

**WILDERNESS INVENTORY MAINTENANCE
IN BLM OREGON/WASHINGTON
(Source: Oregon State Office Internal Guidance as of July 2007)**

Year: 2011 Inventory Unit Number/Name: **OR-025-004A Chain Lake**

**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, Oregon & Washington, November, 1980, pages 120-121.

b) **Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s):** The area that has been currently inventoried was part of a unit in 1977 that was numbered OR-020-02-30. It encompassed 13,075 acres within 11 subunits. Due to a size of less than 5,000 acres, ten of the units were not intensively inventoried and dropped from further consideration. Subunit K contained 7,885 acres. It was intensively inventoried and found not to possess wilderness characteristics. This unit was not included in the 2007 citizen (ONDA) proposed area or included in the current BLM wilderness maintenance inventory of the Palomino Area.

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** BLM Intensive Wilderness Inventory; Oregon; April, 1979.

d) **BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):** Burns District, Oregon; Three Rivers Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
See 1. b	13,075	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**FORM 2 - DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS
INVENTORY CONDITIONS**

Citizen Information Received: The BLM received GIS data from Oregon Natural Desert Assoc. (ONDA) for a proposed 51,882 acre Palomino WSA in September, 2007. More information including a narrative report, maps, photographs and route logs was received in May, 2008. The information was submitted in accordance with Draft BLM Manual 6300-1 *Wilderness Inventory* (2011).

Their report was based mainly on the belief that the area was not accessible to the public, because it was surrounded on three sides by private land, no trespassing signs and locked gates were encountered and none of the interior routes were roads. These factors resulted in the area possessing naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation. Their assessment included an analysis of all the wilderness characteristics, which concluded that all of the characteristics were present and the area should be designated a Wilderness Study Area.

Their report characterized the area as being primarily effected by the forces of nature and was in natural condition as only one water hole and an old bridge were observed. The area possessed outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the large size, shape, vegetative and topographic screening. The diversity of the landscape, hiking, backpacking, camping, native flora and birding all provided outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Supplemental values included lava flows, sage grouse, wild horses and ephemeral lakes.

BLM's analysis of the area found there to be 5 sub-units within this proposed area that met the minimum size of 5,000 acres. Each of these units was inventoried intensively for wilderness characteristics. These units were named Lunch Lake, Batts Camp Lake, Weaver Lake, Chain Lake and Dog Mountain. Four units were less than 5,000 acres.

BLM Inventory Report

Unit Number/Name: **OR-025-004A/Chain Lake**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: **20,251** Yes X No

BLM's Boundary Determination Process: Using all existing data and professional knowledge, BLM conducted an analysis of land ownership, ROWs and routes in the Palomino Area (from Silver Creek on the west to Dog Mountain on the east. Field visits were conducted to verify the mechanical/tool construction of the routes and their current condition in July, 2010. During this inventory, conditions of roads in the Chain Lake Unit were recorded to determine where boundaries were located. All the boundary roads are part of BLM's current transportation system as identified in BLM's Facility Asset

Management System database. GIS information was used to verify ownerships, project locations and geographic features not observed from the routes traveled.

Current Unit Boundaries: (See BLM Unit Character Map):

ONDA's photo points and the photos for each location were reviewed. ONDA's narrative indicated the routes within their Palomino proposed WSA (51,882 acres in size) are unmaintained ways and not maintained by mechanical means.

Based on current field checks and the knowledge of the area, BLM identified the Wilderness Inventory Maintenance (WIM) unit boundaries listed below. The roads have been mechanically constructed and improved or maintained at some time in the past. The roads are currently in useable condition for Bureau personnel, grazing permittees and other publics using pickup trucks and SUV's, including 4-wheel drive vehicles, to access the Wilderness Inventory Unit. These roads will be maintained in the future as needed.

Vehicle use occurs on a relatively regular basis. The grazing permittee utilizes the routes to manage livestock operations, including releasing and gathering cattle, distributing salt and mineral blocks and checking and maintaining range developments on an annual basis. BLM personnel annually use the routes for monitoring wildlife, botanical and range values and condition, constructing, maintaining and checking human developments and installations, wildfire suppression, and monitoring recreation use. Most public use is associated with hunting from mid August to November with the roads being traveled 4-5 times a week. Camping and recreation use occurs in late summer and fall each year.

N. boundary: Private Land and BLM Road 7224-0-B0 North Chain Lake Road
ONDA Photo Points: FN-028-030,
BLM route analysis Photo Points: PB-40

E. boundary: BLM Road 7224-0-B0 North Chain Lake Road and Beshell Grade Road 7222-0-100.
ONDA Photo Points: None
BLM route analysis Photo Points: PB-28, PB-29

S. boundary: Private Land
ONDA Photo Points: None
BLM route analysis Photo Points: PB-18, 19

W. boundary: BLM Road 7224-0-00 Palomino Grade Road
ONDA Photos: FN-31-34, FN-40-55, FN-58-59, FN- 63
BLM route analysis Photo Points: PB-3, 4

Cherry Stem Road: BLM Road 7224-0-C0 Chain Lake Road
ONDA Photos: FN-34-36, FN-39
BLM Photos: PB-27

Where an inventory unit is bounded by a road or other linear feature that is authorized by an existing right-of-way, the legal right-of-way boundary rather than the feature itself shall be deemed the wilderness inventory unit boundary.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes No N/A

Current Condition Description: The unit is characterized as a large flat plateau at the northern end of the Great Basin province. Volcanic materials dominate the unit in the form of low ridges, scab flats, and basalt rims that run in a southeasterly direction. A series of three shallow playa lakebeds are located in the northern half of the unit. All of these have a waterhole constructed at the lowest elevation of the lakebed. West Chain Lake waterhole has been fenced from livestock use to promote waterfowl nesting habitat. Approximately 6,243 acres on the southern portion were burned in a 1984 wildfire. These acres are dominated by low stature grasses such as cheatgrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, and Sandbergs bluegrass. An old, less than one-acre rock quarry is located in the extreme southwest corner of the unit just above the county road. Most of the man-made features in the unit are scattered over a large area and the unit appears to be natural and primarily affected by the forces of nature.

The unit currently has the following developments (See Unit Character Map):

Fences: 21.4 miles
Reservoirs: 6
Seedings: 0 acres
Boundary roads: 26.4 miles
Non-boundary roads: 21.2 miles
Pipelines: 0 miles
Wells: 0
Troughs: 0
Waterholes: 3
Brushbeat: 0 acres

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

Yes No N/A

Current Condition Description: This unit has very little topographic screening due to an elevation difference of only 460 feet over a course of six miles across the unit. The area is characterized by a large expanse of very open country. Vegetative screening from other groups or individuals can only be found in the extreme northern portion of the unit where there are a few scattered juniper trees. Topographic screening is limited to a small rim less than 50 feet in height running northwest to southeast about three miles through the middle of the unit, and a shallow canyon on the south end. There are opportunities for some solitude in the unit based on the relative size of the unit, but due to the ease of

travel and long vistas an individual or group could observe or encounter others within 3-4 hours. None of these opportunities for solitude would be outstanding.

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

Yes ___ No X N/A ___

Current Condition Description: Activities associated with the area include hunting for antelope and deer, sightseeing, hiking, horseback riding and wildlife viewing. The sparseness of vegetation, lack of unique features and limited water make these opportunities less than outstanding. Big game (deer and antelope,) numbers have diminished in the last fifteen to twenty years in this particular area of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Juniper hunting unit, so wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities are less than outstanding.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes X No ___ N/A ___

Current Condition Description: No inventories for species of concern, except sage grouse have been conducted in the unit at this time. There may be habitat for, and the presence of, the pygmy rabbit and burrowing owl in the unit's lower-elevation, open, sagebrush-covered areas. There are no known sage-grouse leks in this unit. Wild horses can commonly be located in the unit around the Chain Lakes.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: **Chain Lake OR-025-004A**

Summary Results of Analysis:

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

Conclusion (Check One):

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

X The area does not have wilderness character.

Prepared by: Bill Andersen Bill Andersen 1-21-11
Date

Coordinating Personnel:

[Signature] 1-21-11
Caryn Meinficke, Botanist- Burns District Date

[Signature] 1/21/11
Jason Brewer, Wildlife Biologist - Burns District Date

[Signature] 1/21/11
Rob Sharp, Range Specialist-Burns District Date

[Signature] 1-24-2011
Willie Street, Range Specialist - Burns District Date

[Signature] 1/24/11
Eric Haakenson, Wilderness Specialist - Burns District Date

[Signature] 1/24/11
John Bethea, Recreation Planner- Burns District Date

Approved by:

[Signature] 1/25/11
Three Rivers Field Manager - Burns District Date

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 1610.5-2.02

