

**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 15

**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 140-151

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Wilson Butte Subunit 2-71

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 150-151

Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
2-71	15,930	Y	N	N	Y

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

Unit Number/Name: West Warm Springs Unit 15

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: 15,890 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 15 appear similar to those identified (See Unit Boundary Map 2) for Subunit 2-71, except a non-federal inholding is now BLM land.

Current Unit Boundaries:

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

N: BLM Road 7251-0-A0 (BLM Route Analysis #20, Photo Pt. A11) (No ONDA Photo Pts.)

N/E: BLM Road 7256-0-00 (ONDA Photo Pts. FU-9 SW, FU-11 SSW, FU-12 N, FU-23 NW, FU-25 N, FU-21 N, FU-6 NE, CY-16 W) only minimal vegetation consisting mostly of grasses are observable in these photos and these road is in a useable condition and does receive relatively regular use.

Interior Boundary Road: BLM 7256-0-K0 (BLM Route Analysis #24, Photo Pt. A14) (ONDA Photo Pt. FU-20 W)

SW: BLM Road 7251-0-H0 (BLM Route Analysis #23, Photo Pt. A13) (ONDA Photo Pts. FU-3 E, FU-4 NE, FU-7 NW)

SW: BLM Road 7251-0-00 (BLM Route Analysis #22, Photo Pt. A12) (ONDA Photo Pts. FU-2 E, CY-2 S) and Road 7251-0-D0 (BLM Route Analysis #21, Photo Pt. A11) (ONDA Photo Pt. CY-1 NE)

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

1980 Unit Description: The unit is located approximately nine miles east of the community of Wagontire. The 1980 Inventory Report described this unit as dominated by a flat terrace dotted with several dry lakebeds. The topographic relief is limited to a few rolling hills and scattered rimrock. The dominant vegetation is sagebrush and grasses. Though several developments and a seeding were identified, the unit was found to be in a natural condition.

Current Condition Description: The ID-team reviewed photos from the 1977 inventory effort and landscape related photos provided by ONDA. The general description above is still accurate with the addition of a 1,429-acre brush beating unit which was completed in 2006 (**See Unit Brush Beating Map**). The roads along the eastern boundary have also had

recent brush beating. This consists of mowing sagebrush (24 feet) on either side of the road to assist with providing a fire break. The primary human uses in the unit and the surrounding area are associated with livestock grazing and recreation by the public. The unit currently has the following developments (**See Unit Character Map**):

- 1.6 miles of interior routes (non-boundary roads)
- 3 water reservoirs and 8 water holes
- 6 miles of fencing

The ID-team found that many of these developments and treatments were along the outer edges of the unit or dispersed enough that the imprint of humans is still substantially unnoticeable and that the unit is in a natural condition. This finding 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 _____

1980 Unit Description: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The limited topographic and vegetative screening available in the area does not provide opportunities for a visitor to find a secluded spot away from the presence of others.

Current Condition Description: No changes to the current condition of the unit were identified by the ID-team related to solitude, other than the loss of vegetative screening in the area that received brush beating in the unit. 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.

Given the lack of topographic and vegetative screening in this unit, the ID-team concurred with the original finding that outstanding opportunities for solitude are not present.

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

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

1980 Unit Description: Opportunities for hunting, viewing wildlife, horseback riding, and hiking are present in this area. None of these opportunities is outstanding.

Current Condition Description: The ID-team found that the recreation opportunities identified above are likely still present. ONDA's report also identified backpacking, camping, rock hounding and photography. 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.

BLM found that ONDA's Buzzard Creek proposed WSA is not one large roadless area, but rather several smaller BLM units, including this unit. While the recreation opportunities identified by both BLM and ONDA may be present, no unique features of interest were identified for this particular BLM unit and 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. None of the game species generally hunted in the area, including and around this unit, are considered by the State as being unique or rare, thus these opportunities are not outstanding. 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.

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 15

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? 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, Wilderness Specialist

Team Members:

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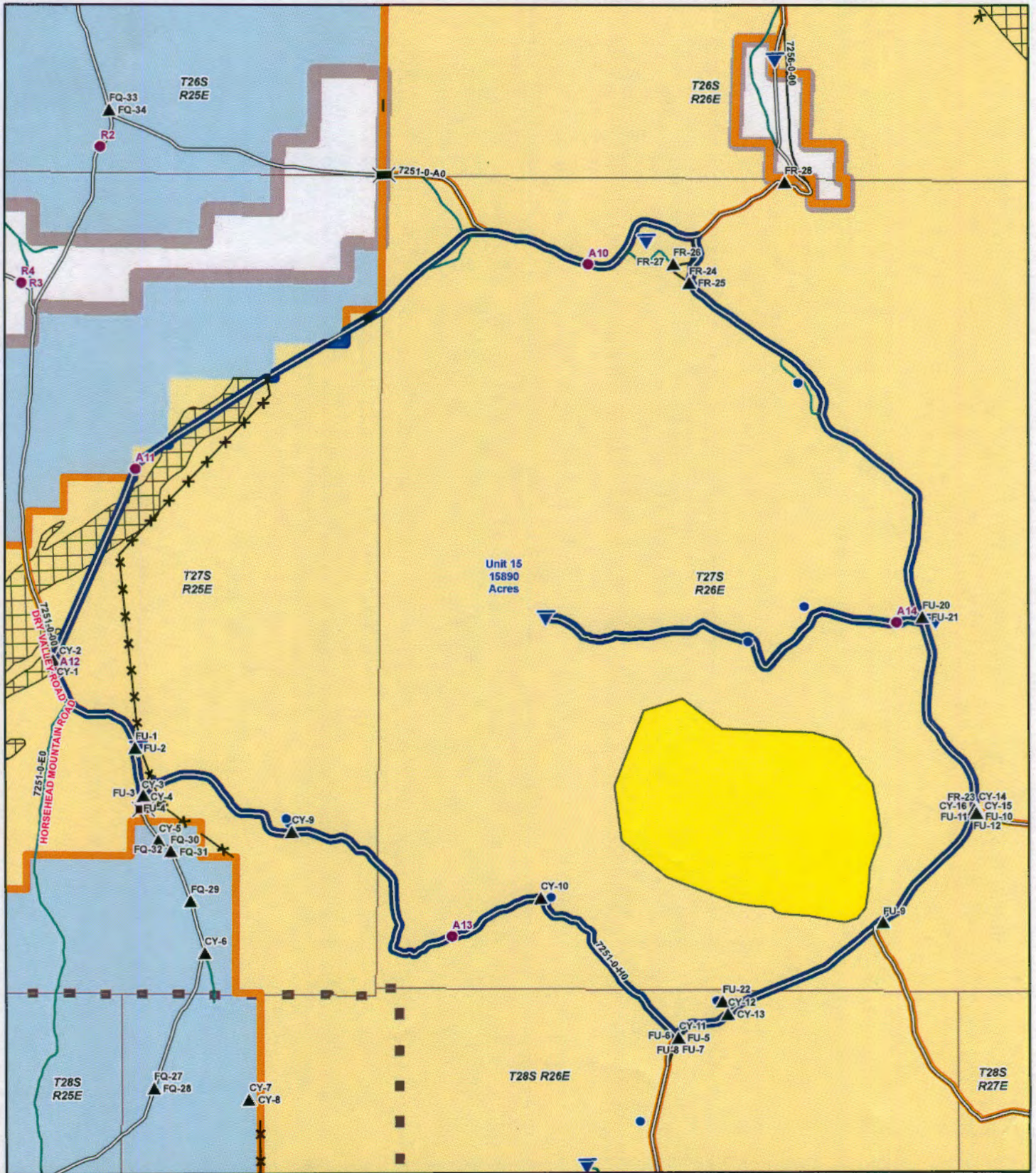
Willie Street 8-11-2008
Date
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Approved by:

Joan M. Suther 8/31/08
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



Unit 15
15890
Acres

West Warm Springs Wilderness Character Unit Map ~ 15

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Unit | Mineral Materials Sites | STUDY PLOT | BRUSHBEAT | Powerlines |
| Adjacent Units | CATTLE GUARD | TANK | DIKE | Unit Boundary Roads |
| BLM Photo Points | CORRAL | WATERHOLE | DRIFT FENCE | Interior Primitive Roads |
| ONDA Photo Points | GATE | WELL | FENCE | Pipeline |
| ONDA Unit Buzzard Creek | RESERVOIR | Major Roads | PIPELINE | BRUSHBEAT |
| Burns District Boundary | | | SNOW FENCE | EXCLOSURE FENCE |
| | | | SEEDING | |

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.

Land Administration

- Bureau of Land Management
- BLM Wilderness Study Area
- State
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife
- No. Great Basin Exp. Range
- Private

Wildfires 2002 to Present

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

projects\WSAInventoryReview\WestWarmSp\IndividualUnit8X11NoAnno.mxd for Laura Dowlan
January 11, 2007
All legend elements may not appear on this map.

