

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-134B/ Lone Grave 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):** 1-134B/ Lone Grave Butte

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 (acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
1-134B	22,080	Y	N	N	N/A
1-134B*	19,587	Y	N	N	N/A

*The inventory of this unit was updated in 2012. However, due to a State Office-sponsored Wilderness Inventory Consistency Evaluation and subsequent guidance, the 2012 inventory analysis and findings are being replaced by this current 2018 inventory review. Documentation of the 2012 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, historic unit 1-134B was broken into 2 sub-units along Road 6106-B0. Sub-unit 1-134A contained approximately 3,360 acres and was not evaluated further. Sub-unit 1-134B consisted of about 22,080 acres that was described as a generally flat with some broken basalt rims and large flats at different elevations along with some smaller hills. The major

topographic feature was Lone Grave Butte, which rose to 6,150 feet in elevation. This unit was long and narrow and rose gradually in elevation from south to north. Vegetation communities were primarily sagebrush. The unit contained approximately 13 miles of vehicle “ways,” which were found to be substantially unnoticeable. The most noticeable man-made feature was a two mile fence line which ran up the south slope of Long Grave Butte. Overall, the unit appeared generally natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable. The somewhat broken terrain provided some opportunity to find solitude. However, the broad expanses between elevation changes and the relatively narrow shape of the unit left one exposed to others. For this reason, opportunities for solitude were not found to be outstanding. The unit was noted as providing big game hunting and winter trapping, but these were associated with motorized vehicle access. Lone Grave Butte appeared as the most likely point of interest, but was close to a boundary, which received heavy traffic. The unit provided some opportunity for hiking and wildlife observation, but these were not found to be outstanding. No supplemental values were noted.

FORM 2

DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-134B/ Lone Grave Butte

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

In 2005, the BLM received a citizen proposal from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) for a 424,570-acre area they referred to as Hart 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 (p. 87-120 of ONDA 2005).

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 several of the routes ONDA identified as “ways” are boundary roads. The Hart Mountain proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is comprised of several smaller inventory units, which must be evaluated individually.

The BLM determined that the inventory unit is bounded by BLM Road 6176-00 and private lands on the east; BLM Roads 6176-K0, 6176-KA and private lands on the north; National Wildlife Refuge lands on the northwest; with BLM Road 6176-L0 and BLM interim numbered road 6176-LG on the southwest. As a result, the historic Lone Grave Butte unit (1-

134B) has been divided into two smaller units (Lone Grave Butte and Shirk Lake) by roads (6176-L0 and interim number 6176-LG).

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Lone Grave Butte inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 19,608 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:

This inventory unit is located immediately adjacent to the southeast corner of the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge; approximately 23 miles east of Plush, Oregon. The unit is approximately 10 miles long by 4 miles wide and contains two private inholdings totaling 280 acres. The southeastern end of the unit is dominated by Lone Grave Butte, which rises from an elevation of 5,400 feet up to 6,582 feet. The northern end of the unit is comprised of the upper drainages of West Gulch, tabletops, buttes, and rolling hills interspersed with rims. While the western edge of the unit is comprised of Guano Slough and over 2 miles of Guano Canyon. A prescribed fire was implemented in the central-eastern portion of the unit in 1999 and is vegetated predominantly with grasses. Overall, vegetation in the unit is predominantly sagebrush.

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

In 1980, the unit was described as having 13 miles of vehicle “ways,” which were found to be substantially unnoticeable. The most noticeable man-made feature was a two-mile fence line, which ran up the south slope of Long Grave Butte. Overall, the unit appeared to be generally natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable.

ONDA’s 2005 inventory concluded that their Hart Mountain Proposed Wilderness Study Area appears in a natural condition, primarily affected by the forces of nature. “Many of the manmade developments [are]...deteriorated making them appear more natural in the landscape, they do not have a cumulative impact to the area (p. 92-93 of ONDA 2005).” However, as noted above, the BLM found that this proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is comprised of several smaller inventory units, within which the natural character must be evaluated individually.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 2,759 acres of prescribed burning, 786 acres of chemical treatments, 9 miles of motorized routes, 2.5 miles of reclaiming routes, 2.5 miles of fence lines, 6 waterholes, and 1 reservoir.

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. Furthermore, areas that were allowed to revegetate naturally after prescribed burns have been invaded by rabbit/ sagebrush 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

In 1980, the unit's terrain was found to provide some opportunity to find solitude. However, the broad expanses between elevation changes and the relatively narrow shape of the unit left one exposed to others. For this reason, opportunities for solitude were not found to be outstanding.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger 424,570-acre Hart Mountain Proposed WSA as having outstanding opportunities for solitude based on sheer size as their proposal is contiguous with other inventory units and therefore no longer stands alone. As such, the sights and sounds of others could easily be avoided. ONDA noted that there are still flat and exposed slopes, but they do not dominate the entirety of the proposed WSA and one could easily find areas that have topographic screening. However, the BLM did not find this proposal to be one large roadless area, but are 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. Topographically, Lone Grave Butte, which rises from an elevation of 5,400 feet up to 6,582 feet, is a dominant and diverse formation, with numerous points, saddles, ridges, folds, drainages, and aspects around the circumference of its formation. The northern end of the unit is comprised of the upper drainages of West Gulch, tabletops, buttes, and rolling hills interspersed with rims. While the western edge of the unit is comprised of Guano Slough and over 2 miles of Guano Canyon. 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 Lone Grave 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

In 1980, the unit was noted as providing big game hunting and winter trapping. Lone Grave Butte appeared as the most likely point of interest and the unit provided some opportunity for hiking and wildlife observation, but these were found to be less than outstanding.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger 424,570-acre Hart 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 therefore no longer stands alone. ONDA considered potential opportunities for hunting, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, wildlife observation, and photography as outstanding (p. 93 of ONDA 2005). However, the BLM did not find this proposal to be one large roadless area, but are comprised of a number of smaller inventory units that must be evaluated individually.

The BLM finds that all activities listed above in combination with the diversity of camping, exploration, and sightseeing are exceptional. The BLM determined that opportunities for hiking through Guano Canyon up the ridge to the peak of Lone Grave Butte to represent a unique opportunity 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 golden eagle, pigmy rabbit, pronghorn antelope, California bighorn sheep, mule deer, burrowing owl, and sage-grouse habitat.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-134B/ Lone Grave Butte

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 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):



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 6/4/18
Date


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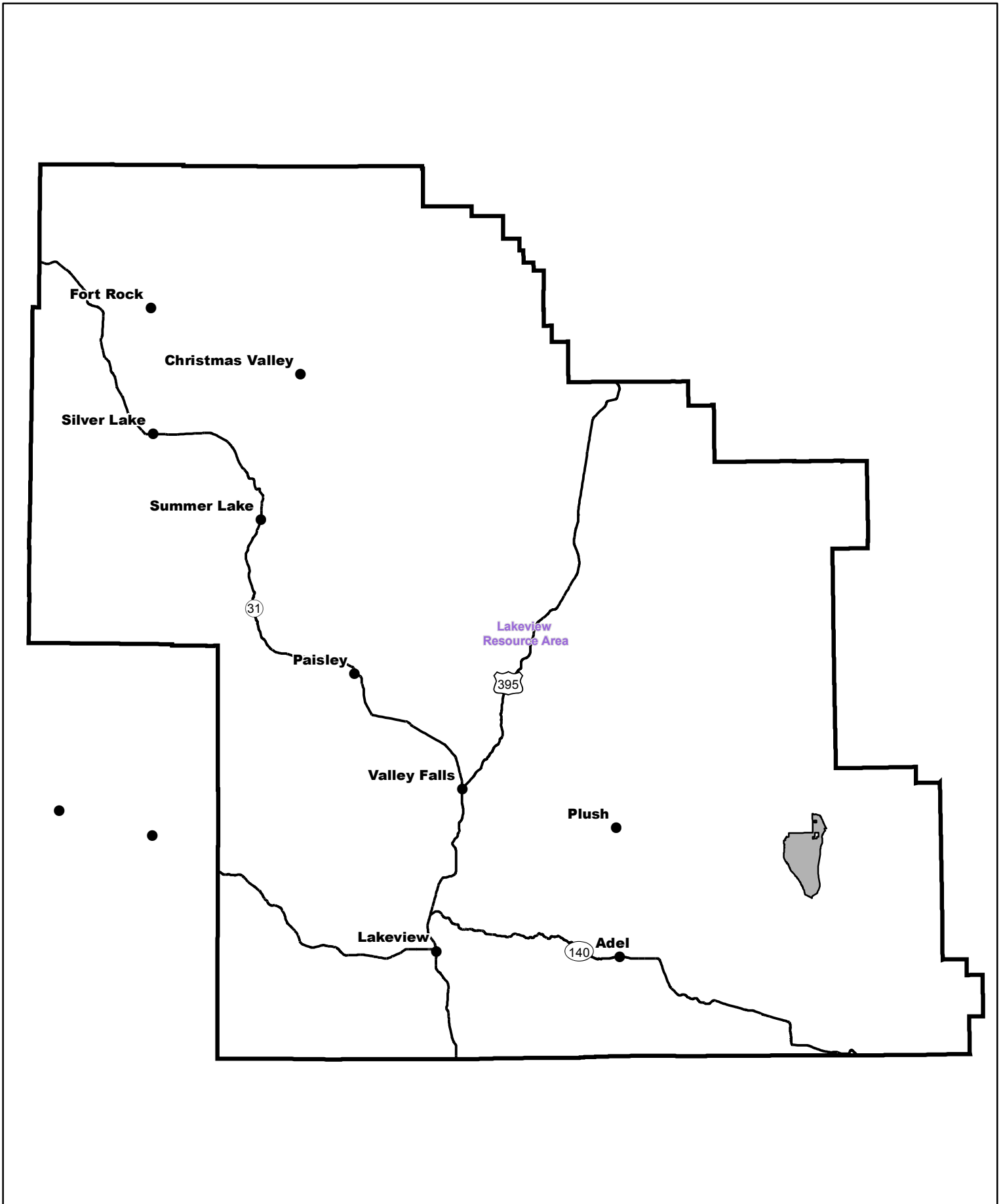
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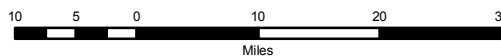

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Date

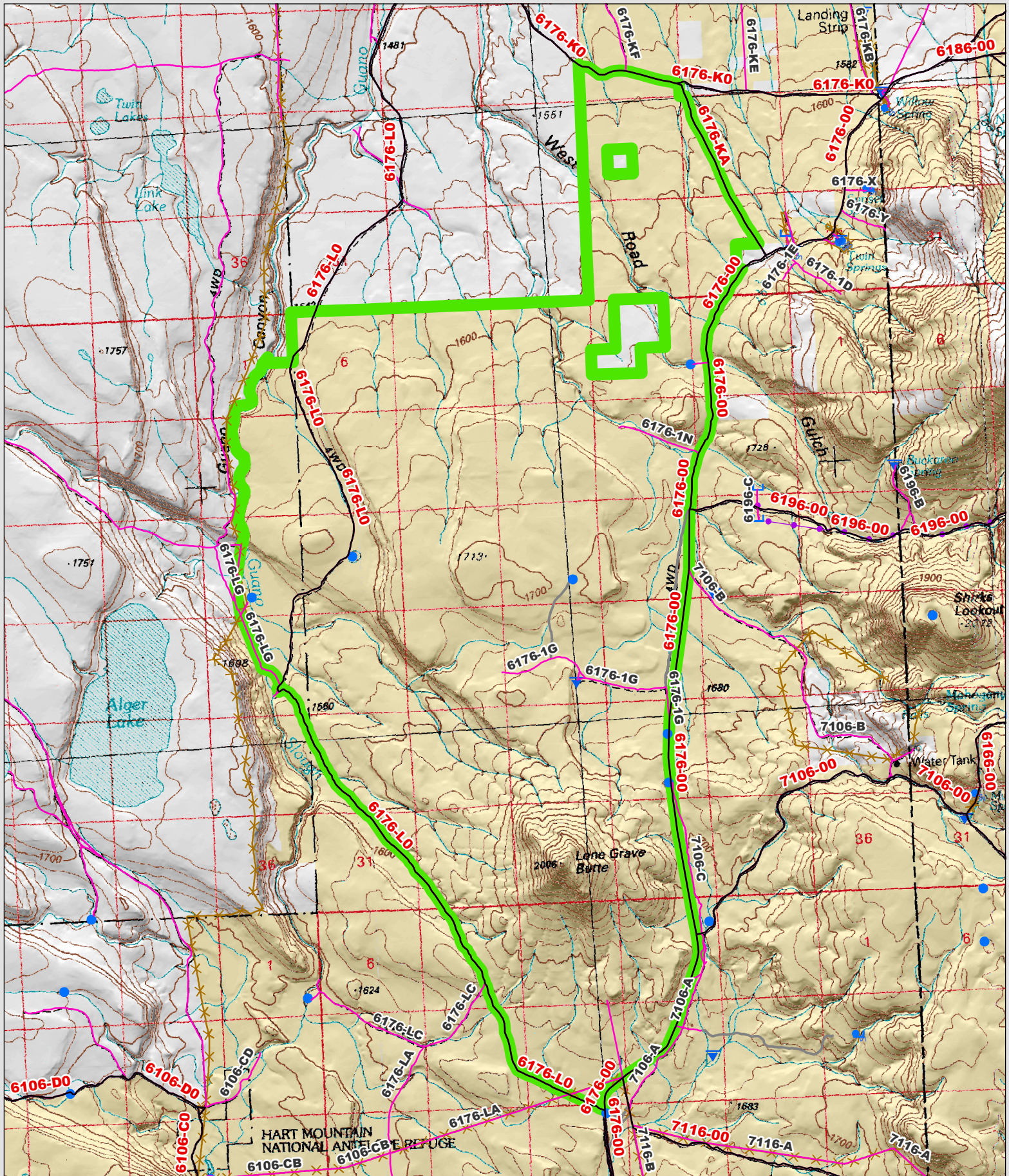
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.



 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



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Wilderness Character Inventory Unit

Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- 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 Features

- Water Tank
- Waterhole
- Well - Water



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