

# **EVALUATION FORM**

## **Update of Wilderness Characteristic Information**

### **Introduction**

After the enactment of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) initiated a comprehensive inventory of the public lands under its jurisdiction to determine which contained wilderness characteristics. This inventory followed a process described in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook (BLM 1978) and subsequent guidance. During this process, several documents were prepared and made available for public review covering the initial inventory, intensive inventory, and wilderness study phases (BLM 1979a, 1979b, 1980a, 1980b) which ultimately resulted in a Final Environmental Impact Statement (BLM 1989), and a Record of Decision/Recommendation Report to Congress (BLM 1991). A total of 14 wilderness study areas (WSAs) and 1 instant study area (ISA) covering approximately 486,873 acres and located completely or partially within the Lakeview Resource Area were designated during this process. During the preparation of the Lakeview Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (RMP/ROD; BLM 2003b), the BLM updated its wilderness inventory by examining the potential wilderness characteristics present on approximately 3,000 acres of lands acquired after 1991 within or immediately adjacent to existing WSAs (Appendix J1, BLM 2001). The BLM found that approximately 1,194 of the 3,000 acres contained wilderness characteristics (BLM 2003b).

In April 2005, the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) provided the BLM with an inventory report containing numerous proposed WSAs. The purpose of this evaluation is to document the BLM's review of this new information to determine if:

- 1) wilderness characteristics are present in the these area (Spaulding Addition 1), and
- 2) the BLM needs to update its existing wilderness inventory and related datasets regarding the individual wilderness characteristics of roadlessness, naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude, or outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

The Land Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1 (BLM 2005) describes the current policy on how the BLM is to address new citizen wilderness inventory information and provides some criteria to use when reviewing this type of new information.

### **Evaluation of Citizen Input Regarding Wilderness Characteristics**

#### **1. Source Information:**

Date of Submission: April 2005

Proponent: ONDA

Name of Proposal and/or Area Identified by the Proponent: Spaulding Proposed WSA Addition 1

BLM District(s) and Field Office(s) Affected: Lakeview District/Lakeview Resource Area (see Map 1)

**2. Does the submission include:**

- a) Map which identifies the specific boundaries of the area in question? Yes X No \_\_\_\_
- b) Narrative that describes the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics of the area?  
Yes X No \_\_\_\_
- c) Photographic documentation? Yes X No \_\_\_\_

**3. Verify and describe unit boundaries including presence or absence of roads, and state acreage of each unit:**

ONDA has identified about 39,080 acres of BLM lands in southwestern Harney and southeastern Lake Counties which they feel contain wilderness character and should be designated as a wilderness study area. They refer to the area as the Spaulding Proposed WSA Addition 1 (Map 1; refer also to map on page 215 of ONDA 2005). The proposed boundaries are identified as Highway 140 on the south, BLM Road 6176-0-00 and private property boundaries on the east, BLM Roads 6116-0-00, 6116-0-A, and 6116-0-1C on the north, and BLM Roads 6116-0-1C and 6136-0-00 on the west. The unit is sandwiched in between the existing Spaulding, Sage Hen Hills, and Hawksie-Walksie WSAs, and is just to the north of Sheldon National Antelope Refuge (Map 2).

The BLM reviewed this new information and compared it with the previous inventory information contained in the BLM’s initial and intensive wilderness inventory files, previously published inventory findings and wilderness study documents (BLM 1979a, 1979b, 1980a, 1980b, 1989, 1991), additional field visits conducted in 2005 and 2006, and current GIS datasets updated as a result of the field visits. The proposed WSA covers five smaller wilderness inventory units or sub-units that were previously evaluated and one small uninventoried area. All of these areas were found to be bounded by roads in 1980 (BLM 1980b). The relationship between the Spaulding Addition 1 Proposed WSA boundary and the smaller inventory unit/sub-unit boundaries is shown on Map 2.

During their inventory effort, ONDA identified many of the routes inside the proposed WSA boundary as meeting the former definition of a “way”<sup>9</sup> (ONDA 2005, see Map on page 215). One of the fundamental justifications for lumping all of these previously evaluated units or sub-units into a larger proposed WSA is the premise that the on-the-ground conditions have changed since 1980 and many routes identified as roads in the previous inventory no longer meet the wilderness inventory definition of a road (ONDA 2005).

Based on all of the available information, including recent road inventories and field visits, the BLM concludes that the routes known as BLM Roads 6176-0-00, 6116-0-A, 6116-0-00, 6116-0-1C, 6136-0-00, 6146-0-00, 6146-0-1, 6136-0-1, 6116-0-2D, 6116-0-2, 6116-0-1, 6116-0-B, 6116-0-BA, one unnumbered route, and Highway 140 still meet the wilderness definition of a road<sup>2</sup>. The reasoning for these individual road determinations is described in Table 1 and in the individual road analysis forms contained in the evaluation file. Therefore, the Spaulding Addition 1 Proposed WSA area does not meet the fundamental definition of a single, large roadless area. For this reason, the remainder of this evaluation documents the current conditions within several smaller individual wilderness inventory unit/sub-unit boundaries (Map 2), defined by these existing roads, and compares these conditions with ONDA’s inventory findings, as well as the conditions documented during the 1980 inventory.

**Summary of Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record**

**1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?**

No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes X

(Note: all but about 2,968 acres of the area were previously inventoried; see Map 2).

- a) Inventory Source: Wilderness Inventory, Oregon and Washington. Final Intensive Inventory Decisions (BLM 1980b).
- b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Spaulding Reservoir (1-139A), Sagehen Spring (1-140A and 1-140B) and Sagehen Flat (1-145A and 1-145B)
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Oregon Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decisions, November 1980 (BLM 1980b)
- d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Lakeview District/Lakeview Resource Area

**2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record**

The findings from the previous inventory (BLM 1980b) are summarized in Table 2.

**Evaluation of Current Conditions**

*Review the BLM wilderness inventory findings on file regarding the presence or absence of individual wilderness characteristics, and consider relevant information regarding current conditions available in the office (interdisciplinary team knowledge, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc.) Conduct field reviews if necessary to verify information. Determine if the previous inventory findings remain valid for each individual wilderness characteristic, or if conditions have changed enough to warrant a new finding. Explain the basis for each conclusion and any changes in wilderness characteristics from the previous information on file (use additional space as necessary). If there is no existing wilderness inventory information available, establish an inventory unit boundary encompassing the area under review.*

**1. Unit Name/number:** Spaulding Reservoir (1-139A)

*Describe the boundaries<sup>1</sup> of the unit (roads<sup>2</sup>, property lines, etc.) and state its acreage:*

In the 1980 inventory, this subunit was split out from subunit 1-139B (Spaulding WSA) based on the presence of BLM Road 6116-0-A (referred to formally as BLM Road 6176 B) dividing unit 1-139 into two subunits. The earlier inventory estimated this area as encompassing approximately 4,640 acres of BLM-administered lands (BLM 1980b). It is bounded on the west by BLM Road 6116-0-A and private lands, on the east by BLM Road 6176-0-00, and on the south by 6116-0-00 and an unnumbered road (referred to as 6176 C in 1980 inventory)(see Map 3 and road photo log in Appendix I). All of these boundary routes continue to meet the definition of a road for the reasons described in Table 1 and, therefore, continue to serve as unit boundaries. The unit was eliminated from further study in 1980 due to the size estimate being less than 5,000 acres. However, the current size estimate for this subunit, based on current GIS data, is 5,410 acres.

**2. Is the unit of sufficient size?<sup>3</sup>** Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Is the unit in a natural condition?** Yes  No  Partially

*Description/comment:* The previous inventory did not describe this sub-unit in detail due to the initial finding of small size (BLM 1980b). Elevation ranges from about 5,700 feet to 6,200 feet and includes several small buttes and ridges. Based on a review of recent ecological site inventory data, the vegetation within the sub-unit is dominated by a mixture of low and big sagebrush and associated native grasses.

About 2.9 miles of BLM Road 6116-0-00 cuts across the southeast portion of the sub-unit (Map 3). This route was not determined to meet the wilderness definition of a road in 1980 or during the current evaluation (Tables 1 and 3). In addition, a naturally reclaiming route about a mile in length is located along the southern boundary. One man-made reservoir, Rock Reservoir, exists along the southwestern boundary. One undeveloped spring occurs near the northeast corner of the unit. One developed spring exists in the northwestern portion of the unit (Table 3 and Map 3). Developed springs typically include a small, fenced enclosure fence surrounding the spring site and a short piece of pipe extending to one or more water troughs located outside of the enclosure. Reservoirs typically involve construction of a small earthen dam across a drainage using heavy machinery, and are designed to capture seasonal runoff. Reservoirs typically cover 0.5 to 2 surface acres. Most of these man-made developments are substantially noticeable within close distances (up to a quarter mile) and less noticeable from farther distances.

The entire sub-unit falls within the Beaty Butte wild horse herd management area (HMA) (see Map SMA-4, BLM 2003b). Wild horses were introduced into the west by man starting in the 1500's and are protected under the Wild Horse and Burro Act of 1971.

At this time about 4,921 acres (91%) of the sub-unit remains in a natural condition where the imprint of man is devoid or substantially unnoticeable (Map 3).

**4. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  NA \_\_\_\_\_

*Description/comment:* The previous inventory did not evaluate the opportunities for solitude within this sub-unit (BLM 1980b). The sub-unit does have some rolling topography, including a ridgeline running parallel to the northeast boundary, and some taller sagebrush that provides some screening and would allow some opportunity to avoid the presence of others within the northeastern half of the unit (Maps 4-7). However, due to the relatively small size of the sub-unit, it still may not be possible to avoid others within the flatter southwest half of the sub-unit.

The most common visitors to the sub-unit include livestock permittees, BLM staff, researchers, and hunters. Though the current visitation levels are considered low, the continued presence of boundary roads (Table 1), along with internal BLM Road 6116-0-00 (Table 3 and Map 3) provides motorized access to the entire perimeter of the unit, as well as a significant portion of the southeastern interior of the unit. This motorized access increases the actual likelihood of encountering other people visiting the unit.

Much of the Lakeview Resource Area is comprised of large, contiguous blocks of uninhabited public lands that are interspersed with sparsely populated private lands. The opportunities for solitude within this sub-unit are similar to those commonly available throughout most other BLM-administered rangelands within the Lakeview Resource Area.

For these reasons, the opportunities for solitude within this sub-unit are not found to be outstanding<sup>8</sup>, nor is the area being managed specifically to provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude<sup>5</sup>.

## 5. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  NA \_\_\_\_\_

*Description/comment:* The previous inventory did not evaluate the opportunities for recreation within this sub-unit (BLM 1980b). Like much of the surrounding lands, this sub-unit likely has some limited potential for hunting. There is currently no developed trail system (other than the existing road system) encouraging hiking or horse-back riding use in the unit. There also is no data available indicating how much of these recreational uses may actually occur in the unit. ONDA's inventory report (2005) did not identify any recreational opportunities associated specifically within this sub-unit (page 213) or provide any new data associated with actual recreational use in the larger Spaulding Addition 1 proposal area.

During development of the Lakeview RMP/ROD, the BLM classified all of the public lands within the planning area into one of six recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) classes (primitive, semiprimitive nonmotorized, semiprimitive motorized, roaded natural, rural, and urban). The ROS classification recognizes that the recreational resource opportunities and uses are not uniform across the planning area and the lands vary in their potential to provide different types of recreational opportunities. These ROS classes are described and defined in more detail in Appendix M2 of the Draft Lakeview RMP/EIS (pages A-287 to A-288, BLM 2001). Table M2-1 (page A-291, BLM 2001) identifies and defines the criteria used in developing the ROS classification for the Lakeview planning area (remoteness, size, evidence of human use, social setting, and managerial setting).

Map R-3 of the Lakeview RMP/ROD (BLM 2003b) shows that all of the sub-unit falls within the semi-primitive, motorized ROS class. On the basis of the existing recreational opportunities identified during the RMP/EIS analysis, this sub-unit was placed into a ROS class where motorized recreational use is allowed and expected. In contrast, those areas identified on the map in the semi-primitive, non-motorized ROS class have a high potential for "outstanding opportunities for ... primitive and unconfined types of recreation .... where the use of the area is through non-motorized, non-mechanical means."

Map R-7 of the Lakeview RMP/ROD (BLM 2003b) shows that the entire sub-unit is open to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use. This further demonstrates that motorized recreational use is allowed and expected throughout the unit. Though there is no existing motorized recreational use data for this area, field observations by BLM staff have confirmed that people do, in fact, use motorized vehicles on and off existing roads and other unmaintained routes to access the public lands within the unit for a variety of reasons including recreational use.

Recreation opportunities within the Lakeview Resource Area have also been highlighted through the designation of extensive and special recreation management areas. An extensive recreation management area is defined as an area "where significant recreation opportunities and problems are limited and explicit recreation management is not required" (page 113, BLM 2003b). This inventory unit, along with about 75% of the rest of the lands within the Lakeview Resource Area, was included in an extensive recreation management area designation (page 84, BLM 2003b) further indicating the existing or potential recreation opportunities available in this area are not outstanding when compared with the rest of the public lands in the Lakeview Resource Area.

Though the sub-unit may offer some limited potential for hunting, hiking, or horseback riding, these opportunities are similar to those available throughout much of the Lakeview Resource Area and do not meet the definition of "outstanding<sup>8</sup>." In describing how to determine if an area contained an outstanding recreation opportunity, the 1978 Wilderness Inventory Handbook (page 13, BLM 1978) stated that "an inventory unit must provide *and be managed* to maintain an outstanding opportunity for an individual to experience...a nonmotorized and nondeveloped type of recreation<sup>6</sup>." The analysis and recreation related

classifications that resulted from the recent RMP process (described above) demonstrate that the sub-unit does not support significant nonmotorized or nondeveloped recreational uses, nor is it being managed specifically to promote nonmotorized or nondeveloped recreation opportunities. The sub-unit does not offer any single outstanding recreational opportunity or an outstanding diversity of recreational opportunities<sup>6</sup>. Nothing in ONDA's (2005) inventory report represents new information related to existing recreation opportunities that were not previously considered during the RMP process or indicates that the recreation opportunities and classifications identified in the Lakeview RMP/ROD (BLM 2003b) are in some way out of date or in error.

For these reasons, the recreational opportunities in this sub-unit do not rank as outstanding.

## **6. Does the unit have supplemental values?**

The previous inventory did not evaluate the presence of supplemental values in this sub-unit (BLM 1980b). ONDA (2005) identified archaeology, the ecological values associated with springs, scenic quality, and sage-grouse, pygmy rabbit, bighorn sheep, burrowing owl, and Peregrine falcon habitat as supplemental values for the larger Spaulding Addition 1 area.

As described above, this unit does have two springs and a reservoir which provide a source of water for wildlife, as well as livestock use (Map 3). The unit has the potential for archeological values though the entire unit has not been surveyed and such values have not been documented.

During the development of the *Lakeview RMP/ROD*, the BLM assessed the existing visual (ie scenic) quality of all public lands in the planning area and placed these lands into 1 of 4 visual resource management (VRM) classes. Class I represents the highest scenic quality and has the most protective management objectives associated with it. Class IV represents the lowest scenic quality and the least protective management objectives. Appendix M3 of the *Draft RMP/EIS* describes the management objectives for each class in more detail (page A-290, BLM 2001). Map VRM-3 of the *Lakeview RMP/ROD* (BLM 2003b) shows that the entire sub-unit falls within VRM Class IV, indicating the scenic quality is low.

The entire sub-unit is identified as year-long sagegrouse habitat, however, no leks are located within the sub-unit. Based on recent surveys, the unit contains some confirmed pygmy rabbit habitat. There is no documented Burrowing owl, Peregrine falcon, or bighorn sheep habitat in the sub-unit. Sage-grouse and pygmy rabbits are BLM special status species.

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### **1. Unit Name/number: Sagehen Spring (1-140A)**

*Describe the boundaries<sup>4</sup> of the unit (roads<sup>5</sup>, property lines, etc.) and state its acreage:*

In the 1980 inventory, this unit was split out from unit 1-140B based on the presence of BLM Road 6136-0-00 dividing unit 1-140 into two subunits (BLM 1980b). It currently encompasses approximately 4,732 acres of BLM-administered lands. It is bounded on the west and north by BLM Road 6136-0-00 and private land boundaries, on the east by BLM Road 6146-0-00, and on the south by Highway 140 (see Map 2 and road photo log in Appendix I). Highway 140 is a state highway with a designated 200-foot right-of-way on both sides of the centerline (400-foot total corridor width). For purposes of this analysis, the southern boundary of the unit is defined as the northern edge of the state right-of-way rather than the

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northern edge of the road disturbance. All of these boundary routes continue to meet the definition of a road for the reasons described in Table 1 and, therefore, continue to serve as unit boundaries.

**2. Is the unit of sufficient size?**<sup>6</sup> Yes  No

Due to the unit's small size (less than 5,000 acres) it was not evaluated further in 1980. The unit is still less than 5,000 acres in size and need not be considered further in this evaluation.

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**1. Unit Name/number:** Sagehen Spring (1-140B)

*Describe the boundaries of the unit (roads, property lines, etc.) and state its acreage:* In the 1980 inventory, this unit was split out from unit 1-140A based on the presence of BLM Road 6136-0-00 dividing unit 1-140 into two subunits (BLM 1980b). It encompasses approximately 9,580 acres of BLM-administered lands. It is bounded on the south by BLM Road 6136-0-00 and private lands, on the east by BLM Roads 6116-0-1 and 6116-0-2, on the north and west by BLM Road 6116-1-1C (see Map 3 and photo log in Appendix I). All of these boundary routes continue to meet the definition of a road for the reasons described in Table 1 and, therefore, continue to serve as unit boundaries.

**2. Is the unit of sufficient size?** Yes  No

**3. Is the unit in a natural condition?** Yes  No  Partially

*Description/comment:* The previous inventory (BLM 1980b) described this unit as containing sagebrush flats and low, rolling terrain with minor drainages. On the (south) east side of the unit a small canyon exists east of Sagehen Spring on private land. This current review finds these private lands are actually excluded from the unit boundary (Map 3) and the canyon extends about 1.5 miles to the northwest onto BLM lands. There is one extended (side) slope paralleling BLM Road 6116 along the east side of the unit that drops off onto Sage Hen Flats to the east (BLM 1980b). Elevation ranges from about 5,900 feet to 6,200 feet. The unit topography and vegetation have not changed significantly since 1980.

At the time of the 1980 inventory, the unit contained two developed springs and one short way in the northwest corner of the unit which were found to be substantially unnoticeable. The unit as a whole was found to retain a generally natural condition where the imprints of man were substantially unnoticeable (BLM 1980b).

The unit currently contains one undeveloped spring and five developed springs: Snake Eyes Springs in the northwest, Crossroads Spring in the northeast, and Stud and Sagebrush Springs in the southwest (Table 3, Map 3, and photo log in Appendix II). Developed springs typically include a small, fenced enclosure fence surrounding the spring site and a short piece of pipe extending to one or more water troughs located outside of the enclosure.

In addition, the interior of the unit currently contains about 0.6 miles of road, 6.2 miles of unmaintained routes, and 1.3 miles of fence surrounding Sagehen Creek (Table 3 and Map 3). These man-made disturbances are substantially noticeable within close distances (up to a quarter mile) and less noticeable from farther distances.

The entire unit falls within the Beauty Butte wild horse herd management area (HMA) (see Map SMA-4, BLM 2003b). Wild horses were introduced into the west by man starting in the 1500's and are protected under the Wild Horse and Burro Act of 1971.

At this time about 8,256 acres (86.2%) of the unit remains in a natural condition where the imprint of man is devoid or substantially unnoticeable (Map 3).

**4. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  NA \_\_\_\_\_

*Description/comment:* The previous inventory (BLM 1980b) found the unit had only gently rolling contours in limited areas of the unit that were capable of providing screening from the sights and sounds of others in the unit (Maps 4-7). The topography and small unit size prevented the area from providing an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The unit size and topography have not changed since 1980. In addition, the existing short sagebrush cover does not provide significant screening.

The most common visitors to the sub-unit include livestock permittees, private land owners, BLM staff, researchers, and hunters. Though the current visitation levels are considered low, the continued presence of boundary roads (Table 1), along with numerous other internal routes (Table 3 and Map 3) provides motorized access to the entire perimeter of the unit, as well as a significant portion of the southeastern interior of the unit. This motorized access increases the actual likelihood of encountering other people visiting the unit.

Much of the Lakeview Resource Area is comprised of large, contiguous blocks of uninhabited public lands that are interspersed with sparsely populated private lands. The opportunities for solitude within this sub-unit are similar to those commonly available throughout most other BLM-administered rangelands within the Lakeview Resource Area.

For these reasons, the opportunities for solitude within this sub-unit are not found to be outstanding<sup>8</sup>, nor is the area being managed specifically to provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude<sup>5</sup>.

**5. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  NA \_\_\_\_\_

*Description/comment:* The previous inventory (BLM 1980b) noted this unit had the potential for hunting and trapping, along with limited hiking and horseback riding opportunities. However, these opportunities were not found to be outstanding due to the unit's size.

There is currently no developed trail system (other than the existing road system) encouraging hiking or horse-back riding use in the unit. There also is no data available indicating how much of these recreational uses identified above may actually occur in the unit. ONDA's inventory report (2005) did not identify any additional recreational opportunities associated with this unit (page 213) or provide any new data associated with actual recreational use in this unit or the larger Spaulding Addition 1 proposal area.

During development of the Lakeview RMP/ROD, the BLM classified all of the public lands within the planning area into one of six recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) classes (primitive, semiprimitive nonmotorized, semiprimitive motorized, roaded natural, rural, and urban). The ROS classification recognizes that the recreational resource opportunities and uses are not uniform across the planning area and the lands vary in their potential to provide different types of recreational opportunities. These ROS



classes are described and defined in more detail in Appendix M2 of the Draft Lakeview RMP/EIS (pages A-287 to A-288, BLM 2001). Table M2-1 (page A-291, BLM 2001) identifies and defines the criteria used in developing the ROS classification for the Lakeview planning area (remoteness, size, evidence of human use, social setting, and managerial setting).

Map R-3 of the Lakeview RMP/ROD (BLM 2003b) shows that all of the unit falls within the semi-primitive, motorized ROS class. On the basis of the existing recreational opportunities identified during the RMP/EIS analysis, this unit was placed into a ROS class where motorized recreational use is allowed and expected. In contrast, those areas identified on the map in the semi-primitive, non-motorized ROS class have a high potential for “outstanding opportunities for ... primitive and unconfined types of recreation ... where the use of the area is through non-motorized, non-mechanical means.”

Map R-7 of the Lakeview RMP/ROD (BLM 2003b) shows that the entire unit is open to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use. This further demonstrates that motorized recreational use is allowed and expected throughout the unit. Though there is no existing motorized recreational use data for this area, field observations by BLM staff have confirmed that people do, in fact, use motorized vehicles on and off existing roads and other unmaintained routes to access the public lands within the unit for a variety of reasons including recreational use.

Recreation opportunities within the Lakeview Resource Area have also been highlighted through the designation of extensive and special recreation management areas. An extensive recreation management area is defined as an area “where significant recreation opportunities and problems are limited and explicit recreation management is not required” (page 113, BLM 2003b). This inventory unit, along with about 75% of the rest of the lands within the Lakeview Resource Area, was included in an extensive recreation management area designation (page 84, BLM 2003b) further indicating the existing or potential recreation opportunities available in this area are not outstanding when compared with the rest of the public lands in the Lakeview Resource Area.

Though the unit does continue to offer some limited potential for hunting, trapping, hiking, and horseback riding, these opportunities are similar to those available throughout much of the Lakeview Resource Area and do not meet the definition of “outstanding<sup>8</sup>.” In describing how to determine if an area contained an outstanding recreation opportunity, the 1978 Wilderness Inventory Handbook (page 13, BLM 1978) stated that “an inventory unit must provide *and be managed* to maintain an outstanding opportunity for an individual to experience... a nonmotorized and nondeveloped type of recreation<sup>6</sup>.” The analysis and recreation related classifications that resulted from the recent RMP process (described above) demonstrate that the sub-unit does not support significant nonmotorized or nondeveloped recreational uses, nor is it being managed specifically to promote nonmotorized or nondeveloped recreation opportunities. The sub-unit does not offer any single outstanding recreational opportunity or an outstanding diversity of recreational opportunities<sup>6</sup>. Nothing in ONDA’s (2005) inventory report represents new information related to existing recreation opportunities that were not previously considered during the RMP process or indicates that the recreation opportunities and classifications identified in the Lakeview RMP/ROD (BLM 2003b) are in some way out of date or in error.

For these reasons, the recreational opportunities in this sub-unit do not rank as outstanding.

## **6. Does the unit have supplemental values?**

The previous inventory noted the presence of springs in the unit as a supplemental value (BLM 1980b). ONDA identified archaeology, the ecological values associated with springs, scenic quality, and sage-

grouse, pygmy rabbit, bighorn sheep, burrowing owl, and Peregrine falcon habitat as supplemental values for the larger Spaulding Addition 1 area.

As described above, this unit does have several natural and developed springs which provide a source of water for wildlife, as well as livestock use (Map 3). The unit has the potential for archeological values though the entire unit has not been surveyed and such values have not been documented.

During the development of the *Lakeview RMP/ROD*, the BLM assessed the existing visual (ie scenic) quality of all public lands in the planning area and placed these lands into 1 of 4 visual resource management (VRM) classes. Class I represents the highest scenic quality and has the most protective management objectives associated with it. Class IV represents the lowest scenic quality and the least protective management objectives. Appendix M3 of the *Draft RMP/EIS* describes the management objectives for each class in more detail (page A-290, BLM 2001). Map VRM-3 of the *Lakeview RMP/ROD* (BLM 2003b) shows that the entire unit falls within VRM Class IV, indicating the scenic quality of the unit overall is low.

The eastern third of the unit is identified as California bighorn sheep habitat. The entire unit is identified as sagegrouse year-long habitat, however, no leks are located within the unit. Based on recent surveys, the unit contains some confirmed pygmy rabbit habitat along the western and eastern boundaries. There is no documented Burrowing owl or Peregrine falcon habitat in the unit. Bighorn sheep, sage-grouse, and pygmy rabbits are BLM special status species.

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**1. Unit Name/number:** Sagehen Flat (1-145A)

*Describe the boundaries of the unit (roads, property lines, etc.) and state its acreage:* The previous inventory sub-divided this unit into two sub-units on BLM Road 6116-0-B (formerly referred to as 6176 B). Subunit 1-145A covered an estimated 7620 acres (BLM 1980b). This sub-unit currently encompasses approximately 7,593 acres of BLM-administered lands.

It is bounded on the west by BLM Roads 6116-0-B, on the north by BLM Road 6116-0-00 and an unnumbered road (formerly referred to as 6176 C), and on the east and south by BLM Roads 6176-0-0 and 6116-0-BA (formerly referred to as 6176 B) (see Map 3 and photo log in Appendix I). All of these boundary routes continue to meet the definition of a road for the reasons described in Table 1 and, therefore, continue to serve as unit boundaries.

**2. Is the unit of sufficient size?** Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Is the unit in a natural condition?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Partially  X

*Description/comment:* The previous inventory (BLM 1980b) described the two sub-units as being similar in character and described the unit as a whole despite the presence of a road dividing the unit into two sub-units. The area was described as a low sagebrush flat containing two large lakebed pits (waterholes) (BLM 1980b). Elevation ranges from about 5,850 feet to 6,135 feet. The unit topography and vegetation have not changed significantly since 1980.

One of the two waterholes (Dixon) was located along the road dividing the two sub-units. The other waterhole (Dutch) was located in Section 25 on the northeast portion of the sub-unit. Because of the extremely flat nature of the unit, the large mound of material resulting from digging Dixon waterhole is visible for a considerable distance. Dutch waterhole was also very noticeable over a large area. The sub-

unit as a whole was judged to be primarily affected by the forces of nature where the imprints of man were substantially unnoticeable (BLM 1980b).

The unit currently contains two waterholes, not counting Dixon waterhole (Table 3, Map 3, and photo log in Appendix II). Waterholes typically involve digging out a 5-10 foot deep hole covering a small area (0.5 to 2.0 acres) in a playa flat and side-casting the material into a pile adjacent to the hole. In addition, the interior of the unit currently contains about 4.8 miles of unmaintained routes (Table 3 and Map 3). These man-made developments are substantially noticeable within close distances (up to a quarter mile) and less noticeable from farther distances.

The entire unit falls within the Beaty Butte wild horse herd management area (HMA) (see Map SMA-4, BLM 2003b). Wild horses were introduced into the west by man starting in the 1500's and are protected under the Wild Horse and Burro Act of 1971.

At this time about 6,880 acres (90.6%) of the unit remains in a natural condition where the imprint of man is devoid or substantially unnoticeable (Map 3).

**4. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  NA \_\_\_\_\_

*Description/comment:* The previous inventory found that the extremely flat terrain and low sagebrush cover in the entire unit made it difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the area. The entire unit size was also deemed insufficient, in combination with the flat terrain, to provide opportunities to escape the presence of others (Maps 4-7). The sub-unit did not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude (BLM 1980b). The terrain and vegetation characteristics within the sub-unit have not changed since the 1980 inventory was completed.

The most common visitors to the sub-unit include livestock permittees, BLM staff, researchers, and hunters. Though the current visitation levels are considered low, the continued presence of boundary roads (Table 1), along with other internal routes (Table 3 and Map 3) provides motorized access to the entire perimeter of the unit, as well as a significant portion of the southeastern interior of the unit. This motorized access increases the actual likelihood of encountering other people visiting the unit.

Much of the Lakeview Resource Area is comprised of large, contiguous blocks of uninhabited public lands that are interspersed with sparsely populated private lands. The opportunities for solitude within this sub-unit are similar to those commonly available throughout most other BLM-administered rangelands within the Lakeview Resource Area.

For these reasons, the opportunities for solitude within this sub-unit are not found to be outstanding<sup>8</sup>, nor is the area being managed specifically to provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude<sup>5</sup>.

**5. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?**

Yes \_\_\_ No  X  NA \_\_\_\_\_

*Description/comment:* The previous inventory found that the unit as a whole did not offer any outstanding opportunity for hiking, hunting, or other primitive or unconfined forms of recreation (BLM 1980b). ONDA's inventory report (2005) did not identify any recreational opportunities associated with this sub-unit (page 213) or provide any recreational use data for this sub-unit or the larger Spaulding Addition 1 proposal area.

During development of the Lakeview RMP/ROD, the BLM classified all of the public lands within the planning area into one of six recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) classes (primitive, semiprimitive nonmotorized, semiprimitive motorized, roaded natural, rural, and urban). The ROS classification recognizes that the recreational resource base is not uniform across the planning area and varies in its potential to provide different types of recreational opportunities. These ROS classes are described and defined in more detail in Appendix M2 of the Draft Lakeview RMP/EIS (pages A-287 to A-288, BLM 2001). Table M2-1 (page A-291, BLM 2001) identifies and defines the criteria used in developing the ROS classification for the Lakeview planning area (remoteness, size, evidence of human use, social setting, and managerial setting).

Map R-3 of the Lakeview RMP/ROD (BLM 2003b) shows that most of the unit falls within the semi-primitive, motorized ROS class. The southeastern edge falls within the roaded natural ROS class. On the basis of the existing recreational opportunities identified during the RMP/EIS analysis, the unit was placed into ROS classes where motorized recreational use is allowed and expected. In contrast, those areas identified on Map R-3 in the semi-primitive, non-motorized ROS class have a high potential for “outstanding opportunities for ... primitive and unconfined types of recreation ... where the use of the area is through non-motorized, non-mechanical means.”

Map R-7 of the Lakeview RMP/ROD (BLM 2003b) shows that the entire unit is open to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use. This further demonstrates that motorized recreational use is allowed and expected on existing routes within the unit. Though there is no existing motorized recreational use data for this area, field observations by BLM staff have confirmed that people do, in fact, use motorized vehicles on and off of existing roads to access the surrounding lands for a variety of reasons including recreational use.

Recreation opportunities within the Lakeview Resource Area have also been highlighted through the designation of extensive and special recreation management areas. An extensive recreation management area is defined as an area “where significant recreation opportunities and problems are limited and explicit recreation management is not required” (page 113, BLM 2003b). This inventory unit, along with about 75% of the rest of the lands within the Lakeview Resource Area, was included in an extensive recreation management area designation (page 84, BLM 2003b), indicating there is nothing particularly special about the recreation opportunities available in this area when compared with the rest of the public lands in the Lakeview Resource Area.

The sub-unit currently offers little if any potential for nonmotorized recreational use. These limited opportunities do not meet the definition of “outstanding<sup>8</sup>.” In describing how to determine if an area contained an outstanding recreation opportunity, the 1978 Wilderness Inventory Handbook (page 13, BLM 1978) stated that “an inventory unit must provide *and be managed* to maintain an outstanding opportunity for an individual to experience...a nonmotorized and nondeveloped type of recreation<sup>6</sup>.” The analysis and recreation related classifications that resulted from the recent RMP process (described above) demonstrate that the sub-unit does not support significant nonmotorized or nondeveloped recreational uses, nor is it being managed specifically to promote nonmotorized or nondeveloped recreation opportunities. The sub-unit does not offer any single outstanding recreational opportunity or an outstanding diversity of recreational opportunities<sup>6</sup>. Nothing in ONDA’s (2005) inventory report represents new information related to existing recreation opportunities that were not previously considered during the RMP process or indicates that the recreation opportunities and classifications identified in the Lakeview RMP/ROD (BLM 2003b) are in some way out of date or in error.

For these reasons, the recreational opportunities in this sub-unit do not rank as outstanding.

## 6. Does the unit have supplemental values?

The previous inventory did not document any supplemental values across the unit as a whole (BLM 1980b). ONDA identified archaeology, the ecological values associated with springs, scenic quality, and sage-grouse, pygmy rabbit, bighorn sheep, burrowing owl, and Peregrine falcon habitat as supplemental values for the larger Spaulding Addition 1 area.

As described above, there are no springs in this sub-unit. The sub-unit has the potential for archeological values, but the entire sub-unit has not been surveyed and such potential values have not been documented.

During the development of the *Lakeview RMP/ROD*, the BLM assessed the existing visual (ie scenic) quality of all public lands in the planning area and placed these lands into 1 of 4 visual resource management (VRM) classes. Class I represents the highest scenic quality and has the most protective management objectives associated with it. Class IV represents the lowest scenic quality and the least protective management objectives. Appendix M3 of the *Draft RMP/EIS* describes the management objectives for each class in more detail (page A-290, BLM 2001). Map VRM-3 of the *Lakeview RMP/ROD* (BLM 2003b) shows that the entire unit falls within VRM Class IV, indicating the scenic quality of the unit overall is low.

The entire unit is identified as sagegrouse year-long habitat, however, no leks are located within the unit. Based on recent surveys, the unit contains confirmed pygmy rabbit habitat throughout much of the entire unit. There is no documented Burrowing owl or Peregrine falcon habitat in the unit. Sage-grouse and pygmy rabbits are BLM special status species.

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### 1. Unit Name/number: Sagehen Flat (1-145B)

*Describe the boundaries of the unit (roads, property lines, etc.) and state its acreage:* The previous inventory sub-divided this unit into two sub-units on BLM Road 6116-0-B (formerly referred to as 6176 B). Subunit 1-145B covered an estimated 8,095 acres (BLM 1980b). This sub-unit currently encompasses approximately 8,964 acres of BLM-administered lands. It is bounded on the west by BLM Roads 6116-0-1 and 6116-0-2, on the north by BLM Road 6116-0-00 (formerly referred to as Road 6176 C), on the east by BLM Roads 6116-0-B and 6116-0-BA (formerly referred to as 6176 B) and on the south by BLM Roads 6176-0-00 and 6116-0-2D (Map 3 and photo log in Appendix I). All of these boundary routes continue to meet the definition of a road for the reasons described in Table 1 and, therefore, continue to serve as unit boundaries.

2. Is the unit of sufficient size? Yes  No

3. Is the unit in a natural condition? Yes  No  Partially

*Description/comment:* The previous inventory (BLM 1980b) described the two sub-units as being similar in character and described the unit as a whole despite the presence of a road dividing the unit into two sub-units. The area was described as a low sagebrush flat containing two large lakebed pits (waterholes) (BLM 1980b). Elevation ranges from about 5,820 feet to 5,975 feet. The unit topography and vegetation have not changed significantly since 1980.

Only one of the two waterholes (Dixon) was located along the road dividing the two subunits. Because of the extremely flat nature of the sub-unit, the large mound of material resulting from digging Dixon waterhole is visible for a considerable distance. The sub-unit as a whole was judged to be

primarily affected by the forces of nature where the imprints of man were substantially unnoticeable (BLM 1980b).

The unit currently contains one undeveloped spring and four waterholes (Table 3, Map 3, and photo log in Appendix II). Waterholes typically involve digging out a 5-10 foot deep hole covering a small surface area (0.5 to 2.0 acres) in a playa flat and side-casting the material into a pile adjacent to the hole. In addition, the interior of the unit currently contains about 0.5 miles of roads and 2.8 miles of unmaintained or reclaiming routes. Most of these man-made disturbances are substantially noticeable within close distances (up to a quarter mile) and less noticeable from farther distances.

The entire unit falls within the Beaty Butte wild horse herd management area (HMA) (see Map SMA-4, BLM 2003b). Wild horses were introduced into the west by man starting in the 1500's and are protected under the Wild Horse and Burro Act of 1971.

At this time about 7,961 acres (88.8%) of the unit remains in a natural condition where the imprint of man is devoid or substantially unnoticeable (Map 3).

**4. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  NA \_\_\_\_\_

*Description/comment:* The previous inventory found that the extremely flat terrain and low sagebrush cover in the entire unit made it difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the area. The entire unit size was also deemed insufficient, in combination with the flat terrain, to provide opportunities to escape the presence of others (Maps 4-7). The sub-unit did not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude (BLM 1980b). The terrain and vegetation characteristics within the sub-unit have not changed since the 1980 inventory was completed.

The most common visitors to the unit include livestock permittees, BLM staff, researchers, and hunters. Though the current visitation levels are considered low, the continued presence of boundary roads (Table 1), along with numerous other internal routes (Table 3 and Map 3) provides motorized access to the entire perimeter of the unit, as well as a significant portion of the southeastern interior of the unit. This motorized access increases the actual likelihood of encountering other people visiting the unit.

Much of the Lakeview Resource Area is comprised of large, contiguous blocks of uninhabited public lands that are interspersed with sparsely populated private lands. The opportunities for solitude within this sub-unit are similar to those commonly available throughout most other BLM-administered rangelands within the Lakeview Resource Area.

For these reasons, the opportunities for solitude within this sub-unit are not found to be outstanding<sup>8</sup>, nor is the area being managed specifically to provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude<sup>5</sup>.

**5. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  NA \_\_\_\_\_

*Description/comment:* The previous inventory found that the unit as a whole did not offer any outstanding opportunity for hiking, hunting, or other primitive or unconfined forms of recreation (BLM 1980b). ONDA's inventory report (2005) did not identify any recreational opportunities associated with this sub-unit (page 213) or provide any recreational use data for this sub-unit or the larger Spaulding Addition 1 proposal area.

During development of the Lakeview RMP/ROD, the BLM classified all of the public lands within the planning area into one of six recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) classes (primitive, semiprimitive nonmotorized, semiprimitive motorized, roaded natural, rural, and urban). The ROS classification recognizes that the recreational resource base is not uniform across the planning area and varies in its potential to provide different types of recreational opportunities. These ROS classes are described and defined in more detail in Appendix M2 of the Draft Lakeview RMP/EIS (pages A-287 to A-288, BLM 2001). Table M2-1 (page A-291, BLM 2001) identifies and defines the criteria used in developing the ROS classification for the Lakeview planning area (remoteness, size, evidence of human use, social setting, and managerial setting).

Map R-3 of the Lakeview RMP/ROD (BLM 2003b) shows that most of the unit falls within the semi-primitive, motorized ROS class. The southeastern edge falls within the roaded natural ROS class. On the basis of the existing recreational opportunities identified during the RMP/EIS analysis, the unit was placed into ROS classes where motorized recreational use is allowed and expected. In contrast, those areas identified on Map R-3 in the semi-primitive, non-motorized ROS class have a high potential for “outstanding opportunities for ... primitive and unconfined types of recreation ... where the use of the area is through non-motorized, non-mechanical means.”

Map R-7 of the Lakeview RMP/ROD (BLM 2003b) shows that the entire unit is open to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use. This further demonstrates that motorized recreational use is allowed and expected on existing routes within the unit. Though there is no existing motorized recreational use data for this area, field observations by BLM staff have confirmed that people do, in fact, use motorized vehicles on and off of existing roads to access the surrounding lands for a variety of reasons including recreational use.

Recreation opportunities within the Lakeview Resource Area have also been highlighted through the designation of extensive and special recreation management areas. An extensive recreation management area is defined as an area “where significant recreation opportunities and problems are limited and explicit recreation management is not required” (page 113, BLM 2003b). This inventory unit, along with about 75% of the rest of the lands within the Lakeview Resource Area, was included in an extensive recreation management area designation (page 84, BLM 2003b), indicating there is nothing particularly special about the recreation opportunities available in this area when compared with the rest of the public lands in the Lakeview Resource Area.

The sub-unit currently offers little if any potential for nonmotorized recreational use. These limited opportunities do not meet the definition of “outstanding<sup>8</sup>.” In describing how to determine if an area contained an outstanding recreation opportunity, the 1978 Wilderness Inventory Handbook (page 13, BLM 1978) stated that “an inventory unit must provide *and be managed* to maintain an outstanding opportunity for an individual to experience...a nonmotorized and nondeveloped type of recreation<sup>6</sup>.” The analysis and recreation related classifications that resulted from the recent RMP process (described above) demonstrate that the sub-unit does not support significant nonmotorized or nondeveloped recreational uses, nor is it being managed specifically to promote nonmotorized or nondeveloped recreation opportunities. The sub-unit does not offer any single outstanding recreational opportunity or an outstanding diversity of recreational opportunities<sup>6</sup>. Nothing in ONDA’s (2005) inventory report represents new information related to existing recreation opportunities that were not previously considered during the RMP process or indicates that the recreation opportunities and classifications identified in the Lakeview RMP/ROD (BLM 2003b) are in some way out of date or in error.

For these reasons, the recreational opportunities in this sub-unit do not rank as outstanding.

## 6. Does the unit have supplemental values?

The previous inventory did not document any supplemental values across the unit as a whole (BLM 1980b). ONDA (2005) identified archaeology, the ecological values associated with springs, scenic quality, and sage-grouse, pygmy rabbit, bighorn sheep, burrowing owl, and Peregrine falcon habitat as supplemental values for the larger Spaulding Addition 1 area.

As described above, there is one undeveloped spring in this sub-unit which, in combination with the other man-made water developments, does provide sources of water for wildlife. The sub-unit has the potential for archeological values, but the entire sub-unit has not been surveyed and such potential values have not been documented.

During the development of the *Lakeview RMP/ROD*, the BLM assessed the existing visual (ie scenic) quality of all public lands in the planning area and placed these lands into 1 of 4 visual resource management (VRM) classes. Class I represents the highest scenic quality and has the most protective management objectives associated with it. Class IV represents the lowest scenic quality and the least protective management objectives. Appendix M3 of the *Draft RMP/EIS* describes the management objectives for each class in more detail (page A-290, BLM 2001). Map VRM-3 of the *Lakeview RMP/ROD* (BLM 2003b) shows that the entire unit falls within VRM Class IV, indicating the scenic quality of the unit overall is low.

All of the unit is identified as sagegrouse year-long habitat, however, no leks are located within the unit. Based on recent surveys, the unit contains confirmed pygmy rabbit habitat throughout much of the entire unit. There is no documented Burrowing owl, Peregrine falcon, or bighorn sheep habitat in the unit. Sage-grouse and pygmy rabbits are BLM special status species.

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### 1. Unit Name/number: Unnamed Unit

*Describe the boundaries of the unit (roads, property lines, etc.) and state its acreage:*

This area is surrounded by units 1-58, 1-140A, 1-140B, 1-145B, and Sage Hen Hills WSA. It was not previously considered in the 1980 inventory due to its small (less than 5,000 acre) size. It encompasses approximately 2,688 acres of BLM-administered lands and 280 acres of developed private lands. It is bounded on the west by BLM Road 6146-0-00, on the north by private property and BLM Road 6116-02D, on the east by BLM Road 6176-0-00, and on the south by Highway 140. In addition, the unit is divided in half by BLM Road 6136-0-1 (Map 3 and photo log in Appendix I). Highway 140 is a state highway with a designated 200-foot right-of-way on both sides of the centerline (400-foot total corridor width). For purposes of this analysis, the southern boundary of the unit is defined as the northern edge of the state right-of-way rather than the northern edge of the road disturbance. All of these boundary routes continue to meet the definition of a road for the reasons described in Table 1 and, therefore, continue to serve as unit boundaries.

In addition, BLM Road 6136-1-00 bisects this unit into two even smaller sub-units (Table 3, Map 3, and photo log in Appendix I).

### 2. Is the unit of sufficient size?    Yes            No

Since the area does not encompass at least 5,000 acres in size or is not immediately adjacent to an existing wilderness or wilderness study area, it will not be evaluated further.



## Findings

After reviewing current conditions regarding the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics and the submitted citizen information described above, the Interdisciplinary Team finds: (Check 1 or 2 below).

1)  There are no wilderness characteristics present in the units.

or

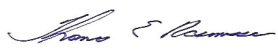
2)  The following wilderness characteristics are present in the units:

Unit #	Size	Natural Condition	Outstanding Solitude Opportunities	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation Opportunities	Supplemental Values
1-139A	Yes	91.0%	No	No	Yes
1-140A	No	NA	NA	NA	NA
1-140B	Yes	86.2%	No	No	Yes
1-145A	Yes	90.6%	No	No	Yes
1-145B	Yes	88.8%	No	No	Yes
Unnumbered Area	No	NA	NA	NA	NA

### Wilderness Characteristics Interdisciplinary Team Members

<u>Paul Whitman</u>	<u>Planning &amp; Environmental Coordinator</u>
<u>Trish Lindaman</u>	<u>Recreation Specialist</u>
<u>Les Boothe</u>	<u>Range Management Specialist</u>
<u>Todd Forbes</u>	<u>Wildlife Biologist</u>
Name	Title

### Field Manager's Concurrence

Tom Rasmussen		4/27/2007
Field Manager	Signature	Date
Lakeview Resource Area		

**NOTE: This form documents information which 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 either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.**

## Definitions

<sup>1</sup> **Boundaries** - Inventory unit boundaries are normally formed by roads<sup>2</sup>, property lines, right-of-ways, or other substantially noticeable imprints of human activity. Describe any changes to the original inventory unit boundary based on current conditions. Conditions may have changed so that the inventory unit is larger or smaller than the original unit, or several units now may exist when previously there was only one. Roads often form the boundary of the inventory unit. Dead-end roads i.e. “cherrystem roads” may extend into the unit and are excluded from it, thereby affecting the unit boundary. In all cases, include a map that depicts the present boundaries of the inventory unit(s).

<sup>2</sup> **Road** - A road is a route that has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. “Mechanical means” includes the use of hand tools.

**Regular and Continuous Use:** vehicular use which has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims.

**Mechanical means:** includes the use of hand or power tools.

**Improved and maintained:** actions taken physically by man to keep the road open to vehicular traffic. Improved does not necessarily mean formal construction. Maintained does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

**Note:** In order to be considered a road for wilderness inventory update purposes, the route must at least meet the following criteria that were not available at the time of the original Statewide Wilderness Inventory: Until the ground transportation (GTRN) and Facility Asset Management System (FAMS) datasets are updated (short-term) with new definitions expressed in *Roads and Trails Terminology Report* (BLM 2006a) use the GTRN/FAMS “Road” definitions with a minimum “Maintenance Level” of 2 (BLM 2006b). After GTRN/FAMS is updated (long-term) with new definitions expressed in *Roads and Trails Terminology Report* (BLM 2006a) use “Primitive Road, Maintenance Level 1”. While GIS data layers depicting roads may be a helpful tool in determining present inventory unit boundaries, field checking should be conducted as necessary to determine the actual status of routes in question. The intent is to maintain consistency with the existing statewide wilderness inventory baseline data to provide for similar findings during the updating process while recognizing that BLM transportation planning and related terminology has evolved since 1980. A route that does not meet the road definition may have an impact on naturalness; if so, the route should be documented when an area’s natural condition is being analyzed.

<sup>3</sup> **Size-** The presence of wilderness characteristics is dependent upon large roadless tracts of federal land. To be of sufficient size to have wilderness characteristics, an inventory unit must be at least 5,000 contiguous roadless acres of public land where the imprint of human activity is substantially unnoticeable. In unusual cases, a unit may be less than 5,000 contiguous acres if one of the following factors is present:

- (1) It is clearly of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition;
- (2) It is contiguous with a BLM WSA and is not separated from the WSA by a road, Right-of-way or non-federal land;
- (3) It is contiguous with land managed by another federal agency which has been formally determined to have wilderness or potential wilderness values;
- (4) It is contiguous with other federal lands administered by an agency with authority to study and preserve wilderness lands, and the combined total is 5,000 acres or more;
- (5) It is a roadless island.

It may be determined that only a portion of the inventory unit meets the minimum size requirement, in which case a determination must be made whether or not wilderness characteristics are present only on that portion that is of sufficient size. If the roadless area is not of sufficient size, it cannot be determined to possess wilderness characteristics, including supplemental values.

<sup>4</sup> **Natural Condition-** To be in a natural condition, determine if the area within the unit boundary appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of human activity substantially unnoticeable. Some imprints of human activity may exist in the area if they are substantially unnoticeable. Consideration is given to “apparent naturalness” rather than “natural integrity”. Apparent naturalness refers to whether or not an area appears to be in a natural condition to the average visitor who is not familiar with the biological composition of natural ecosystems versus human-affected ecosystems in a given area. Major influences on apparent naturalness are structures, evidence of past significant vegetative disturbance such as logging, and other obvious surface disturbing activities. Natural integrity refers to the presence or absence of ecosystems that are relatively unaffected by human activity, such as the presence of native vegetative communities and absence of invasive species.

<sup>5</sup> **Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude-** Solitude is defined as “The state of being alone or remote from others; isolation. A lonely or secluded place.” Consider an individual’s opportunity to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people in the unit. Factors that affect opportunities for solitude are the size and configuration of the unit; vegetative and topographic screening; ability of visitors to find a secluded spot, even when others are present in the area. Do not consider the

sights and sounds of human activity outside of the unit's boundaries unless they are so extremely imposing that they cannot be ignored.

In describing how to determine if an area contained this characteristic, the 1978 Wilderness Inventory Handbook (page 13) stated that "an inventory unit must provide *and be managed to maintain* an outstanding opportunity for an individual to experience...solitude".

<sup>6</sup>**Outstanding Opportunities for Primitive and Unconfined Recreation**- Primitive and unconfined recreation includes activities that provide dispersed, undeveloped recreation which do not require facilities or motorized equipment. Some examples include but are not limited to: hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, caving, horseback riding, rock climbing, river running, cross-country skiing and bird watching. An area may possess outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation either through the diversity in the number of primitive and unconfined recreational activities possible in the unit, or the outstanding quality of one opportunity.

In describing how to determine if an area contained this characteristic, the 1978 Wilderness Inventory Handbook (page 13) stated that "an inventory unit must provide *and be managed to maintain* an outstanding opportunity for an individual to experience...a nonmotorized and nondeveloped type of recreation".

<sup>7</sup>**Supplemental Values**- Supplemental values are ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value that may be present. If present, include a description of these values. The description should include a discussion of the relative quantity and quality of these values including features such as anthropological, rare and endangered species, and heritage.

<sup>8</sup>**Outstanding** - Defined as "Standing out among others of its kind; conspicuous; prominent. Superior to others of its kind; distinguished; excellent."

<sup>9</sup>**Way** – A trace (route) maintained solely by the passage of vehicles which has not been improved and/or maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use (BLM 1978; 1995). Currently this term is only applied to unmaintained routes within designated WSAs.

**Table 1. Wilderness inventory roads**

<b>Inventory Unit Roads</b>	<b>Road Name</b>	<b>Determined to be a Road in 1980</b>	<b>Current BLM Road Maintenance Level<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Claimed as a Road by County</b>	<b>Improvement/Maintenance Confirmed Since 1980</b>	<b>Purpose of Route<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Route Would be Maintained in Future if Condition Deteriorated</b>	<b>Currently Insures Regular or Continuous Use</b>
6116-0-00 (eastern half)	Sagehen Flats	No	2	Yes	No	Water development & public/administrative access	Yes	Yes
6116-0-00 (western half; formerly 6176 C)	Sagehen Flats	Yes	2	Yes	No	Water development & public/administrative access	Yes	Yes
6116-0-A (formerly 6176 B)	South Corral	Yes	2	No	No	Water development & administrative/private land access	Yes	Yes
6116-0-B (formerly 6176 B)	Dixon	Yes	2	No	No	Water development & public/administrative access	Yes	Yes
6116-0-B (south segment)	Dixon	No	2	No	No	Water development & public/administrative access	Yes	Yes
6116-0-BA (formerly 6176 B)	Dixon Spur	Yes	2	No	No	Water development & public/administrative access	Yes	Yes
6116-0-1	Sagehen Flats	Yes	2	No	No	Water development & administrative access	Yes	Yes
6116-0-1C	Sagehen Butte	Yes	2	No	No	Water development & public & administrative access	Yes	Yes
6116-0-1CA	Snake Eyes Spring	No	2	No	No	Water development & public/administrative access	Yes	Yes
6116-0-2	Sagehen Flats	Yes	2	Yes	No	Water development & public/administrative & private land access	Yes	Yes
6116-0-2D	Sagehen Flats	Yes	2	No	No	Water development, public/administrative, & private land access	Yes	Yes
6136-0-00	Antelope Butte	Yes	2	No	No	Water development & public/administrative & private land	Yes	Yes

6136-0-A	Lane Spring	No	2	No	No	Public/administrative access	Yes	Yes
6136-0-1	Antelope Butte	No	2	No	No	Water development & public/administrative & private land access	Yes	Yes
6146-0-00	Sagehen Spring	Yes	3	No	Yes	Public/administrative & private land access	Yes	Yes
6146-0-1	Sagehen Spring	Yes	3	No	Yes	Public/administrative & private land access	Yes	Yes
6176-0-00	East Beaty Butte	Yes	4	No	Yes	Public & administrative access	Yes	Yes
Unnumbered (formerly 6176 C)	Between 6116-0-00 and 6176-0-00	Yes	NA	No	No	Water development & public/administrative access	Yes	Yes
Highway 140	State Highway with 400-foot wide right-of-way	Yes	NA	No	Yes	State transportation system route	Yes	Yes

<sup>1</sup> BLM policy is to provide non-Federal land owner access to their property for "reasonable use and enjoyment thereof" (BLM 1996). Therefore, any existing route that provides access to private land is managed as a road and will remain open for landowner access regardless of its current condition or whether it meets the wilderness definition of a road.

<sup>2</sup> Based on road data contained in the BLM's Ground Transportation (GTRN) and Facility Asset Management System (FAMS) databases. Maintenance Level is defined as the appropriate level of maintenance for a road that best fits the transportation plan management objectives (BLM 2006b):

*Level 1 - This level is assigned to roads where minimum maintenance is required to protect adjacent lands and resource values. These roads are no longer needed and are closed to traffic. The objective is to remove these roads from the transportation system.*

*Level 2 - This level is assigned to roads where the management objectives require the road to be opened for limited administrative traffic. Typically, these roads are passable by high clearance vehicles.*

*Level 3 - This level is assigned to roads where management objectives require the road to be open seasonally or year-round for commercial, recreation, or administrative access. Typically these roads are natural or aggregate surfaced, but may include low use bituminous surfaced roads. These roads have a defined cross section with drainage structures (e.g., rolling dips, culverts, or ditches). These roads may be negotiated by passenger cars traveling at prudent speeds. User comfort and convenience are not considered a high priority.*

*Level 4 - This level is assigned to roads where management objectives require the road to be open all year (except may be closed or have limited access due to snow conditions) and which connect major administrative features (e.g. recreation sites, local road systems, administrative sites, etc.) to County, State, or Federal roads. Typically these roads are single or double lane, aggregate or bituminous surface, with a higher volume of commercial and recreational traffic than administrative traffic.*

*Level 5 - This level is assigned to roads where management objectives require the road to be open all year and are the highest traffic volume roads of the transportation system.*

*NA - not applicable; not a BLM road*

**Table 2. Summary of existing BLM wilderness inventory information (BLM 1980b)**

Unit #	Size	Natural Condition	Outstanding Solitude	Outstanding Primitive & Confined Recreation	Supplemental Values
<b>1-139A</b>	No	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>1-140A</b>	No	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>1-140B</b>	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
<b>1-145A</b>	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
<b>1-145B</b>	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
<b>Unnumbered Area</b>	No	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA = not applicable.

**Table 3. Human disturbances by inventory unit**

Disturbance Type	1-139A	1-140A	1-140B	1-145A	1-145B	Unnumbered Area	TOTAL
<b>Miles of Fences</b>	0.0	7.5	1.3	0	0	4.5	13.3
<b>Internal Routes</b>							
Miles of Roads	0	0	0	0.1	0.5	3.7	4.3
Miles of Unmaintained Routes	4.0	7.7	6.8	4.7	2.8	2.8	28.8
<b>Livestock Water Developments (number)</b>							
waterholes	0	1	0	2	4	1	8
reservoirs	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
developed springs	1	1	5	0	0	0	7

## References

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- BLM. 1980a. Wilderness review. Intensive inventory. Final decisions on 30 selected units in southeastern Oregon and proposed decisions on other intensively inventoried units in Oregon and Washington. March 1980. USDI, BLM, Oregon and Washington State Office. Portland, OR. 429 p.
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- ONDA. 2005. Wilderness Inventory Recommendations: Lakeview BLM District. 232 p.

## **Appendix I**

**Road Inventory Photo Log** – this log contains road-related photos provided to the BLM as part of ONDA’s wilderness inventory. The photo point locations for the photos in this log are shown on “Spaulding Addition 1 Proposed WSA” map on page 215 of ONDA’s inventory report (2005).



## Road Inventory Photo Log

<b>ONDA Photo#</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>ONDA Road#</b>	<b>BLM Road#</b>	<b>Surface Type</b>	<b>Comment/Description</b>	<b>Filename/ Hyperlink</b>
DU21	8/3/2004	SFa	6116-0-A	Natural	Looking south,private land on east; Spaulding WSA to west. Historically bladed.	<a href="#">DU 8-3-04 021.JPG</a>
DU22	8/3/2004	SFa	6116-0-A	Natural Gravel	Looking south. Historically bladed.	<a href="#">DU 8-3-04 022.JPG</a>
DU23	8/3/2004	SFa	6116-0-A	Natural Gravel	Looking south. Historically bladed.	<a href="#">DU 8-3-04 023.JPG</a>
DU24	8/3/2004	SFa	6116-0-A	Natural	Looking north. Historically bladed.	<a href="#">DU 8-3-04 024.JPG</a>
DU30	8/3/2004	SF-1145	None	Natural	Looking west. Historically bladed.	<a href="#">DU 8-3-04 030.JPG</a>
DU31	8/3/2004	SF-1145	None	Natural	Looking east. Historically bladed.	<a href="#">DU 8-3-04 031.JPG</a>
DU33	8/3/2004	SF-1145	6116-0-00	Natural	Jct. with 6116-0-A looking east. Historically bladed.	<a href="#">DU 8-3-04 033.JPG</a>
DU34	8/3/2004	SFa	6116-0-A	Natural	Jct. with 6116-0-00 looking north	<a href="#">DU 8-3-04 034.JPG</a>
DU35	8/3/2004	SFa	6116-0-00	Natural	Jct. with 6116-0-A looking west. Historically bladed.	<a href="#">DU 8-3-04 035.JPG</a>
DU36	8/3/2004	SFa	6116-0-B	Natural Gravel	Jct. with 6116-0-A looking south. Historically bladed.	<a href="#">DU 8-3-04 036.JPG</a>
DU37	8/3/2004	1139-1145	6116-0-00	Natural	Looking east. Historically bladed.	<a href="#">DU 8-3-04 037.JPG</a>
DU38	8/3/2004	1139-1145	6116-0-00	Natural	Looking west. Historically bladed.	<a href="#">DU 8-3-04 038.JPG</a>
DU39	8/3/2004	1139-1145	6116-0-00	Natural	Jct. with 6116-0-1 looking north. Historically bladed.	<a href="#">DU 8-3-04 039.JPG</a>
DU40	8/3/2004	1139-1145	6116-0-00	Natural Gravel	Jct. with 6116-0-1 looking south. Historically bladed.	<a href="#">DU 8-3-04 040.JPG</a>
DU41	8/3/2004	1139-1140	6116-0-1C	Natural Gravel	Jct. with 6116-0-00 looking west	<a href="#">DU 8-3-04 041.JPG</a>
DU43	8/3/2004	SF-1145a	6116-0-2	Natural	Private land; Jct. with 6116-0-2D looking northeast. Historically bladed.	<a href="#">DU 8-3-04 043.JPG</a>
DU46	8/3/2004	SF-1145a	6116-0-2D	Natural	Jct. with 6176-0-00 looking southwest. Historically bladed.	<a href="#">DU 8-3-04 046.JPG</a>
DU47	8/3/2004	SFa	6116-0-BA	Natural	Jct. with 6176-0-00 looking west. Historically bladed.	<a href="#">DU 8-3-04 047.JPG</a>
DU48	8/3/2004	1140e	6136-0-1	Natural	Jct. with 6176-0-00 looking northwest. Historically bladed.	<a href="#">DU 8-3-04 048.JPG</a>
DU49	8/3/2004	SF-1140	6146-0-00	Natural Gravel	Jct. with Highway 140 looking northeast. Bladed and ditched.	<a href="#">DU 8-3-04 049.JPG</a>
DU50	8/3/2004	1140c	6136-0-A	Natural	Jct. with Highway 140 looking northwest	<a href="#">DU 8-3-04 050.JPG</a>
DU51	8/3/2004	1140 e1	None	Natural	Jct. with Highway 140 looking north	<a href="#">DU 8-3-04 051.JPG</a>
DU52	8/3/2004	1139-1140	6136-0-00	Natural/Rocky	Jct. with Hwy. 140 looking northeast past cattleguard	<a href="#">DU 8-3-04 052.JPG</a>

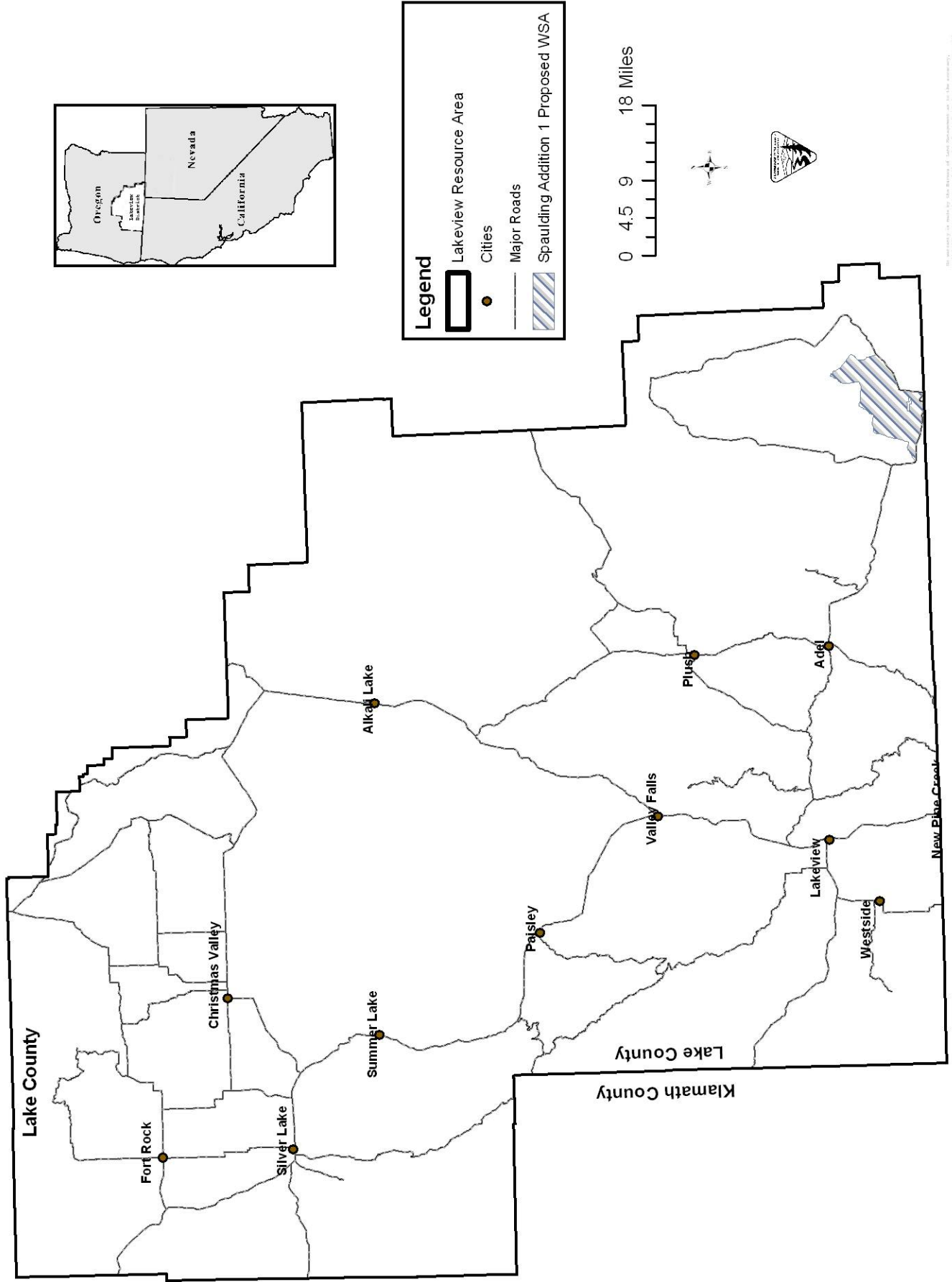
## **Appendix II**

**Water Development Photo Log** – This photo log contains photos of water developments taken by the BLM. This is not an exhaustive log of all water developments in the area, but is rather a representative sampling of the different types of developments (developed springs, reservoirs, waterholes, etc.) intended to demonstrate the amount of disturbance that occurs on the ground associated with these types of developments.

**Water Development Photo Log**

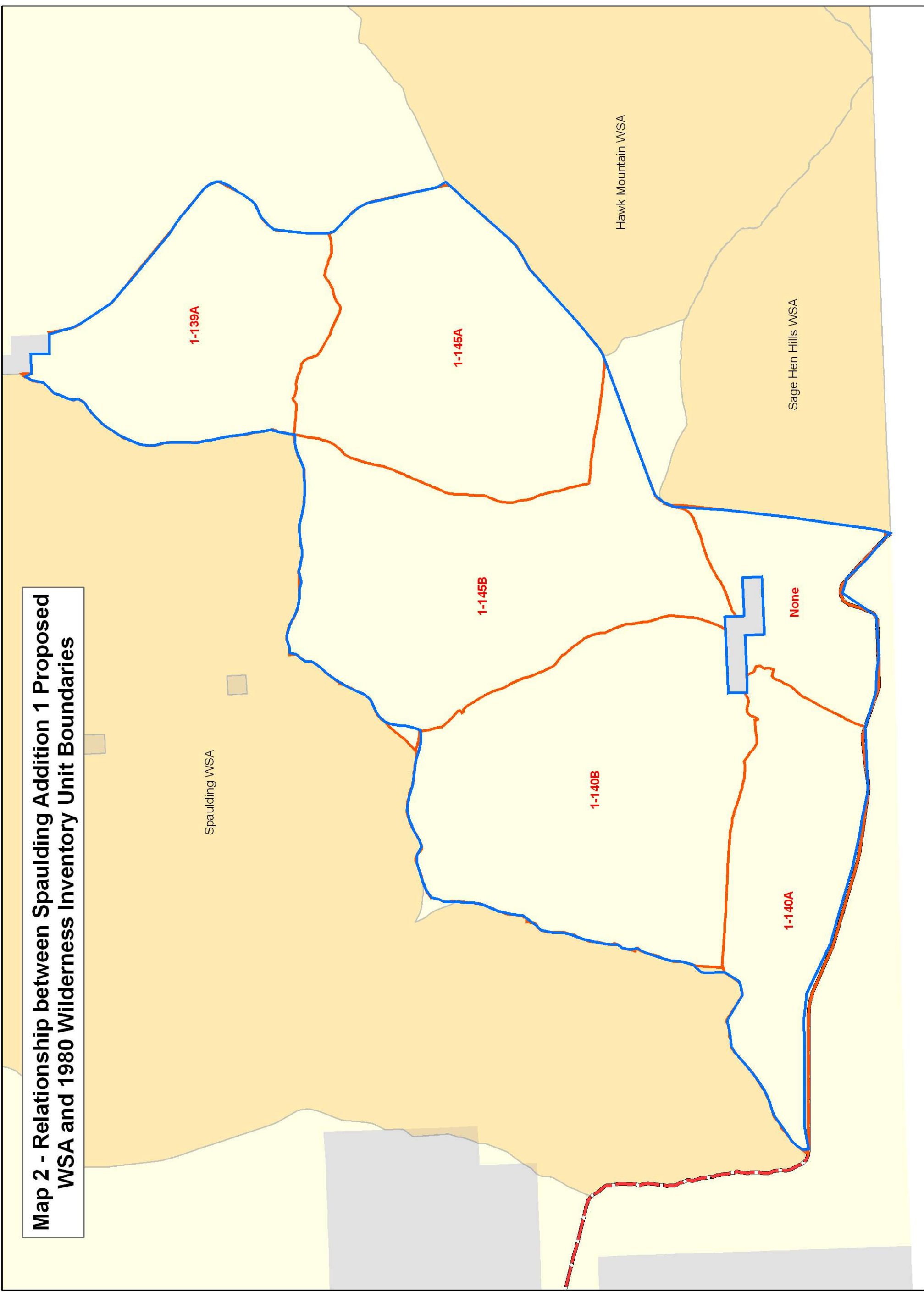
<b>ONDA photo#</b>	<b>Development Name/RIPS#</b>	<b>Photo Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Hyperlink</b>
None	Dixon Waterhole/700805	10/1/2003	Waterhole	<a href="#">Dixon_Waterhole_10.03(8).jpg</a>
None	North 140 Waterhole/704747	10/1/2003	Waterhole	<a href="#">N_140_Waterhole_10.03(2).jpg</a>
None	Field Waterhole/704757	10/1/2003	Waterhole (dry)	<a href="#">Field_Waterhole_10.01(5).jpg</a>
None	East Sagehen Waterhole/704754	10/1/2003	Waterhole (dry)	<a href="#">E_Sagehen_Waterhole_10.03(9).jpg</a>
None	West Dixon Waterhole/704755	10/1/2003	Waterhole (dry)	<a href="#">W_Dixon_Waterhole_10.03(2).jpg</a>
None	Stud Spring/704535	6/1/1994	Developed Spring/Exclosure Fence	<a href="#">Stud_Spring_1994.jpg</a>
None	North Sagehen Waterhole/704753	7/1/1988	Waterhole (dry)	<a href="#">N_Sagehen_Waterhole_1988.jpg</a>
None	Sunrise Waterhole/704762	10/1/2003	Waterhole	<a href="#">Sunrise_Waterhole_10.03.jpg</a>
DU32	Rock Reservoir	8/3/2004	Reservoir (dry)	<a href="#">DU_8-03-04_032.jpg</a>

Map 1 - General Location of Spaulding Addition 1 Proposed WSA



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**Map 2 - Relationship between Spaulding Addition 1 Proposed WSA and 1980 Wilderness Inventory Unit Boundaries**

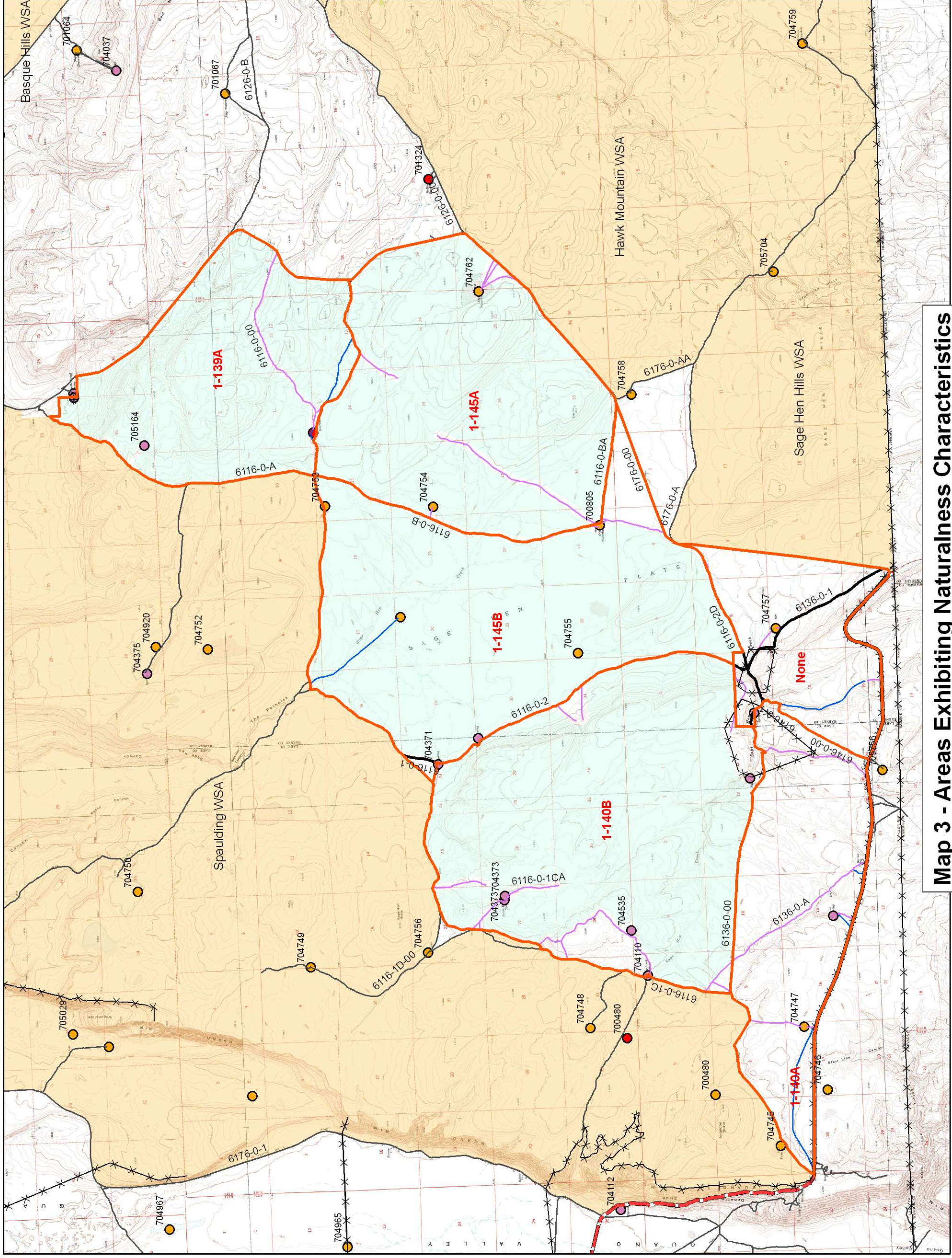


- Legend**
- Spaulding Proposed Addition 1 WSA
  - Wilderness Inventory Units
  - Highway 140
  - Existing WSA
  - Land Status
  - Other
  - BLM



0 0.4 0.8 Miles





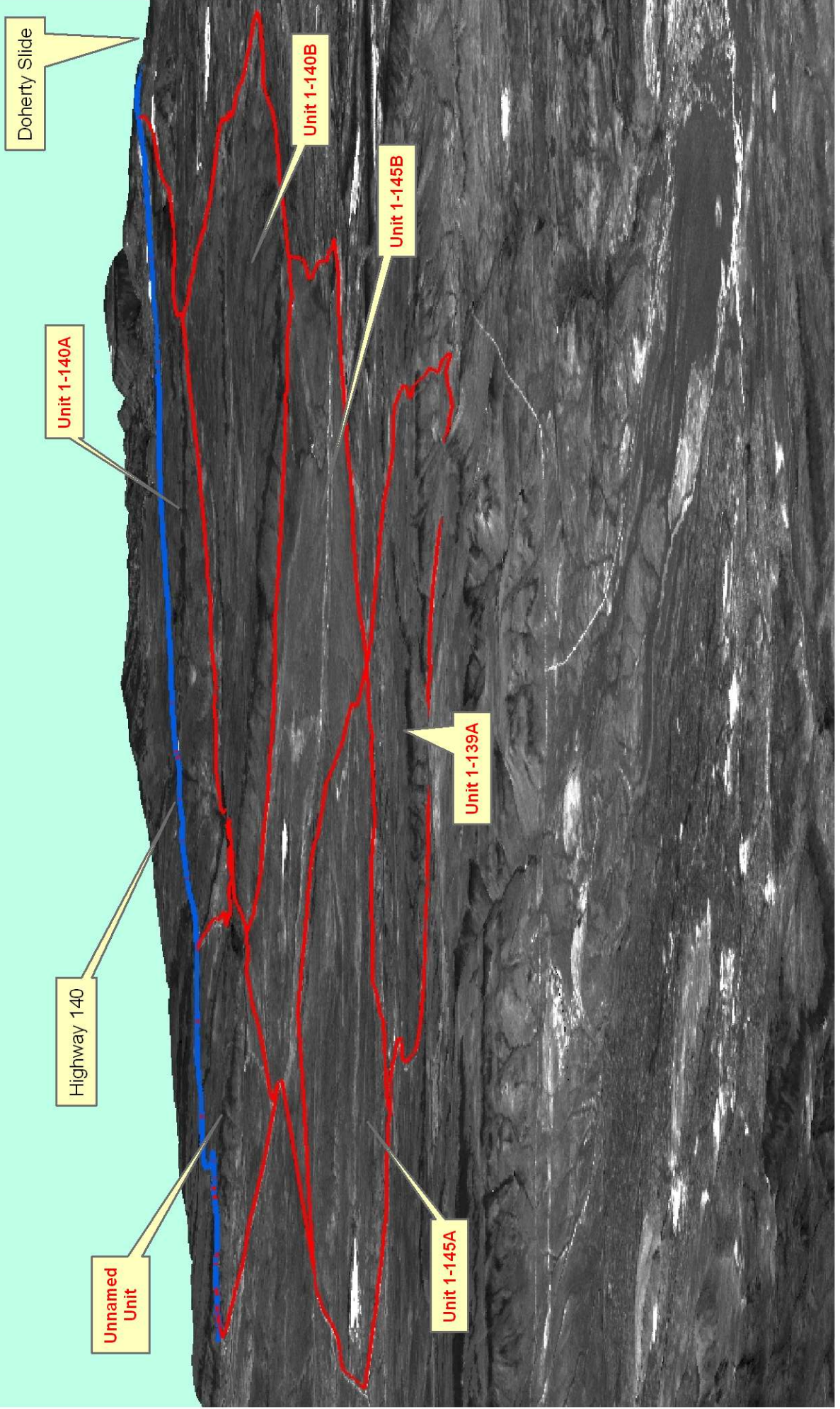
- Legend**
- Wildness Inventory Units
  - Highway
  - Route Type**
  - Road
  - Unmaintained Route
  - Reclaiming Routes
  - Outside Roads
  - Fences
  - Water Developments**
  - WTRBODYTYPE**
  - Reservoir
  - Spring
  - Water Tank
  - Well
  - Waterhole
  - Water Trough
  - Areas Exhibiting Naturalness
  - Existing WSA



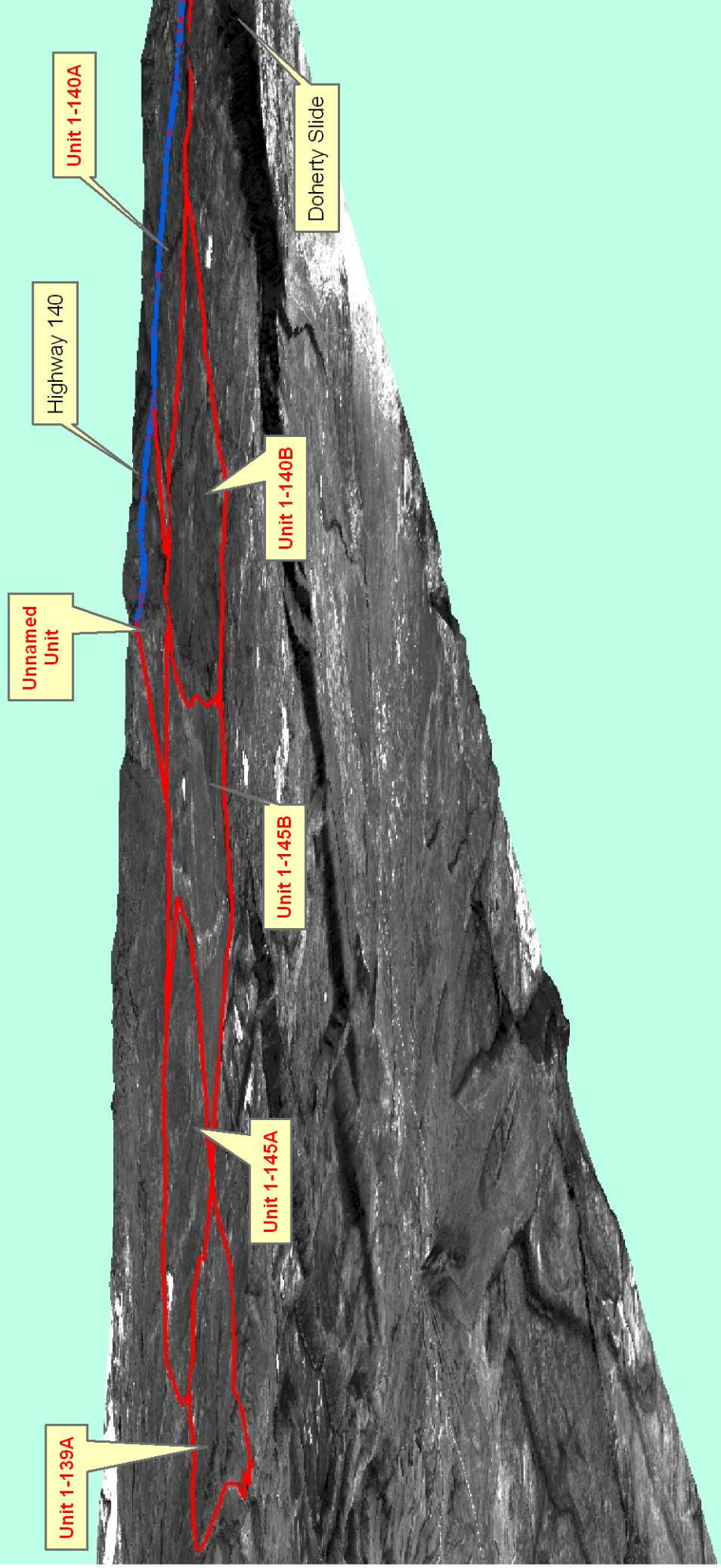
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**Map 3 - Areas Exhibiting Naturalness Characteristics**

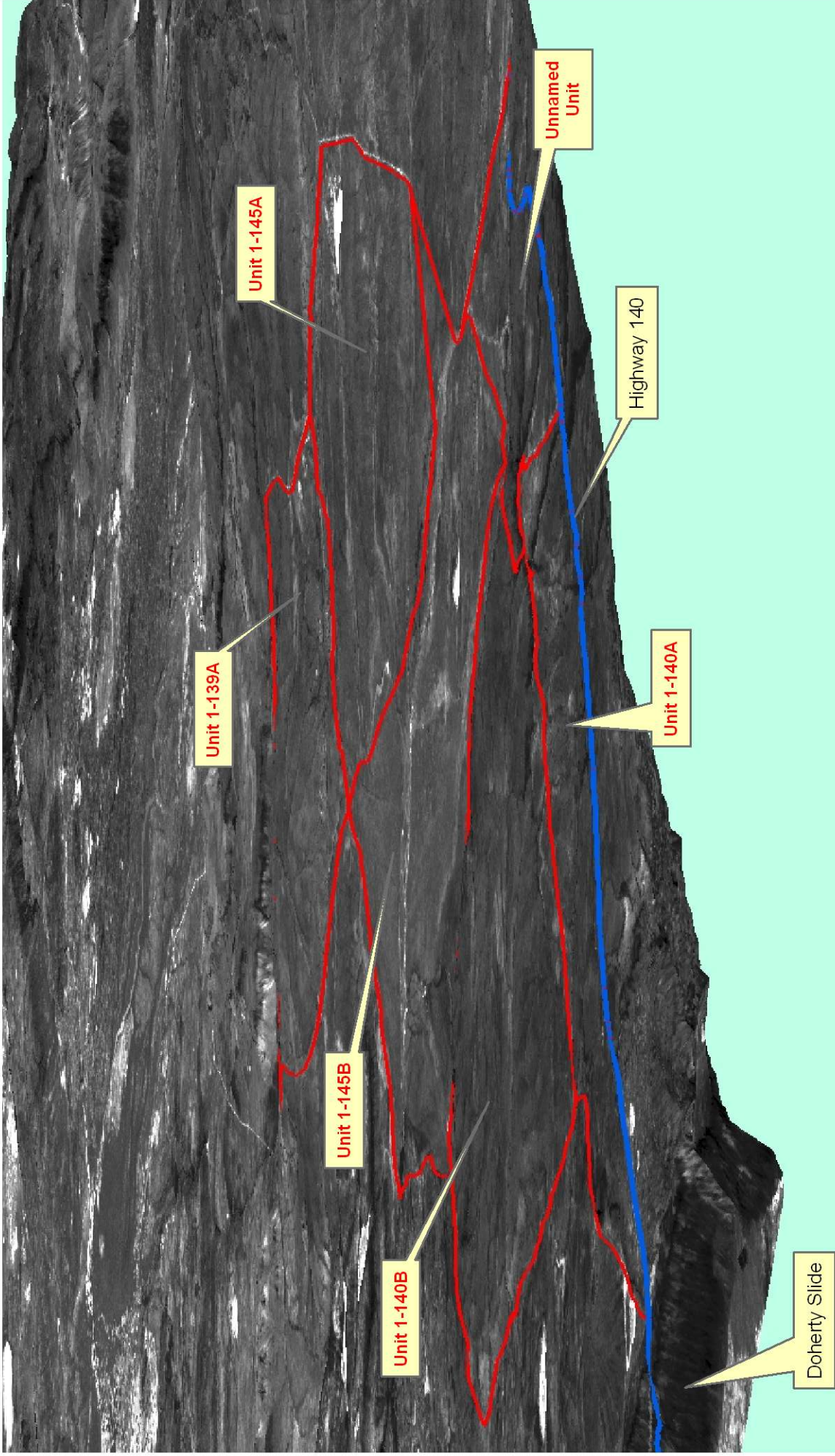
**Map 4 - Northeast 3D View of Wilderness Inventory Units  
(Looking Southwest)**



**Map 5 - Northwest 3D View of Wilderness Inventory Units  
(Looking Southeast)**







**Map 6 - Southwest 3D View of Wilderness Inventory Units  
(Looking Northeast)**

**Map 7 - Southeast 3D View of Wilderness Inventory Units  
(Looking Northwest)**

