

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

Year: 2008 Inventory Unit Number/Name: West Warm Springs Unit 6

**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 145-148

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Deep Canyon Subunit 2-65A and Smokey Hollow Subunit 2-68A

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 145-148

Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
2-65A	5,390	Y	N	N	Y
2-68A	7,690	Y	N	N	Y

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

Unit Number/Name: West Warm Springs Unit 6

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: 18,871 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 6 have changed for several reasons making the unit much larger. Several boundary roads identified in the 1980 report were found to no longer be boundary roads in their current condition, so two subunits were combined. In addition, several non-federal parcels are now BLM land.

Current Unit Boundaries:

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

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

E & S: BLM Road 7258-0-00 (BLM Route Analysis #58, Photo Pts. RS8 and RS9) (no ONDA Photos) and BLM Road 8212-0-CB (BLM Route Analysis #43, Photo Pt. A36 and A37) (ONDA Photo Pts. CZ-3 NE)

W & S: BLM Road 7256-0-00 (BLM Route Analysis #31, Photo Pt. A22 and BLM Route Analysis #59, Photo Pt. RS5 south) (ONDA Photo Pts. CZ-5 WNW, CY-35 SE, CY-31 ESE) and BLM Road 7255-0-00 (BLM Route Analysis #31, Photo Pt. RS7)

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 units are located approximately 30 miles southwest of the community of Burns. The 1980 Inventory Report described two of the subunits that were over 5,000 acres. Subunit 2-65A was identified as having topography dominated by flat uplands with little topographic relief. A canyon is located in the northern portion and a small rim is in the eastern portion. Subunit 2-68A is primarily a plateau edged with rimrock and rising above a flat valley floor. On the top of the plateau a few flat-topped rocky buttes are scattered in the north end of the subunit while the remaining area is generally flat. The vegetation in both subunits is predominantly sagebrush 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. In the original 1977 field inventory of this area, a route running north to south through the center of Unit 6 was identified as a unit boundary road between Subunits 2-65A and 2-68A. As part of the inventory update process, BLM determined that this route was no longer a unit boundary road. In addition, in 1980, the part of Unit 6 which contained most of Buzzard Canyon was non-federal land, so this was not a feature that was part of any of the original units evaluated. Vegetative treatments include brush beating along some of the unit boundary roads and interior routes (See Unit Brush Beating Map).

Brush beating consists of mowing sagebrush (24 feet) on either side of the road to assist with providing a fire break. There is also a relatively small 131-acre seeding in the northern edge of the unit that was drill seeded with non-native crested wheatgrass following a wildfire. 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**):

- 16.6 miles of interior routes
- 3 miles of fencing
- 1 reservoir and four waterholes
- 2 corrals

The ID-team found that the developments and treatments were either 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 is generally consistent with ONDA's findings for their proposed Buzzard Creek Unit as a whole.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

1980 Unit Description: The 1980 inventory report for Subunit 2-65A described a canyon area which offers some opportunity for solitude; however, it extends only one-half mile into the subunit and lacks vegetative screening. The remaining portions of the area lack topographic diversity and vegetative screening, preventing the user from achieving an outstanding feeling of solitude. Subunit 2-68A was described as having virtually no topographic or vegetative screening that would allow visitors to find a secluded spot or screen themselves from others. Neither unit was found to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Current Condition Description: ONDA's report indicated that the sheer size of their proposed 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 units, including this BLM unit.

The two key changes identified by the ID-team were the increase in the unit size as a result of combining several subunits and the addition of Buzzard Canyon which is now BLM land. The ID-team found that while this unit is still relatively long and narrow with limited vegetative screening on a portion of the unit, the topographic screening provided by both Buzzard Canyon and Deep Canyon is sufficient to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. This is generally consistent with ONDA's findings for their Buzzard Creek proposed WSA as a whole.

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

Yes No N/A

1980 Unit Description: The subunits provide 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. 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. Again, BLM found that ONDA's Buzzard Creek proposed WSA is not one large roadless area, but rather several smaller units, including this unit.

The ID-team found that the two canyons are important features that contributed to making some of the recreation opportunities identified above as being outstanding. This is generally consistent with ONDA's findings for their proposed Buzzard Creek Unit as a whole.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes No N/A

1980 Unit Description: Subunit 2-65A was found to offer winter range for wild horses and subunit 2-68A was found to lie 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. This unit does contain some cultural resources associated with prehistoric use by indigenous people. This unit provides habitat for pygmy rabbits and greater sage-grouse, both of which are Bureau Sensitive Species. The unit also has geological features of interest primarily associated with Buzzard and Deep Canyons.

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 6**

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

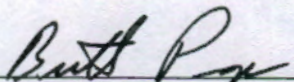
Conclusion (Check One):

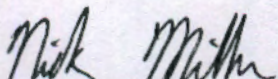
- The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.
- The area does not have wilderness character.

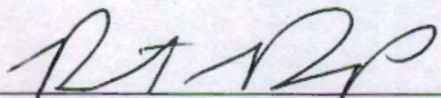
Prepared by: Laura Dowlan, Wilderness Specialist

Team Members:



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

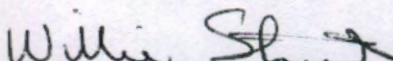

Brett Page, Outdoor Recreation Planner – Burns District
Date 8/20/08

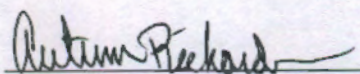

Nick Miller, Wildlife Biologist – Burns District
Date 8/18/08


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

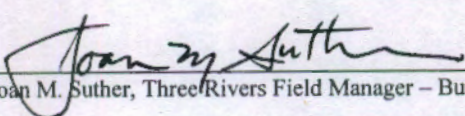

Ronda Purdy, Range Technician – Burns District
Date 8-13-2008


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

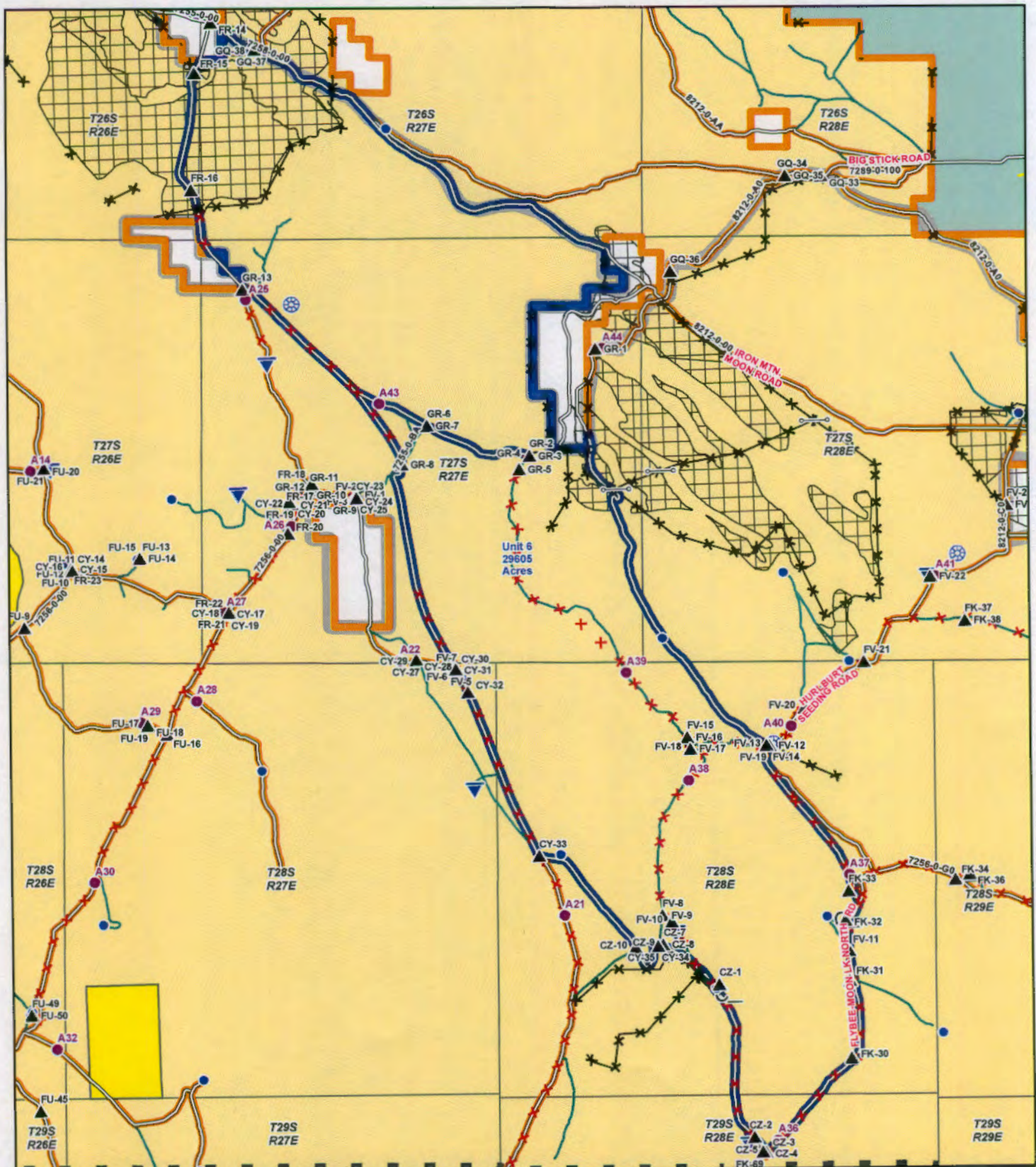

Willie Street, Range Management Specialist – Burns District
Date 8-11-2008


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

Approved by:


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

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 ~ 6

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Unit | Mineral Materials Sites | STUDY PLOT | BRUSHBEAT | Powerline | Wildfires 2002 to Present |
| Adjacent Units | CATTLE GUARD | TANK | DIKE | Unit Boundary Roads | Bureau of Land Management |
| BLM Photo Points | CORRAL | WATERHOLE | DRIFT FENCE | Interior Primitive Roads | BLM Wilderness Study Area |
| ONDA Photo Points | GATE | WELL | FENCE | BRUSHBEAT | BLM |
| ONDA Unit Buzzard Creek | RESERVOIR | Major Roads | PIPELINE | U.S. Fish & Wildlife | No. Great Basin Exp. Range |
| Burns District Boundary | | | SNOW FENCE | EXCLOSURE FENCE | Private |
| | | | BEEDING | | |

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\WSA\InventoryReview\WestWarmSp\IndividualUnit\BX11NoAnno.mxd for Laura Dowlan
 January 11, 2007
 All legend elements may not appear on this map.

0 0.5 1 2 Miles