WILDERNESS INVENTORY MAINTENANCE
IN BLM OREGON/WASHINGTON
(Source: Oregon State Office Internal Guidance as of July 2007)

Year: **2008** Inventory Unit Number/Name: **Clear Creek**

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 _____ **Yes** ___X___ (if more than one unit is within the area, list the names/numbers of those units.):

a) Inventory Source: Memorandum: Pacific Power & Light 500Kv Transmission Line Roadless Areas Review, Dec., 1977 and Wilderness Proposed Initial Inventory, April, 1979.

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Stinkingwater, 2-3

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):_): Proposed Initial Inventory Map, April, 1979.

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Burns District – Three Rivers Resource Area .

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Inventory Source: **Wilderness Inventory – OR/WA Proposed Initial Inventory Decisions (April, 1979).**

Unit#/ Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
Stinkingwater, 2-3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

*Previously inventoried BLM Roadless Area found to not have wilderness characteristics.

FORM 2 - DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: **Clear Creek**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: **13,245** Yes **X** No ___

Description of the Current Conditions:

Citizen Information Received: No citizen information for this unit was received.

Interdisciplinary (ID) Team Meeting: An ID-team consisting of BLM staff from the Burns District met on August 27, 2008 to evaluate this unit. The ID team was provided with current maps, past and current photographs and description of the area. The team consisted of wilderness, recreation, range and fisheries staff. Forestry, wildlife, and archaeology staff were also consulted.

Boundary changes since 1977: The boundary of Clear Creek Unit has changed considerably with the construction of the PP & L 500Kv Transmission Line across the southern portion of the roadless area and establishing the Idaho Public Power 69 Kv powerline as a portion of the unit's northern boundary. The current unit is much smaller than the original roadless area unit in 1977.

Current Unit Boundaries (See BLM's Unit Character Map): Routes forming boundaries were driven during field review. Part of the eastern and all of the western boundary roads are listed in the BLM Facility Asset Management System. The remaining eastern boundary is the Lamb Ranch Road and private land. The northern boundary is U.S Highway 20 and a section of an Idaho Public Power 69 Kv powerline. The southern boundary is Pacific Power and Light (PP & L) 500 Kv Transmission Line or its access/maintenance road and private land. The BLM boundary roads have been mechanically maintained, improved in the past and will continue to be maintained as needed to allow vehicle passage for public land users.

Vehicle use will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. The grazing permittees use the routes to manage livestock operations, including releasing and gathering of cattle, distributing salt and mineral blocks and checking and maintaining range developments. BLM personnel utilize the routes for monitoring and checking range condition and developments as well as inventorying, monitoring and managing wildlife, archaeological and botanical resources, recreational values/use and wildfire suppression. Most public use is associated with antelope hunting in late summer and early fall and rockhounding for petrified wood during the summer months. This unit was not inventoried by ONDA for wilderness values.

N. boundary: U.S. Highway 20 and Idaho Public Power 69 Kv powerline; no photo points
E. boundary: Lamb Ranch Road, Cow Camp Road, 6276-0-AO and Private land;
BLM Photo Points: CL1-5
S. boundary: PP&L 500 Kv Transmission Line; no photo points
W. boundary: Stinkingwater Access Road, 6276-0-OO; no photo points

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No ____ N/A____

1979 Unit Description: Note: The 1977 Evaluation Summary described a much larger area than the current unit. The original Stinkingwater, 2-3, is now comprised of four smaller units-Clear Creek, Stinkingwater, Buzzard Ridge and an easternmost, currently unnamed unit. Much of the description is irrelevant to this unit; generally noted a considerable variety of landforms with mountains, steep canyons walls, scattered buttes and many rolling hills cut by drainages of intermittent streams. Specific to this unit was Clear Creek listed as one of several perennial streams. Vegetation was described as sagebrush and scattered juniper trees. Range developments were Clear Creek Seeding and stock watering reservoirs. Unconfined recreation opportunities were hiking, backpacking, deer and antelope hunting and rockhounding for petrified wood and agatized material. Much of the high quality petrified wood had been depleted due to illegal removal of many large sections of petrified logs and smaller branches with mechanized equipment.

Current Condition Description (See Unit Character Map): The primary human uses in the unit and surrounding lands are livestock grazing-related as well as some recreation use, mainly big game hunting for antelope and deer in late summer and fall. One grazing allotment, Stinkingwater, is within the unit's boundaries with major portions of four pastures. There are a couple division fences and a fenced interior private land parcel as well as several livestock watering reservoirs and numerous developed springs. Impacts from these developments are minimal.

A large seeding has been developed in the eastern part of the unit between the Lamb Ranch Road and the eastern boundary of the interior private land parcel and south to Cow Camp Road. Sagebrush is regrowing and again becoming an established and dominant species in various locations of the seeding. The PP&L 500 Kv Transmission Line can be seen from much of southern portion of the unit.
Below is a summary of developments and vegetative treatments:

Gates: 7
Fences: 19.2 miles
Reservoirs: 4
Springs: 6
Seedings: 3,018 acres
Interior non-boundary roads: 12.1 miles

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

Yes ____ No _X_ N/A____

1979 Unit Description: It was uncertain as to the opportunities for solitude.

Current Condition Description: A small section of Clear Creek Canyon provides some solitude in the south end of the unit. However, there is little vegetative and topographic screening to block sights and sounds of outside intrusions as well as use within most of the unit. Much of it is open, with scattered junipers on grass and sagebrush-covered flats and foothills of the Stinkingwater Mountains. Views are far-reaching and human activities can be easily seen and heard.

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

Yes ___ No _X_ N/A___

1977 Unit Description: It was uncertain whether the unit has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation activities. Vehicles are necessary for rockhounding activity.

Current Condition Description: Hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, camping, wild horse viewing, rockhounding and hunting opportunities are present. The rockhounding area for petrified wood has small pieces of wood scattered on the surface from disintegration of exposed limbs over time and are scattered along the rims of drainages. The petrified wood does not provide a very desirable, scarce or gem-quality product, but it is still interesting to the recreational collector.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes ___ No ___ N/A_X_

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: **Clear Creek**

Summary Results of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? _X_ Yes ___ No

2. Does the area appear to be natural? _X_ Yes ___ No

3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ___ Yes _X_ No ___ NA

4. Does the area have supplemental values? __X__ Yes ____ No ____ NA

Conclusion (Check One):

_____ The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.
___X___ The area does not have wilderness character.

Prepared by: David E. Vickstrom, Wilderness Specialist

Unit Name and Number: **Clear Creek**

Team Members:

L. Davies — 2/2/2010
Lindsay Davies, Fisheries Biologist – Burns District — Date

RT RP — 2-2-2010
Rob Sharp, Range Specialist-Burns District — Date

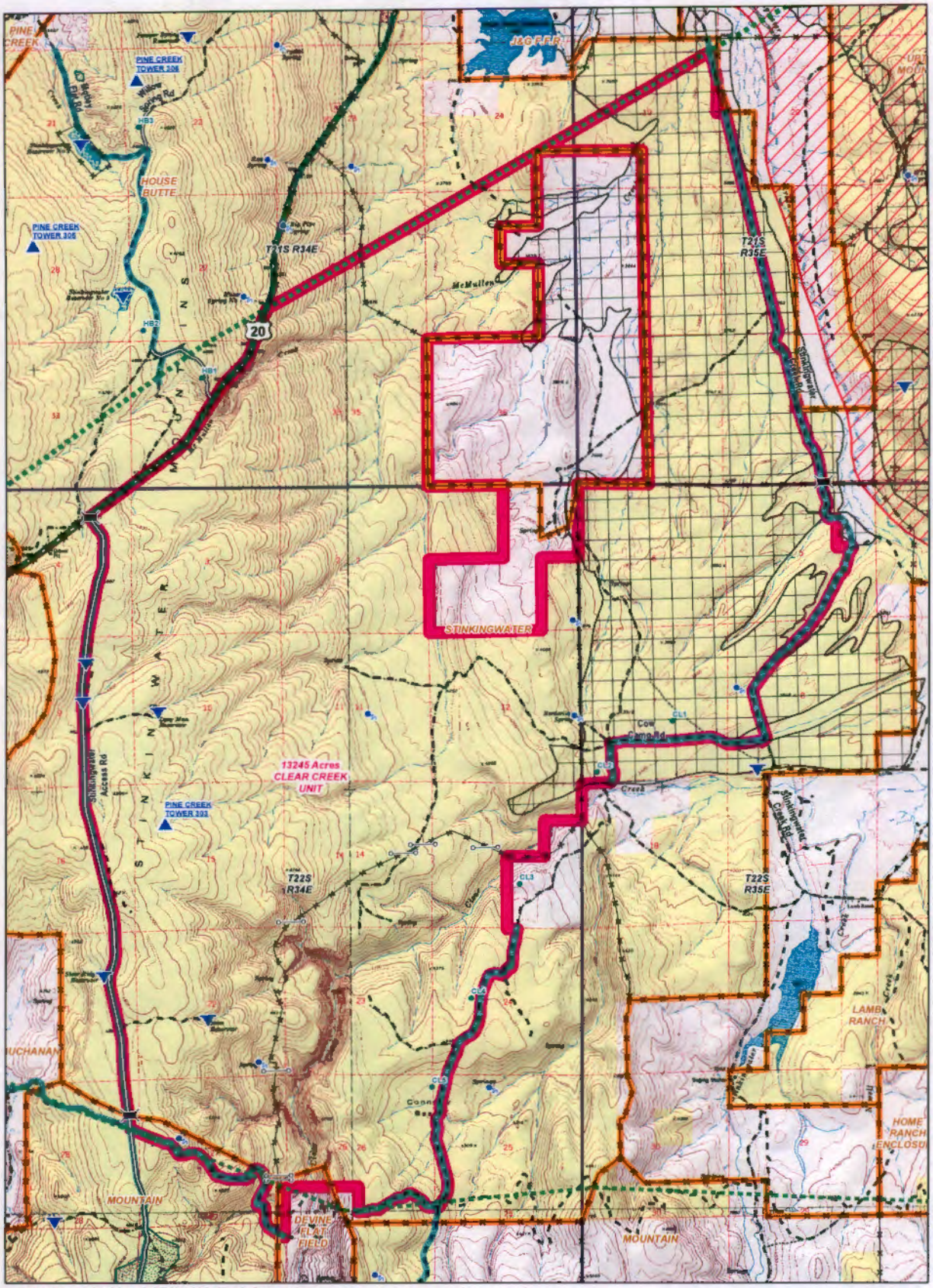
William L. Andersen — 2-3-2010
Bill Andersen, Lead Range Specialist – Burns District — Date

Dave Vickstrom — 2-2-2010
Dave Vickstrom, Wilderness Specialist – Burns District — Date

Approved by:

Richard Roy — 4-13-10
Rich Roy, Field Manager – Burns District — 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 1610.5-2.02



CLEAR CREEK UNIT CHARACTER MAP

- CLEAR CREEK WIM Unit
- Proposed Met Tower
- BLM Photo Points
- CATTLE GUARD
- GATE
- RESERVOIR
- SPRING DEVELOPMENT
- FENCE
- Unit Boundary Roads
- Powerline
- Seedings
- Wildfire 2005 to Present
- Cut Units
- Paved Road
- Non-Paved Improved Road
- Primitive or Unknown Road Surface
- Allotment
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private

USGS 24K Topo

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US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Burns District, Oregon
Three Rivers Resource Area

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ClearCreekUnitCharacter.mxd
September 12, 2008 for Dave Vickstrom
see also .pdf file

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