

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

Year: 2009

Inventory Unit Number/Name: Crane Mountains

**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: Memorandum: Pacific Power & Light 500Kv Transmission Line Roadless Areas Review, Dec., 1977 and Wilderness Proposed Initial Inventory, April, 1979.

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Crow Camp, 2-4(previously inventoried)

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Proposed Initial Inventory Map, April, 1979.

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Burns District – Three Rivers Resource Area .

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Inventory Source: Wilderness Inventory – OR/WA Final Intensive Inventory Decisions (November 1980), Pages 46-47

Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
Crow Camp, 2-4*	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

*Previously inventoried BLM Roadless Area found to not have wilderness characteristics.

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

Unit Number/Name: Crane Mountains

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: 11,289 Yes X No

Description of the Current Conditions:

Citizen Information Received: On September 19, 2007 the BLM received a citizen proposal from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) for the 8,293-acre Crane Creek Mountains proposed WSA. ONDA included in their information a narrative report, maps, photos, photo and route logs and GIS data with their route and photo point data, all of which were considered as part of the wilderness inventory maintenance process for this BLM Unit. The photos submitted by ONDA were taken in late July, 2005. They identified the Crane Creek Mountains proposed WSA as having no routes which met their definition of a boundary road. BLM is in agreement with ONDA's proposed unit boundaries except for additional land in the BLM inventory unit.

Interdisciplinary (ID) Team Meeting: An ID-team consisting of BLM staff from the Burns District met on August 27, 2008 to evaluate this unit. The ID-team was provided with current maps, current and past photographs and description of the area. The ID-team was also provided with ONDA information (narrative, photos, route and photo logs and map). Prior to the meeting, Dave Vickstrom, Wilderness Specialist, reviewed ONDA photos and identified those which applied to this BLM Unit. The team consisted of wilderness, recreation, range and fisheries staff. Forestry, wildlife and archaeology staff were also consulted.

Boundary changes since 1977: All of original Crow Camp Unit is included and BLM land to the south of the unit has been added to create a larger inventory unit (See Unit Character Map).

Current Unit Boundaries (See BLM's Unit Character Map): A field check was made and a route analysis was completed for the Stinkingwater Access Road. It is a main route in the southern area of the Stinkingwater Mountains and part of the BLM Facility Asset Management System. The remaining boundaries are private lands. The additional acreage in BLMs Crane Mountains Unit is due to a point along the Stinkingwater Access Road where the route does not meet a private land boundary to create ONDA's proposed WSA southern boundary.

Vehicle use will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis and it is BLM's intent to mechanically maintain routes as needed. The grazing permittees use the routes to manage livestock operations, including releasing and gathering of cattle, distributing salt and mineral blocks and checking and maintaining range developments. BLM personnel utilize the routes for monitoring and checking range condition and developments as well as inventorying, monitoring and managing wildlife, archaeological and botanical resources, recreational values/use and wildfire suppression. Most public use is associated with deer and elk hunting in the fall. Wood

cutting by residents of Crane, the local ranches and commercial wood cutters in the juniper cutting areas takes place throughout the summer, fall and early winter.

N. boundary: Private land
E. boundary: Stinkingwater Access Road (6276-0-00);
ONDA Photo Points: HN4-5
BLM Photo Points: None
S. boundary: Private land
W. boundary: Private land

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes No N/A

1977 Unit Description: The generally rectangular unit is 8 miles south of U. S. Highway and west of the Stinkingwater Access Road. It is 5 miles long N-S and 2.5 miles wide E-W. Topography is foothill country dropping off the Stinkingwater Mountains into Harney Valley to the west. Crow Creek drains from southeast to northwest with a low ridge between the drainage and Harney Valley. Vegetation is sagebrush and grass on the west facing slopes and scattered juniper trees are on the upper slopes. Developments are a few ways, a developed spring and several stock watering ponds.

Current Condition Description (See Unit Character Map): The northern boundary unit is located approximately eight miles south of U. S. Highway 20 and the southern boundary is about two miles northeast of the town of Crane. BLM land south of the original boundary and west of Stinkingwater Road have been added to the original Crow Camp Unit to form the Crane Mountains Unit. This is due to a point along the Stinkingwater Access Road where the route does not meet a private land boundary and thus, the added area.

Four allotments, Miller Canyon, Mahon Creek, the very small Miller Federal Fenced A and B, and a small portion of Alder Creek are within the unit. Fences surround the unit on all boundaries except the east side and there are three pasture division fences.

A large number of juniper cutting areas are located in the eastern half of the WIM unit starting along the Stinkingwater Access Road and extending westward into the central portion of the unit. The first areas were cut and piled in 2006 and approximately 2,300 acres were burned in the fall of 2008. Approximately 400 acres were cut and 200 acres were machine piled in 2009. These juniper cutting areas are currently substantially noticeable as unnatural features, but naturalness would be expected to return in time with natural revegetation of the areas and gradual deterioration of the remains of burned juniper trees.

ONDA's report indicated the only manmade developments that were seen during their inventory were the few ways and they have become overgrown by native vegetation. ONDA's report also noted that juniper trees had been cut and left in some locations, but would not detract from the apparent naturalness of the area over time. Any other developments that may exist are not substantially noticeable over the area as a whole.

A summary of developments and vegetative treatments are:

- Fences: 28.5 miles
- Reservoirs: 12
- Springs: 3
- Waterholes: 2
- Juniper cutting areas: 2,789 acres
- Prescribed Burns: 2,331 acres
- Non-boundary roads: 20.3 miles

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

Yes No N/A

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

Yes No N/A

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes No N/A

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: Crane Mountains

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 solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No NA

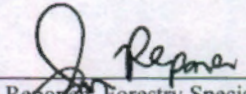
Conclusion (Check One):

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

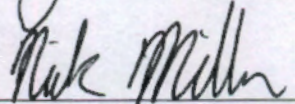
Prepared by: David E. Vickstrom, Wilderness Specialist

Unit Name and Number: **Crane Mountain**

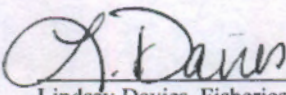
Team Members:



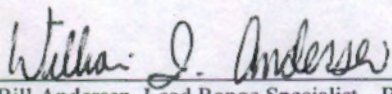
Jon Reponen, Forestry Specialist – Burns District
Date: 2/2/2010



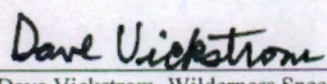
Nick Miller, Wildlife Biologist – Burns District
Date: 2/2/2010



Lindsay Davies, Fisheries Biologist – Burns District
Date: 2/2/2010



Bill Andersen, Lead Range Specialist – Burns District
Date: 2-3-10

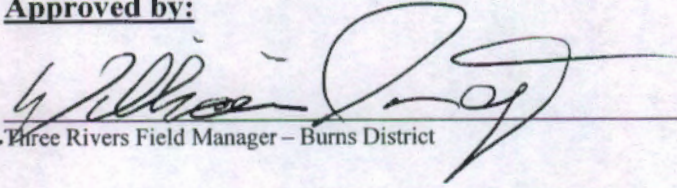


Dave Vickstrom, Wilderness Specialist – Burns District
Date: 2-2-2010



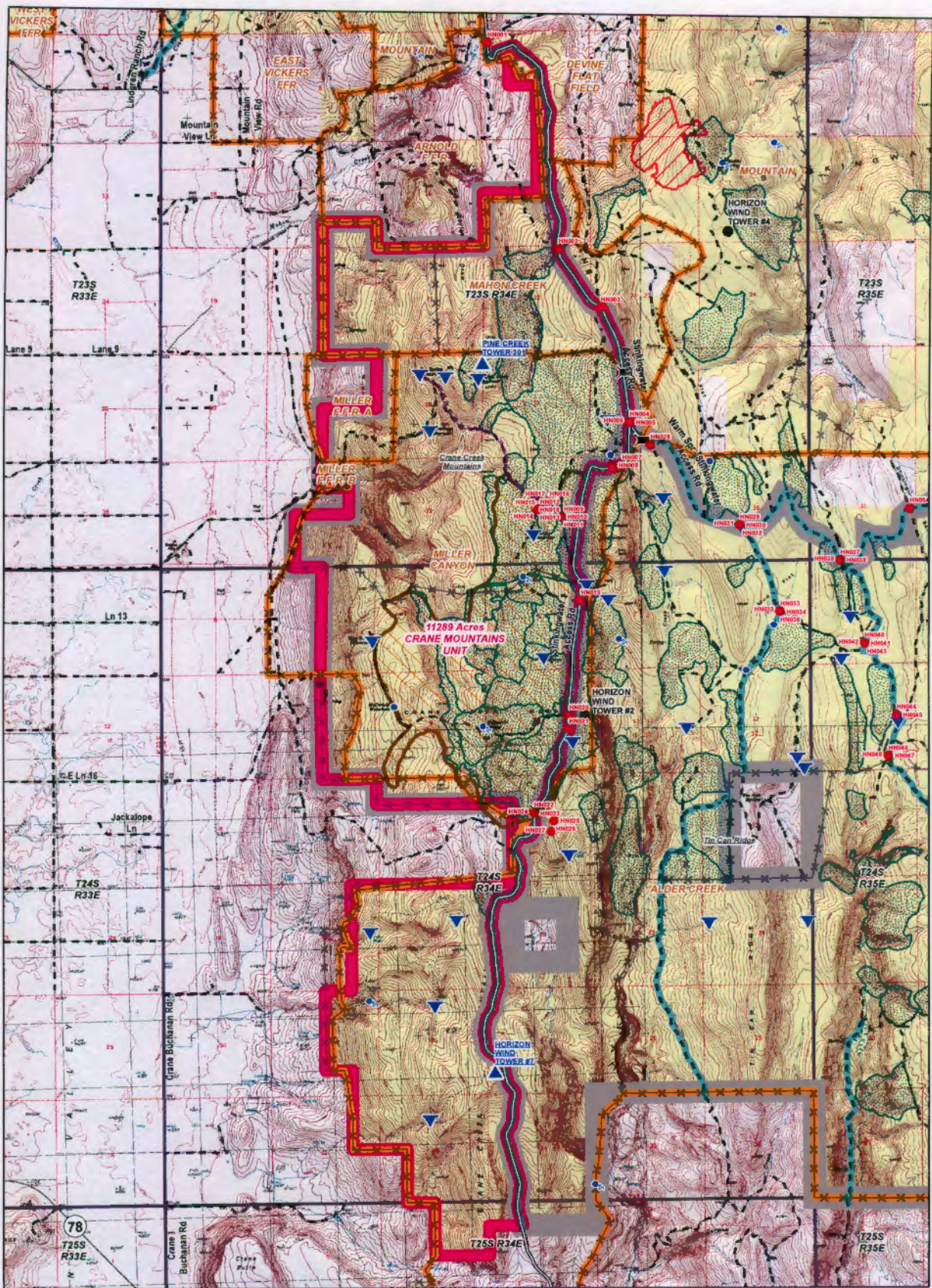
Date: 2-2-2010

Approved by:



acting Three Rivers Field Manager – Burns District
Date: 2/8/2010

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



CRANE MOUNTAINS UNIT CHARACTER MAP

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| CRANE MOUNTAINS WMA Unit | Existing Met Towers | Prescribed Burns |
| ONDA Proposed WSA | Proposed Met Tower | Wildfire 2005 to Present |
| ONDA Photo Points | CATTLE GUARD | Unit Boundary Roads |
| FENCE | RESERVOIR | Non-Paved Improved Road |
| STOCK TRAIL | SPRING DEVELOPMENT | Primitive or Unknown Road Surface |
| Allotment | WATERHOLE | Bureau of Land Management |
| Cut Units | EXCLOSURE | Private |
| | Seedings | |

N 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

projects\WSA\InventoryReview\PineCreek\WMA
CRANEMOUNTAINSUnitCharacter.mxd
September 15, 2008 for Dave Vickstrom
see also .pdf file

0 0.5 1 Miles

USGS 24K Topo 1:54,000