

Year: 2020

Inventory Unit Number/Name: 0R-015-111/ East 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:** U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, Wilderness Review, Intensive Inventory; *Final Decisions of 30 Selected Units in Southeast Oregon and Proposed Decisions on Other Intensively Inventoried Units in Oregon and Washington*, March 1980. Pg. 12-13.

b) **Inventory Unit Number(s)/Name(s):** 1-111/ East Coyote Hills

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon. *Intensive Wilderness Inventory, Final Decisions for 30 Selected Inventory Units and Proposed Decisions for Other Intensive Inventory Units*. March 1980.

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

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
1-111^	17,200	N	N	N	Unknown
1-111*	15,785	N	N/A	N/A	N/A

^ Including 400 acres of private inholding and 480 acres of state land.

* 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 1980, unit 1-111 (East Coyote Hills) was described as a group of small hills with rolling contours on the north and east with moderately steep slopes in the central portion of the hills. Vegetative cover on the unit is sagebrush with isolated junipers in the draws. There are also several springs with associated riparian vegetation. The unit possess a heavy concentration of substantially noticeable mining disturbances primarily in the Miner's Draw with numerous faint ways on the eastern flanks of the hills. There are approximately 11 miles of ways, a 460-acre seeding, and many water and spring developments. The majority of the unit appears in an unnatural condition. Slopes and exposure throughout the unit are such that one would not be able to avoid the sights and sounds of others within the unit. Primitive recreation opportunities were found to be less than outstanding.

FORM 2

DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

a. **Unit Number/Name:** OR-015-111/ East 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 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 1980. The East Coyote Hills unit is bounded on the east by County Road 3-10 (Hogback Road) right-of-way, on the north by interim numbered BLM Road 0193-00 and private/state land boundaries; on the west by BLM Road 8155-00, private lands, and a pipeline right-of-way; and on the south by BLM Road 6175-00 and a County gravel pit right-of-way. Additionally, the boundary of this unit was changed to remove approximately 222 acres of disturbance (see natural condition discussion). Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM identified the East Coyote Hills inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at 15,563 acres of BLM administered lands. BLM also reviewed the Fitzgerald Partners submission, but did not make any route changes based on this information.

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 7 miles northwest of Plush, Oregon. The unit is about 7 miles long by about 5 miles wide. The unit does not contain any private or other jurisdiction inholdings. Overall, topography and vegetation has not changed since the original inventory. Field observations now show a few aspen trees associated with springs in places across the unit.

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

In 1980, the unit was described as containing many scattered tunnels and shafts from past mining activities. A heavy concentration of mining disturbances were noted in the Miners Draw area and on surrounding higher slopes. Numerous faint ways were noted on the eastern flanks of the hills. The majority of the unit was found to be in an unnatural condition.

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: 116 abandoned mine disturbances (small, localized, testing sites estimated to total

less than 5 acres in total), 1 dam, 5 reservoirs, 4 waterholes, 2 developed springs with 4 troughs, 1 guzzler, 6 miles of fence lines, 5.6 miles of reclaiming routes, 12 miles of primitive motorized routes, 2,835 acres of drill seeding, 15,376 acres of wildfire, and 215 acres of backpack/ATV weed treatments, and 5 acres of surface access gravel/sand along Miner's Draw drainage.

The southwestern portion of the East 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 222 acres has been removed from the inventory unit including heavily mined areas, pipelines, and a gravel pit.

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. East 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 No N/A

Although this unit is situated in a hilly area, solitude does not appear to have been evaluated in 1980.

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.

East Coyote Hills is stands out in the resource area as a very topographically diverse formation. The unit contains dozens of steep peaks (Coyote) well over 5,500 feet elevation, with several draws, drainages (Mulkey Wells, Mary Ann, Miner's Draw), and numerous natural springs tucked into tight, closed in ravines and small eroded valleys.

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 East 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 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 1980.

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 concludes 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 represents a unique opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.

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

The BLM noted the presence of golden eagle, chuckar, deer winter range, and priority sage-grouse habitat as potential supplemental values.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-111/ East 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

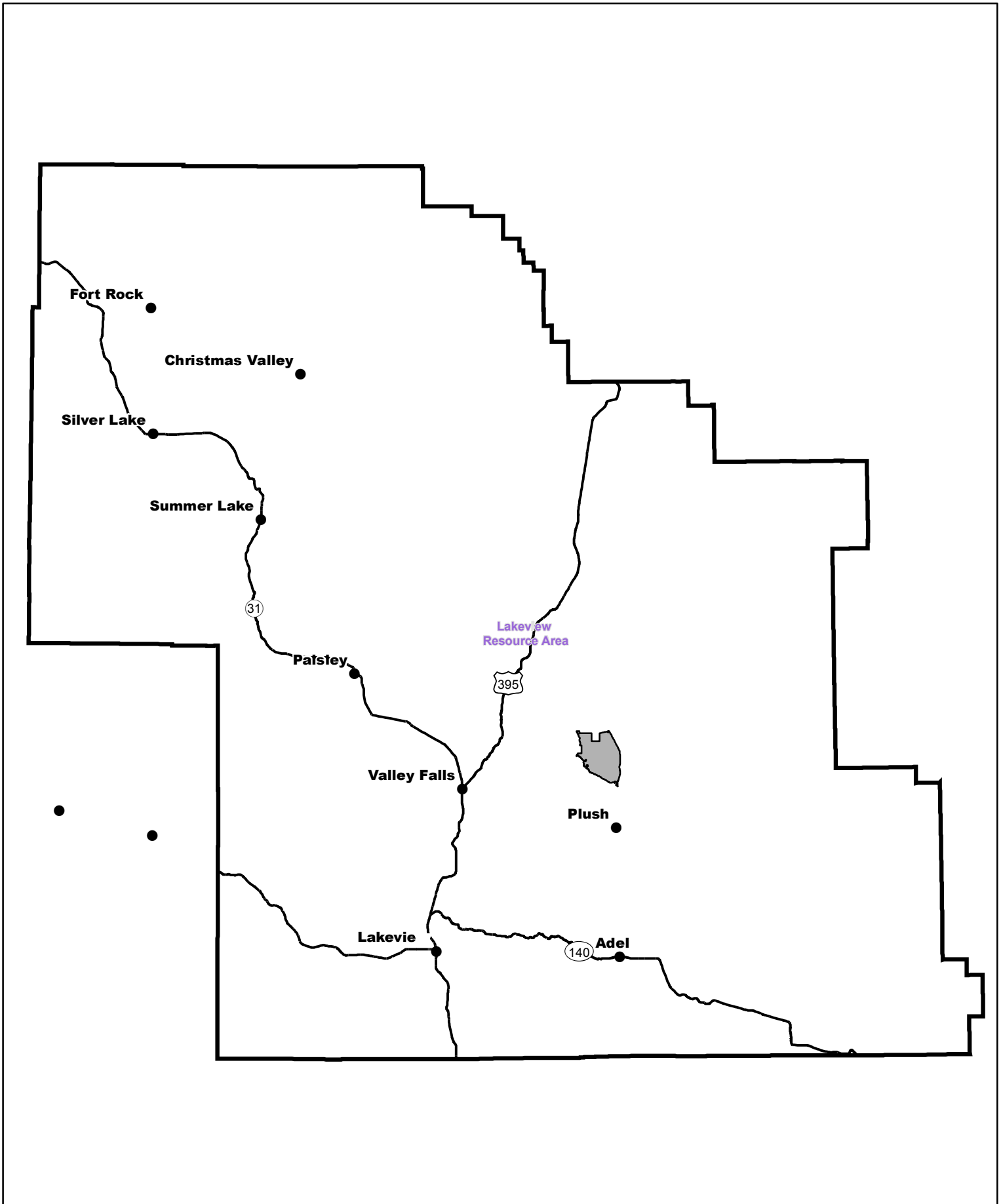
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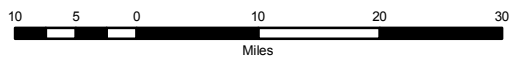
Jami Ludwig
Field Manager


10/14/2020
Date

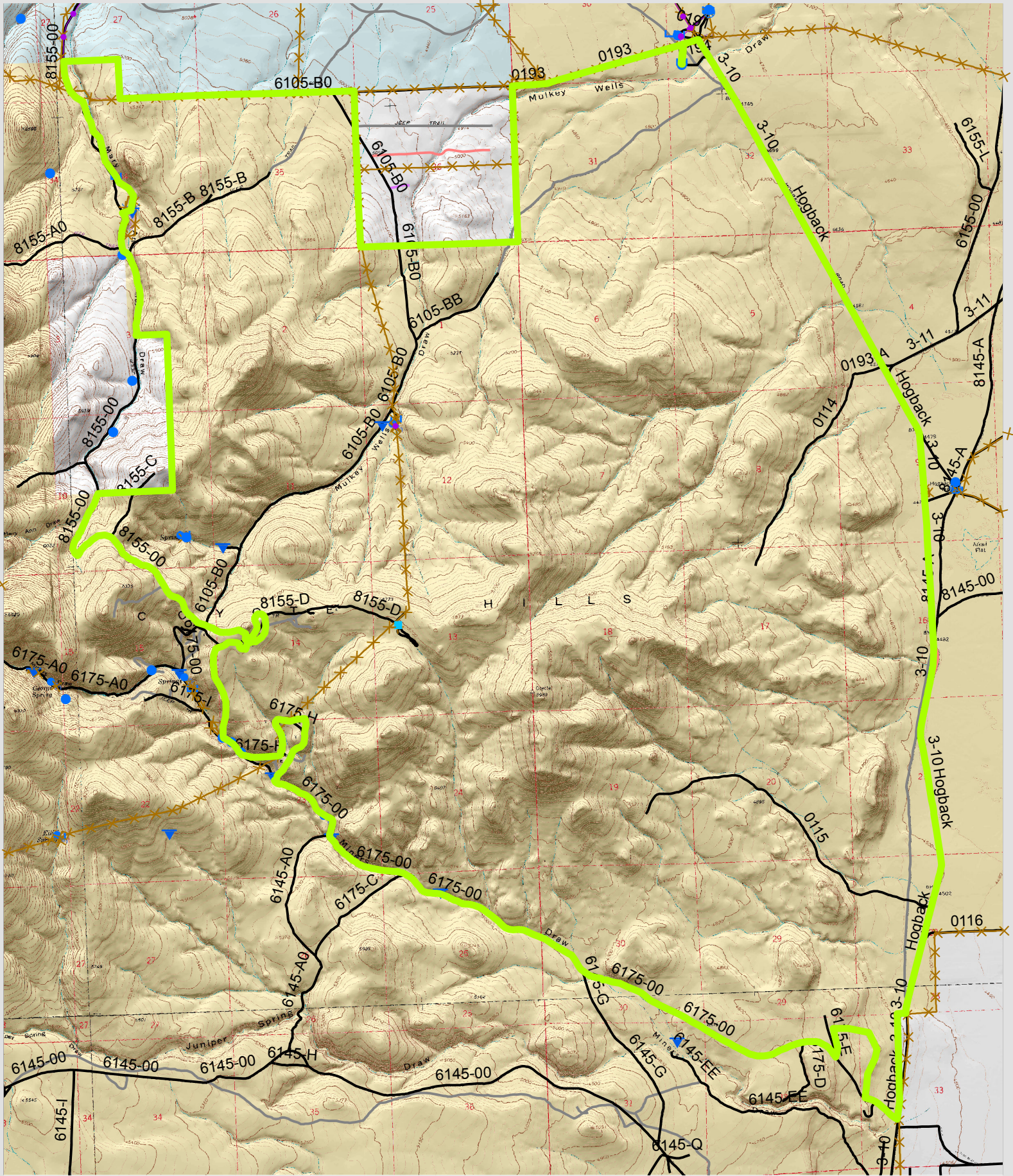
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.



 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

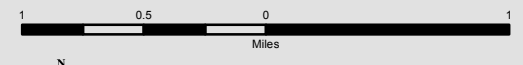
Pipelines and Ditches

- Ditch
- Water Pipeline
- Guzzler
- Fences

Water Developments

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

- Water Tank
- Waterhole
- Well - Water



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