

Year: 2018 Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-119/ South Warner 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 – Proposed Initial Inventory: Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, April 1979.

b) **Inventory Unit Number(s)/ Name(s):** 1-119/ South Warner Rim

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** Proposed Initial Inventory: Roadless Areas and Islands Which Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics; USDI BLM - Oregon, April 1979.

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
1-119	9,600	N	N	N	N/A
1-119*	10,403	Y	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 was described as containing 9,600 acres of public land, two miles southwest of Adel, Oregon. The north and south boundaries were roads, while the remaining boundaries were comprised of private lands. Topography in the unit varied with flats and gullies descending to Highway 140 on the north, flat plateau lands in the central portion, and broken upland and rims in the south. Dominant vegetation was sage, with juniper in portions of the unit. The northern portion contained several gravel quarries. The central, larger portion of the unit was dominated by a 500-KV power line running the length of the western boundary. Impact of man's activities were thus dominant in the majority of the unit. Opportunity for solitude or unconfined recreation was compromised on much of the remaining portions of the unit due to activities on contiguous private lands.

**FORM 2**

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY  
CONDITIONS**

**Unit Number/Name:** OR-015-119/ South Warner Rim

**(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?** Yes  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 7122-00 and private lands on the northwest; State Highway 140 and irrigation rights-of-ways, and private lands on the north; County Road 3-14 right-of-way and private lands on the east; private lands on the south; and two Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) rights-of-ways for a 500-KV power line and an access route on the west. Due to changes in boundary determinations (roads, irrigation, and BPA rights-of-ways buffer corrections), approximately 410 acres were added to the unit.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the South Warner Rim inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 10,813 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 2 miles southwest of Adel, Oregon. The unit is approximately 8 miles long by 5.5 miles wide. Topography across the unit is very diverse, dominated by South Warner Rim (1,500-1,750 ft. tall), running approximately 12.5 miles above the eastern boundary of the unit with numerous broken rims, ridges, points, and drainages. The northern portion of the unit is dominated by Deep Creek/Deep Creek Canyon (1,700 ft. deep), running 5 miles from west to east, and includes Deep Creek Falls (40 ft.). The western half of the unit is comprised of flat plateau with rolling hills, minor rims, and drainages. Vegetatively, the eastern and northern portions of the unit are dominated by moderate to high-density stands of western juniper (aprx. 3,100 acres), with stands of ponderosa pine along Deep Creek, and groupings of mountain mahogany among upper ridges and rims. The plateau is largely covered with sagebrush, grasses, and scattered junipers, but also contains half a dozen low to moderate-density (aprx. 800 acres) stands of juniper. Wildfires (1972, 1985, and 1986) have burned a little over 500 acres in the southeast area of the unit, while fuel reduction projects (2013-2017) treated a little over 1,600 acres in the northwest portion of the unit.

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

In 1979, the original inventory noted several gravel quarries in the northern portion of the unit, while the central portion was dominated by a 500-KV power line running the length of the western boundary. Impact of man's activities were dominant in the majority of the unit.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 1,609 acres of fuel treatments/prescribed burns, 568 acres of seeding, 534 acres of wildfire, 367 acres of chemical treatments, 13.5 miles of motorized routes, 1 mile of reclaiming routes, 13 miles of fence lines, 772 ft. of ditches, 61 ft. of pipeline, 6 reservoirs, 2 waterholes, 1 developed spring, 1 trough, and 2 MET (meteorological measurement) towers. Note: MET towers are considered a temporary impact as they are scheduled for removal and rehabilitation in 2018.

Presently, almost 4 decades after the original inventory, these developments are weathered and grown over with herbaceous grasses, sagebrush, and juniper. As a result, developments now fade into the background of the unit and are largely only noticeable at a close distance (1/4<sup>th</sup> 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. Furthermore, the majority of disturbances are located near the perimeter of the unit and, as such, have a small area of influence. Additionally, areas that were seeded or allowed to revegetate naturally after wildfire have been invaded by rabbit bush,

sagebrush, and grasses and have returned to a natural, post fire, appearing condition. Recent juniper reduction projects for sage-grouse habitat improvement have been successfully planned and executed to reduce impacts to visuals and naturalness.

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 1979, the original inventory noted opportunities for solitude were compromised in many portions of the unit due to activities on contiguous private lands.

The BLM determined that there are several outstanding opportunities for solitude across the unit due to both topographic and vegetative screening. Topography across the unit is very diverse, dominated by South Warner Rim (1,500-1,750 ft. tall), running approximately 12.5 miles above the eastern boundary of the unit with numerous broken rims, ridges, points, and drainages. The northern portion of the unit is dominated by Deep Creek/Deep Creek Canyon (1,700 ft. deep), running 5 miles from west to east, and includes Deep Creek Falls (40 ft.). The western half of the unit is comprised of flat plateau with rolling hills, minor rims, and drainages.

Vegetatively, once marginal western juniper stands have greatly expanded in acreage, height, width, and density. Sufficient pockets of juniper for screening purposes can now be found across the unit. The eastern and northern portions of the unit are dominated by moderate to high-density stands (aprx. 3,100 acres) of western juniper, with stands of ponderosa pine along deep creek, and groupings of mountain mahogany among upper ridges and rims. The plateau is largely covered with sagebrush, grasses, and scattered junipers, but also contains half a dozen low to moderate-density (aprx. 800 acres) stands of juniper. 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 within the 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 South Warner 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 1979, the original inventory noted opportunity for unconfined recreation were compromised on much of the remaining portions of the unit due to activities on contiguous private lands.

The BLM finds the combination and diversity of hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, camping, wildlife observation, exploration, scenery, photography, fishing, trapping, hunting, and stargazing, are exceptional. The BLM determined that fishing in Deep Creek and hiking along South Warner 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 of various snail and bat species, golden eagle, redband trout, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, California bighorn sheep, and sage-grouse habitat.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

**Unit Number and Name:** OR-015-119/ South Warner 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):


  
Chris Bishop: Outdoor Recreation Planner

6/4/18  
Date

  
Jami Ludwig: Assistant Field Manager

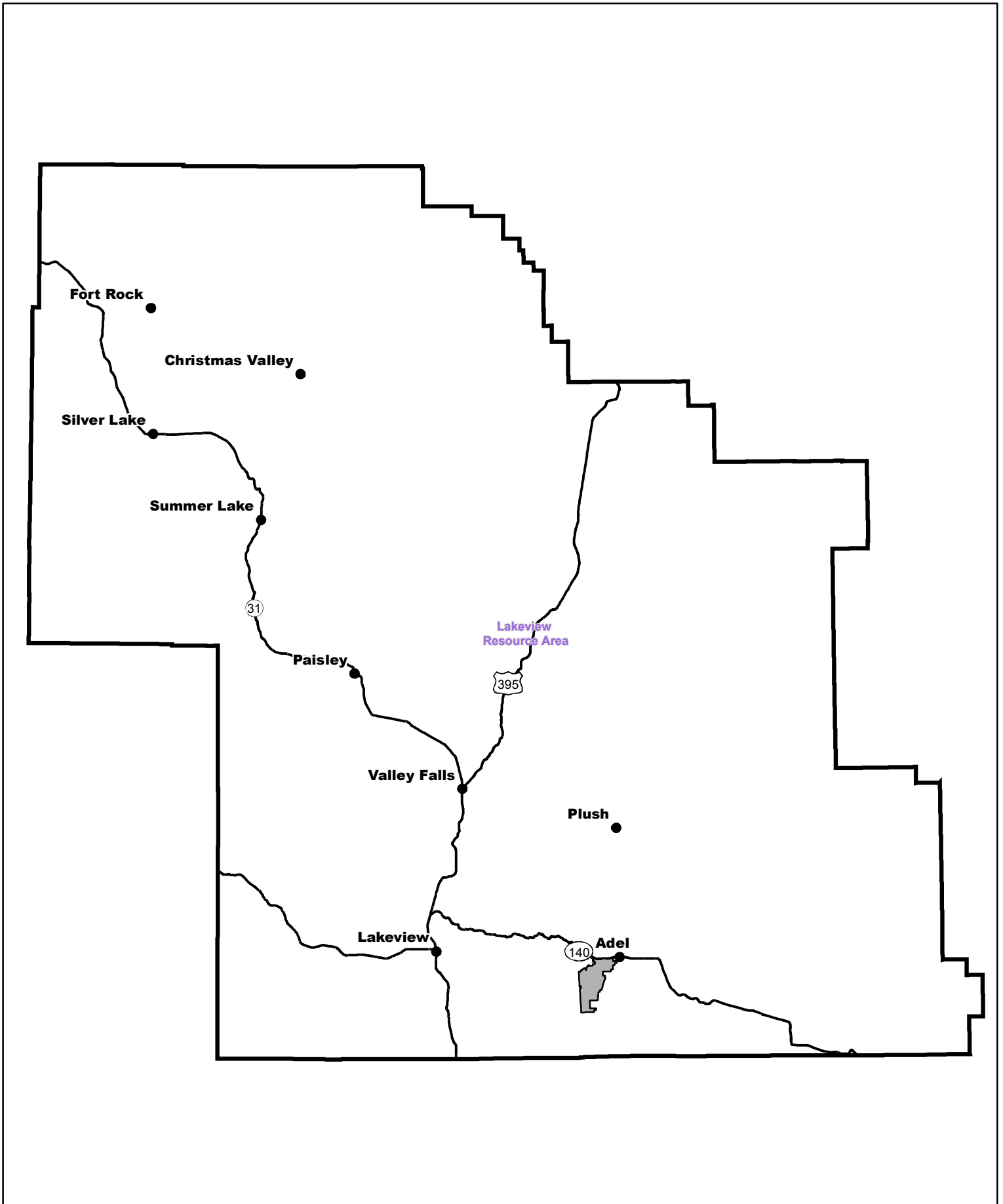
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**Approved by:**

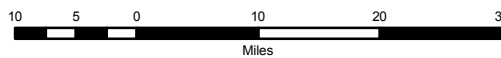
  
J. Todd Forbes  
Field Manager


6/4/18  
Date

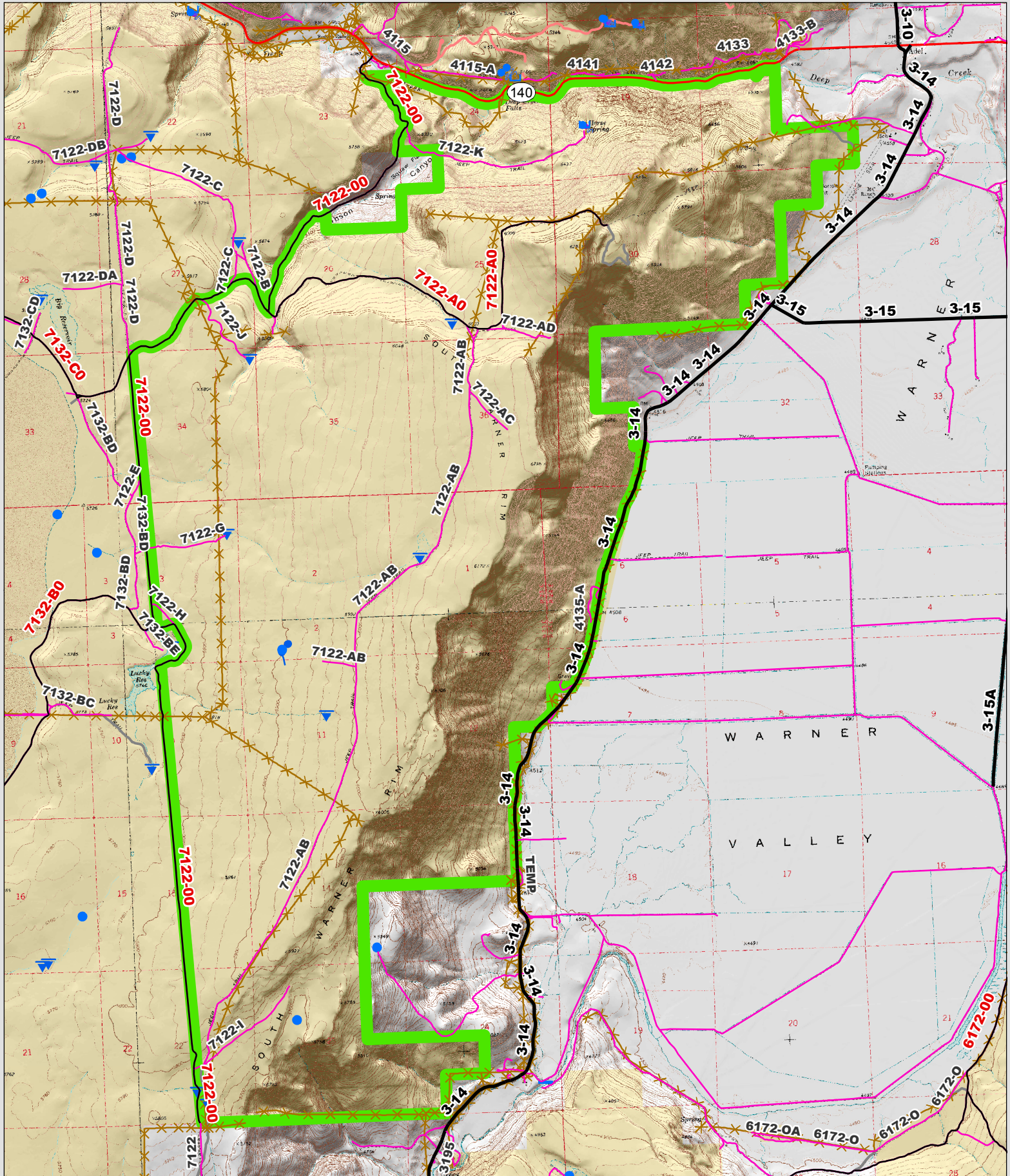
*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.*



 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



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**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 Features**

- Water Tank
- Waterhole
- Well - Water

1 0.5 0 1 Miles

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