



# NEVADA BLM Wilderness Bulletin

(117)

Item 2

## BLM COMPLETES ACCELERATED INVENTORY ON MINERAL HILL

The Bureau of Land Management's Elko District Office has completed a special project inventory on 18,500 acres of public land in Eureka County, Nevada. The area, known as Mineral Hill and identified as wilderness inventory unit NV-010-083A, is about 36 miles south of Carlin and covers the Sulphur Spring Mountain Range.

As a result of that accelerated inventory, the BLM is recommending that the area be released from any further wilderness consideration because it lacks wilderness values. A 30-day public comment period is open until Aug. 2. In addition, an open house is scheduled July 16 beginning at 1 p.m. in the Elko BLM District Office to acquaint the public with the inventory findings.

The special inventory is being conducted ahead of the statewide schedule at the request of Petro-Chem, Inc., a mining company that desires to begin operations in the area, which is highly mineralized, primarily with barite.

The inventory findings indicate that the area lacks naturalness because it contains roads, ways, developed springs, evidence of mining activity, and fences that are substantially noticeable. Opportunities for outstanding solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation were also found to be lacking.

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A map and summary of the inventory findings are attached. Further information can be obtained from the Elko BLM District Office, 2002 Idaho St., 89801.

SITUATION EVALUATION SUMMARY---MINERAL HILL (NV-010-083A)

Recommendation: The unit is not recommended for wilderness study area status.

Location and Description: The unit is about 36 miles south of Carlin, Nevada, and is generally elliptical in shape with the Sulphur Spring Mountain Range running north and south through the middle.

Size: The unit contains 18,940 acres, all of which is federally managed except for about 450 acres of private land. It is about eight miles long and four miles wide.

Naturalness: Only about 30 percent of the unit is in a natural condition. The rest of the unit contains roads, ways, springs, mining activity and fences that are substantially noticeable and detract from the natural character.

Solitude: The unit does not provide for an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The substantial evidence of man's activity, moderate vegetative and topographic screening and the probable concentration of recreationists in the canyons combine to make solitude opportunities low to moderate but not outstanding. It will be difficult for visitors to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of others within the unit.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Possible recreational activities include nature study, bird watching, rock collecting, hiking and hunting. However, these would not be considered outstanding in quality.

Supplemental Values: The old mining town of Mineral Hill just outside the unit would provide historical sightseeing. Also, some of the remains and improvements within the area could offer additional sightseeing.

Rehabilitative Potential: The potential for rehabilitating the area to its natural condition is extremely low and would definitely require heavy machinery.

Conclusion: After intensive inventory, the Mineral Hill inventory unit lacks criteria for wilderness study area identification.

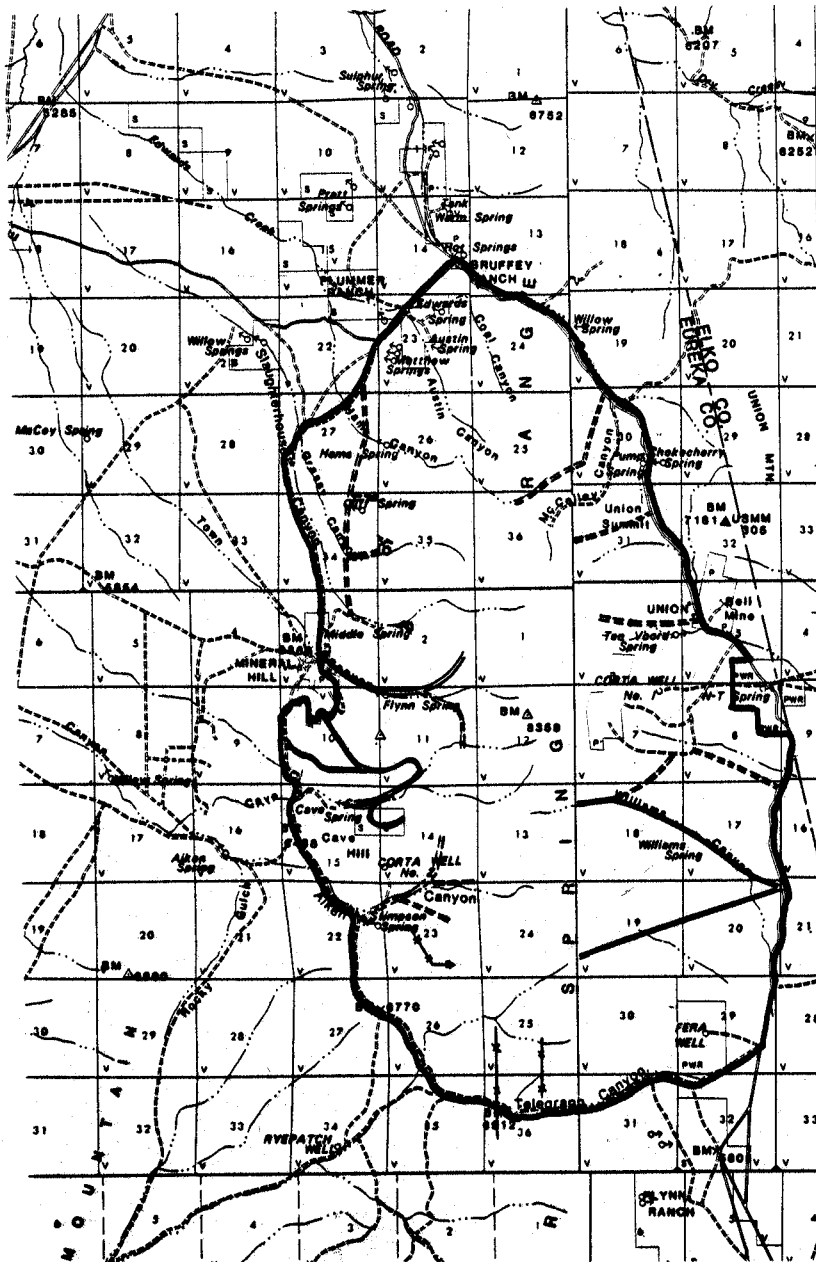
# MINERAL HILL INVENTORY UNIT

R. 52 E.

R. 53 E.

T. 27 N.

T. 26 N.



ROAD ———

WAY - - - - -

FENCE —+—

SPRING ○

IMPROVED SPRING ♂

WELL ○