

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-209/ South Sand Dunes

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 (if more than one unit is within the area, list the names/numbers of those units):

a) Inventory Source:

- a. BLM Wilderness Inventory files for Pacific Power and Light Company (PP&L) Transmission Line: PP&L Roadless Area Inventory Files (1977).
- b. Wilderness – Proposed Initial Inventory: Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, April 1979.
- c. Wilderness Review – Initial Inventory: Final Decision on Public Lands Obviously Lacking Wilderness Characteristics and Announcement of Public Lands to be Intensively Inventoried for Wilderness Characteristics; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, August 1979.
- d. Wilderness Review – Intensive Inventory: Final Decisions On 30 Selected Units in Southeast Oregon and Proposed Decisions On Other Intensively Inventoried Units; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, March 1980.
- e. Wilderness Inventory – Final Intensive Inventory Decisions; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, November 1980.

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): NA

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):

- a. Proposed Initial Inventory: Roadless Areas and Islands Which Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics; USDI BLM - Oregon, April 1979.
- b. Final Decision - Initial Wilderness Inventory: Public Lands and Islands Which Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics and Units To Be Intensively Inventoried; USDI BLM - Oregon, August 1979.
- c. Intensive Wilderness Inventory: Final Decisions For 30 Selected Inventory Units and Proposed Decisions For Other Intensive Inventory Units; USDI BLM - Oregon, March 1980.

- d. 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*):

Unit#	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
OR-015-209*	<5,000	Y	Y	N	NA

* 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 1979/1980, this unit was not evaluated during the inventory process, presumably because it did not meet the minimum size requirement.

FORM 2

DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-209/ South Sand Dunes

(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 6141-A0 and private lands on the east; a residential power line right-of-way, General Services Administration

lands, and private lands to the south; a 500-KV Bonneville Power Administration power line right-of-way to the west; and is contiguous with the Sand Dunes Wilderness Study Area to the north.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the South Sand Dunes inventory unit does not meet the minimum size criteria at approximately 4,499 acres of BLM-administered lands. However, it does meet one of the exceptions to the size criteria; namely, that it is contiguous with BLM's 16,440-acre Sand Dunes WSA (OR-1-24) located to the north.

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 unit is located approximately 13 miles east of Christmas Valley, Oregon. The unit is approximately 5.5 miles long by 3 miles wide. The unit ranges in elevation from 4,300 ft. to 4,320 feet. The unit is comprised of small rolling sand dunes and hummocks to the north and the broad sand flats Christmas Lake/ Buffalo Flat to the south. Vegetation consists of sagebrush, greasewood, and rabbit brush.

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

In 1979/1980, this unit was not evaluated for naturalness during the inventory process, presumably because it did not meet the minimum size requirement.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 2 acres of mow strips, 1 mile of fence lines, 3.5 miles of motorized routes, 2.5 miles of trails, 1.5 miles of closed routes, and 0.5 miles of reclaiming routes.

Presently, almost 4 decades after the original inventory, these developments are weathered and grown over with herbaceous grasses, and sagebrush. As a result, these developments 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. Furthermore, many of the disturbances are located near the perimeter of the unit and, as such, have a small area of influence.

Based on a review of all the available information including photos, staff knowledge, and field review, the BLM concluded, based on its own merits, that South Sand Dunes unit appears in natural condition where the imprint of man are substantially unnoticeable. Furthermore, since the unit is now contiguous with the Sand Dunes WSA, the South Sand Dunes unit must be analyzed in the context of these now shared wilderness values. After considering wilderness values offered by both units, the BLM determined that the South Sand Dunes unit and the WSA contribute mutually additive effects to the natural condition of

both units as a whole. Thus, the area was found to be in a natural condition primarily affected by the forces of nature.

(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 1979/1980, outstanding opportunities for solitude were not evaluated during the inventory process, presumably because it did not meet the minimum size requirement.

BLM's much larger Sand Dunes WSA to the north was found in 1980 to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude, most notably, the large sand dunes which allowed for visitors to avoid the sights and sounds of others within the area.

The BLM determined that the South Sand Dunes inventory unit on its own merit, provides limited opportunities for solitude along the northern boundary, but ultimately lacks adequate size or screening to provide outstanding opportunities. The unit is comprised of small rolling sand dunes and hummocks to the north and the broad sand flats Christmas Lake/ Buffalo Flat to the south. However, opportunities would be enhanced by the additive effect of outstanding opportunities for solitude present within the 16,440-acre Sand Dunes WSA to the north and must be analyzed in the context of these now shared wilderness values.

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 that one would be able to avoid the sights and sounds of others within the inventory unit due to the contiguous values of the Sand Dunes WSA.

(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 X No _____ N/A _____

In 1979/1980, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation were not evaluated during the inventory process, presumably because it did not meet the minimum size requirement.

BLM's much larger Sand Dunes WSA to the north was found in 1980 to provide limited opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation such as hiking, photography, and paleontological studies, but were deemed to be less than outstanding due in part to blowing sand. However, the BLM's 1991 Wilderness Study Report stated "opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in the Sand Dunes WSA are outstanding. These include activities such as photography, hiking, camping, nature study, and sight-seeing in a unique ecosystem as they are not matched anywhere in Oregon."

The BLM determined that the South Sand Dunes inventory unit on its own merit, provides limited opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, but ultimately lacks adequate size to provide outstanding opportunities. However, opportunities for recreation would be

enhanced by the additive effect of outstanding primitive recreation opportunities present within the 16,440-acre Sand Dunes WSA to the north and must be analyzed in the context of these now shared wilderness values.

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 that outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are present within South Sand Dunes inventory unit due to the contiguous values of the Sand Dunes WSA.

(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 mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, and sage-grouse habitat.

Additionally, approximately 1,788 acres along the northern portion of the unit falls within the Lost Forest-Sand Dunes-Fossil Lake ACEC. The ACEC and surrounding area contains numerous documented paleontological and archaeological sites.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-209/ South Sand Dunes

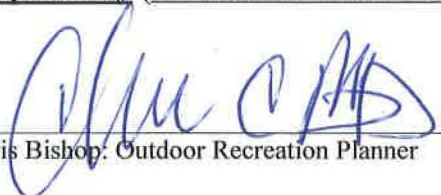
Summary Results of Analysis:

- 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):



Chris Bishop: Outdoor Recreation Planner

 6/4/18
Date


Jami Ludwig: Assistant Field Manager

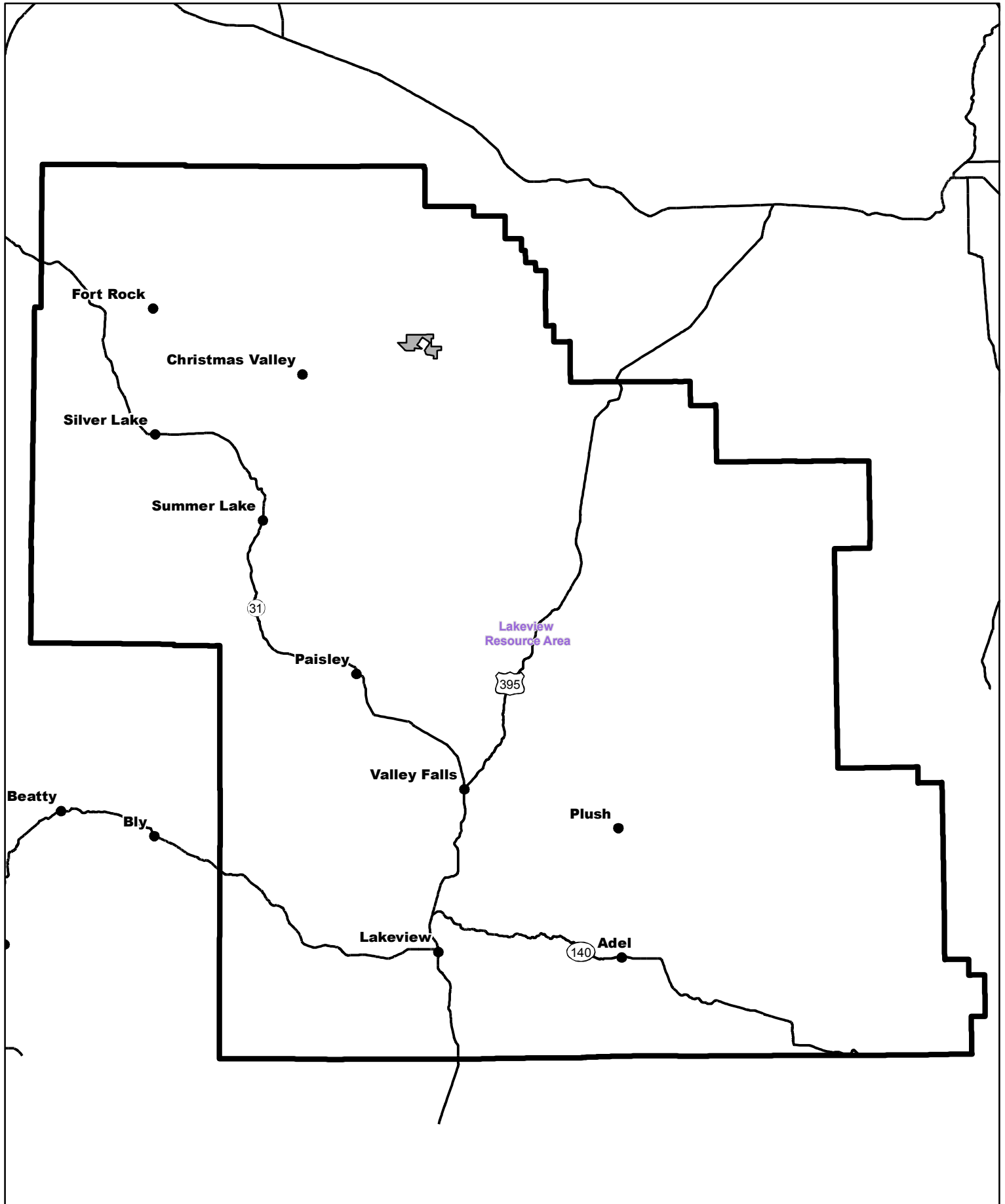
 6/4/18
Date


Approved by:

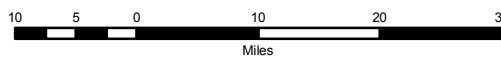

J. Todd Forbes
Field Manager


 6/4/18
Date

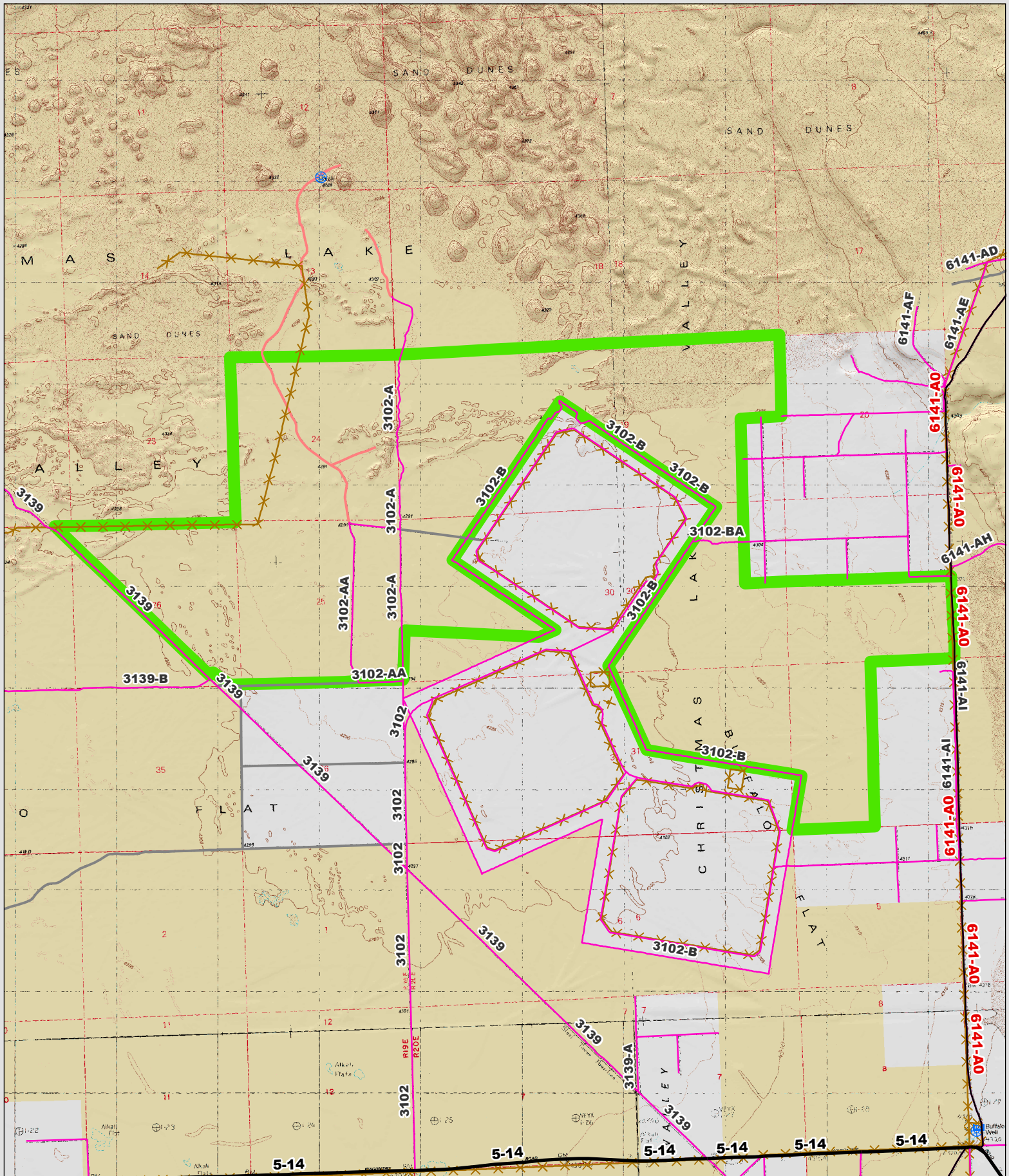
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.



 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 Tank
- Waterhole
- Well - Water

1 0.5 0 1 Miles

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