

**Guano Slough/ OR-026-091
INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION**

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

FORM 1

Documentation of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

No ____ (Go to Form 2) Yes X (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas.)

a) Inventory Source: Wilderness Inventory – Oregon/Washington Final Intensive Inventory Decisions, November 1980. Historical Unit 2-91 Guano Slough with Subunits 2-91A & 2-91B.

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): OR-026-091

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Wilderness Unit Inventory Map, November 1980.

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Unit is shared by the Burns and Lakeview District Offices.

2. BLM inventory findings on record:

Inventory Source: Wilderness Inventory – Oregon/Washington Final Intensive Inventory Decisions, November 1980.

| Area Unique Identifier | Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres) | Naturalness? Yes/No | Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No | Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No | Supplemental Values? Yes/No |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 2-91A | Yes 12,730 | Yes | No | No | N/A |
| 2-91B | Yes 7,530 | Yes | No | No | N/A |

Unit 2-91 contained 22,165 acres. The intensive inventory identified roads that divided the unit into six subunits. Four of these subunits contained less than 5,000 acres, ranging in size from 90 to 1,540 acres. They did not meet any of the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas (WSA) and are not described below.

Subunit 2-91A

Size: Public land equaling 12,730 acres; inholdings of 640 acres of State land.

Location: Twenty-two miles southwest of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: Public land and a road formed the subunit's east boundary; a patchwork of public and private land formed its southern boundary; public land and a road formed its west boundary; and public, private land, and a road formed its north boundary.

Physical Characteristics: Gently sloping hills defined the topography of the area in the western quarter of the subunit, and flat lowlands made up the remainder of the subunit. The general elevation was 4,616 feet. The general vegetation was sagebrush and grass. There were areas of meadowland in the eastern portion of the area.

Naturalness: Subunit 2-91A had 9 miles of fence line near its south and east boundaries and three miles of ways close to its northwest boundary. The developments were sufficiently dispersed to make them substantially unnoticeable.

Solitude: The gently sloping hills and flat areas and the low sagebrush vegetation offered little screening for the visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of others. The size of this subunit was not large enough to compensate for the lack of screening. The opportunity to find solitude was not outstanding.

Recreation: The subunit offered opportunities for hunting, hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding. The opportunities to find outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation were not outstanding, however, due to the size of the unit and the lack of topographic and vegetative variety.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Subunit 2-91B

Size: Unit consists of 7,530 acres.

Location: Twenty miles southwest of Frenchglen.

Boundaries: Private land formed the area's north boundary; public and private land and a road formed its east boundary; public and private land formed its southern boundary; and public land and a road formed its west boundary.

Physical Characteristics: The general elevation of the area was about 4,600 feet. The topography was flat lowland with a vegetative cover of sagebrush and grass. There were areas of meadowland.

Naturalness: Subunit 2-91B contained 3.5 miles of fence line. The rest of the area appeared to be generally natural.

Solitude: No outstanding opportunity to achieve solitude was possible in this subunit with its flat topographic relief and low sagebrush/grass vegetation.

Recreation: No features were found within this area to make the visitor's opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation (hunting, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding) outstanding.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Proposed Decision: Eliminate from further review.

Rationale: Subunits A and B met the minimum size criteria. Both subunits were generally free of the imprint of man's work and appeared to be in a basically natural condition. Neither subunit offered outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The only comment received for Unit 2-91 agreed with the proposed decision, and there was no new information that would support a change.

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier OR-026-091 Acreage 18,791

1. Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below.)

Yes No

1980 Assessment: Subunit 2-91A was bounded by public land and a road formed the subunit's east boundary; a patchwork of public and private land formed its southern boundary; public land and a road formed its west boundary; and public, private land, and a road formed its north boundary. Subunit 2-91B was bounded by private land forming the area's north boundary; public and private land and a road formed its east boundary; public and private land formed its southern boundary; and public land and a road formed its west boundary.

2017 Evaluation: The unit is bounded on the north side by private lands and the Blitzen-Guano Road (8250-AO). On the west side the unit is bounded by Guano Slough Road (8249-OO). The south side of the unit is bounded by private lands. The east side of the unit is bounded by private lands.

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

1980 Assessment: Subunit 2-91A had 9 miles of fence line near its south and east boundaries and 3 miles of ways close to its northwest boundary. The developments were sufficiently dispersed to make them substantially unnoticeable. Subunit 2-91B contained 3.5 miles of fence line. The rest of the area appeared to be generally natural.

2017 Evaluation: The unit is characterized by a flat landscape covered in sagebrush with little topographic variation. Unnatural features in the unit include two wells and the vehicle ways and fence lines described in the 1980 assessment. The unnatural features are substantially unnoticeable. The unit appears to be in a natural condition.

3. Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes No N/A

1980 Assessment: Subunit 2-91A was described as having gently sloping hills and flat areas and the low sagebrush vegetation offered little screening for the visitor to avoid the sights and sounds of others. The size of this subunit was not large enough to compensate for the lack of screening.

The opportunity to find solitude was not outstanding. Subunit 2-91B was described as having no outstanding opportunity to achieve solitude with its flat topographic relief and low sagebrush/grass vegetation.

2017 Evaluation: Visitors to this unit would encounter a flat landscape with little or no topographic relief or vegetative screening. There are no trees or large shrubs. Low sagebrush and grasses dominate the land. Solitude can be found in the unit, however without any screening available, the solitude is not outstanding. Outstanding opportunities for solitude in this unit are not available.

4. Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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 X N/A _____

1980 Assessment: Subunit 2-91A offered opportunities for hunting, hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding. The opportunities to find outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation were not outstanding, however, due to the size of the unit and the lack of topographic and vegetative variety. Subunit 2-91B was found to lack features within this area to make the visitor's opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation (hunting, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding) outstanding.

2017 Evaluation: Recreation activities in this unit are limited. The unit has no creeks or springs. Vegetation is low sage and grasses. The landscape has few interesting geological features. There are no points of interest that would draw hikers or campers. There are no outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation in this unit.

5. Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value)?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

1980 Assessment: None known.

2017 Evaluation: Supplemental values for this unit include sage-grouse leks and pygmy rabbit habitat.

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: OR-026-091

* 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 1610.5-3.

Summary Results of Analysis: This unit meets the size criteria and appears to be in a natural condition. However, outstanding opportunities are hard to find in this unit. The flat landscape provides very little topographic screening for visitors. There are no trees on the unit. The only vegetative screening available is low sagebrush, which is inadequate for screening in a flat landscape. A visitor could walk to the center of the unit and find a form of solitude; however, it is not outstanding due to the lack of screening. Opportunities for primitive types of recreation are available in the unit. The opportunities are not considered outstanding because the absence of topographic or vegetative screening detracts from the opportunities.

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes ___ No ___ N/A
2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes ___ No ___ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ___ Yes No ___ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes ___ No ___ N/A

Check One:

___ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

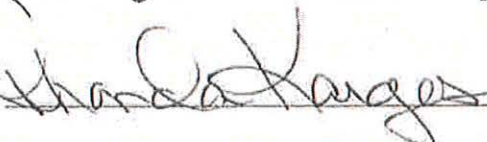
The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (Team Members):

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Signature:  Date: 1/3/2018

OR-ORB06-091 Guano Slough Wilderness Characteristics Unit Map

