

**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 25

**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 146-147

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Iron Mountain Subunit 2-67C

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 146-147

Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
2-67C	10,160	Y	N	N	Y

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

Unit Number/Name: West Warm Springs Unit 25

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: 11,525 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 25 appear similar to those identified (See Unit Boundary Map 2) for Subunit 2-67C, except that one of the subunits under 5,000 acres in size and containing Iron Mountain is now part of the unit because the route separating the two subunits was found to no longer be a boundary road. In addition, a non-

federal parcel is not BLM land. Both of these changes increased the acreage of Unit 25.

Current Unit Boundaries:

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

N: Road 7258-0-00 and an unnumbered road. ONDA's map shows the same boundary.

E: Private land

S: Road 7255-0-B0 (BLM Route Analysis #48, Photo Pt. A43) (ONDA Photo Pts. GR-3 SW, GR-6 SSE).

W: Road 7256-0-00 and Road 7255-0-00 (BLM Route Analysis #57, Photo Pts. RS1 and RS2 and Route Analysis #59, Photo Pts. RS3 and RS4) (ONDA Photo Pts. GR-13 NNW, FR 15 NE). It is unclear why ONDA's GR-13 photo looks so different than the BLM photos, may be prior to the brushbeating treatment.

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 29 miles southwest of the community of Burns. The 1980 Inventory Report described this unit as consisting of flat to gently rolling hills with a few long, low ridges running northwest to southeast. Iron Mountain rises to 5,400 feet just outside of Subunit C and vegetation is primarily big and low sagebrush, rabbit brush and grasses.

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 however Iron Mountain is now part of this unit. Since the 1980 report there has been recent brush beating in the last three years along a portion of the southern boundary road. Brush beating consists of mowing sagebrush (24 feet) on either side of the road to assist with providing a fire break (**See Unit Brush Beating Map**). There is also a 1,976-acre seeding in the northern edge of the unit

that was drill seeded with non-native crested wheatgrass following a wildfire and is observable as an unnatural feature. 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**):

- 4.3 miles of interior routes
- 6 miles of fencing
- 1 well

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 flat to gently rolling terrain in Subunit C, coupled with the lack of vegetative screening, does not provide an outstanding opportunity for a user to find a secluded spot and achieve solitude.

Current Condition Description: The main change identified by the team above was the presence of Iron Mountain in the unit. The mountain itself has little vegetation to screen those on it from the sights and sounds of others and given its location along the eastern boundary of the unit it provides only limited screening to the rest of the unit. ONDA's report indicated that the sheer size of their Buzzard Creek proposed WSA with its 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.

The ID-team did not feel that Iron Mountain or other vegetative and topographic screening in the unit offered enough topographic screening in the unit to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

1980 Unit Description: The subunit provides opportunities for activities such as hunting, viewing wildlife, and hiking; however, none of these activities are outstanding.

Current Condition Description: The ID-team found that the recreation opportunities identified above are likely still present. ONDA's report also identified horseback riding, backpacking, camping, rock hounding, and photography and indicated that the sheer size of their Buzzard Creek proposed WSA cannot help but provide for a diverse and exceptional recreational experience with its endless rolling hills, rimrock ridges, juniper stands, multiple water features, and geologic structures present that 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. 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.

It was confirmed that Iron Mountain is part of BLM Unit 25. The team discussed that if Iron Mountain was part of Unit 25, that it is a unique and generally well known feature in the area that receives special interest by the public for recreational activities. While the remaining portion of the unit offers recreation opportunities that are not particularly unique or outstanding, Iron Mountain is an important feature that does contribute to making some of the recreation opportunities identified above as being outstanding in the unit. This is generally consistent with ONDA's findings for their Buzzard Creek proposed WSA as a whole.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes No N/A

1980 Unit Description: The subunit lies in a major avian flyway from Hart Mountain to Silver Creek Valley, Oregon.

Current Condition Description: No additional information about the avian flyway could be identified by BLM staff for any specific species of concern or public interest, so it is unclear why it was identified as a supplemental value. The ID-team found that the unit is part of the Warm Springs Herd Management Area and does contain wild horses and burros. The unit does contain some cultural resources associated with prehistoric use by indigenous people. The unit provides habitat for pygmy rabbits and greater sage-grouse, both of which are Bureau Sensitive Species.

ONDA also listed several other species which they identified as "federal species of concern" such as California bighorn sheep, burrowing owls, and peregrine falcons. BLM staff reviewed these species, but did not feel they would be a supplemental value for this unit. Peregrine falcons are a

Bureau Sensitive Species and may occasionally fly over, but are not known to nest in this area. Burrowing owls do not currently have any federal status, but are likely present in the general area including this unit. California bighorn sheep do not currently have any federal status and they may occasionally migrate through the general area, however, the habitat in this area is not ideal for bighorn sheep and sightings would be expected to be very rare.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: **West Warm Springs Unit 25**

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

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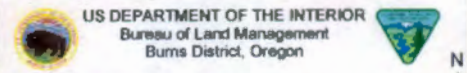
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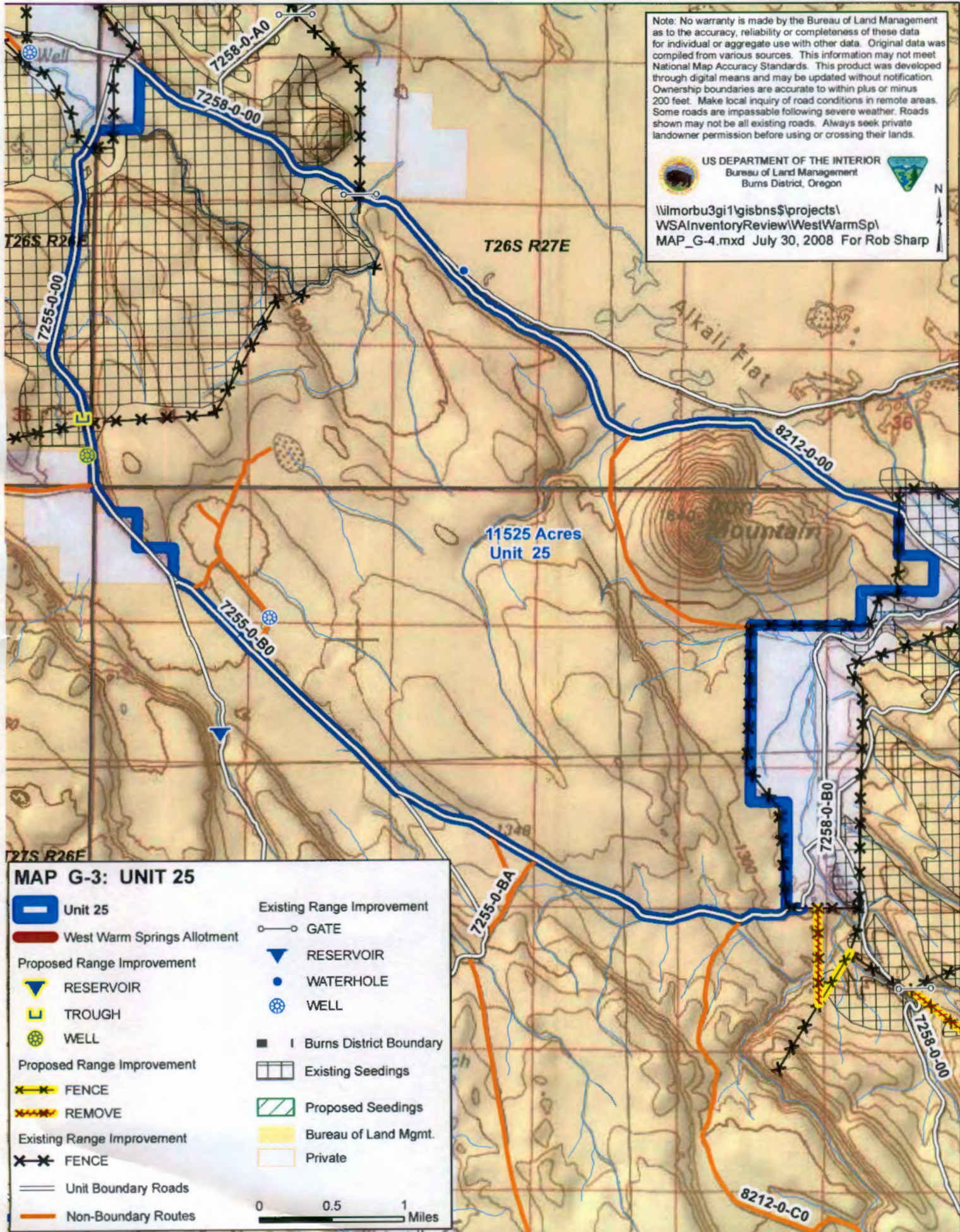
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This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.02

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. Make local inquiry of road conditions in remote areas. Some roads are impassable following severe weather. Roads shown may not be all existing roads. Always seek private landowner permission before using or crossing their lands.



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MAP G-3: UNIT 25

Unit 25	Existing Range Improvement
West Warm Springs Allotment	GATE
Proposed Range Improvement	RESERVOIR
RESERVOIR	WATERHOLE
TROUGH	WELL
WELL	Burns District Boundary
Proposed Range Improvement	Existing Seedings
FENCE	Proposed Seedings
REMOVE	Bureau of Land Mgmt.
Existing Range Improvement	Private
FENCE	
Unit Boundary Roads	
Non-Boundary Routes	

