

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-142/ Wilson Spring

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):** 1-142/ Wilson Spring

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):

Ownership	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
1-142	16,040	Y	N	N	N/A
1-142*	16,839	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 contained steep hilly terrain with several stream drainages. The eastern side of the unit gradually descended into Ryegrass Valley. The western edge of the unit contained high-angle, exposed, slopes. There were draws around the south, north, and western edges of the unit. The vegetation cover was sagebrush. The unit had 8 developed springs and 2 reservoirs. These developments were not very noticeable due to topographic screening around each individual spring and reservoir. Overall, the unit appeared primarily affected by the forces of nature. The unit had some secluded spots where one could be isolated from others. However, the steep hills in the western and central portion of the unit had highly exposed slopes and low vegetative cover. One would have found it difficult to avoid others in the unit. The eastern side of the unit was low rolling flatlands with low vegetation, which did not provide adequate screening from others. The unit did not meet the criteria for outstanding solitude, due to the small size and lack of screening from others. The unit had some potential for hiking, horseback riding, photography, wildlife observation, and hunting. Overall, the unit did not have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation due to the small size, which limited user potential. The unit was found to have potential for archaeological values, though none were documented.

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-142/ Wilson Spring

(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 82,532-acre Spaulding Addition 2 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 meet the BLM wilderness inventory definition of a road (see Map, p. 216 of ONDA 2005). Additional photos were taken in the area in 2007 and provided to the BLM.

Between 2007 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 in fact boundary roads. The Spaulding Addition 2 proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is comprised of several smaller inventory units, which must be evaluated individually and must stand on their own merits rather than be added to the wilderness values of the existing Spaulding WSA.

The BLM determined that the inventory unit is bounded by BLM Road 6166-00 and private lands on the western half of the unit; and 6176-00, 6156-00, and private lands on the eastern half of the unit. The inventory unit contains 2 private inholding totaling 84 acres.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Wilson Spring inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 16,479 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 32 miles east of Plush, Oregon. The unit is approximately 8 miles long by 4 miles wide. The unit is dominated by the eastern foothills and drainages of Beaty’s Butte. The unit ranges in elevation from 5,200 feet on the northern flats to over 7,000 feet on the central peaks. Overall, the unit is very topographically diverse with little flat ground. The unit is comprised of numerous points, peaks, buttes, rims, ravines, and drainages. A prescribed burn was implemented in the southwestern third of the unit in 1999 and a wildfire burned the northern quarter of the unit in 2000. Vegetatively, the inventory unit is comprised of a mosaic of sagebrush islands, rabbit brush, and grasses.

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

In 1980, the inventory unit was described as having 8 developed springs and 2 reservoirs. These developments were not very noticeable due to topographic screening around each individual spring and reservoir. Overall, the unit appeared primarily affected by the forces of nature.

ONDA’s 2005 inventory stated that their Spaulding Addition 2 proposed WSA appeared in a natural condition, primarily affected by the forces of nature. Overall, ONDA concluded that because their proposed unit is part of a large contiguous unit, manmade features do not have cumulative impact on the area. 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 unit currently contains the following man-made developments/ disturbances: 4,358 acres of a prescribed burn, 3,461 acres of wildfire, 19 acres of chemical treatments, 11 miles of motorized routes, 1 mile of reclaiming routes, 2 miles of above-ground pipelines, 1 mile of fence lines, 4 developed springs, 3 waterholes, 2 reservoirs, 1 water tank, and 3 troughs.

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. In addition, the majority of disturbances are located near the perimeter of the unit and, as such, have a small area of influence. Furthermore, areas that were allowed to revegetate naturally after prescribed burns and wildfire have been invaded by grasses, rabbit brush and sagebrush. This portion of the unit has 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 inventory 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 1980, the unit was described as having some secluded spots where one could be isolated from others. However, the steep hills in the western and central portion of the unit had highly exposed slopes and low vegetative cover. One would have found it difficult to avoid others in the unit. The eastern side of the unit was low rolling flatlands with low vegetation, which did not provide adequate screening from others. The unit did not meet the criteria for outstanding solitude, due to the small size and lack of screening from others.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger Spaulding Addition 2 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. ONDA noted the diverse topography of the area would easily allow visitors to avoid the sights and sounds of others (p. 213 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 determined that there are several outstanding opportunities for solitude across the area due to topographic screening. Topographically, the unit is dominated by the eastern foothills and drainages of Beauty's Butte. The unit ranges in elevation from 5,200 feet on the northern flats to over 7,000 feet on the central peaks. Overall, the unit is very topographically diverse with little flat ground. The unit is comprised of numerous points, peaks, buttes, rims, ravines, and drainages. Due to the above-described compartmentalized topography, 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 Wilson Spring 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 have some potential for hiking, horseback riding, photography, wildlife observation, and hunting. Overall, the unit did not have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation due to the small size, which limited user potential.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger Spaulding Addition 2 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 noted the unit offered outstanding opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, photography, sightseeing, wildlife viewing, hunting, and camping (ONDA 2005; p. 213). 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 trapping, exploration, and star gazing are abundant. The BLM determined that hiking up the numerous drainages in the unit, in combination with hiking peak to peak north to south though the unit represents an outstanding/unique opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.

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

The BLM found the unit to possess archaeological values, as well as, the presence of golden eagle, California bighorn sheep, mule deer, various bat species, and sage-grouse habitat.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-142/ Wilson Spring

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):

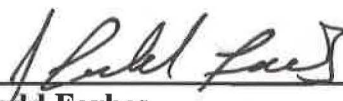

Chris Bishop: Outdoor Recreation Planner

6/4/18
Date


Jami Ludwig: Assistant Field Manager

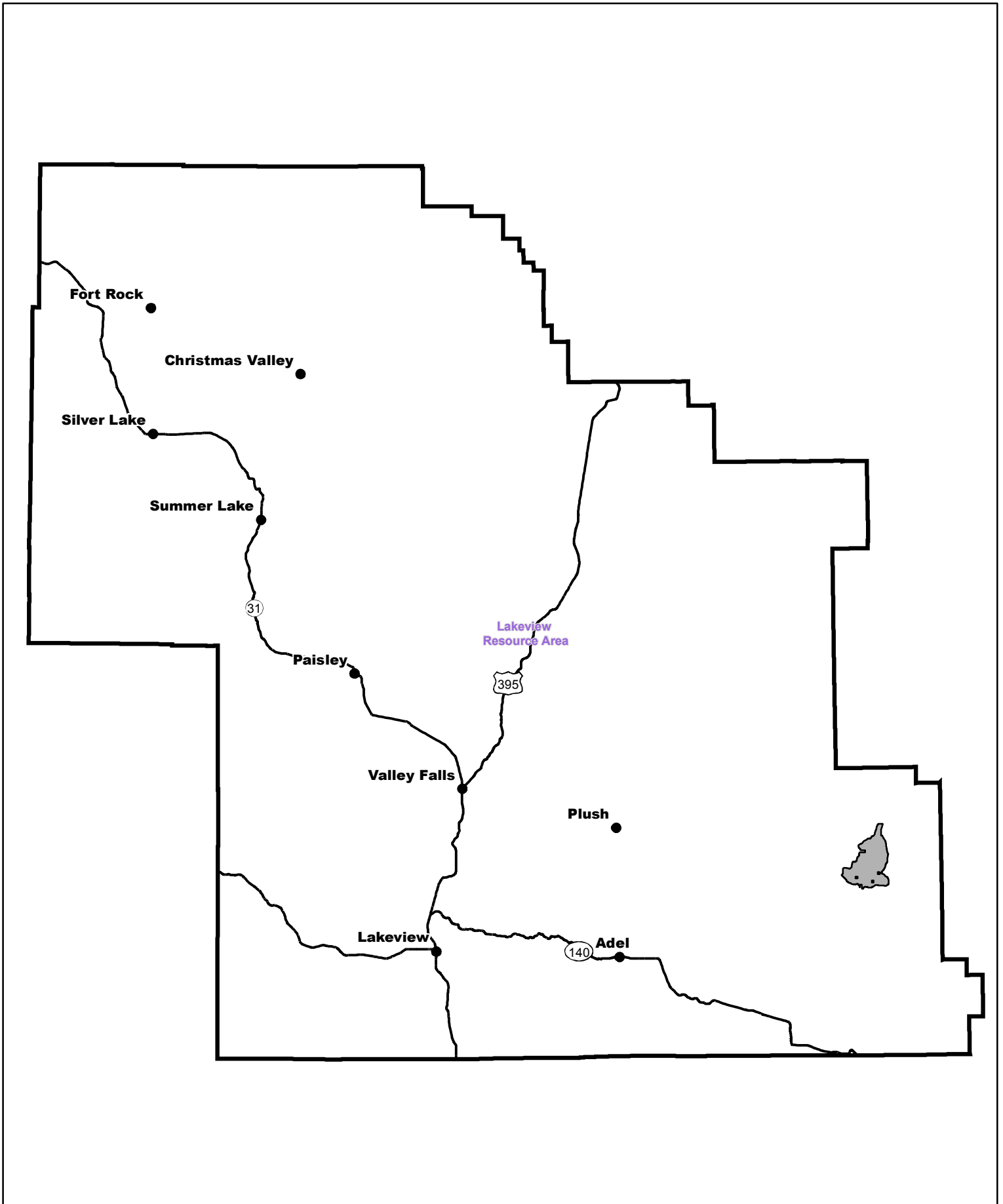
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Approved by:

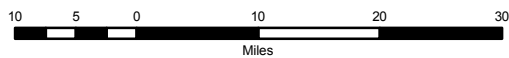

J. Todd Forbes
Field Manager


6/14/18
Date

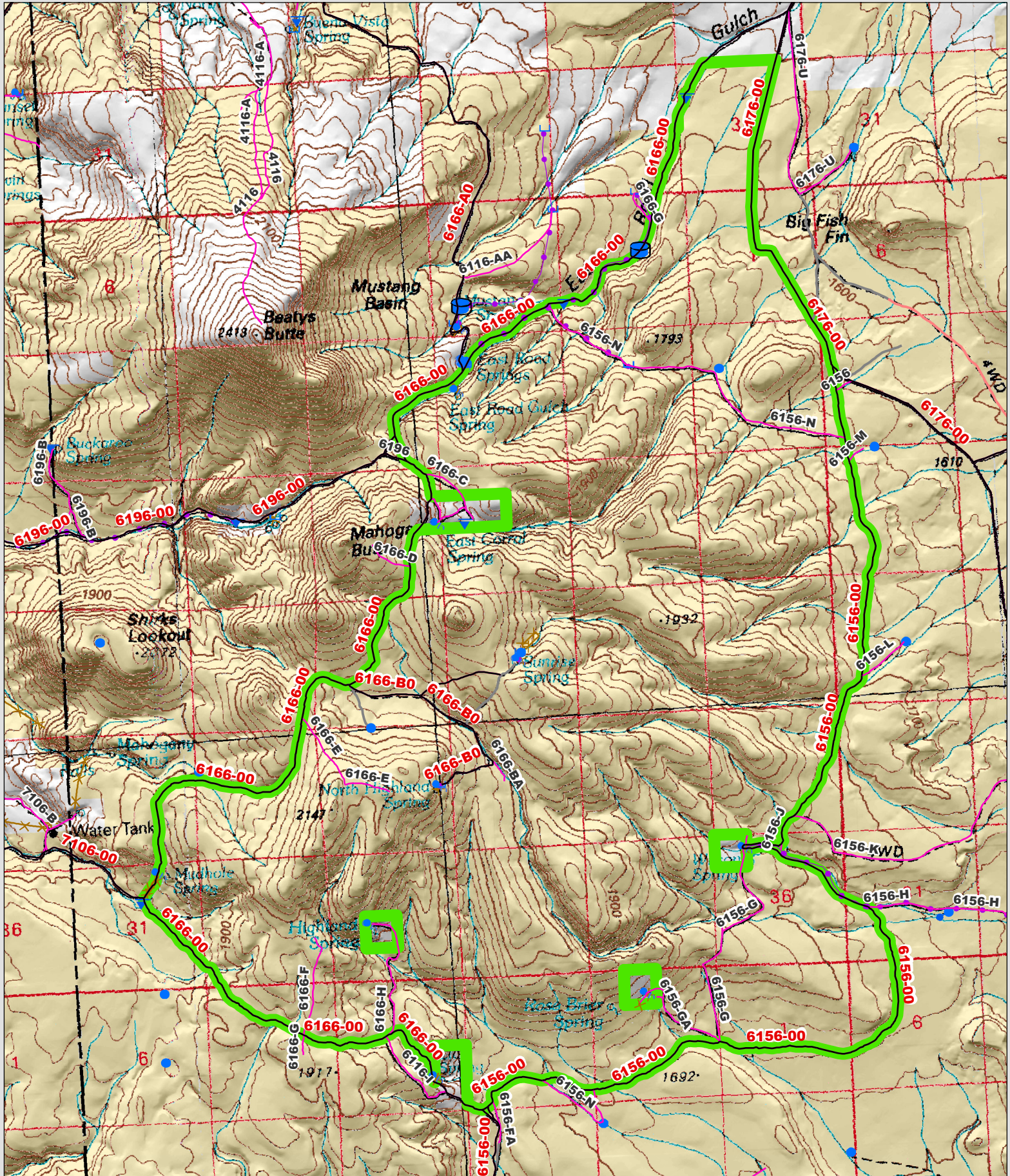
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.




 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



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<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 	<p>Water Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Tank Waterhole Well - Water 	<p>1 0.5 0 1 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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