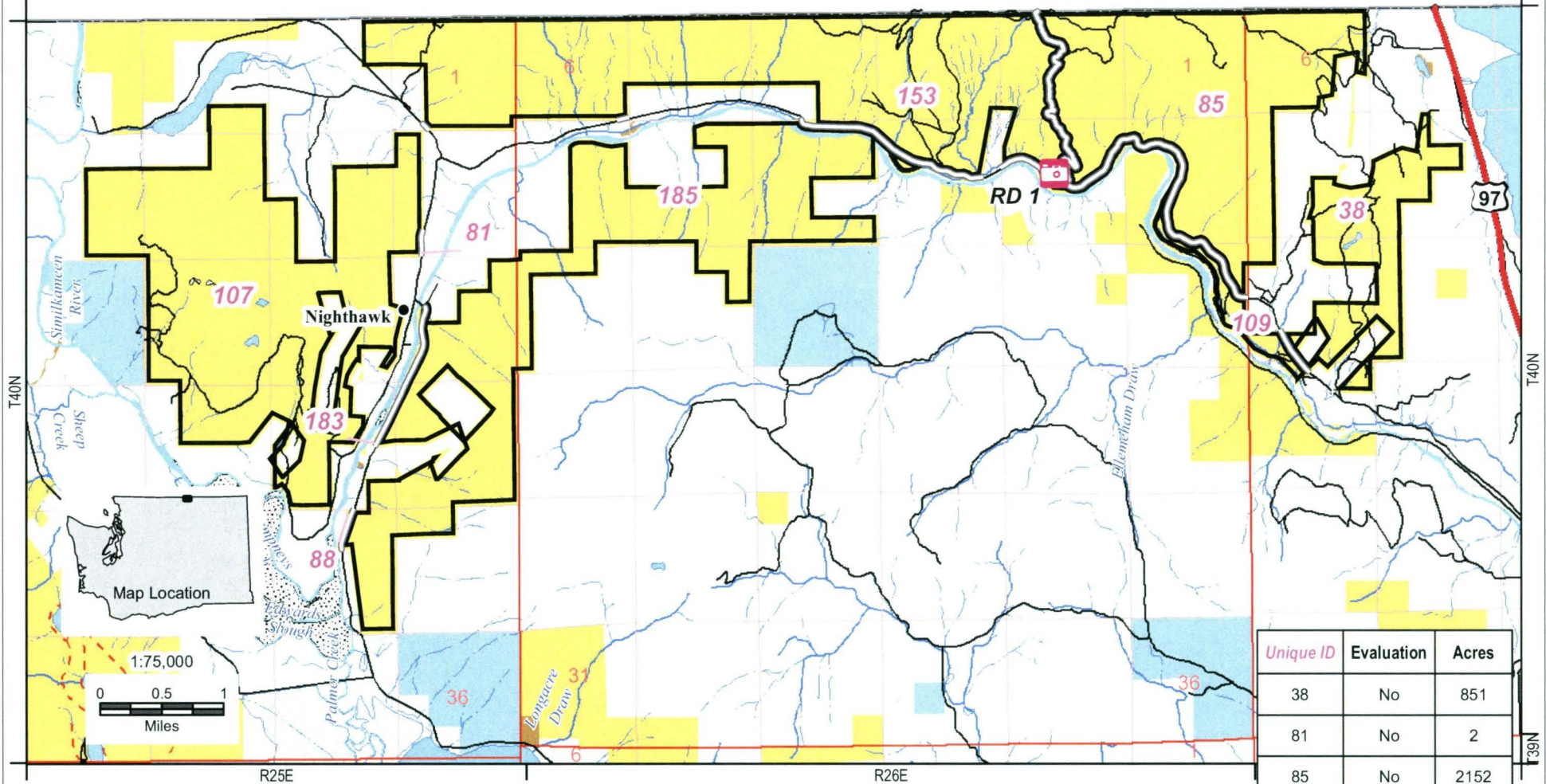


Similkameen



OR 134-07 Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Results

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Spokane District Office
1103 N. Fancher
Spokane, WA 99212



- Road Inventory Points**
 Photo Location
- Boundary Features**
 Road

- Unit Evaluation**
 No - Wilderness Characteristics
- Surface Jurisdiction**
 WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
 WA Dept. of Natural Resources
 U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Unique ID	Evaluation	Acres
38	No	851
81	No	2
85	No	2152
88	No	8
107	No	3158
109	No	265
153	No	3016
183	No	29
185	No	2820
Total		12,301

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.

Year 2010 Inventory Unit Number/Name: Similkameen Unit (OR134-07)

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 X (Go to Form 2) Yes _____ (if more than one unit is within the area, list the names/numbers of those units.):

a) Inventory Source: _____

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): _____

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

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

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):

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics¹:

Inventory Source: _____

Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N

FORM 2

Use additional pages as necessary

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

a. Unit Number/Name: Similkameen Unit (OR134-07)

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes _____ No X

The lands in the unit total approximately 12,303 acres of public lands managed by the Wenatchee Field Office of the Spokane District, Bureau of Land Management. Several roads bisect the unit, resulting in several blocks of insufficient size (see below).

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

This unit includes BLM-administered lands on both sides of the Similkameen River in northern Okanogan County. The unit is split (N-S) by the Oroville-Loomis Road, a paved County road. The paved Similkameen Road extends northwest from the Oroville-Loomis Road to the Nighthawk Border Crossing into Canada. This road forms an E-W boundary to the unit. Another well-traveled unpaved road near the east end of the unit cuts the unit E-W. This road extends from the Oroville-Loomis road to the Canadian border, then along the border fence. No facilities are evident in this unit. Views of the Oroville-Loomis road, some agricultural fields and scattered homes along the Similkameen are visible in the distance.

The unit is surrounded by private land to the west, east and south, and Canada to the north. Several sections of private land lie within the unit (T40NR26ES4,5,6,7,8,9,10 and T40NR25ES12,13,14,22,23,24). Some of the private land is patented mining claims (e.g. T40NR25ES14,23,24).

The portion of the unit to the north and south of the Similkameen River is characterized by high, rounded ridges, cut by deep, dry draws and numerous rocky outcroppings. Vegetation is sagebrush-steppe species, with some weedy species (i.e. cheatgrass). Scattered cottonwoods, aspen and brush inhabit some of the draws. The high ridges offer expansive views into Canada and of high mountains (Chopaka, Grandview) in the distance. Steep, eroded hillsides in a few locations lend a look of the

Badlands to portions of this unit. The hills roll down to the Similkameen River, where flatter banks above the river, the Oroville-Loomis highway and some agricultural fields and scattered homes can be seen, though distantly.

Human use of the unit is frequent along the Oroville-Loomis and Similkameen paved roads by local residents and visitors. Human use also occurs along the other dirt roads accessing the unit, particularly the main unpaved border road at the east end of the unit. Human use along these dirt roads consists mainly of hunting, cattle ranching, BLM range and administrative use and Border Patrol activities.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

No facilities are evident in this unit, other than rangeland fences that cross the area, and the fence along the border. None of these features are substantially noticeable, other than locally in some places.

(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 X N/A _____

Description: Human use is frequent along the paved roads bisecting this unit. Regular human use also occurs along the unpaved border road (see Road Analysis 001). Though use is low across the rest of the unit, the topography allows for long vistas, and the narrow strip of public lands with its associated roads in this unit make it more difficult to achieve 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 X No _____ N/A _____

Description: Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation occur in this unit, including camping, hiking, hunting, bird watching and wildflower and wildlife viewing.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes No N/A

Description: The unit does have supplemental values, including cultural values of lithic scatters, rock cairns, livestock and mining structures.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: Similkameen (OR 134-07)

Summary

Results of Analysis:

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

Conclusion

Check One:

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

The area does not have wilderness character.

Prepared by:

Team Members:

Diane Priebe – Recreation
Molly Boyter – Botany
Dana Peterson – Range
JA Vacca – Wildlife
Nick Stanton – Range
Eric Riener – Fire
Francoise Sweeney – Archeologist
Steve Smith – Recreation

Approved by:


Field Manager

10/13/11
Date

REFERENCES:

1. Realty References:

Master Title Plats
T. 40 N., R 25 E.
T. 40 N., R 26 E.
T. 40 N., R 27 E

Realty Case Files

Powerline ROW OR 8806 W

2. Recreation/Wilderness Program Reference:

BLM Similkameen River Recreation Area Opportunities Site Map, March 2008

3. Engineering program Reference:

BLM Spokane District Route Inventory (FAMS)

4. Range Program Reference:

Range Allotment Files

5. GIS Program reference:

BLM Resource Data-Wildlife, vegetation, fuels, watershed, visual
Aerial Photos, FY 2009 Google Earth

6. Mineral Program Reference:

BLM geographic report for case recordation and mining claim status in LR 2000.

7. Planning and NEPA references:

Executive Order 3/31/1911, Power Supply Reserve 179 for a portion of T. 40 S., R. 26
E., Section 4.

Executive Order 3/31/1911, Power Supply Reserve 179 for a portion of T. 40 S., R. 26 E., Section 13.

Executive Order 3/31/1911, Power Supply Reserve 179 for a portion of T. 40 S., R. 26 E., Section 18

Executive Order 3/31/1911, Power Supply Reserve 179 for a portion of T. 40 S., R. 26 E., Section 19.

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.

**H-6300-1-WILDERNESS INVENTORY MAINTENANCE
IN BLM OREGON/WASHINGTON**

APPENDIX C – ROAD* ANALYSIS

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

Wilderness Inventory Area Name and Number (UNIT_ID):

Similkameen (OR134-07)

Route Name and/or Identifier:

Similkameen 001

(Include Transportation Plan Identifier, if known, include route number supplied by citizen information when available)

I. LOCATION: refer to attached map _____ and BLM corporate data (GIS). List photo point references (where applicable):

84

II. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE:

Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment).

Describe¹: Public access, BLM range administration (1/year monitoring, 2/year check exclosures), BLM fire, Border patrol

III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:

Is a road right-of-way associated with this route? Yes _____ No _____ Unknown X _____

¹ Include estimate of travel for the stated purposes, e.g., trips/day or week or month or year or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases.

IV. CONSTRUCTION (Is there evidence that the route was originally constructed using mechanical means?)

Yes No

Examples:

Paved Bladed Graveled Roadside Berms
Cut/Fill Other

Describe: Well-graveled, maintained road, some parts of road are rutted and rough as it climbs up mountain.

V. IMPROVEMENTS (Is there evidence of improvements to facilitate access?)

Yes No

By Hand Tools By Machine

Examples:

Culverts Stream Crossings Bridges Drainage
 Barriers Other

Describe: Road has been improved in the past by machine (not recently)

VI. MAINTENANCE (Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure continued use?):

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

Yes No

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

Explain: graveling is present

B. If the route is in passable condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable?

Yes No

Comments: _____

VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:

Yes _____ No _____

Describe evidence (e.g., direct: vehicle tracks observed, or indirect: evidence of use associated with purpose of the route, such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a *relatively* regular basis (i.e., regular use relative to the purpose(s) of the route). Recent vehicle tracks, border patrol access, BLM range (1/year for monitoring, 2/year to check exclosures) _____

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:

Evaluator(s): S. Smith, D. Priebe _____ Date: 4/21/10 _____

* **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.

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.

**H-6300-1-WILDERNESS INVENTORY MAINTENANCE
IN BLM OREGON/WASHINGTON**

**APPENDIX D – PHOTO LOG
(modify form as needed)**

Photographer(s): S. Smith, D. Priebe

Inventory Area Name & No.: Similkameen (OR134-07)

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Sec.
4/21/10	84	122	Similkameen 001	48°58'55"N 119°31'45"W	40N	26E	11
4/21/10	85		Scenery		40N	26E	11
4/21/10	86		Scenery		40N	26E	11
4/21/10	87		Scenery		40N	26E	11

Frame 84: Similkameen Rd 01



Similkameen: scenery



Similkamen : Scenery

