# CITIZEN PROPOSAL EVALUATION FORM

**(EVALUATION OF NEW INFORMATION REGARDING WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS ON AN AREA OF PUBLIC LANDS)**

**Directions:** *Keep this record as part of the inventory file. Use these findings as part of the wilderness resources discussion in any subsequent NEPA document. Notify the proponent of your findings.*

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Date of Review or Submission: **Interdisciplinary (ID) Team Meeting held on 1/10/2007**

Proponent: **NA – Internally Identified by BLM ID Team**

Name of Area Identified by the Proponent: **Buck Mountain Unit (Subunit 2-1N)**

BLM Field Office(s) Affected: **Three Rivers RA, Burns DO**

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**EVALUATION**

1) Does the submission include the required:

a) map which identifies the specific boundaries of the area in question?
**NA – BLM Identified Unit (Subunit 2-1N)**

Yes _____ No _____

b) detailed narrative that describes the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics of the area and documents how that information differs significantly from the information in prior inventories conducted by the BLM regarding the wilderness values of the area? **NA – BLM Identified Unit (Subunit 2-1N)**

Yes _____ No _____

c) photographic documentation? **NA – BLM Identified Unit (Subunit 2-1N)**

Yes _____ No _____

2. Is there an existing wilderness inventory on this area?

Yes __X__

**Reference: March 1980 Wilderness Review –Intensive Inventory (Unit 2-1N)**
**Unit: Unit 2-1 – Coleman Creek, Subunit Unit 2-1N**

Existing inventory findings

_____ Has wilderness character

__X__ Doesn't have wilderness character

3. Evaluation of the proposal based on relevant information available in the office (prior BLM inventories, interdisciplinary team knowledge, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc.). *Explain the basis for each conclusion* (use additional space as necessary).

a) Are the boundary roads and any roads separating subunits still roads?

Yes **X** No _____

Explanation: **The boundaries for the current Buck Mountain Unit and the 1980 inventory subunit 2-1N were reviewed and compared by the ID team (see attached map) and found to be very similar. The general boundary descriptions are as follows:**

- **To the north unit boundaries are defined by private land and non-paved roads that are maintained when needed to ensure relatively regular and continuous use.**
- **To the east unit boundaries are defined by private land.**
- **To the south unit boundaries are defined by a railroad right-of-way and private land.**
- **To the west unit boundaries are defined by private land and Opie Homestead and Warm Springs Creek Road, both of which are maintained when needed to ensure relatively regular and continuous use.**

b) Does the unit/subunit meet the minimum acre requirements?

Yes X No _____

Explanation: **The Buck Mountain unit contains approximately 22,217 acres of BLM-administered lands.**

c) Have there been changes in the area since the initial/intensive inventory that may affect naturalness?

Yes **X** No _____

Explanation: **Since the 1980 subunit 2-1N was inventoried, the following changes were identified by the ID-team:**

- **There are 3,893 acres of seeding within the unit, portions of the Coyote Creek Seeding and the Buck Mountain Fire Rehabilitation Seeding still remain substantially noticeable.**
- **Five new reservoirs/water holes have been constructed.**
- **Seven new spring developments have been constructed.**
- **Approximately ½ mile of new power line has been constructed along the north boundary.**
- **Approximately two miles fence line has been removed.**
- **Approximately eight miles new fence line has been constructed.**
- **Approximately 14 miles of new roads/routes have been added to the unit.**
- **Medusahead has established significantly throughout the unit with large solid patches and isolated patches throughout.**
- **Gold mineral exploration occurred throughout the 1980's and early 1990's, however most of the pits have been reclaimed.**

d) Does the unit/subunit appear to meet the definition of naturalness?

Yes __X__ No _____

Explanation: **The existing developments and non-native vegetation are still dispersed throughout the unit and are substantially unnoticeable.**

e) Does the unit/subunit appear to contain outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined *recreation*?

Yes _____ No __X__

Explanation: **The 1980 inventory found that the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in subunit 2-1N were not outstanding. The ID-team did not identify any new unusual or unique features or other changes that would modify the inventory findings. The ID-team confirmed that today, the Buck Mountain Unit (subunit 2-1N) continues to offer opportunities for several types of primitive recreational activities including hunting, horseback riding, hiking and rock collecting, but they are not outstanding.**

f) Does the unit/subunit contain appear to have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No __X__

Explanation: **The 1980 inventory found that opportunities for solitude in the subunit 2-1N were not outstanding. The ID-team did not identify any changes that would modify the inventory findings. The opportunity for a visitor to achieve solitude continues to be limited by a lack of topographic and vegetative screening. The ID-team identified that since the 1980 inventory vehicle traffic in the Buck Mountain Unit (Subunit 2-1N) has likely increased due to the additional roads/routes across the unit as well as increased traffic associated with extended hunting seasons. Train tracks along the south end of the unit have been removed which removes the noises associated with trains passing by.**

g) Does the unit/subunit contain appear to have supplemental values?

Yes __X__ No _____

Explanation: **The 1980 inventory found that the northern end of subunit 2-1M is inhabited by wild horses and the subunit provides crucial winter range for mule deer and antelope. The ID-team found that a 1983 fire removed much of the shrub species from the unit and it's now dominated by perennial grass species and medusahead with very few shrub species re-established, so the unit no longer provides the quality of winter range it did in 1980. However, *Stanleya confertiflora* (Malbeur prince's plume) a Bureau sensitive species is present within the unit.**

4. From the evidence presented by the proponent, as well as other relevant information (prior BLM inventories, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc.), does the WSA Inventory Team conclude that the information *is significantly different* from the information in prior inventories conducted by BLM regarding the wilderness values of the area or a portion of the area?

Yes _____ No __X__

5. From the evidence presented by the proponent and from other relevant information (prior BLM inventories, aerial photographs, field observations, maps), the undersigned WSA Inventory Team concludes: (*Check a or b below.*)

**X** a) the decision reached is that the area lacks wilderness characteristics and should not be considered further.

(or)

_____ b) there is a reasonable probability that the area in question (or a significant portion(s) thereof) may have wilderness characteristics and a field inventory is necessary.

**The Buck Mountain Unit (subunit 2-1N) was found to be natural, however, it does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Therefore, no wilderness characteristics were found to be present.**

Interdisciplinary Team

Laura Dowlan — 1/30/07
Laura Dowlan, Outdoor Recreation Planner (Wilderness Specialist) – Burns District — Date

Lisa Grant — 1/30/07
Lisa Grant, Rangeland Management Specialist – Burns District — Date

Rick Hall — 1/30/07
Rick Hall, Natural Resource Specialist (Botany) – Burns District — Date

Jeff Rose — 1/30/07
Jeff Rose, Fire Ecologist – Burns District — Date

Bill Andersen — 1/30/07
Bill Andersen, District Range Management Specialist — Date

Terri Geisler — 1/30/2007
Terri Geisler, Geologist (Hazmat) – Burns District — Date

Lindsay Davies — 1/30/07
Lindsay Davies, Fisheries Biologist – Burns District — Date

Douglas Linn — 1/30/07
Douglas Linn, Botanist – Burns District — Date

Scott Thomas, Archeologist – Burns District

1-30-07
Date

**I Concur:**

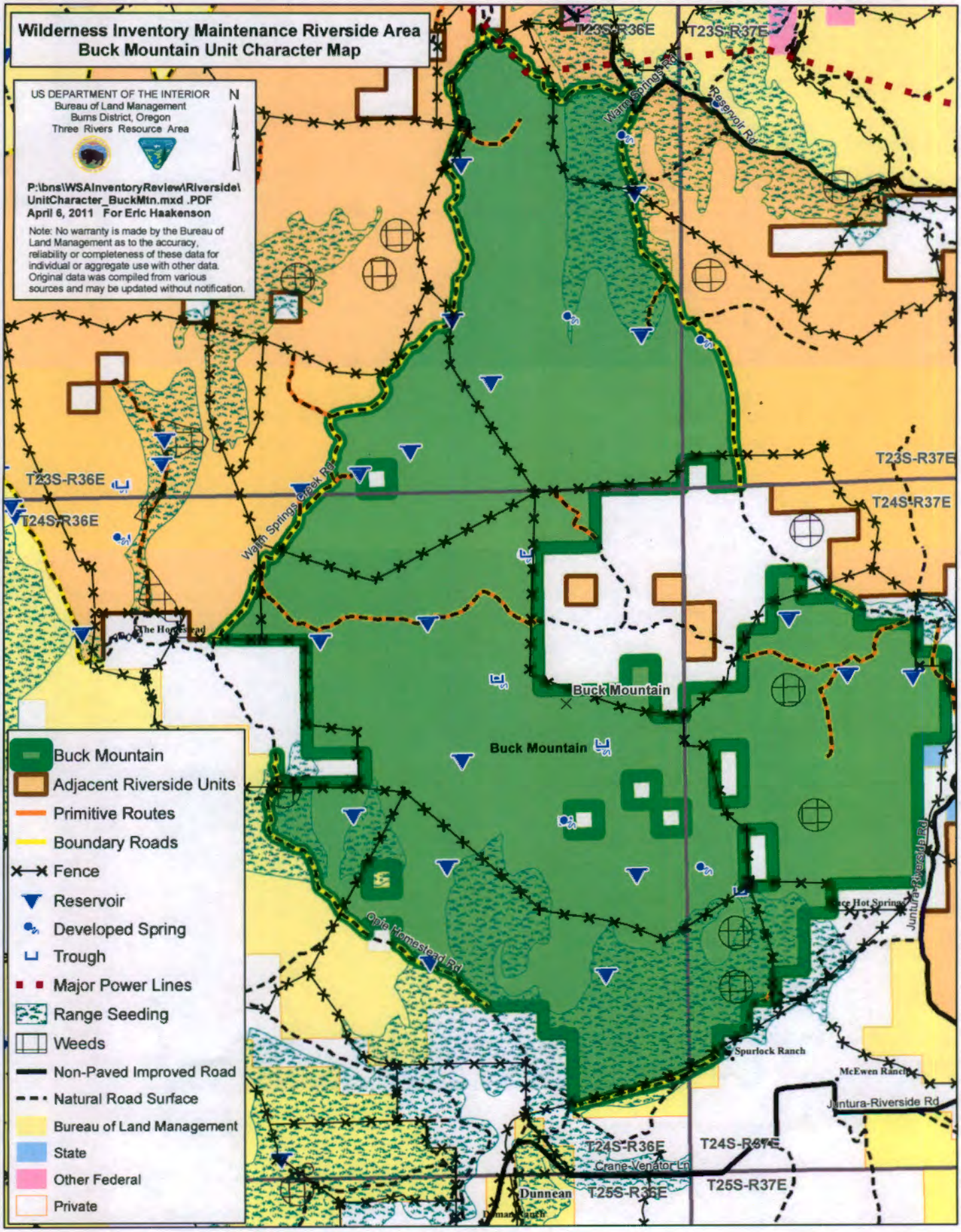
**Field Manager – Three Rivers Resource Area**

1/30/07
**Date**

NA - not shared
**Field Manager – Malheur Resource Area**

**Date**

*This determination is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal resource inventory process and does not constitute an appealable decision.*


Wilderness Inventory Maintenance Riverside Area
Buck Mountain Unit Character Map
US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Burns District, Oregon
Three Rivers Resource Area
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UnitCharacter_BuckMtn.mxd .PDF
April 6, 2011 For Eric Haakenson
Note: 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 was compiled from various sources and may be updated without notification.
T23S-R36E
T23S-R37E
T24S-R36E
T24S-R37E
T25S-R36E
T25S-R37E
Warm Springs Rd
Reservoir Rd
Warm Springs Creek Rd
Buck Mountain
Opia Homestead Rd
Juntura-Riverside Rd
Spurlock Ranch
McEwen Ranch
Crane-Venator Ln
Dunnean
Buck Mountain
Adjacent Riverside Units
Primitive Routes
Boundary Roads
Fence
Reservoir
Developed Spring
Trough
Major Power Lines
Range Seeding
Weeds
Non-Paved Improved Road
Natural Road Surface
Bureau of Land Management
State
Other Federal
Private