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

Year: **2008** Inventory Unit Number/Name: **Crane 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: Wilderness Review, Intensive Inventory, page 18, March, 1980.

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Coleman Creek, 2-1

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Intensive Wilderness Inventory, March, 1980.

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

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Inventory Source: Wilderness Review-Intensive Inventory, Part I-Final Decisions on 30 Selected Units in Southeast Oregon, page 18, March, 1980.

Unit#/ Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
Coleman Creek, 2-1	62,885	Y	N	N	Y

FORM 2 - DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: **Crane Creek**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: **6,383** Yes **X** No ___

Description of the Current Conditions:

Citizen Information Received: On September 19, 2007 the BLM received a citizen proposal from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) for the 18,974-acre Tin Can Ridge proposed WSA. ONDA included in their information a narrative report, maps, photos, photo and route logs and GIS data with their route and photo point data, all of which were considered as part of the wilderness inventory maintenance process for this BLM Unit. The photos submitted by ONDA were taken in late July, 2005. They identified the Tin Can Ridge proposed WSA as having no routes which met their definition of a boundary road.

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 ONDA's narrative report, photographs, route and photo logs, and map. The team was also provided with current BLM maps and photographs, and past maps, 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 1979: Crane Creek Unit is only a small portion of the historic, much larger, extensive Coleman Creek intensive inventory unit. The northern, southern and western boundaries remain the same, but the eastern boundary is the Tin Can Spring Road, a through-route providing access to a private inholding and private lands below the south boundary of the inventory unit. ONDA identified this route as two ways, 21C-21K and 21Cb.

Current Unit Boundaries (See BLM's Unit Character Map): Wilderness inventory information was updated and routes forming boundaries were driven during field review. A route analysis was completed for each boundary road. BLM contends that one of ONDA's ways is a road leading southward from the main Stinkingwater –Warm Springs Access Road to, and through, a parcel of private land and continuing on to the unit's southern boundary. This route, the Tin Can Springs Road, is the eastern boundary of the Crane Creek Unit. The road creates a smaller area which is part of ONDA's much larger Tin Can Spring proposed WSA. Tin Can Spring Road and other 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, deer and elk hunting in the fall and wood cutting during the summer months.

N. boundary: Stinkingwater-Warm Springs Access Road, 6278-0-OO;
ONDA Photo Point HN29; BLM Photo Points-none
E. boundary: Tin Can Spring Road and a corner of private land;
ONDA Photo Point HN31, HN33-34; BLM Photo Point-none
S. boundary: Private land
W. boundary: Stinkingwater Access Road, 6276-0-OO;
ONDA Photo Point HN22; BLM Photo Points-none

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes ____ No __X__ N/A____

1979 Unit Description: The sub-units, 2-1A, B and C are located six miles northeast of Crane in Harney County. The topography consists of several parallel ridges running from north to south with Crane Creek, the major drainage, flowing between the two main ridgelines. The extreme northern part consists of rolling hills. Big sagebrush and grass are common throughout the entire subunit and juniper is found along the rocky portions of the ridges and slopes. Small patches of willow and aspen are located in the drainages.

Current Condition Description (See Unit Character Map): The unit's southeast corner is located approximately 3 miles northeast of the small, rural town of Crane and the northern boundary is about 11 miles south of U. S. Highway 20. The major topographic feature is steep-sided Crane Creek Canyon trending in a N-S direction, surrounded by rock-rimmed ridges on the west and hills on the north. The slopes of Tin Can Ridge and open valleys lie to the east. Vegetation is sagebrush with large tracts of juniper covering much of the unit except for the grass-covered valleys.

Many juniper cutting areas (currently twelve units), are scattered throughout the northern and central sections of the unit. The areas were piled and cut were piled in 2000 and burned in 2007. These juniper cutting areas are currently substantially noticeable as unnatural features, but naturalness would be expected to return in time with natural revegetation of the areas and gradual deterioration of the remains of juniper trees. Only one small unit has been burned at this time.

Livestock reservoirs are located in the northern section of the unit and two waterholes have been developed at springs along the Tin Can Spring Road. The west portion of the Alder Creek Allotment is within the unit and a boundary fence has been built along the

Stinkingwater Access Road. A pasture division fence between three pastures is located in the south half of the unit. The primary human uses in the unit and surrounding lands are livestock grazing-related with some recreation use, mainly big game hunting for antelope in late summer and fall and deer and elk in the fall. The residents of Crane and surrounding ranches cut downed juniper in the wood cutting areas for personal use and some commercial wood cutters also use the areas.

ONDA's report indicated only a few manmade developments such as waterholes and reservoirs are evident and are not substantially noticeable over the unit as a whole. ONDA noted a number of ways running throughout the whole of the area with most substantially unnoticeable because they are so overgrown. ONDA's report also noted that juniper trees treatments had occurred in some areas, but will continue to lose visibility and naturally disintegrate or be burned over time.

Below is a summary of developments and vegetative treatments:

Fences: 10 miles
Cattleguards: 1
Reservoirs: 7
Springs: 2
Waterholes: 2
Juniper cutting units: 1,328 acres
Prescribed burns: 19 acres
Interior non-boundary routes: 11.9 miles

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

Yes ____ No ___ N/A__X__

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

Yes ___ No ____ N/A__X__

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes ___ No ____ N/A__X__

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: **Crane 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? ___Yes __X__No

3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ____Yes ____ No __X_NA

4. Does the area have supplemental values? ____Yes ____ No __X_NA

Conclusion (Check One):

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

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Team Members:

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Nick Miller, Wildlife Biologist – Burns District — Date: 2/2/2010

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

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

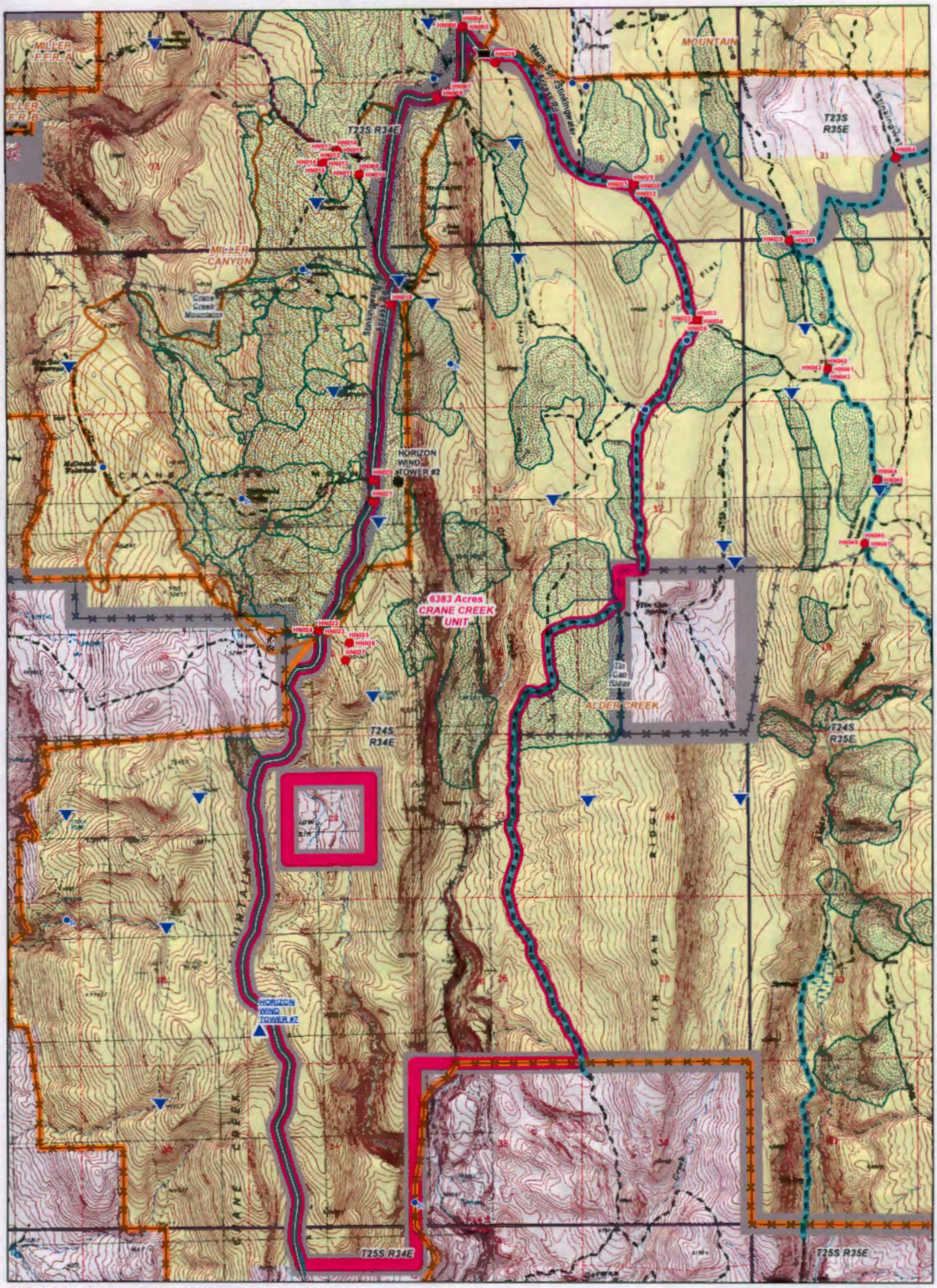
Bill Andersen, Lead Range Specialist – Burns District — Date: 2-3-2010

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

Approved by:

Three Rivers Field Manager – Burns District — Date: 8/27/10

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 1610.5-2.0



CRANE CREEK UNIT CHARACTER MAP

- CRANE CREEK WIM Unit
- ONDA Proposed WSA
- ONDA Photo Points
- FENCE
- STOCK TRAIL
- Allotment
- Cut Units
- Existing Met Towers
- Proposed Met Tower
- CATTLE GUARD
- RESERVOIR
- SPRING DEVELOPMENT
- WATERHOLE
- Seedings
- Prescribed Burns
- Unit Boundary Roads
- Non-Paved Improved Road
- Primitive or Unknown Road Surface
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private

N

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

projects\WSAInventoryReview\PineCreekWIND
CRANECREEKUnitCharacter.mxd
September 15, 2008 for Dave Vickstrom
see also .pdf file

USGS 24K Topo
1:35,000

0 0.5 1 Miles