

APPENDIX G

**H-6310-1
WILDERNESS INVENTORY AND STUDY PROCEDURES**

**KINNEY RIM NORTH
WY-030/040**

8500 (040/030)
Kinney Rim North

January 2, 2003

Mr. Erik Molvar
Biodiversity Conservation Alliance
P.O. Box 6032
Laramie, Wyoming 82070

Dear Mr. Molvar:

This letter is in response to your "Citizens' Wilderness Inventory" submitted in February, 2002 for the Kinney Rim North area that included over 100,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-administered public lands. You provided information on potential wilderness characteristics in the Rock Springs and Rawlins Field areas.

This information was compared to our existing data bases and field reviews within the Kinney Rim North area. BLM evaluated this information using guidance provided in the Wilderness Inventory and Study Procedures Handbook H-6310-1. As a result of this evaluation, it was determined that the public lands located in the Kinney Rim North area do not have wilderness characteristics

We have attached the inventory evaluation report for your information. We will respond to you in the near future regarding your wilderness submission of the Kinney Rim South area. Please call Kurt Kotter at (307) 328-4200 or myself at (307) 352-0201 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ John S. McKee

John S. McKee
Field Manager

Attachments

cc: Kurt Kotter, RFO
Andy Tenney, WO (930)
ATenney:ca:12/31/02:kinneyrimnorthwsa_AT

H-6310-1-WILDERNESS INVENTORY AND STUDY PROCEDURES

Inventory Area Evaluation

Name & No. WY-030/040-Kinney Rim North

I. DESCRIPTION:

This unit is comprised of 90,901 acres of BLM-administered public lands located in T.13, 14, 15, and 16 N., R. 98, 99, 100, and 101 W. The area is located approximately 45 miles southeast of Rock Springs in south-central Sweetwater County, Wyoming. The area includes badlands, buttes, rims, flats, and basins. Major geological features include Kinney Rim and Rifles Rim. The landscape is primarily rangelands vegetated by sagebrush, grasses, saltbush, greasewood, and junipers, with occasional cottonwoods and willows along drainages.

Major human uses of the area include livestock grazing management, oil and gas exploration and development, and big game hunting in the fall.

II. Wilderness Character Analysis:

A. Size

Approximate Acres:

Inventory area= 91,120 acres of BLM administered lands (130,689 total acres)

Subunit(s) **A**= Checkerboard- 31,750 acres of BLM
 B= 59,370 acres of BLM

Contiguous WSA (or other lands with wilderness character) No

Narrative: The Kinney Rim North Inventory Area was broken into two subunits to incorporate the checker board land pattern and solid block BLM- administered lands.

Area A:

Narrative: This sub-unit lacks 5,000 acres of contiguous public lands because of the alternating sections of private and public lands in a checkerboard land pattern.

Summary: 1. Does the area have at least 5,000 acres of contiguous land or is it of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in unimpaired condition?

YES _____ NO X

NAME & NO. WY-030/040-Kinney Rim North

Area B-

Narrative: This sub-unit clearly has sufficient size as to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition and of size suitable for wilderness management.

Summary: 1. Does the area have at least 5,000 acres of contiguous land or is it of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in unimpaired condition?

YES X NO _____

B. Naturalness

Area A-

Narrative: This sub-unit does not meet the size criteria due to lack of contiguous Federal lands therefore naturalness will not be evaluated.

Area B-

Narrative: Evidence of man's activities is found throughout this sub-unit. An improved road leading to an oil and gas well is located in the northwest portion of the area in R 101 W., T. 14 & 15 N. This improved road totals one and a half miles. Another improved access road leading to oil and gas wells is found in the middle of the area located in R. 100 W., T. 14 N. This improved road totals approximately 5 ½ miles. There is an improved County Road (4-77) leading to private land in T. 14 N., R. 101 W. This improved road is approximately one mile long. There are 12 plugged and abandoned gas wells with differing success on well pad and road reclamation. There is evidence of 8 old seismic lines that creates linear intrusions upon the landscape. There are 13 livestock reservoirs located in the sub-unit. There are four livestock water wells located in the sub-unit. There are 10 producing oil and gas wells in the area. There is a horse trap located in Section 8, R. 99 and T. 14 N.

Summary: Does the area generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of people's work substantially unnoticeable?

YES _____ NO X

NAME & NO. WY-030/040-Kinney Rim North

C. Outstanding Opportunity for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

1. Solitude

Area A:

Narrative: This sub-unit does not meet the size criteria due to lack of contiguous Federal lands therefore solitude will not be evaluated.

Area B:

This sub-unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude because most of the area lacks topographic and vegetative screening to shield user activities from one another.

The sub-unit is bounded by a State Highway on the western boundary, an improved County Road on the southern boundary, and the checkerboard land pattern configuration on the north boundary. The outside influences of man in the form of vehicular traffic and lack of land management controls on private land could influence solitude within the northern part of this sub-unit.

Access to producing oil and gas wells on existing improved roads within the sub-unit impacts the user's ability to escape the sights and sounds of man. The northern portion of the Vermillion Basin Oil and Gas project lies throughout the middle of this area. Activities from oil and gas development would impede upon one's ability to find solitude.

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

YES _____

NO X _____

2. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION

AREA A:

Narrative: This sub-unit does not meet the size criteria due to lack of contiguous Federal lands therefore the primitive and unconfined recreation characteristics will not be evaluated.

NAME & NO. WY-030/040-Kinney Rim North

AREA B:

Narrative: This sub-unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation because the area lacks the diversity of possible activities and does not possess one activity of outstanding quality. The area is typical Wyoming rangeland with a lack of intrinsic features such as unique topographic features or diverse vegetation types. The quality of primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities is influenced by man's past and current activities in the form of livestock improvements and oil and gas developments.

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?

YES _____

NO X

D. Supplemental Values

Area A:

Narrative: This sub-unit does not meet the size requirement due to lack of contiguous Federal land therefore the supplemental value characteristics will not be evaluated.

Area B:

Narrative: This area contains remnants of the historic Cherokee Trail and wild horses from the Salt Wells Wild horse Herd Management Area.

Summary: Does the area contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value?

YES X

NO _____

NAME & NO. WY-030/040-Kinney Rim North

III. SUMMARY:

AREA A:

Results of wilderness character analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No

The wilderness characteristic inventory for Area A stopped at this point due to the lack of 5,000 acres of contiguous public lands criteria.

AREA B:

Results of wilderness character analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No
4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No

Area A:

IV. Conclusion:

Check one:

- The area or apportion of the area has wilderness character.
- The area does not have wilderness character.

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AREA B:

Narrative: This sub-unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation because the area lacks the diversity of possible activities and does not possess one activity of outstanding quality. The area is typical Wyoming rangeland with a lack of intrinsic features such as unique topographic features or diverse vegetation types. The quality of primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities is influenced by man's past and current activities in the form of livestock improvements and oil and gas developments.

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?

YES _____

NO X

D. Supplemental Values

Area A:

Narrative: This sub-unit does not meet the size requirement due to lack of contiguous Federal land therefore the supplemental value characteristics will not be evaluated.

Area B:

Narrative: This area contains remnants of the historic Cherokee Trail and wild horses from the Salt Wells Wild horse Herd Management Area.

Summary: Does the area contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value?

YES X

NO _____

NAME & NO. WY-030/040-Kinney Rim North

V. Prepared BY: Andy Tenney

Title: Outdoor Recreation Planner Date: 09/23/02

VI. Approved BY:

Title: Rock Springs Field Manager Date: _____

Approved BY:

Title: Rawlins Field Manager Date: _____

Area B:

IV. Conclusion:

Check one:

The area or apportion of the area has wilderness character.

The area does not have wilderness character.

V. PREPARED BY: Andy Tenney

Title: Outdoor Recreation Planner Date: 9/23/02

VI. Approved BY:

Title: Rock Springs Field Manager Date: _____

Approved BY:

Title: Rawlins Field Manager Date: _____

Inventory Area Evaluation

Name: Kinney Rim North (including parts of Kinney Rim South
Located in the Vermillion Basin Oil and Gas Project Area)

DESCRIPTION:

This Unit is comprised of 100,930 acres of BLM administered public lands. The area is located 45 miles southeast of Rock Springs in south-central Sweetwater County, Wyoming. The area includes badlands, buttes, rims, flats, and basins. Major geological features include Kinney Rim and Rifles Rim. The landscape is primarily open undisturbed rangelands vegetated by sagebrush, grasses, saltbush, and greasewood, with occasional cottonwoods and willows along drainages.

The major use of the area is livestock grazing, oil and gas exploration and development, and big game hunting in the fall.

II. Wilderness Character Analysis:

A. Size

Approximate Acres:

Inventory area= 100,930 acres of BLM administered lands

Subunit(s) A= Checkerboard- 34,921 acres of BLM, 37,003 acres of Private and State

B= 43,525 acres of BLM

C= Vermillion Basin Oil and Gas Project Area- 22,484 acres of BLM

(12,455 acres in Kinney Rim North, 10,029
acres in Kinney Rim South)

Contiguous WSA (or other lands with wilderness character) No

Narrative: The Kinney Rim North Inventory Area was broken into three subunits to incorporate the checker board land pattern, solid block BLM lands, and the Vermillion Basin Oil and Gas Project area which includes 10,029 acres of the Kinney Rim South Inventory Area.

SUMMARY

Area A: 1. Does the area have at least 5,000 acres of contiguous land or is it of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in unimpaired condition?

YES NO

Area B-

1. Does the area have at least 5,000 acres of contiguous land or is it of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in unimpaired condition?

YES NO

This sub-unit contains 34,921 acres of BLM administered lands that have the basic minimal roadless characteristics.

Area C-

1. Does the area have at least 5,000 acres of contiguous land or is it of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in unimpaired condition?

YES NO X

Area C meets the size requirement but does not meet the roadless requirement. Crowned and ditched maintained roads leading to oil and gas wells are found throughout this unit.

B. Naturalness

Area A-

Does not meet the size criteria due to lack of contiguous Federal lands therefore naturalness will not be evaluated.

Area B-

Narrative: Generally, this area appears to have been affected by the forces of nature. However, there are staked access roads that will be upgraded to maintained roads leading to oil and gas drilling activity that could affect this determination. The staked roads are located in R. 101 W., T. 14 & 15 N., and R. 99 W., T. 14 N.. There is also an existing improved road located in R. 100 W., T. 14 N. There are livestock improvements in this area but they remain subordinate on the landscape. The area has large amount of oil and gas leases that are a valid existing right and could affect the naturalness component of this unit.

2. Does the area generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of people's work substantially unnoticeable?

YES X NO

Area C-

Narrative: Evidence of man's past and present activities dominate much of the area's landscape. These intrusions include producing oil gas wells, plugged and abandoned oil and gas wells, improved roads to oil and gas wells, and livestock reservoirs.

In the Kinney Rim North part of this unit there are 8 livestock reservoirs, 4 plugged and abandoned oil and gas wells, one producing oil and gas well with a major road leading to it, splitting this unit in half. Another improved road is located in the unit. The majority of the area is leased for oil and gas which could mean there will be additional disturbance in the future such as wells, improved roads, and pipelines.

In the Kinney Rim South portion of this unit, there are parts of two producing oil and gas units with active wells and improved roads leading to them. There are 8 livestock reservoirs located in this portion of the unit. There are 4 producing oil and gas wells located outside the units which have improved access roads leading to them.

2. Does the area generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of people's work substantially unnoticeable?

YES

NO X

C. Outstanding Opportunity For Solitude Or Primitive And Unconfined Recreation

1. Solitude

Area A:

Narrative: Does not meet the size criteria due to lack of contiguous Federal lands therefore solitude will not be evaluated.

Area B:

Narrative: The area in its present condition contains enough size, topographic screening, and vegetative screening for a user to find a secluded spot. However, the development of existing oil and gas leases could affect these features in the future.

Does the area have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

YES X NO

Area C:

Narrative: This area lacks topographic and vegetative screening to allow a user to find a secluded spot outside the sights and sounds of man because of the high oil and gas activity in this area.

Does the area have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

YES NO X

2. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Area A:

Narrative: Does not meet the size requirement due to lack of contiguous Federal land therefore the Primitive and Unconfined Recreation characteristics will not be evaluated.

Area B:

Narrative: Horse back riding occurs in the area but the evaluation team did not consider this unit to be "outstanding" quality based on the opinion that it is typical Wyoming rangeland,

with typical topographic features. There is also a lack of diversity of primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities in this unit.

Does the area have outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?

YES NO X

Area C:

Narrative: Primitive and Unconfined types of recreation could occur in this unit but would not possess the outstanding quality because of the influence man's activities in the form of oil and gas and livestock improvements.

Does the area have outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?

YES NO X

D. Supplemental Values

Area A:

Narrative: Does not meet the size requirement due to lack of contiguous Federal land therefore the supplemental value characteristics will not be evaluated

Area B:

Narrative: This area contains remnants of the Cherokee Trail and wild horses from the Salt Wells Wild horse Herd Management Area.

Does the area contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic values?

YES X NO

Area C:

Narrative: This area contains remnants of the Cherokee Trail and wild horses from the Salt Wells Creek Herd Management Area.

Does the area contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic values?

YES X NO

III. SUMMARY:

Results of wilderness character analysis:

AREA A:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes X No

No further evaluation needed.

AREA B:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? X Yes No

2. Does the area appear to be natural? X Yes No

3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude?
Or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? X Yes No

4. Does the area have supplemental values? X Yes No

AREA C:

1. Does the area meet the any of the size requirements? X Yes No

2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes X No

3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude
Or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes X No

4. Does the area have supplemental values? X Yes No

IV. CONCLUSION

Check one:

AREA A:

The area or a portion of the area has wilderness character.

X The area does not have wilderness character.

AREA B:

The area or a portion of the area has wilderness character.

The area does not have wilderness character.

AREA C:

The area or a portion of the area has wilderness character.

The area does not have wilderness character.