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

Year: **2008** Inventory Unit Number/Name: **Rock 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 (PP&L) 500Kv Transmission Line Roadless Areas Review, Dec., 1977 and Wilderness Proposed Initial Inventory, April, 1979.**

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): **Rock Cr., 2-6 (previously inventoried)**

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
Rock Creek, 2-6*	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: **Rock Creek**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: **5,576** 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.

BLM's Boundary Road Determination Process: BLM conducted a route analysis, including a field check to verify the current conditions for the boundary roads identified for the unit. District staff were also contacted prior to the ID-team meeting and provided information about current uses of routes by the public, grazing permittees, and BLM personnel.

Boundary changes since 1977: The boundary of Rock Creek, 2-6, has changed considerably with the construction of the PP & L 500Kv Transmission Line across the southern portion of the roadless area, a small parcel of exchanged State land on the northern boundary and the road boundaries of Pujade Road and Oard Road. The current unit is smaller than the original 1977 roadless area unit.

Current Unit Boundaries(See BLM Unit Character Map): Routes forming boundaries were driven during field review; all are numbered roads which are listed in the database of BLM's Facility Asset Management System. All boundary roads have been mechanically maintained as needed to allow vehicle passage for public land users. The ID-team concurred with the following BLM boundary roads based on their knowledge of the routes. The team also confirmed these roads are currently in useable condition and will be maintained in the future. This unit was not evaluated by ONDA for wilderness values.

N. boundary: Oard Road (6247-0-AO) and Private land
BLM Photo Points: RC3-5

E. boundary: Oard Road (6247-0-AO) and Private land
BLM Photo Points:RC3-5
S. boundary: PP & L 500Kv Transmission Line and Private land
No Photo Points
W. boundary: Pujade Road (6247-0-OO), Cave Spring Road and Private Land
BLM Photo Points: RC1, RC2

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes __X__ No _____ N/A_____

1977 Roadless Area Description: The 1977 Roadless Area Review noted the area as T-shaped with dissected foothills and some small flats divided by minor drainages. It is located two miles north of U.S. Highway 20 and two miles northwest of Buchanan, a small, rural community with a gas station/gift shop/museum. Higher elevation Forest Service lands are three miles to the north. The foothills extend down to Harney Valley. Vegetation is primarily big sage with scattered junipers and some Ponderosa Pine at the extreme northern boundary. The area is bounded by ranches, agricultural lands and U.S. Highway 20 to the south. Internal intrusions are several ways and a few developed springs.

Current Unit Condition: The primary human uses in the unit and surrounding lands are livestock grazing related as well as recreation use, mainly big game hunting for elk, deer and antelope in late summer and fall. The unit is in close proximity to the large, PP & L 500Kv Transmission Line, U.S. Highway 20 and Harney Valley containing most of the population of Harney County. The western and southern portions of the unit have many open, grass and sage brush-covered areas with scattered juniper trees. Allotment and pasture fences and developed livestock water sources are present (see Unit Character Map), but their impacts on the natural environment are minimal. The many small tributaries of Rock Creek finger through the foothills of the unit from the higher elevations in the north to meet at the lower elevation of Corcoran Reservoir about one-half mile outside the southern boundary and continue flowing into Harney Valley. The unit, as a whole, is natural. Following is a summary of developments and vegetative treatments:

Fences: 12.5 miles
Reservoirs: 2
Springs: 2
Waterhole: 1
Seedings: 1 (65 acres)
Interior non-boundary roads: 4.5 miles

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

Yes _____ No __X____ N/A_____

Current Condition Description: There is little vegetative and topographic screening to block sights and sounds of outside intrusions as well as use within the unit. The foothills and upper open, flats slope towards Harney Valley and except for small areas in the upper drainages of Rock Creek, there are no outstanding opportunities for solitude. U.S. Highway 20, the PP & L 500 Kv Transmission Line and Harney Valley can be seen from many locations and vehicle and agricultural sounds can be heard.

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

Yes ___ No __X__ N/A___

Current Condition Description: There are opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding and wildlife viewing. Currently, the main recreational activities are antelope, deer and elk hunting. None are outstanding.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes ___ No ___ N/A__X__

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: **Rock 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 ____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.

Prepared by: David E. Vickstrom, Wilderness Specialist

Team Members

Jon Reppen, Forestry Specialist – Burns District — Date: 12/16/08

Lindsay Davies, Fisheries Biologist – Burns District — Date: 12/16/08

Bill Andersen, Lead Range Specialist – Burns District — Date: 12/16/08

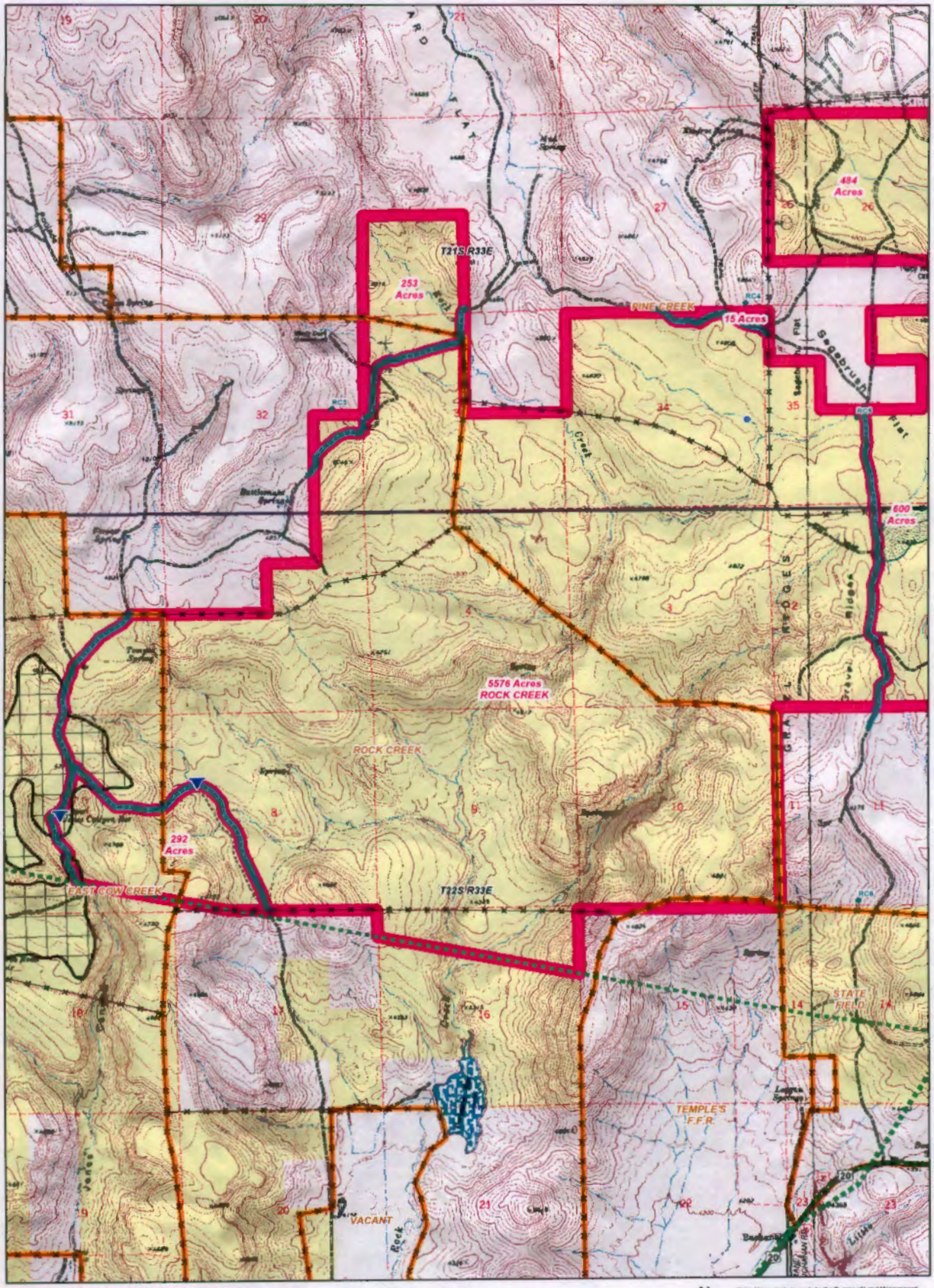
Dave Vickstrom, Wilderness Specialist – Burns District — Date: 12-16-2008

Willie Street, Range Specialist-Burns District — Date: 12-16-2008

~~Approved~~ by:

Richard Roy, Three Rivers Field Manager – Burns ~~District~~ — Date: 1/11/2010

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



ROCK CREEK UNIT CHARACTER MAP

- ROCK CREEK WIM Unit
- BLM Photo Points
- Unit Boundary Roads
- ONDA Proposed WSA
- ONDA Photo Points
- FENCE
- Primitive Road Condition
- Paved Road
- RESERVOIR
- WATERHOLE
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- Powerline
- Seedings
- Cut Units
- Allotment

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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RockCreekUnitCharacter.mxd
January 6, 2009 for Dave Vickstrom
see also .pdf file

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