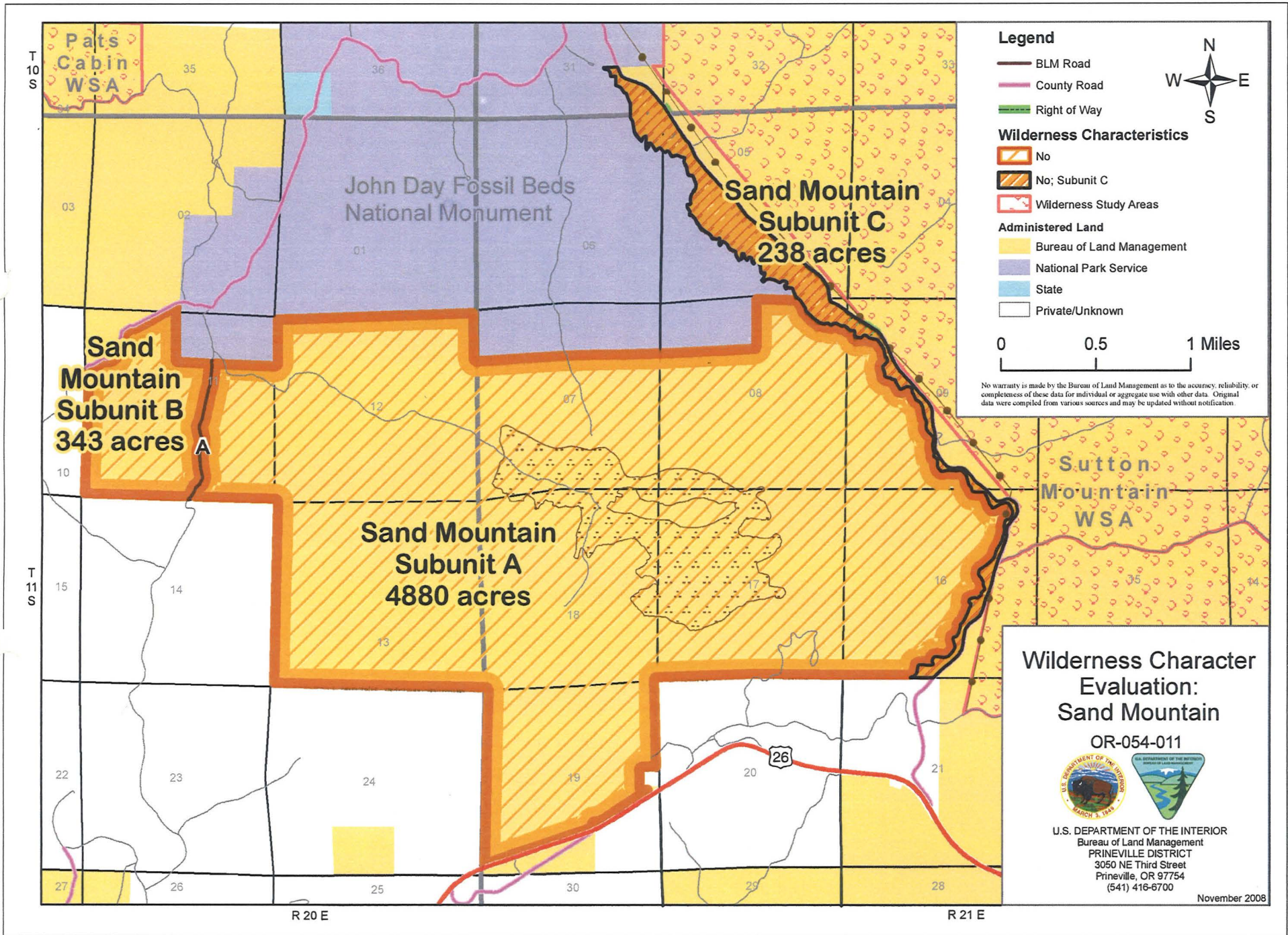


Map 1



2008 John Day Basin Wilderness Character Evaluation Form

Wilderness Character Evaluation For: OR-054-011/ Sand Mountain Inventory Unit

1. Previous BLM wilderness inventory?

No _____ Yes X Partial _____

a) Inventory Source: Sutton Mountain Acquired Lands Wilderness Inventory, Bureau of Land Management, Sutton Mountain Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP), March 1995, and Bureau of Land Management Sutton Mountain Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) Decision Record, March 1996.

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Sand Mountain/ OR-5-86

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s) N/A

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Prineville/Central Oregon Resource Area

Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
OR-5-86 Sand Mountain	4,800	Y	Y	Y	Y

2. New Wilderness Characteristic Review

Private Recommendation: Yes X No _____ by? Oregon Natural Desert Association
 Date December 15, 2006

Results of BLM Analysis: (separate by subunit if appropriate)

Unit#/Name	Size (acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N/NA	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N/NA	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N/NA	Supplemental Values? Y/N/NA
OR-054-011 Sand Mountain Subunit A (Center)	4,880	N	Y	Y	Y

OR-054-011/ Sand Mountain Inventory Unit

OR-054-011 Sand Mountain Subunit B (West)	343	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
OR-054-011 Sand Mountain Subunit C (Bridge Creek)	238	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Conclusion

Check One:

Area reviewed lacks sufficient size and does not meet one of the exceptions for small size.

The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.

The area does not have wilderness character.

Recommendation: Re-evaluate Subunit A following a major fire event to determine whether naturalness has returned to the area following juniper treatments.

(1) Describe current conditions: (Include boundary features, land ownership, size, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

Location:

This unit is located in Wheeler County, Oregon, north of US Highway 26, approximately 4 miles northeast of the town of Mitchell. The unit contains 4,880 acres of BLM lands, and is contiguous with the Painted Hills Unit of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. The northern boundary of the inventory unit is the National Monument and the western boundary is a combination of a Wheeler County road (Bear Creek Road) and private lands. The eastern boundary is a Wheeler County road (Burnt Ranch Road), and the southern boundary is a combination of private lands and US Highway 26. This unit has been divided into 3 subunits, as described below.

Original Inventory

Most of the lands within the inventory unit were acquired by the BLM in the Sutton Mountain Land Exchange, which was completed in 1992. In 1994, BLM conducted a wilderness inventory of these lands as directed by Section 202 of FLMPA as part of the Sutton Mountain Acquired Lands Wilderness Inventory. The inventory results were printed in the Sutton Mountain Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) (BLM, March 1995), and the Sutton Mountain Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) Decision Record (BLM, March 1996).

OR-054-011/ Sand Mountain Inventory Unit

The 1994 inventory found that the Sand Mountain Unit (5-86) met all of the requirements for wilderness, except the size requirement. The unit was eliminated from further wilderness review because at 4,790 (inventory acres) or 4,800 (CRMP acres), it did not meet the minimum size criteria of 5,000 acres. The inventory report stated the following rationale for the decision:

“This unit does not meet the minimum size criteria. The unit and adjacent Park Service lands, if considered in association one with the other, have the potential for being of sufficient size and characteristics for further wilderness review. The Park Service lands, however, are not being considered for wilderness designation. This unit, by itself, would not be practical for management as wilderness.”

The lands included in 2008 Subunit B were included in the Sutton Mountain Roadless Area review completed by the Central Oregon Resource Area, Prineville District BLM, in 1994. These lands were dropped from further review at that time, and not carried forward to a wilderness inventory process.

Description of Current Conditions

Man-made features cut the inventory area into several smaller subunits. The new inventory unit includes three Subunits.

The 2008 inventory unit encompasses slightly more lands than the original inventory unit studied in 1994/1995. The northwest boundary of the original unit was a dirt road that exits the National Monument in T 11 S., R 20 E., Section 11, and continues south through the inventory unit to private land (Norton) in T 11 S., R 20 E., Section 14. This road (see Road Analysis Form) was bladed by the adjacent landowner in 2000 or 2001, however, no ROW exists. Instead of forming a unit boundary, this road is now contained within the new inventory unit, and the road splits Subunit B (West) from the main Subunit A (Center). Subunit C (Bridge Creek) is split from the main Subunit A (Center) by Bridge Creek. Bridge Creek is used as a boundary between subunits because the creek itself and the lands located on the east side of the creek contain numerous man-made developments.

Each of the three subunits border lands within the Painted Hills Unit of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument (3,129 acres) which are zoned and managed by the National Park Service as backcountry or primitive management zones to protect existing wilderness qualities. However, even when Subunits B (343 acres) and C (238 acres) are combined with other contiguous Federal lands with identified wilderness characteristics, the combined total is less than 5,000 acres.

Location of Subunits A, B and C:

Subunit A (Center): This is the largest subunit at 4,880 acres. The subunit is bordered on the north by the National Monument, on the east by a developed segment of Bridge Creek, on the west by a combination of a dirt road which accesses private lands (Norton) and private property, and on the south by a combination US Highway 26 and private land.

Subunit B (West): This subunit is 343 acres in size. The subunit is bordered on the west by the Wheeler County Bear Creek Road and on the east by a dirt road which accesses private lands

OR-054-011/ Sand Mountain Inventory Unit

(Norton). The subunit is bordered on the north by the National Monument and on the south by private land.

Subunit C (Bridge Creek): This subunit is 238 acres in size. The subunit includes approximately 4 miles of Bridge Creek, a tributary to the John Day River, and the public lands that form a narrow strip between Bridge Creek and the Wheeler County Burnt Ranch Road. The subunit is bordered on the north by the National Monument, on the west by the National Monument and by a developed segment of Bridge Creek, on the east by Burnt Ranch Rd., and on the south by private land.

Location of Subunit A: Portions of or all public lands in T 11 S., R 21 E., Sections 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19; T 11 S., R 20 E., Sections 11, 12, 13.

Location of Subunit B: Portions of or all public lands in T 11 S., R 20 E., Section 11.

Location of Subunit C: Portions of or all public lands in T 11 S., R 21 E., Sections 5 and 6.

Description:

Subunit A contains Sand Mountain, which is the highest point in the immediate Painted Hills area. Sand Mountain is a rhyolitic intrusion through Columbia River Basalt. Numerous ridges and draws slope away from the mountain creating steep rolling topography. A layer of volcanic ash with colorations of white through red is exposed in areas at the base of the slopes. Several seeps and springs are found in the unit, but flowing water is rarely present.

Vegetation: The dominant vegetation in Subunit A includes Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, sagebrush, and juniper. Upon re-inventory in 2007/2008, it is evident that two undesirable grasses, cheat grass and medusa head, have invaded the area. Two cactuses are found in the unit including hedgehog cactus, which provide an appealing floral display during spring.

Man-Made Improvements: Subunit A contains approximately two miles of fencing, three spring developments, and a small former reservoir. A 444 acre juniper cut is located in the center of the unit (see map). In the southern portion of Subunit A, adjacent to US Highway 26, a potential realty trespass was discovered which encompasses approximately 6 acres and includes several buildings and roads that appear to have been constructed on BLM without authorization, and additionally the adjacent landowner to the east appears to be dumping used car bodies on BLM.

Current Land Uses: The lands located in Subunit A have been leased for potential oil and gas development (9/05/2001). The lands are authorized for commercial grazing under BLM permit (Crown Rock Allotment #2609). Recreational uses include big game and upland bird hunting, hiking, horseback riding, nature study, and an occasional mountain bike rider. The BLM Visual Resource Management Class of Subunit A is Class II.

Subunit B is a small triangle of land which contains rolling topography characterized by erosive soils and gullies. Vegetation consists primarily of sagebrush, juniper, cheat grass, and medusa head. Approximately ½ mile of fence and ½ mile of underground telephone cable (no ROW) runs within the subunit near Bear Creek County Rd. The lands are authorized for commercial

OR-054-011/ Sand Mountain Inventory Unit

grazing under BLM permit (Crown Rock Allotment #2609). Recreational uses of Subunits B include big game and upland bird hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and nature study. The BLM Visual Resource Management Class of Subunit B is Class II.

Subunit C contains Bridge Creek, agricultural fields irrigated by Bridge Creek, and undeveloped dispersed camping area known as Meyer's Campground. Vegetation consists of irrigated alfalfa, juniper, grasses and noxious weeds. Willow, cottonwood and other riparian species are found near the creek. Subunit C contains numerous man-made developments including approximately 117 acres of agricultural fields, a power line, numerous fences, and a dispersed camping area. Bridge Creek itself contains man-made developments including irrigation withdrawal sites, a concrete water diversion structure, fish and riparian monitoring equipment, and stream restoration structures. The BLM Visual Resource Management Class of Subunit C is Class III.

Subunits A, B and C:

Wildlife populations of all three subunits include mule deer, elk, mountain lion, bobcat, chukar, golden eagle, prairie falcon, California quail, meadowlarks and mountain bluebird.

There is a potential for leaf fossil localities within the Sand Mountain unit. A woolly mammoth tusk from the Pleistocene era was found near Bridge Creek. Lithic scatters from pre-contact time are known within the unit and isolated finds likely exist in this unit. Early 1900s man-made structures exist, including remains of livestock systems, corrals, spring development, troughs, irrigation systems and remains of wood structures.

Subunits B and C are contiguous with other Federal lands with identified wilderness characteristics. However, even when combined with the National Park Service lands (3,129 acres), Subunits B (343 acres) and C (238 acres) do not meet the 5,000 acre minimum size requirement. For this reason, Subunits B and C are not discussed further in this document.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes ___ No X NA ___

Describe:

Subunit A: The original 1994 inventory states:

“The unit appears to have been effected primarily by the forces of nature. Evidence of two vehicle ways can be found, although these ways have almost entirely reverted back to a natural state. Two developed springs are located in the unit. A power line exists parallel to US Highway 26 at the southern edge of the unit. An old radio facility is located on top of Sargent Butte. These developments are not dominant in the existing landscape.”

Upon re-inventory in 2007/2008, these previous conclusions were found to be true except that the following additional man-made improvements were found to exist in Subunit A:

A 444 acre juniper cut (2004) is located in the center of the subunit. The cut trees are lying on the ground and the needles have dried and fallen off.

OR-054-011/ Sand Mountain Inventory Unit

Approximately one mile of fencing has been constructed.

A third developed spring was located, which was missed during the original inventory.

A small former reservoir was located $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of the unit boundary in Section 11. In the southern portion of the subunit, adjacent to US Highway 26, a potential realty trespass was discovered in September 2008, which encompasses approximately 6 acres and includes several buildings and roads that appear to have been constructed on BLM without authorization.

The following man-made developments within Subunit A have diminished or no longer exist:

Only one vehicle route is present, beginning in T. 11 S., R. 20 E., Section 11, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, where it leaves the National Monument and heads $\frac{1}{2}$ mile southeast to a developed spring (Two-Way).

Beyond the spring the route disappears into a wash, and public vehicle use is not authorized beyond this point per the 1996 Sutton Mountain CRMP.

BLM has driven vehicles an additional 1.5 miles up the wash as necessary to access a developed spring located in T. 11 S., R. 20 E., Section 13, SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

The second vehicle route mentioned in the original inventory has mostly re-vegetated.

The old radio facility on top of Sargent Butte was removed by helicopter in Fall 2007. Vehicle access to the facility site has completely washed out.

The addition of one mile of fence and the discovery of an additional developed spring and a small, former reservoir do not detract from the overall naturalness of the subunit when considered along with improvements to the level of naturalness which have occurred including the re-vegetation of one vehicle route and the removal of a radio facility.

However, the 444 acre juniper cut located in the center of the subunit has decreased the naturalness of this subunit to the point where the common observer would not currently conclude that natural processes dominate the area and the area is free of man's intervention. The realty trespass in the south part of the unit also diminishes the naturalness of this subunit, but because this intrusion is located just inside the boundary of the unit, the intrusion could effectively be cut out of the unit. Cutting out the intrusion would reduce the size of the subunit by approximately 6 acres.

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

Yes No NA

Description: The original 1994 inventory states, "Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist throughout the northern portion of the unit. The southern portion of the unit, including the top of the mountain, is affected by the sights and sounds of US Highway 26."

Upon re-inventory in 2007/2008, the previous inventory conclusions were found to be true.

OR-054-011/ Sand Mountain Inventory Unit

Upon re-inventory in 2007/2008, the previous inventory conclusions were found to be true.

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

Yes No NA

Description: The original 1994 inventory states, "Opportunities for hiking, nature observation, and some horseback riding are found in this unit. Short length trips are possible all seasons of the year."

Upon re-inventory in 2007/2008, these previous conclusions were found to be true. Also, the area is popular for big game and upland bird hunting, although hunters are not permitted to enter BLM land through the National Monument, as firearms are not permitted within the Monument.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes No NA

Description: The original 1994 inventory states, "This unit contains paleontological resources, plants considered by BLM as "tracking species", and outstanding scenic areas.

Upon re-inventory in 2007/2008, these previous conclusions were found to be true, except revision to OR/WA special status species policy removes any BLM consideration of the "tracking species". We no longer have a "tracking" category. However, they are still considered as "List 3" (for one plant) and "List 4" (for another plant) by the Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center. (Plant data provided by Ron Halvorson.)

OR-054-011/ Sand Mountain Inventory Unit

Prepared by:

Team Members: (Names, Titles, Date)

Initial Review Aug. 14, 2007 by: Heidi Mottl (Recreation/Wilderness), Teal Purrington (NEPA/Planning), Dorothy Thomas (GIS), Anna Smith (Hydrology), Mike Tietmeyer (Range), Dan Tippy (Assistant Field Manager), Rick Demmer (Riparian), Monte Kuk (Wildlife), Robert Vidourek (Forestry), Mike Williams (Planning), Berry Phelps (Recreation), Craig Obermiller (Range), John Morris (Fish), Dana Cork (Transportation), Christina M. Welch (Field Manager), Don Tschida (Fire), Gavin Hoban (GIS), John Zancanella (Cultural), JoAnne Armson (Plants).

Realty/Mineral Records researched by Timothy Finger, BLM Wilderness Specialist on detail from Richland, UT, October, 2008.

Recommendation: Subunit A does not meet the naturalness screen at this time (2008), but should be re-evaluated every 5 years to determine whether naturalness has returned to the area following the 2004 juniper cut.

Approved by:

Christina M. Welch
Field Manager

OCT. 31, 2007
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 either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.

OR-054-011/ Sand Mountain Inventory Unit

John Day Basin RMP Road Analysis Form

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road for wilderness inventory purposes.)

Wilderness Inventory Area Name and Number (UNIT_ID): Sand Mountain (OR-054-011)

Route Name and/or Identifier: Private Property Access (Norton) (Labeled as "A" on Map 1)

I. LOCATION: Please refer to attached map and BLM corporate data (GIS). Route begins in T 11 S., R 20 E., Section 11, where it leaves the National Monument and travels south through the inventory unit to private land in T 11 S., R 20 E., Section 14.

II. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE: To access private property (Norton) which contains an agricultural field and a barn.

III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:

Yes No Unknown

IV. CONSTRUCTION

Yes No

Examples:

Paved Bladed Graveled Roadside Berms
Cut/Fill Other

It is not known when this route was originally constructed or what it looked like prior to the most recent maintenance in 2000 or 2001. Based on other routes the same landowner has "worked on", it is likely that the road was constructed with a bulldozer owned by the landowner.

V. IMPROVEMENTS

Yes No

By Hand Tools By Machine

Culverts Stream Crossings Bridges Drainage Barriers Other

OR-054-011/ Sand Mountain Inventory Unit

The adjacent landowner used a bulldozer to clean out and re-sculpt some of the drainages in an attempt to prevent future washouts.

VI. MAINTENANCE:

A. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes No

Hand Tools (Y/N) N Machine (Y/N) Y

Explain: See BLM FAMS data in reference section. Is the route scheduled to receive maintenance? No

The route was maintained and improved by the adjacent landowner without BLM authorization in 2000 or 2001. The maintenance included blading and work on the drainages to try to prevent future washouts. Based on the frequency and severity of thunderstorms in the area and the highly erosive soils, it is likely that similar maintenance has been completed in the past to make the road passable to the adjacent private property.

B. If route is in good condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM in the event this route became impassable?

Yes No N/A X

Comments: _____

VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:

Yes No

The route accesses private property. It has been and in all likelihood will continue to be used regularly.

VIII. CONCLUSION:

To meet the definition of a road, items IV or V, *and* VI-A or B, *and* VII must be checked yes.

Road: Yes No

Explanation: This route meets the definition of a road as it has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. The work was completed by the adjacent landowner without a ROW from BLM

Evaluator(s): Heidi Mottl Date: 7/27/07

* **road:** An access route which has been **improved and maintained by mechanical means** to insure **relatively regular and continuous use**. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

OR-054-011/ Sand Mountain Inventory Unit

a. **“Improved and maintained”** – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. **“Mechanical means”** – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. **“Relatively regular and continuous use”** – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims.

OR-054-011/ Sand Mountain Inventory Unit

John Day Basin Wilderness Characteristics – PHOTO LOG
(modify form as needed)

Photographer(s): Heidi Mottl

Inventory Area Name & No.: Sand Mountain Unit / OR-054-011

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Sec.
6/27/07	1	E	Vehicle route accessing Two-Way Spring		11 South	20 East	11
6/27/07	2	N	Two-Way Spring		11 South	20 East	12
6/27/07	3	SE	Vehicle route in wash beyond Two-Way Spring		11 South	20 East	12
6/27/07	4	E	New fence constructed since 1994 inventory		11 South	20 East	12
6/27/07	5	E	Revegetated "Jeep Trail" shown on USGS topo		11 South	20 East	12
9/27/07	6	S	Slope showing combination of wildfire & 2004 juniper cut		11 South	21 East	7
9/27/07	7	S	2004 juniper cut		11 South	21 East	18
9/27/07	8	SW	2004 juniper cut		11 South	21 East	18

OR-054-011/ Sand Mountain Inventory Unit

			on Bridge Creek at 92 Field				
5/12/08	10	N	Fish screen for water diversion on Bridge Creek at 92 Field		11 South	21 East	5

OR-054-011/ Sand Mountain Inventory Unit

1. Vehicle route accessing Two-Way Spring (T11S, R20 E, Sec. 11) 6/27/07



2. Two-Way Spring (T 11 S, R 20 E, Sec. 12) 6/27/07



OR-054-011/ Sand Mountain Inventory Unit

3. Vehicle route in wash beyond Two-Way Spring

(T 11 S, R 20 E, Sec. 12)

6/27/07



4. New fence constructed since 1994 inventory

(T 11 S, R 20 E, Sec.12)

6/27/07



OR-054-011/ Sand Mountain Inventory Unit

5. Standing on revegetated jeep trail; could be route mentioned in original 1994 inventory.
(T11S, R20 E, Sec. 12) 8/10/07



6. Combination of wildfire & 2004 Juniper cut



7. 2004 Juniper cut



8. 2004 Juniper cut



9. Water Diversion

10. Fish Screen for Water Diversion



REFERENCES

1. Realty program

- a. Master Title Plats
T 10 S., R 21 E.
T 11 S., R 20 E. and R 21 E.
- b. Executive Order (07/2/1910)
- c. BLM LR 2000 Record data.

2. Mineral Program

Public Law 167 (July 23, 1955). Restriction of use of Unpatented Mining Claims.
43 CFR 3710
BLM Oil and gas Leases 3/3/1999, 9/5/2001, 12/04/2002, 12/11/2003.

3. GIS Program

USGS National Map project
BLM GIS data
BLM Lower John Day River public lands map, June 1991

Team Comments – 8/14/07:

Tippy-ONDA proposes to add our area to Park Service to create an area of wilderness. There is an old communication site on the southern edge on BLM Sergeant Butte. Are there mineral resources?

There is a diversion on Bridge Creek.

Mottl- Sand Mountain was an original WSA inventory. At that time it was considered too small, until BLM obtained GIS technology, and found it to be 5k acres.

Tippy- The area has spring development and juniper cuts and an administrative route that has been used to access those projects.

Purrington- Feral horses are being grazed without authorization.

Tippy- There are irrigated agriculture fields on east side of creek – between the creek and the road.

Meyer's canyon undeveloped camping area is within this inventory unit.

If we found wilderness before, what has changed? I heard juniper cuts and a spring development and fences have been built. We also found that it was larger. Sawed stumps might reduce naturalness, but on the other hand, the improved grasses might have restored naturalness.

Mottl- The Park Service considers everything except where they allow the public to drive, as managed for wilderness. Jim Hammett (US Park Service) and BLM have talked about managing the lands for wilderness. ONDA and Jim thought the juniper cut would be fine and that it wouldn't affect the wilderness characteristics.

Mottl- The original inventory from the Sutton Mtn Exchange says for Sand Mtn that the southern portion of unit, including the top of the mountain, is affected by the sounds of Hwy 206, yet the inventory found that there were outstanding opportunities for solitude throughout the northern portion of the unit. The inventory states that two ways have reverted to natural state.

OR-054-011/ Sand Mountain Inventory Unit

Phelps-Naturalness has to do with natural appearance not natural ecological state.

Mottl- We should go look at the juniper cut or we should say that in this case we don't care about the juniper cut and think it has wilderness characteristics.

Demmer- How will we deal with juniper cuts in other areas? After 50 years, we probably won't be able to tell the difference.

Zancanella- How does HWY26 affect the area?

Mottl- When evaluating solitude, we don't consider sights and sounds that originate outside of the area, just those that originate within the area.

Welch- It has potential for wilderness area

RUN TIME: 12:34 PM

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

RUN DATE: 06/03/2010

Input Parameters for MC Geographic Report

System Id = MC

Admin State = OR

Geo State =

Mer Twp Rng =

Section =

Mtrs = 33 0110S 0200E 011, 33 0110S 0200E 012, 33 0110S 0200E 013, 33 0110S 0210E 005, 33 0110S 0210E 006, 33 0110S 0210E 007, 33 0110S 0210E 008, 33 0110S 0210E 009, 33 0110S 0210E 016, 33 0110S 0210E 017, 33 0110S 0210E 018, 33 0110S 0210E 019

Adm Agency Begins With

Aliquot Part contains

Case Disp Txt = ACTIVE, CLOSED, PENDING, VOID

Total Rows Returned:

0



No Mining Claims

Choose which layers can have their features selected interactively with the Select Features tool, the Select By Graphics command, the Edit tool, etc.

Identify

Identify from: Mineral Resources

- Mineral Resources
 - Uranium Occurrence
 - Unnamed Uranium Occurrence

Location: 592,622.433 1,172,431.607 Meters

Field	Value
OBJECTID	1123
Shape	Point
dep_id	10153783
nirids_id	M029059
mas_id	0410690042
site_name	Unnamed Uranium Occurrence
latitude	44.6181
longitude	-120.216
region	NA
country	United States
state	Oregon
county	Wheeler
district	
admin	
land_stat	
com_type	M
com_major	Uranium
com_minor	
com_trace	
oper_type	Surface
dep_type	
prod_size	
dev_stat	Occurrence
ore	
ganque	
other_matl	
orebody_fm	
work_type	
model	
alteration	
conc_proc	
prev_name	
ore_ctrl	
reporter	Ridenour, James
hrock_unit	
hrock_code	
arock_unit	
arock_code	
structure	
tectonic	
ref_	THE ORE BIN, 1955, V. 17, NO. 1.
yfp_ba	
yr_fst_prd	0
yfp_ba	
yr_1st_prd	0
dy_ba	
disc_yr	0
prod_yrs	

Identified 2 features

10 B I U A

577020.322 1167224.584 Meters

File Edit View Insert Selection Tools Window Help

Topology: [Icons]

Editor Task: Create New Feature Target: Fed_sz_blm_plan_wc_edits_aug [Icons]

Identify from: SandMtn_04

Identified 1 feature

Field	Value
OBJECTID	1
Shape	Polygon
AREA	1795043.38597
PERIMETER	12202.969619
SNJOFNLP_	1
SNJOFNLP1	1
ID	0
SNJOFNLP_1	19321608.909
SNJOFNLP_2	40035.909
ACRES	443.565
PERIM_MILE	7.583
Shape_Leng	12196.520866
Shape_Length	12197.47764
Shape_Area	1794389.18655

Identified 1 feature

- Powerlines
- Fences
- Infrastructure_Fix
- Water Points
- Mineral Resources
- Corrals
- New Group Layer
- Counties
- Wilderness Study Area Boundaries

THODE_ LPOLY_ TPOLY_ LENGTH_ GTRID_ GTRID_ID_ ARC_KI

573615.094 1169770.24 Meters

Wilderness Analysis

Prineville District
Categorical Exclusion
Review and Approval

Heidi,
here is a copy of
the CE. Unit 3 is
done, Units 1 & 2 are
stated to be completed
this year.
Shown

Name of Proposed Action: Sand Mountain Juniper Cut

CE Number: OR-054-03-092

Project or Serial Number: CORA 735211 (2824 JW MD29)

Location of Proposed Action: The project is located approximately 8 miles NW of Mitchell, Oregon in Township 11S, Range 21E, Sections 7, 8, 17, and 18; and Township 11S, Range 20E, Section 12; near Sand Mountain and Sargent Butte. (See attached Map)

Purpose of and Need for Action:

Western juniper was traditionally confined, as a result of its natural susceptibility to wildfire, to the rocky outcroppings, cliffs and scab flats common to much of central Oregon. In the last two hundred years, potentially resulting from grazing practices, general climate change and alterations in the natural fire regime, western juniper has made its way down from canyon rims to interact with the vegetative, hydrologic and terrestrial systems of this region.

The majority of rangeland sites considered for treatment dominated by western juniper and the project's goal is to have a greater mix of ecological conditions throughout the area. Juniper cutting would increase desirable shrubs, grasses, and forbs while reducing the quantity juniper. Habitat and vegetative diversity are expected to increase, leading to a corresponding increase in species richness. In the long term, increased vegetative diversity will also enhance the scenic quality of the region.

The purpose of this project is to cut western juniper in the Sand Mountain area in order to 1) restore the health and diversity of the vegetation, 2) control the spread of western juniper, 3) reduce hazard fuels, and 4) improve long-term hydrological regimes (water quality, flow, timing etc.) 5) in the long term reintroduce fire as a natural process in the ecosystem (and maintain the natural fire cycle in the future) in order to restore the ecosystem to a more healthy, better functioning state. The proposed action will also serve to improve watershed conditions by reducing the amount of bare ground and increasing grass cover and organic matter.

The movement of these areas toward their ecological site potential would improve wildlife habitat and diversity and assist in moving the areas toward fire cycles that could be maintained (Central Oregon Fire Plan [Chapter 3, pgs 3-6]).

Description of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to cut, by chainsaw, approximately 700 acres of western juniper within three different units. All juniper trees will be completely severed from the stump(s). No live limbs will be left on the stump of cut trees. Stump height will not exceed 10", measured on the uphill side. No juniper trees over 18" dbh or exhibiting "old growth" characteristics will be cut. All Ponderosa pine, hardwoods, and snags (including juniper snags) will not be cut. Any trees with cultural significance or obvious wildlife occupation (i.e., cavities, bird nests) will not be cut.

Cut units will be broken out into three different units to be cut over the next 2-3 years.

Portions of some units will be seeded with a mixture of native grass and/or forb species prior to executing a cut. The areas to be seeded will be those that it is determined do not have enough understory vegetation to recover naturally. Seeding will aid in vegetative recovery and improve watershed health

Plan Conformance:

The above project has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with one or more of the following BLM plans:

Two Rivers RMP; ROD and RPS (1986)

Manage upland vegetation to achieve maximum wildlife habitat diversity (Page 10).

Upland vegetation will be managed through.....range/wildlife habitat development to provide maximum wildlife habitat diversity (Page 11).

Vegetative manipulation project will be designed to minimize wildlife habitat impacts and to improve habitat when possible (Page 11).

Sutton Mountain CRMP (1996)

There will be no restrictions on the kinds of cost effective methods that may be used for vegetation treatments. Areas with more than 40% desirable native vegetation present will be allowed to re-vegetate naturally. Those areas with less than 40% of the species present will be seeded with native species or hybrids of native species (Page 9).

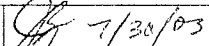
Categorical Exclusion Reference:

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further analysis or documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM2, Appendix 1, 1.12 (Fuels reduction). The application of this categorical exclusion is appropriate, as there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects which may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action would not create adverse environmental effects or trigger an exception. None of the following exceptions apply.

<p>8. Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed as Federally Endangered or Threatened Species, or adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species? This includes impacts on BLM-designated sensitive species or their habitat. When a Federal listed species or its habitat is encountered, a Biological Evaluation (BE) shall document the effect on the species. The responsible official may proceed with the proposed action without preparing a NEPA document when the BE demonstrates either a "no affect" determination or a "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" determination.</p>		X
<p>T&E Clearances Initial</p>	<p>Wildlife</p>	<p><i>See 7/30/03</i></p>
	<p>Fish</p>	<p><i>BR 7/30/03</i></p>
	<p>Plants</p>	<p><i>See Attached</i></p>
<p>9. Fail to comply with (Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management); (Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act?</p>		X
<p>10. Violate a Federal, State, Local, or Tribal law, regulation or policy imposed for the protection of the environment, where non-Federal requirements are consistent with Federal requirements?</p>		X
<p>11. Involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E)) not already decided in an approved land use plan?</p>		X
<p>12. Have disproportionate significant adverse impacts on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice)?</p>		X
<p>13. Restrict access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioner or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites)?</p>		X
<p>14. Have significant adverse effects on Indian Trust Resources?</p>		X
<p>15. Contribute to the introduction, existence, or spread of federally listed noxious weeds (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act); or invasive non-native species (Executive Order 13112, Invasive Species)?</p>		X
<p>16. Have a direct or indirect adverse impact on energy development, production, supply, and/or distribution (Executive Order 13212, Actions to Expedite Energy-Related Projects)?</p>		X

Exceptions to Categorical Exclusions Documentation:

The proposed action would not create adverse environmental effects under the CE exceptions, unless as noted. The propose action will:

E Exception	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety?		X
2. Have significant, adverse effects on unique geographic characteristics or features, or on special designation areas such as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; or prime farmlands. This also includes ecologically significant or critical areas, such as significant caves, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), National Monuments, Wilderness Study Areas, Research Natural Areas, and those listed on the National Register of Natural Landmarks?		X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects (40 CFR 1508.14)?		X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks?		X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principal about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		X
6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but significant cumulative environmental effects, which include connected actions on private lands (40 CFR 1508.7 and 1508.25(a))?		X
7. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, which includes Native American religious or cultural sites, archaeological sites, or historic properties?		X
Cultural Clearance Initial		

*no comment
7/30/03*

Sand Mountain Juniper Cut

Legend

Township and Range

Sections

Highways

Roads

contours - 40ft

Bureau of Land Management

US Forest Service

Department of Agriculture

Bureau of Reclamation

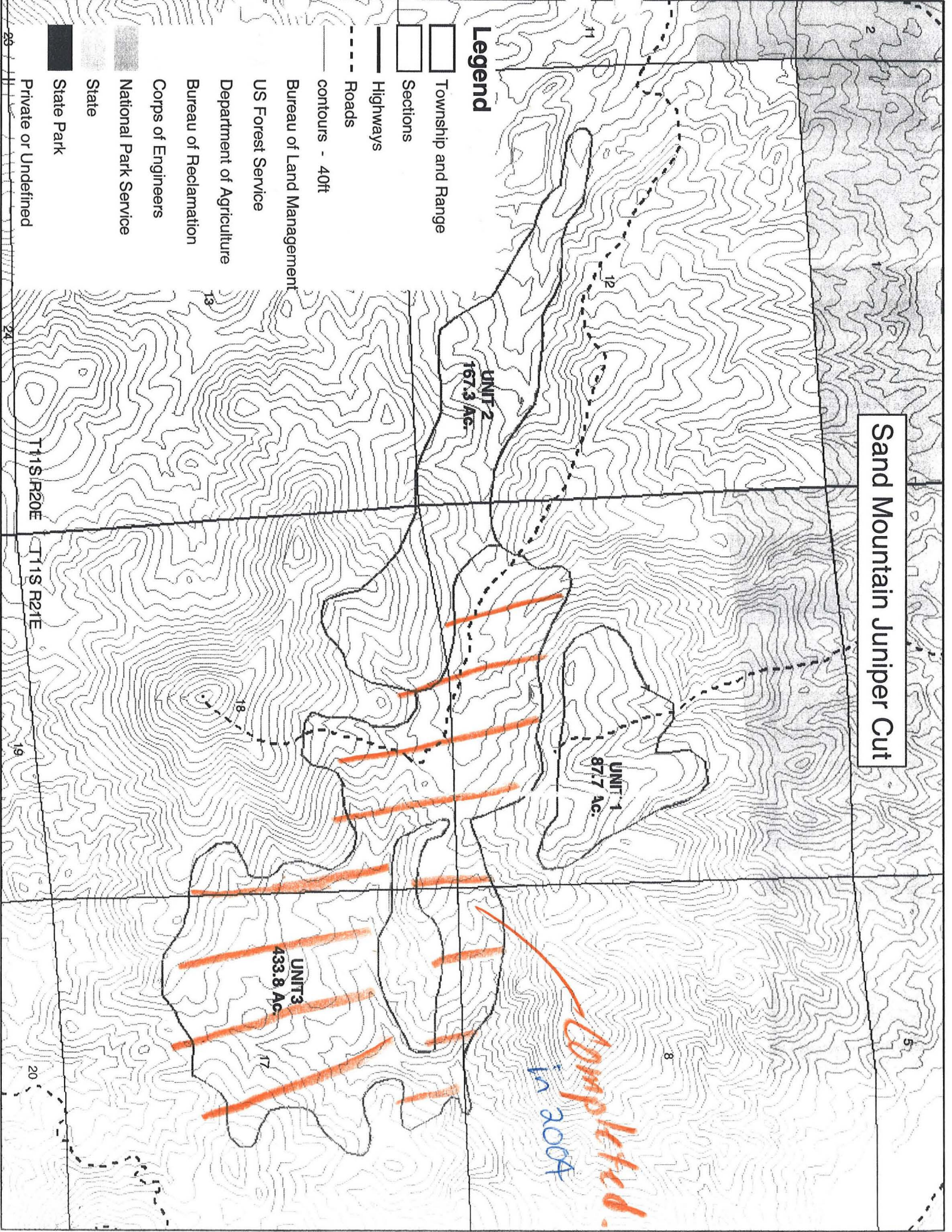
Corps of Engineers

National Park Service

State

State Park

Private or Undefined



BOTANICAL EVALUATION

Project name: Sand Mountain prescribed fire

Project description: Prescribed burn to enhance watershed/wildlife values and decrease hazardous fuel accumulations

Descriptive location: Public lands south of Painted Hills National Monument

Legal Description: Public lands in T. 11 S., R. 21 and 22 E.

USGS quad name(s): Painted Hills, Sutton Mountain, Lawson Mountain and Mitchell

Special status plants initially suspected, their flowering period and habitat: Two species were suspected in this area: *Carex hystericina* and *Thelypodium eucosmum*.

Carex hystericina (porcupine sedge) is a species of wet areas, such as springs, seeps and along stream courses. It is presently listed as Threatened or Endangered in Oregon (List 2) by the Natural Heritage Data Base, and as such, is a BLM Assessment Species. In the Prineville District, it is known from widely separated locations, including Ten Mile Creek near the Deschutes River, the John Day River near Picture Gorge, and near the South Fork John Day River near the Black Canyon Wilderness. Research on other *Carex* show that these rhizomatous species tolerate and even benefit from fire treatment.

Thelypodium eucosmum (arrowleaf thelypody) is a biennial (sometimes persisting for more than two years) member of the mustard family usually found in moist, seepy areas on ashy-clay soils in Grant and Wheeler counties in association with western juniper. Considered by the Natural Heritage Data Base to be threatened or endangered throughout its range (List 1) it is a Bureau Sensitive species and is listed as "threatened" by the State of Oregon. Most populations are found in steep drainages along the John Day River, from near Monument to Service Creek, with other populations in the Sutton Mountain/Twickenham, Dayville and John Day areas. The change in fire frequency, resulting in fewer, more intense fires, can result in damage to rosettes and the seed bed, especially where the plants occur under juniper. However, observations of populations of *Thelypodium eucosmum* that have burned in the Prineville District (Sutton Mountain, Little Canyon Mountain) indicate that fire appears to be beneficial, at least in the first few years following fire, as indicated by increased vigor, flowering and reproduction.

Date of survey: May 7, 2002

Participating personnel: Halvorson

Size or dimension of area surveyed: Only the SW portion of the project area was physically examined, about 300 acres.

Survey Intensity: Intuitive controlled

Time spent: 4 hours

Visibility: fair to good

General habitat description:

Elevation, topography, slope and aspect: The project area contains all aspects with slopes from steep to gentle. The topography is quite dissected with elevations from about 2,200 feet to 3,800 feet.

Soils: Soils are generally ash-derived with scattered surface rock. Basalt outcrops and shallow-soiled rocky ridges are also common in the area.

Community and associated species: The vegetation is common to the area and consists of a landscape dominated by western juniper with an understory of sagebrush, grasses and herbs. As expected, the lower slopes have been heavily impacted by past livestock grazing practices and are therefore dominated by sagebrush, snakeweed, and annuals such as cheatgrass. Any increase in slope correlates with an increase in perennial vegetation, such as Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass and other native species. Western juniper is more dense in the drainages.

Microbiotic crust: The normal crust expected in this area was present, particularly under the woody canopy.

Special status species observed or suspected: No special status plants were observed. However, it would not be a surprise to find *Thelypodium eucosmum*, given a more thorough search of the area. Several areas in the drainage and on ash soils with Great Basin wild rye appeared suitable for *Thelypodium eucosmum*.

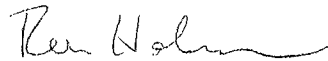
Cultural species observed and brief discussion of relative abundance: Except as noted in the floristic list, attached, no cultural species were observed in any abundance to make this a specific concern/value of the project area.

Noxious weeds observed and related information: Common teasel (*Dipsacus sylvestris*) was observed in the drainages.

Other species of interest: Barrel cactus (*Pediocactus simpsonii* var. *robustior*) was observed on a rocky ridge and slope in the SE ¼ of Section 11. This is not uncommon in this area and other occurrences would be expected in the project area. The plant has no status but is of interest to Oregon botanists.

Recommendations/Comments:

The project should continue as planned. Given the drought situation this year I will be interested in the recovery of the native species, especially bluebunch wheatgrass. It was intended that the entire project area be given at least a cursory inventory. However, based on what was observed during this inventory, the fact that the rest of the project area does not differ substantially from what was observed and that fire is likely to be beneficial to the two special status species suspected in this area, it was determined that additional inventory was unnecessary.



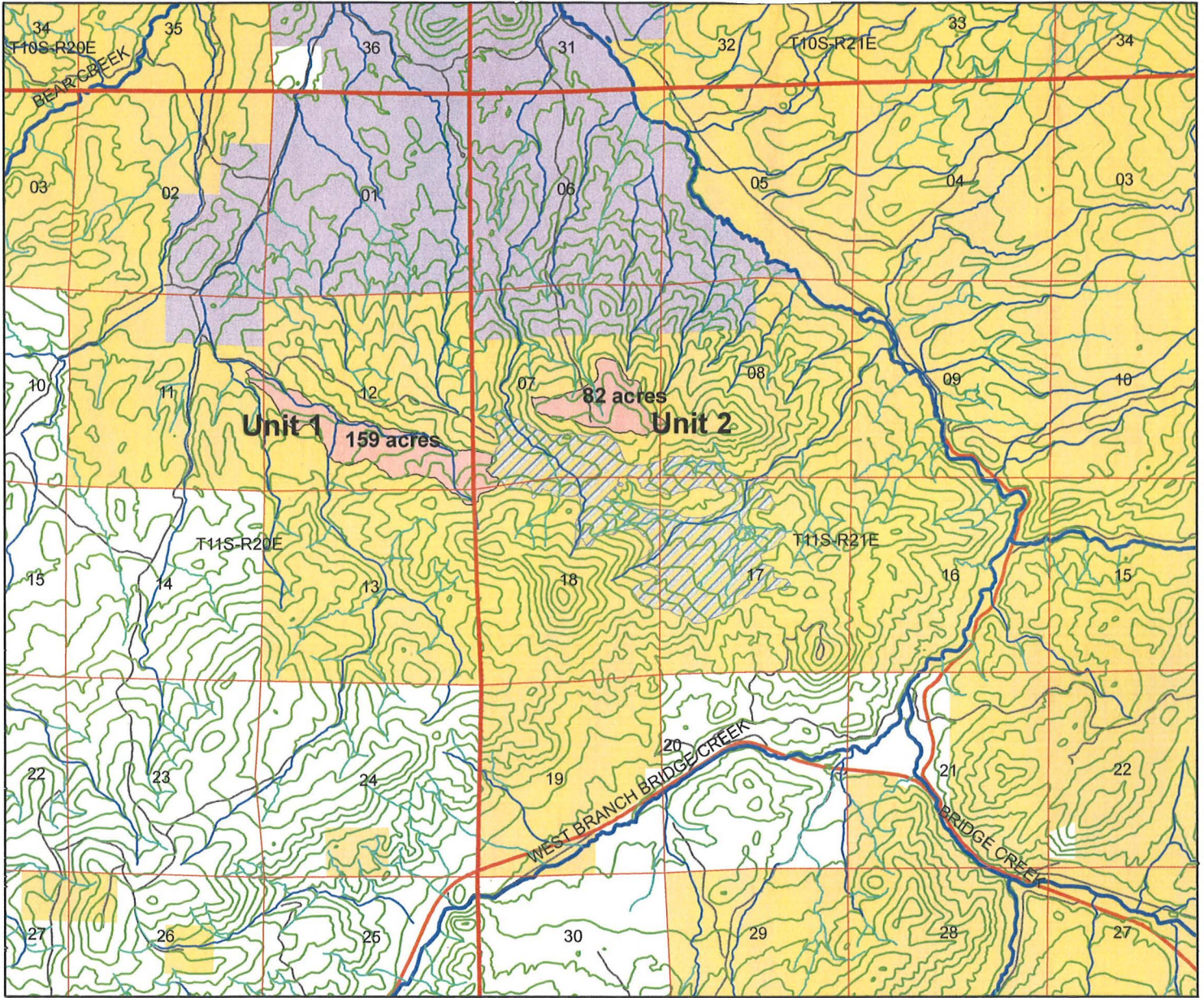
District Botanist

Achillea millefolium






Floristic List
Sand Mountain Prescribed Fire project
May 7, 2002

Agropyron spicatum
Alyssum alyssoides
Amsinkia retrorsa
Antennaria dimorpha
Artemisia tridentata
Astragalus conjunctus
Astragalus howellii
Astragalus purshii
Blepharipappus scaber
Bromus tectorum
Calochortus macrocarpus
Castilleja xanthotricha
Chaenactis nevii
Cirsium sp.
Cleome platycarpa
Cryptantha sp.
Dipsacus sylvestris
Elymus cinereus
Eriogonum strictum
Festuca idahoensis
Gutierrezia sarothrae
Holosteum umbellatum
Juncus balticus
Juniperus occidentalis
Lepidium perfoliatum
Lewisia rediviva
Lomatium sp.
Microseris troximoides
Oryzopsis hymenoides
Pediocactus simpsonii var. robustior
Petalostemon ornatum
Poa bulbosa
Poa secunda
Poa sp.
Ribes cereum
Rumex sp.
Taraxacum officinale
Townsendia florifer
Verbascum thapsus

Proposed
Sand Mountain 08






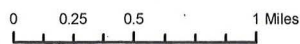
Legend

-  Townships
-  Sections
-  Arterial
-  Sand Mountain 08 Cut
-  Previously completed juniper cut

Ownership

property_status

-  Bureau of Land Management
-  National Park Service
-  Private/Unknown

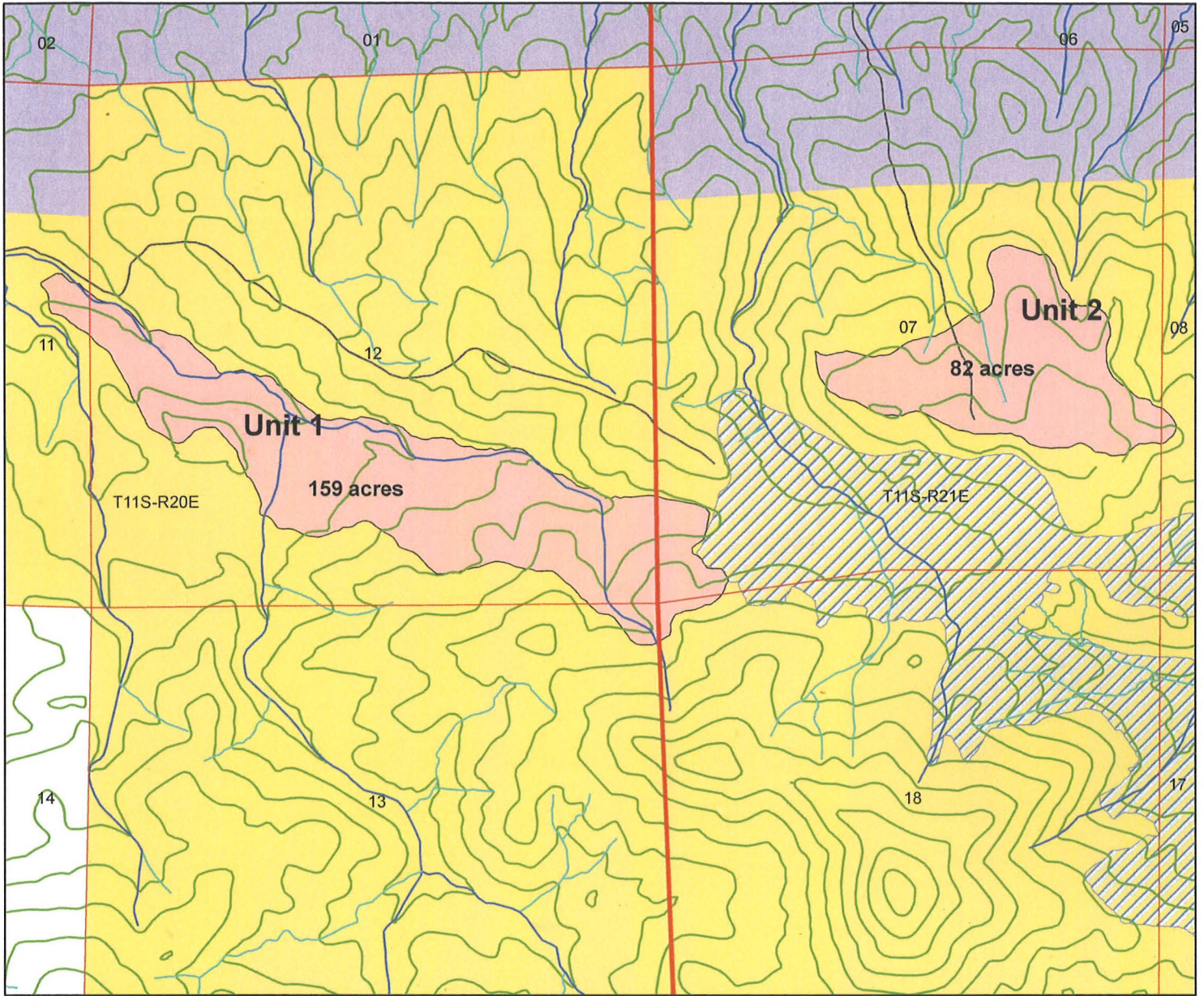


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Proposed Sand Mountain 08






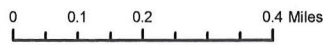
Legend

-  Townships
-  Sections
-  Arterial
-  Sand Mountain 08 Cut
-  Previously completed juniper cut

Ownership

property_status

-  Bureau of Land Management
-  National Park Service
-  Private/Unknown



Creation Date: 12/18/2007 3:16:47 PM

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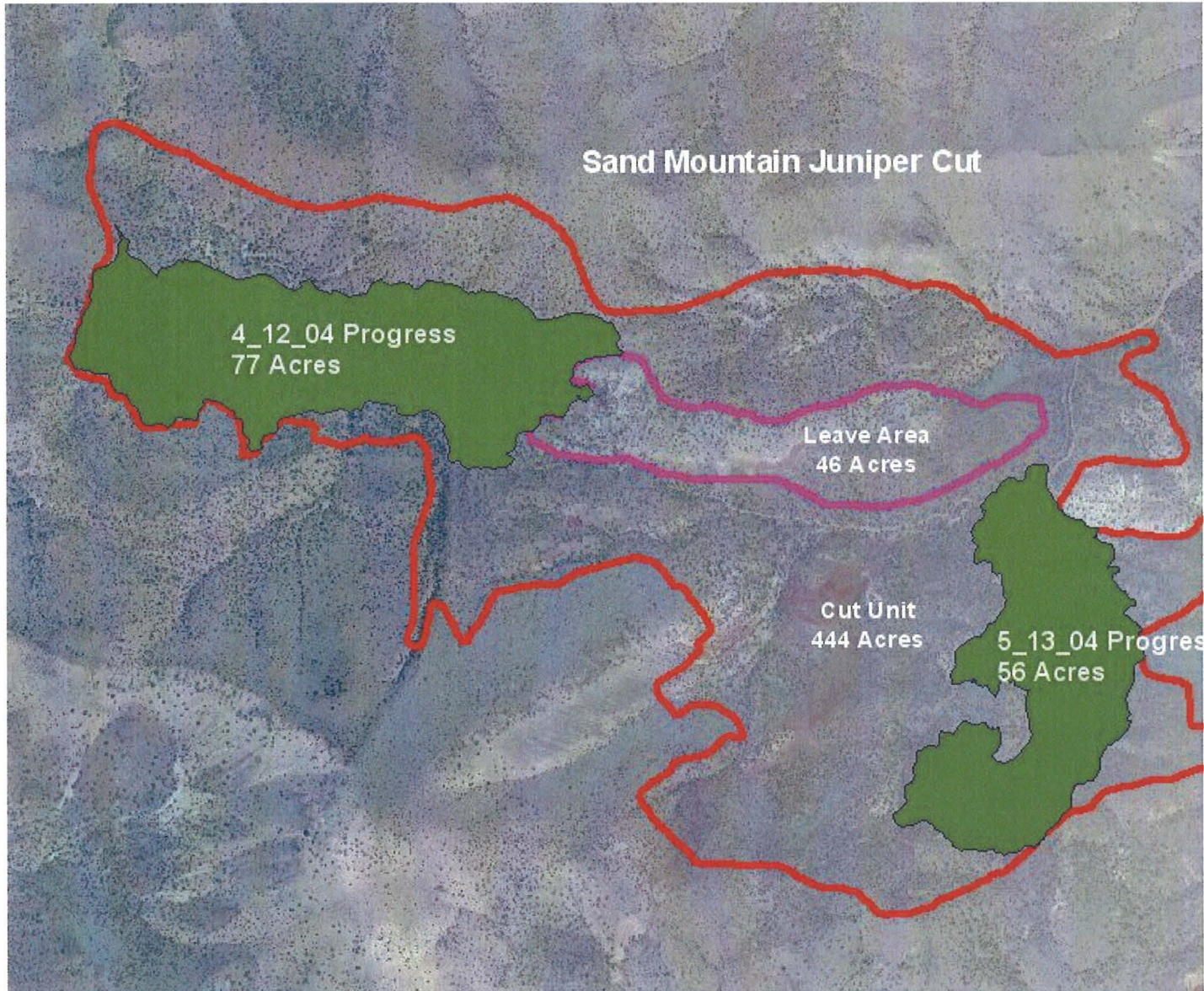
Scott
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To Craig Obermiller/PRFO/OR/BLM/DOI@BLM, Heidi Mottl/PRFO/OR/BLM/DOI@BLM, John Zancanella/PRFO/OR/BLM/DOI@BLM, Lyle W Andrews/PRFO/OR/BLM/DOI@BLM, Rick Demmer/PRFO/OR/BLM/DOI@BLM, Ron Halvorson/PRFO/OR/BLM/DOI@BLM, Scott Cooke/PRFO/OR/BLM/DOI@BLM, Anna K Smith/PRFO/OR/BLM/DOI@BLM, Brent Ralston/PRFO/OR/BLM/DOI@BLM, William Pieratt/PRFO/OR/BLM/DOI@BLM, Mike Crumrine/PRFO/OR/BLM/DOI@BLM, Steve Leckie/PRFO/OR/BLM/DOI@BLM, Gary Wing/PRFO/OR/BLM/DOI@BLM
 cc Dan Tippy/PRFO/OR/BLM/DOI@BLM, Christina M Welch/PRFO/OR/BLM/DOI@BLM
 bcc

Subject Sand Mtn JUOC Cut Update

Here is a map to update you on the status of the Sand Mtn JUOC cut as of yesterday. Unit is approx 30% complete. Of note, Adam Mayle informed me that the spring located on the east unit has risen significantly in the past month since the junipers were cut.

Scott



 Scott Cooke
 Wildlife Biologist
 Prineville District BLM

Willow Spring Fence
Project No. 735175, Project Code H5BZ

Sand Mtn.





OR057-011- Sand Mt.

United States Department of the Interior
Received



JUL 11 2008

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
John Day Fossil Beds National Monument
32651 Hwy 19
Kimberly, Oregon 97848

IN REPLY REFER TO: Bureau of Land Mgmt
Prineville District

July 7, 2008

Christina Welch
Central Oregon Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Prineville District
3050 N.E. Third St.
Prineville, Oregon 97754

*Heidi -
Also see my draft response
in your email inbox -
Ayn*

Dear Ms. Welch,

As you know, the National Park Service has been working to complete a new General Management Plan (GMP) for John Day Fossil Beds National Monument for the past three years. One of the issues that we are required to address by policy in GMPs is the suitability of lands we manage for future wilderness designation under the Wilderness Act.

Through our planning process we have concluded that portions of John Day Fossil Beds National Monument in the Sheep Rock and Painted Hills units meet most of the criteria for wilderness designation, but do not meet the size criterion of being over 5000 acres. However, when these lands are considered in conjunction with adjacent unroaded Bureau of Land Management lands they may merit this designation. Because of this we have zoned these lands so that nothing will compromise their wilderness qualities.

As a cooperator in your Resource Management Planning process, I would request that you recognize the wilderness qualities of the lands surrounding Painted Hills and the Sheep Rock Unit and incorporate this into your planning process.

Recently and more specifically, the lands in the vicinity of Sand Mountain adjacent to Painted Hills unit of the National Monument have been advocated for future designation as wilderness. As you progress in your planning, please consider these lands within the context of adjacent National Park Service-managed lands and recognize their future potential as wilderness study areas.

Sincerely,

James F. Hammett
Superintendent



OR054-01 Sand Mtn.



↑
Two track?

T11S, R21E, Sec. 19

9/2008 from Lyle Andrews

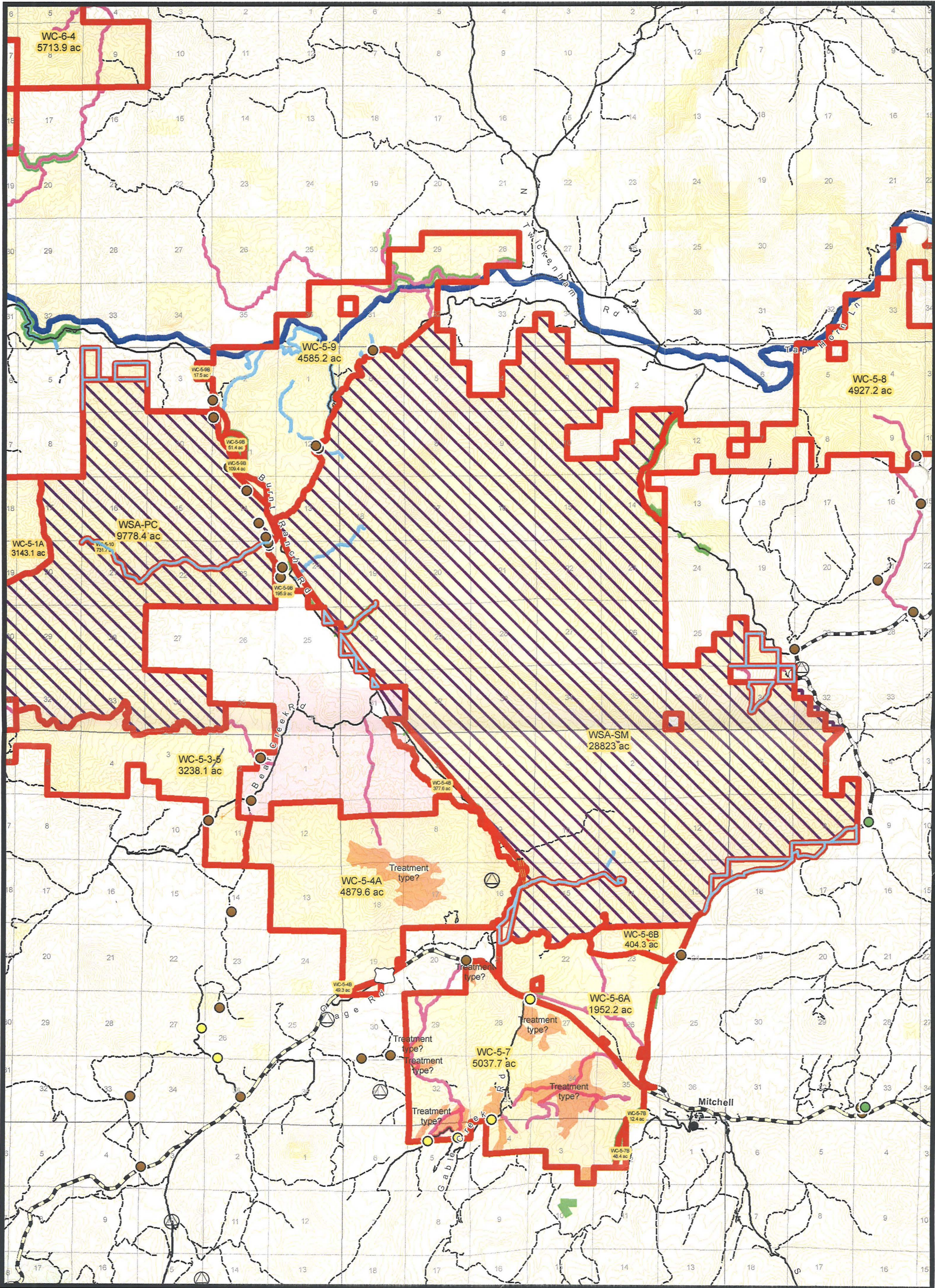
OR054 011- Sand Mtn.



Reservoir?

T11S, R21E, Sec. 19

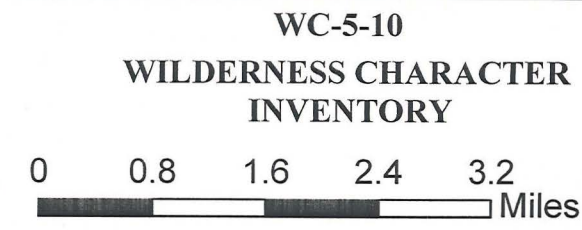
9/2008 from Lyle Andrews



- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Selected Inventory Unit | Public Access - Interim Designations | US, County, State and Local Roads |
| Inventory Unit | Interim Road | Interstate Highway |
| Wilderness Study Areas | Interim Trail | US Highway |
| BLM | To Private | State Highway |
| US Forest Service | Admin Use Only | County Road |
| National Park Service | Build New Road | Municipal Road |
| State | BLM Maintained Roads | Forest Service Roads |
| Private or Undefined | Easement | Arterial Road |
| FS roadless areas | Right of Way | Collector Road |
| FS Wilderness | Unknown Status | Local Road |

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Rivers | Corrals |
| Corrals | Mineral Resources |
| Mineral Resources | Water Points |
| Water Points | Fences |
| Fences | Powerlines |
| Powerlines | Treatments |

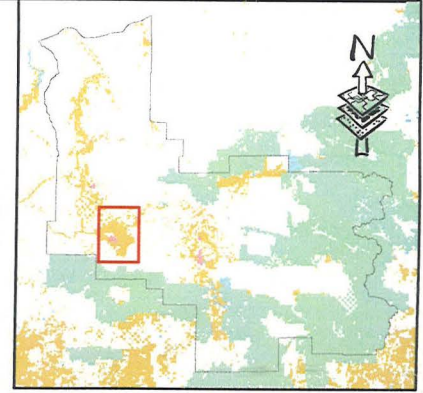
- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Culvert | Gate |
| Gate | Sign |
| Sign | Natural Barrier |
| Natural Barrier | Cattle Guard |
| Cattle Guard | Ford |
| Ford | End of Road |
| End of Road | Pipe |
| Pipe | Washout |



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
PRINEVILLE DISTRICT
5030 NE Third Street
Prineville, OR 97754
(541) 416-6700

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2005 NAIP
T11S, R21E
Section 19

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