

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

Year: 2011 Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-025-004B Weaver 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 X (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, November, 1980, pages 120-121.

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): The area that has been currently inventoried was part of a unit in 1977 that was numbered OR-020-02-30. It encompassed 13,075 acres within 11 subunits. Due to a size of less than 5,000 acres, ten of the units were not intensively inventoried and dropped from further consideration. Subunit K contained 7,885 acres. It was intensively inventoried and found not to possess wilderness characteristics. This unit was not included in the 2007 citizen (ONDA) proposed area or included in the current wilderness maintenance inventory of the Palomino Area.

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): BLM Intensive Wilderness Inventory; Oregon; April, 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
See 1. b	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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

Citizen Information Received: The BLM received GIS data from Oregon Natural Desert Assoc. (ONDA) for a proposed 51,882 acre Palomino WSA in September, 2007. More information including a narrative report, maps, photographs and route logs was received in May, 2008. The information was submitted in accordance with Draft BLM Manual 6300-1 *Wilderness Inventory* (2011).

Their report was based mainly on the belief that the area was not accessible to the public, because it was surrounded on three sides by private land, no trespassing signs and locked gates were encountered and none of the interior routes were roads. These factors resulted in the area possessing naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation. Their assessment included an analysis of all the wilderness characteristics, which concluded that all of the characteristics were present and the area should be designated a Wilderness Study Area.

Their report characterized the area as being primarily effected by the forces of nature and was in natural condition as only one water hole and an old bridge were observed. The area possessed outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the large size, shape, vegetative and topographic screening. The diversity of the landscape, hiking, backpacking, camping, native flora and birding all provided outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Supplemental values included lava flows, sage grouse, wild horses and ephemeral lakes.

BLM's analysis of the area found there to be 5 sub-units within this proposed area that met the minimum size of 5,000 acres. Each of these units was inventoried intensively for wilderness characteristics. These units were named Lunch Lake, Batts Camp Lake, Weaver Lake, Chain Lake and Dog Mountain. Four units were less than 5,000 acres.

BLM Inventory Report

Unit Number/Name: **OR-025-004B Weaver Lake**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: **9,389** Yes X No

BLM's Boundary Determination Process: Using all existing data and professional knowledge, BLM conducted an analysis of land ownership, ROWs and routes in the Palomino area (from Silver Creek on the west to Dog Mountain on the east). Field visits were conducted to verify the mechanical/tool construction of the routes and their current condition in July, 2010. During this inventory, conditions of roads in the Weaver 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. GIS information was used to verify ownerships, project locations and geographic features not observed from the routes traveled.

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

ONDA's photo points and the photos for each location were reviewed. ONDA's narrative indicated the routes within their Palomino proposed WSA (51,882 acres in size) are unmaintained ways and not maintained by mechanical means.

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 on an annual basis. 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 on at least a semi-annual basis. Most public use is associated with hunting from mid August through November when the roads are traveled 4-5 times a week. Camping and recreation use occurs in late summer and fall each year.

N. boundary: BLM Road 7222-0-100 Beshell Grade Road
ONDA Photo Points: None
BLM route analysis Photo Points: PB-26

E. boundary: BLM Road 7222-0-1A0 Weaver Springs Road
ONDA Photo Points: None
BLM route analysis Photo Points: PB-22, PB-23

S. boundary: Private Land and BLM Road 7222-0-1C0 Sand Dune Road
ONDA Photo Points: None
BLM route analysis Photo Points:

W. boundary: BLM Road 7222-0-100 Beshell Grade Road
ONDA Photos: None
BLM route analysis Photo Points: PB-18, PB-19

Cherry Stem Road: Side road into Weaver Lake
BLM route analysis photo point: PB-24

Where an inventory unit is bounded by a road or other linear feature that is authorized by an existing right-of-way, the legal right-of-way boundary rather than the feature itself shall be deemed the wilderness inventory unit boundary.

The following BLM photo references show examples of current road conditions in the Weaver Lake Unit.

PB-22 shows the Weaver Springs Road going south. It shows recent evidence-within the last 2-3 years- of road maintenance. There are earthen berms on each side of the road.

PB-23 shows the Weaver Springs road going north. There is a distinctive rock berm on the east side of the road.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes No N/A

Current Condition Description: The main geologic feature of the unit is the large playa lake bed known as Weaver Lake, located in the northeast corner. It is approximately 400-500 acres in size with two man-made waterholes located on the northwest and southeast ends of the lakebed. The unit is very flat, with little topography except a 100 foot rim running along the southern boundary of the unit for approximately 2 miles. Another smaller 50 foot rim runs northwest to southeast for about 2 miles in the southwest corner of the unit. The only man-made features that are present, but little noticed are the 6 water developments and some of the fences. The character of the area is primarily affected by the forces of nature. These forces are precipitation and the wildfire that burned 5,359 acres of the unit in 1984.

The unit currently has the following developments (See Unit Character Map):

Fences: 16 miles
Reservoirs: 5
Seedings: 0 acres
Boundary roads: 13 miles
Non-boundary roads: 7.5 miles
Pipelines: 0 miles
Wells: 0
Troughs: 0
Waterholes: 1
Brushbeat: 0 acres

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

Yes No N/A

Current Condition Description: This unit has very little topographic screening due to an elevation difference of only 344 feet from one side of the unit to the other. While this

is not uncommon in certain WSA's, the lack of a large vegetative screening component in the unit makes it difficult to experience solitude when more than one group of individuals is present in the area at the same time. More than half of the unit was burned in a wildfire that occurred in 1984. The vegetation in the burned area today is comprised mostly of grass species such as cheat grass, two species of needlegrass and bluebunch wheatgrass. Almost all of the unit can be seen from any part of the unit except for 300 to 400 acres lying below the rim on the southern boundary. These are the chief reasons the unit was found to not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Yes No N/A

Current Condition Description: Activities associated with the area include hunting for antelope and deer, sightseeing, hiking, horseback riding 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 than they were 10 years ago.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes No N/A

Current Condition Description: No inventories for species of concern, except sage grouse 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. Wild horses can occasionally be found in the unit.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: **Weaver Lake OR-025-004B**

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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Date

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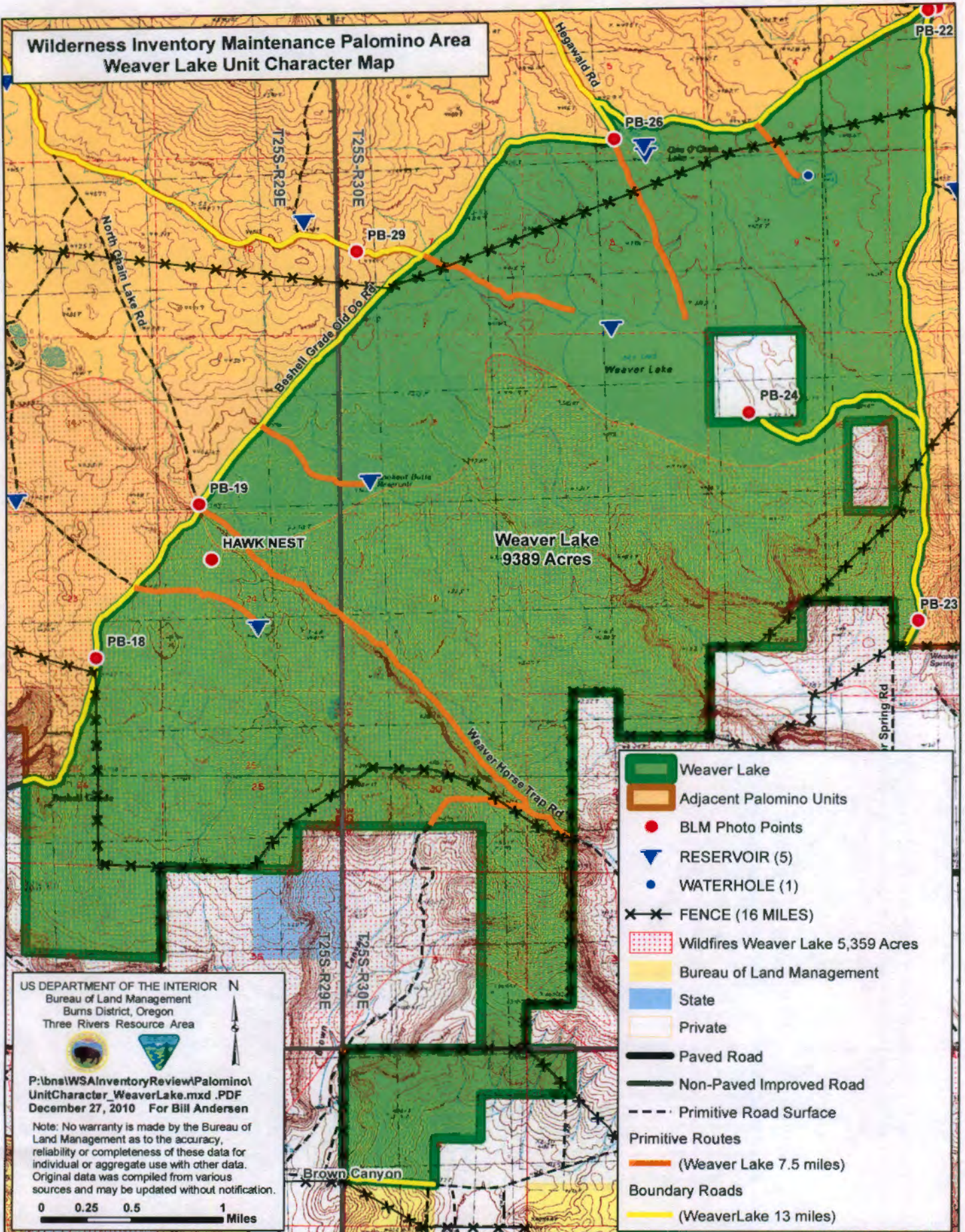
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Approved by:

Richard Ray 1/26/11
Three Rivers Field Manager - Burns District 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

Wilderness Inventory Maintenance Palomino Area Weaver Lake Unit Character Map



- Weaver Lake
- Adjacent Palomino Units
- BLM Photo Points
- RESERVOIR (5)
- WATERHOLE (1)
- FENCE (16 MILES)
- Wildfires Weaver Lake 5,359 Acres
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Private
- Paved Road
- Non-Paved Improved Road
- Primitive Road Surface
- Primitive Routes
- (Weaver Lake 7.5 miles)
- Boundary Roads (Weaver Lake 13 miles)

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Burns District, Oregon
Three Rivers Resource Area

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December 27, 2010 For Bill Andersen

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.

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles