

Year 2007

Inventory Unit Number/Name Merlie Table

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 15-H

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 H	9,540	Y	N	N	Y

3. Any citizen provided information: ~~No~~ *yes*

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

a. Unit Number/Name Merlie Table

(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 located approximately five miles northwest of the community of Drewsey in Harney County. The dominant feature of this unit is Merlie Table, a high, relatively flat-topped plateau which comprises most of the unit except for the southern and southwestern portions which drop off into Drewsey Valley. Elevations range from 3,800 to 5,100 feet. Common vegetation includes grasses, big, low, and stiff sagebrush, and juniper. Since the original inventory an inholding owned by the state of Oregon was acquired by the BLM.

Unit Size: 12,297 acres - the size of the unit increased from the original inventory unit due to acquisition of a private inholding and 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: All boundaries to the north, west 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 south.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes No N/A

Description: Since the 1980 report was issued, there have been several changes to natural conditions including the implementation of both juniper and pine tree cutting. Additional routes are now observable, but most of them are primitive and do not receive maintenance. 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:

Cattle Guards: 2

Water Developments: 6 reservoirs, 1 waterhole, 2 dugouts, 5 springs

Fencing: 21 miles

Constructed Stock Trail: 6 miles

Primitive Routes: 17 miles

Juniper Cuts: 472 acres

Ponderosa Pine pre-commercial thinnings: 369 acres

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

Yes No 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 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 No N/A

Description: Unit continues to provide important habitat for Greater sage-grouse and winter range and migratory habitat for deer and elk. There have been 8 additional cultural resource sites identified in the unit since 1980.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: Merlie Table (Unit 2-15H)

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 Shug 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 – Burn District

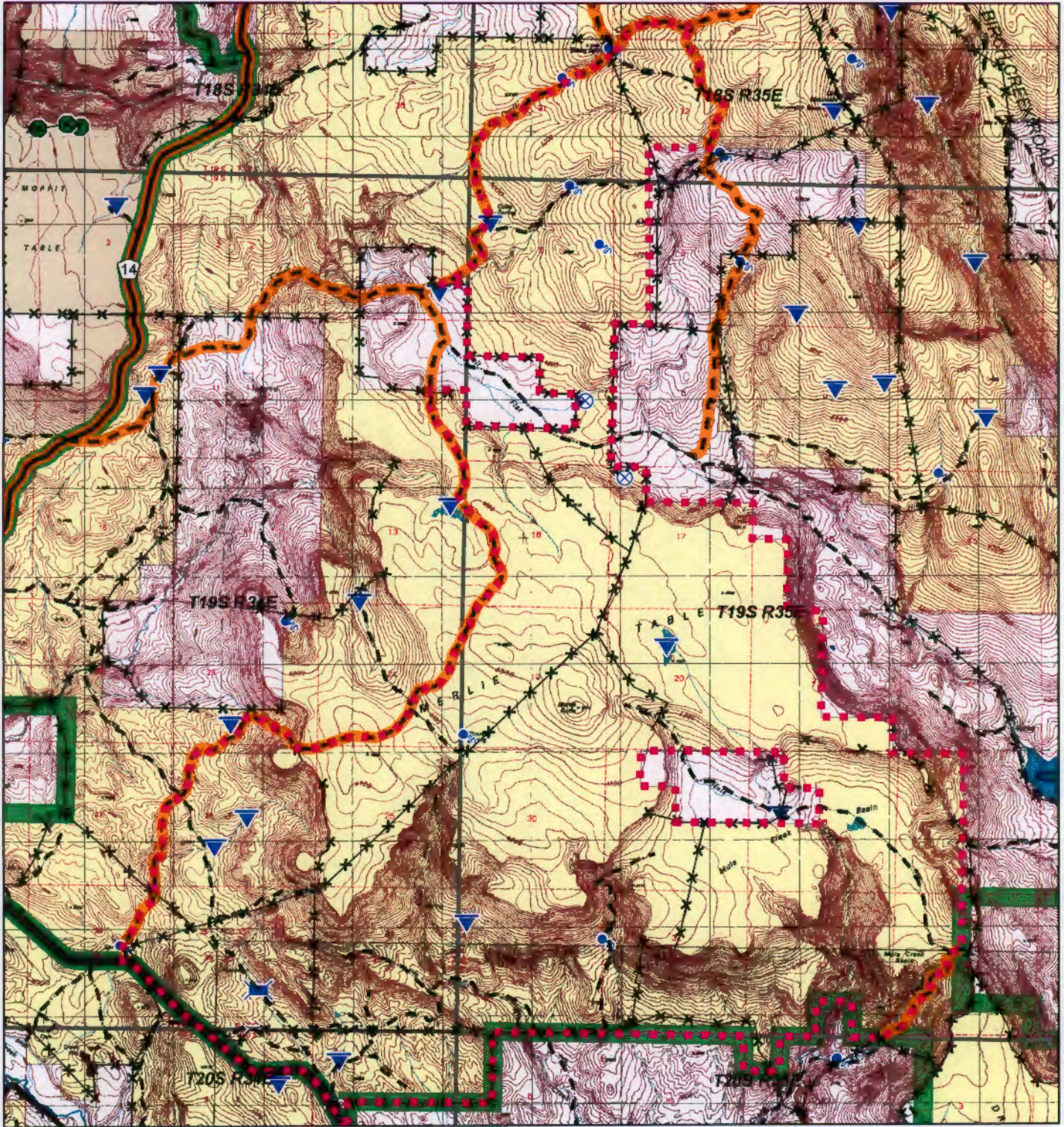
Don Rotell 5/14/07
Date
Don Rotell, Archeologist – Burns District

















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

Approved by:

Jeanette Anthe 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.



 MERLIE BUTTE UNIT 12,297 acres	 FENCE
 Otis WIM Boundary	 BLM
 Paved Road	 Wilderness Study Area
 Non-Paved Improved Road	 Private Land
 Primitive/Unknown Rd Condition	 DUGOUT
 Otis WIM Bladed Roads	 SPRING
 CATTLE GRD	 RESERVOIR
 CRIB	 WATERHOLE

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 impassible 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\otis\unit_merliebu8x11.mxd; April 19, 2007 For Laura Dowlan

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles