

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

Year: 2008 Inventory Unit Number/Name: West Warm Springs Unit 12

**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 Inventory – OR/WA Final Intensive Inventory Decisions (November 1980), Pages 143-144

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Buzzard Creek Subunit under 5,000 acres

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): November 1980 Map

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

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):

Inventory Source: Wilderness Inventory – OR/WA Final Intensive Inventory Decisions (November 1980), Pages 143-144

Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
2-64 Subunit	<5000 acres	NA	NA	NA	NA

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

Unit Number/Name: West Warm Springs Unit 12

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: 7,296 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 the Current Conditions: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

Citizen Information Received: On September 19, 2007 the BLM received a citizen proposal from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) for the 462,828-acre Buzzard 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 of 2004 and June of 2005. They identified the Buzzard Creek proposed WSA as having no routes which meet their definition of a boundary road and included state land within their proposal.

As part of BLM's boundary determination process, it was determined that several of ONDA's "ways" are still boundary roads. It is BLM's finding that ONDA's Buzzard Creek proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is made of several smaller units that are similar, though not exactly the same, as those units identified by the 1979 and 1980 wilderness inventory effort.

Boundary changes since 1980: The boundaries for Unit 12 appear similar to those identified (See Unit Boundary Map 2) for subunit of 2-64, however a non-federal inholding has become BLM land, which is likely why Unit 12 now meets the size criteria.

Current Unit Boundaries:

See Unit Character Map for Photo Point (Pt.) Locations

N: Private land – also ONDA Boundary

E: Road 8211-0-A0 (BLM Route Analysis #1, Photo Pts. A1) (ONDA Photo Pts. FK-50 NNE, FK-51 SSW, FK-58 NNE) – this road was recently bladed likely after ONDA's photos were taken.

S: Road 7256-0-J0 (BLM Route Analysis #2) (ONDA Photo Pt. FK-62 SSW)

W: Road 7256-0-G0 and 8211-0-00 (No BLM or ONDA Photos)

Note: Other ONDA photo pts. did not appear to be of boundary roads for this BLM unit.

The ID-team confirmed that based on their knowledge of the area and reviewing ONDA's information the BLM information gathered as part of the unit boundary determination process, that these routes do meet boundary road criteria.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No N/A

Current Condition Description: The ID-team reviewed photos from the 1977 inventory effort and landscape related photos provided by ONDA. The unit is located approximately 28 miles southeast of the community of Wagontire. The unit contains a portion of Buzzard Creek where it is small and shallow. Other drainages are shallow and limited in size with some rolling hills. Sagebrush and grasses are the dominant vegetation. The primary human uses in the unit and the surrounding area are associated with livestock grazing and recreation by the public. A portion of the western boundary road and the entire eastern boundary road have been brush beat. This consists of mowing sagebrush (24 feet) on either side of the road to assist with providing a fire break (**See Unit Brush Beating Map**). Dozer lines are also observable around past wildfire suppression efforts however, these have not been mapped. The unit currently has the following developments (**See Unit Character Map**):

- 6.1 miles of interior routes (non-boundary roads)
- 1 waterhole
- 5 miles of fencing

The unit's relatively small size, long and narrow character and the location of the developments made making the naturalness determination more challenging for the ID-team, however, they still found that the imprint of humans is substantially unnoticeable. Finding the unit natural is generally

consistent with ONDA's proposal for their Buzzard Creek Unit, which they found to be natural as a whole.

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

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Current Condition Description: Unit 12 is long and narrow in shape, relatively small in size with only limited topographic and vegetative screening. The ID-team felt that the portion of Buzzard Creek which runs along the southern edge of the unit was not sufficient in size to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. ONDA's report indicated that the sheer size of their Buzzard Creek proposed WSA with endless rolling hills, rimrock ridges, and juniper stands (not present in this unit) make the opportunities for solitude outstanding. BLM found that ONDA's Buzzard Creek proposed WSA is not one large roadless area, but rather several smaller BLM units, including this unit.

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

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Current Condition Description: The ID-team found that recreation opportunities identified in ONDA's report for hiking, hunting, viewing wildlife, horseback riding, backpacking, camping, rock hounding and photography are likely present. ONDA indicated that the sheer size of their Buzzard Creek proposed WSA cannot help but provide for a diverse and exceptional recreational experience and that the endless rolling hills, rimrock ridges, juniper stands, multiple water features, and geologic structures present add to the interest of their unit. They also indicated they observed several wildlife species including birds of prey, pronghorn antelope, coyotes, badgers, and numerous birds.

While the recreation opportunities identified by both BLM and ONDA may be present, their diversity and quality are not unlike that which can be found on much of the public lands in eastern Oregon in the Northern Great Basin region. Again, BLM found that ONDA's Buzzard Creek proposed WSA is not one large roadless area, but rather several smaller BLM units, including this unit which is long and narrow in character and relatively small in size. The 1992 Three Rivers RMP/ROD show that this unit is open to off-road use by motorized vehicles; however, currently most motorized vehicle use appears to be occurring along existing roads. The long narrow character of this unit also makes it likely that the sites and sounds of motorized vehicles would be observable when encounters occur.

After reviewing the information submitted, the ID-team found that the recreation opportunities present are not unique and do not present

characteristics either individually or collectively that would result in these recreation activities being outstanding within the unit.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: West Warm Springs Unit 12

Summary Results of Analysis:

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

Conclusion (Check One):

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

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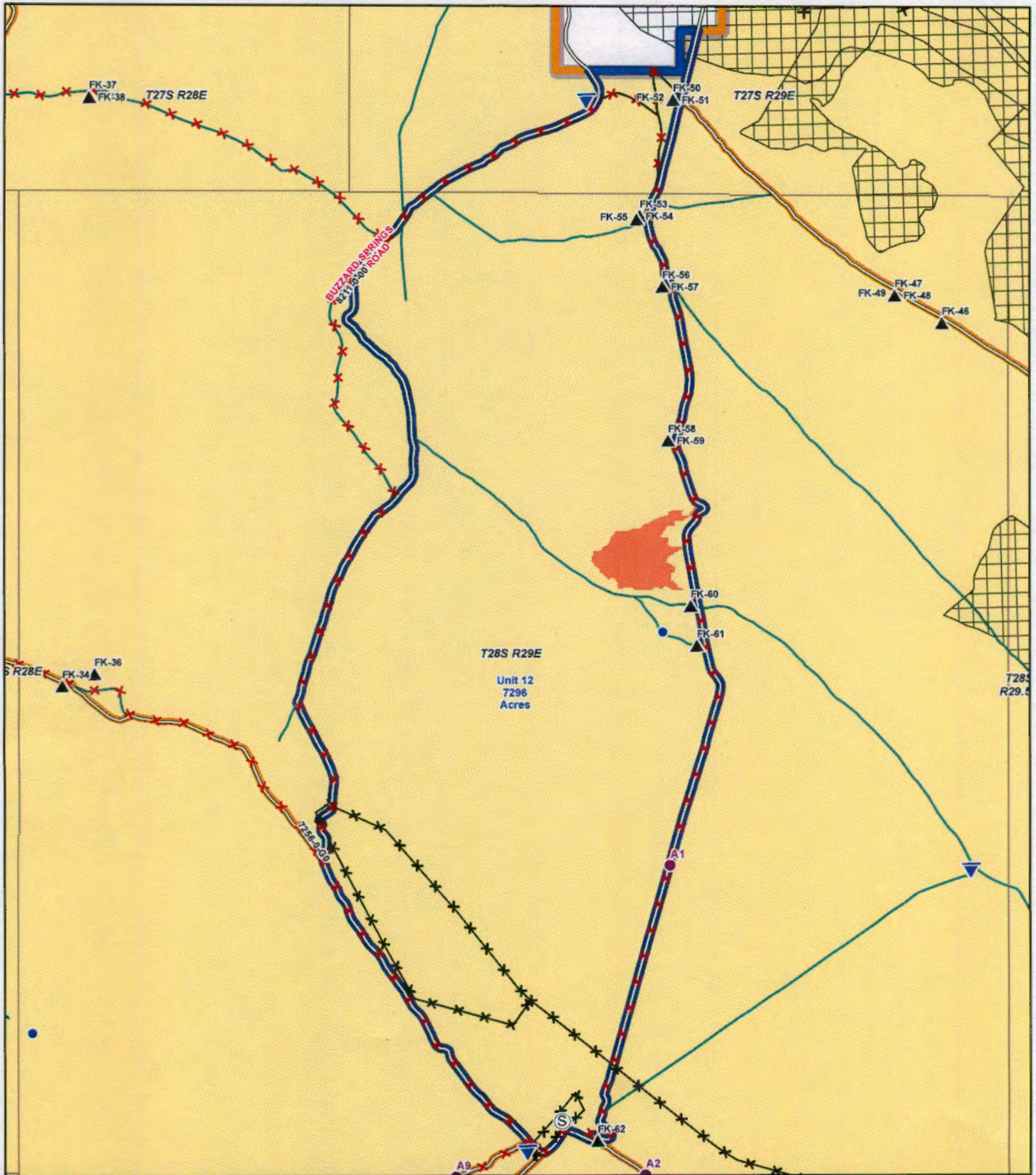
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This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.02



West Warm Springs Wilderness Character Unit Map ~ 12

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|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Unit | Mineral Materials Sites | STUDY PLOT | BRUSHBEAT | Powerline |
| Adjacent Units | CATTLE GUARD | TANK | DIKE | Wildfires 2002 to Present |
| BLM Photo Points | CORRAL | WATERHOLE | DRIFT FENCE | Bureau of Land Management |
| ONDA Photo Points | GATE | WELL | FENCE | BLM Wilderness Study Area |
| ONDA Unit Buzzard Creek | GATE | PIPELINE | EXCLOSURE FENCE | State |
| Burns District Boundary | RESERVOIR | SNOW FENCE | SEEDING | U.S. Fish & Wildlife |
| | | Major Roads | | No. Great Basin Exp. Range |
| | | | | Private |

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.

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

projects\WSAInventoryReview\WestWarmSp\IndividualUnit\BX11NoAnno.mxd for Laura Dowlan
 January 11, 2007
 All legend elements may not appear on this map.

