

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-004A/ Kilgore Butte\*

**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):** OR-1-4/ Walker Cabin

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.

\*Note: Unit name was changed to better reflect values and features found within the unit, and to reduce confusion of similarly named inventory units.

**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
1-4	34,080	N	N	N	N
1-004A*	9,344	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
1-004B*	9,268	N	N/A	N/A	N/A

\* The inventory of this unit was updated in 2011. However, due to a State Office-sponsored Wilderness Inventory Consistency Evaluation and subsequent guidance, the 2011 inventory analysis and findings are being replaced by this current 2018 inventory review. Documentation of the 2011 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, the majority of the terrain was described as rolling, with small hills near the Walker Butte area. Most of the unit contained moderate to dense juniper cover. The southern third of the unit opened to sage flats at the north edge of Christmas Lake Valley. There were also three large ephemeral lakes near the northern boundary. The unit contained 5 major vehicle “ways” (25 miles), a very noticeable 500-KV DC power line on the east side of the unit, and developed lakebed pits to the north. Though small segments of the unit were undisturbed, the unit did not appear to be in a generally natural and the works of man were substantially unnoticeable. Terrain and vegetation provided some degree of solitude in small areas, but opportunities were not outstanding. The unit provided some limited opportunities for activities such as photography, wildlife observation, and hunting, but the potential was determined to be less than outstanding. There were no known supplemental values within the unit.

**FORM 2**

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY  
CONDITIONS**

**Unit Number/Name:** OR-015-004A/ Kilgore Butte\*

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

Between 2008 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 the inventory unit is bounded by a right-of-way for Country Road 5-12D, BLM interim numbered roads 6171-CA, 6171-CF, and private lands to the west; BLM Road 7171-00 and BLM interim numbered road 6171-L0 on the north; Bonneville Power Administration right-of-ways for a 500 KV power line and access road, a residential power line right-of-way, and private lands on the east; and private lands to the south. BLM interim numbered road 6171-CF was cherry stemmed for access to private property. Sections of BLM interim numbered roads 6171-CH, 6171-CA, 6171-CF, and 6171-CG failed to meet the wilderness definition of a road. In addition, approximately 60 acres of the unit were removed due to unnatural features (sagebrush and juniper chaining) and changes in boundary determinations (power line and road right-of-ways buffer corrections).

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Kilgore Butte inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 28,217 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 unit is located approximately 17 miles northeast of Christmas Valley, Oregon. The unit is approximately 12 miles long by 4 miles wide. Topographically, the unit is comprised of a half-dozen moderate buttes, 100 – 300 feet high (including Kilgore and Sage Hen Buttes), and 5 large ephemeral lakebed depressions in the north; small buttes, knolls, rims, drainages, ephemeral lakebeds, and rolling terrain to the south, and 2 miles of Peter’s Creek drainage (10 – 40 ft. deep) in the southeast corner of the unit. Overall, the unit ranges in elevation from 5,188 ft. in the north to 4,340 ft. in the south. Vegetatively, the vast majority (roughly 20,000 acres) of the unit is covered in moderate to high-density western juniper stands, with old-growth characteristics.

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

In 1980, the inventory found the unit contained 5 major vehicle “ways” (25 miles), a very noticeable 500-KV DC power line on the east side of the unit, and developed lakebed pits to the north. Though small segments of the unit were undisturbed, the unit did not appear to be in a generally natural and the works of man were substantially unnoticeable.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 150 acres of wildfire, 6 miles of fence line, 25 miles of motorized routes, 0.75 miles of cat lines, 4 waterholes, and 2 reservoirs.

Presently, almost 4 decades after the original inventory, these developments are weathered and grown over with herbaceous grasses, sagebrush, and juniper. As a result, developments now fade into the background of the unit and are largely only noticeable at a close distance (1/4<sup>th</sup> mile or less) and are thus substantially unnoticeable from further distances. The topography and vegetation of the area also plays a large role in screening disturbances and man-made developments. Furthermore, many of the disturbances are located near the perimeter of the unit and, as such, have a small area of influence. Additionally, areas that were allowed to revegetate naturally after wildfire have been invaded by juniper, rabbit bush, sagebrush, and grasses and have returned to a natural, post fire, appearing condition.

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

**(3) Does the unit** (or the remainder of the unit 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

The 1980 inventory determined terrain and vegetation provided some degree of solitude in small areas, but opportunities for solitude were not outstanding.

The BLM determined that there are several outstanding opportunities for solitude across the unit due to topographic screening in the north and widespread vegetative screening across the unit. Topographically, the unit is comprised of a half-dozen moderate buttes, 100 – 300 feet high (including Kilgore and Sage Hen Buttes), and 5 large ephemeral lakebed depressions in the north; small buttes, knolls, rims, drainages, ephemeral lakebeds, and rolling terrain to the south, and 2 miles of Peter’s Creek drainage (10 – 40 ft. deep) in the southeast corner of the unit. Overall, the unit ranges in elevation from 5,188 ft. in the north to 4,340 ft. in the south. Vegetatively, western juniper stands have greatly expanded in height, width, and density. The vast majority (roughly 20,000 acres) of the unit is covered in moderate to high-density western juniper stands providing excellent screening. Due to the above-described topographic and vegetative screening throughout the unit, 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 Kilgore Butte inventory unit possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude.

**(4) Does the unit** (or the remainder of the unit 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

The 1980 inventory found the unit provided some limited opportunities for activities such as photography, wildlife observation, and hunting, however the potential of these activities were determined to be less than outstanding.

The BLM finds the combination and diversity of hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, camping, wildlife observation, exploration, scenery, photography, stargazing, trapping, and hunting are exceptional. The BLM determined that options for hiking/ horseback riding the length of the unit (12 miles), hiking/ horseback riding peak to peak in the northern half of the unit, and exploration/route finding among unit’s more than 20,000 acres of dense, old-growth, juniper stands 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 pronghorn antelope, mule deer, elk, pigmy rabbit, golden eagle, and sage-grouse habitat. Additionally, approximately 4 miles of ONDA’s 750-mile Oregon Desert Trail (“virtual”/ GPS track) crosses the southern portion of the inventory unit.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

**Unit Number and Name:** OR-015-004A/ Kilgore Butte\*

**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

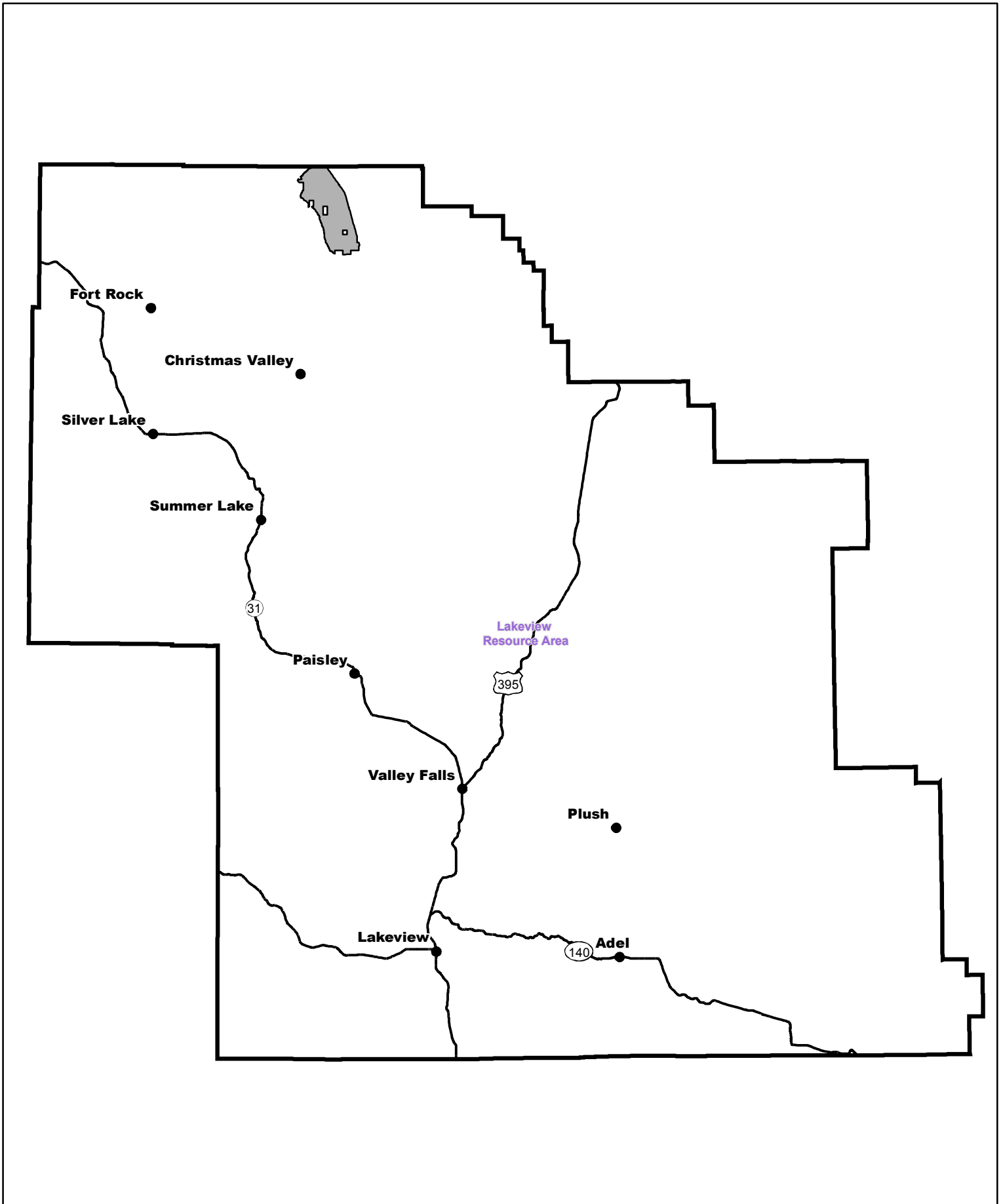
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**Approved by:**

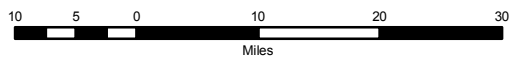
  
J. Todd Forbes  
Field Manager


6/4/18  
Date

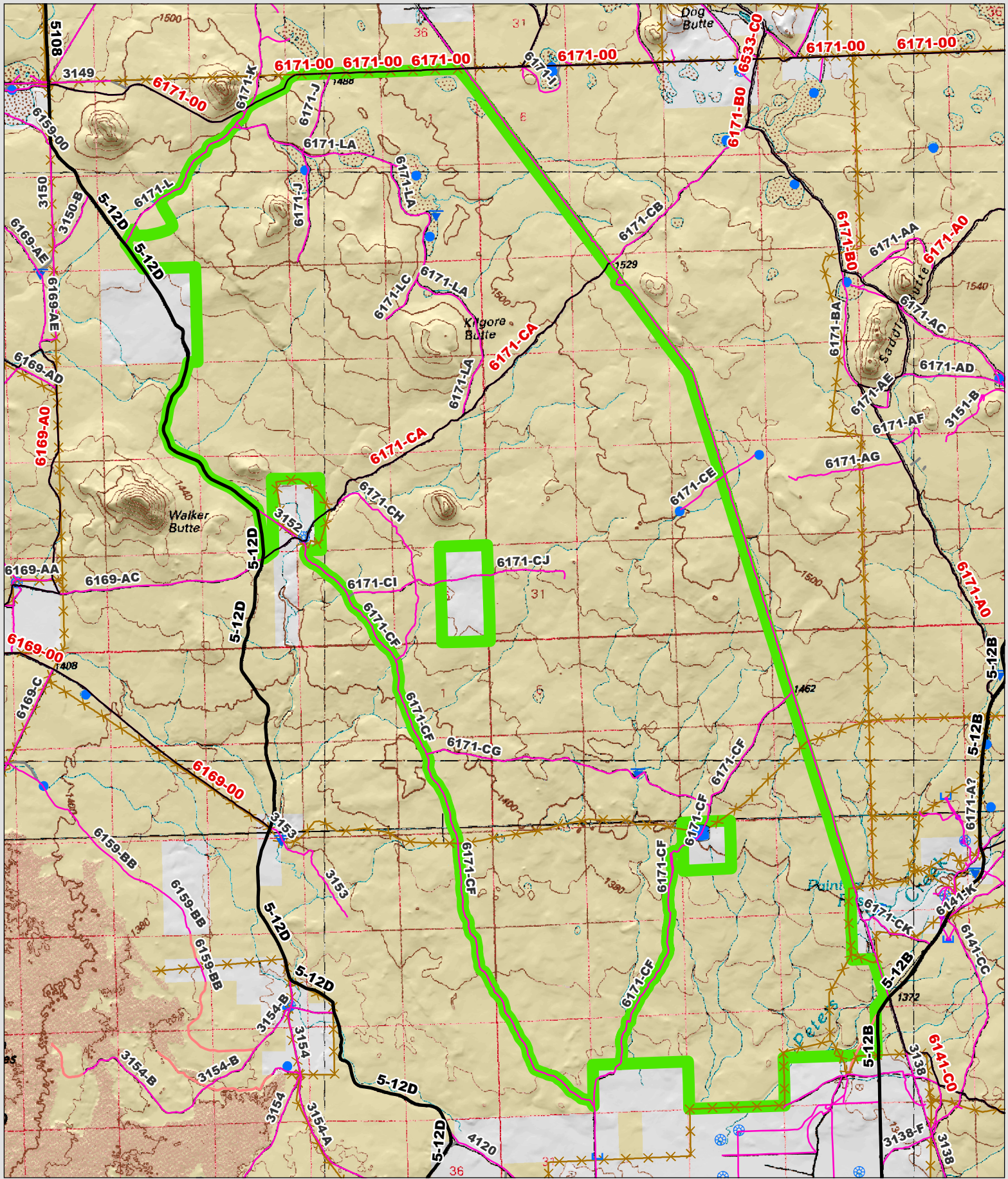
*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.*



 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 Developments**

- Water Tank
- Waterhole
- Well - Water

1.5 0.75 0 1.5 Miles

W N E S

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