

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

Year: 2008 Inventory Unit Number/Name: Greenley Gulch

**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: Intensive Wilderness Inventory, pages 23-25, March, 1980.

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Dietrich Cabin, 2-11D

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Intensive Wilderness Inventory, March, 1980.

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

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Inventory Source: Wilderness Review-Intensive Inventory, Part I-Final Decisions on 30 Selected Units in Southeast Oregon, March, 1980; pages 23-25.

Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
Dietrich Cabin, 2-11D	4,580	Y	N	N	N

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

Unit Number/Name: Greenley Gulch

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: 5,257 Yes X* No

*The unit would meet the size criterion for wilderness study areas regardless of size because it is adjacent to a Forest Service RARE II area designated for further planning.

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 26,798-acre Pine Creek 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 July, 2005. They identified the Pine Creek proposed WSA as having no routes which met the definition of a boundary road.

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 ONDA's information (narrative, photos, maps) as well as BLM's past and current maps and photographs of the routes and topography of the unit. The ID-team consisted of wilderness, recreation, fisheries and range staff; wildlife, archaeology and forestry were also consulted.

BLM's Boundary Road Determination Process: BLM conducted a boundary road determination process and found that several of ONDA's "ways" are still boundary roads. It is BLM's finding that ONDA's Pine Creek proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is made of three units, one of which is this unit. (See Field Map 1 of 2, Stinkingwater Mtns. Wind Energy Project Area WIM Map, May 5, 2008.)

BLM staff reviewed ONDA's route information which indicated none of the routes within their proposed Pine Creek WSA were boundary roads. BLM completed a route analysis, including a field check to verify the current conditions for the boundary roads identified for the unit. District staff also provided information about current uses of routes by the public, grazing permittees, and BLM personnel prior to the ID-team meeting. The Little Muddy Road is a route identified in BLM's current transportation system and is part BLM's Facility Asset Management System database. The route known as Greenley Gulch Road connects to the Little Muddy Road and has recently been mechanically maintained.

Boundary changes since 1980: There is little change to the southern boundary except for the dropping of a 40-acre parcel from the unit. The central E-W access road from the paved Pine Creek County Road to decorative rock claims and the U.S. Forest Service boundary (Greenley Gulch Road and the southern half of Little Muddy Road) has recently been maintained for transporting rock material by truck and continues to be the northern boundary of subunit 2-11D.

Current Unit Boundaries: (See BLM Unit Character Map): Routes forming boundaries were driven during field review. All have been mechanically maintained, improved in the past and will continue to be maintained as needed to allow vehicle passage for public land users. The unit is contiguous with the Forest Service Pine Creek RARE II Area; the unit's western boundary is the FS/BLM land ownership boundary.

N. boundary: W. portion of Little Muddy Road (6250-0-00) and Greenley Gulch Road

ONDA Photo Points: GZ11-13, GZ16, GZ1-4

BLM Photo Points: PC4-7

E. boundary: Private land and paved Pine Creek Road (CNTY 310)

No Photo Points

S. boundary: Private land

No Photo Points

W. boundary: Malheur National Forest boundary

No Photo Points

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No N/A

1980 Unit Description:

Dietrich Cabin subunit, 2-11D, containing 4,580 acres of BLM land, is located 11 miles west of the small, rural community of Drewsey in Harney County. The western half of the subunit consists of the east slopes of Elephant Butte from which two intermittent streams flow. The remainder of the area consists of a flat-topped butte with a stream that flows into Pine Creek, south of the subunit. Juniper is found along the drainages as well as in the rocky areas of the butte. Low sage and grass are common throughout the remainder of the unit. The entire unit is extremely rocky. There is one and a half miles of fence line on the eastern boundary and two livestock and wildlife reservoirs within the subunit. The developments are scattered throughout the area and are not substantially noticeable.

Current Condition Description (See Unit Character Map):

The topography of the subunits is rocky, convoluted foothill country between the higher ponderosa forest on the north and west to the lower agricultural valleys to the east and northeast. Three buttes, including Elephant Butte, are located in the western portion of

the unit with Pine Creek flowing eastward along the unit's southern boundary. Greenley Gulch cuts through the center of the unit and there are many smaller side-canyons and intermittent tributaries. Stringers of Ponderosa pine extend from the upper forest across the western boundary into the unit. There are many open, rocky, grass and sagebrush-covered flats (big and low sage) with scattered junipers and thicker juniper forest fingering down the draws, canyons and foothills.

The primary human uses in the Greenley Gulch Unit and surrounding lands are livestock grazing related as well as recreation use, mainly big game hunting for elk, deer and antelope. A road has been maintained to provide truck hauling access to decorative stone claims and a community decorative stone pit. ONDA's report indicated the routes within the unit are ways and have overgrown to the extent that they are not substantially noticeable, even from close proximity, and that they do not significantly impact the naturalness of the area as a whole.

Allotment fences are located on the eastern and western boundaries and an E-W pasture division fence goes across the southern portion of the unit. Livestock reservoirs have been built along the northern boundary (Greenley Gulch/Little Muddy Roads), but their impacts on the natural environment are minimal. The unit, as a whole, is natural.

Below is a summary of developments:

Fences: 10 miles
Reservoirs: 3
Decorative stone community pit: 58 acres
Malheur Flatstone Claim #4: 78 acres
Malheur Flatstone Claim #5: 6 acres

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

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

1980 Description: The subunit is four miles wide and less than two miles long. The western part provides little opportunity for solitude because of the low vegetation, gentle slope of the land and lack of ample vegetative screening. The drainage in the central and eastern portion provides a better opportunity for solitude than the western area but it is not outstanding. The butte is covered with low sage and grass and doesn't offer an outstanding opportunity for visitors to avoid the sights and sounds of others. Because of the limited vegetative and topographic screening and narrow size, the subunit by itself does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Current Condition Description: No changes to the past condition of the unit were identified by the ID-team relative to solitude. Greenley Gulch, located in the center of the unit in a northwest to southeast direction, provides opportunities for solitude, but is too small to be outstanding. There is limited vegetative and topographic screening in the many open, grass and sagebrush-covered flats.

There are small areas of vegetative screening of Ponderosa pine and denser juniper on the small buttes and in the shallow drainages of the western portion of the subunit, but they do not create outstanding solitude. The eastern slopes of Elephant Butte along the west boundary of the unit are also open, grass and sagebrush-covered with scattered juniper, which offer no outstanding solitude.

Pine Creek Canyon with its steep, tree-covered upper slopes, is not within this unit but goes through the rugged, adjoining Forest Service roadless area to the west and then south of the unit boundary onto private land. The wilderness features and characteristics that are within the Pine Creek RARE II Area do not extend into the BLM Greenley Gulch Unit and the features which ONDA indicates make for outstanding opportunities for solitude are not present in this unit.

BLM found the boundaries of subunit 2-11D have not changed and ONDA's determination that outstanding solitude is present due to the large size of their proposed WSA would not apply to this unit.

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

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

1979 Description: Opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting and horseback riding are provided, but are not considered outstanding because of lack of challenge and diversity.

Current Condition Description: The opportunities noted in the 1980 analysis are still present. Deer and elk hunting continue to be the main unconfined recreation activities during the fall season in this unit.

ONDA contends that visitors to the area can enjoy outstanding fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, photography and wildlife viewing throughout the area. Trout fishing opportunities exist in the upper reaches of Pine Creek on Forest Service lands, but are not available in this BLM unit. BLM agrees that the other aforementioned recreational opportunities are present, but do not, either individually or collectively, possess attributes which would make them outstanding.

5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Sage grouse can be found on the large, open flats in this unit. One sage grouse lek has been identified at the present time. A mule deer seasonal migration route is located in this unit as the animals move between the forest and the Stinkingwater Mountains in late spring and throughout the fall seasons.

ONDA noted the Greater Sage Grouse as Federal Species of Concern and this area may be habitat for the Burrowing Owl, Ferruginous Hawk and Swainson's Hawk. All are on the Federal Species of Concern.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: **Greenley Gulch Unit**

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.

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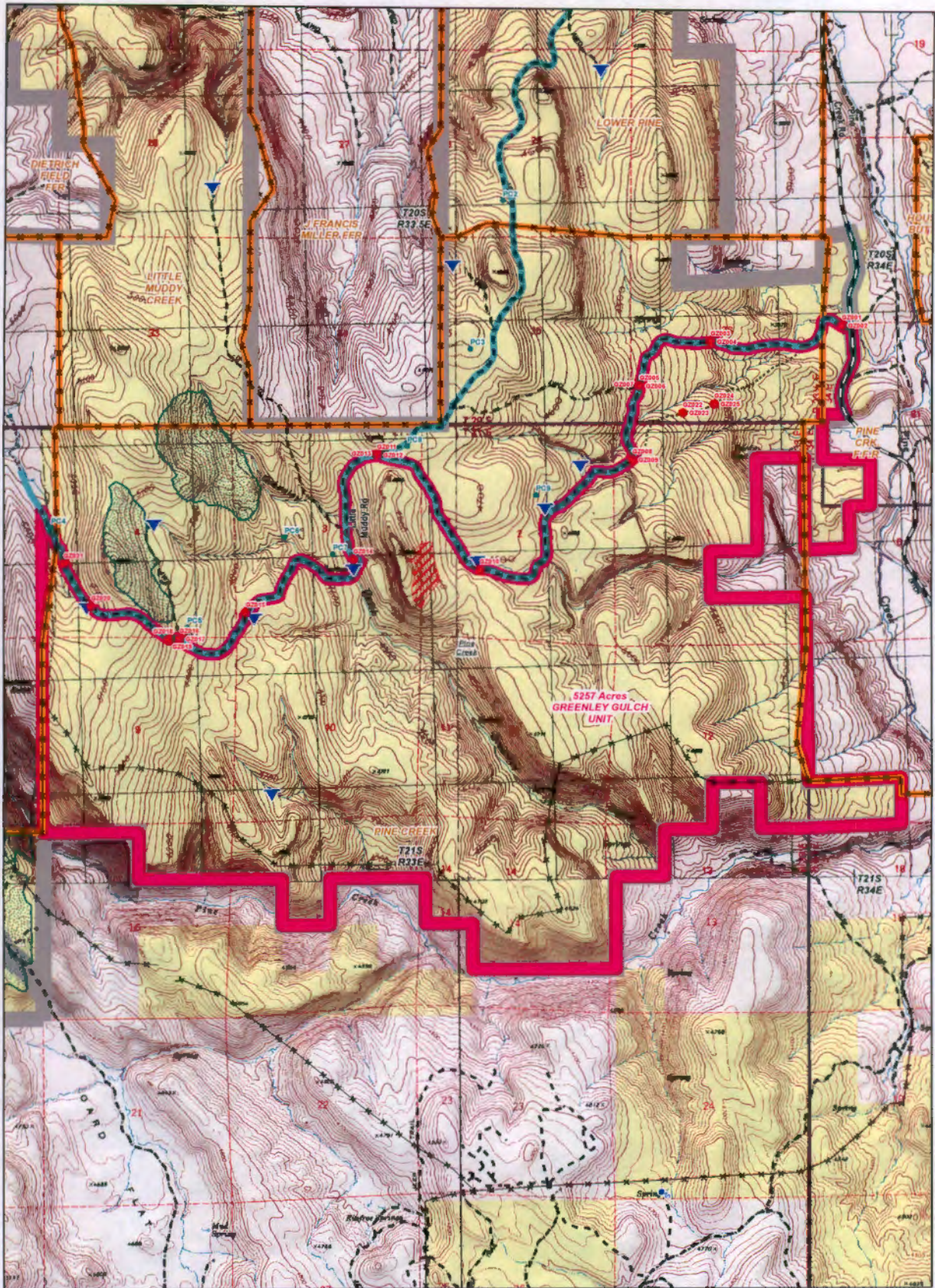
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Richard Roy, Three Rivers Field Manager – Burns District

1/10/2010

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



GREENLEY GULCH UNIT CHARACTER MAP

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| GREENLEY GULCH WIM Unit | FENCE | Paved Road |
| ONDA Proposed WSA | Unit Boundary Roads | Primitive or Unknown Road Surface |
| BLM Photo Points | Powerline | Allotment |
| ONDA Photo Points | Wildfires 2005 to Present | Bureau of Land Management |
| RESERVOIR | Cut Units | Private |
| SPRING DEVELOPMENT | | |

USGS 24K Topo



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. Contour line 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. Road closures 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\WIND
GreenleyGulchUnitCharacter.mxd
September 12, 2008 for Dave Vickstrom
see also pdf file

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