

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-226/ Saddle Butte North*

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:

- a. BLM Wilderness Inventory files for Pacific Power and Light Company (PP&L) Transmission Line: PP&L Roadless Area Inventory Files (1977).
- b. Wilderness – Proposed Initial Inventory: Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, April 1979.
- c. Wilderness Review – Initial Inventory: Final Decision on Public Lands Obviously Lacking Wilderness Characteristics and Announcement of Public Lands to be Intensively Inventoried for Wilderness Characteristics; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, August 1979.
- d. Wilderness Review – Intensive Inventory: Proposed Decision on the Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Area; USDI BLM – Oregon, October 1979.
- e. Wilderness Review – Intensive Inventory: Final Decisions On 30 Selected Units in Southeast Oregon and Proposed Decisions On Other Intensively Inventoried Units; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, March 1980.
- f. Wilderness Inventory – Final Intensive Inventory Decisions; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, November 1980.

b) Inventory Unit Number(s)/ Name(s): N/A

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):

- a. Proposed Initial Inventory: Roadless Areas and Islands Which Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics; USDI BLM - Oregon, April 1979.
- b. 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.

- c. Proposed Decision: Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas; USDI BLM - Oregon, October 1979.
- d. Intensive Wilderness Inventory: Final Decisions For 30 Selected Inventory Units and Proposed Decisions For Other Intensive Inventory Units; USDI BLM - Oregon, March 1980.
- e. Intensive Wilderness Inventory - Final Decisions; USDI BLM - Oregon, November 1980.

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Lakeview District, Lakeview Resource Area.

*Note: Unit name was changed to better reflect values and features found within the unit, and to reduce confusion of similarly named inventory units.

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
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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

This unit was not specifically evaluated in the original 1979/1980 inventory.

FORM 2

DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-226/ Saddle Butte North

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

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 the inventory unit is bounded by BLM Road 6171-00 and private lands on the north; a residential power line right-of-way and a right-of-way for County Road 5-12B on the east; BLM Road 6171-B0 and BLM interim numbered roads 3151-00, 3151-A0, 3151-AA, 6171-AC, and 6171-AD on the west. A segment of BLM Road 6171-A0, used for access to private property on the north side of the unit, was cherry stemmed. Additionally, the southern portion of BLM Road 6171-A0 was found to no longer meet the wilderness definition of a road.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Saddle Butte North inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at approximately 8,036 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 24 miles northeast of Christmas Valley, Oregon. The unit is approximately 4.5 miles long by 3.5 miles wide and contains a 322-acre private inholding in the northeast corner. Topographically, the unit is dominated by No Name Butte (300 ft. high in the northeast corner) and unnamed butte (275 ft. high near the western boundary). The northern third of the unit also contains a dozen ephemeral lake depressions (10-30 ft. deep). The remaining area is comprised of rolling hills (50 - 150 ft. high), and minor drainages (10 - 15 ft. deep). Overall, the unit ranges in elevation from 4,980 – 5,342 feet. Vegetatively, the vast majority of the unit (over 6,000 acres) is covered in moderate to high-density western juniper stands, with old-growth characteristics. The remaining vegetation is scattered juniper, sagebrush, rabbit brush, and grass. Lastly, a wildfire burned approximately 175 acres the central portion of the unit in the mid 2000's.

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

This unit was not evaluated in the original 1979/1980 inventory.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 175 acres of wildfire, 9.25 miles of motorized routes, 1.75 miles of fence line, 4.5 miles of cat lines, 3 waterholes, and 7 primitive wilderness therapy group campsites.

Presently, almost 4 decades after the original inventory, these developments are weathered and grown over with herbaceous grasses, sagebrush, and juniper. 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 and vegetation 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. Additionally, areas that were allowed to revegetate naturally after wildfire have been invaded by juniper, rabbit bush, sagebrush, and grasses 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 No N/A

This unit was not evaluated in the original 1979/1980 inventory.

The BLM determined that there are several outstanding opportunities for solitude across the unit due to topographic and vegetative screening. Topographically, the unit is dominated by No Name Butte (300 ft. high in the northeast corner) and unnamed butte (275 ft. high near the western boundary). The northern third of the unit also contains a dozen ephemeral lake depressions (10-30 ft. deep). The remaining area is comprised of rolling hills (50 - 150 ft. high), and minor drainages (10 - 15 ft. deep). Overall, the unit ranges in elevation from 4,980 – 5,342 feet. Vegetatively, western juniper stands have greatly expanded in height, width, and density. The vast majority of the unit (over 6,000 acres) is covered in moderate to high-density western juniper stands providing excellent screening. Due in large part to the above-described vegetative screening throughout the unit, and topographic screening to a lesser degree, 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 Saddle Butte North 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

This unit was not evaluated in the original 1979/1980 inventory.

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 among dense, old-growth, juniper stands, as well as, hiking up the unit's two main buttes 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 pronghorn antelope, mule deer, elk, and sage-grouse habitat.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-226/ Saddle Butte North

Summary Results of Analysis:

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

Conclusion (Check One):

- X The area- or a portion of the area- has wilderness character: *(items 1, 2 and 3 must be checked "yes")*.
- The area does not have wilderness character: *(any of items 1, 2 and 3 are checked "no")*.

Prepared by (Member Names and Titles):



Chris Bishop: Outdoor Recreation Planner

6/4/18
Date


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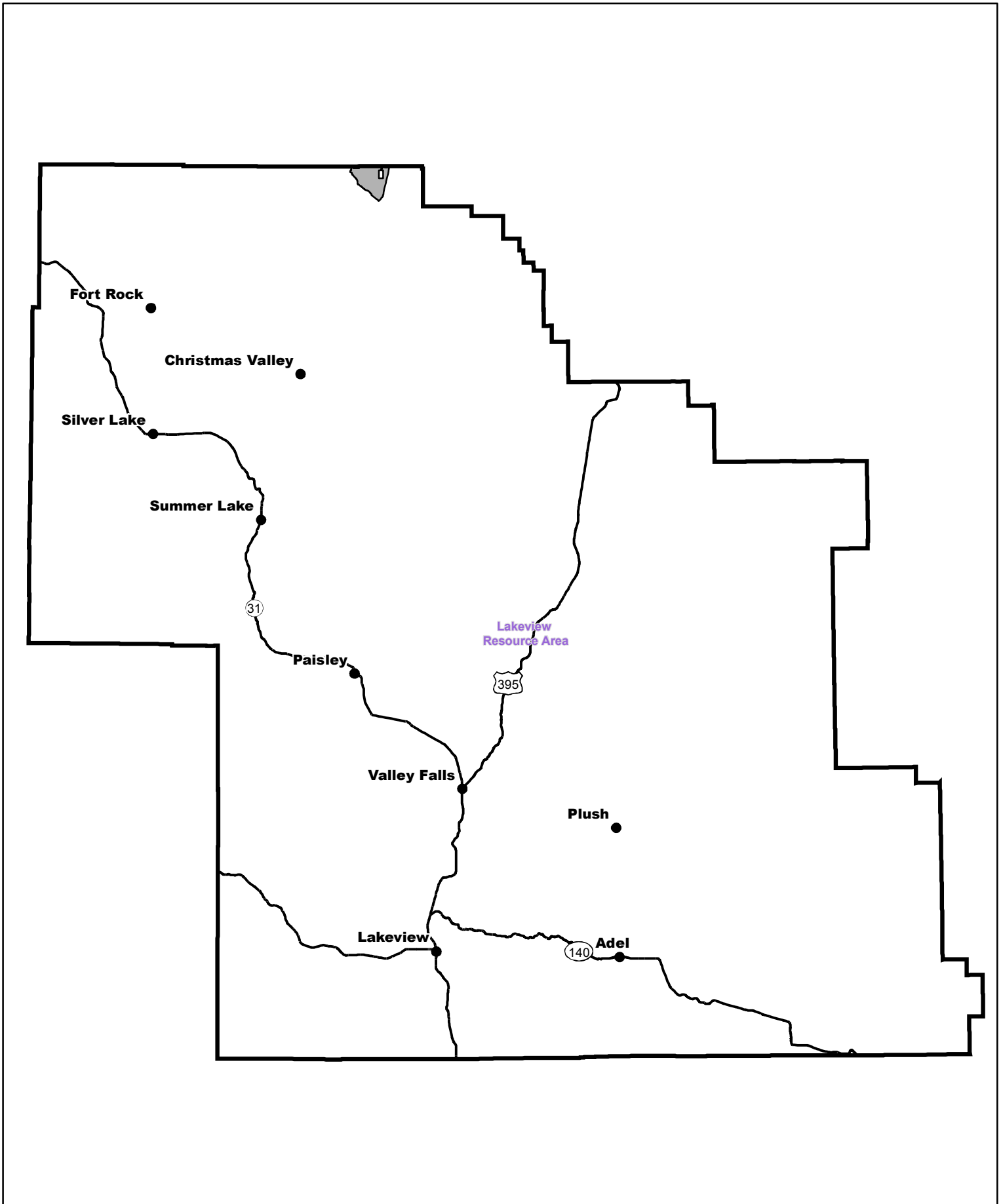
6/4/18
Date


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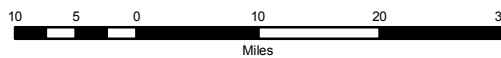

J. Todd Forbes
Field Manager


6/4/18
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 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.



 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



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