

**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 24

**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 46-47

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Rawhide Creek Unit 1-53

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), Pages 46-47

Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
1-53	21,600	N	N	N	Y

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

Unit Number/Name: West Warm Springs Unit 24

**(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?**

Current Unit Acres: 6,290 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 north, west and east boundaries for Unit 24 appear similar to those identified (See Unit Boundary Map 2) for Unit 1-53. The southern portion of Unit 24 is now separated from the rest of Unit 1-53 by roads as described below, making the unit smaller.

**Current Unit Boundaries:**

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

**N:** Road 7251-0-1G0/2G0/2F0 (BLM Route Analysis #26, 27, 28 and Photo Pts. A17 and A18) (ONDA Photo Pt. CZ-56 W) - the 1G/2G0 portion of this route was recently bladed, likely after ONDA's photos were taken.

**E:** Road 6155-0-02 (BLM Route Analysis #15) (ONDA Photo Pts. FU-36 NNE, FU-40 S) and Road # 7251-0-2FA (BLM Route Analysis #29 and Photo Pt. A19) (ONDA Photo Pt. CW-53 NW) ONDA's photo for this route indicates that it is impassable, however staff that completed the route analysis confirmed it was useable when they drove it, so it is unclear what route this photo was taken of.

**S:** Unnumbered Road (BLM Route Analysis #13, Photo Pt. R10) (ONDA Photo Pts. CW-45 NE and CW-47 SE) and Unnumbered Road (BLM Route Analysis #14, Photo Pt. R11) (ONDA Photo Pt. CW-48 E) and Warner Valley Road (BLM Route Analysis #15) (ONDA Photo Pts. CZ-51?(no direction indicated in log) and CZ-52 NW) Though the photo points are shown as a slightly different location than CZ-53, these appear to be photos of the same location. Again BLM staff confirmed that this route is useable, so it is unclear what route these photos were taken of.

**Interior Boundary Road:** This road (BLM Route Analysis #13) (No ONDA Photos) leads into the unit.

**W:** Road 6165-0-00 (BLM Route Analysis #12) (No ONDA Photos) 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 12 miles southeast of the community of Wagontire. The 1980 Inventory Report described this unit as basically a high plateau with Rawhide Canyon along the north and east, and several tributaries to the Rawhide Creek forming substantial canyons within the unit. The canyons are the only significant topographic relief and reach a maximum depth of perhaps 200 feet. The canyon walls are generally sloped with few vertical or near-vertical features. Vegetation in the unit is a sagebrush community with low sage over the majority of the unit and big sagebrush occurring in the wetter areas. Several large reservoirs and other developments were found to be substantially noticeable and the unit was found to not have naturalness.

**Current Condition Description:** The ID-team reviewed landscape related photos provided by ONDA. The current unit does not contain Rawhide Canyon and the drainages present in this unit are smaller in size than those described above. It also does not contain a majority of the developments found to make the 1-53 unit unnatural. 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**):

- 2.8 miles of interior routes (non-boundary roads)
- 8 miles of fencing
- 1 Reservoir

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:** It would be very difficult to achieve solitude in the majority of the plateau area because a visitor would be exposed to the presence of others in the unit. There is some opportunity for solitude in the canyons of the unit although these areas would be concentrated use areas, and as such could not provide an outstanding potential for avoiding the presence of other persons. The canyons are not large enough to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

**Current Condition Description:** The current unit does not contain the larger canyons as described for the larger 1-53 Unit. 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.

The ID-team found that because of the lack of topographic screening or vegetative screening, the irregular shape, and the relatively small size of this unit, opportunities for outstanding solitude are not present.

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

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No   X   N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**1980 Unit Description:** The area offers opportunities for hunting and horseback riding as well as hiking. The canyons are interesting and offer a potential for recreation. However, the human disturbances in these areas would severely hamper the prospect of a primitive and unconfined experience.

**Current Condition Description:** The ID-team found that the recreation opportunities identified above are likely still present. ONDA's report also identified backpacking, wildlife viewing, 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 were identified for this particular BLM unit and the diversity and quality of these 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 24**

**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.

**Prepared by: Laura Dowlan, Wilderness Specialist**

**Team Members:**

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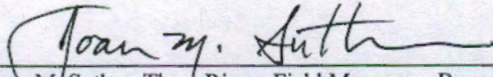
Paul Whitman 9/12/2008  
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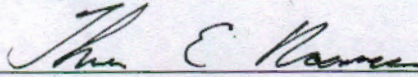
**Approved by:**



Joan M. Suther, Three Rivers Field Manager – Burns District

8/31/08

Date

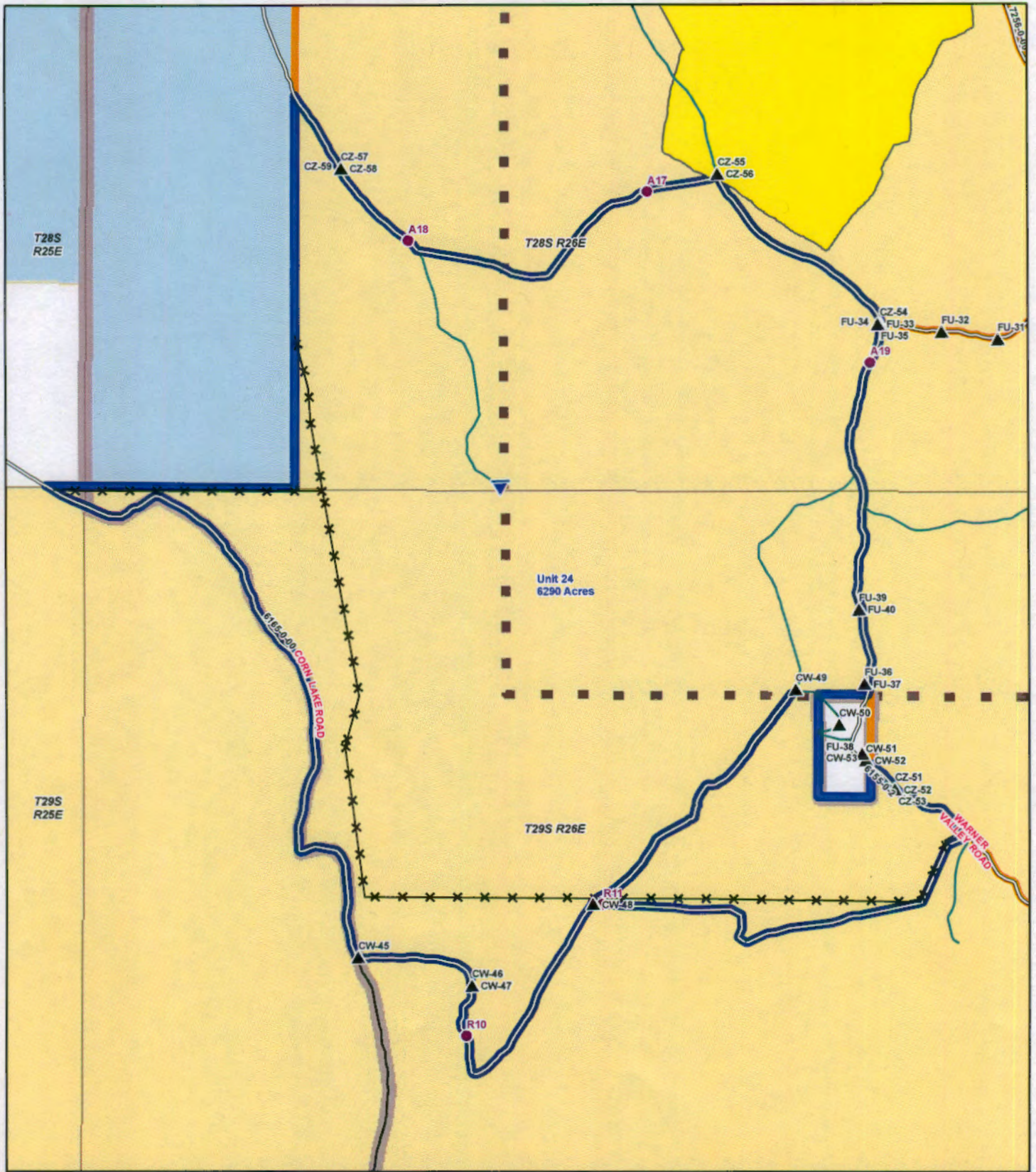


Thomas E. Rasmussen, Lakeview Field Manager – Lakeview District

9/19/08

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 ~ 24**

- |                         |                         |             |                 |                            |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Unit                    | Mineral Materials Sites | STUDY PLOT  | BRUSHBEAT       | Powerlines                 |
| Adjacent Units          | CATTLE GUARD            | TANK        | DIKE            | Wilderness 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 | RESERVOIR               | Major Roads | PIPELINE        | State                      |
| Burne District Boundary |                         |             | SNOW FENCE      | U.S. Fish & Wildlife       |
|                         |                         |             | EXCLOSURE FENCE | No. Great Basin Esp. Range |
|                         |                         |             | SEEDING         | 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

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

