

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-144/ Bald Mountain

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

a) **Inventory Source:** Wilderness Inventory – Final Intensive Inventory Decisions; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, November 1980.

b) **Inventory Unit Number(s)/ Name(s):** 1-144/ Bald Mountain

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** Intensive Wilderness Inventory - Final Decisions; USDI BLM - Oregon, November 1980.

d) **BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):** Lakeview District, Lakeview Resource Area.

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):

Unit #	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
1-144	14,040	Y	N	N	N/A
1-144*	13,758	Y	N	N	N/A

*The inventory of this unit was updated in 2009. However, due to a State Office-sponsored Wilderness Inventory Consistency Evaluation and subsequent guidance, the 2009 inventory analysis and findings are being replaced by this current 2018 inventory review. Documentation of the 2009 inventory can be found in the wilderness inventory project record.

Summarize any known primary reasons for prior inventory findings listed in this table:

The south half of the unit was a low angle slope rising to the north with minor drainage depressions. The highest point in the unit was Bald Mountain, a domed

prominence on the southeast portion of the unit. There was a ridgeline running east to west, which was found to divide the unit into south and north halves. The northern portion fell away abruptly with minor rims, draws, and broken contours. The north half contained an elevation drop of approximately 1,000 feet over a two-mile distance. Vegetation cover on the unit was a sagebrush community. The northern half of the unit contained 3 reservoirs with “ways” leading to them from the north boundary road. There were 2 reservoirs located near the boundary areas in the south half of the unit. The “way” going to Shelby Reservoir continued up the hill to a seep on the hillside. Reservoirs and “ways” were somewhat noticeable from higher elevations within the unit but the area retained a primarily natural appearance. The southern half of the unit with gentle slopes and lack of cover did not offer an opportunity for solitude from others in the south half of the unit. The north half of the unit, with more broken terrain, did offer some marginal opportunities to avoid the sights and sound of others in the unit. The restricted size of these secluded portions was found to be less than adequate to provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The unit as a whole did not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The unit offered opportunities for wildlife observation, hunting, and to a limited degree for hiking on the northern portion. Because of the limited size of the area of potential interest and the lack of any significant recreation values of particular note, the area did not offer an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation. No supplemental values were recognized, although some archaeological values were thought to be present.

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-144/ Bald Mountain

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size? Yes X No _____

In 2005, the BLM received a citizen proposal from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) for the 18,522-acre Bald Mountain proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA). ONDA included in their information a narrative report, maps, photos, photo and route logs, and GIS data. All of these materials were considered during the BLM’s wilderness inventory update for this area. The photos submitted by ONDA were taken in 2004. They identified this large area as having no interior routes, which meet the BLM wilderness inventory definition of a road see (see p. 8-13 of ONDA, 2005).

Between 2007 and 2016, BLM staff conducted field inventory in the area as part of a process to update its road and wilderness inventories and to gather additional information to supplement ONDA’s wilderness information. This fieldwork included photo documentation of the boundary and interior routes and a re-evaluation of wilderness characteristics for this area. Using both ONDA and BLM photos, field

logs, and staff field knowledge, the BLM completed route analysis within the area in 2017.

The BLM determined that several of the routes ONDA identified as “ways” are boundary roads. The Bald Mountain proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is comprised of several smaller inventory units, which must be evaluated individually and must stand on their own merits.

The BLM determined that the inventory unit is bounded by BLM Road 6176-00 on the west and north along with private lands; 6176-D0 on the east; and 6126-00, 6126-BO, and BLM interim numbered roads 6126-BA and 6126-BB on the south. Due to changes in road determinations along the southern boundary, where a portion of BLM Road 6126-00 was realigned sometime after 1980, approximately 190 acres were removed from the inventory unit.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Bald Mountain inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 13,568 acres of BLM-administered lands.

Additional background on the process that the BLM followed during this evaluation is contained in the document, *Wilderness Inventory Maintenance Process for the Lakeview Resource Area, BLM* and in the *Route Analysis Forms*. Both documents can be found in the wilderness inventory file.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS:

The inventory unit is located approximately of 35 miles east of Adel, Oregon. The unit is approximately 7.5 miles long by 3.5 miles wide. The unit is dominated by Bald Mountain (6500 ft.), a large ridge/rim running roughly west to east through the bottom third of the unit. The northern two-thirds of the area is very topographically diverse with broken/eroded canyons, shelves, rims, and tabletops. The northern area contains two main canyons (one 2.5 miles long and over 330 feet deep near Gaston Reservoir and the other 3.5 miles long and over 400 feet deep near Swede Reservoir) with numerous arms, running into the central portion of the unit. The southeastern quarter of the unit can be characterized by flat rolling terrain. However, a 5-mile long, 265 feet deep, canyon running parallel to the western edge characterizes the southwestern quarter of the unit. Vegetatively, the unit is comprised of a sagebrush steppe community, which includes sagebrush, low growing perennials and scattered juniper trees.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition? Yes X No N/A

In 1980, the northern half of the unit contained 3 reservoirs with “ways” leading to them from the north boundary road. There were 2 reservoirs located near the boundary areas in the south half of the unit. The “way” going to Shelby Reservoir continued up the hill to a seep on the hillside. These “ways” and reservoirs were

somewhat noticeable from higher elevations within the unit, however, overall the area was found to be primarily natural in appearance.

ONDA's 2005 inventory stated that their Bald Mountain proposed WSA contained 2 reservoirs and a cattle pen. ONDA further elaborated that one reservoir is very small and the other is only noticeable from below, while the cattle pen is temporary. Additionally, ONDA asserted that their 18,522-acre proposal had few man-made features and thus did not have a cumulative impact to naturalness due to the size of the unit. ONDA concluded that the Bald Mountain proposed WSA appeared affected primarily by the forces of nature.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/ disturbances: 34 acres of chemical treatments, 8 miles of motorized routes, 300 feet of fence lines, 100 feet of pipeline, 6 waterholes, 1 developed spring, and 1 trough.

Presently, almost 4 decades after the original inventory, these developments are weathered and grown over with herbaceous grasses and sagebrush. As a result, developments now fade into the background of the unit and are largely only noticeable at a close distance (1/4th mile or less) and are thus substantially unnoticeable from further distances. The topography of the area also plays a large role in screening disturbances and man-made developments. In addition, the majority of disturbances are located near the perimeter of the unit and, as such, have a small area of influence.

Based on a review of all the available information including photos, staff knowledge, and field review, the BLM concluded that the inventory unit appears in a natural condition where the imprints of man are substantially unnoticeable.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes No N/A

In 1980, the inventory concluded that the southern half of the unit with gentle slopes and lack of cover did not offer an opportunity for solitude from others in the south half of the unit. The north half of the unit, with more broken terrain, was found to offer some marginal opportunities to avoid the sights and sound of others in the unit. The restricted size of secluded portions was found to be less than adequate to provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger Bald Mountain proposed WSA as having outstanding opportunities for solitude based on sheer size. Their proposal is contiguous with other inventory units and therefore has more area for visitors to avoid the sights and sounds of others. ONDA found that "opportunities for solitude in the whole of Bald Mountain proposed WSA are now outstanding." However, the BLM did not find this proposal to be one large roadless area, but is comprised of a number of smaller inventory units that must be evaluated individually.

The BLM determined that there are several outstanding opportunities for solitude across the area due to topographic screening. The unit is very topographically diverse; dominated by Bald Mountain (6500 ft.), a large ridge/rim running roughly west to east through the bottom third of the unit. The northern two-thirds of the area are very complex with broken/eroded canyons, shelves, rims, and tabletops. The northern area contains two main canyons (one 2.5 miles long and over 330 feet deep near Gaston Reservoir and the other 3.5 miles long and over 400 feet deep near Swede Reservoir) with numerous arms, running into the central portion of the unit. The southeastern quarter of the unit can be characterized by flat rolling terrain. However, a 5-mile long, 265 feet deep, canyon running parallel to the western edge characterizes the southwestern quarter of the unit. Due to the above-described compartmentalized topography, one would easily be able to avoid the sights and sounds of others.

Thus, for the reasons specified above and based on a review of all the available information including (BLM and citizen provided) photos, staff knowledge, and field review, the BLM concluded the Bald Mountain inventory unit possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude.

(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation? Yes No N/A

In 1980, the unit was found to offer opportunities for wildlife observation, hunting, and to a limited degree for hiking on the northern portion. Because of the limited size of the area of potential interest and the lack of any significant recreation values of particular note, the area was found to lack outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger Bald Mountain proposed WSA as having outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation based on sheer size as their proposal is contiguous with other inventory units and thus "contains a larger diversity of topography [where] visitors would easily find wildlife observation, hunting, horseback riding, hiking, and backpacking outstanding."

The BLM finds that all activities listed above, in combination with the diversity of camping, sightseeing, trapping, stargazing and exploration, are exceptional. The BLM determined that hiking/horseback riding along Bald Mountain rim, traversing up the 3.5-mile long canyon near Swede Reservoir or the 5-mile long canyon near the southwestern portion of the unit represent unique opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values? Yes No N/A

The BLM found the unit to possess archaeological and geological values as well as the presence of pigmy rabbit, white-tailed jackrabbit, pronghorn antelope, California bighorn sheep, mule deer, and sage-grouse habitat.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-144/ Bald Mountain

Summary Results of Analysis:

- 1. Does the area meet 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 character: *(items 1, 2 and 3 must be checked "yes")*.
- The area does not have wilderness character: *(any of items 1, 2 and 3 are checked "no")*.

Prepared by (Member Names and Titles):



Chris Bishop: Outdoor Recreation Planner

6/4/18
Date


Jami Ludwig: Assistant Field Manager

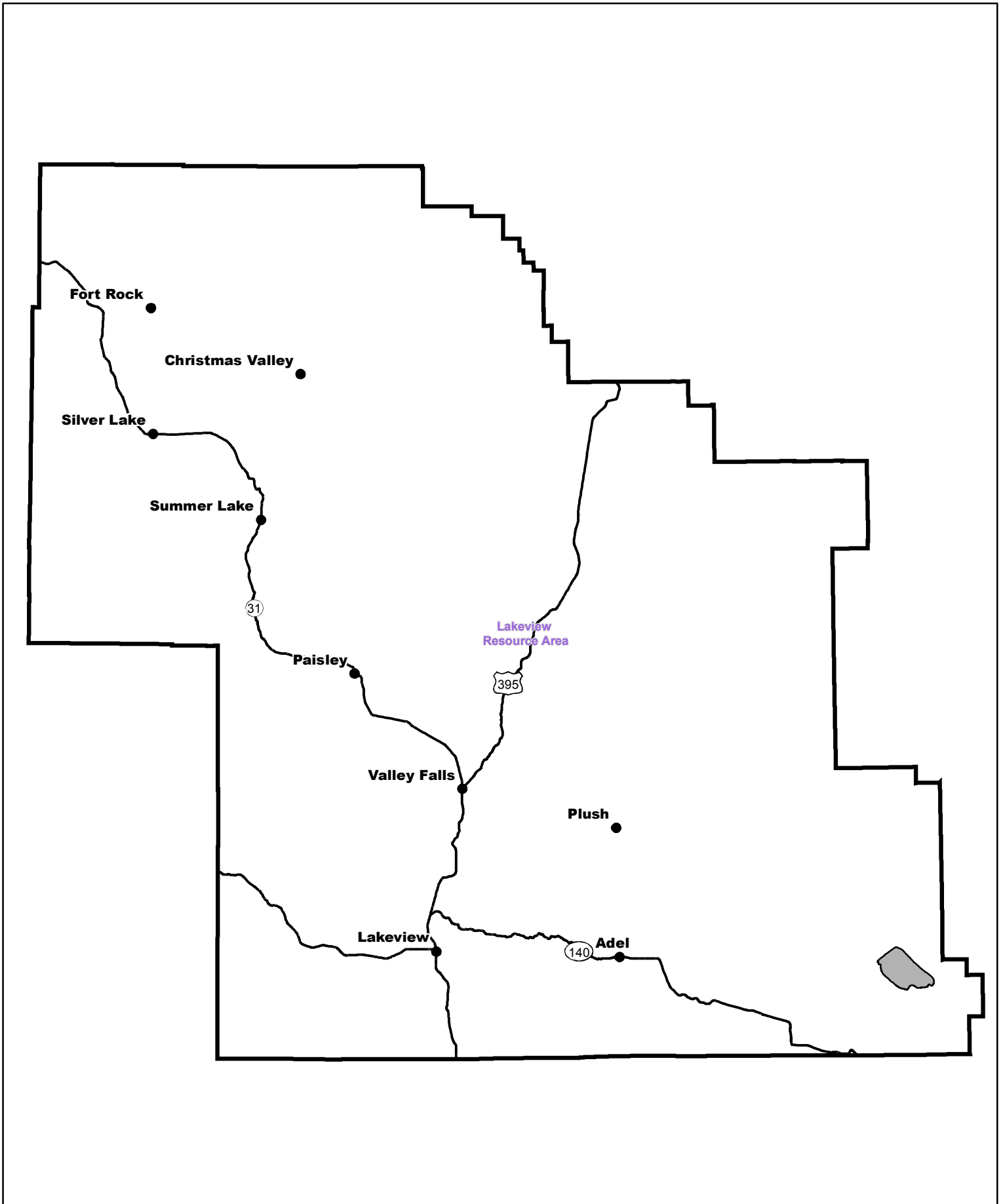
6/7/18
Date


Approved by:

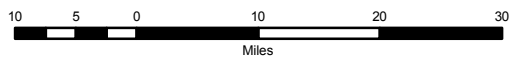

J. Todd Forbes
Field Manager


6/8/18
Date

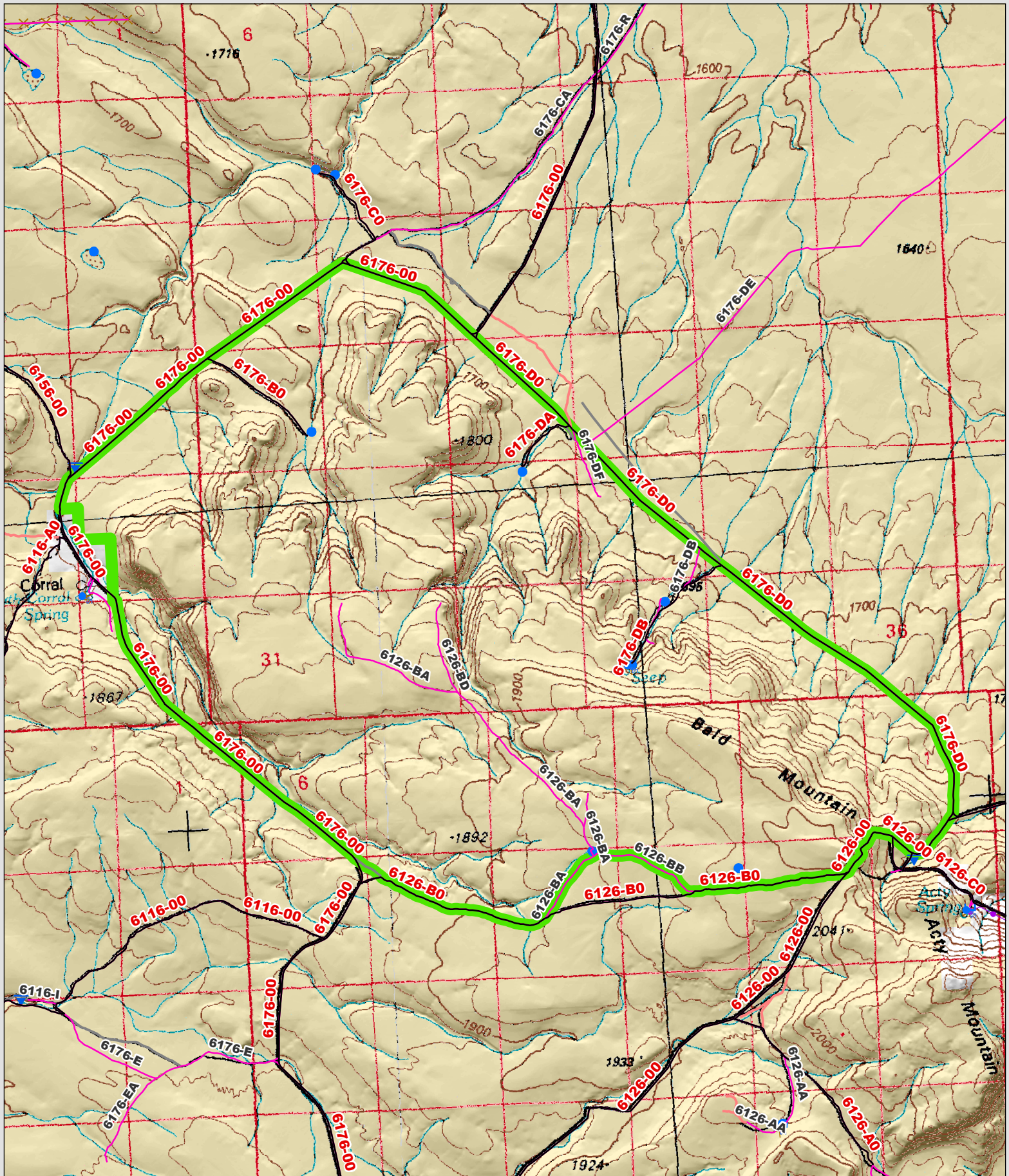
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.



 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



 No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.



Wilderness Character Inventory Unit

Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- State
- Private/Unknown

Roads/Trails

- Motorized Routes
- Highways
- Reclaiming Routes
- Interim Routes

Pipelines and Ditches

- Ditch
- Water Pipeline
- Guzzler
- Fences

Water Developments

- Dam
- Reservoir
- Spring Development
- Trough
- Water Diversion

- Water Tank
- Waterhole
- Well - Water

1 0.5 0 1 Miles

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.