

**WILDERNESS INVENTORY MAINTENANCE
IN BLM OREGON/WASHINGTON**

Year: 2008

Inventory Unit Number/Name: West Warm Springs Unit 5

**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, Proposed Initial Inventory – Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics, Oregon and Washington, April 1979

b) **Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s):** 2-35

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** April 1979 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, Proposed Initial Inventory – Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics, Oregon and Washington – no narrative was provided for this unit it was only displayed on map as previously inventoried BLM unit found not to have wilderness characteristics.

| Unit#/Name | Size (historic acres) | Natural Condition? Y/N | Outstanding Solitude? Y/N | Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N | Supplemental Values? Y/N |
|------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 2-35 | Not provided | N | N | N | N |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

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

Unit Number/Name: West Warm Springs Unit 5

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: 19,093 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 1979: The boundaries for Unit 5 appear similar to those identified (See Unit Boundary Map 1) for Subunit 2-35, except a non-federal inholding is now BLM land.

Current Unit Boundaries:

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

N: Road 7258-0-00 and 7255-0-00 – Same as ONDA proposed unit boundary (No BLM Photo Pts.) (ONDA Photo Pts. FR-10 E, FR-11 S, GQ-40 SSW GQ-41 NNW)

E: Road 7255-0-00 (BLM Route Analysis #34, Photo Pt. A25) (ONDA Photo Pts. FR-15 NE, GR-13 NNW, GR-12 WNW) and Road 7256-0-00 (BLM Route Analysis #35, Photo Pt. A26) (ONDA Photo Pts. FR-17 SW, CY-18 NE) and private land

S: Road 7256-0-A0 (BLM Route Analysis #37, Photo Pt. A27) (ONDA Photo Pts. FR-21 W, CY-16 W, FU-10 E, CY-14 SE)

W: Road 7256-0-00 (ONDA Photo Pts. FU-12 N, FU-21 N, FR-9 S, FR-23 NW, FR-25 N) and private land. While there is minimal vegetation in the center of the road, it is not overgrown and is in a useable condition and does continue to get relatively regular use.

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 nine miles east of the community of Wagontire. The topographic relief is limited to a few rolling hills and scattered rimrock. The dominant vegetation is sagebrush and grasses. The primary human uses in the unit and the surrounding area are associated with livestock grazing and recreation by the public.

The roads along the western boundary have had recent brush beating. 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**). The unit contains two crested wheatgrass (non-native species) seedings (2,892 acres) that were drill seeded in 2002 and 2004 and are still observable as an unnatural feature. The unit currently has the following developments (**See Unit Character Map**):

- 6.1 miles of interior routes (non-boundary roads)
- 3 reservoirs and 2 waterholes
- 1 gate
- 4 miles of fencing

The ID-team found that 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 _____

Current Condition Description: While there are limited topographic features, they are not significant enough to provide sufficient screening for outstanding opportunities for solitude. Vegetative screening is also limited and juniper stands are not present.

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. As part of its boundary determination process, the BLM found that ONDA's Buzzard Creek proposed WSA is not one large contiguous roadless area, but rather several smaller BLM units, including this unit.

The ID-team found that given the limited topographic and vegetative screening in this particular unit outstanding opportunities for solitude are not present.

(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 similar opportunities for recreation are available as identified for other BLM units in the general area and in ONDA's report. These include hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, 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 at 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. The BLM found that ONDA's Buzzard Creek proposed WSA is not one large contiguous roadless area, but rather several smaller BLM units including this unit.

No unique features of interest were identified for this unit and the diversity and quality of the recreational opportunities for this particular unit 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 shows that this unit is open to off-road use by motorized vehicles. However, currently most motorized vehicle use appears to be occurring along existing routes in this unit and given the long narrow shape of this unit, the sites and sounds of motorized vehicles are likely to be encountered when present.

The ID-team determined that this unit's recreational opportunities do not collectively nor individually possess attributes which would provide outstanding opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes No N/A

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: West Warm Springs Unit 5

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:

Laura Dowlan 9/5/08
Laura Dowlan, Outdoor Recreation Planner (Wilderness Specialist) – Burns District Date

Brett Page 8/20/08
Brett Page, Outdoor Recreation Planner – Burns District Date

Nick Miller 8/18/08
Nick Miller, Wildlife Biologist – Burns District Date

RT Sharp 8/25/2008
Rob Sharp, Range Management Specialist – Burns District Date

Ronda P. Purdy 8-13-2008
Ronda Purdy, Range Technician – Burns District Date

Fred McDonald 8/22/08
Fred McDonald, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist – Burns District Date

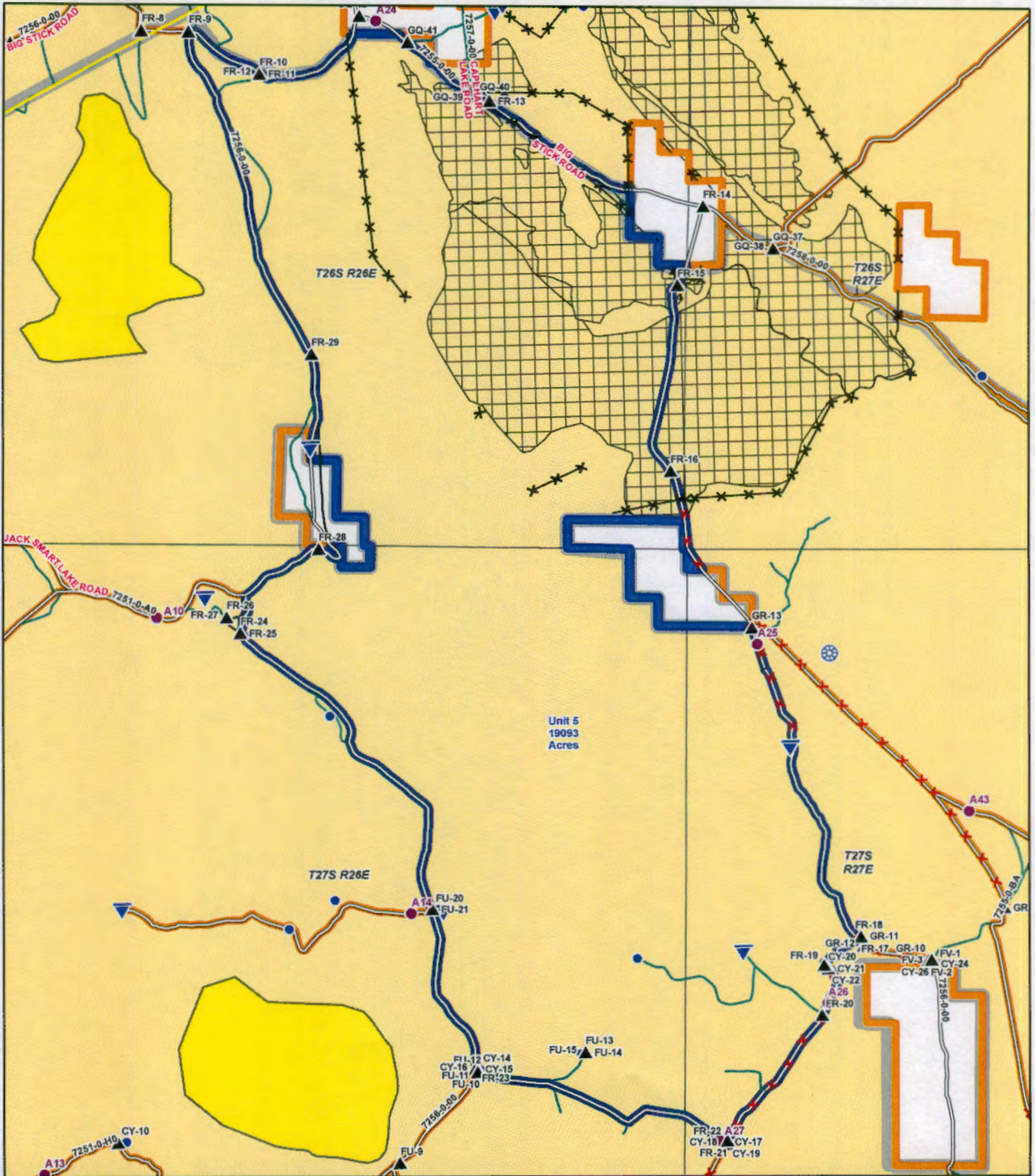
Willie Street 8-11-2008
Willie Street, Range Management Specialist – Burns District Date

Autumn Richardson 8-11-2008
Autumn Richardson, SCEP Range Management Specialist – Burns District Date

Approved by:

Joan M. Suther 8/27/08
Joan M. Suther, Three Rivers Field Manager – Burns District 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 ~ 5

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 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 | U.S. Fish & Wildlife |
| ONDA Unit Buzzard Creek | RESERVOIR | Major Roads | PIPELINE | No. Great Basin Exp. Range |
| Burns District Boundary | | | ENCLOSURE FENCE | Private |
| | | | SNOW 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.

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

projects\WSAInventoryReview\WestWarmSp\IndividualUnit\0X11NoAnno.mxd for Laura Dowlan
 January 11, 2007

0 0.35 0.7 1.4 Miles

Legend elements may not appear on this map.