

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-048/ Burma Rim

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:** BLM Wilderness Inventory files for Pacific Power and Light Company (PP&L) Transmission Line: PP&L Roadless Area Inventory Files (1977).

b) **Inventory Unit Number(s)/ Name(s):** 1-48, PP&L #OR-010-01-08/ Burma

c) **Map Number(s)/ Name(s):** Final Decision - Initial Wilderness Inventory: Public Lands and Islands Which Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics and Units To Be Intensively Inventoried; USDI BLM - Oregon, August 1979.

d) **BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):** 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):

Unit #	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
1-48	39,000	Y	N	N	N
1-48*	36,682	N	N	N	N/A

* The inventory of this unit was updated in 2010. However, due to a State Office-sponsored Wilderness Inventory Consistency Evaluation and subsequent guidance, the 2010 inventory analysis and findings are being replaced by this current 2018 inventory review. Documentation of the 2010 inventory can be found in the wilderness inventory project record.

Summarize any known primary reasons for prior inventory findings listed in this table:

Historic Unit 1-48 was described as a flat to gently rolling plateau sloping to the northeast. Broken by low rims and draws. Large west facing rim on western boundary. A large, shallow, basin in the center, with scattered small dry lake basins around the edges. Vegetation consisted of desert shrubs. The unit contained a large power line along the northeast boundary, some livestock waterholes with roads leading to them, and two plane wrecks in the southwest. The power line could be seen from the eastern half of the unit and from all high points. The unit was found to be pristine or nearly so. Evidence of man's activities was minimal. The inventory team concluded that the topography, size, and/or shape of the unit provided limited opportunities for solitude. Recreation opportunities included low quality deer/antelope hunting, hiking, horseback riding, wild horse viewing, and dry camping. Though these activities were possible, they were found to be less than outstanding. Overall, the inventory team was uncertain if the unit possessed the minimum characteristics of a wilderness study area. However, the unit was ultimately dropped from wilderness consideration due to the 800 KV BPA power line forming the north and east boundaries, a Military Operation Area was discovered above the unit for low flying aircraft, a "way" accessing a horse trap in the northern portion of the unit, and because the open nature of the unit would make users aware of other users and unnatural intrusions.

FORM 2

DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-048/ Burma Rim

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size? Yes X No _____

In 2005, the BLM received a citizen proposal from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) for the 90,489-acre Burma Rim proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA). ONDA included in their information a narrative report, maps, photos, photo and route logs, and GIS data. All of these materials were considered during the BLM's wilderness inventory update for this area. They identified this large area as having no interior routes, which met the BLM wilderness inventory definition of a road (see Map, p. 29 of ONDA 2005).

Between 2008 and 2016, BLM staff conducted field inventory in the area as part of a process to update its road and wilderness inventories and to gather additional information to supplement ONDA's wilderness information. This fieldwork included photo documentation of the boundary and interior routes and a re-evaluation of wilderness characteristics for this area. Using both ONDA and BLM photos, field logs, and staff field knowledge, the BLM completed route analysis within the area in 2017.

The BLM determined that some of the routes ONDA identified as "ways" are boundary roads. Burma Rim proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is comprised of smaller inventory units, which must be evaluated individually.

The BLM determined that the inventory unit is bounded by BLM Roads 6194-00 and 6194-A0 on the west; 6194-A0 and BLM interim numbered roads 6194-AA and 6194-AD on the south; Bonneville Power Administration right-of-way on the east; and a PacifiCorp 500-KV power line right-of-way to the north. Approximately 11 acres of concentrated areas of unnatural features were removed from the unit including a pipeline, well, and solar panels.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Burma Rim inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 38,746 acres of BLM-administered lands.

Additional background on the process that the BLM followed during this evaluation is contained in the document, *Wilderness Inventory Maintenance Process for the Lakeview Resource Area, BLM* and in the *Route Analysis Forms*. Both documents can be found in the wilderness inventory file.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS:

The unit is located approximately 17 miles southeast of Christmas Valley, Oregon. The unit is approximately 10 miles long by 7.5 miles wide. The unit ranges in elevation from 4,335 ft. to 5,390 feet. Topographically the unit is dominated by Burma Rim (250–700 ft. high), which runs 8 miles north to south. The southern half of the unit is comprised of moderate peaks and buttes (150-650 ft. high), ridges, rims (50-250 ft. high), and dry lakebed depressions (20-40 ft. deep), and numerous minor drainages. The majority of the northwest corner of unit is a large flat to rolling plateau, while the northeast third of the unit is a large, broad, eroded crescent shaped drainage running 4.5 miles from a large depression in the middle of the unit to the northeast corner. Ephemeral lakebed depression are spread across the unit including Fire Lake, Depaoli Lake, Packsaddle Lake, Dead Horse Lake, South DC Waterhole, and Boilout Waterhole. Vegetation consists of sagebrush, rabbit brush, and grass. Additionally, a wildfire in 1984 burned approximately 854 acres along the northern boundary of the unit.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition? Yes No N/A

The 1977 inventory listed manmade intrusions including a large power line along the northeast boundary, some livestock waterholes with roads leading to them, and two plane wrecks in the southwest. The power line could be seen from the eastern half of the unit and from all high points. The unit was found to be pristine or nearly so. Evidence of man's activities was minimal.

In 2005, ONDA found the much larger 90,489-acre Burma Rim proposed WSA to be in a natural condition, primarily affected by the forces of nature. ONDA acknowledged manmade developments within the unit such as lakebed pits, mowed fuel breaks, and power lines along the boundaries. ONDA noted the short-term impacts of the mow strips that will return to a natural appearance in just a few years. ONDA also pointed out that BLM guidelines explicitly exclude outside sights and sounds as rationale to preclude designation, thus bordering power lines should not be a factor in deciding the naturalness of the unit. And in any case, the power lines are only noticeable when in close proximity, less than 0.5 miles,

due to topographic screening (p. 29 of ONDA 2005). However, as noted above, the BLM found that this proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is comprised of several smaller inventory units, within which the natural character must be evaluated individually.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 854 acres of wildfire, 151 acres of mow strips (fuel breaks), 235 acres of seeding, 3 miles of fence lines, 16 miles of motorized routes, 2 miles of reclaiming routes, 4 miles of cat line, 8 waterholes, a horse trap, and two historic military airplane wrecks.

Presently, almost 4 decades after the original inventory, these developments are weathered and grown over with herbaceous grasses, rabbit brush, and sagebrush. As a result, developments now fade into the background of the unit and are largely only noticeable at a close distance (1/4th mile or less) and are thus substantially unnoticeable from further distances. The topography of the area also plays a large role in screening disturbances and man-made developments. Furthermore, many of the disturbances are located near the perimeter of the unit and, as such, have a small area of influence. Areas that were seeded or allowed to revegetate naturally have been invaded by rabbit/ sagebrush and have returned to a natural, post fire, appearing condition.

Based on a review of all the available information including photos, staff knowledge, and field review, the BLM concluded that the unit appears in a natural condition where the imprints of man are substantially unnoticeable.

(3) Does the unit (or the remainder of the unit if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) **have outstanding opportunities for solitude?** Yes X No N/A

In 1977, the inventory team concluded that the topography, size, and/or shape of the unit provided limited opportunities for solitude.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger 90,489-acre Burma Rim proposed WSA as having outstanding opportunities for solitude based on sheer size as their proposal is contiguous with other inventory units and therefore no longer stands alone. ONDA noted that size of the unit would easily allow visitors to experience solitude because they could easily avoid the sights and sounds of others. ONDA acknowledged the area does not have much for vegetative screening, but that it does offer plenty of topographical screening for visitors to experience outstanding opportunities for solitude (p. 28 of ONDA 2005). However, the BLM did not find this proposal to be one large roadless area, but is comprised of a number of smaller inventory units that must be evaluated individually.

The BLM determined that there are several outstanding opportunities for solitude across the unit due to topographic screening and size. The unit ranges in elevation from 4,335 ft. to 5,390 feet. Topographically the unit is dominated by Burma Rim (250–700 ft. high), which runs 8 miles north to south. The southern half of the unit is comprised of moderate peaks and buttes (150-650 ft. high), ridges, rims (50-250 ft. high), and dry lakebed depressions (20-40 ft. deep), and numerous minor drainages. The majority of the northwest corner of unit is a

large flat to rolling plateau, while the northeast third of the unit is a large, broad, eroded crescent shaped drainage running 4.5 miles from a large depression in the middle of the unit to the northeast corner. Ephemeral lakebed depression are spread across the unit including Fire Lake, Depaoli Lake, Packsaddle Lake, Dead Horse Lake, South DC Waterhole, and Boilout Waterhole. Due to the above-described topographic screening throughout the unit, one would easily be able to avoid the sights and sounds of others.

Thus, for the reasons specified above and based on a review of all the available information including (BLM and citizen provided) photos, staff knowledge, and field review, the BLM concluded the Burma Rim inventory unit possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude.

(4) Does the unit (or the remainder of the unit if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) **have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?** Yes No N/A

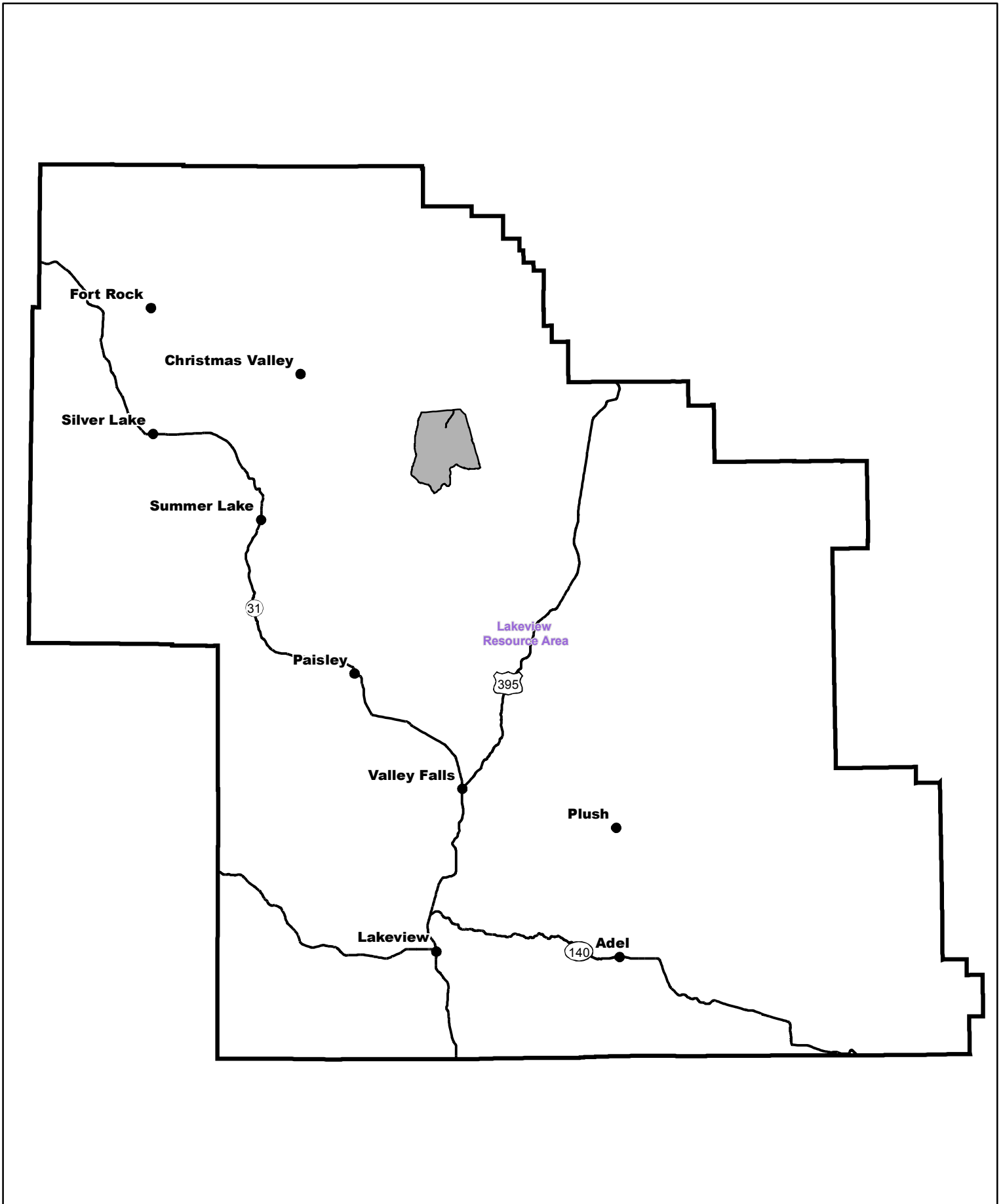
In 1977, recreation opportunities within the unit included low quality deer/antelope hunting, hiking, horseback riding, wild horse viewing, and dry camping. Though these activities were possible, they were found to be less than outstanding.


In 2005, ONDA's inventory identified the larger 90,489-acre Burma Rim proposed WSA as having outstanding opportunities for recreation based on sheer size as their proposal is contiguous with other inventory units and therefore no longer stands alone. ONDA noted the topography of the unit allows outstanding opportunities for hikers, horseback riders, backpackers, hunters, photographers, and sightseers. Therefore, the Burma Rim proposed WSA provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation (p. 28 of ONDA 2005). However, the BLM did not find this proposal to be one large roadless area, but is comprised of a number of smaller inventory units that must be evaluated individually.

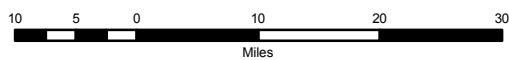
The BLM finds the combination and diversity of hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, camping, wildlife observation, exploration, scenery, photography, stargazing, trapping, and hunting are exceptional. The BLM determined that options for exploration and route finding through the unit's diverse topography and hiking/ horseback riding atop the 8-mile length of Burma Rim represent unique opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.


(5) Does the unit have supplemental values? Yes No N/A

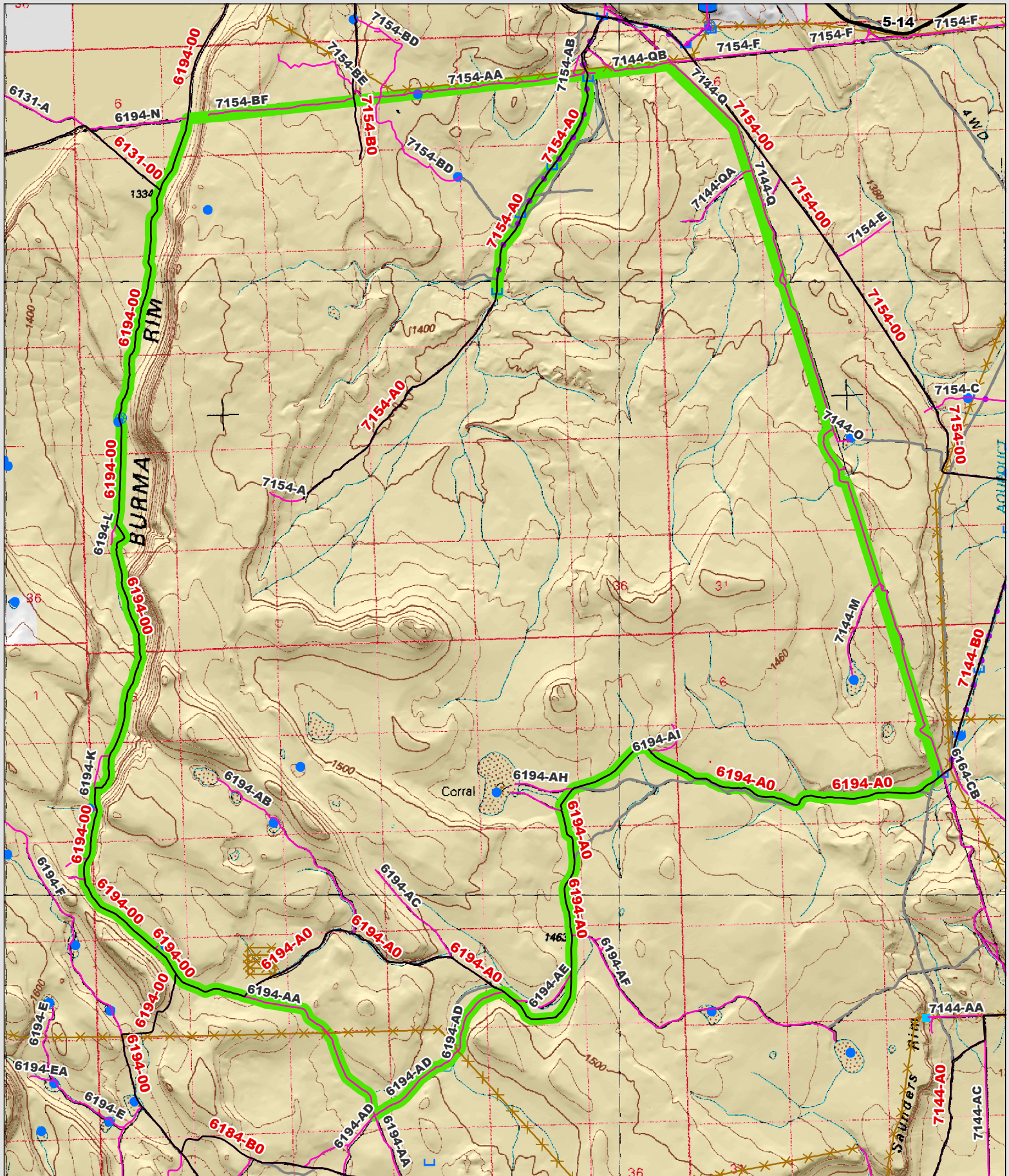
The BLM found the unit to possess archaeological and geological values as well as the presence of mule deer, pygmy rabbit, golden eagle, California bighorn sheep, and sage-grouse habitat. Additionally, two unique historic military airplane wreck sites, with small interpretive plaques for visitors, are an attraction in the unit. Lastly, approximately 11 miles of ONDA's 750-mile Oregon Desert Trail ("virtual"/ GPS track) crosses the inventory unit.



 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



 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 were 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.



Wilderness Character Inventory Unit

Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- State
- Private/Unknown

Roads/Trails

- Motorized Routes
- Highways
- Reclaiming Routes
- Interim Routes

Pipelines and Ditches

- Ditch
- Water Pipeline
- Guzzler
- Fences

Water Developments

- Dam
- Reservoir
- Spring Development
- Trough
- Water Diversion

- Water Tank
- Waterhole
- Well - Water

1.5 0.75 0 1.5 Miles

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