

EVALUATION FORM

Update of Wilderness Characteristic Information

Introduction

In April 2005, the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) provided the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with an inventory report containing numerous proposed wilderness areas. In this evaluation, the BLM has documented its review of this information to determine if:

- 1) wilderness characteristics are present in the area, and
- 2) the BLM needs to update existing datasets that relate to the individual wilderness characteristics of naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude or outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

The *Land Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1* (BLM 2005) and WO IM No. 2003-275, change 1, describe the current policy on how the BLM is to address new citizen wilderness inventory information and provide some criteria to use when reviewing new information. In addition, the Washington Office, BLM is currently drafting additional guidance on how to document the evaluation of such proposals.

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 2

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

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 82,532 acres of BLM lands in southwestern Harney County 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 2 (refer to map on page 216; ONDA 2005). The proposed boundaries are

identified as BLM Roads 6176-0-1 on the west, private property boundaries on the north, and unnumbered route on the northeast, BLM Road 6176-0-00 on the east, and BLM Roads 6176-0-00, 6156-0-00, 7116-0-00, and 7116-0-1 on the south. The unit is sandwiched in between the existing Spaulding and Basque Hills WSAs.

During their inventory effort, ONDA identified all routes inside the proposed WSA boundary as meeting the former definition of a way. The BLM reviewed this new inventory information and compared it with the previous inventory information contained in the BLM's wilderness files, previously published inventory findings (BLM 1979, 1980), current GIS datasets, and additional field visits conducted in 2005 and 2006. The proposed WSA covers five smaller inventory units that were previously evaluated and found to be bounded by roads in 1980 (BLM 1980). The relationship between the Spaulding Proposed WSA boundary and the five smaller inventory unit boundaries is shown on Map 1.

Based on all of the available information, the BLM concludes that the internal routes known as BLM Road 7106-0-00, 7106-0-1, 6156-0-00, 6166-0-00, 6196-0-00, and 6196-0-1, which ONDA identifies as ways, still in fact meet the wilderness inventory definition of a road. The reasoning for these individual road determinations is summarized in Table 1. For this reason, the remainder of this evaluation documents the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics by comparing current conditions within the five former wilderness inventory unit boundaries with 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 (Note: all but about 1,560 acres of the area were previously inventoried; see Map 1).

- a) Inventory Source: Wilderness Inventory, Oregon and Washington. Final Intensive Inventory Decisions (BLM 1980).
- b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Beatys Butte (1-136), Mahogany Butte (1-137), Buckaroo Pass (1-138), Wilson Spring (1-142), and Ryegrass Valley (1-143)
- c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Oregon Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decisions, November 1980
- 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 1980) 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: Beatys Butte (1-136)

Describe the boundaries¹ of the unit (roads², property lines, etc.) and state its acreage: This unit encompasses approximately 6,301 acres of BLM-administered lands and 151 acres of private inholdings (Table 3). (ONDA's proposed boundary includes about 160 additional acres of BLM lands along the northern boundary). It is bounded on the west by BLM Road 6176-0-1 and private land boundaries, on the north by BLM and private land property boundaries, on the east by BLM Road 6166-0-A, and on the south by BLM Roads 6166-0-00, 6196-0-1, and 6196-0-00 (Map 2). These roads continue to serve as unit boundaries (Table 1).

2. Is the unit of sufficient size?³ Yes X No

3. Is the unit in a natural condition?⁴ Yes X No NA

Description/comment: The previous inventory (BLM 1980) described this unit as hilly, rugged terrain with the western edge having low rolling hills that become sagebrush flats near the western boundary. Sagebrush with a grass understory was the primary vegetation type present. One substantially unnoticeable developed spring was noted near the eastern boundary of the unit. One minor way was noted in the northwest corner of the unit. In 1980, this unit was generally in a natural condition and was found to be primarily affected by the forces of nature (Table 2).

In 2000, a wildfire burned about half of this unit. Though the grass component, including non-native cheatgrass, has rebounded, sagebrush has not yet reestablished dominance in much of the burned area. The presence of increased cheatgrass in the recent past has had a negative effect on the overall natural condition of the burned area. However, cheatgrass dominance may decline over time as the native vegetation continues to recover. 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.

Currently, there are 2 checkdams (in West Gulch), 1 livestock reservoir, 1 active borrow pit (covering about 5 acres), and about 1.5 miles of unmaintained routes inside the unit boundary (Tables 3-5). Most of these are located near the outer perimeter of the unit, are substantially noticeable within close distances (up to a quarter mile), and less noticeable from farther distances.

Despite these developments and human-related disturbances, much of the unit is still in a generally natural condition where the imprints of man are devoid or substantially unnoticeable.

4. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?⁵

Yes _____ No X NA _____

Description/comment: The previous inventory found this unit had moderate opportunities for solitude due to relatively small unit size, private inholdings, and lack of (tall) vegetative screening (BLM 1980). These physical and natural unit characteristics have not changed significantly since 1980.

The presence of private inholdings continues to have a negative effect on the opportunities for solitude based on the premise that the private land holder is out in the area periodically using their land or actively maintaining developments on these private lands and can be readily seen from almost any location in the unit.

Much of eastern Oregon offers large, contiguous blocks of BLM and other federally-administered public lands. Much of eastern Oregon is sparsely populated and provides wide-spread opportunities where one can avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people. Within this context, the opportunities for solitude within this unit are similar to those available throughout much of the Lakeview Resource Area and other BLM-administered rangelands in eastern Oregon.

The lack of vegetative screening, relatively small size, and narrow unit configuration makes it possible to see across most of the unit from any given observation point. It is therefore hard to avoid others who may be present anywhere in the unit.

The most common visitors to the unit include livestock permittees, BLM staff, researchers, and hunters. Current visitation levels in the unit are considered low. The continued presence of boundary roads (Table 1), along with other internal routes (Table 5, Map 2) provides ready motorized access to much of the perimeter of the unit (as described in the recreational opportunities section below). This motorized access increases the likelihood of encountering other people visiting the unit.

“Outstanding” is defined as: “standing out among others of its kind; conspicuous; prominent. Superior to others of its kind; distinguished; excellent⁸.” For the reasons spelled out above, the opportunities for solitude within this unit do not meet this definition and are, therefore, not found to be outstanding.

5. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?⁶ Yes _____ No X NA _____

Description/comment: The previous inventory found this unit had the potential for hiking, photography, wildlife observation, and hunting, but these opportunities were limited (ie not outstanding) due to the unit's small size and private inholdings (BLM 1980).

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 western 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 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 off-highway vehicle (OHV) use is limited to existing roads and trails within the unit. 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 these existing roads to access the surrounding lands for a variety of reasons including recreational use.

Recreation opportunities with 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 unit does continue to offer some potential for hiking, photography, wildlife observation, and hunting, but these opportunities exist in large part associated directly with the motorized access provided by the existing road system. In contrast, primitive recreational opportunities are by definition, associated with nonmotorized use⁶. In addition, the unit's shape, potential exposure to others, and private inholdings continue to negatively affect the potential for a primitive and unconfined recreation experience. "Outstanding" is defined as: "standing out among others of its kind; conspicuous; prominent. Superior to others of its kind; distinguished; excellent⁸." Within this context, the opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation within this unit are similar to those available throughout much of the Lakeview Resource Area (as evidenced by its placement in an extensive recreation management area described above). The unit does not offer any single outstanding recreational opportunity or an outstanding diversity of recreational opportunities. For these reasons, the recreational opportunities in this unit do not rank as outstanding.

6. Does the unit have supplemental values?⁷ The previous inventory (BLM 1980) found this unit had the potential for archaeological values, but none were recorded at that time. The area continues to have potential for archeological values. However, the entire unit has not been surveyed to date and this potential resource value has not been completely documented.

During the development of the *Lakeview RMP/ROD*, the BLM considered the potential effects of management actions on the existing visual 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 most protective management objectives. Class IV represents the lowest scenic quality and 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 (BLM 2003b) shows that the entire unit falls within VRM class IV, indicating the scenic quality is low.

About 1,000 acres in the south central part of the unit is identified as California bighorn sheep habitat. The entire unit is identified as sagegrouse year-long habitat. A small portion of the unit has also been confirmed as pygmy rabbit habitat. All three are BLM special status species.

1. Unit Name/number: Mahogany Butte (1-137)

Describe the boundaries of the unit (roads, property lines, etc.) and state its acreage:
This unit encompasses approximately 7,568 acres of BLM-administered lands and 607 acres of private inholdings (Table 3). It is bounded on the west by BLM Road 6176-0-1, on the north by BLM Roads 6196-0-1 and 6196-0-00, on the east by BLM Road 6166-0-

0, and on the south by BLM Roads 7106-0-00 and 7106-0-1 (Map 3). These roads continue to serve as unit boundaries for the reasons listed in Table 1.

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 1980) described this unit as containing low, rolling hills on the west which rise steadily to the east towards Shirks Lookout and Mahogany Butte. Elevation ranges from about 5,000 feet to 7,140 feet. The unit contains steep-sided hills and draws with broad exposures and low vegetative cover of sagebrush and small stands of mountain mahogany. At that time the unit contained 3.5 miles of ways, 4 miles of fence, and 2 small reservoirs. These man-made features were noticeable from about 30% of the unit. Private development at Rock Springs Camp further impacted the naturalness of adjacent portions of the unit. The north and eastern portions were determined to generally be in a natural condition, but the south and western portions were not.

In 2000, a wildfire burned about 1,000 acres of this unit. Though the grass component, including non-native cheatgrass, has rebounded, sagebrush has not yet reestablished dominance in much of the burned area. The presence of increased cheatgrass in the recent past has had a negative effect on the overall natural condition of the burned area. However, cheatgrass dominance may decline over time as the native vegetation continues to recover.

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.

The unit currently contains about 4.3 miles of internal unmaintained routes, 4.9 miles of fence, 1 reservoir, and 2 waterholes (Tables 4-5 and Map 3). Additional developments exist on private inholdings within the unit. Most of these developments would be substantially noticeable within close distances (up to a quarter mile) and less noticeable from farther distances.

At this time about half of the unit remains in a natural condition where the imprint of man is devoid or substantially unnoticeable.

4. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No X NA _____

Description/comment: The previous inventory (BLM 1980) found the unit had steep hills and low vegetation tending to leave one highly exposed or visible to others in large portions of the unit. Further, it was difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of others. For these reasons, the unit was not found to contain outstanding opportunities for solitude. These physical and natural characteristics have not changed significantly since 1980.

The presence of private inholdings and their location primarily in the southcentral portion of the unit continues to have a negative effect on the opportunities for solitude based on the premise that the private land holder is out in the area crossing BLM lands to periodically use their land or actively maintaining developments on their private lands and can be readily seen from various locations in the unit.

Much of eastern Oregon offers large, contiguous blocks of BLM and other federally-administered public lands. Much of eastern Oregon is sparsely populated and provides wide-spread opportunities where one can avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people. Within this context, the opportunities for solitude within this unit are similar to those available throughout much of the Lakeview Resource Area and other BLM-administered rangelands in eastern Oregon.

Shirks Lookout, a tall butte in the middle of the unit serves a topographic break dividing the unit up into east and west halves. This butte prevents a person from being able to see clear across the entire unit. However, the lack of vegetative screening and unit topography makes it possible for a person in the eastern half to see others in the eastern half. A person in the western half could readily see another person in the western half of the unit. It therefore remains difficult to avoid others who may be present in the unit.

The most common visitors to the unit include livestock permittees, BLM staff, researchers, and hunters. Current visitation levels in the unit are considered low. The continued presence of boundary roads (Table 1), along with other internal routes (Table 5, Map 3) provides ready motorized access to much of the perimeter of the unit (as described in the recreational opportunities section below). This motorized access increases the likelihood of encountering other people visiting the unit.

“Outstanding” is defined as: “standing out among others of its kind; conspicuous; prominent. Superior to others of its kind; distinguished; excellent⁸.” For the reasons spelled out above, the opportunities for solitude within this unit do not meet this definition and are, therefore, not found to be outstanding.

5. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation? Yes _____ No X NA _____

Description/comment: The previous inventory (BLM 1980) noted this unit had the potential for hiking, photography, wildlife observation, and hunting, but due the unit’s small size and potential exposure to others it would be difficult to find a truly primitive and unconfined experience on the unit. Recreation opportunities were not considered to be outstanding at that time.

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 western 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 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 off-highway vehicle (OHV) use is limited to existing roads and trails within the unit. 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 these existing roads to access the surrounding lands for a variety of reasons including recreational use.

Recreation opportunities with 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 unit does continue to offer some potential for hiking, photography, wildlife observation, and hunting, but these opportunities exist in large part associated directly with the motorized access provided by the existing road system. In contrast, primitive recreational opportunities are by definition, associated with nonmotorized use⁶. In addition, the unit’s shape, potential exposure to others, and private inholdings continue to negatively affect the potential for a primitive and unconfined recreation experience. “Outstanding” is defined as: “standing out among others of its kind; conspicuous; prominent. Superior to others of its kind; distinguished; excellent⁸.” Within this context, the opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation within this unit are similar to those available throughout much of the Lakeview Resource Area (as evidenced by its placement in an extensive recreation management area described above). The unit does not offer any single outstanding recreational opportunity or an outstanding diversity

of recreational opportunities. Therefore, the recreational opportunities in this unit do not rank as outstanding.

6. Does the unit have supplemental values?

The previous inventory noted there is one scenic canyon approximately 0.75 miles in length north of Rock Spring Camp (BLM 1980).

During the development of the *Lakeview RMP/ROD*, the BLM considered the potential effects of management actions on the existing visual 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 most protective management objectives. Class IV represents the lowest scenic quality and 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.

About three-quarters of the unit is identified as California bighorn sheep habitat. The entire unit is identified as sagegrouse year-long habitat. The western portion of the unit contains pygmy rabbit habitat. All three are BLM special status species.

1. Unit Name/number: Buckaroo Pass (1-138)

Describe the boundaries of the unit (roads, property lines, etc.) and state its acreage:
This unit encompasses approximately 13,330 acres of BLM-administered lands and 19 acres of private inholdings (Table 3). It is bounded on the west by BLM Road 6176-0-1, on the north by BLM Roads 6166-0-00, 7106-0-1, and 7106-0-00, on the east by BLM Road 6156-0-0, and on the south by BLM Roads 7116-0-00 and 7116-0-1 (Map 4). These roads continue to serve as unit boundaries (Table 1).

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 1980) described this unit as having broken topography with minor peaks and rims of moderate slope falling away to the east and west to sagebrush covered valleys. Elevation ranges from 5,000 to 6,000 feet. Sagebrush is the dominant vegetation type. At the time, the unit contained 1 spring development and 1 reservoir which were noticeable only within the immediate area of development. The unit was found to be essentially free of the works of man and primarily affected by the forces of nature.

In 1999, a wildfire burned about 900 acres in the south central part of this unit. The native grass component has rebounded and sagebrush is beginning to reestablish in the

burned area. The unit currently contains about 14.6 miles of internal unmaintained routes, 6.6 miles of fence, 2 reservoirs, and 3 waterholes, and 1 developed spring (Tables 4-5). Most of the unmaintained routes and fence lines are located near the perimeter of the unit. The water developments are scattered throughout the unit (Map 4). Most of these developments would be 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 80% of the unit remains in a natural condition where the imprint of man is devoid or substantially unnoticeable.

4. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No X NA _____

Description/comment: The previous inventory (BLM 1980) found that the moderate slopes in conjunction with the low vegetative cover would leave one very exposed to others on the same side of the unit over a great distance and does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. These topography and vegetation characteristics have not changed significantly since 1980.

Much of eastern Oregon offers large, contiguous blocks of BLM and other federally-administered public lands. Much of eastern Oregon is sparsely populated and provides wide-spread opportunities where one can avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people. Within this context, the opportunities for solitude within this unit are similar to those available throughout much of the Lakeview Resource Area and other BLM-administered rangelands in eastern Oregon.

The lack of vegetative screening and moderate slopes makes it possible to see across portions of the unit from some observation points. However, the broken topography itself does provide some screening and prevents a person from being seen from one side of the unit clear to the other side. It is possible to avoid the presence of others who may be present in some portions of the unit, but not all.

The most common visitors to the unit include livestock permittees, BLM staff, researchers, and hunters. Current visitation levels in the unit are considered low. The continued presence of boundary roads (Table 1), along with other internal routes (Table 5, Map 4) provides ready motorized access to much of the perimeter of the unit (as described in the recreational opportunities section below). This motorized access increases the likelihood of encountering other people visiting the unit.

“Outstanding” is defined as: “standing out among others of its kind; conspicuous; prominent. Superior to others of its kind; distinguished; excellent⁸.” For the reasons

spelled out above, the opportunities for solitude within this unit do not meet this definition and are, therefore, not found to be outstanding.

5. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation? Yes _____ No X NA _____

Description/comment: The previous inventory (BLM 1980) found that the unit offered limited opportunity for day use hiking, but because of its small size it did not provide an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.

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 western 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 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 off-highway vehicle (OHV) use is limited to existing roads and trails within the unit. 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 these existing roads to access the surrounding lands for a variety of reasons including recreational use.

Recreation opportunities with 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 unit does continue to offer some potential for hiking, as well as wildlife observation and hunting, but these opportunities exist in large part associated directly with the motorized access provided by the existing road system. In contrast, primitive recreational opportunities are by definition, associated with nonmotorized use⁶. “Outstanding” is defined as: “standing out among others of its kind; conspicuous; prominent. Superior to others of its kind; distinguished; excellent⁸.” Within this context, the opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation within this unit are similar to those available throughout much of the Lakeview Resource Area (as evidenced by its placement in an extensive recreation management area described above). The unit does not offer any single outstanding recreational opportunity or an outstanding diversity of recreational opportunities. Therefore, the recreational opportunities in this unit do not rank as outstanding.

6. Does the unit have supplemental values?

The previous inventory (BLM 1980) noted the presence of some scenic vistas in the unit.

During the development of the *Lakeview RMP/ROD*, the BLM considered the potential effects of management actions on the existing visual 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 most protective management objectives. Class IV represents the lowest scenic quality and 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 2003) shows that the entire unit falls within VRM Class IV, indicating the scenic quality of the unit overall is low.

The previous inventory (BLM 1980) noted the potential presence of archaeological values. The area continues to have potential for archeological values. However, the entire unit has not been surveyed to date.

About 75% of the unit is identified as California bighorn sheep habitat. About 80% of the unit is identified as sagegrouse year-long habitat. Pygmy rabbit habitat occurs along the southern boundary of the unit. All three are BLM special status species.

1. Unit Name/number: Wilson Spring (1-142)

Describe the boundaries of the unit (roads, property lines, etc.) and state its acreage: This unit encompasses approximately 16,839 acres of BLM-administered lands and 290 acres of scattered, private inholdings (Table 3). It is bounded on the west and north by BLM Road 6166-0-00, on the east by BLM Road 6156-0-0 and an unnumbered route, and on the south by BLM Roads 6156-0-00 and 6166-0-00 (Map 5). These roads continue to serve as unit boundaries as described in Table 1.

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 1980) states that the unit contains steep, hilly terrain with several stream drainages. The eastern side of the unit gradually descends into Ryegrass Valley. The western edge of the unit contains high-angle, exposed slopes. The dominant vegetative cover is sagebrush. At that time, the unit contained 8 developed springs and 2 reservoirs which were not very noticeable due to the topographic screening. The unit appeared primarily affected by the forces of nature (Table 2).

In 2000, a wildfire burned about 3,000 acres of this unit. Though the grass component, including non-native cheatgrass, has rebounded, sagebrush has not yet reestablished dominance in much of the burned area. The presence of increased cheatgrass in the recent past has had a negative effect on the overall natural condition of the burned area. However, cheatgrass dominance may decline over time as the native vegetation continues to recover.

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

Currently the unit contains 2 reservoirs, 2 waterholes, 3 developed springs, and about 0.3 miles of pipelines on BLM lands. An additional reservoir and 3 developed springs are located on private inholdings. The unit also contains 2.3 miles of internal maintained roads (6176-0-00), 10.4 miles of internal unmaintained routes, and 3.5 miles of fences (Tables 4-5 and Map 5). Most of these developments would be substantially noticeable within close distances (up to a quarter mile) and less noticeable from farther distances.

Currently, about 60% of the unit is affected primarily by the forces of nature and devoid of the imprints of man. Therefore, about 60% of the unit meets the naturalness criteria.

4. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No NA _____

Description/comment: The previous inventory (BLM 1980) found the unit has some secluded spots where one can be isolated from others. However, the steep hills in the western and central portion of the unit have highly exposed slopes and low vegetative cover. It would be difficult to avoid others in these portions of the unit. The eastern side of the unit consists of low rolling flatlands with low vegetation which does not provide screening from others. The unit was determined to not have outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the unit size and lack of screening. These physical conditions have not changed significantly from 1980.

Much of eastern Oregon offers large, contiguous blocks of BLM and other federally-administered public lands. Much of eastern Oregon is sparsely populated and provides wide-spread opportunities where one can avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people. Within this context, the opportunities for solitude within this unit are similar to those available throughout much of the Lakeview Resource Area and other BLM-administered rangelands in eastern Oregon.

The lack of vegetative screening and exposed slopes makes it possible to see across portions of the unit from some observation points. However, the topography itself does provide some screening, in conjunction with the unit shape, and does prevent a person from being seen from one side of the unit clear to the other side. For this reason, it is possible to avoid the presence of others who may be present in some portions of the unit, but not all.

The most common visitors to the unit include livestock permittees, BLM staff, researchers, and hunters. Current visitation levels in the unit are considered low. The continued presence of boundary roads (Table 1), along with other internal routes (Table 5, Map 5) provides ready motorized access to much of the perimeter of the unit (as described in the recreational opportunities section below). This motorized access increases the likelihood of encountering other people visiting the unit.

“Outstanding” is defined as: “standing out among others of its kind; conspicuous; prominent. Superior to others of its kind; distinguished; excellent.”⁸ For the reasons spelled out above, the opportunities for solitude within this unit do not meet this definition and are, therefore, not found to be outstanding.

5. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation? Yes _____ No X NA _____

Description/comment: The previous inventory (BLM 1980) found the unit has some potential for hiking, horseback riding, photography, wildlife observation, and hunting, but concluded it did not have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation due to the small unit size limiting user potential.

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 recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) class. Part of the northeastern edge falls within the roaded natural 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 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 off-highway vehicle (OHV) use is limited to existing roads and trails within most of the unit. The southeastern corner of the unit is open to OHV use. This demonstrates that motorized recreational use is allowed and expected 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 to access the surrounding lands for a variety of reasons including recreational use.

Recreation opportunities with 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 unit does continue to offer some potential for hiking, horseback riding, photography, wildlife observation, and hunting, but these opportunities exist in large part associated directly with the motorized access provided by the existing road system. In contrast, primitive recreational opportunities are by definition, associated with nonmotorized use⁶. “Outstanding” is defined as: “standing out among others of its kind; conspicuous; prominent. Superior to others of its kind; distinguished; excellent⁸.” Within this context, the opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation within this unit are similar to those available throughout much of the Lakeview Resource Area (as evidenced by its placement in an extensive recreation management area described above). The unit does not offer any single outstanding recreational opportunity or an outstanding diversity of recreational opportunities. Therefore, the recreational opportunities in this unit do not rank as outstanding.

6. Does the unit have supplemental values?

The previous inventory (BLM 1980) noted the potential presence of archaeological values though none were documented at that time. The area continues to have potential for archeological values. However, the entire unit has not been surveyed to date.

During the development of the *Lakeview RMP/ROD*, the BLM considered the potential effects of management actions on the existing visual 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 most protective management objectives. Class IV represents the lowest scenic quality and 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.

About 20% of the unit is identified as California bighorn sheep habitat. About 80% of the unit is identified as sagegrouse year-long habitat. Both are BLM special status species.

1. Unit Name/number: Ryegrass Valley (1-143)

Describe the boundaries of the unit (roads, property lines, etc.) and state its acreage:
This unit encompasses approximately 35,402 acres of BLM-administered lands (Table 3). It is bounded on the west by BLM Road 6156-0-00, and on the east and south by BLM Road 6176-0-0 (Map 6). These roads continue to serve as unit boundaries (Table 1).

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 1980) described the unit as a broad sagebrush basin known as Ryegrass Valley. The major geographic feature is a large, dry lakebed known as Shallow Lake. There are low hills and ridges north of Shallow Lake which provide the only topographic relief. Sagebrush is the dominant vegetation community. At the time, the unit contained 5 small reservoirs, 1 lakebed pit (waterhole), and 5 miles of ways. None of these man-made features were found to be visible from a significant distance and the unit was considered to be in generally natural condition (Table 2).

Currently the unit contains 2 reservoirs, 13 waterholes, 1 developed spring, and at least 1 water trough associated with about 2.7 miles of pipelines. The unit also contains about 0.6 miles of road, 12.8 miles of internal unmaintained routes, and 3.4 miles of fences (Tables 4-5 and Map 6). Most of these developments would be 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 by man into the west starting in the 1500's and are protected under the Wild Horse and Burro Act of 1971.

Currently, about 65% of the unit is affected primarily by the forces of nature where the imprints of man are devoid or substantially unnoticeable, therefore, about 65% of the unit is in a natural condition.

4. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No X NA _____

Description/comment: The previous inventory (BLM 1980) determined that, although the unit was of considerable size, the topography is very flat and one can readily see across most, if not all, of the unit. The northern portion of the unit contains the most topographic relief, but is also very narrow. The unit was determined to not be able to support many visitors at one time and still offer the opportunity to avoid the presence of others. Therefore, it was determined to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude (Table 2). These physical and topographic conditions have not changed from 1980.

Much of eastern Oregon offers large, contiguous blocks of BLM and other federally-administered public lands. Much of eastern Oregon is sparsely populated and provides wide-spread opportunities where one can avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people. Within this context, the opportunities for solitude within this unit are similar to those available throughout much of the Lakeview Resource Area and other BLM-administered rangelands in eastern Oregon.

The lack of vegetative screening and relatively flat terrain across much of the unit makes it possible to see across most, if not all of the unit from various observation points. For this reason, it is not possible in much of the unit to avoid the presence of others who may be present.

The most common visitors to the unit include livestock permittees, BLM staff, researchers, and hunters. Current visitation levels in the unit are considered low. The continued presence of boundary roads (Table 1), along with other internal routes (Table 5, Map 6) provides ready motorized access to much of the perimeter of the unit (as described in the recreational opportunities section below). This motorized access increases the likelihood of encountering other people visiting the unit.

“Outstanding” is defined as: “standing out among others of its kind; conspicuous; prominent. Superior to others of its kind; distinguished; excellent.”⁸ For the reasons spelled out above, the opportunities for solitude within this unit do not meet this definition and are, therefore, not found to be outstanding.

5. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation? Yes _____ No X NA _____

Description/comment: The previous inventory (BLM 1980) found that the wide and exposed sagebrush flats of most of the unit do not offer an outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation experience such as backpacking or hiking. The monotony of the landscape negatively affects the potential recreation experience. The unit offers some

opportunities for hunting, but this was associated with vehicle access. The unit offered no feature representing an outstanding recreation opportunity. Recreational opportunities in the area have not changed significantly since 1980.

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 recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) class. The eastern edge falls within the roaded natural 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 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 OHV use. This demonstrates that motorized recreational use, on and off-road, is allowed and expected 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 to access the lands in the unit for a variety of reasons including recreational use.

Recreation opportunities with 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 much 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 unit does continue to offer some potential for hiking and hunting, but these opportunities exist in large part associated directly with the motorized access provided by the existing road system. In contrast, primitive recreational opportunities are by definition, associated with nonmotorized use⁶. “Outstanding” is defined as: “standing

out among others of its kind; conspicuous; prominent. Superior to others of its kind; distinguished; excellent⁸.” Within this context, the opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation within this unit are similar to those available throughout much of the Lakeview Resource Area (as evidenced by its placement in an extensive recreation management area described above). The unit does not offer any single outstanding recreational opportunity or an outstanding diversity of recreational opportunities. Therefore, the recreational opportunities in this unit do not rank as outstanding.

6. Does the unit have supplemental values?

The previous inventory (BLM 1980) did not identify any potential supplemental values.

During the development of the *Lakeview RMP/ROD*, the BLM considered the potential effects of management actions on the existing visual 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 most protective management objectives. Class IV represents the lowest scenic quality and 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.

Currently, about 85% of the unit contains sagegrouse year-long habitat. Pygmy rabbit habitat occurs along the southwestern boundary of the unit. Both are BLM special status species.

1. Unit Name/number: Unnamed Unit

Describe the boundaries of the unit (roads, property lines, etc.) and state its acreage:
This area was not previously considered in the 1980 inventory. It encompasses approximately 1,400 acres of BLM-administered lands. It is bounded on the west by BLM Road 6166-0-A and private property, on the north by private property, and on the south by BLM Roads 6166-0-00. These roads serve as unit boundaries (Table 1).

2. Is the unit of sufficient size? Yes _____ No X

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 undersigned Interdisciplinary Team finds: *(Check 1 or 2 below).*

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

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
1-136	Y	95%	N	N	Y
1-137	Y	50%	N	N	Y
1-138	Y	80%	N	N	Y
1-142	Y	60%	N	N	Y
1-143	Y	65%	N	N	Y
Unnumbered Area	N	NA	NA	NA	NA

Wilderness Characteristics Interdisciplinary Team Members

<u>Paul Whitman</u>	<u>Planning & Environmental Coordinator</u>
<u>Gretchen Burris</u>	<u>Recreation & Wilderness Specialist</u>
<u>Les Boothe</u>	<u>Range Management Specialist</u>
Name	Title

Field Manager's Concurrence

<u>Tom Rasmussen</u>		<u>1/11/07</u>
Field Manager	Signature	Date
Lakeview Resource Area		

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

¹ **Boundaries** - Inventory unit boundaries are normally formed by roads², 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).

² **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. A high clearance 2 wheel-drive vehicle licensed for highway use is able to travel the route based on field verification.

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.

³ **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.

⁴ **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.

⁵ **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”.

⁶**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”.

⁷**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.

⁸**Outstanding** - Defined as “Standing out among others of its kind; conspicuous; prominent. Superior to others of its kind; distinguished; excellent.”

Maintenance Level – The appropriate level of maintenance for a road that best fits the transportation 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.

Table 1. Wilderness inventory unit boundary roads

1980 Inventory Unit Boundary Roads	Road Name	Current Maintenance Level	Claimed as A Road by County	Improvement/Maintenance since 1980	Purpose of Route¹	Route Would be Maintained in Future if Condition Deteriorated	Currently Allows Regular or Continuous Use
6196-0-00	West Gulch	2	N	Y	Access to private land & water development	Y	Y
6196-0-1	West Gulch	2	N	Y	Access to private land & water development	Y	Y
6176-0-00	East Beauty Butte	4	N	Y	Administrative access	Y	Y
6176-0-1	West Beauty Butte	4	N	Y	Administrative access	Y	Y
6166-0-A	Mustang Bend	2	N	N	Access to private land & water development	Y	Y
6166-0-00	East Gulch	2	East Gulch portion	N	Access to private land & water development	Y	Y
6156-0-00	Rye Grass Valley	3	southern portion	Y/N	Access to private land & water developments & BLM water developments	Y	Y
7116-0-00	Buckaroo Pass	3	entire road	N	Access to BLM water development	Y	Y
7116-0-1	Buckaroo Pass	2	N	N	Access to BLM water development	Y	Y
7106-0-00	Rock Springs	3	N	N	Access to private land & water development	Y	Y
7106-0-1	Rock Springs	2	N	N	Access to BLM water development	Y	Y
Unnumbered	None	None	N	N	WSA boundary	N	unknown

¹ 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 will be managed as a road and remain open regardless of its current condition or whether it meets the wilderness evaluation definition of a road.

Table 2. Summary of existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (from BLM 1980)

Unit #	Size	Natural Condition	Outstanding Solitude	Outstanding Primitive & Confined Recreation	Supplemental Values
1-136	Y	Y	N	N	Unknown
1-137	Y	Y/N	N	N	N
1-138	Y	Y	N	N	Unknown
1-142	Y	Y	N	N	Unknown
1-143	Y	Y	N	N	N

Table 3. Land status by inventory unit (in acres)

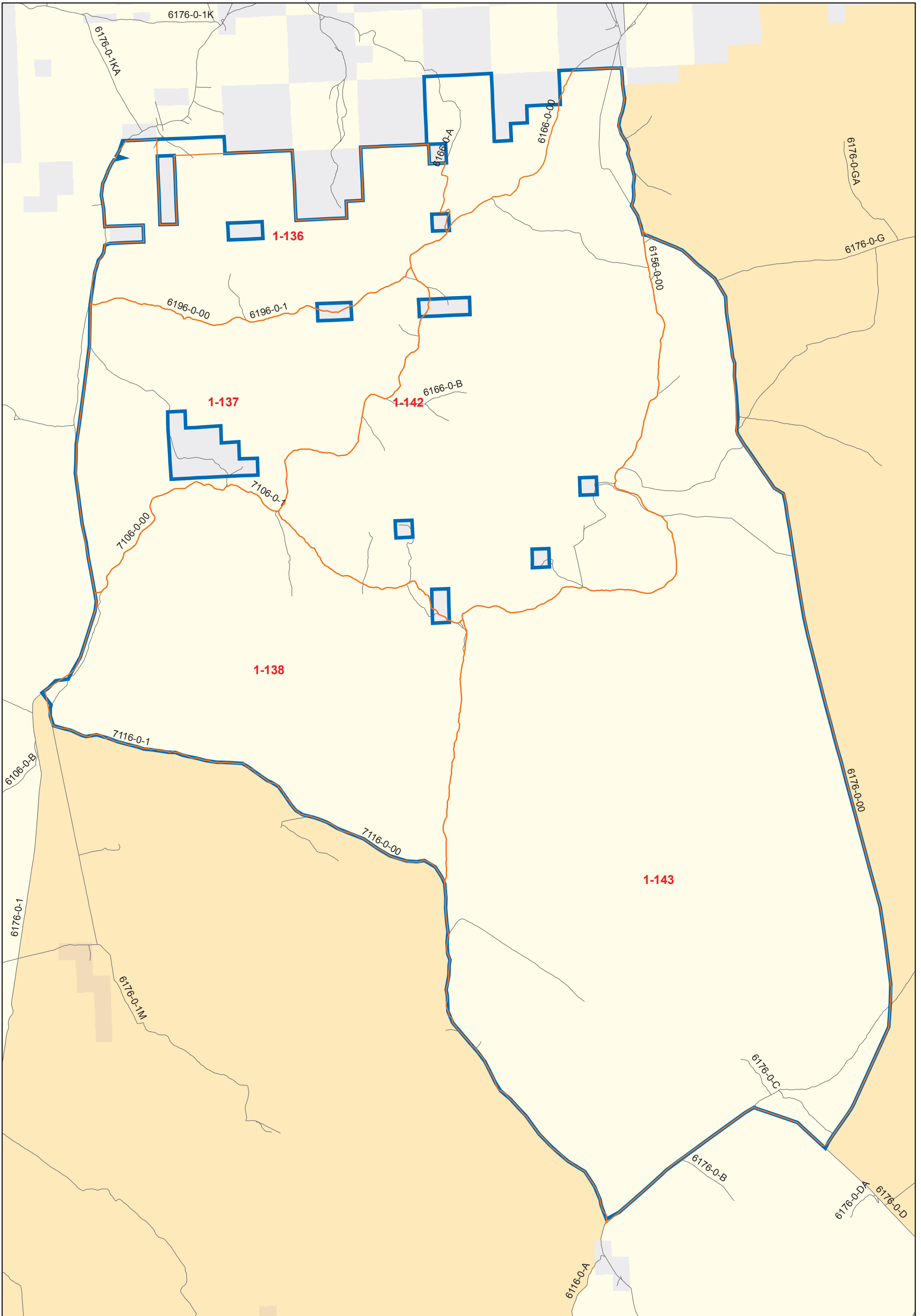
Owner	1-136	1-137	1-138	1-142	1-143	Other Areas	TOTAL
BLM	6301.3	7568.1	13330.4	16839.4	35402.1	1560	81001.3000
Private	150.9	606.5	19.3	289.7	0	0	1066.4000

Table 4. Human disturbances by inventory unit

Disturbance Type	1-136	1-137	1-138	1-142	1-143	Other Areas	TOTAL
Miles of Fences	0.0	4.9	6.6	3.5	3.4	0	18.4
Miles of Pipelines	0.0	0	0	0.3	2.7	0	4.2
Troughs with Pipelines (number)	0.0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Internal Routes							
Miles of Roads	0	0	0	2.3	0.6	0	2.9
Miles of Unmaintained Routes	1.5	4.3	14.6	10.4	12.8	0	39.8
Livestock Water Developments (number)							
waterholes	0	2	3	2	13	1	21
reservoirs	1	1	2	2	2	0	8
developed springs	0	0	1	3	1	2	7
check dams	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Borrow Pits (acres/ number)	5 1.0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	5 1

References

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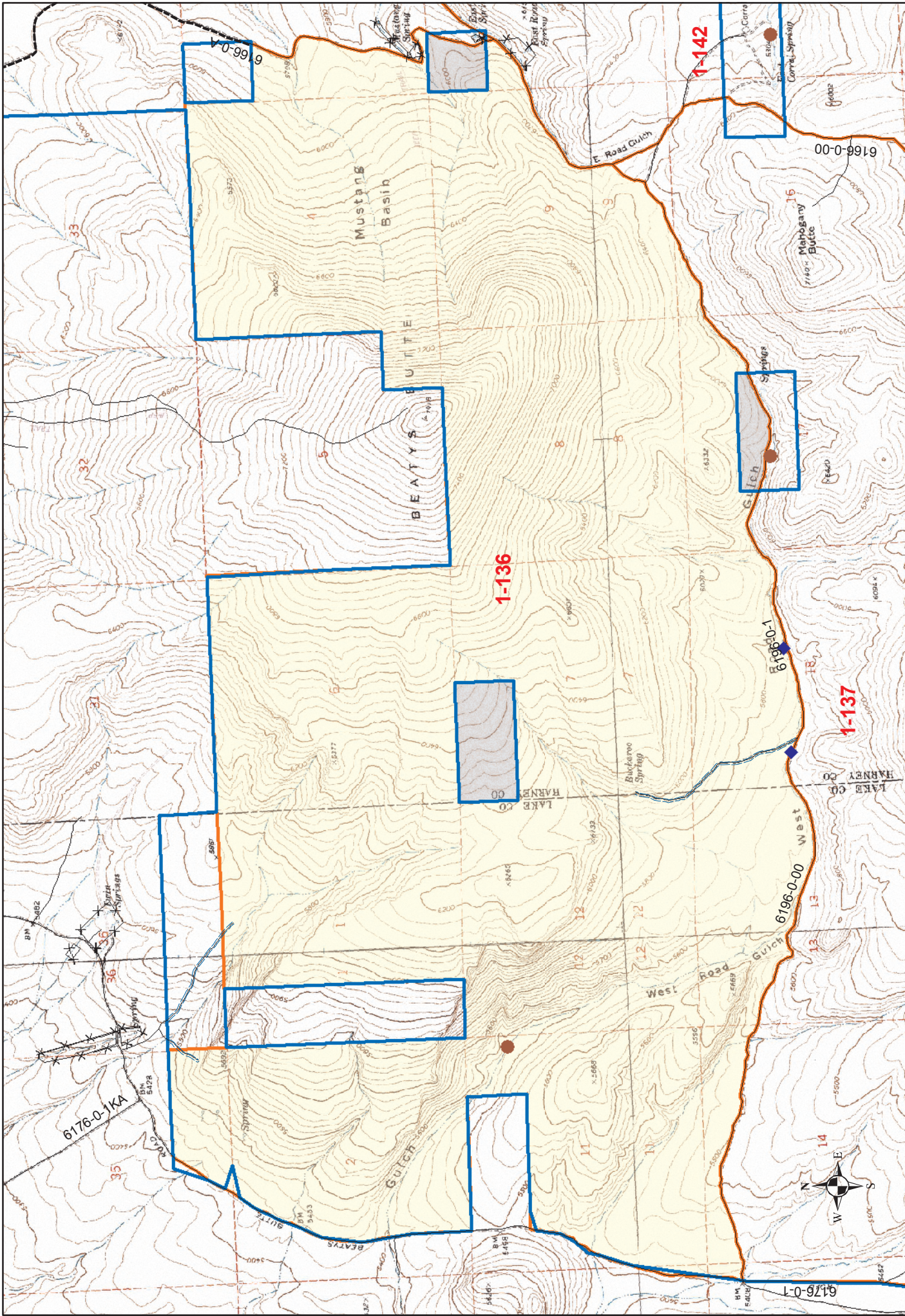
Legend

1980 Inventory Units	Land Status	Private	Roads
Spaulding Proposed WSA	BLM	Existing WSA	

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0.90.45 0 0.9 Miles

Map 1 - Spaulding Proposed WSA Addition 2 and BLM 1980 Wilderness Inventory Unit Boundaries



Map 2 - Beatys Butte (1-136)
Wilderness Inventory Unit

Legend

Land Status by Unit
 BLM
 Private
 Proposed Spawning VSA-Addition 2

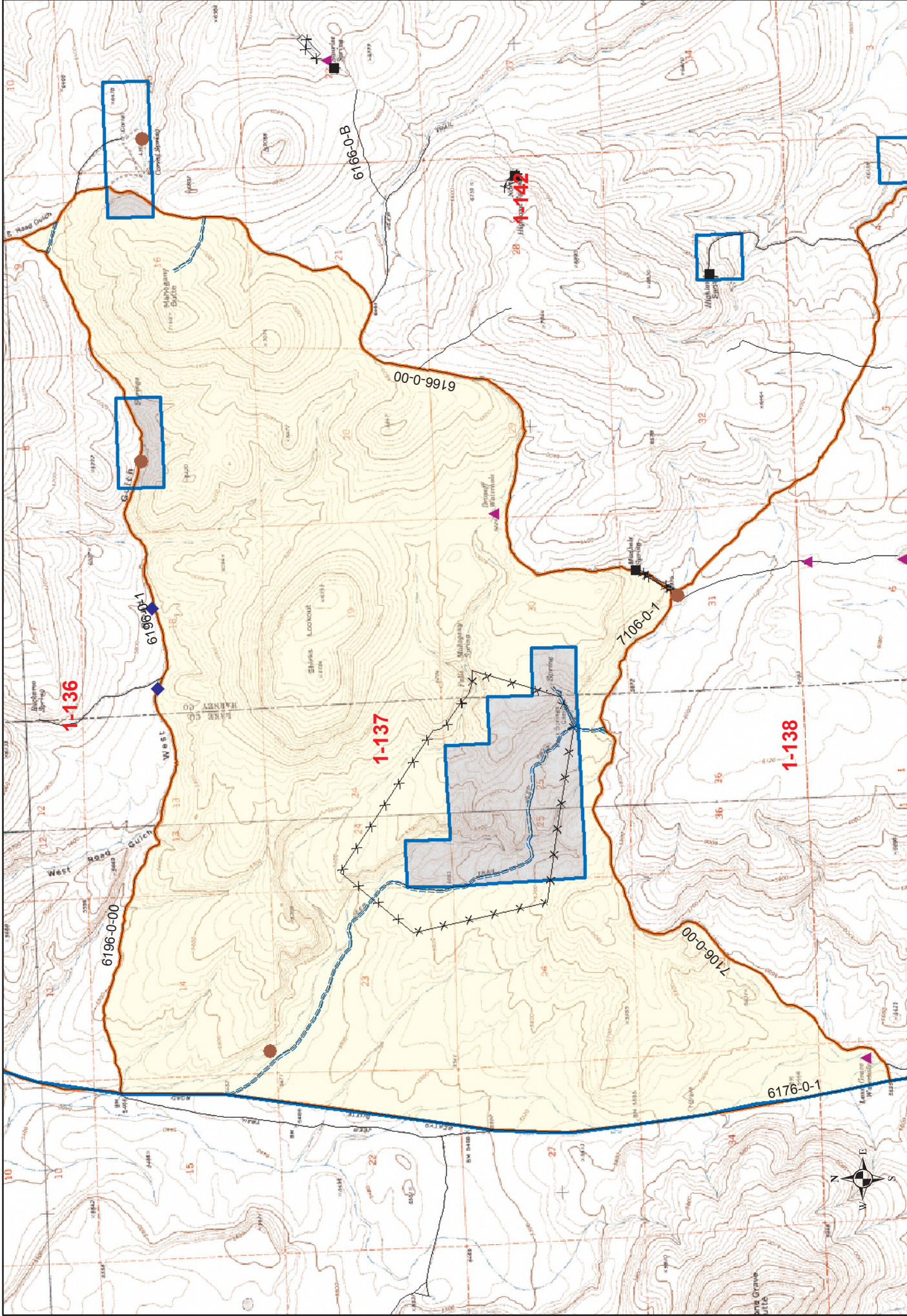
Wilderness Inventory Unit
 Routes Inside Unit
 Routes Outside Unit
 Road

Water Developments
 Reservoir
 Checkdam
 Developed Spring

Waterhole
 Waterhole

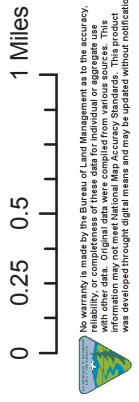


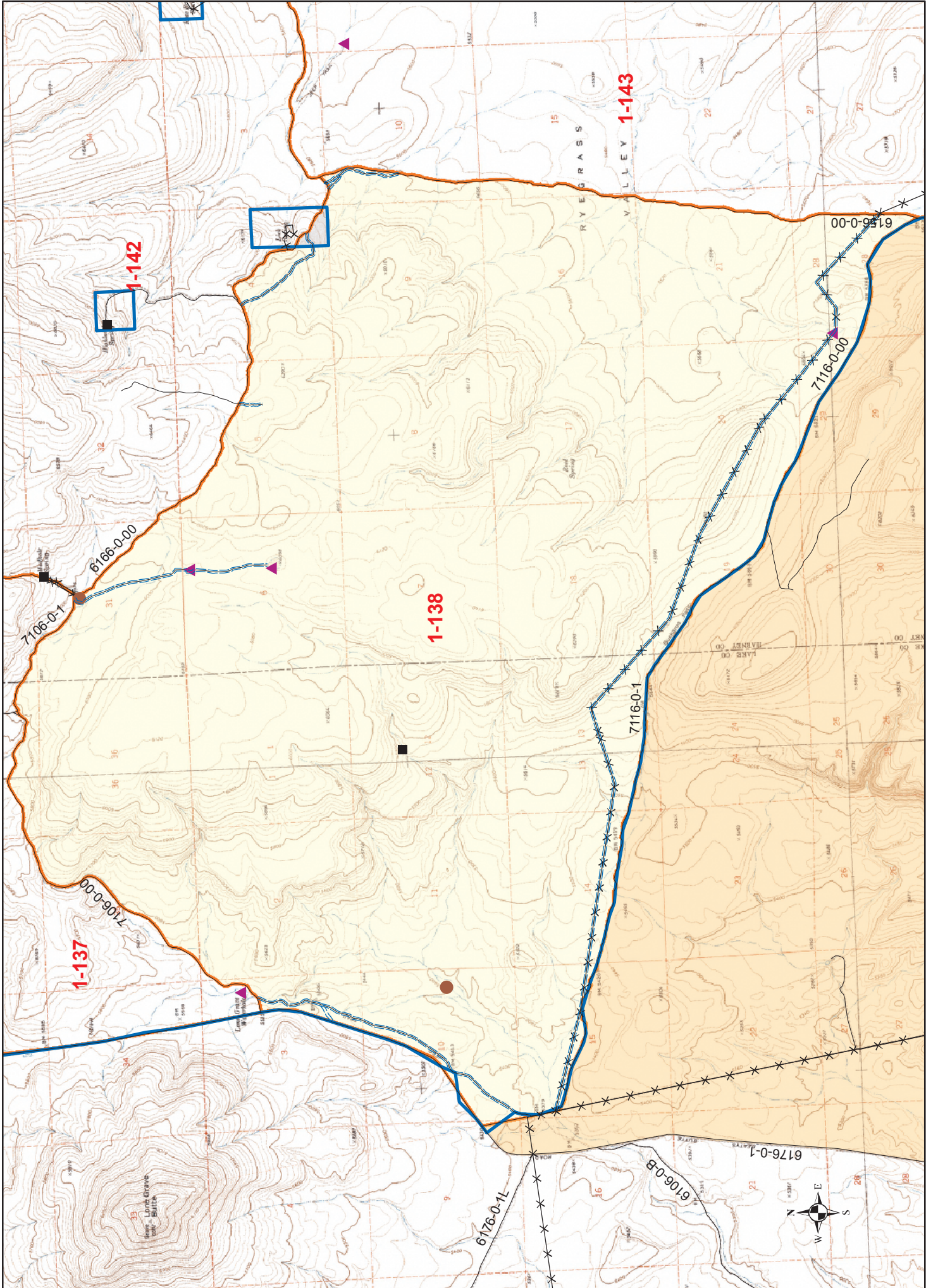
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Map 3 - Mahogany Mountain (1-137) Wilderness Inventory Unit

- Legend**
- Land Status by Unit
 - BLM
 - Private
 - Water Developments
 - Checkdam
 - Developed Spring
 - RESERVOIR
 - WATERHOLE
 - Unmaintained Route
 - Routes Outside Unit
 - Proposed Spaulding WSA Addition 2
 - 1980 Wilderness Inventory Units
 - Fences





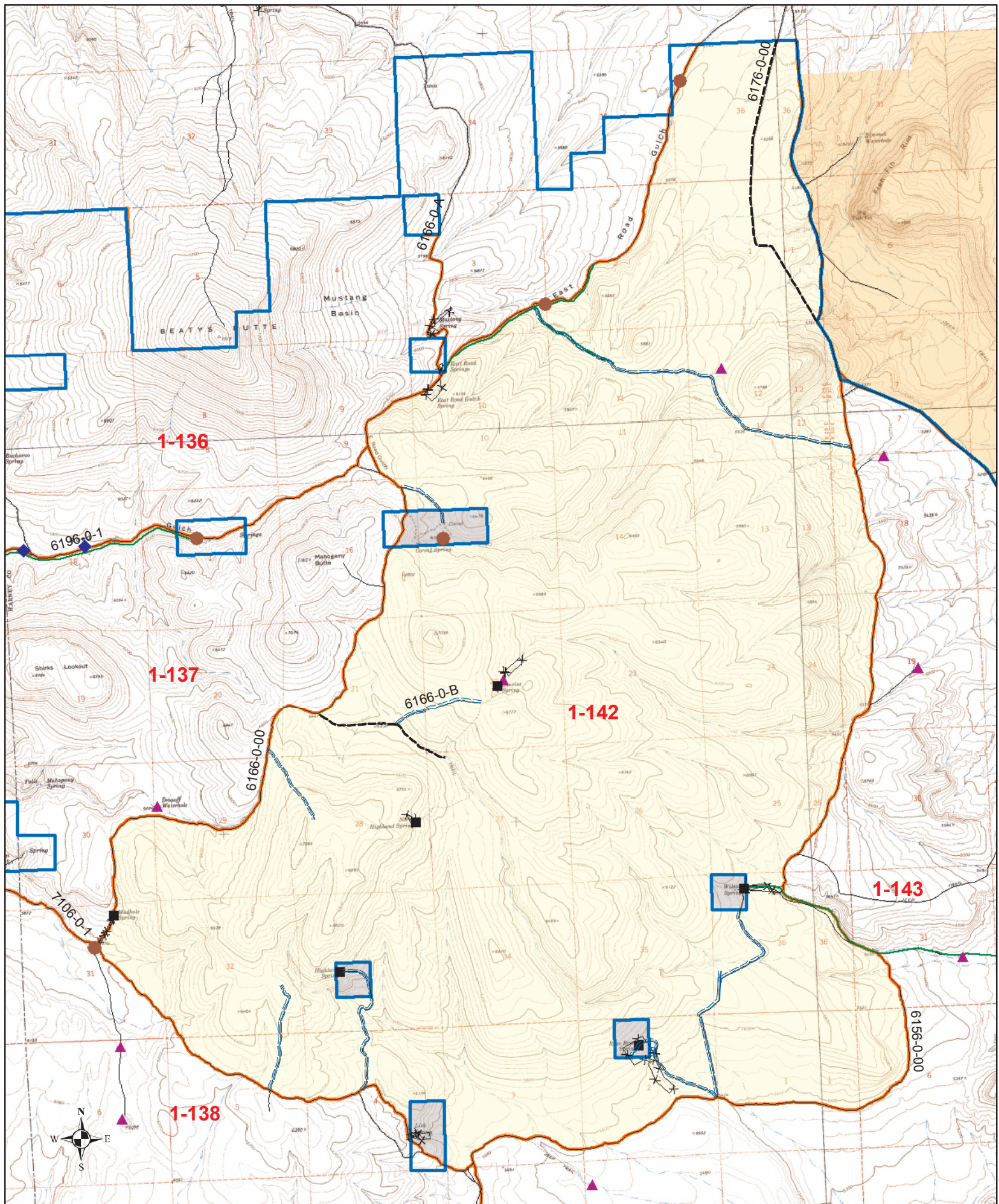
Map 4 - Buckaroo Pass (1-138) Wilderness Inventory Unit

Legend

- Land Status by Unit:
 - BLM (Yellow)
 - Private (Grey)
- Proposed Spaulding WSA Addition (Orange outline)
- Existing WSA (Yellow outline)
- Routes Outside Unit (Dashed line)
- Road (Solid line)
- Unmaintained Road (Line with 'x' markers)
- Fences (Line with 'x' markers)
- Water Developments:
 - Developed Spring (Pink triangle)
 - Reservoir (Red circle)
 - Waterhole (Blue square)

0 0.15 0.3 0.6 Miles

This inventory is subject to the process and management of the State of Nevada. The State of Nevada is not responsible for the accuracy of the information presented on this map. The State of Nevada is not responsible for any errors or omissions that may appear in this map.



**Map 5 - Wilson Spring (1-142)
Wilderness Inventory Unit**

- | | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------|------------------|
| Legend | Proposed Spawning WSA Addition 2 | 1990 Wilderness Inventory Units | Routes Inside Unit | Unimproved Road | Fences | RESERV |
| BLM | Existing WSA | Road | Routes Outside Unit | Pipeline | CHECKDAM | DEVELOPED SPRING |
| Private | | | | | WATERH | |

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 Miles

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