

Year: 2020

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-133/ Shirk Rim*

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):** 1-133/ Guano Lake West

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 (acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
1-133	13,480	Y	N	N	N
1-133*	5,324	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, this unit was described as being triangular, approximately 5 miles wide on the north narrowing to a point some nine miles to the south. The unit contained a dry lake basin on the northeast approximately 3 miles wide. The Westside of the unit is a basalt up thrust known as Shirk Rim, that is approximately 6 miles long, a half mile wide, and approximately 500 feet high. The south end of the unit contained broken rims and narrow basins. The eastside of the unit was a rim, which ran the length of the unit, and dropped off abruptly approximately 200 feet to Guano Lake Basin. The unit contained approximately 7 miles of ways in the north around an ephemeral lake and 2 reservoirs that were substantially unnoticeable. Overall, the unit appeared natural. The triangular shape of the unit in conjunction with the topography over the majority of the unit left one exposed to the presence of others in the unit. On the westside, the downslope of Shirk Rim was exposed to the west boundary area and would not allow an opportunity for solitude. The lake basin in the north, though isolated from the surrounding area, would not allow a person to avoid the sights and sounds of others in this portion of the unit. The unit was not found to offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The unit offered some potential for wildlife observation and hunting, but did not offer an outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation opportunity. The confined shape of the unit was found to constrain hiking and backpacking opportunities. No supplemental values were specifically recognized, though archaeological values were thought to occur.

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-133/ Shirk Rim

(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 424,570-acre 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 met the BLM wilderness inventory definition of a road (see Map, p. 96 of ONDA 2005). 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 2008 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 boundary roads. 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 7136-00 on the west and 6106-00 on the north and east. BLM also reviewed the Schadler submission but did not make any route changes based on this information.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found Shirk Rim inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 13,833 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 east of the town of Adel, Oregon. The inventory unit is approximately 9.5 miles long by 3 miles wide. Topography the unit is characterized by a large dry lakebed depression on the northern half of the unit, locally referred to as “the clove,” with Shirk Rim rising approximately 500 feet along 7.5 miles of the western circumference of the clove. The northwest and western boundaries of the unit are characterized by a moderate rim (150-200 ft. tall) running approximately 8 miles to the south, while the eastern boundary is characterized by a moderate to large rim (400 ft. tall) running 8 miles to the south. The northeast corner of the unit is comprised of a drainage (100-200 ft. deep) running 2.5 miles to the east into Shirk Lake (just outside the unit). Additionally, a 400-foot deep drainage separates the northern two-third of the unit from the bottom third. The bottom third of the unit is comprised of 3 rims (150 ft. tall) running from the northeast to the southwest, forming the south triangular shaped point. Vegetatively, the inventory unit is largely covered with sagebrush, grass, and scattered western juniper. However, a large stand (approximately 500-600 acres) of dense western of western juniper comprises the majority of the eastern slopes of Shirk Rim. A prescribed burn was implemented in 1985 inside the clove and was allowed to revegetate naturally. Additionally, approximately 500 acres in the northwest of the inventory unit is within the High Lakes Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), which was established in 2003 to protect unique cultural values.

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

In 1980, the unit contained approximately 7 miles of ways in the north around an ephemeral lake and 2 reservoirs that were substantially unnoticeable. Overall, the unit appeared natural.

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 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 changes to this unit.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 1,816 acres of prescribed burning treatments, 10.5 miles of motorized routes, 7 miles of cat lines, 6 miles of fence lines, 8 waterholes, 1 developed spring, and 1 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 and vegetation of the area also plays a large role in screening disturbances and man-made developments. Areas that were allowed to revegetate naturally, have been invaded by 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 X No N/A

In 1980, the inventory concluded that the triangular shape of the unit in conjunction with the topography over the majority of the unit left one exposed to the presence of others in the unit. On the westside, the downslope of Shirk Rim was exposed to the west boundary area and would not allow an opportunity for solitude. The lake basin in the north, though isolated from the surrounding area, would not allow a person to avoid the sights and sounds of others in this portion of the unit. The unit was not found to offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

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 is 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 and vegetative screening. Topography the unit is characterized by a large dry lakebed depression on the northern half of the unit, locally referred to as “the clove,” with Shirk Rim rising approximately 500 feet along the western circumference of the clove. The northwest and western boundaries of the unit are characterized by a moderate rim (150-200 ft. tall) running approximately 8 miles to the south, while the eastern boundary is characterized by a moderate to large rim (400 ft. tall) running 8 miles to the south. The northeast corner of the unit is comprised of a drainage (100-200 ft. deep) running 2.5 miles to the east into Shirk Lake (just outside the unit). Additionally, a 400-foot deep drainage separates the northern two-third of the unit from the bottom third. The bottom third of the unit is comprised of 3 rims (150 ft. tall) running from the northeast to the southwest, forming the south triangular shaped point. Vegetatively, once marginal western juniper stands have greatly expanded in height, width, and density. Sufficient pockets of juniper for screening purposes can now be found below the majority of Shirk Rim. Due to the above-described compartmentalized topography and vegetative conditions within 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 Shirk Rim 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 possess some potential for wildlife observation and hunting, but did not offer an outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation opportunity. The confined shape of the unit was found to constrain hiking and backpacking opportunities.

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 is 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 hiking atop the eastern and western rims, as well as, atop Shirk Rim 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 golden eagle, pigmy rabbit, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, various bat species, and sage-grouse habitat.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-015-133/ Shirk Rim

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):


Shane Garside: Outdoor Recreation Planner

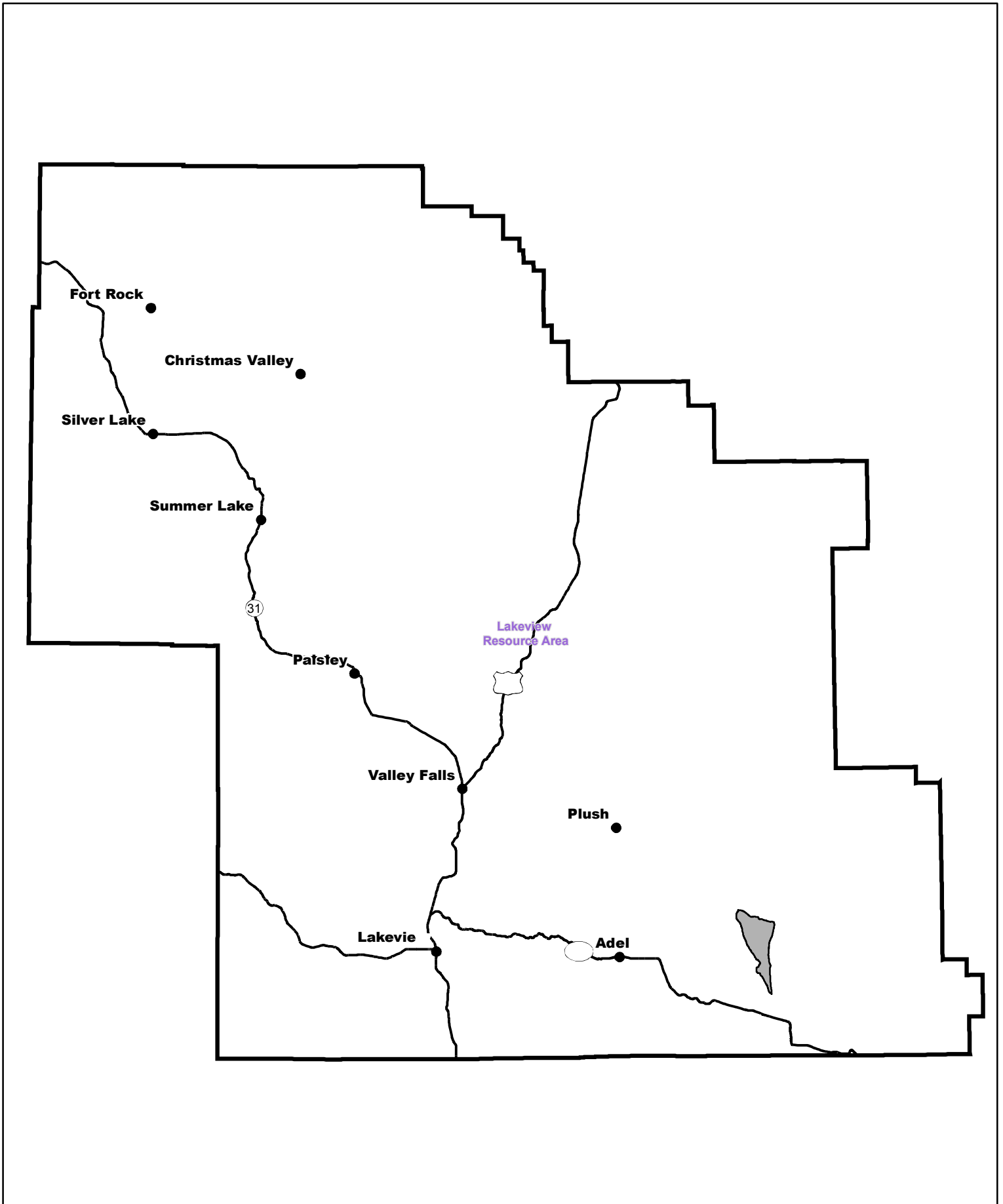
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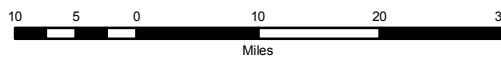

Jami Ludwig
Field Manager


 9/23/20
Date

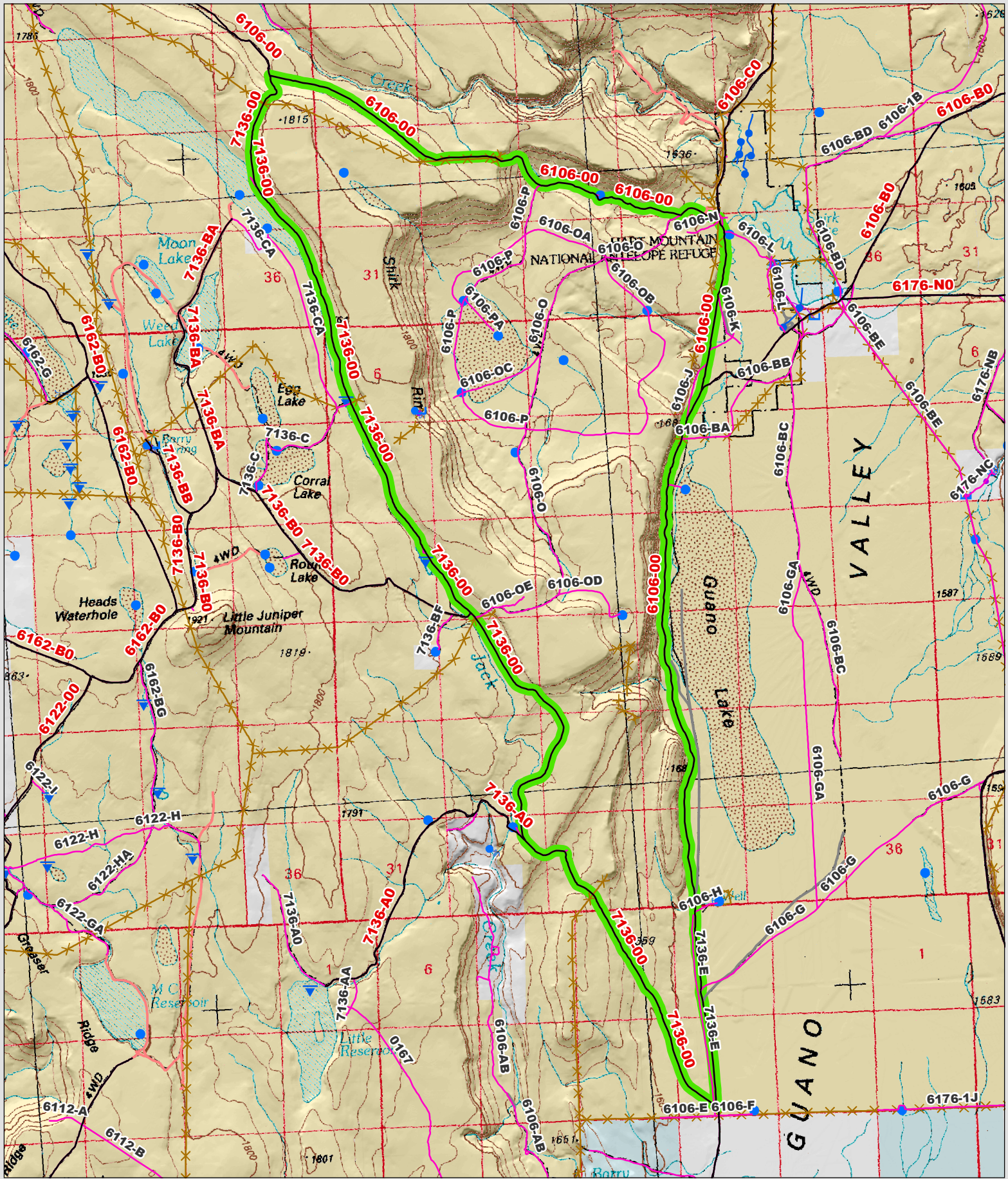
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.

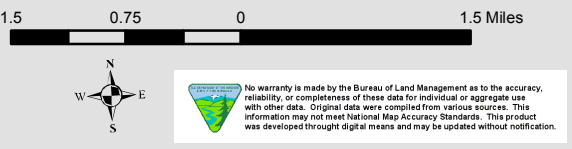


 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



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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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Tank Waterhole Well - Water 	<p>1.5 0.75 0 1.5 Miles</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>
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