer Office (SEO) of Wyoming database indicates that several stock water ponds exist within the vicinity of the southeastern sub-unit. These reservoirs were not verified during the monitoring trips and the locations provided by the SEO are approximate. The Elk stock reservoir (P4486.0S) is visible in aerial photos and is within the CWP. Reservoirs within or near the CWP southeastern unit that could not be verified include Roan Horse (P2606.0S) and Bullhead (P2626.0S).

Two plugged and abandoned (P&A) wells are located within the CWP southeastern unit. The P&A wells were not recontoured and were reclaimed with crested wheatgrass, an invasive species. Additional producing gas wells exist along the southern boundary road outside of the CWP. There are two rights-of-ways on record for roads including WYW-158710 by Lance Petroleum and W-86221 by Plaza Resources Co. The CWP boundary roads were improved for oil and gas development. There are new coalbed natural gas (CBNG) proposals within the sub-unit that BLM is evaluating for authorization. Additionally, two overhead powerlines maintained by the Powder River Energy Company (W-121846; W-126870) exist within the unit. There are no recorded easements within the unit. Figure 5 illustrates development associated with energy production and transmission.

Figure 5. Existing Mineral Development and Energy Transmission in the vicinity of the Fortification Creek Citizen’s Wilderness Proposal Southeastern Sub-Unit.



(2) Does the area appear to be natural?  
 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description: A maintained and regularly used route separates the CWP from the WSA. Additionally, numerous examples of human disturbance exist along the roads and within the sub-unit. Two overhead powerlines, at least one stock reservoir, and two plugged and abandoned oil wells are present within the sub-unit. Additional producing gas wells exist along the southern boundary road outside of the CWP. Crested wheatgrass is readily noticeable and predominant on previously disturbed sites.

(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: Persistent noises from county roads, oil and gas activity, compressor stations, and trains pervade the acoustic environment. Additionally, views from the ridgelines include widespread oil and gas development, residences and other human modifications of the landscape. While these influences originate outside of the CWP, and do not affect the naturalness of the unit, the combined effect of sights and sounds are detrimental to the wilderness experience and do not provide "outstanding" opportunities for solitude.

(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:

**FORM 2**

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS**

a. Unit Number/Name Fortification Creek Citizen's Wilderness Proposal- Western Sub-Unit

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

The Citizen's Wilderness Proposal Western sub-unit is approximately 5,420 acres and is separated from the Fortification Creek Wilderness Study Area by a mechanically constructed and maintained road currently used regularly for livestock operations. The boundary road has been verified to be an existing route passable to vehicles. The western sub-unit consists of BLM administered lands outside of the Fortification Creek WSA in T 52 N R 77 W Sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25 and 26 and T 52 N R 76 W Sections 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 and 32. There is also a sliver of CWP located outside the WSA in T 51 N R 76 W Section 5. The western sub-unit is located within Johnson and Campbell counties. The sub-unit is separated from the WSA by a constructed road that runs from the Bull Creek monitoring wells to the Hayden Ranch House. Figure 6 includes aerial imagery (NAIP, 2006) depicting the eastern boundary road of the Fortification Creek CWP western sub-unit.

Figure 6. 2006 Aerial Imagery Depicting Eastern Boundary Road of Fortification Creek Citizen's Wilderness Proposal Western Sub-Unit.



## DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS:

Elevations within the CWP western sub-unit range from approximately 3,820 ft to 4,482 ft. Slopes exceed 25% in much of the area and can exceed 30%. Vegetation in the Fortification Creek area is characterized as a mosaic of vegetation types that includes mixed grasslands, shrublands, riparian areas, and juniper woodlands. Crested wheatgrass, an invasive species and an indicator of human modification, is noticeable and prevalent throughout the western sub-unit. Bull Creek runs along the eastern boundary of CWP western sub-unit. Several other tributaries of Fortification Creek are located within the sub-unit.

The sub-unit is within elk crucial, parturition and yearlong range. While elk are the primary wildlife species of interest, other wildlife are present throughout the area including pronghorn antelope, mule deer, raptors, small mammals, game birds, waterfowl, amphibians, reptiles, and migratory birds.

Adjacent landowners are the Hayden Trust to the northeast and south, the Hollcroft Trust to the northwest and Petro-Canada Resources to the west. A small cabin was found in T 52 N R 77 W Section 12 approximately 100 feet within the CWP boundary. The cabin is currently under administrative investigation. A State of Wyoming parcel also borders the unit to the southwest. The western sub-unit is within the Fort Creek, Windmill Draw and Stotts Draw grazing allotments.

### Fort Creek Allotment (Allotment #12151)

- Permittee: Kerry Hayden
- Lease #4907242
- 172 Cattle 3/1-2/28 on 31% Public Forage
- 640 AUMs total

### Windmill Draw (Allotment #16508)

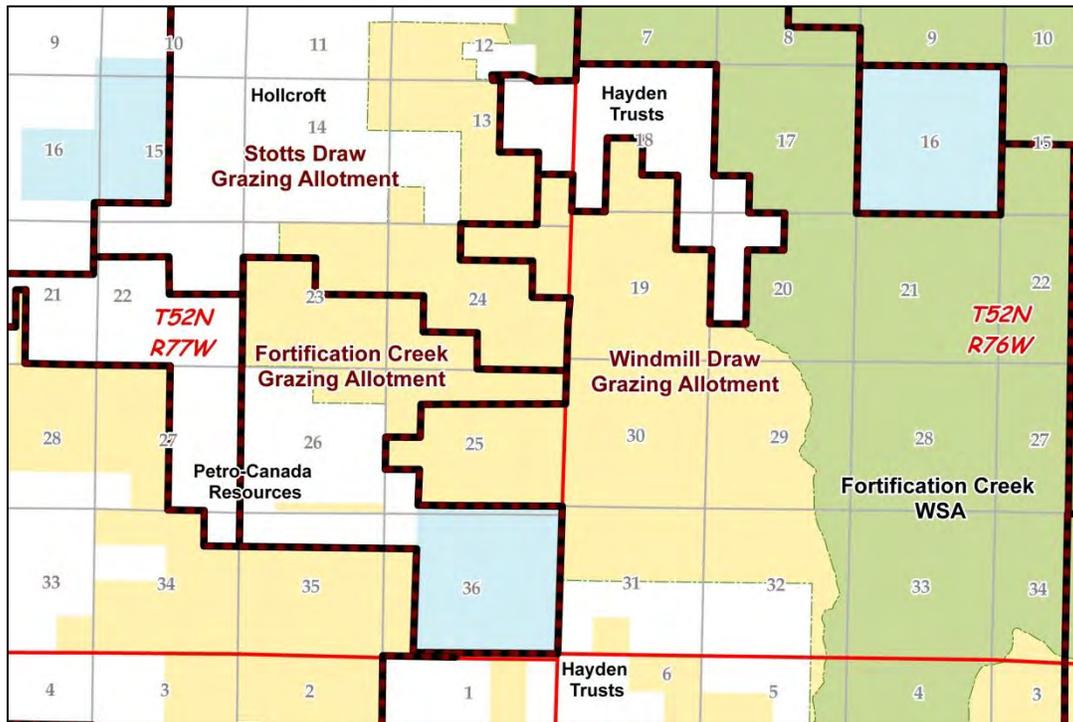
- Permittee: Lora Amie Revocable Trust
- Lease #4914472
- 245 Cattle 3/1-2/28 on 53% Public Forage
- 1558 AUMs total

### Stotts Draw Allotment (Allotment #12160)

- Permittee: Leo & Claire Hollcroft
- Lease #4907253
- 215 Cattle 3/1-3/31 on 15% Public Forage = (33 AUMs)
- 215 Cattle 10/1-2/28 on 15% Public Forage (160 AUMs)
- 193 AUMs total

Data depicting fence locations for this area is inaccurate and has been omitted until on-the-ground verification can be completed. Land tenure and grazing allotment boundaries are depicted in Figure 7.

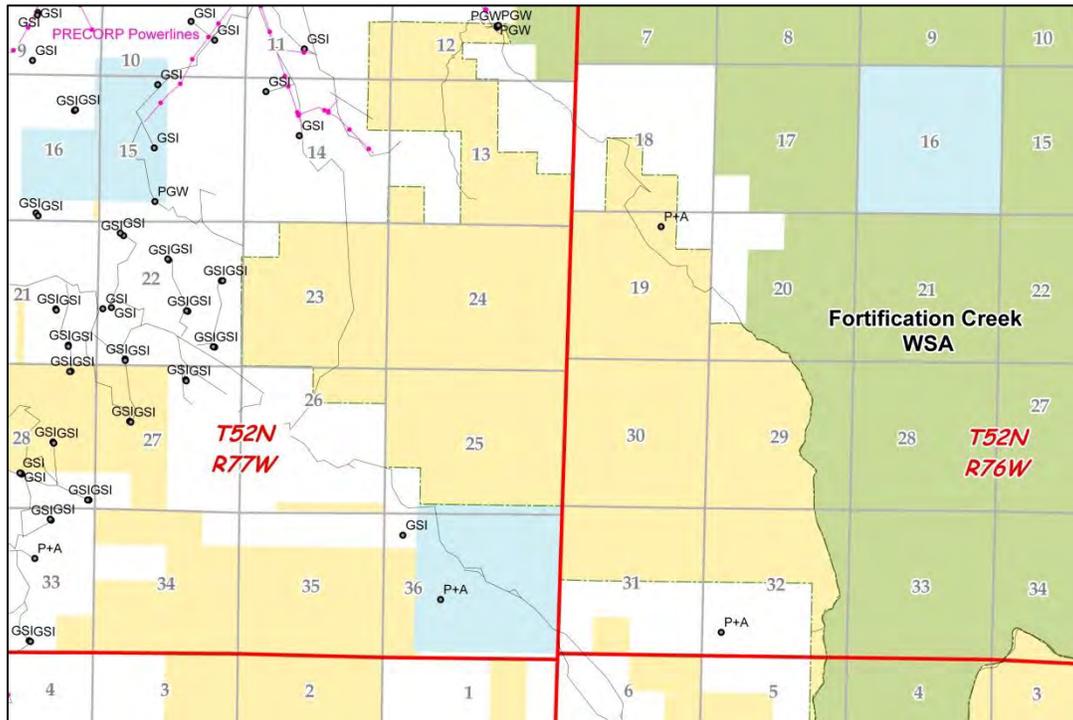
Figure 7. Land Tenure and Grazing Allotments within the Fortification Creek Citizen’s Wilderness Proposal Western Sub-Unit.



The State Engineer Office (SEO) of Wyoming database indicates that several reservoirs exist within the vicinity of the western sub-unit. The reservoir in T 52 N R 77 W Section 13 SENW was verified during the September 2, 2010 monitoring trip. The dam for the reservoir was breached and the reservoir was not holding water. A solar-powered well exists in T 52 N R 76 W Section 20 SWSE along the boundary road that separates the WSA from the CWP. A windmill exists in T 52 N R 76 W Section 19 SENE along the road within the CWP.

One plugged and abandoned well is located within the CWP western unit in T 52 N R 76 W Section 19 NWNE. Multiple producing and shut-in gas wells and other plugged and abandoned wells exist to the west of the unit. Valid leases exist within the area and there is evidence of CBNG development planning (well & utility stakes) along the WSA boundary road and the road with the abandoned reservoir. There are no right-of-ways on record for roads. Additionally, no overhead powerlines exist within the unit. There are no recorded easements within the unit. Figure 8 illustrates development associated with energy production and transmission in the vicinity of the sub-unit.

Figure 8. Existing Mineral Development and Energy Transmission in the vicinity of the Fortification Creek Citizen’s Wilderness Proposal Western Sub-Unit.



(2) Does the area appear to be natural?  
 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description: Several mechanically constructed and maintained routes exist within the CWP (Appendix C). A maintained and regularly used route separates the CWP from the WSA. Additionally, numerous examples of human disturbance exist along the roads. A windmill, solar-powered well and trespass cabin are located along the road that separates the CWP from the WSA. The Bull Creek monitoring wells are located within the CWP, as well as a plugged and abandoned well in T 52 N R 76W Section 19. An additional road begins in T 52 N R 77 W Section 12 and continues south to a breached reservoir located in T 52 N R 77 W Section 13. The road continues approximately 0.3 miles to a fenceline, where it becomes impassable. Another road in T 52 N R 77 W Sections 23 and 26 provides access for livestock management and has recently been used for CBNG planning and staking.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalsness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?  
 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description: The interior of the unit is secluded from most unnatural disturbances. Even along roads, it is unlikely that another party will be met. Patches of thick vegetation, steep draws and substantial changes in topography within the unit supplies some opportunity for solitude.

However, at higher elevations and along ridgelines, persistent noises from nearby county road traffic, compressor stations, and even trains pervade the acoustic environment. Additionally, views from the ridgelines include widespread oil and gas development, residences and other human modifications of the landscape. While these influences originate outside of the CWP, and do not affect the naturalness of the unit, the combined effect of sights and sounds are detrimental to the wilderness experience and do not provide “outstanding” opportunities for solitude.

(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  X  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description: The unit has opportunities for primitive recreational activities. The WSA and surrounding area provides a challenging backdrop for hunting, and the resident elk herd is a particular draw for hunters willing to pursue landowner permission. The entire Fortification Creek area is within Wyoming Game and Fish Department Elk Hunt Area 2, which issued 80 tags (40-antlerless and 40-any elk) in 2010. The area also provides opportunities for horseback riding and hiking.

Reasonable public access to the western sub-unit is limited to those with landowner permission. The BLM does not currently have any easements providing public access to the WSA or the lands within the CWP. Legal public access is available by traveling west off of Fortification Road on BLM administered lands through Windmill and Livingston draws, then traveling north in the Taylor Draw area and east across Indian Draw finally entering the CWP through the State section in T 52 N R 77 W Section 36. Access by this route would require meticulous knowledge of land tenure and more than 10 miles of non-motorized cross-country travel through steep topography to reach the CWP boundary. Recreationists attempting this route would face potential trespass charges if they miscalculate land boundaries. Alternatively, most adjacent landowners are licensed outfitters and will guide clients into the area for a fee. Trespass fees for non-guided visitors may also be collected at the landowners’ discretion. According to H-6330-1, “A trail system or convenient access is not essential for an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation. The absence of these facilities may increase opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.” We interpret convenient access to apply to physical access, rather than legal access. While the lack of convenient access does not preclude the presence of outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in the Fortification Creek CWP Western Sub-unit, we interpret an “outstanding” and “unconfined” opportunity to require that legal access be available without payment to private individuals or fear of trespass charges.

The dimensions of the sub-unit are roughly 3 miles x 3 miles. An average hiker could cross the sub-unit in a little over an hour. We interpret the sub-unit configuration to be confining and not a desired location for backpacking and other traditional wilderness activities. The sub-unit does not provide an “outstanding” opportunity for unconfined recreation.

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

Yes  No  N/A

Description: The sub-unit and much of the entire Fortification Creek unit are prairie breaks, deeply incised draws within a semi-arid sagebrush steppe ecosystem with fragile soils. There is a mosaic of vegetation types that includes mixed grasslands, sagebrush shrublands, overflow draw bottoms, and juniper woodlands. The streams are intermittent flowing in response to storm events. Prairie breaks are a component of the Sagebrush Steppe ecosystem, an ecosystem that is not represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System (WWA 2004).

The Fortification Creek elk herd is a small geographically isolated herd. Prairie herds were common prior to European expansion on the western plains. Today, elk herds occupying prairie habitats are unusual and are of local interest and importance. The public, conservation groups, and the State of Wyoming have all expressed their interest in maintaining a viable elk herd within the Fortification Creek area. While elk are the primary wildlife species of interest, other wildlife are present throughout the area including pronghorn antelope, mule deer, raptors, small mammals, game birds, waterfowl, amphibians, reptiles, and migratory birds.

*Note: The BLM explored several alternatives to the submitted CWP boundaries. Field investigation identified several existing roads within the western sub-unit (Appendix C). The constructed and mechanically maintained roads (Appendix C; Roads 1, 4, 5 and 7) remove 615 acres from the sub-unit due to the naturalness criteria. The resulting largest remaining block of roadless area based on these roads was 4,805 acres.*

### Summary of Analysis

Unit Name and Number: Fortification Creek Citizen's Wilderness Proposal- Southeastern Sub-Unit

#### 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 for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No  NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes  No  N/A

#### Conclusion

##### Check One:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Unit Name and Number: Fortification Creek Citizen's Wilderness Proposal- Western Sub-Unit

#### 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
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No  NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes  No  NA

#### Conclusion

##### Check One:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

**Prepared by:**

Team Members:

Allison Barnes, BFO Outdoor Recreation Planner, 1/18/2011

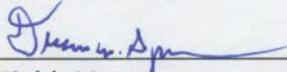
Thomas Bills, BFO Planning and Environmental Coordinator, 1/18/2011

Jim Verplancke, BFO Natural Resources Specialist, 1/18/2011

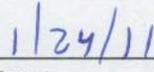
George Soehn, HPDO Resource Advisor, 1/14/2011

(Names, Titles, Date)

**Approved by:**



Field Manager

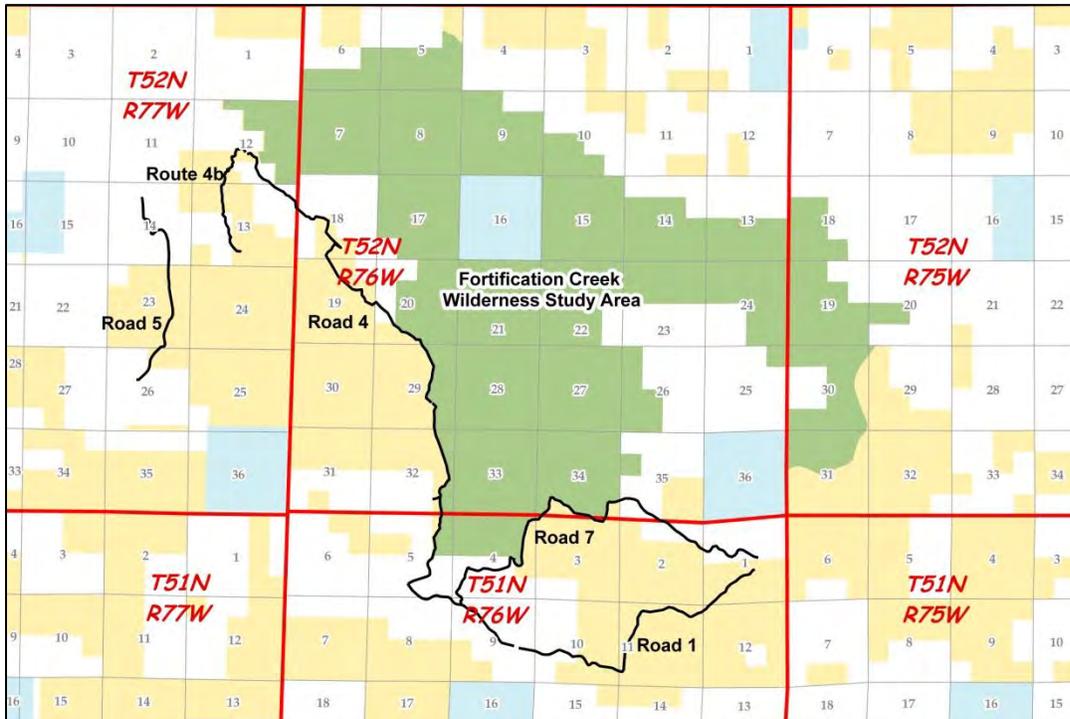


Date

H-6300-1-WILDERNESS INVENTORY MAINTENANCE

APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSIS

Figure 9. Roads\* Addressed during Route Analysis



\*Identified and numbered to remain consistent with the 1979 Inventory

**Wilderness Inventory Area Name and Number (UNIT\_ID):** Fortification Creek WY-060-204

**Route Name and/or Identifier:** CWP Southeast Sub-Unit Southern Boundary Road Between Cedar Draw and Soft Water Draw (Originally Road #1 in 1979 Inventory)

**I. LOCATION:** T 51 N R 76 W Sec 1, 9, 10 and 11 (refer to Figure 9).

**II. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE:**

Examples: Rangeland/Livestock facilities (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment).

Describe: Oil and gas management; well pad access. Also used for livestock management access; several fences intersect the road.

**III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:**

Is a road right-of-way associated with this route? Yes  No  Unknown

The eastern portion of the route is under a non-exclusive ROW to Lance Oil and Gas Company (WYW-158710) and to Plaza Resources Company (W-86221).

**IV. CONSTRUCTION**

Is there evidence that the route was originally constructed using mechanical means?)

Yes  No

Examples:

Paved  Bladed  Graveled  Roadside Berms   
Cut/Fill  Other

Describe: Construction is documented in photos # 18-20 of the 1979 inventory. A field investigation on December 21, 2010 confirmed that the route has been maintained to remain passable to vehicles.

**V. IMPROVEMENTS**

Is their Evidence or Documentation of Improvements using hand tools or machinery?

Yes  No

By Hand Tools  By Machine

Examples:

Bladed  Surfaced  Culverts  Stream Crossings

Bridges  Drainage  Barriers  Other

Describe: A portion of the road in was improved in 1984 by Anderson to accommodate oil and gas development for lease WYW-36706 to wells 8-11 and 9-11.

**VI. MAINTENANCE**

A. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes  No

Hand Tools  (Y/N) Machine  (Y/N)

Explain: The portions of the road under ROW agreements have been inspected and found to meet compliance standards.

B. If the route is in passable 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

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:**

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

Describe evidence (*e.g.* direct: vehicle tracks observed, or indirect: evidence of use associated with purpose(s) 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 use relative to the purpose(s) of the route):

The road is used on regular basis by adjacent landowners and oil and gas companies.

**VIII. CONCLUSION:**

To meet the definition of a road, items V, *and* VI-A or B, *and* VII must be checked yes.

Road: Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation:

Evaluator(s): Thomas Bills, Jim Verplancke, Allison Barnes

Date: Field Visit - 12/21/2010; Analysis completed - 1/14/2011

**Wilderness Inventory Area Name and Number (UNIT\_ID):** Fortification Creek WY-060-204

**Route Name and/or Identifier:** WSA South Boundary Road Paralleling Cedar Draw (Originally Road #7 in 1979 Inventory)

**I. LOCATION:** T 52 N R 76 W Sec 34 and T 51 N R 76 W Sec 3 and 4. (refer to Figure 9). Illustrated in Frames SE1-SE8

**II. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE:**

Examples: Rangeland/Livestock facilities (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment).

Describe: Livestock management access; a fence parallels much of the road.

**III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:**

Is a road right-of-way associated with this route? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X Unknown \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. CONSTRUCTION**

Is there evidence that the route was originally constructed using mechanical means?)

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Examples:

Paved \_\_\_\_\_ Bladed X Graveled \_\_\_\_\_ Roadside Berms \_\_\_\_\_  
Cut/Fill X Other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe: Construction is documented in photos # 32, 33, 53 and 54 the 1979 inventory. A field investigation on December 21, 2010 confirmed that the route has been maintained to remain passable to vehicles.

**V. IMPROVEMENTS**

Is there Evidence or Documentation of Improvements using hand tools or machinery?

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

By Hand Tools \_\_\_\_\_ By Machine X

Examples:

Bladed X Surfaced \_\_\_\_\_ Culverts \_\_\_\_\_ Stream Crossings \_\_\_\_\_

Bridges \_\_\_\_\_ Drainage \_\_\_\_\_ Barriers \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe: The road appears to have been kept in fair condition since initial construction through the use of machinery, though records do not exist.

**VI. MAINTENANCE**

A. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes  No

Hand Tools \_\_\_\_\_(Y/N) Machine \_\_\_\_\_(Y/N)

Explain: No documentation of maintenance exists since 1979; however, the road was maintained until at least 1987 when the oil well was plugged and abandoned.

B. If the route is in passable 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:**

Yes  No

Describe evidence (e.g. direct: vehicle tracks observed, or indirect: evidence of use associated with purpose(s) 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 use relative to the purpose(s) of the route):

Tracks indicated that the road had been used within the week of December 21, 2010. The route was well-defined, even in snowy conditions. Darlene Floyd confirmed in a phone conversation in December 2010 that her family uses all roads between their property and the Haydens for livestock management.

**VIII. CONCLUSION:**

To meet the definition of a road, items V, and VI-A or B, and VII must be checked yes.

Road: Yes  No

Explanation:

Evaluator(s): Thomas Bills, Jim Verplancke, Allison Barnes

Date: Field Visit - 12/21/2010; Analysis completed - 1/14/2011

**Wilderness Inventory Area Name and Number (UNIT\_ID):** Fortification Creek WY-060-204

**Route Name and/or Identifier:** WSA West Boundary Road Paralleling Bull Creek (Originally Road #4 in 1979 Inventory)

**I. LOCATION:** T 51 N R 76 W Sec 5; T 52 N R 76 W Sec 18-20, 29 and 32; T 52 N R 77 W Sec 12-13 (refer to Figure 9). Illustrated in Frames FCW1-FCW5.

**II. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE:**

Examples: Rangeland/Livestock facilities (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment).

Describe: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank with solar well, windmill, some fencing, grazing management access).

**III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:**

Is a road right-of-way associated with this route? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X Unknown \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. CONSTRUCTION**

Is there evidence that the route was originally constructed using mechanical means?)

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Examples:

Paved \_\_\_\_\_ Bladed X Graveled \_\_\_\_\_ Roadside Berms \_\_\_\_\_

Cut/Fill X Other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe: Construction is documented in photos # 34-41 of the 1979 inventory. A field investigation on September 2, 2010 confirmed that the route has been maintained to remain passable to vehicles.

**V. IMPROVEMENTS**

Is there Evidence or Documentation of Improvements using hand tools or machinery?

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

By Hand Tools \_\_\_\_\_ By Machine X

Examples:

Bladed X Surfaced \_\_\_\_\_ Culverts \_\_\_\_\_ Stream Crossings X

Bridges \_\_\_\_\_ Drainage \_\_\_\_\_ Barriers \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe: The road was bladed in 1994 to provide access for a drilling rig to construct the Bull Creek water well located in T52N R77W Sec 20 SESW. There is a stream crossing where the road crosses Bull Creek. The road appears to have been kept in fair condition since initial construction through the use of machinery.

**VI. MAINTENANCE**

A. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

Hand Tools \_\_\_\_\_(Y/N) Machine \_\_\_\_\_(Y/N)

Explain: The road in T 52 N R 77 W Sec 12 was bladed since 2000 during the construction of the Bull Creek monitoring wells, though documentation was not readily available.

B. If the route is in passable 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:**

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

Describe evidence (e.g. direct: vehicle tracks observed, or indirect: evidence of use associated with purpose(s) 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 use relative to the purpose(s) of the route):

Recent vehicular traffic observed through tracks/flattened grass and salt block pallets along road. The road is also the singular access to a parcel of private land. A windmill and solar well are located along the road, which would require regular maintenance.

**VIII. CONCLUSION:**

To meet the definition of a road, items V, and VI-A or B, and VII must be checked yes.

Road: Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation:

Evaluator(s): Allison Barnes, Thomas Bills, Jim Verplancke, Larissa Myers

Date: Field Visit – 9/2/2010; Analysis completed - 1/14/2011

**Wilderness Inventory Area Name and Number (UNIT\_ID):** Fortification Creek WY-060-204

**Route Name and/or Identifier:** An extension of the WSA Boundary Road that turns west/south west at the Bull Creek Monitoring Wells. Labeled Route 4b for purposes of this analysis. Not Identified in 1979 Inventory.

**I. LOCATION:** T 52 N R 77 W Sec 12-13 (Figure 9). Illustrated in Frames FCW6-FCW8

**II. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE:**

Examples: Rangeland/Livestock facilities (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment).

Describe: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (failed reservoir, grazing management access). Also used for well staking in the recent past.

**III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:**

Is a road right-of-way associated with this route? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X Unknown \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. CONSTRUCTION**

Is there evidence that the route was originally constructed using mechanical means?)

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Examples:

Paved \_\_\_\_\_ Bladed X Graveled \_\_\_\_\_ Roadside Berms \_\_\_\_\_

Cut/Fill X Other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe: The presence of this road is not documented in the 1979 inventory. However, a conversation with a former BLM employee indicated that the road and reservoir were present prior to 1980. The reservoir appears on a 1975 topo map, though the road does not. Presumably, the road was constructed to build the reservoir (now breached due to structural failure). The road is also well defined in a 1994 DOQQ photo. The BLM will attempt to investigate the origin of the road through historical aerial photographs as time and funding allow. A field investigation on September 2, 2010 confirmed that the route was mechanically constructed and maintained to remain passable to vehicles. The route continues a short distance past the reservoir before becoming impassable. It also provides access to a maintained fenceline.

**V. IMPROVEMENTS**

Is their Evidence or Documentation of Improvements using hand tools or machinery?

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

By Hand Tools \_\_\_\_\_ By Machine X

Examples:

Bladed  Surfaced \_\_\_\_\_ Culverts \_\_\_\_\_ Stream Crossings \_\_\_\_\_

Bridges \_\_\_\_\_ Drainage  Barriers  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe: The road is cut into steep side slopes and traverses rolling topography. A gate is located near the beginning of the road in Section 12.

## VI. MAINTENANCE

A. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Hand Tools \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N) Machine \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)

Explain:

B. If the route is in passable 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

Comments: Due to the steep slopes associated with the route, it is unlikely that the BLM would permit this route based on our engineering standards. Additionally, the reservoir appears to have been breached for many years. It is unlikely that the road and reservoir would be upgraded for range improvement projects. The road does not meet BLM 9113 road standards.

## VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

Describe evidence (e.g. direct: vehicle tracks observed, or indirect: evidence of use associated with purpose(s) 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 use relative to the purpose(s) of the route): Recent vehicular traffic observed through tracks/flattened grass. The road also provides alternate access to a parcel of private land in Section 13.

## VIII. CONCLUSION:

To meet the definition of a road, items V, and VI-A or B, and VII must be checked yes.

Road: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Explanation: The route does not meet the definition of the road based on the maintenance criterion. The road is in poor condition due to severe erosion and is passable with a 4-wheel drive or ORV only during dry conditions.

Evaluator(s): Allison Barnes, Thomas Bills, Jim Verplancke, Larissa Myers

Date: Field Visit – 9/2/2010; Analysis completed - 1/14/2011

**Wilderness Inventory Area Name and Number (UNIT\_ID):** Fortification Creek WY-060-204

**Route Name and/or Identifier:** Road Connecting Stotts Draw to Fortification Creek (Originally Road #5 in 1979 Inventory)

**I. LOCATION:** refer to attached map T 52 N R 77 W Sec 23 and 26 (refer to Figure 9).  
Illustrated in Photos 42-44 of original inventory.

**II. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE:**

Examples: Rangeland/Livestock facilities (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment).

Describe: Grazing management access. Proposed for improvement to accommodate CBNG activity in the Livingston Draw Alpha POD.

**III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:**

Is a road right-of-way associated with this route? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X Unknown \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. CONSTRUCTION**

Is there evidence that the route was originally constructed using mechanical means?)

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Examples:

Paved \_\_\_\_\_ Bladed X Graveled \_\_\_\_\_ Roadside Berms \_\_\_\_\_  
Cut/Fill X Other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe: Construction is documented in photos # 42-44 of the 1979 inventory. We were unable to complete on-the-ground verification of this road.

**V. IMPROVEMENTS**

Is there Evidence or Documentation of Improvements using hand tools or machinery?

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

By Hand Tools \_\_\_\_\_ By Machine X

Examples:

Bladed X Surfaced \_\_\_\_\_ Culverts \_\_\_\_\_ Stream Crossings \_\_\_\_\_

Bridges \_\_\_\_\_ Drainage \_\_\_\_\_ Barriers \_\_\_\_\_ Other X

Describe: The grazing file indicates a cattle guard located in T 52 N R 77 W Sec 23 SWNE along the existing road.

**VI. MAINTENANCE**

A. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X

Hand Tools \_\_\_\_\_(Y/N) Machine \_\_\_\_\_(Y/N)

Explain:

B. If the route is in passable 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  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: A portion of the route has been proposed for improvement in the Livingston Draw Alpha CBNG POD. The BLM has not issued a decision for this POD. However, initial review of the proposed road design plans meets BLM 9113 road standards and may be permitted with the applicable mitigation measures.

**VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:**

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

Describe evidence (e.g. direct: vehicle tracks observed, or indirect: evidence of use associated with purpose(s) 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 use relative to the purpose(s) of the route):

Oil and gas planning activity, including well-staking has occurred in the past 2 years. Allison Barnes spoke with Colt Rodeman of Anadarko on 1/3/11. Rodeman drove the road during the spring of 2010 and stated the road was rough but passable.

**VIII. CONCLUSION:**

To meet the definition of a road, items V, and VI-A or B, and VII must be checked yes.

Road: Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation:

Evaluator(s): Allison Barnes, Thomas Bills

Date: Analysis completed - 1/14/2011

**\*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 means”** – 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.

**H-6300-1-WILDERNESS INVENTORY MAINTENANCE**

**APPENDIX D – PHOTO LOG**

Photographer(s): Allison Barnes, Thomas Bills, Jim Verplancke, Larissa Myers

Inventory Area Name & No.: Fortification Creek Citizen’s Wilderness Proposal

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	T/R/S
12/21/2010	FCSE1	West	East Boundary	4920632 m N 422517 m E	52N/76W/35
12/21/2010	FCSE2	West	East Boundary	4920632 m N 422517 m E	52N/76W/35
12/21/2010	FCSE3	West	Gate at Road	4920329 m N 421703 m E	52N/76W/34
12/21/2010	FCSE4	West	West side of Fence	4920564 m N 421042 m E	52N/76W/34
12/21/2010	FCSE5	Southeast	P+A Well Pad	4920234 m N 420917 m E	51N/76W/3
12/21/2010	FCSE6	West	P+A Well Pad	4920234 m N 420917 m E	51N/76W/3
12/21/2010	FCSE7	South	P+A Well Pad	4920234 m N 420917 m E	51N/76W/3
12/21/2010	FCSE8	West	From west gate	4919544 m N 420533 m E	51N/76W/4
9/2/2010	FCW1	East	WSA boundary	4920062.55 m N 418919.58 m E	51N/76W/5
9/2/2010	FCW2	East	Solar Well	4923791.5 m N 418429.56 m E	52N/76W/20
9/2/2010	FCW3	East	Windmill	4924613.37 m N 417413.17 m E	52N/76W/19
9/2/2010	FCW4	Southeast	Reclaimed Spur	4925604.26 m N 416905.83 m E	52N/76W/16
9/2/2010	FCW5	North	Trespass Cabin	4927353.64 m N 415165.4 m E	52N/77W/12
9/2/2010	FCW6	South	End of Drivable Route	4925419.74 m N 415079.33 m E	52N/77W/13
9/2/2010	FCW7	Northwest	End of Drivable Route	4925419.74 m N 415079.33 m E	52N/77W/13
9/2/2010	FCW8	West	End of Drivable Route	4925419.74 m N 415079.33 m E	52N/77W/13

Figure 10. Frame FCSE1



Figure 11. Frame FCSE2



Figure 12. Frame FCSE3



Figure 13. Frame FCSE4



Figure 14. Frame FCSE5



Figure 15. Frame FCSE6



Figure 16. Frame FCSE7



Figure 17. Frame FCSE8



Figure 18. FCW1



Figure 19. FCW2



Figure 20. FCW3



Figure 21. FCW4



Figure 22. FCW5



Figure 23. FCW6



Figure 24. FCW7



Figure 25. FCW8



## REFERENCES

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