

Year: 2018 Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-115F/ Murphy Waterholes Southeast

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):** 1-115A/ Guano Slough; 1-115B/ Guano Slough

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/acreage 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
1-115A	47,360	Y	N	N	N
1-115B	59,120	Y	N	N	Y

Summarize any known primary reasons for prior inventory findings listed in this table:

Historic Unit 1-115A was described as a sage flat on the east and low rolling hills with some small broken rims on the west. The highest point in the unit was Cox Butte, which rose some 300 feet above the surrounding terrain. Vegetation on the unit was a big sagebrush community. The subunit contained nine major lakebed pits and approximately nine miles of vehicle “ways.” The overall appearance of the unit was generally natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable. With flat to moderately rolling terrain in the unit and high visibility of persons

moving within it, the unit did not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The unit possessed no characteristic landscape feature or particular point of interest which would appeal to the general wilderness recreationist. The unit had a high potential for antelope hunting but this use was not be considered a form of primitive recreation as practiced in the region because its dependence on motor vehicles. The unit contained no known supplemental values.

Historic Unit 1-115B was described as essentially a very broad sage covered basin with little topographic relief. Guano Slough and Black Canyon crossed the southern third of the subunit. Black Canyon was approximately six miles long, approximately 100 feet deep at the maximum and less than several hundred feet at the widest point. The canyon had vertical basalt walls along most of its length with several small side canyons. The subunit contained numerous ephemeral lakes. Most were developed to provide stock water. A dead-end road was noted to be very noticeable. The subunit contained eight moderate to large lakebed pits and approximately nine miles of vehicle "ways." There was an emergency airfield located near the south boundary. There was a small quarry site two miles west of Guano Reservoir. The man-made features had a minor cumulative impact on the unit and were found to be substantially unnoticeable because of the large size of the subunit. The unit possessed a feeling of isolation but the arrival of others in the area would have been immediately noted. One could hike in Black Canyon and gained some sense of solitude but only extremely limited user capacity would have allowed for solitude. This subunit did not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The Black Canyon area was of some geologic interest and offered opportunity for wildlife observation, notably of cliff dwelling birds. However, the opportunity was not considered outstanding. Opportunities for hiking and backpacking in the unit were not outstanding because there was no unique or noteworthy feature, which attracted recreationists and or cause a particular recreation opportunity to stand above others of their kind. Black Canyon was of some geologic interest and the area was expected to contain some archeological sites though none were documented.

FORM 2

DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-115F/ Murphy Waterholes Southeast

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size? Yes X 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 BLM Road 6176-J0 and private lands on the west; 8249-A0 and an unnumbered BLM road to the north; 6176-H0, 8249-00, 8249-A0, and private lands to the east; and private lands to the south.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Murphy Waterholes Southeast inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 5,383 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 30 miles northeast of Plush, Oregon. The unit is approximately 5 miles long by 2.5 miles wide. Overall, the unit is flat, sloping slightly from the Red Hills, along the southern border, north to the southern extent of Catlow Valley. The unit ranges in elevation from 4,645 – 4,980 feet. The unit contains two drainages. One drainage runs 2 miles (15 – 35 ft. deep) along the western border. While the other broad, shallow (5 – 15 ft. deep), drainage runs 3 through the central portion of the unit. Vegetation in the unit consists of sagebrush and grasses.

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

In 1980, historic Unit 1-115A contained nine major lakebed pits and approximately nine miles of vehicle “ways.” The overall appearance of the unit was generally natural with the works of man substantially unnoticeable. Historic Unit 115B contained eight moderate to large lakebed pits, nine miles of vehicle “ways,” an emergency airfield, a small quarry, and a constructed dead-end road. Overall, these man-made features had a minor cumulative impact on the unit and were found to be substantially unnoticeable because of the large size of the subunit.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 3 miles of fence lines and 3 miles of motorized routes.

Presently, almost 4 decades after the original inventory, these few 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.

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, historic Units 1-115A and 115B were found to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude due to flat to moderate rolling terrain, which was insufficient to screen visitors from other users across the units.

The BLM acknowledges that there may be limited opportunities for solitude within the Murphy Waterholes Southeast inventory unit. However, these opportunities are less than outstanding as the area's characteristic landscape lacks vegetative and topographic screening. Considering the area's small size and shape, the unit is insufficient to effectively allow those recreating in the area 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 Murphy Waterholes Southeast inventory unit does not possess 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, historic Unit 1-115A was described as having high potential for antelope hunting; however, as practiced in the region, with its dependence on motor vehicles, this use was not considered a form of primitive recreation. Thus, the unit was not found to possess outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Historic Unit 1-115B noted recreational interests within the unit include geologic features (Black Canyon), wildlife observation (cliff dwelling birds), hiking and backpacking. However, these opportunities were not considered outstanding due to the lack of unique or noteworthy features, which would attract recreationists and or cause a particular recreation opportunity to stand above others of their kind. Thus, the unit was not found to possess outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Note: the unit boundary for the Murphy Waterholes Southeast inventory unit no longer contains portions of the original units that were considered to have high potential for pronghorn antelope hunting. Likewise, Black Canyon and associated features are also no longer within the boundaries of the unit.

The BLM finds the unit offers limited opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, camping, wildlife observation, scenery, stargazing, and hunting. However, the BLM determined that the unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation through either the diversity in primitive and unconfined recreational activities possible in the area or the outstanding quality of one opportunity relative to opportunities found within the Lakeview Resource Area.

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

The BLM found the unit to possess archaeological and geological values as well as the presence of sage-grouse habitat.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-115F/ Murphy Waterholes Southeast

Summary Results of Analysis:


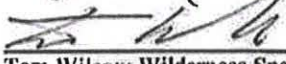

- 1. Does the area meet the size requirements? X Yes No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural? X Yes No
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes X No NA
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? X Yes No NA

Conclusion (Check One):



 The area- or a portion of the area- has wilderness character:
(items 1, 2 and 3 must be checked "yes").

 X The area does not have wilderness character: (any of items 1, 2 and 3 are checked "no").

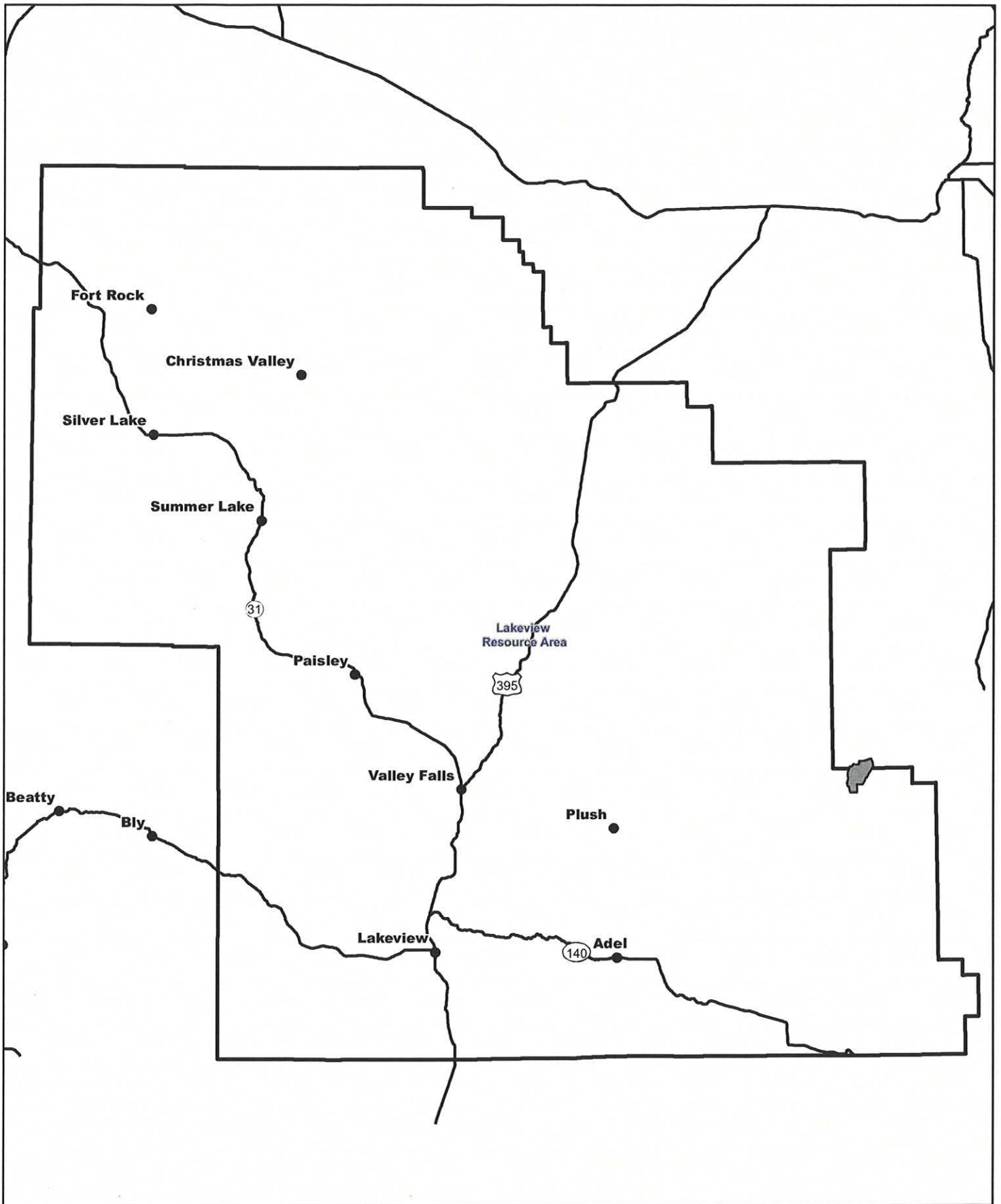
Prepared by (Member Names and Titles):

 Chris Bishop: Outdoor Recreation Planner, Lakeview Resource Area	<u>4/11/18</u> Date
 Tom Wilcox: Wilderness Specialist, Burns District	<u>7/2/18</u> Date
 Jami Ludwig: Assistant Field Manager, Lakeview Resource Area	<u>6/4/18</u> Date

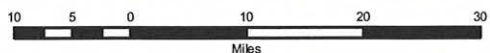
Approved by:


 Rhonda Karges: Field Manager, Andrews Resource Area	<u>7/2/18</u> Date
 J. Todd Forbes: Field Manager, Lakeview Resource Area	<u>4/11/18</u> Date

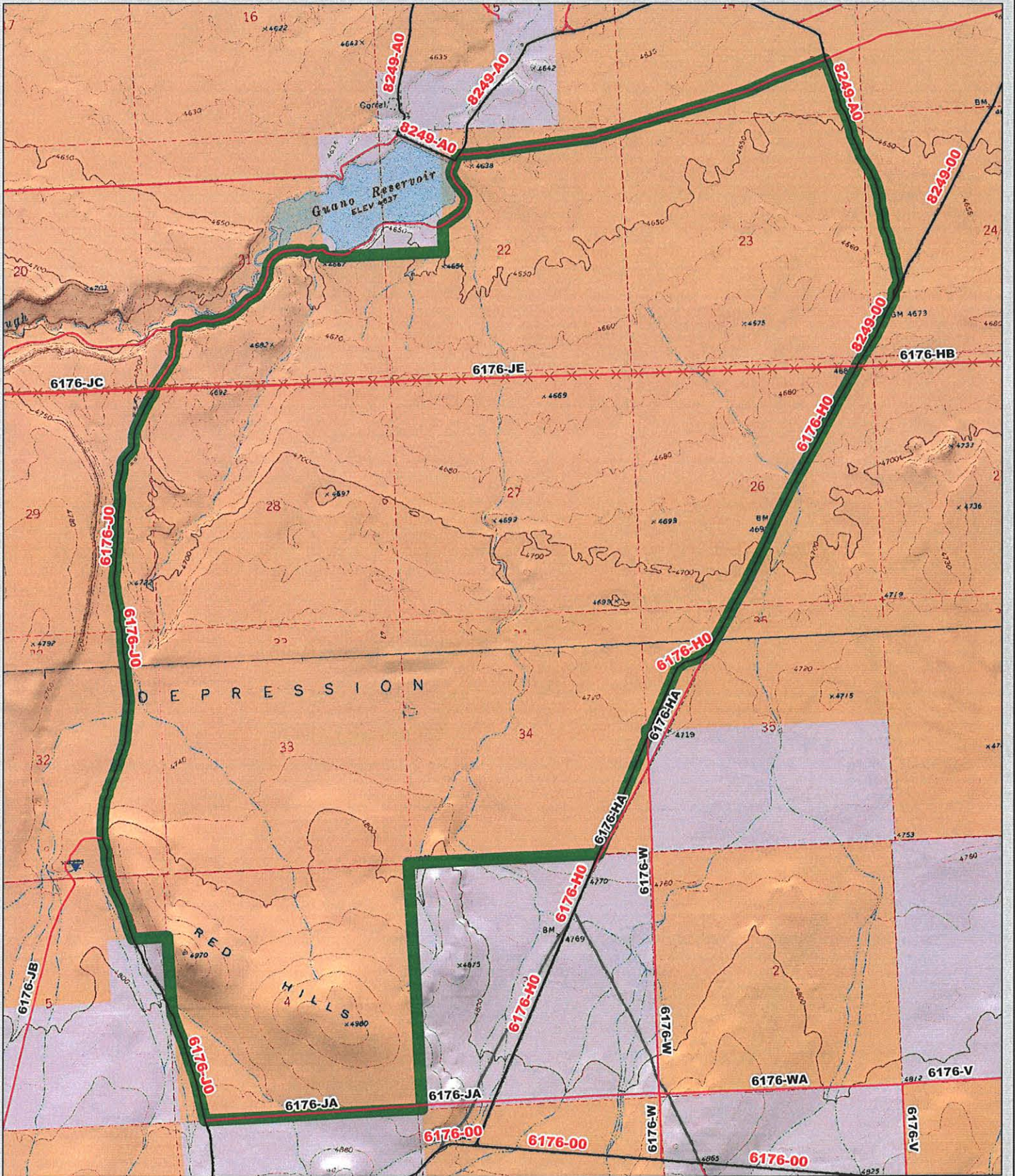
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.



 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



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<p>Wilderness Character Inventory Unit</p> <p>Ownership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bureau of Land Management U.S. Forest Service State Private/Unknown 		<p>Roads/Trails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motorized Routes Highways Reclaiming Routes Interim Routes 		<p>Pipelines and Ditches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ditch Water Pipeline Guzzler Fences 		<p>Water Developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dam Reservoir Spring Development Trough Water Diversion 		<p>Water Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Tank Waterhole Well - Water 	
<p>Scale: 0.65 0.325 0 0.65 Miles</p>		<p>North Arrow:</p>		<p>Disclaimer:</p> <p>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.</p>					