

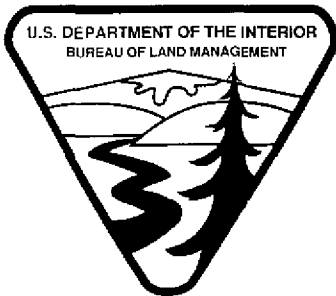
**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

Lakeview Resource Area
Lakeview District Office
HC 10 Box 337
1300 South G Street
Lakeview, Oregon 97630

July 1999



Wild and Scenic River Evaluation Report for the Lakeview Resource Area



As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. Administration.

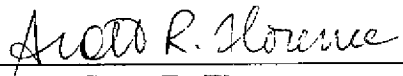
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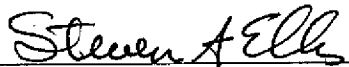
**Wild and Scenic River Evaluation Report
for the Lakeview Resource Area**

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**Wild and Scenic River Evaluation Report
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Table of Contents

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Background	1
Hydrologic Definitions	1
How Was the Assessment Done?	1
Guano Creek	4
Scenery	4
Recreation	4
Geology	5
Fisheries	5
Wildlife	6
Cultural (Prehistoric)	6
Cultural (Historic)	6
Cultural (Traditional Uses)	7
Vegetation	7
Twelve-mile Creek	7
Scenery	7
Recreation	8
Geology	8
Fisheries	8
Wildlife	8
Cultural (Prehistoric)	9
Cultural (Historic)	9
Cultural (Traditional Uses)	9
Vegetation	9
References	10

List of Tables

Table 1. List of Drainages Found To Be Non-Eligible	2
Table 2. Eligibility Assessment and Potential Classification	3
Table 3. Summary Description of Drainages Found to be Eligible	4

List of Figures

Figure 1. General Location Map	11
Figure 2. General Location of Drainages Found to be Eligible	12

Background

The purpose of the eligibility assessment or inventory is to determine if there are any rivers, streams, creeks, or other water reaches within the Lakeview Resource Area that are eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System (NWSRS). This is a necessary step in preparation for the land use planning process. To be eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS, a river must be: 1) free-flowing and 2) have at least one outstandingly remarkable value (ORV) of scenery, recreation, geology, fisheries, wildlife, history, cultural, or similar values. A resource value that is considered outstandingly remarkable must be river-related, or owe its existence to the river ecosystem. Furthermore, in order to be assessed as "outstandingly remarkable", a river-related value must be a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant on a regional or national level. The regional level of comparison used in this assessment is based on the geographic regions described in the *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for Oregon* (Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, 1994), and is made up of Lake, Harney and Malheur Counties in south central Oregon.

Hydrologic Definitions

Before proceeding further it is important to define the following hydrologic terms which are used throughout this evaluation:

Perennial channel - flows water continuously; the channel is generally associated with a water table.

Intermittent channel - flows water only at certain times of the year when it receives water from springs or from some surface source such as melting snow.

Ephemeral channel - flows water only in direct response to precipitation events; the channel is at all times above the water table.

How Was the Assessment Done?

An interdisciplinary team examined 1:100,000 surface management maps covering the entire Lakeview Resource Area looking for drainages that potentially had rivers or small lakes associated with flowing water. The team looked at all possible drainages which were known to be perennial or intermittent, along with many springs, lakes, and

drainages which were unknown. A list of all of these areas was developed and each team member provided input relating to the existence of potential ORVs using professional knowledge and existing data.

Using the hydrologic definitions described above, the team concluded that ephemeral drainages did not meet the definition of a "river", as defined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Therefore, ephemeral drainages, springs, and sinks, along with lakes which were not perennial, intermittent, or part of a "flowing" system were dropped from further consideration. A list of these drainages is shown in Table 1. The locations of these drainages are shown on maps contained within the Lakeview Resource Area planning file.

The remaining drainages were then examined to first assess if they were free-flowing, and then assess if they had ORVs. Four drainages dropped from the eligibility list because of the presence of dams and diversions along their length and, thus, were not free-flowing.

If a specialist suspected that one of the remaining drainages listed in Table 2 had a high likelihood of possessing an ORV, field inventories were conducted. Documenting the presence of ORVs was done by comparing to other stream systems in the three-county area of Lake, Harney, and Malheur, Counties. When an ORV was found by one specialist, it was shared with all other team members, and eligibility reports for all values were submitted.

The study corridor for each river was one-quarter mile on either side of the river for the length of the river segment. In cases where a river segment contained non-BLM lands (ie National Forest, state, or private), the team evaluated only the BLM segments. This included evaluating a portion of the Twelvemile stream system that drops into Nevada and California, but is administered by the Lakeview BLM.

After determining which rivers were eligible, each river segment was tentatively classified as to its degree of naturalness. Tables 2 and 3 list the results of this process. Only two drainages were determined to be eligible during this evaluation process: Guano and Twelvemile Creeks. The detailed evaluations for these two stream systems are included in the following section.

Table 1. List of Drainages Found To Be Non-Eligible

Badger Hole/Horsehead Lake	Orejana Canyon
Benjamin Lake	Gulch Packsaddle Gulch
Buckaroo Lake/Creek	Peters Creek Sink
Clover Swale	Rabbit Creek
Cox Canyon	Railroad
East & West	Ravelly-Gravelly
Fandango Canyon	Reahart
Featherbed Lake	Rosebrier Spring
Fisher Canyon	Sand Creek
Foley Creek	School Section Lake
Foskett Springs	Scott's Cache
Fossil Lake	Sheeplick Draw
Hawksey-Walksey	Smoke Out Canyon
Highland Spring	Squaw Lake
Jack Lake	Sucker Creek
Juniper Creek (Abert Rim)	Venator Canyon
Juniper Creek (Lone Mtn.)	Warner Wetlands
Loggerhead Canyon	West Spring Creek
Long Lake	Wilson Spring
Lost Creek	Wool Lake
May Lake	
McDowell Creek	
Murdock Creek	

Table 2. Eligibility Assessment and Potential Classification

Name	Free-Flowing	ORV Present*	Eligible	Potential Classification
Ana River	yes			
Bear Creek	yes			
Benefiel Creek	no			
Bridge Creek	yes			
Buck Creek	yes			
Camas Creek	yes			
Chewaucan River**	yes			
Clover Creek (Honey)	no			
Clover Creek (Chewaucan)	yes			
Crane Creek	yes			
Colvin Creek	no			
Deep Creek**	yes			
Deppy Creek	yes			
Dicks Creek	yes			
Drake Creek	yes			
Duncan Creek	yes			
Fifteenmile Creek	yes			
Fish Creek (Calderwood)	yes			
Fish Creek (Rim)	yes			
Gibson Creek	yes			
Guano Creek	yes	V,C	yes	Wild
Guano Slough/Black Canyon	yes			
Honey Creek**	yes	F	yes	Scenic
Horse Creek	yes			
Loveless Creek	yes			
Mill Creek	yes			
Miners Draw	no			
Moss Creek	yes			
Parsnip Creek	yes			
Paiute Creek	yes			
Pine Creek	yes			
Poison Creek	yes			
Sage Hen Creek (BB)	yes			
Silver Creek	yes			
Silver Creek WF	yes			
Snyder Creek	yes			
Sweeney Canyon	yes			
Twelvemile Creek	yes	F	yes	Scenic
Twelvemile (Honey)	yes			
Twentymile Creek	yes			

*Notes: C = Cultural, R = Recreation, G = Geology, O = Other, V = Vegetation, S = Scenery, F = Fisheries.
 ** Eligibility study previously completed (Forest Service, undated; Forest Service and BLM, 1995; 1996); not included in this document.

Table 3. Summary Description of Drainages Found to be Eligible.

River Name	Segment Description	Total Segment Length	Total BLM Acreage
Guano Creek	Western boundary of Guano Creek WSA to the Shirk Ranch.	11.6 miles	2,992.3
Twelvemile Creek	California border to confluence with Twentymile Creek (includes Surprise Field Office, BLM).	6.6 miles	2,206.2
Honey Creek	Refer to Forest Service and BLM (1995).	5.6 miles	1,243.4
GRAND TOTAL		23.8 miles	6,441.9

Three additional river segments within the Lakeview Resource Area have previously been inventoried through cooperative eligibility studies conducted with the Fremont National Forest. These three are listed in Table 2, but are not discussed further in this document. Those river systems are: the Chewaucan River, Honey Creek, and Deep Creek. With respect to BLM lands, only Honey Creek was found eligible for further study (Forest Service, undated; Forest Service and BLM, 1995; 1996).

Guano Creek

Scenery

Evaluation of Present Situation: Guano Creek is located in an area characterized by open and gently rolling terrain broken by shallow intermittent drainages, rims, and the canyon of Guano Creek. The upper portion of the creek bed is broad and open where the creek flows between sagebrush benches, while the last several miles are located in a more deeply incised, curving canyon with large, dark boulders choking the bottom. Pools of water, the dark basalt canyon walls and boulders, and

riparian vegetation provide nice visual contrasts. Some human activities are in evidence, and consist of: a two-track vehicle trail along the upper 1.5 miles of the corridor, a broken down fence which crosses the lower canyon, a two-track vehicle trail which parallels and then crosses the creek, an unmaintained BLM Road which parallels the creek along the last mile, and several buildings and fence lines associated with the historic Shirk Ranch. Guano Creek was inventoried as VRM scenic quality B, resulting in VRM Class III and IV. Due to its location within a Wilderness Study Area, it is currently being managed as VRM Class I.

Finding: Although this section of Guano Creek is quite scenic, it is similar to other drainages found in the area, and thus does not contain any outstandingly remarkable scenic values.

Recreation

Evaluation of Present Situation: Opportunities exist along the drainage for hiking, camping, sightseeing, and photography. Although no surveys have been done, recreational use of Guano Creek appears to be very low, and is associated mainly with hunting for deer, antelope, and upland game

birds. Hiking along its length showed no indications of trail development. Water levels are consistently too low for any sort of boating. Access to the creek is difficult due to the existence of fifteen miles of unmaintained BLM road which is normally limited to four-wheel-drive vehicles. BLM recently acquired the adjacent historic Shirk Ranch from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS; located at the southeast end of the study area), which has some limited potential for recreational activity associated with exploring the historic buildings or waterfowl hunting in the associated marshes.

Finding: The recreational potential for Guano Creek is currently typical for the area and not unique enough to draw visitors from other geographic regions. Thus, recreation is not considered an outstandingly remarkable value.

Geology

Evaluation of Present Situation: Guano Creek is located in the northwestern corner of the Basin and Range physiographic province, just south of the High Lava Plains. The geology displays characteristics of both of these provinces. In this area, the Basin and Range province is characterized by a broad, uneven plateau, 4000-5000 feet above sea level, broken up by late Tertiary- to Holocene-age block faulting. Higher-elevation Quaternary- to Tertiary-age volcanic flows and domes characterize portions of the province.

Guano Creek is one of the many creeks that drain the faulted volcanic uplands of Hart Mountain and the area south and east. These uplands primarily consist of Tertiary-age basalt flows dissected by a northwest-trending zone of en echelon faults. The lower reaches of Guano Creek cut through Tertiary-age tuffaceous and pumiceous sedimentary rock and locally-welded tuffs. The course of Guano Creek is largely controlled by the faulting in the area.

Finding: The geologic values within the study corridor are very common in the northwestern Basin and Range and High Lava Plains physiographic provinces, as well as, the three-county region. Guano Creek does not possess any outstandingly remarkable geologic values.

Fisheries

Evaluation of Present Situation: Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki spp.*) were planted in Guano Creek in 1957. These fish were of Trout Creek Mountain stock (ie: Lahontan). (Memo from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Biologist (ODFW), Oscar Deming, dated August 7, 1957). Since that initial planting, other fish have been liberated in the Guano Creek system. In 1963, 1964, and 1969, rainbow trout were released. In 1969, 1973, 1976, and 1979, other cutthroat trout were released; it is not known where these fish came from, but they were not from the Willow Creek stock (Wayne Bowers, ODFW Biologist, personal communication, October 1994). Because of the introduction of non-Lahontan trout into the system, it is believed that any existing cutthroat trout are no longer considered to be Lahontan.

Trout were caught at the Shirk Ranch in the high water years of the early 1980's (Bill Pyle, USFWS Biologist, personal communication). In 1994, surveys of Jacob's Reservoir found trout. Except in high water years, trout have not been found below Jacob's Reservoir.

The Sheldon tui chub is known from the area, but currently has no Federal status. It is a State of Oregon Sensitive Species which is listed as critical. The current BLM policy is to consider it a Sensitive Species.

In 1985, a USFWS biologist found tui chubs in the stomachs of trout caught in lower Guano Creek just above the Shirk Ranch. Because the lower reach of Guano Creek is intermittent, it is doubtful that tui chubs occur in the stream. In any case, this is not significant habitat for this species.

Under a cooperative agreement with the Oregon Natural Heritage Program, Guano and Piute Creeks were surveyed in 1993 and 1994 (Stern *et al.*, 1993; Allen *et al.*, 1994). No chubs were found in any of the habitats sampled in Oregon. It is believed that the permanent habitat for the fish is on the Sheldon Refuge. In periods of high water the fish move into Guano Valley and Piute Creek where they survive and reproduce until the next drought occurs.

Finding: Because this stream does not contain significant fish populations or habitat for fish on a regular basis, this stream does not meet the criteria for ORVs for fish.

Wildlife

Evaluation of Present Situation: Western sage grouse (BLM sensitive species) have been observed in the area and twenty-four strutting grounds have been located approximately 1 to 10 miles south of the corridor; however, no crucial nesting or wintering habitat has been identified within the corridor at this time. No other threatened, endangered, or BLM sensitive terrestrial wildlife species are known to occur as residents or breeders within the corridor.

A moderate number of mule deer and pronghorn antelope reside within the corridor. The area lies outside any designated mule deer or pronghorn antelope crucial winter range; however, it is considered crucial pronghorn kidding habitat.

Other terrestrial animals common to the High Desert region are found here such as: bobcats, rabbits, porcupines, red-tailed hawks, golden eagles, American kestrels, great horned owls, amphibians, reptiles, and squirrels. A large variety of birds including cavity nesters are found.

Findings: The composition and quality of both wildlife populations and wildlife habitat that occur in and along Guano Creek are typical of what occurs along similar sized streams throughout southeastern Oregon and are not considered to meet the criteria for ORVs.

Cultural Resources (Prehistoric)

Evaluation of Present Situation: The general vicinity of Guano Creek is within an area which contains numerous archaeological sites. Several of these sites occur within Guano Creek corridor. However, most of the actual drainage has not been systematically surveyed for sites. The ethnographic information available indicates that the area could have been used by either the Burns Paiute Band or the Fort Bidwell Paiute Band or both. The settlement/subsistence pattern of these groups is described as following the seasonal round. In this system, areas were used and visited depending upon the weather and the availability of resources. This type of subsistence pattern has been used in the Northern Great Basin for over 8,000 years.

Site types known to exist in the Guano Creek area

include rock art, stone rings, lithic scatters and temporary campsites. Most of these sites have not been investigated through archaeological research. However, work in the region by the University of Nevada, Reno has contributed to knowledge of the area.

Finding: While some sites are known and others predicted to occur within the Guano Creek corridor, none have been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. While it is expected that these known and predicted sites will contribute information on the prehistory of the area, they are not unlike many hundreds of similar sites known and/or expected to be found in the region. They are not considered to meet the criteria for ORVs.

Cultural Resources (Historic)

Evaluation of Present Situation: Historic use of the region began with the military in the 1860's. A camp was established at Hart Mountain in 1867 to protect settlers in the area from the Indian population who had lost their lands to white settlers. Occupation of the area by ranchers began at this time. The area was used primarily for livestock grazing, a use which continues today.

The Shirk Ranch, located at the southeast end of the river corridor, is a complex of sixteen buildings and structures remaining from an unknown number built between the early 1880's and the early 1980's. There are a series of fences, corrals, and stock pens, along with an animal paddock near the ranch buildings. Several pieces of historical farming/ranching equipment remain at the ranch. The remaining buildings reflect the increasing prosperity of the ranch over time, as simple frontier board and batten gave way to more finished popular styles of building materials. Much of the older material was then reused in the ever-changing collection of outbuildings. What remains provides a good representation of events at the ranch through time.

Finding: The Shirk Ranch has been determined eligible for the National Register for Historic Sites and Places, and a nomination is being prepared. Because of its location within the river corridor, it is determined to be an ORV for historic value of Guano Creek.

Cultural Resources (Traditional Uses)

Evaluation of the Present Situation: The Lakeview District has not been notified by any tribal group that Native Americans are using this area at this time. No evidence exists within the Guano Creek corridor related to current Native American use of fish, wildlife or plant materials, though some traditional plants are known to occur within the corridor (see also the following Vegetation section).

Finding: There are no known traditional use areas within the Guano Creek corridor. This area does not currently contain ORVs related to traditional uses.

Vegetation

Evaluation of Present Situation: Guano Creek is an important and unique river acting as a biological corridor between the highlands of Hart Mountain and the valley floor of Shirk Lake/Guano Lake. The first segment of the river is under USFWS management and will not be evaluated here; however, it is recommended that the USFWS consider/evaluate its portion of the river in the future. The BLM segment of the river is a typical, intermittent Great Basin desert stream with little willow or no shrub development in the riparian zone. It is a green braid of sedges, grasses, and forbs within the gray of sagebrush shrub steppe. Occasional junipers fringe the river corridor; however, very few willows grow within the corridor and then only where springs or sub-surface water are relatively dependable. The upper portion of river, after leaving Jacob's Reservoir, passes over volcanic, black rocks and cuts through a deep curving canyon. The lower part of the canyon opens out into a grassland riparian zone surrounded by ash flow hills, and then the canyon closes in again before it reaches the valley floor.

Two BLM sensitive plant species occur within the river corridor: Crosby's buckwheat and grimy ivesia grow on the ashy soils bordering the river. Both are monitored by the BLM and are Species of Concern for the Federal government, List 1 for the Oregon Natural Heritage Program (ONHP), and considered endangered by the State of Oregon. A Conservation Agreement is being negotiated with the USFWS for these vulnerable plant species.

Both aquatic buttercup and fringed water-plantain have also been found growing in the creek with roots in the mud of the creek bottom. These presence of these plants indicate the stream is recovering from past grazing and becoming more healthy.

The riparian zone contains small stands of Great Basin wildrye interspersed with sedges and forbs. The ONHP has nominated the plant community bordering the riparian zone, *Wyoming big sagebrush/western needlegrass community*, as a representative Basin and Range Ecosystem cell within Oregon.

Cultural plants which are found within the corridor include Great Basin wildrye, Indian ricegrass, yampa, and blue camas. The blue camas plants can be found growing from the source of the creek at Blue Sky on Hart Mountain downstream to where the creek enters the valley floor. Though the two geophytes, blue camas and yampa, are still harvested by the Northern Paiute of the area and could be harvested from the Guano Creek corridor, harvest is not known to occur along the Guano Creek corridor at the present time (see also the preceding Cultural Resources (Traditional Uses) section).

Finding: the Guano Creek corridor contains botanical/ecological ORVs. The vegetative communities are unique in Oregon and represent a desert intermittent stream system that plays a role in being a corridor for species to move between lower and higher elevations. The ONHP cell community (*Wyoming big sagebrush/western needlegrass*) is uncommon in the Great Basin and is typically found in association with sandy soils.

The rare plants that occur in the corridor are a botanical ORV. While they do not occur within the riparian zone, their proximity within the river corridor and possible dependence on the mitigating climate of the river creates unique plant communities of national and regional significance. The grimy ivesia global rating is 1 and is considered threatened; the buckwheat global rating is 3.

Twelvemile Creek

Scenery

Evaluation of Present Situation: Twelvemile Creek is a fairly narrow canyon lined with dark volcanic rock. The canyon slopes are dotted with pinyon, juniper, ponderosa pine, cottonwood, and bitterbrush. The creek alternately flows and pools-up along the boulder-strewn bottom. Human activities are not visible from the creek, except for a power line crossing near the Nevada border. VRM management classes along the creek are II and IV.

Finding: Although Twelvemile Creek is quite scenic, it is common for the region, and none of its features are found to be exemplary. Therefore, it does not contain any scenic ORVs.

Recreation

Evaluation of Present Situation: Recreational opportunities exist in the canyon for hiking, fishing, bird watching, photography, and wildlife observation. Water levels are generally too low or inconsistent for any sort of boating. Although no surveys have been done, it appears that little recreational use occurs in the canyon. Field inspection along several miles of the canyon bottom showed no indications of hiking trail development. The hot springs also showed no evidence of development (ie moving rocks around to form a pool).

Finding: Although recreational opportunities exist, they are common in the region and not unique enough to attract visitors from outside the geographic area. Therefore, Twelvemile Creek does not contain any recreational ORVs.

Geology

Evaluation of Present Situation: Twelvemile Creek is located in the northwestern corner of the Basin and Range physiographic province, just south of the High Lava Plains. The geology displays characteristics of both of these provinces. In this area, the Basin and Range province is characterized by a broad, uneven plateau, 4000-5000 feet above sea level, broken up by late Tertiary- to Holocene-age block faulting. Higher-elevation Quaternary- to Tertiary-age volcanic flows and domes characterize portions of the province.

Twelvemile Creek drains the volcanic uplands of northern California and southern Oregon south of Adel, Oregon. The Creek has cut through massive

basalt flows and interbeds of tuffaceous sedimentary rocks of Tertiary age, and Pliocene- to Pleistocene-age flows and breccias of rhyodacitic composition. In its lower reaches, Twelvemile Creek has cut a deep, steep-sided gorge through the volcanic rocks. Here, hot springs flowing into the Creek affirm the presence of geothermal activity in the area.

Finding: The geologic values within the study corridor are very common in the northwestern Basin and Range and High Lava Plains physiographic provinces. Despite its interesting geology, Twelvemile Creek does not possess any geologic ORVs.

Fisheries

Evaluation of Present Situation: Besides Honey Creek, Twelvemile Creek is the only stream with public ownership to contain a viable, self-sustaining population of Warner suckers, a Federally listed Threatened species. Other streams such as Twentymile, Snyder, and Deep Creeks do not have adequate habitat on public lands to support an independent population of suckers. In addition, it contains populations of: the Warner red-band trout, a Bureau Sensitive, and ODFW Sensitive-Vulnerable species, and the speckled dace. It is regionally an important habitat for these species.

Finding: Twelvemile Creek meets the criteria for fish habitat/population ORVs.

Wildlife

Evaluation of Present Situation: Western sage grouse (BLM sensitive species) have been observed in the area and ten strutting grounds have been located within approximately 3 to 10 miles to the east and north of the corridor; however, no crucial nesting or wintering habitat has been identified at this time. No other threatened, endangered, or BLM sensitive terrestrial wildlife species are known to occur as residents or breeders within the corridor.

A moderate number of mule deer winter within the corridor. The area lies within crucial mule deer winter range, provides optimum thermal cover, and is used greatest during periods of extreme winter weather. The area also supports a small population of pronghorn antelope and provides fawning habitat for mule deer and kidding habitat for pronghorn.

The area also supports an expanding population of Rocky Mountain elk; however, no crucial wintering or calving areas have been identified at this time.

Other terrestrial animals common to the High Desert are found including such species as bobcats, rabbits, porcupines, red-tailed hawks, golden eagles, American kestrels, great horned owls, amphibians, reptiles, and squirrels. A large variety of birds, including cavity nesters, are found.

Finding: The composition and quality of both wildlife populations and wildlife habitat that occur in and along the Twelvemile Creek corridor are typical of what occurs in similar sized streams throughout southeastern Oregon region and are not considered to qualify as ORVs.

Cultural Resources (Prehistoric)

Evaluation of Present Situation: The Twelvemile Creek area contains several known prehistoric cultural sites. Known site types include rock art, lithic scatters, obsidian quarry/workshop sites, stone rings and temporary campsites. Work by the University of Nevada, Reno in this region indicates that the prehistory of this region goes back approximately 10,000 years. Ethnographic work in the area indicates that the area was used by the Fort Bidwell Band of the Northern Paiute Indians. The area was used during warm weather months as part of a seasonal round. In this type of use system, areas were used based upon weather and the availability of plants and animals. This area possibly provided fish, plants, and game. The area is within a large obsidian source area where cobbles of obsidian (which were used for making stone tools) can be found. Lithic quarry and stone tool manufacture sites are common in the area.

Finding: While prehistoric sites are known and expected within the Twelvemile Creek area, none have been determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Though these known and predicted sites will contribute information on the prehistory of the area, they are not unlike many hundreds of similar sites known to exist in the region. The obsidian quarry sites are also common in this region due to the abundance of obsidian source areas in the region. The archaeological sites are not considered to qualify as ORVs.

Cultural Resources (Historical)

Evaluation of Present Situation: The Warner Valley region to the north of Twelvemile Creek was settled by Euroamericans who displaced the Native American occupants in the 1860's. The area of Twelvemile Creek is remote and would have been used for little other than livestock grazing, a use which continues today. There are no known historic sites within the area.

Finding: There are no known historic sites, structures, or events within the Twelvemile Creek corridor. Therefore, there are no historic ORVs within the Twelvemile Creek corridor.

Cultural Resources (Traditional Uses)

Evaluation of Present Situation: The Lakeview District has not been notified by any tribal group that Native Americans are using this area at this time. No evidence exists for current Native American use of fish, wildlife, or plant materials. No known features, places, or structures of religious use are known for the area.

Finding: There are no known traditional use ORVs within the Twelvemile Creek corridor.

Vegetation

Evaluation of Present Situation: For most of its course on BLM land, Twelvemile Creek is in a relatively narrow canyon with ponderosa pine and juniper growing on the slopes and down into the riparian zone. In many stretches, there is good shading of the creek by trees and other riparian shrubs. For most of the stream bed, riparian plants such as sedges, rushes, and grasses are present. Where cold and hot springs occur within the creek corridor, a lush area of riparian vegetation occurs. In the lower stretches of the BLM section of the river, before it crosses private land, there have been water diversions and roads that have changed the normal flow of the creek and created a disturbed area with introduced plants and noxious weeds.

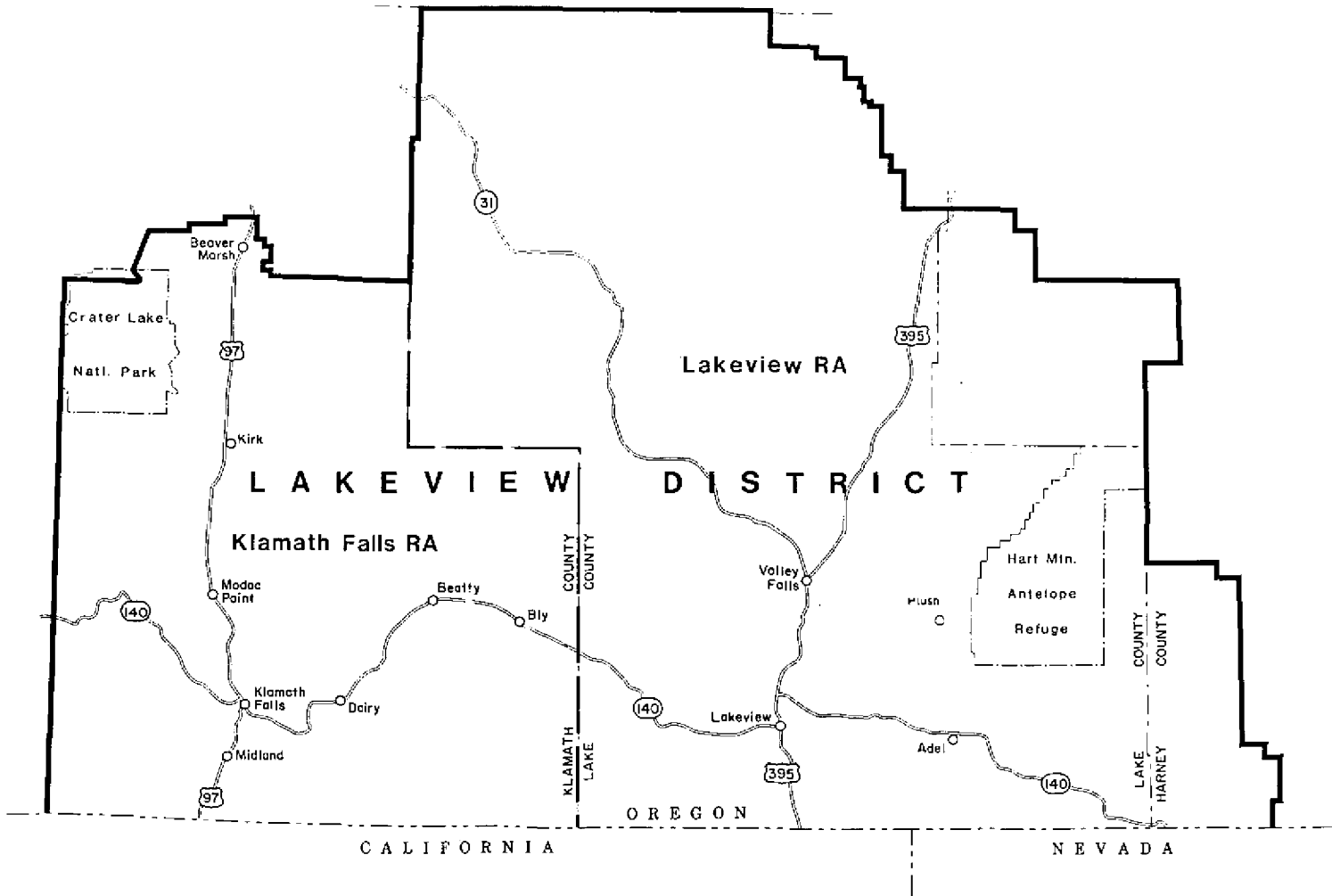
No BLM sensitive plants occur in the creek corridor. Cultural plants found along the banks include chokecherry in large numbers, gooseberry, Indian plum, service berry, and red-osier dogwood.

Finding: Twelvemile Creek contains no

botanical/ecological ORVs. While most of the creek vegetative communities are in good condition, this creek is no different from other creeks in the region.

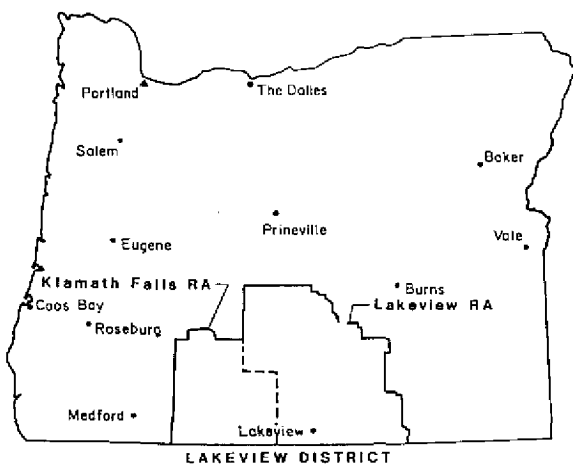
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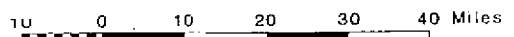
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

LAKEVIEW DISTRICT



General Location Map

FIGURE 1



Eligible Wild and Scenic River Corridors

