

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-093/ Spine Cob Butte

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):** 1-93/ Spine Cob Butte

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
1-93	11,000	Y/N	N	N	NA
1-93A*	6,377	Y	N	N	NA
1-93B*	5,378	Y	N	N	NA

*The inventory of this unit was updated in 2014. However, due to a State Office-sponsored Wilderness Inventory Consistency Evaluation and subsequent guidance, the 2014 inventory analysis and findings are being replaced by this current 2018 inventory review. Documentation of the 2014 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, Unit 1-93 was described as a high sage flat with minor canyons and draws in the north portion of the unit. Spine Cob Butte, a minor rock outcrop on a low rise, was the highest point in the unit. The unit contained two lakebeds. A third lakebed, larger than those within the unit, was located on a state inholding in the center of the unit. There were three fairly large reservoirs in the south half of the unit. They were substantially noticeable throughout the south portion of the unit below Spine Cob Butte. The northern half of the unit appeared generally natural as the works of man were not substantially noticeable. The broad flat expanses of the unit made it difficult for one to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. In addition the unit lacked the vegetation and the size to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Exposure was great over the majority of the unit and it offered no feature representing an outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation experience. The unit did offer some opportunity for hunting; however, it is not outstanding. Additionally, some archeological values may exist, but none were yet documented.

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-093/ Spine Cob Butte

(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 235,445-acre Poker Jim Ridge Proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA) Addition. ONDA included in their information a narrative report, maps, photos, photo and route logs, and GIS data with their route and photo point data. The photos submitted by ONDA were taken in 2004. ONDA identified this large area as having no interior routes which met the BLM wilderness inventory definition of a road (p. 169 of ONDA 2005). All of these materials were considered during the BLM's wilderness inventory process for this area.

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 several of the routes ONDA identified as "ways" are boundary roads. The Poker Jim Ridge 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 Roads 7165-B0 and 7165-00 to the northwest; and 7165-A0 to the southeast.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Spine Cob Butte inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 11,755 acres of BLM-administered lands.

Additional background on the process 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 32.5 miles northeast of Plush, Oregon. It is approximately 7.75 miles long by 3.5 miles wide. Topographically, the majority of the unit is very flat, with a few minor rolling hills (25-50 ft. high) and minor lakebed depression (5-100 ft. deep) including Cyclone Reservoir, Buffalo Reservoir, and South Lake Waterhole. The unit also contains approximately 1 mile of Buckhorn Canyon (10-40 ft. deep) in the northeast corner. Spine Cob Butte, for which the unit is named, is located along the eastern boundary. Note: the butte is actually a very small feature as the whole formation is less than 40 feet tall and contains less than 3 acres. Overall, the unit ranges in elevation from 4,870 to 5,070 feet. Vegetatively, the unit is composed of sagebrush and grasses

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

In 1980, historic Unit 1-93 contained three fairly large reservoirs in the south half of the unit and were substantially noticeable south of Spine Cob Butte. While the northern half of the unit appeared generally natural as the works of man were not substantially noticeable.

ONDA's 2005 inventory found that because the units within their Poker Jim Ridge proposed WSA Addition are contiguous, forming an area 235,445-acres in size, with the few manmade developments within the area would not have a cumulative impact on the area as a whole. The topography is such that waterholes and reservoirs are screened from any visitor on foot that is even a short distance away. ONDA concluded that the Poker Jim Ridge proposed WSA Addition appears primarily affected by the forces of nature (p. 165 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 unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 108 acres of mow strips, 7 miles of motorized routes, 0.5 miles of reclaiming routes, 725 feet of fence, and 3 waterholes.

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. 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 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 X N/A _____

In 1980, historic Unit 1-93 was described as a broad flat expanse making it difficult for one to avoid the sights and sounds of others. In addition the unit was noted to lack the vegetation and size necessary to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger 235,445-acre Poker Jim Ridge proposed WSA Addition 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 pointed out that BLM's *Wilderness Inventory and Study Handbook* H-6310-1, states that one should not assume "simply because an area or portion of an area is flat and/or unvegetated, it automatically lacks an outstanding opportunity for solitude... Consideration must be given to the interrelationship between size, screening, configuration, and other factors that influence solitude." Thus, ONDA concluded that because the proposed WSA is so large (235,445 acres), wide in configuration, and offers a full diversity of landscape, it would be easy for visitors to experience outstanding opportunities for solitude (p. 166-1667 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 acknowledges that there are limited opportunities for solitude within the Spine Cob Butte inventory unit. Topographically, the majority of the unit is very flat, with a few minor rolling hills (25-50 ft. high) and minor lakebed depression (5-100 ft. deep) including Cyclone Reservoir, Buffalo Reservoir, and South Lake Waterhole. The unit also contains approximately 1 mile of Buckhorn Canyon (10-40 ft. deep) in the northeast corner. Spine Cob Butte, for which the unit is named, is located along the eastern boundary. Note: the butte is actually a very small feature as the whole formation is less than 40 feet tall and contains less than 3 acres. Overall, the unit ranges in elevation from 4,870 to 5,070 feet. Vegetatively, the unit is composed of sagebrush and grasses. These opportunities are less than outstanding as the area's characteristic landscape lacks vegetative screening and existing topographic screening 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 Spine Cob Butte 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 X N/A _____

In 1980, historic Unit 1-93 was determined to possess limited opportunities for hunting. Overall, the unit lacked any features representing outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation experiences due the unit's great exposure.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger 235,445-acre Poker Jim Ridge proposed WSA Addition 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 pointed out that BLM's *Wilderness Inventory and Study Handbook* H-6310-1, stated that "the absence of water in an area is not a valid basis for concluding that an outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation opportunity does not exist." Thus, ONDA concluded that because the proposed WSA is so large (235,445 acres), wide in configuration, and offers a full diversity of landscape, it would be easy for visitors to experience outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined forms of recreation. ONDA noted these opportunities are particularly exemplary along the impressive fault-block ridge, and by itself, offers outstanding hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, wildlife viewing, and photography (p. 166-1667 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 the unit offers limited opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, camping, wildlife observation, exploration, scenery, photography, stargazing, trapping, and hunting. However, the BLM determined that the unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation through either the diversity of recreational activities possible in the area or by the outstanding quality of one opportunity relative to opportunities found within the Lakeview Resource Area.

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

Supplemental values were not evaluated as the unit was determined to lack both outstanding opportunities for solitude and or primitive and unconfined recreation, and therefore does not meet the minimum wilderness criteria.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-093/ Spine Cob Butte

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? Yes No X 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):

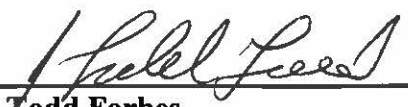

Chris Bishop: Outdoor Recreation Planner

11/1/2018
Date


Jami Ludwig: Assistant Field Manager

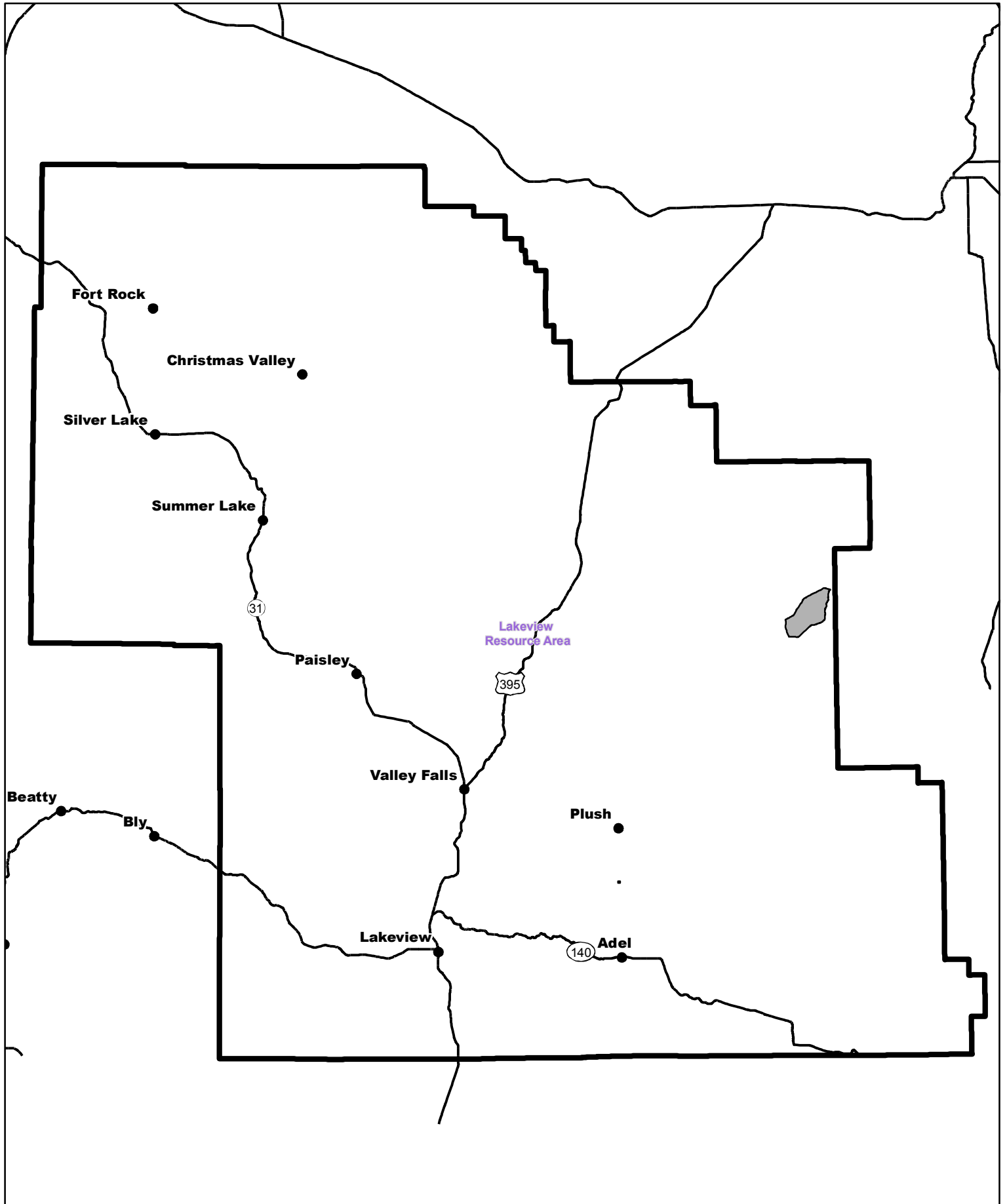
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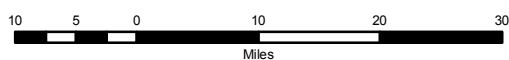

J. Todd Forbes
Field Manager


11/2/18
Date

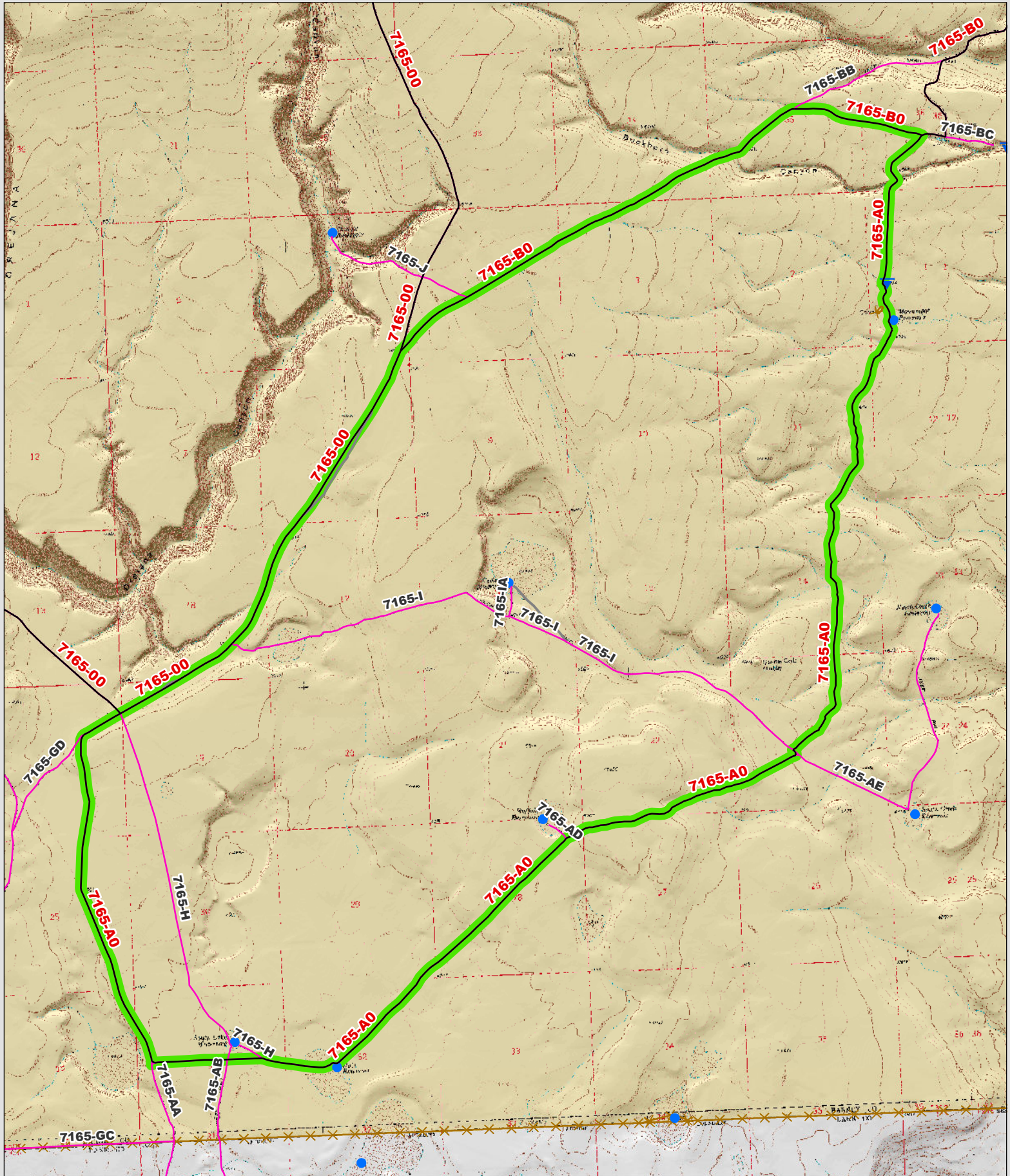
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.



 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



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Wilderness Character Inventory Unit

Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- 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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