

Year: 2020

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-137/ Mahogany 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):** 1-137/ Mahogany 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
1-137	8,000	Partial Y&N	N	N	N
1-137*	7,555	N	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 unit contained low rolling hills on the west, which steadily rise to the east toward Shirks Lookout and Mahogany Mountain. The low elevation in the unit was approximately 5,000 ft. with the high point being Mahogany Mountain at 7,140 feet. The unit contained steep sided hills and draws with broad exposures and low vegetative cover. The unit was essentially sagebrush covered with minor stands of mountain mahogany on Mahogany Mountain. There was one scenic canyon approximately three-quarters of a mile in length north of Rock Springs Camp. The unit contained 3.5 miles of “ways” and 4 miles of fence lines. The unit also contained two small reservoirs. These man-made features were noticeable through approximately 30% of the unit. Development at Rock Springs Camp, though on private land, had a significant impact on portions of the unit. The unit appeared generally natural on the north and east; however, much of the

western and southern portions of the unit were not found to be in a natural condition. The steep hills in the unit in conjunction with the low vegetation gave an effect of leaving one highly exposed in large portions of the unit. It would be very difficult in spite of the topography to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. The unit offered potential for hiking, hunting, wildlife observation, and photography. With the confining element of small size and exposure to others within the unit, it would be difficult to find a truly primitive and unconfined experience within the unit. Recreation opportunities within the unit are not considered outstanding. No supplemental values were recognized within the unit.

FORM 2

DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-137/ Mahogany Mountain

(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 the 82,532-acre Spaulding Addition 2 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 Map, p. 216 of ONDA 2005). Additional photos were taken in the area in 2007 and provided to the BLM. In 2018, the BLM received an additional citizen inventory from the Schadler Ranch. All these materials were considered during the BLM's wilderness inventory process for this area.

Between 2007 and 2019, 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 and revised this information in 2019 based on new citizen submitted information submitted.

The BLM determined that several of the routes ONDA identified as "ways" are in fact boundary roads. The Spaulding Addition 2 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 rather than be added to the wilderness values of the existing Spaulding WSA. BLM also reviewed the Shadler Ranch submission and made a change to one cherry stem route that had previously been misidentified (7106-B0).

The BLM determined that the inventory unit is bounded by BLM Road 6176-00 on the west; 6196-00 and private lands on the north; 6166-00 and private lands on the east; and 7106-00 and 7106-B0 on the south.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Mahogany Mountain inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 7,565 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 27 miles east of Plush, Oregon. The unit is approximately 3 miles long by 4 miles wide with a 537-acre inholding near the southern boundary. The unit is dominated by Mahogany Mountain (7,140 ft.) and Shirks Lookout (6,784 ft.) in the eastern two-thirds of the area. The northern edge of the unit is comprised of West Road Gulch. The west third of the unit contains a drainage eroded from Mahogany Spring/falls and low, rolling hills. Overall, the unit contains numerous buttes, with steep-sided hills, draws, and drainages. A prescribed burn was implemented along the southern boundary in 1999 and a wildfire burned the northeastern half of the unit in 2000. Overall, vegetation in the unit is predominantly grasses and sagebrush, a stand of mountain mahogany atop Mahogany Mountain.

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

In 1980, the unit contained low vegetative cover comprised of sagebrush and small stands of mountain mahogany. The area appeared generally natural on the northeastern portions of the unit, while the majority of the southwestern areas of the unit were found to be in an unnatural condition. Range developments included 4 miles of fence, 2 reservoirs, a developed private spring, and 3.5 miles of “ways.”

ONDA’s 2005 inventory stated that their Spaulding Addition 2 proposed WSA appeared in a natural condition, primarily affected by the forces of nature. Overall, ONDA concluded that because their proposed unit is part of a large contiguous unit, manmade features do not have cumulative impact on the area. 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 Schadler Ranch 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 additional changes to this unit.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/ disturbances: 683 acres of wildfire, 525 acres of a prescribed burn, 455 acres of chemical treatments, 4 miles of motorized routes, 3 miles of fence lines, 2 miles of above-ground pipelines, 2 waterholes, 1 water tank, 1 reservoir, and a 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. Furthermore, areas that were allowed to revegetate naturally after wildfires and prescribed burns have been invaded by grasses, rabbit brush and sagebrush. These portions of the unit 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 steep hillsides and low vegetation were found to leave one highly exposed or visible to others in large portions of the unit and it was difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of others.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger Spaulding Addition 2 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. ONDA noted the diverse topography of the area would easily allow visitors to avoid the sights and sounds of others (p. 213 of ONDA 2005). However, the BLM did not find this proposal to be one large roadless area, but is in fact comprised of a number of smaller inventory units that must be evaluated individually.

The BLM determined that the unit is very topographically diverse and possesses several outstanding opportunities for solitude across the area due to topographic and vegetative screening. The unit is dominated by Mahogany Mountain (7,140 ft.) and Shirks Lookout (6,784 ft.), but also includes the drainages of West Road Gulch, the canyon of Mahogany Spring/falls, and an unnamed drainage in the northeast corner. Overall, the unit contains numerous buttes, with steep-sided hills, draws, and drainages. In addition, a mountain mahogany stand atop Mahogany Mountain provides sufficient vegetative screening. Due to the above-described compartmentalized topography and vegetation, one would easily be able to avoid the sights and sounds of others within the inventory 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 Mahogany Mountain 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

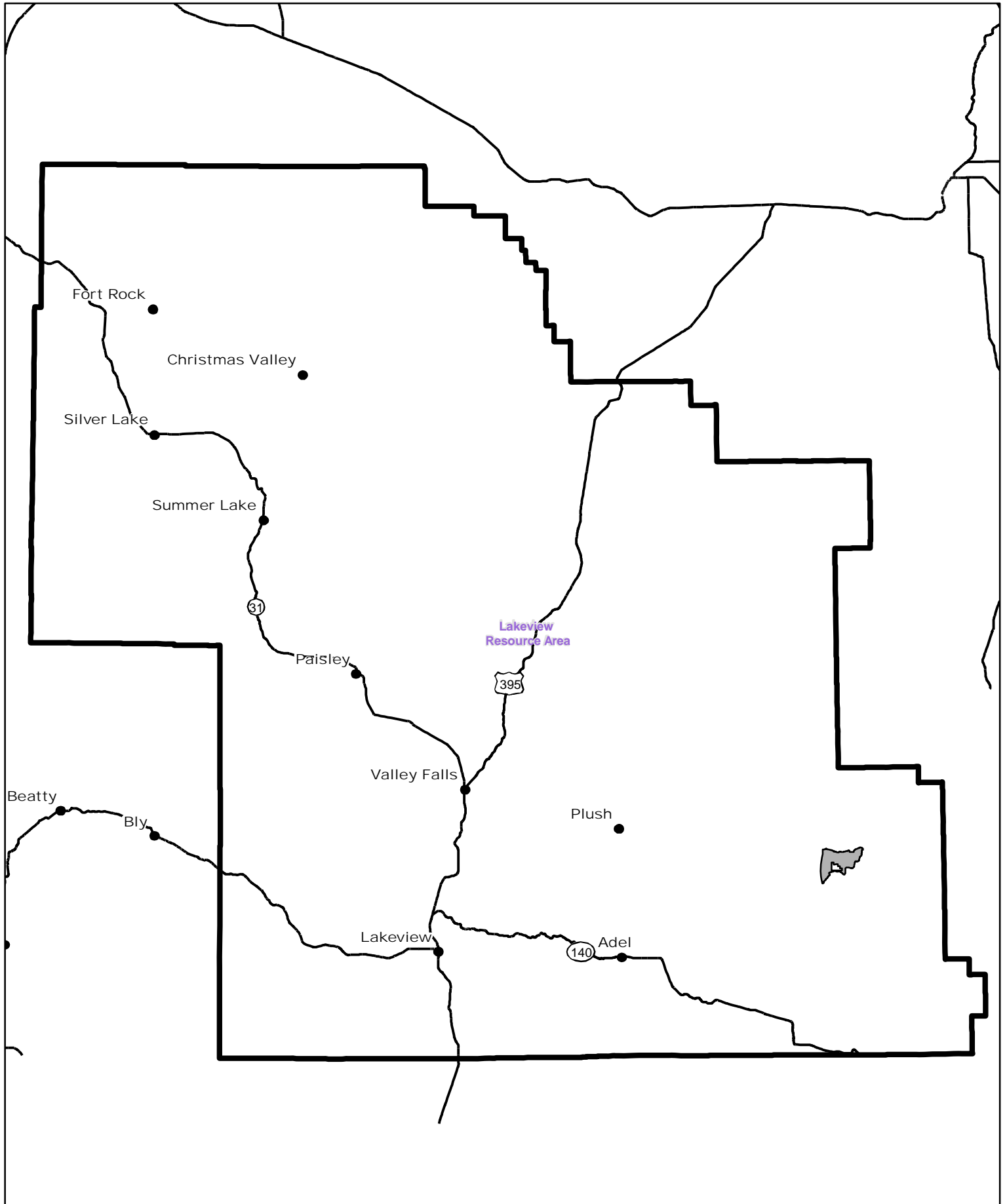
In 1980, the unit was found to offer potential for hiking, photography, wildlife observation, and hunting, but due to the unit's small size and potential exposure to others, it would be difficult to find a primitive and unconfined recreation experience on the unit. Overall, recreation opportunities were not considered to be outstanding.


In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger Spaulding Addition 2 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 noted the unit offered outstanding opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, photography, sightseeing, wildlife viewing, hunting, and camping (ONDA 2005; p. 213). However, the BLM did not find this proposal to be one large roadless area, but is in fact comprised of a number of smaller inventory units that must be evaluated individually.

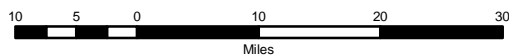
The BLM finds that all activities listed above, in combination with the diversity of trapping and exploration, are exceptional. The BLM determined that hiking peak to peak from Mahogany Mountain to Shirks Lookout and descending down the canyon of Mahogany Spring/falls represents a unique opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.


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

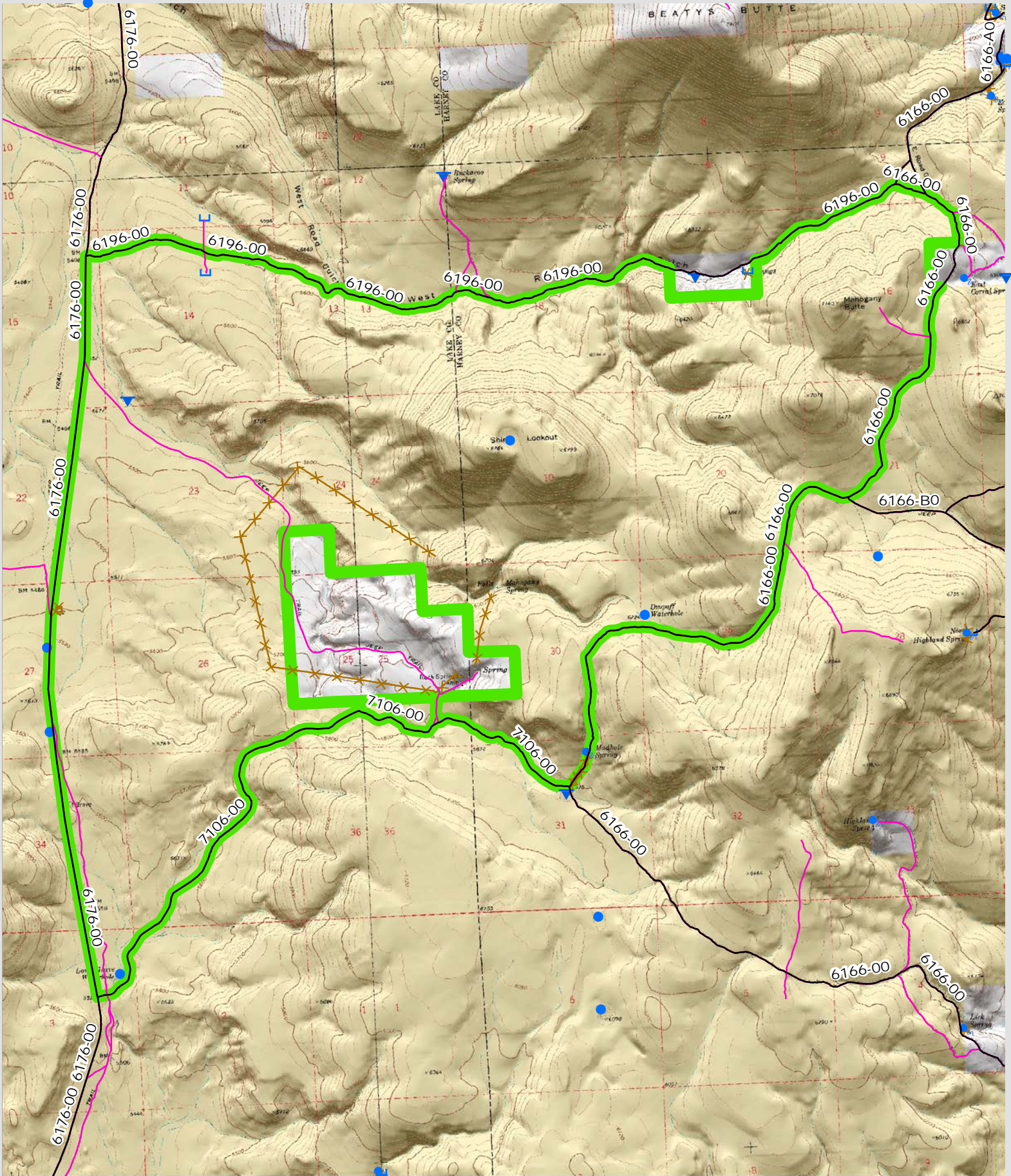
The BLM found the unit to possess archaeological and geological values as well as the presence of golden eagle, pigmy rabbit, California bighorn sheep, mule deer, burrowing owl, weasel, various bat species, and sage-grouse habitat.



 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
- Closed Routes

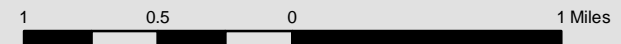
Pipelines and Ditches

- Ditch
- Water Pipeline
- Guzzler
- Fences

Water Developments

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

- Water Tank
- Waterhole
- Well - Water



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.