

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

Year: **2010** Inventory Unit Number/Name: **Murphy 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 (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, March, 1980, pages 169-172.

b) **Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s):** The area that has been inventoried was part of a unit in 1977 that was numbered OR-020-02-34. It was recommended and approved at that time that the area did not warrant intensive inventory.

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

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

Unit Number/Name: **Murphy Lake**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: 11,685

Yes X No

Citizen Information Received: The BLM received GIS data from Oregon Natural Desert Assoc. (ONDA) for a proposed Buzzard Creek WSA in September, 2007. More information including a narrative report, maps, photographs and route logs was received in May, 2008. This proposed area is adjacent to the Murphy Lake Unit and information from their report was considered in making determinations about the Unit.

BLM's Boundary Road Determination Process: BLM conducted an analysis of routes in the West Warm Springs Unit, which entailed field visits to verify the mechanical/tool construction of the routes and their current condition in August, 2009. During this inventory, conditions of roads in the Murphy 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.

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

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. BLM personnel use the routes for monitoring wildlife, botanical and range values and condition, constructing, maintaining and checking human developments and installations, wildfire suppression, and recreation use. Most public use is associated with hunting, camping and recreation use in late summer and fall.

E. boundary: BLM Road 7257-0-00, Capehart Lake Road

ONDA Photo Points: None

BLM route analysis Photo Points: CL-32, CL-34-36, CL-52, A-51

S. boundary: BLM Road 7256-0-00 Big Stick Road, Power Line Road and ROW

ONDA Photo Points: GQ-43&44, FR-4, FR-5, FR-6, FR-7, FR-8

BLM route analysis Photo Points: CL-51, CL-37-50, CL-52

West Boundary: State and Private Land and Highway 395

ONDA Photo Points: FR-1, FR-2, GP-20,

BLM route analysis Photo Points: CL-45,

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

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Current Condition Description: This unit has very little vegetative screening due to the lack of any trees or structural vegetation to provide screening. There is also very limited topographic screening as almost the entire unit can be seen from Alex Butte on the south and the butte on the western middle portion of the unit. There are two sections of Big Stick Creek totaling less than 1 mile that could provide some limited opportunities for solitude. A small rim runs through the middle of the unit that would provide some screening for visitors looking to the west. There would be a few limited areas where visitors could not be seen by others in the unit. While this is not a busy highway, a person would need to be inside the unit a long distance before they would not see or hear the effects of the highway, and the unit is not that large to get very far from the highway. Two parcels of private land located in the unit would provide challenges to finding solitude as one of these parcels is occupied on a regular basis.

Therefore, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Current Condition Description: Activities associated with area include hunting for antelope and deer, sightseeing, hiking and wildlife viewing. None are 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.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Current Condition Description: No inventories for species, except sage grouse, of concern 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.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: **Murphy Lake**

Summary Results of Analysis:

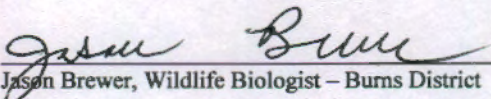
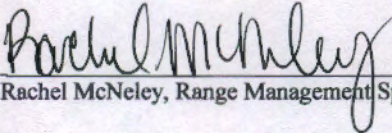
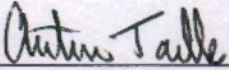
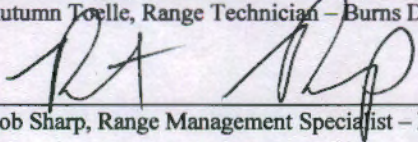
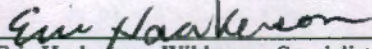
1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes ___ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes ___ No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ___ Yes No ___ NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ___ Yes No ___ NA

Conclusion (Check One):

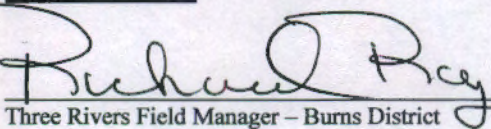
- ___ The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.
- The area does not have wilderness character.

Prepared by: Bill Andersen

Coordinating Personnel:

 Jason Brewer, Wildlife Biologist – Burns District	<u>7/6/10</u> Date
 Rachel McNeley, Range Management Specialist-Burns District	<u>7/9/10</u> Date
 Autumn Toelle, Range Technician – Burns District	<u>7/13/10</u> Date
 Rob Sharp, Range Management Specialist – Burns District	<u>7/12/2010</u> Date
 Eric Haakenson, Wilderness Specialist – Burns District	<u>6/30/10</u> Date

Approved by:

 Three Rivers Field Manager – Burns District	<u>7/19/10</u> Date
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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