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

Year: **2009** Inventory Unit Number/Name: **Lost 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 __X__ Yes _____ (if more than one unit is within the area, list the names/numbers of those units.): **Wagontire subunit 2-43E did not meet size criteria.**

a) **Inventory Source:** NA

b) **Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s):** NA

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** NA

d) **BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):** Burns District, Oregon; Three Rivers Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Unit#/ Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
2-43E	**<5,000**	**NA**	**NA**	**NA**	**NA**

FORM 2 - DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: **Lost Creek**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: Yes __X__ No ___

Citizen Information Received: The BLM received GIS data from Oregon Natural Desert Assoc. (ONDA) for a 196,015-acre proposed Lonesome Lakes WSA in September, 2007. More information including a narrative report, maps, photographs and route logs was received in May, 2008. This information was considered as part of the wilderness characteristics inventory maintenance update process for BLM Lost Creek Unit. Information in ONDA's report was considered and incorporated, as appropriate, in this document. ONDA's photos, taken in July, 2001, and their evaluation indicated there were no boundary roads within their proposed Lonesome Lakes WSA.

BLM's Boundary Road Determination Process: BLM conducted an analysis of routes in the Wagontire Mountain Unit, 2-43, which entailed field visits to verify the mechanical/tool construction of the routes and their current condition in May, 2008, in order to establish boundary roads for this BLM Wilderness Inventory Maintenance (WIM) unit. All the boundary roads are part of BLM's current transportation system as identified in BLM's Facility Asset Management System database.

Boundary changes since 1980: The northern boundary of the original subunit was not a road, but was the E-W allotment boundary fence which crossed a 40-acre parcel of BLM land surrounded by private land on its east and west borders. This eliminated the 40-acre parcel plus additional BLM land to the north and created subunit 2-43E which was less than 5,000 acres in size. The BLM land eliminated in the original inventory has been included in the current WIM unit creating a unit 5,038 acres in size.

Current Unit Boundaries: (See BLM Unit Character Map): ONDA's photo points and the photos for each location were reviewed. ONDA's narrative indicated the routes within their Lonesome Lakes proposed WSA (196,015 acres in size) are unmaintained ways and not maintained by mechanical means.

Based on current field checks and the knowledge of the area, BLM identified the Wilderness Inventory Maintenance (WIM) unit boundaries listed below. The roads have been mechanically constructed and improved or maintained at some time in the past. The roads are currently in useable condition for Bureau personnel, grazing permittees and other publics using pickup trucks and SUV's, including 4-wheel drive vehicles, to access the Wilderness Inventory Unit. These roads will be maintained in the future as needed.

The West Wagontire-Sheep Mountain Road, BLM 7249-0-1AO, which is the unit's west boundary, was driven during field review in 2008. The road provides access between

The Wagontire Lookout Road, BLM 7249-0-100, and private lands and Sheep Mountain north and northeast of the unit. It is primarily used by permittees for livestock management during the spring- through-fall grazing season and by hunters in the fall. It had been mechanically constructed, maintained and improved in the past, and will continue to be maintained as needed to allow for high-clearance vehicle passage for public land users. All other boundaries were determined by land-status. The following describes the boundaries of Lost Creek WIM Unit:

N. boundary: Private land;
ONDA Photo Points: None
BLM route analysis Photo Points: None

E. boundary: CNTY Road 3018, Gap Ranch-Wagontire Road; Private land; small parcel State land; .25 mi. of BLM Road 7249-0-100, Wagontire Lookout Road
ONDA Photo Points: None
BLM route analysis Photo Points: None

S. boundary: Private land; BLM Road 7249-0-1AO, West Wagontire-Sheep Mountain Road
ONDA Photo Points: None
BLM route analysis Photo Points: None

W. boundary: Private l; BLM Road 7249-0-1AO, West Wagontire-Sheep Mountain Road
ONDA Photos: BT-14; BT-22; BT-25
BLM route analysis Photo Points: L-7; L-9; L-14

Note: Other ONDA photo pts. did not appear to be of boundary roads for this BLM unit.

The following BLM photo references show current road conditions in the Lost Creek Unit.

•L7-14-NNW shows the junction of lesser-used Chandler Butte-Burrows Lake Road and West Wagontire-West Sheep Mountain Road. The fast-growing spring grasses and small, short annual weeds cover the small flat. This vegetation will not be so evident in late summer and fall and the area will look quite different.

•L9-16-NNW at the junction of Wagontire Lookout Road shows West Wagontire-West Sheep Mountain Road which has been constructed and maintained sometime in the past. The road extends through the dominant big sagebrush vegetation with scattered junipers in some sections. If this road were not constructed, sagebrush would be growing extensively in the center of the road's surface. Spring grasses have begun to grow along the edges of the road and in the center.

•L14-21-W shows a section of cut/fill on the West Wagontire-West Sheep Mountain Road. Blading with a dozer or grader is evident on the uphill side of the road where the hill has been cut down to create the road's surface.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes __X__ No _____ N/A_____

1980 Unit Description: NA. The unit did not meet the minimum size criteria and no description was completed.

Current Condition Description: The primary human uses are associated with livestock grazing. The unit is within East Wagontire FFR (Federal Fenced Range) Allotment. There are five small livestock reservoirs in the unit with four located in canyon drainages. Four Point Reservoir is obvious to the casual observer since it next to West Wagontire-Sheep Mountain Road. It is the only one which detracts from naturalness and only in the immediate location since a considerable amount of large rock overburden has been piled to one side of the dam.

Sagebrush, the dominant natural vegetation, has become reestablished in the 1,035-acre crested wheat seeding (that portion of a large seeding within this unit). The seeding is now not noticeable to the casual observer throughout much of the rehabilitated wildfire area.

ONDA noted in their Lonesome Lakes proposed WSA report that the individuals inventorying their proposed WSA unit did not notice the seeding. ONDA also said the original BLM Wagontire Mountain Unit, 2-43, should not be subdivided into subunits because there are no roads within the unit. This seeding would not have a cumulative impact to naturalness of the area as a whole because the subunits are contiguous within the BLM unit and contiguous with the greater Lonesome Lakes Lonesome Lakes proposed WSA. Therefore, ONDA's proposed WSA is primarily affected by the forces of nature.

Most of the fencing has been constructed along the northern and eastern boundaries of the WIM unit. These fences are not obvious to the casual observer. One allotment boundary fence on the west boundary which crosses West Wagontire-Sheep Mountain Road (BLM 7249-0-1AO) at one location is obvious to visitors.

BLM will continue to use the West Wagontire-Sheep Mountain Road to check the seeding, fences, reservoirs and monitor range conditions. The route will also be used to access the Chandler Butte-Burrows Lake Road and the range developments along that particular route. The permittee will continue to use the route to monitor livestock, place salt and mineral blocks at various locations, and check the water levels in Four Point Reservoir and other livestock reservoirs in the adjoining Bald Butte Unit. Hunters will continue using the route during the fall hunting seasons.

The unit currently has the following developments **(See Unit Character Map)**:

Fences: 7.2 miles
Reservoirs: 5
Seedings: 1,035 acres
Boundary roads: 8.44 miles
Non-boundary roads: 5.13 miles

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

Yes ___ No _X_ N/A___

1980 Unit Description: NA. The unit did not meet the minimum size criteria and no description was completed.

Current Condition Description: The topography in the northeastern half of the unit is composed of drainages on the western slopes of Wagontire Mountain which flow south and southeastward to the lower valleys between Wagontire Mountain and Big Juniper Mountain. These drainages create a convoluted topography with higher-elevation, scattered, juniper-covered hills, buttes and plateaus turning to more open, sagebrush-covered plateaus, buttes and small valleys as elevations drop to the lower, large flats and valleys such as North Butte Valley and the surrounding countryside.

The BLM Wagontire Mountain fire lookout is situated so personnel can see vast areas with high-powered viewing instruments. All the surrounding area is regularly scanned during the fire season. No locations go unchecked and the only areas which remain unseen are small sections of the deeper canyons. Any activities which involve vehicles, camps/camping activities, hunting, firefighting, and moving of cattle are likely observed.

This WIM unit is composed of high-elevation slopes cut by steep drainages. Small areas providing solitude are present in sections of the drainages because of topographic and some juniper screening. The open slopes are mostly covered by sagebrush with a scattering of junipers. Because of the open views, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

ONDA indicated in their report that the area provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. This is because ONDA considered all the BLM subunits as contiguous, within their large, proposed Lonesome Lakes WSA.

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

Yes ___ No **_X_** N/A___

1980 Unit Description: NA. The unit did not meet the minimum size criteria and no description was completed.

Current Condition Description: Opportunities for hiking, hunting, horseback riding, and wildlife viewing are present, but none were outstanding. Big game (deer, antelope, and elk) numbers have diminished in the last fifteen to twenty years in this particular area of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Wagontire hunting unit, so wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities are less than when the original wilderness inventory was completed.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes _____ No __X__ N/A _____

1980 Unit Description: NA. The unit did not meet the minimum size criteria and no description was completed.

Current Condition Description: No inventories for species of concern have been conducted in the unit at this time. There may be habitat for, and the presence of, the pygmy rabbit and sage-grouse, both Federal Species of Concern, on the open, sagebrush-covered slopes. There are no known sage-grouse leks in this unit. This high-elevation unit provides summer range for deer and elk.

ONDA's report indicated their proposed Lonesome Lakes WSA provides prime habitat for the greater sage-grouse, a species of concern, and may also be home to the pygmy rabbit, sage-grouse, and burrowing owl. However, their proposed WSA is a much larger area.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: Lost 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? ___ Yes __X__ 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

Coordinating Personnel:

Matthew J Obradovich — 12/11/09
Matt Obradovich, Wildlife Biologist – Burns District — Date

Rob Sharp — 12-10-2009
Rob Sharp, Range Specialist-Burns District — Date

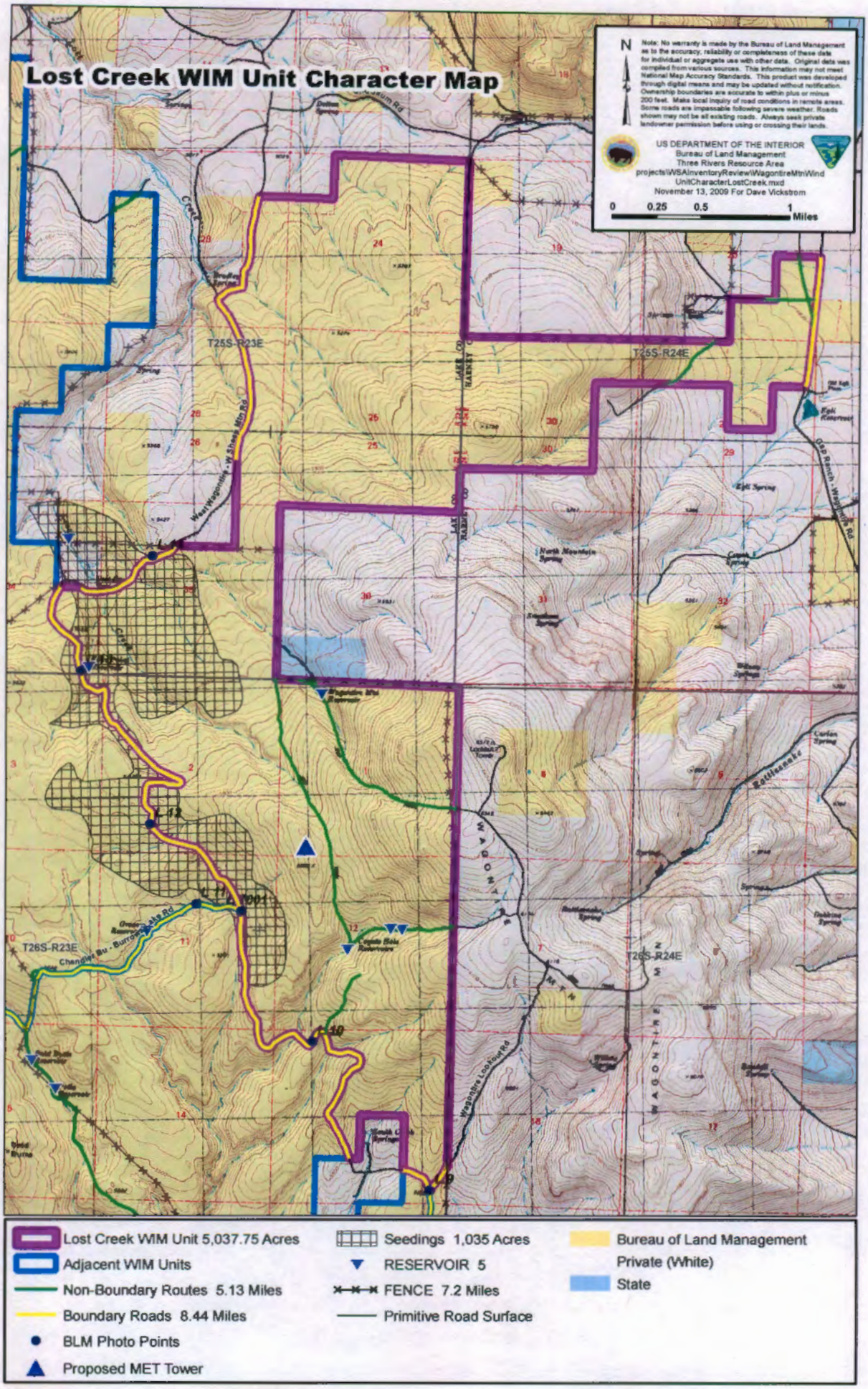
Willie Street — 12-10-2009
Willie Street, Range Specialist – Burns District — Date

Dave Vickstrom — 12-2-2009
Dave Vickstrom, Wilderness Specialist – Burns District — Date

Approved by:

Richard Ray — 12-14-09
Three Rivers 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


Lost Creek WIM Unit Character Map
N
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. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification. Ownership boundaries are accurate to within plus or minus 200 feet. Make local inquiry of road conditions in remote areas. Some roads are impassable following severe weather. Roads shown may not be all existing roads. Always seek private landowner permission before using or crossing their lands.
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Bureau of Land Management
Three Rivers Resource Area
projects\WSAInventoryReview\WagontireMtnWind
UnitCharacterLostCreek.mxd
November 13, 2009 For Dave Vickstrom
0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles
T25S-R23E
T25S-R24E
T26S-R23E
T26S-R24E
Lost Creek WIM Unit 5,037.75 Acres
Adjacent WIM Units
Non-Boundary Routes 5.13 Miles
Boundary Roads 8.44 Miles
BLM Photo Points
Proposed MET Tower
Seedings 1,035 Acres
RESERVOIR 5
FENCE 7.2 Miles
Primitive Road Surface
Bureau of Land Management
Private (White)
State