

Tired Horse Butte – Pilot Lake OR-025-023E

INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

FORM 1

Documentation of 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: _Historical unit 1-14, 2-44C

Unit 1-14 was found to not have wilderness characteristics and eliminated from further review in the August 1979 initial wilderness inventory.

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s) Tired Horse Butte – Pilot Lake OR-025-023E

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
1-14	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2-44C OR-025-023E	Yes 7,515	Yes	No	No	Yes

Unit 1-14 unit was eliminated from further review in the August 1979 wilderness inventory.

Unit 2-44C 7,515 acres. The subunit is bounded by private land, BLM roads and adjacent BLM land in the north, and roads and adjacent BLM land on the remaining sides.

The topography of this subunit consists of gently rolling hills and flat land. The highest point is a small isolated butte near the center of the subunit. The vegetation is primarily sagebrush and grass throughout most of the area with some widely scattered juniper on the west side of the subunit.

Naturalness: The man-made developments within the subunit include three reservoirs which are not substantially noticeable.

Solitude: The subunit offers no topographic screening and the scattered juniper provides little or no vegetative screening. There is no place within the subunit where a visitor could find a secluded spot. The subunit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Recreation: The recreation opportunities within this subunit are limited. Opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife, and hunting (deer and antelope) exist but they are not outstanding.

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier OR-025-023E Acreage 26,673

(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 X No

1980 assessment: Unit **2-44C** meets the minimum size criteria.

Citizen Information Received: The BLM received GIS data from Oregon Natural Desert Assoc. (ONDA) for a 196,015 acre Lonesome Lakes WSA in September, 2005. More information including a narrative report, maps, photos with route logs was received in May, 2008. This information was considered as part of the wilderness inventory update process for BLM Tired Horse Butte Unit. ONDA photos were taken in July, 2001, and indicated the Lonesome Lakes WSA had no routes which met ONDA's definition of a boundary road.

ONDA photo locations were checked and those which applied to this BLM unit were shown to an interdisciplinary (ID) team for review. The ID team was provided with ONDA information (narrative and maps) prior to meeting on May 22, 2008. The ID team consisted of wilderness, recreation, and range staff; wildlife, archaeology, engineering, fire and maintenance personnel were also consulted with.

The land ownership in Unit 44 is entirely BLM-managed lands and the boundaries are identical to Subunit 44-C of the 1980 OR/WA Final Intensive Inventory Decision (Nov., 1980). There was a road along the northern boundary of the 1980 unit that was found to no longer be a boundary road. This change makes the unit slightly larger, but does not change the findings.

2017 Evaluation:

Route analysis for this unit was conducted in 2017. Photo points, GPS points and route analysis forms are kept in the wilderness inventory file for this unit.

Route analysis of units within the West Warm Springs grazing allotment, on the Burns district, found routes that no longer met the criteria for a wilderness boundary road. Historic unit 1-14 and 2-44C are combined to form the new unit re-named Tired Horse Butte – Pilot Lake Unit.

Tired Horse Butte – Pilot Lake Boundary Description:

West side Boundary: Benjamin Lake Road (6101-00), Un-named BLM resource road, Hay Lake-Deep Valley Spur Road (7245-F0).

South Side Boundary: Hay Lake-Deep Valley Road (7245-00).

East Side Boundary: Hay Lake-Deep Valley Road (7245-00), Tired Horse Road (7245-BB).

North Side Boundary: Private Lands.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes No N/A

1980 assessment of Naturalness:

Unit 1-14 was eliminated from further review in the August 1979 Initial Wilderness Inventory – Final Decision.

Unit 2-44C Naturalness: Tired Horse Butte Unit is about 50 miles southwest of Burns, west of Wagontire Mountain and south of Glass Buttes. The 1980 description of the unit notes a topography of gently rolling hills, flat lands with Tired Horse Butte being the highest point near the center of the subunit. Vegetation is primarily sagebrush and grass with widely scattered juniper on the west side of the subunit. An allotment boundary fence and three reservoirs were present at that time. The subunit was found to be in a natural condition.

2005 ONDA submittal stated the whole unit appears to be affected by the forces of nature.

The BLM ID team reviewed photos from the 1977 inventory and landscape photos provided by ONDA. The primary human uses in the unit and surrounding lands are livestock grazing related as well as recreation uses by the visiting public. The eastern and southern boundary roads have been brush beaten (25'-30' on both sides) in the early 2000's to provide fire breaks to better control wildland fires. The ID team identified the following more recent range developments within the unit.

- (1) An E-W fence was constructed in 1992 across the southern portion of the unit.
- (2) A pipeline with three troughs in the SE corner of the unit (see Photo Pt. XL-1, photo 3) provides water from Sand Hollow Well (located outside the unit).
- (3) A small corral was constructed near the south boundary to

manage livestock (see Photo Pt. XL-1, photos 1, 2).

Below is a summary of developments and vegetative treatments:

- Fences: 5 miles
- Pipelines: 1.7 miles
- Corral: 1
- Troughs: 3
- Waterholes: 1
- Interior non-boundary routes: 4.37 miles

2017 evaluation:

This unit is dominated by Big Sagebrush and Perennial Grasslands. Livestock grazing and recreational activities are the primary uses. Un-natural features in the unit include:

- Fences - 14 miles
- Reservoirs – 2 each
- Troughs – 2 each
- Waterholes – 15 each
- Interior non-boundary routes – 21 miles

Un-natural features in the unit are typical livestock grazing support installations. The un-natural features in the unit are substantially un-noticeable. The unit is 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 X No _____ N/A _____

1980 assessment of solitude:

It was noted there was no topographic screening and the scattered juniper provided little or no vegetative screening. There were no places within the subunit where visitors could find a secluded spot.

2005 ONDA submittal:” Because units 1-10, 1-11, 2-44, and several subunits of 2-43 are now contiguous with the rest of the units within the Lonesome Lakes proposed WSA, the opportunities listed by the BLM have become outstanding. The juniper stands, ephemeral lakes, canyons, hills, and rimrock located within units 1-10, 1-11, 2-44, and 2-43 (photos BQ 30, 36 38, 40; BT 9, 10, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 45, 46; FY 2, 9, 10,15, 17, 19) would offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation for hunters, wildlife observers, hikers, and horseback riders.”

BLM Response: ONDA’s report indicated a large expanse of rolling sagebrush-covered hills, some topped by rim rock and stands of juniper which would allow outstanding opportunities for solitude in an a very large area. BLM found that this unit’s boundaries have not changed since it was originally inventoried, so it is not part of a large contiguous Roadless area as proposed for ONDA’s Lonesome Lakes WSA. As a result, ONDA’s determination that outstanding solitude

is present due to the large size of their proposed WSA would not apply to this BLM unit.

2017 evaluation:

Topography in this unit provides opportunities for solitude. Canyons, rim-rocks and drainages, rolling hills, rim-rocks, deep washes and broad flat terraces in the unit indicate areas where visual screening is available to visitors. Elevation changes of up to 400 ft. are indicated by contour lines in the unit. In addition to existing opportunities created by topography, updated route analysis increased the size of the unit, creating more opportunities to find solitude in a diverse landscape. The unit has scattered Juniper stands, big sagebrush and grasses which provide vegetative screening. Outstanding Opportunities for solitude are available in this unit.

(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 N/A

1980 assessment of recreation opportunities:

The inventory indicated recreation opportunities within the subunit were limited, with some opportunities for hiking, wildlife viewing, and hunting deer and antelope. None were outstanding.

2005 ONDA submittal: " Because units 1-10, 1-11, 2-44, and several subunits of 2-43 are now contiguous with the rest of the units within the Lonesome Lakes proposed WSA, the opportunities listed by the BLM have become outstanding. The juniper stands, ephemeral lakes, canyons, hills, and rimrock located within units 1-10, 1-11, 2-44, and 2-43 (photos BQ 30, 36 38, 40; BT 9, 10, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 45, 46; FY 2, 9, 10,15, 17, 19) would offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation for hunters, wildlife observers, hikers, and horseback riders."

BLM Response: ONDA's report indicated that Unit 2-44 offered hiking, wildlife viewing, hunting, and horseback riding opportunities and that juniper stands, ephemeral lakes, canyons, hills, and rim rock located within units 1-10, 1-11, 2-44, and 2-43 would offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation for hunters, wildlife observers, hikers, and horseback riders. The two most prominent features in this unit are Tired Horse Butte and Tired Horse Lake (dry). These features do not have any unique qualities that would contribute to making recreation opportunities in this unit outstanding. Deer and antelope hunting are considered the main unconfined recreation activities actually occurring while hiking, wildlife viewing, horseback riding and photography are often incidental with hunting trips. 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. BLM determined that the recreational opportunities for this particular unit do not either individually or collectively, possess attributes which would make them outstanding.

2017 evaluation:

The topography and vegetation in this unit combined with its size and location are contributing factors in determining opportunities for primitive recreation. The diverse landscape provides a

home for a wide variety of wildlife such as antelope, deer and elk that provide hunting opportunities. Visitors have a variety of areas to camp and explore in. Archeological and Prehistoric sites in the unit are of interest to visitors. Viewing the night sky from this unit is a high quality experience due to the dark skies. Opportunities for a primitive type of unconfined recreation are outstanding 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: BLM found no supplemental values.

2005 ONDA submittal: “The BLM noted many supplemental values during their inventory, such as archeological values, geologic values along Benjamin Cave, and range for antelope. The ephemeral lakes also add ecological value to the area because of their importance in providing food, water, and habitat for wildlife.

In addition, the Greater Sage Grouse is a species of concern throughout its range with a population that is on a significant downward trend. Habitat fragmentation is one of the primary causes of this decline. Lonesome Lakes proposed WSA provides prime habitat for this species as it is home to fourteen known Sage Grouse Leks (see map). This area may also be home to the Pygmy Rabbit, Sage Grouse, and Burrowing Owl, which are Federal Species of Concern.”

BLM Response: The BLM ID Team did not find any outstanding opportunities in the unit for solitude or primitive types of recreation. Therefore they did not look for any supplemental values.

2017 evaluation:

Supplemental values include Migratory Bird routes, Sage Grouse Leks, Pygmy Rabbit Habitat, Deer, Antelope and Elk range, and Prehistoric sites.

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: OR-025-023E

Summary

Results of analysis:

This unit met the size criteria. Two units were combined to create a single 18,343 acre unit on the Burns District. The unit has un-natural features situated primarily along the boundary roads. The un-natural features that do exist in the unit typical range installations that are substantially un-noticeable. There are many diverse areas where topographic screening creates outstanding opportunities for visitors to find solitude. Outstanding opportunities for solitude are present in the unit. Visitors to the area would also find many opportunities to engage in primitive types of

* 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.

recreation. The large size of the unit and the diverse topography provide opportunities to Hunt big game, or hike in an area without trails, view wildlife, participate in dispersed camping, and explore canyons and many other activities. This unit has outstanding opportunities for primitive types of outdoor recreation.

In addition to outstanding opportunities this unit has supplemental features such as a Migratory Bird routes, Sage Grouse Lek communities, Pygmy Rabbit habitat, Antelope range, Archeological and Prehistoric sites.

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

Check one:

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

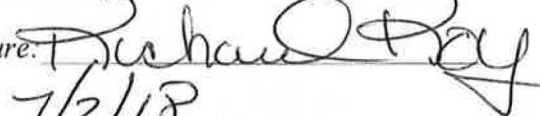
___ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):


Tom Wilcox – Wilderness Specialist Burns District
Chris Bishop – Outdoor Recreation Planner Lakeview District
(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

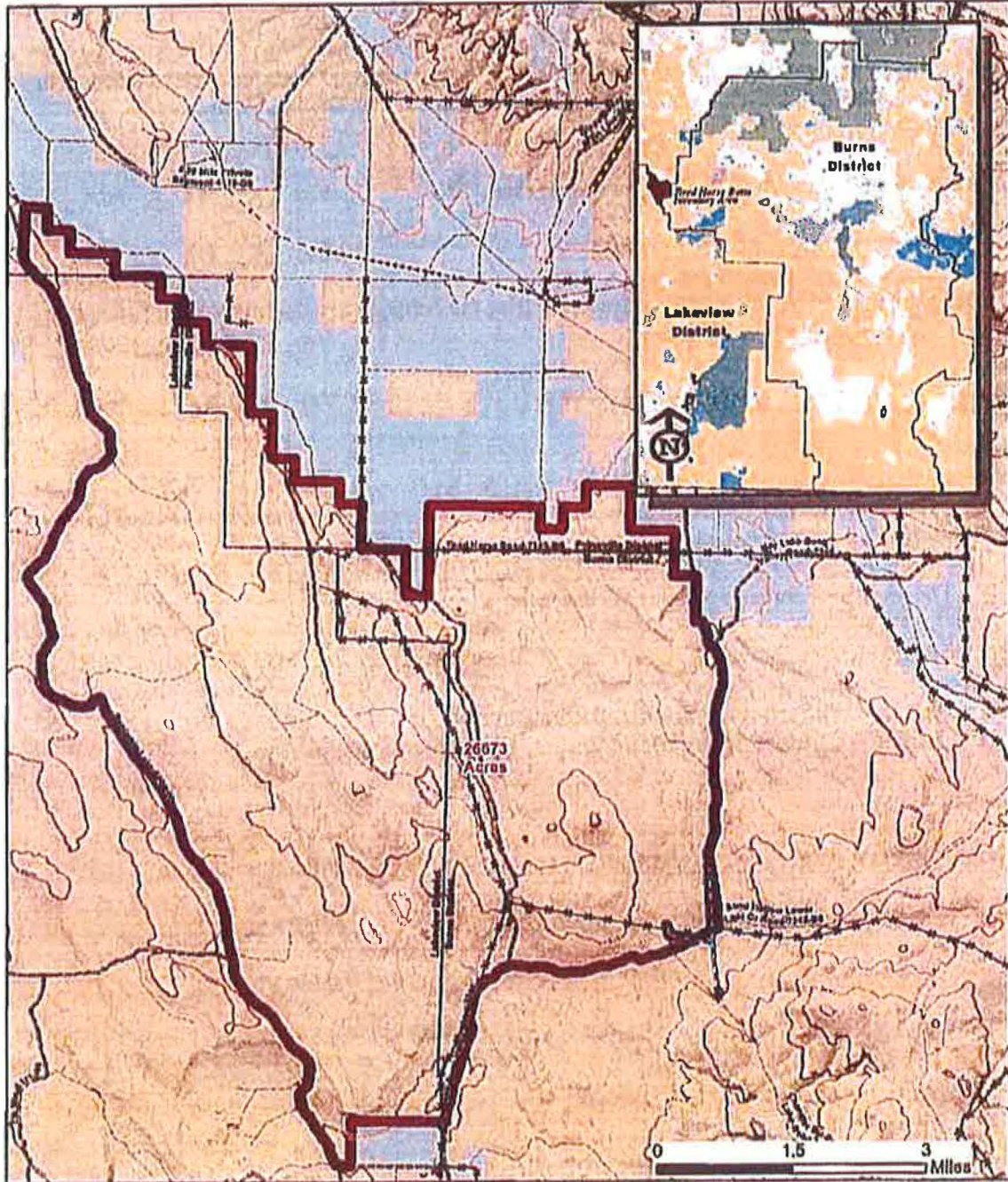
Name: Rick Roy Title: Three Rivers Field Manager

Signature: 
Date: 7/2/18

Name: Todd Forbes Title: Lakeview Field Manger

Signature: 
Date: 6/4/18

OR-025-023E Tired Horse Unit Wilderness Characteristics Inventory



- Boundary Roads - 21 Miles
- Road Offset - .3 Miles
- Watercourse Offset (Pipeline) - 2 Miles
- Interior Routes - 26 Miles
- Fences - 14 Miles
- Reservoir - 2
- Trough - 3
- Waterhole - 15

- Unit Boundary
- Existing Right-of-Way
- Paved or Graveled Road
- Natural Surface
- Primitive or Unknown Surface
- BLM District Boundary
- Land Administration**
- Bureau of Land Management
- Privately Owned

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Bureau of Land Management
Burns District Office
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