

**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 16

**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), Page 206

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Syrup Canyon Unit 2-114

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

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Burns District – Three Rivers Resource Area and Lakeview District – Lakeview 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), Page 206

Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
2-114	7,570	Y	N	N	Y

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

Unit Number/Name: West Warm Springs Unit 16

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: 11,333 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 similiar, 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 16 appear similar to those identified (See Unit Boundary Map 2) for subunit 2-114. The northwest boundary changed due to BLM land becoming state land. The Boundary along the southwest changed due to a route originally identified as a boundary road, being identified as a non-boundary road in the field review, making the current Unit 16 larger.

Current Unit Boundaries:

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

N: Road 7251-0-H0 (BLM Route Analysis #23, Photo Pt. A13) (ONDA Photo Pts. FU-4 NE, CY-3 S)

E: Road 7256-0-00 (BLM Route Analysis #25, Photo Pt. A15) (ONDA Photo Pts. FU-5 SE, FU-7NW, FU-25 S, FU-26 N, FU-28 NNW, CY-11 S)

S: Road 7251-0-1F0 (BLM Route Analysis #26, Photo Pt. A16) (ONDA Photo Pt. FU-29 SSW) and Road 7251-0-1G0 & 2G0 (BLM Route Analysis #27, Photo Pt. A17 and BLM Route Analysis #28, Photo Pt. A18) (ONDA Photo Pt. CZ-56 W) this road was recently bladed likely after ONDA's photo were taken

W: Road 7251-0-00 which the unit character map indicates has an improvement of a cattleguard and ownership boundary with state land

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

Both ID-teams from the Burns and Lakeview districts confirmed that based on their knowledge of the area and reviewing ONDA information and the BLM information gathered as part of the unit boundary determination process, that these routes do meet boundary road criteria.

ONDA also included state land in their proposed Buzzard Creek WSA. BLM does not have the authority to evaluate wilderness characteristics on state land, so it was not included in this unit.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No N/A

1980 Unit Description: The unit is located approximately ten miles southeast of the community of Wagontire. The 1980 Inventory Report described this unit as having topography which consists of flat table land with a few gently rolling hills. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grasses. Though several developments 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 brush beating along some of the boundary roads and a 992-acre brush beating area located within the unit that was completed in 2006. Brushbeating along some of the boundary roads has occurred within the last three years

and 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**):

- 5.8 miles of interior routes (non-boundary roads).
- 6 miles of fencing
- 2 reservoirs and 1 waterhole

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: Due to the lack of topographic screening or vegetative screening, the irregular shape, and the relatively small size, this unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for a visitor to obtain a feeling of solitude.

Current Condition Description: While Unit 16 is now larger, the ID-team found it still has very limited topographic and vegetative screening. ONDA's report indicated that the sheer size of their proposed Buzzard Creek 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 proposed Buzzard Creek WSA is not one large roadless area, but rather several smaller units, including this BLM unit. Given the lack of topographic and vegetative screening, the ID-team found this unit still does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

(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; however, they are not 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 proposed Buzzard Creek WSA cannot help but provide for a diverse and exceptional recreational experience and that the endless rolling hills, rimrock ridges, juniper stands and 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.

The BLM found that ONDA's proposed Buzzard Creek WSA is not one large roadless area, but rather several smaller units, including this unit. While the recreation opportunities identified by both BLM and ONDA may be present, no unique features of particular interest were identified for this BLM unit and the diversity and quality of the recreational opportunities 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.

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. Below is additional supporting BLM information related to recreation resources for this unit.

Both the 2003 Lakeview Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (RMP/ROD) and 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 for this unit.

Recreation opportunities within the entire Lakeview Resource Area have also been addressed through the designation of extensive and special recreation management areas in the Lakeview RMP/ROD. An extensive recreation management area (ERMA) is defined in the Lakeview RMP/ROD (page 113) as an area "where significant recreation opportunities and problems are limited and explicit recreation management is not required." This inventory unit was included in an ERMA designation along with much of the rest of the lands within the Lakeview District (RMP/ROD, page 84 and Map R-9), further indicating that the existing or potential recreation opportunities available in this area are not outstanding when compared with the rest of the public lands in the Lakeview Resource Area. BLM lands in this unit also fall within the Three Rivers ERMA (Three Rivers RMP/ROD, page 2-108-109, Map R-1).

During the development of the Lakeview RMP/ROD, the BLM classified all of the public lands within the planning area into one of six recreation

opportunity spectrum (ROS) classes (primitive, semiprimitive nonmotorized, semiprimitive motorized, roaded natural, rural, and urban). Class definitions and criteria (remoteness, size, evidence of human use, social setting, and managerial setting) used in developing the ROS classification for lands in the Lakeview Resource Area are available in the in Appendix M2 (Pages A-287-288 and A-291) of the 2001 Draft Lakeview Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

Map R-3 of the Lakeview RMP/ROD shows that this unit falls within the ROS class of semi-primitive motorized. This classification was identified in recognition of the fact that motorized recreational use is allowed and expected. In contrast, those areas identified as falling within a semi-primitive non-motorized class are areas that have a high potential for "outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation . . . where the use of the area is through non-motorized, non-mechanical means." BLM lands in this unit for the Three Rivers Resource Area have not been classified under the ROS system, but have similar characteristics as those in the Lakeview Resource Area.

(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 16**

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 X NA

Conclusion (Check One):

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

Prepared by: Laura Dowlan, Wilderness Specialist

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Willie Street, Range Management Specialist – Burns District Date

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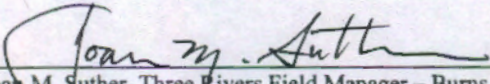
Kim McLean 9/15/08
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Paul Whitman, Planning & Environmental Coordinator – Lakeview District Date

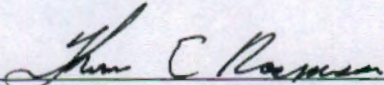
Jayna Ferrell 9/12/08
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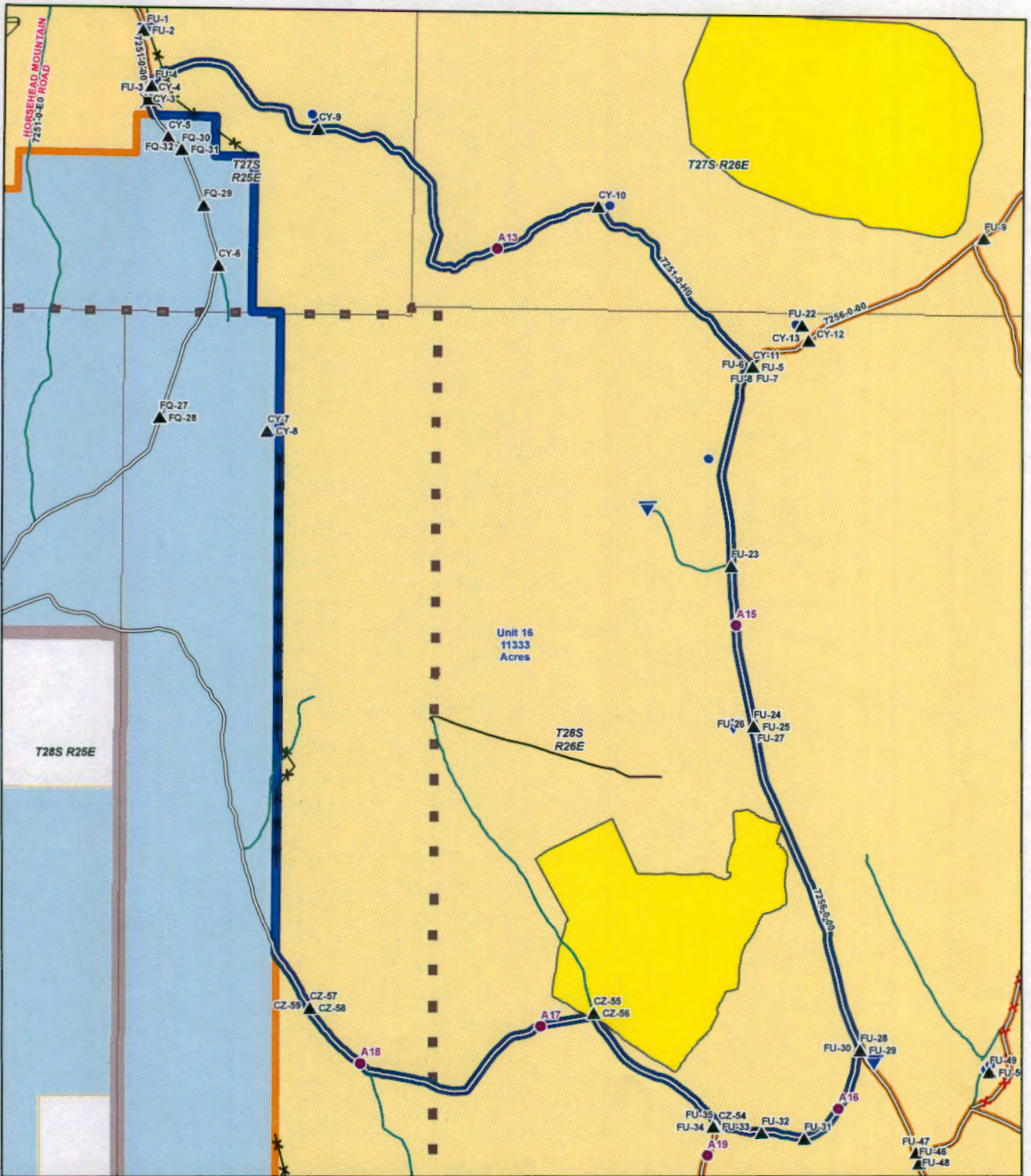

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Date


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9/18/08
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



West Warm Springs Wilderness Character Unit Map ~ 16

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|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Unit | Mineral Materials Sites | STUDY PLOT | BRUSHBEAT | Powerline |
| 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 | BRUSHBEAT |
| ONDA Unit Buzzard Creek | RESERVOIR | PIPELINE | SNOW FENCE | EXCLOSURE FENCE |
| Burns District Boundary | | Major Roads | SEEDING | |

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

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 January 11, 2007
 All legend elements may not appear on this map.

