

Year: 2013 Inventory Unit Number/Name: Tin Can Ridge

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: Final Decisions on 30 Selected Units in Southeast Oregon and Proposed Decisions on Other Intensively Inventoried Units in Oregon and Washington (March, 1980 – Page 18)
- BLM Wilderness Inventory Maintenance: 2009

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Coleman Creek 2-1, subunit 2-1C, March 1980 Wilderness Review Intensive Inventory

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): March, 1980; Intensive Wilderness Inventory Map: Final Decision on 30 Selected Inventory Units

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Burns District – Three Rivers Resource Area, Tin Can Ridge Unit

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record: Wilderness Review-Intensive Inventory, March 1980, Page 9

Inventory Source: Wilderness Review-Intensive Inventory, Part I-Final Decisions on 30 Selected Units in Southeast Oregon, page 18, 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
Coleman Creek 2-1 (1980 Inv)	62885	Y	N	N	Y
Tin Can Ridge (2010 WIM)	12,179	N	X	X	X
Tin Can Ridge (2013 WIM)	12,179	N	X	X	X

Summarize any known primary reasons for prior findings in this table:

FORM 2

Use additional pages as necessary

DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

a. Unit Number/Name **Tin Can Ridge (12,179 acres)**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes X No _____

Citizen Information Received: On February 21, 2013 the BLM received a letter from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA). ONDA stated their concerns about the possible upgrades to the access route into the Alder Creek area of the Tin Can Ridge WIM unit. The unit was inventoried for wilderness characteristics in 1979, 2010, and as a result of the recent letter from ONDA, again in 2013.

Interdisciplinary (ID) Team Meeting: An ID-team consisting of BLM staff from the Burns District met on May 28, 2013 to evaluate this unit. The ID-team was provided with ONDA's narrative report, photographs, route and photo logs, and map. The team was also provided with current BLM maps and photographs, and past maps, photographs and description of the area.

Boundary changes since 1979: Tin Can Ridge Unit is only a small portion of the historic, much larger, extensive Coleman Creek intensive inventory unit. The northern boundary remains the same, but the eastern boundary is the Coleman-Deadman Creek Road, 6278-0-BO and the Little Crane Creek Road.

The western boundary is the Tin Can Spring Road, a through-route providing access to a private inholding and private lands below the south boundary of the inventory unit. ONDA identified this route as two ways, 21C-21K and 21Cb. It was not maintained all the way south from the Stinkingwater-Warm Springs Access Road when inventoried in 1979. It was an interior cherry-stem boundary road which ended approximately 2½ miles south of the Stinkingwater-Warm Springs Access Road. The road has since been maintained by the owner of a private inholding located on and within the unit's west boundary. The road provides access from the south up through the Gorman Creek drainage outside the Tin Can Ridge Unit. The remaining sections of the eastern and southern boundaries remain the same (private land).

There are three interior cherry-stem boundary roads-Chicken Flat Road, Alder Creek Road and a short, dead-end road off Coleman-Deadman Creek Road. The narrow subunit (subunit F) noted in the 1979 description is no longer delineated as a separate inventory subunit. The two mile long extension of private land also has since come under BLM ownership through a land exchange.

Current Unit Boundaries (See BLM's Unit Character Map): Wilderness inventory information was updated and routes forming boundaries were driven during field review. A route analysis was completed for each boundary road. The unit's boundary roads have been mechanically maintained, improved in the past, and will continue to be maintained as needed to allow vehicle passage for public land users.

Vehicle use will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. 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 antelope hunting in late summer and early fall, deer and elk hunting in the fall and wood cutting during the summer months.

N. boundary: Stinkingwater-Warm Springs Access Road, 6278-0-OO;
ONDA Photo Points: HN32, HN38, HN39; BLM Photo Points-none
E. boundary: Coleman-Deadman Creek Road, 6278-0-BO and Private land;
ONDA Photo Point: HN56; BLM Photo Points: TC1, TC3
S. boundary: Private land
W. boundary: Tin Can Spring Road;
ONDA Photo Point: HN31, HN33, HN34; BLM Photo Points-none

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

1979 Unit Description: The sub-unit, 2-1C, is located six miles northeast of Crane in Harney County. The topography consists of several parallel ridges running from north to south with Crane Creek, the major drainage, flowing between the two main ridgelines. The extreme northern part consists of rolling hills. Big sagebrush and grass are common throughout the entire subunit and juniper is found along the rocky portions of the ridges and slopes. Small patches of willow and aspen are located in the drainages.

2010 Unit Description: The unit's southeast corner is located approximately five miles northeast of the small, rural town of Crane; the northern boundary is about 12 miles south of U. S. Highway 20. The topography is paralleling N-S trending ridges and deep drainages dropping from the high elevations of the Stinkingwater Mountains, southward to the low valley country between Crane and Venator. Tin Can Ridge and Alder Creek Canyon are the main features with large, open valleys in the central and northeast sections of the unit. Vegetation is sagebrush with large tracts of juniper growing over most of the ridges and slopes, and grasses covering the open valleys. Many juniper cutting areas (currently thirty-one units), are scattered throughout the entire unit except for the southwest corner. These juniper cuts are currently substantially noticeable as unnatural features, but naturalness would be expected to return in time with natural re-vegetation of the areas and gradual deterioration of the remains of trees. No units have been burned at this time. Some juniper thinning was completed in the small fir stand in Fir Gulch on Alder Creek in 2009.

Except for the southeast corner, livestock reservoirs are scattered throughout the unit. The central portion of the Alder Creek Allotment is within the unit. Boundary fences have been built along two-thirds of the eastern boundary, all of the southern boundary and across the northeast corner of the unit. An E-W pasture division fence is located in the center of the unit. The primary human uses in the unit and surrounding lands are livestock grazing-related with some recreation use, mainly big game hunting for antelope in late summer and fall, and deer and elk in the fall. The residents of Crane and

surrounding ranches cut down juniper in the wood cutting areas for personal use and some commercial wood cutters also use the areas.

Below is a summary of developments and vegetative treatments:

Fences: 10 miles
Cattleguards: 1
Reservoirs: 7
Springs: 2
Waterholes: 2
Seedings: 283 acres
Tree cutting areas: 1,776 acres
Interior non-boundary routes: 21.5 miles

2013 Unit Description: Conditions present during the 2010 inventory were found to be still in existence at the time of this evaluation. Juniper treatments throughout the unit are substantially noticeable. The large expanses of cut trees are un-natural in appearance.

(3) Does the unit (or the remainder of the unit if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A

Description: The unit did not meet the naturalness criteria for wilderness characteristics, therefore the opportunities for solitude were not analyzed.

(4) Does the unit (or the remainder of the unit if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A

Description: The unit did not meet the naturalness criteria for wilderness characteristics, therefore the opportunities for primitive recreation were not analyzed.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A

Description:

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: **Tin Can Ridge (12,179 acres)**

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 X No

3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ___ Yes ___ No X NA

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

Conclusion
Check One:

___ The area—or a portion of the area—has wilderness character (items 1, 2 and 3 are checked “yes”).

X The area does not have wilderness character (any of items 1, 2 or 3 are checked “no”).

Prepared by: Thomas Wilcox, Wilderness Specialist

Team Members:



Tim Newkirk, Forestry Specialist – Burns District

5/29/2013
Date



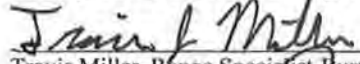
Tomas Karniowski, Wildlife Biologist – Burns District

5/28/13
Date



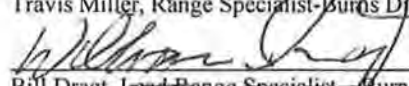
Lindsay Davies, Fisheries Biologist – Burns District

5/28/2013
Date



Travis Miller, Range Specialist-Burns District

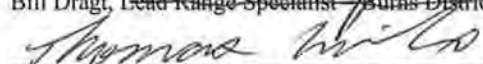
5/28/2013
Date



Bill Dragt, Lead Range Specialist – Burns District

Supr. NRS - 3 Rivers

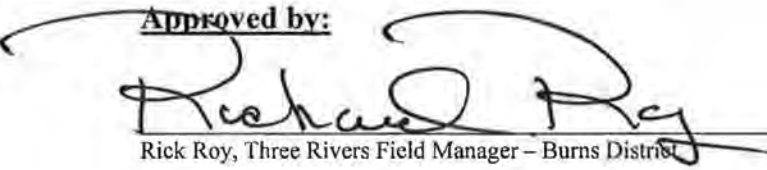
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Thomas Wilcox, Wilderness Specialist – Burns District

5/29/2013
Date

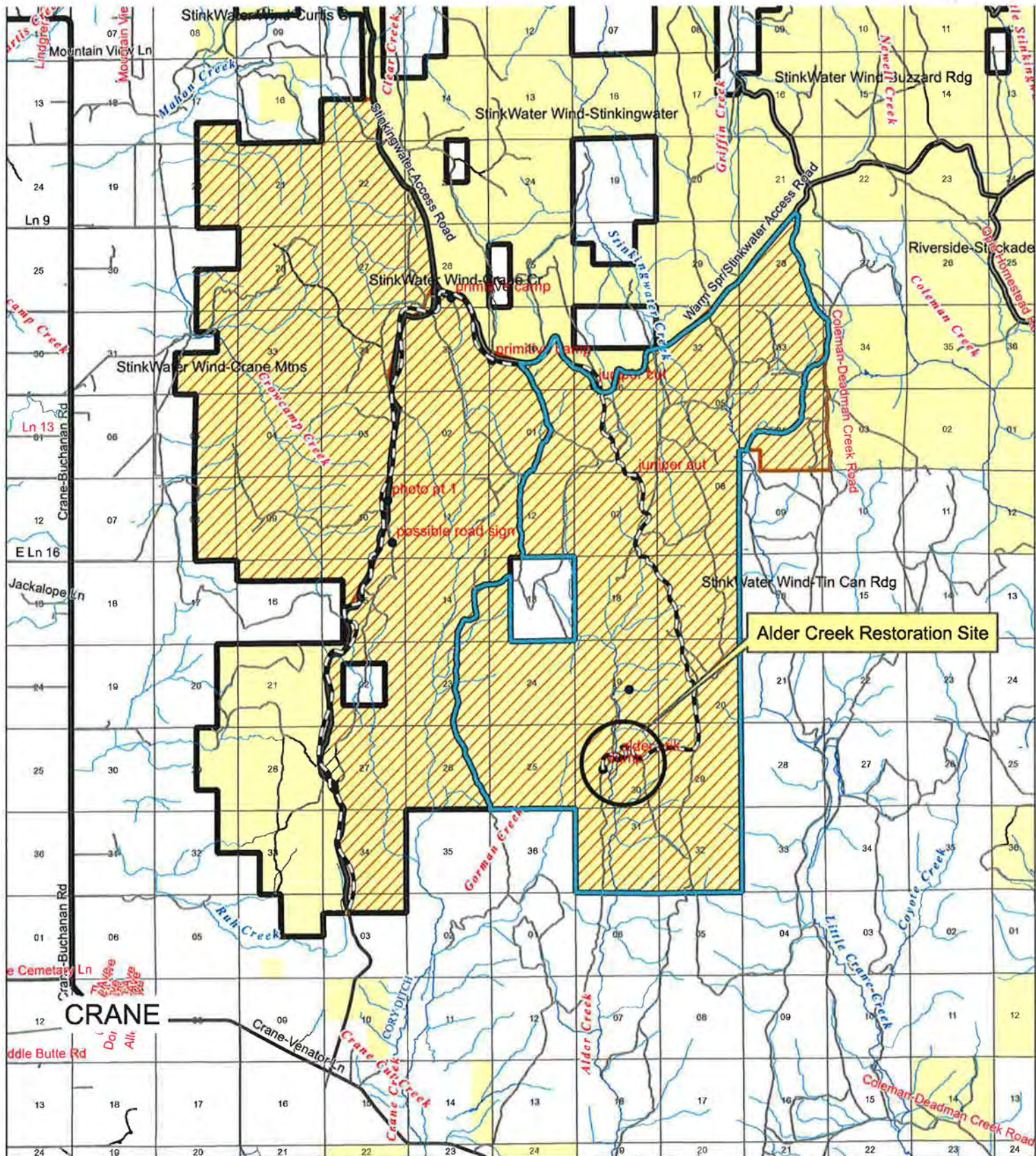
Approved by:



Rick Roy, Three Rivers Field Manager – Burns District

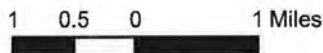
5/30/2013
Date

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.



Tin Can Ridge

- Points
- Tin Can Ridge WIM unit - 12166 Acres
- Access Route
- Trails
- Bureau of Land Management Private/Unknown
- Sections
- Analyzed WIM Units
- Three Rivers Citizen Proposed WSA Units



US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Burns District, Oregon



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 and may be updated without notification.

W:\Tin Can Ridge WIM unit
5/24/2013 t2wilcox