

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-076/ Steamboat Point

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:

- a. 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.
- b. Wilderness Inventory – Final Intensive Inventory Decisions; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, November 1980.

b) Inventory Unit Number(s)/Name(s): 1-54/ Monahan Lake; 1-76/ Steamboat Point

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

- a. Intensive Wilderness Inventory: Final Decisions For 30 Selected Inventory Units and Proposed Decisions For Other Intensive Inventory Units; USDI BLM - Oregon, March 1980.
- b. 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
1-54	9,280	N	N	N	N/A
1-54*	8,655	N	N/A	N/A	N/A

1-76	20,040	Y	N	N	N/A
1-76*	20,674	Y	N	N	N/A

* The inventory of this unit was updated in 2013. However, due to a State Office-sponsored Wilderness Inventory Consistency Evaluation and subsequent guidance, the 2013 inventory analysis and findings are being replaced by this current 2018 inventory review. Documentation of the 2013 inventory can be found in the wilderness inventory project record.

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

The 1980 inventory described unit 1-54 as having a ridge/escarpment running north to south through the center of the unit with a valley bottom and 3 lakebeds on the eastside and a gentle down-slope canted to the westside. Cover in the unit was primarily a big sagebrush community. The unit contained six reservoirs and nine miles of vehicle “ways”. These features represented a significant impact of man's works when considered in conjunction with the size and narrow shape of the unit. The unit was found to be in an unnatural condition. The unit was long and narrow in configuration, and with the low vegetation cover, a person would not be able to avoid the sounds and sights of others within the unit. The unit offered some hunting potential, but little opportunity for primitive recreation. The narrow confines and exposure of the unit were found to be unfavorable for unconfined forms of recreation. No supplemental values were noted.

The previous inventory in 1980 described unit 1-76 as an area of uplifts and valleys commonly associated with the Basin and Range Province. Juniper Ridge, located in the western and northern portion of the unit, had fairly dense juniper stands and interesting erosion features. The unit was covered primarily by big sagebrush and grasses. The previous inventory listed 5.5 miles of vehicle “ways,” 1.5 miles of fence line, 1 wildlife guzzler, and several reservoirs located along the unit boundary that did not present any significant impact within the unit. In addition, Kit Canyon seeding, a 320-acre non-native seeding, was noted as a substantially noticeable along the western side of the unit. The topography and vegetation did offer some opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. However, the opportunities in the northern portion of the unit were not outstanding due to its narrow shape. The south portion was described as a sage-covered broad valley, which did not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. This unit offered opportunities for hiking, backpacking, wildlife observation, bird watching, and potentially hunting, but were not found to be outstanding. The unit also had a high potential for archaeological values, though none were specifically identified.

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-076/ Steamboat Point

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size? Yes X No _____

Between 2008 and 2016, the BLM conducted a field inventory of the area to update its road and wilderness inventory and to gather additional information. This fieldwork included photo documentation of the boundary and interior routes and a re-evaluation of wilderness characteristics for this area. Using both citizen provided and BLM photos, field logs, and staff field knowledge, the BLM completed route analysis and made boundary determinations within the area in 2017.

The BLM determined that the inventory unit is bounded by BLM Road 6155-00, state, and private lands to the south and east; with 6155-K0, 6155-G0, 6165-E0, 6155-F0, and private lands on the west. Based on boundary determinations, historic unit 1-54 was found to be adjoined with historic unit 1-76. This evaluation focuses on this combined unit. Note: the boundary of this combined unit was changed to remove approximately 7 acres of unnatural features (mineral pit, corrals/well/troughs, and right-of-way) in the southeast portion of the inventory unit.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Steamboat Point inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 29,946 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 Steamboat Point inventory is located approximately 35 miles north of Plush, Oregon. The current unit is approximately 15 miles long by 3 miles wide. The unit is very topographically diverse, comprised of numerous escarpments, canyons, tabletops, points, buttes, shelves, and drainages. The southern third of the unit is dominated by of Kit Canyon, Steamboat Point, and Mule Tit. The central portion of the unit is comprised of the upper reaches of Mule Springs Canyon, the many broken drainages of Juniper Ridge, and Monahan Lake. While the upper third of the unit is characterized by a 500 foot tall, 7 mile long, broken escarpment and Mule Springs Valley. Vegetatively, Sagebrush and grasses dominate most of the unit, with half a dozen western juniper stands located along Juniper Ridge. A wildfire burned through the northern half of the unit in 2001 and was reseeded with crested wheatgrass in 2002.

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

In 1980, historic inventory unit 1-54 was found to contain six reservoirs and nine miles of vehicle “ways”. These features represented a significant impact of man's works when considered in conjunction with the size and narrow shape of the unit. The unit was found to be in an unnatural condition. Historic unit 1-76 contained 5.5 miles of vehicle “ways,” 1.5 miles of fence line, 1 wildlife guzzler, 320 acres of Kit Canyon seeding, and several

reservoirs located along the unit boundary that did not present any significant impact within the unit. Overall, the area was considered generally natural in character.

The BLM found the following man-made developments/disturbances within the unit: 10,058 acres of wildfire, 2,581 acres of seeding, 560 acres of chemical treatments, 127 acres of mow strips (fuel breaks), 39 miles of motorized routes, 4.5 miles of reclaiming routes, 13 miles of fence lines, 13 waterholes, 7 reservoirs, 5 wilderness therapy group campsites, and 3 guzzlers.

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 of the area also plays a large role in screening disturbances and man-made developments due to the units many rims, canyons, points, buttes, and drainages. In addition, the majority of the remaining disturbances are located near the perimeter of the unit and, as such, have a small area of influence. Areas that were seeded or allowed to revegetate naturally, have been invaded by rabbit/ sagebrush 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, historic inventory unit 1-54 was described as being long and narrow in configuration, and with the low vegetation cover, a person would not be able to avoid the sounds and sights of others within the unit. Due to topography and vegetation, historic unit 1-76 was found to offer some opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit. Though, overall, opportunities in the northern portion of the unit were found to be less than outstanding due to its narrow shape. While the southern portion was described as a sage-covered broad valley, which also did not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. However, the current inventory unit is much larger, being formed by original inventory units 1-54 and 1-76, and now must be evaluated on its own merits for solitude.

Considering portions of the two former inventory areas are now adjoined to form a 29,946-acre unit, the BLM determined that there are several outstanding opportunities for solitude across the area due to topographic and vegetative screening, as well as its size. The inventory units is approximately 15 miles long by 3 miles wide and encompasses outstanding screening across the area including numerous escarpments, canyons, tabletops, points, buttes, shelves, drainages, and compartmentalized valleys. These features include Kit Canyon, Steamboat Point, Mule Tit, the upper reaches of Mule Springs Canyon, the many broken drainages of Juniper Ridge, Monahan Lake, and a broken escarpment (500 foot tall, 7 mile long).

Additionally, western juniper along Juniper Ridge is sufficient to provide vegetative screening as trees have expanded in height, width, density and distribution since 1980.

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 Steamboat Point inventory unit possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude where one could avoid the sights and sounds of others in the area.

(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 inventory unit 1-54 was found to offer some hunting potential, but little opportunity for primitive recreation. The narrow confines and exposure of the unit were found to be unfavorable for unconfined forms of recreation. Historic unit 1-76 was found to offer opportunities for hiking, backpacking, wildlife observation, bird watching, and potentially hunting, but were found to be less than outstanding. However, the current inventory unit is much larger, being formed by original inventory units 1-54 and 1-76, and now must be evaluated on its own merits for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Considering portions of the two former inventory areas are now adjoined to form a 29,946-acre unit, the BLM determined that there are now abundant opportunities for all activities listed above in combination with the diversity of camping, horse-riding, trapping, sightseeing, exploration, and photography across the unit. The BLM noted that opportunities for hiking along Kit Canyon, Juniper Ridge, and the unnamed 7-mile rim in the northern third of the unit represent unique opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

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

The BLM noted the presence of archeological values and raptor nesting sites, as well as various bat species, pronghorn antelope, sage-grouse, pigmy rabbit, mule deer, California bighorn sheep, prairie falcon, and golden eagle habitat.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-076/ Steamboat Point

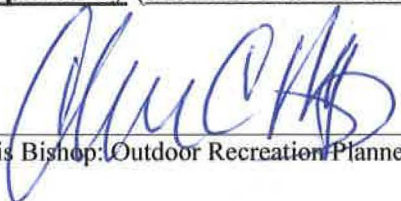
Summary Results of Analysis:

- 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):

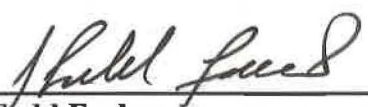

Chris Bishop: Outdoor Recreation Planner

6/4/18
Date


Jami Ludwig: Assistant Field Manager

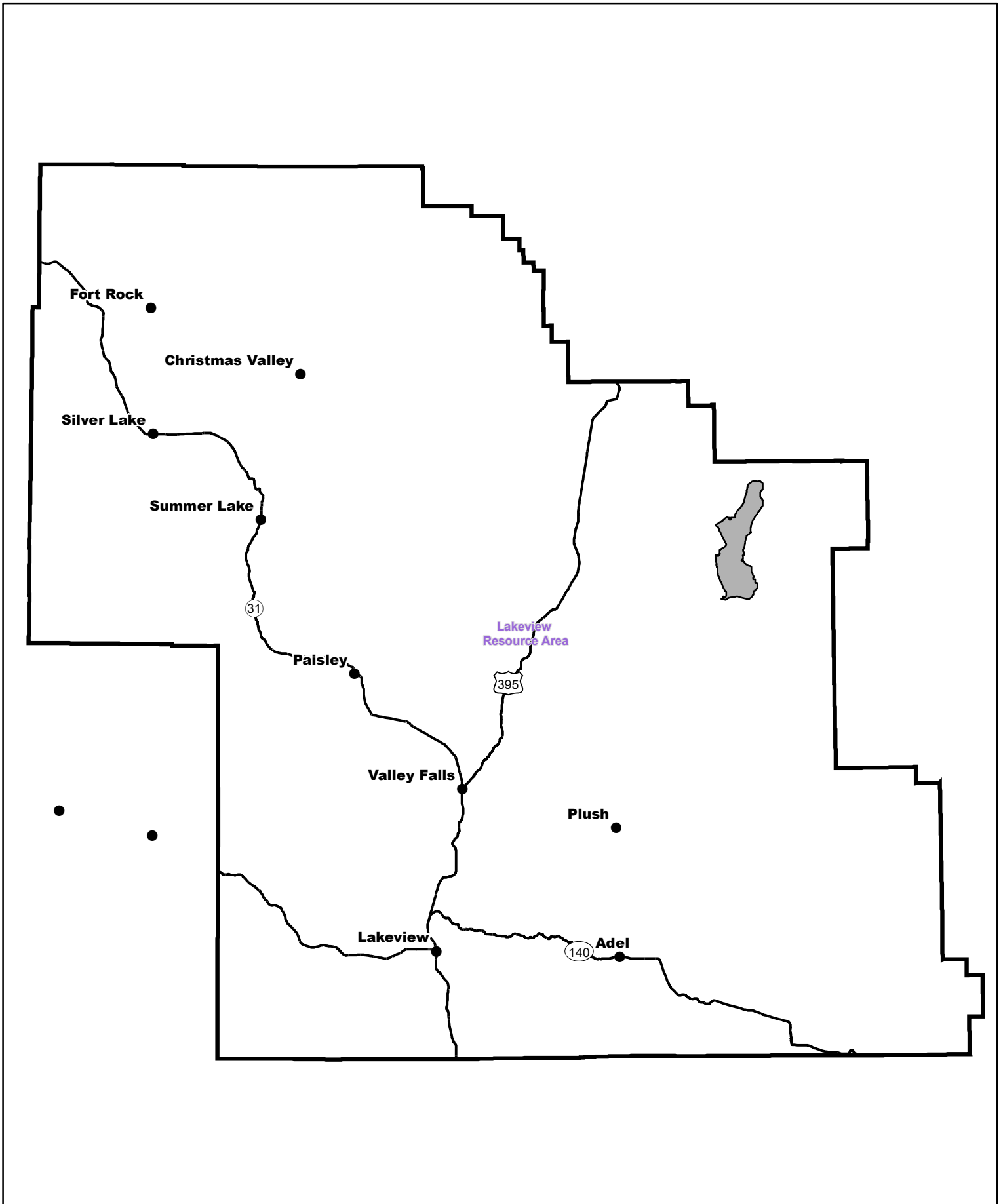
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Approved by:

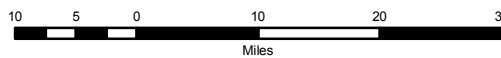

J. Todd Forbes
Field Manager


6/4/18
Date

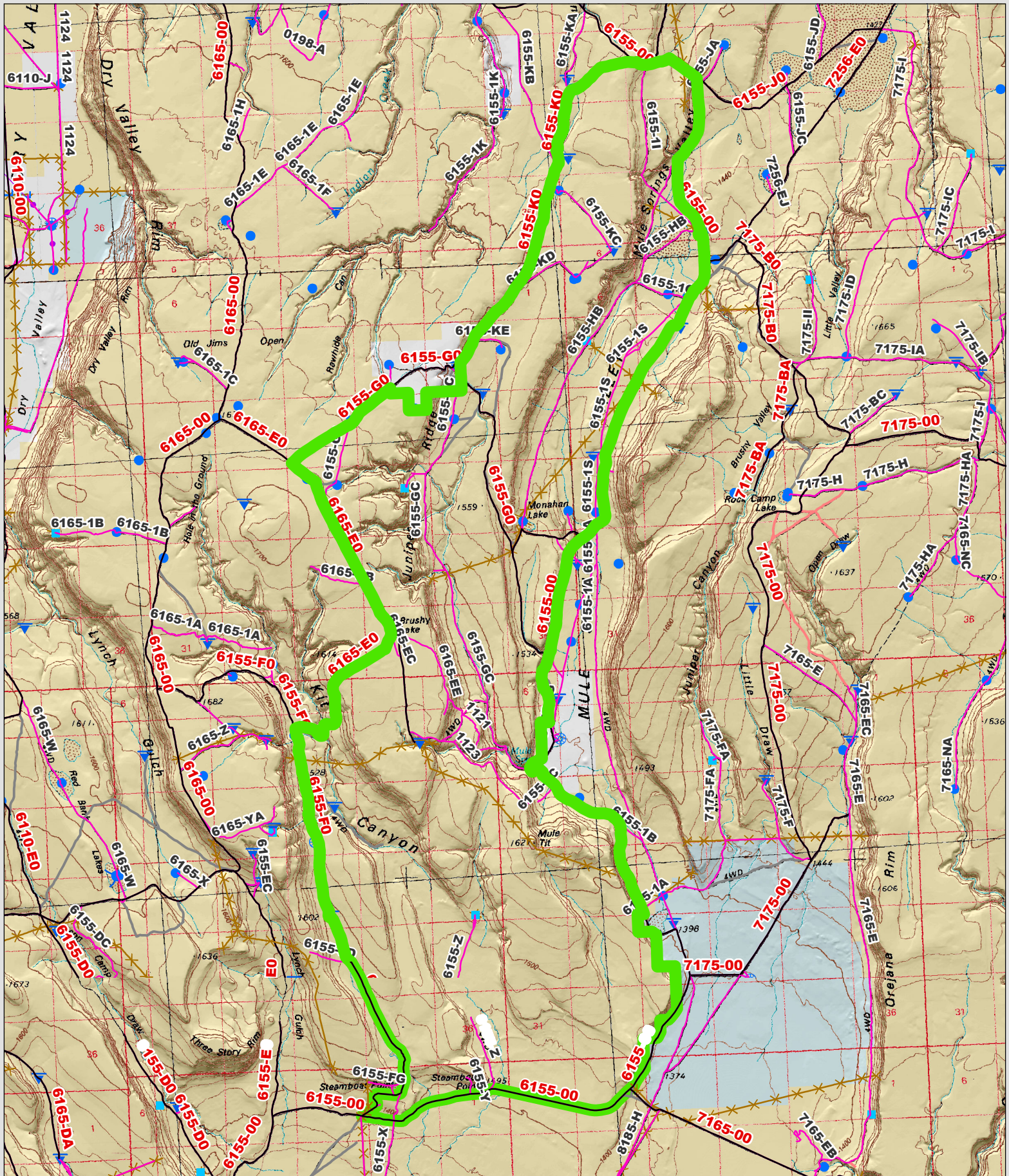
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.



 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

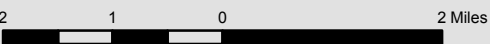
Pipelines and Ditches

- Ditch
- Water Pipeline
- Guzzler
- Fences

Water Developments

- Dam
- Reservoir
- Spring Development
- Trough
- Water Diversion

- Water Tank
- Waterhole
- Well - Water



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