

Year 2007

Inventory Unit Number/Name Birch Creek

FORM 1

DOCUMENTATION OF BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY FINDINGS ON RECORD:

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

No _____ Yes X (if more than one unit is within the area, list the names/numbers of those units.):

a) **Inventory Source:** Wilderness Review Intensive Inventory, March 1980

b) **Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s):** Otis Mountain 2-15 L

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** March 1980 Map

d) **BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):** Burns District – Three Rivers Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory unit is associated with the area, list each unit and answer each question individually for each inventory unit):

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics¹:

Inventory Source: Wilderness Review Intensive Inventory, March 1980

Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
2-15 L	6,770	Y	N	N	Y

3. Any citizen provided information: No

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

a. Unit Number/Name Birch Creek

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes X No _____

[State the BLM acreage of the unit. Describe the boundaries of the unit (roads, property lines, etc.) If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception. If more than one inventory unit is involved, list the acreage in each and evaluate each unit/subunit separately. Complete the analysis for (1), (2), (3),(4) and (5) for each unit or sub-unit. If you check "No" above, check "N/A" (Not Applicable) in the remaining boxes below, and you need not provide additional evaluation for the unit or subunit. Use additional space as necessary.]

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

ID-Team Meeting: March 28, 2007

Unit Description: This unit is approximately eight miles north of Drewsey in Harney County. Major features of this unit include Otis Mountain and Birch Creek. The unit is dominated by a ridge running through the center, with Birch Creek to the east. Otis Mountain is at the north end of this ridge. Elevations range from 4,000 to almost 6,100 feet. Common vegetation includes grasses, big and low sagebrush, juniper, mountain mahogany, ponderosa pine.

Unit Size: 10,826 acres – the size of the unit increased from the original inventory unit due to the addition of another unit that did not meet the 5,000 acre criteria being added because the route separating them is no longer identified as a boundary road.

Unit Boundaries: Boundaries to the north and east are well established roads that are occasionally maintained when necessary and provide for regular and continuous use. Private ownership is the boundary to the west and south.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No N/A

Description: Since the 1980 report was issued, the radio facility was removed and there has been approximately 0.25 miles of Aspen protection fence added and several new water and fencing developments. There have also been juniper removal treatments. However, these changes along with the other developments currently present are still not substantially noticeable in the unit as whole. Below is a summary of known developments or treatments in the unit:

Water Developments: 14 reservoirs, 1 waterhole, 2 dugouts, 1 spring

Fencing: 21 miles

Primitive Routes: 18 miles

Constructed Stock Trail: 2 miles

Juniper cuts: 72 acres

Ponderosa Pine pre-commercial thinnings: 255 acres

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes No X N/A

Description: The unit does have some vegetative and topographic screening, but not to the extent that there is an outstanding opportunity for solitude present.

(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes No X N/A

Description: Hunting is the only activity that is likely to occur on a regular basis within the unit. There are no unique or unusual qualities associated with this activity in the unit. No other potential recreation activities for which the unit would provide outstanding recreational opportunities were identified.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes X No N/A

Description: Unit continues to provide important winter range and migratory habitat for deer. Two cultural resource sites have also been identified since 1980.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: Birch Creek (Unit 2-15L)

Summary

Results of 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 a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No NA
4. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude? Yes No NA
5. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No NA

Conclusion

Check One:

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

The area does not have wilderness character.

Prepared by: Laura Dowlan, Outdoor Recreation Specialist (Wilderness)

Team Members:

Willie Shurt 5/14/07
Date
Willie, Rangeland Management Specialist – Burns District

Jon Reponen 5/14/07
Date
Jon Reponen, Natural Resource Specialist – Burns District

Nick Miller 5/14/07
Date
Nick Miller, Wildlife Biologist – Burns District

Tim Newkirk 14 May 07
Date
Tim Newkirk, Forester – Burns District

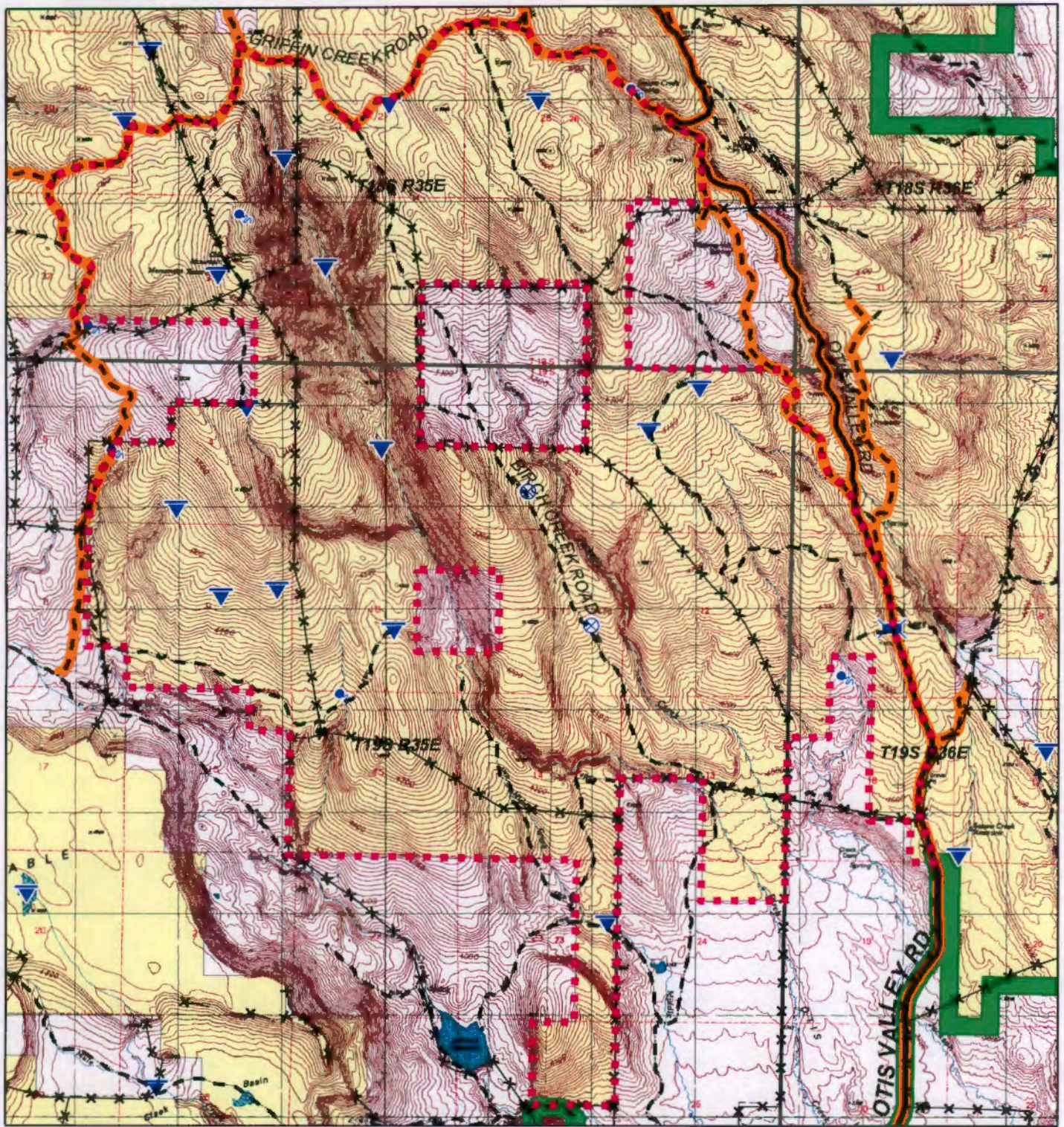
Don Rotell 5/14/07
Date
Don Rotell, Archeologist – Burns District


Laura Dowlan 5/14/07
Date
Laura Dowlan, Outdoor Recreation Planner (Wilderness Specialist) – Burns District


Approved by:

Joan M. Auth 5/21/07
Date
Field Manager

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



-  BIRCH CREEK UNIT 10,826 acres
-  Otis WIM Boundary
-  Otis WIM Bladed Roads
-  Non-Paved Improved Road
-  Primitive/Unknown Rd Condition
-  FENCE

-  CATTLE GRD
-  DUGOUT
-  RESERVOIR
-  SPRING
-  WATERHOLE
-  BLM
-  Private Land

Note: No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification. Ownership boundaries are accurate to within plus or minus 200 feet. Make local inquiry of road conditions in remote areas. Some roads are impassable following severe weather. Roads shown may not be all existing roads. Always seek private landowner permission before using or crossing their lands.

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 Bureau of Land Management
 Burns District, Oregon
 Three Rivers Resource Area

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0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles