

Year: 2020

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-110/ Coyote Hills

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.): NA

a) **Inventory Source:** Wilderness Review, Initial Inventory; Final Decisions on Public Lands Obviously Lacking Wilderness Characteristics and Announcement of Public Lands to be Intensively Inventoried for Wilderness Characteristics: Oregon and Washington. August 1979

b) **Inventory Unit Number(s)/Name(s):** 1-110/ Coyote Hills

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon: Final Decision, Initial Wilderness Inventory; Public Lands and Islands Which Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics and Units to be Intensively Inventoried, August, 1979

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):

Ownership	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
1-110	11,500	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
1-110*	20,662	N	N/A	N/A	N/A

* The inventory of this unit was updated in 2010. However, due to a State Office-sponsored Wilderness Inventory Consistency Evaluation and subsequent guidance, the 2010 inventory analysis and findings are being replaced by this current 2017 inventory review. Documentation of the 2010 inventory can be found in the wilderness inventory project record.

Summarize any known primary reasons for prior inventory findings listed in this table): In 1979, unit 1-110 (Coyote Hills) was described as sage flats to steep hills with sagebrush cover. The unit has two large private inholdings, numerous mining roads, mines, mining claims, and water developments. Approximately 1,500 acres on the south side is a watershed seeding. Man's works dominate to a significant degree. Opportunities for solitude or unconfined recreation are marginal.

FORM 2

DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

a. Unit Number/Name: OR-015-110/ Coyote Hills

(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 40,227-acre Coyote Hills proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA). ONDA included in their information a narrative report, a map, photos, photo and route logs, and GIS data with their route and photo point data. All of these materials were considered during the BLM's wilderness inventory process for this area. The photos submitted by ONDA were taken in late June of 2004. They identified the area as having no interior routes that meet the BLM wilderness inventory definition of a boundary road (see pages 56-65 of ONDA, 2005). In 2018, the BLM received an additional citizen inventory from the Fitzgerald Partners. All these materials were considered during the BLM's wilderness inventory process for this area.

Between 2009 and 2019, the BLM conducted a field inventory of the area to update its road and wilderness inventory 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 and made boundary determinations within the area in 2017 and revised this information in 2019 based on new citizen submitted information submitted.

The BLM determined that the area was not one large roadless area, but contained several smaller inventory units similar to those evaluated in 1979. The Coyote Hills unit is bounded by the following: on the northeast by state land; on the north by BLM Road 6105-00; on the west by a BPA power line and buried power line corridor right-of-ways, a communications site and access road right-of-way, and BLM Roads 6135-00 and 6125-00; on the south by state and private lands, a buried power line right-of-way, and BLM Road 6145-00; and on the east by private lands, BLM Roads 6145-A0, 6175-00, and 8155-00. In addition, BLM Road 6135-A0, providing access to private lands, was found to be a cherry stem road. The boundary of this unit was changed to remove approximately 191 acres of

disturbance in the southeast corner within Miner's Draw, and (see natural condition discussion). BLM also reviewed the Fitzgerald Partners submission, but did not make any route changes based on this information.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM identified the Coyote Hills inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at 20,644 acres of BLM administered lands.

Additional background on the process 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 about 9 miles northwest of Plush, Oregon. The unit is about 7 miles long by about 5 miles wide. Two undeveloped private parcels totaling about 120 acres exist within the center of the unit, but are "cherry-stemmed" outside of the unit boundary. The unit consists of a compact group of rolling to steep-sided hills. Vegetative cover on the unit is predominantly sagebrush and grasses with groups of western juniper in the western and southern portions of the unit.

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

In 1979, the unit was described as containing many existing worked mining claims (Miner's Draw), water developments, ways, and about 1,500 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding. This unit did not meet the criteria for naturalness as the existing disturbances were found to be substantially noticeable. The unit as a whole did not appear to be primarily affected by the forces of nature.

ONDA's 2005 inventory concluded that their proposed 40,227-acre Coyote Hills proposed WSA was generally natural and affected primarily by the forces of nature. Although, they did note several mining developments, they described them as either very small or screened by the surrounding hills and juniper. In general, they concluded that the area has improved to the point that it should be considered to be in a natural condition.

The Fitzgerald Partners noted that several of the manmade structures in the area were visible from long distances. The BLM reviewed all the information submitted but did not make any changes to this unit.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 143 abandoned mine distances (small, localized, testing sites estimated to total less than 5 acres in total), 1 abandoned mine site, 1 dam, 20 reservoirs, 9 waterholes, 10 developed springs with 5 troughs, 19.9 miles of fence lines, 350 feet of pipelines, 4 miles of cat lines, 8.5 miles of reclaiming routes, 35 miles of primitive

motorized routes, 7,111 acres of drill seeding, 5,089 acres of wildfire, 1,523 acres of aerial seeding, and 116 acres of backpack/ATV weed treatments.

The southeastern portion of the Coyote Hills unit is one of the more highly mineralized areas in the Lakeview District with a long history of mineral exploration and development. Most of this mining activity pre-dated the previous wilderness inventory. Now, almost 4 decades later, these developments are weathered and grown over with herbaceous grasses, sagebrush, and western juniper. 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, while many of these sites have begun to reclaim naturally over time, some of the most obvious disturbances were actively rehabilitated by the BLM in the late 1990's. Lastly, a portion of Miner's Draw that received heavy exploration and testing activity was found to be substantially noticeable. Therefore, approximately 191 acres has been removed from the inventory unit.

Based on a review of all the available information including photos, staff knowledge, and field review, the BLM concluded that the natural condition of the unit has improved since the original inventory. Coyote Hills unit appears in natural condition where the imprint of man is substantially unnoticeable. Thus, the unit overall was found to be primarily affected by the forces of nature.

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

Yes X No N/A

Although this unit is situated in a hilly area, solitude does not appear to have been evaluated in 1979.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger Coyote Hills proposal as having a more diverse landscape than the previously inventoried units contained individually. Further, ONDA felt the sheer size of the proposed larger WSA provided visitors with an outstanding sense of solitude. However, the BLM determined that the ONDA proposal is not one large roadless area, but is in fact several smaller inventory units that must be evaluated individually.

Coyote Hills stands out in the resource area as a very topographically diverse formation. The unit contains dozens of steep peaks (Grimm, Hubb, Cooper) well over 6,000 feet elevation, with several draws, drainages (Juniper Springs, Mary Ann, Miner's Draw, Windy Hollow, and Cooper), and numerous natural springs along closed in ravines and small eroded valleys. Vegetatively, western juniper has expanded in height, width, density and distribution since 1979, with a half-dozen distinct stands in the western and southern portions of the unit.

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 Coyote Hills unit possess sufficient topographic and vegetative screening that one would easily be able to avoid the sights and sounds of others and experience abundant outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Primitive recreation opportunities do not appear to have been evaluated in 1979.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger Coyote Hills proposal as offering outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, photography, and horseback riding. However, as noted previously the BLM determined that the ONDA proposal is not one large roadless area, but is in fact several smaller inventory units that must be evaluated individually.

The BLM concluded that all activities listed above in combination with the diversity of camping, sightseeing, rock hounding, and wildlife viewing are exceptional. The BLM determined that opportunities for hiking from peak to peak, specifically with opportunities to recreate among numerous riparian areas spread across the unit, represents unique opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation that stand out in the Lakeview Resource Area.

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

The BLM noted the presence of long-eared bats, chuckar, pronghorn, deer winter range, and priority sage-grouse habitat as potential supplemental values.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-110/ Coyote Hills

Summary Results of Analysis:

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

Conclusion (*Check One*):

- X The area- or a portion of the area- has wilderness character (items 1, 2 and 3 are 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):


Shane Garside: Outdoor Recreation Planner

9/23/20
Date

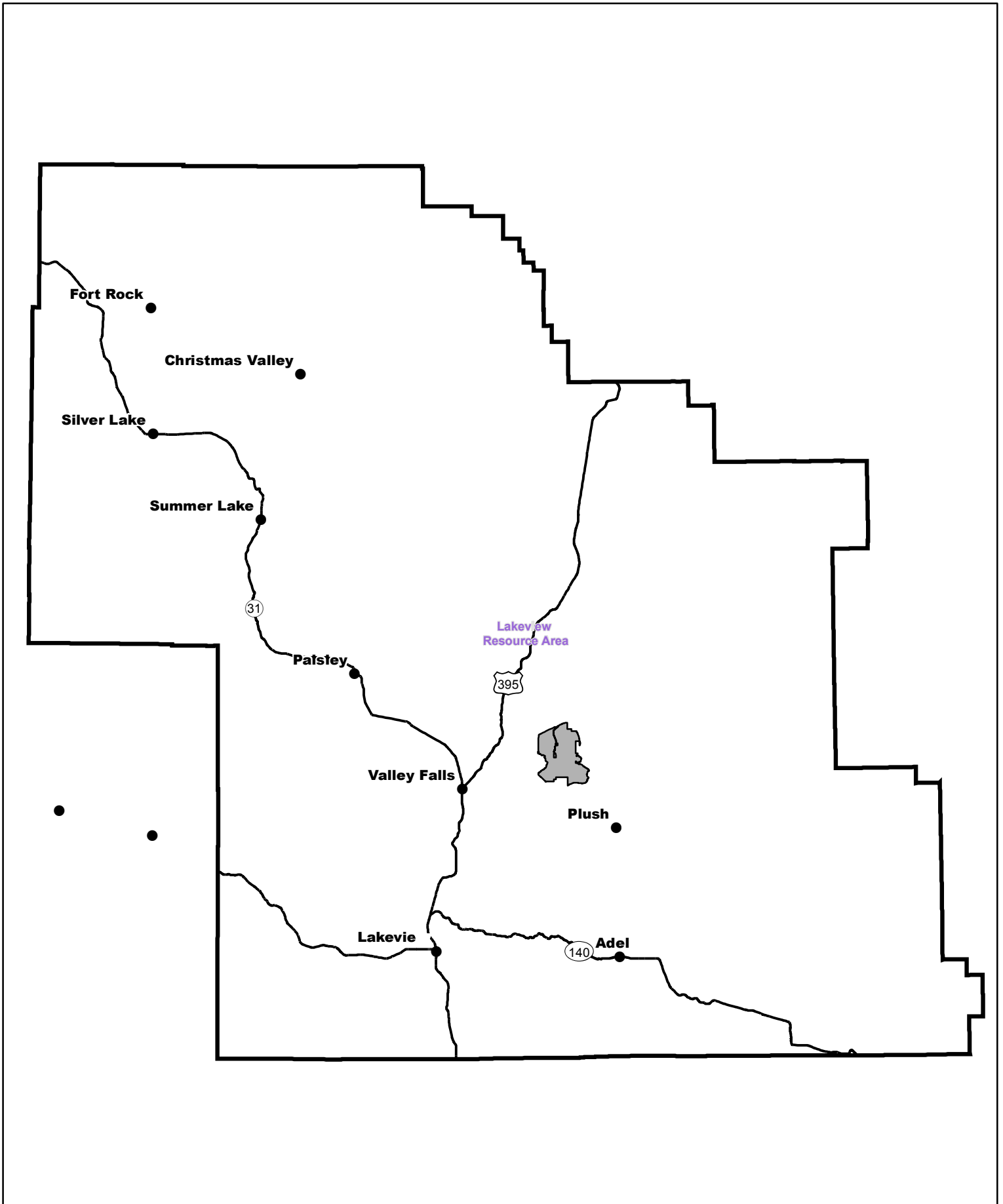
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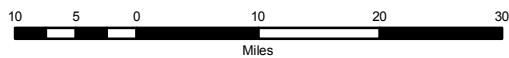
Jami Ludwig
Field Manager


10/14/2020
Date

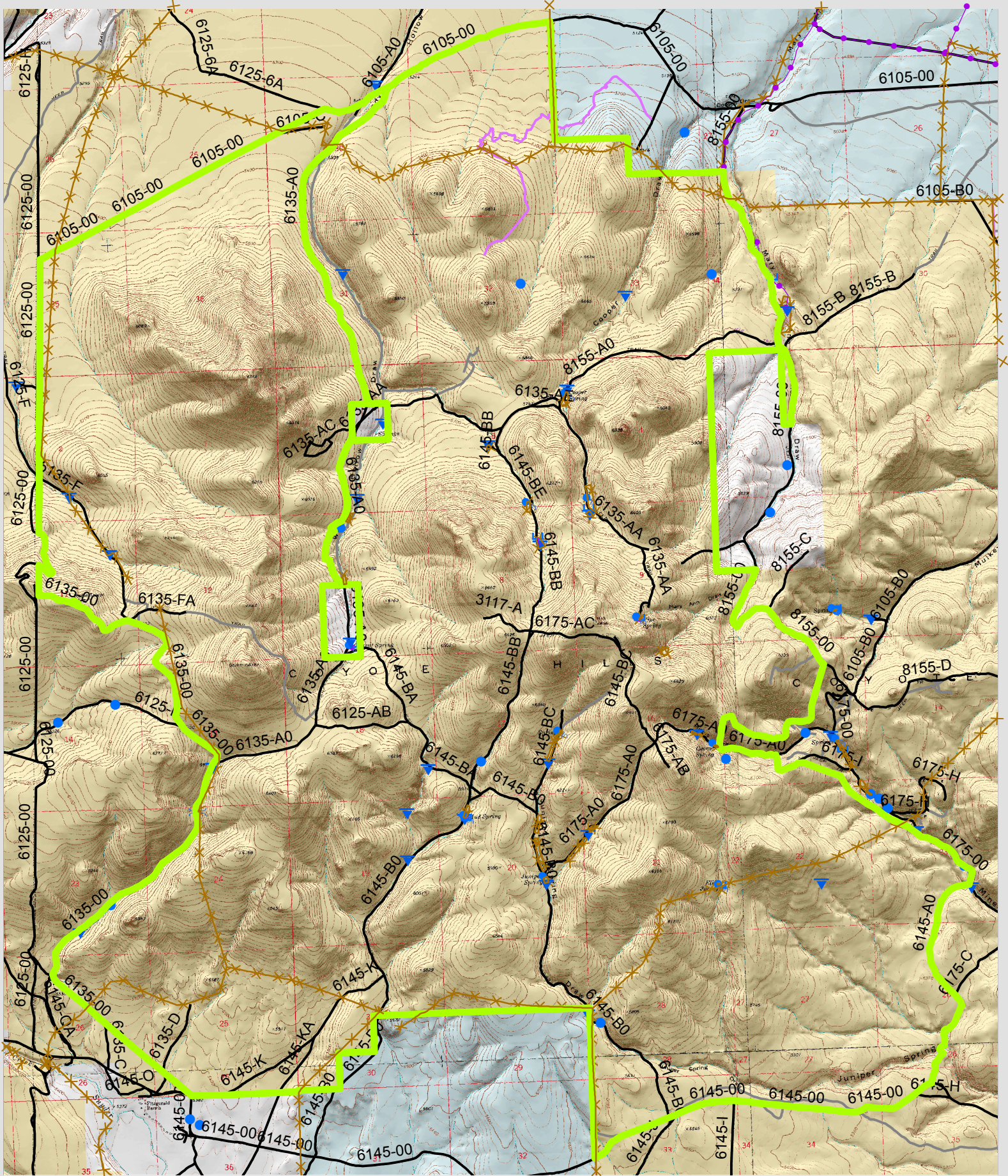
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.



 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
 Closed Routes
 Reclaiming Routes
 Motorized and Non-Motorized Trails
 Fences

Pipelines and Ditches
 Ditch
 Water Pipeline
 Guzzler
 Fences

Water Developments
 Dam
 Reservoir
 Spring Development
 Trough
 Water Diversion

Water Tank
 Waterhole
 Well - Water

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