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

Year: **2008** Inventory Unit Number/Name: **Silvies River Unit (2-19)**

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 Inventory – OR/WA Final Intensive Inventory Decisions (November 1980), Page 120.

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Silvies River 2-19.

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): November, 1980 Map

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 Final Intensive Inventory Decisions (November 1980), Page 120.**

Unit#/ Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
2-19	3 subunits all under 5,000 acres	NA	NA	NA	NA

FORM 2 - DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: **Silvies River Unit (2-19)**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: **7,073** 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 17,289-acre Silvies River 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 July and August of 2005. They identified the Silvies River proposed WSA as having no routes which met their definition of a boundary road and included state land along the eastern boundary within their proposal.

BLM conducted a boundary road determination process and found that several of ONDA's "ways" are still boundary roads. It is BLM's finding that ONDA's Silvies River proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is made of several units, one of which is in this unit.

Interdisciplinary (ID) Team Meeting: An ID-team consisting of BLM staff from the Burns District met on June 18, 2008 to evaluate this unit. The ID team was provided with ONDA information (narrative, photos and maps). Prior to the meeting, Dave Vickstrom (Wilderness Specialist) reviewed ONDA photos and identified those which applied to this BLM Unit.

Boundary changes since 1980:

The boundary of Silvies Unit 19 is the same except for one location on the west boundary; a former state section is now BLM-administered land through a land exchange.

Current Unit Boundaries:

See Unit Character Map for BLM and ONDA Photo Point (Pt.) Locations

N. boundary: Private land
E. boundary: Private land and Road 6288-0-100 (Silvies River Road)
ONDA Photo Points: GY27, GY30
BLM Silvies River Road Route Analysis and Photo Points: SL1-SL7
S. boundary: Private land

W. boundary: Road 7203-0-00 (Skull Cr. Road) – Also an ONDA Boundary Road
ONDA Photo Points: GX22, GX24, GX25, GX27
BLM Skull Creek Road Route Analysis

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

Interior Boundary Road: Lake Creek Road providing access from Skull Creek Road to private land inholding; BLM Lake Creek Road Route Analysis

Prior to the ID-team meeting, both ONDA's route information and the original inventory boundary information were reviewed and BLM staff that are knowledgeable about the area were also consulted with to determine preliminary unit boundaries.

The only route identified by the team as needing to be field verified was the Silvies River Road which ONDA's information indicated that the route is overgrown and barely visible and not open to the public. A field visit and route analysis was conducted on July 21, 2008 and it was confirmed that the Silvies River Road is a unit boundary road that has been mechanically improved or maintained at some point and would be maintained as needed in the future. The road is in a useable condition and use does occur on a relatively regular basis associated with resources management, particularly timber and wildlife management. Private landowners on the upper and lower sections of the river access the BLM section of the route for recreation use, particularly hunting and fishing.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes _____ No __X__ N/A_____

1980 Unit Description:

Silvies River Unit 2-19 is located five miles northwest of Burns. No description of physical characteristics or human developments was given as the three subunits comprising the unit were less than 5,000 acres and did not meet the minimum size criteria for wilderness study areas.

The 1979 Wilderness Inventory Situation Evaluation noted interest in oil, gas and geothermal resources. The elevation, general vegetation and topographic features were described as 4600' with mostly low sage, some scattered mountain mahogany, juniper, big sage brush, and an occasional ponderosa pine. Topography is flat to rolling over most of the area with a well-defined canyon (Silvies River) on the east.

Current Condition Description (See Unit Character Map):

The ID team reviewed photos from the 1979 inventory and photos provided by ONDA. The primary human uses in the unit and surrounding lands are livestock grazing related as well as recreation use, wood cutting and post cutting.

Some timber harvesting on adjacent and interior private land parcels has occurred and access routes for hauling logs have been maintained on public lands in the unit. ONDA contends that except for a few ways, a small waterhole, and a flow station, the area is free of human-caused disturbances. It is noted that the flow station for the Silvies River is located on private land.

The Skull Creek Road (unit's west boundary) has 100' fuel breaks cleared on both sides of the route for approximately 25 miles. About nine miles of fuel breaks are within the unit. A route from the Skull Creek Road to a small parcel of private land (about 79 acres) at the upper end of Lake Creek Canyon is regularly and continuously used by the private landowner for access to his recreation-use cabin on the west side of the canyon.

The unit is in close proximity to Burns and Hines, the main population centers in Harney County, and is regularly used for dispersed recreation activities. Off-road use by motorized vehicles is primarily on existing routes and associated with hunting. Winter sports activities occur especially snowmobiling when acceptable snow depths are available.

Below is a summary of developments and vegetative treatments:

Fences: 4.3 miles and 7 drift fences along the canyon rim
Stock Trails: 2.8 miles
Reservoirs: 8
Springs: 1
Juniper cutting: 1,324 acres
Interior Routes: 16 miles

The unit as a whole is not natural due to the numerous developments, vegetative treatments and interior routes spread through the entire unit.

(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: **Silvies River Unit (2-19)**

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.

Prepared by: David E. Vickstrom, Wilderness Specialist

Team Members:

Laura Dowlan — 8-7-08
Laura Dowlan, Outdoor Recreation Planner (Wilderness Specialist) – Burns District — Date

Jon Reponen — 8/8/08
Jon Reponen, Forestry Specialist – Burns District — Date

Nick Miller — 8/8/08
Nick Miller, Wildlife Biologist – Burns District — Date

Lindsay Davies — 8/6/08
Lindsay Davies, Fisheries Biologist – Burns District — Date

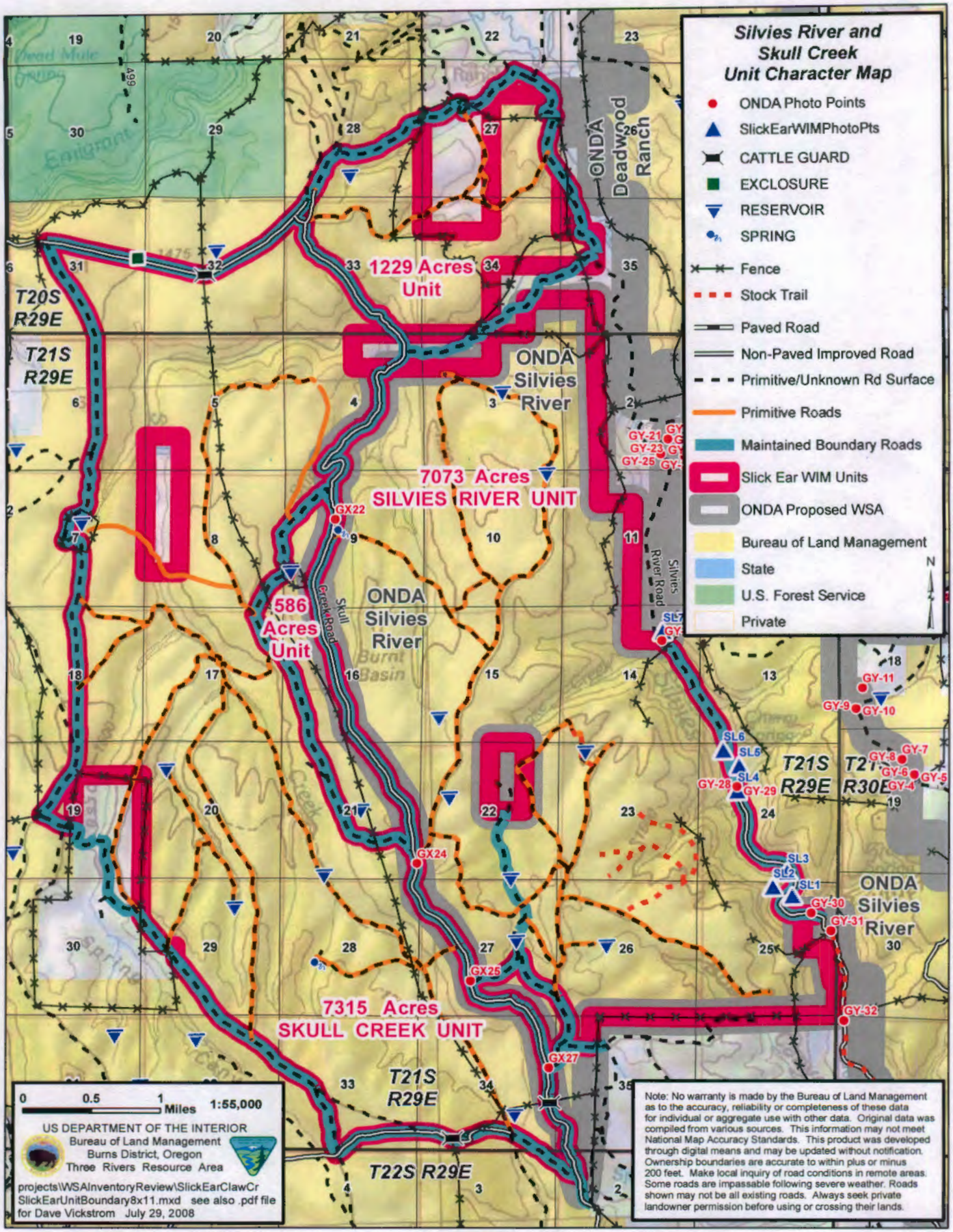
Bill Andersen — 8-5-08
Bill Andersen, Lead Range Specialist – Burns District — Date

Dave Vickstrom — 8-11-08
Dave Vickstrom, Wilderness Specialist – Burns District — Date

Approved by:

Joan M. Suther — 8/14/08
Joan M. Suther, 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


Silvies River and Skull Creek Unit Character Map
ONDA Photo Points
SlickEarWIMPhotoPts
CATTLE GUARD
EXCLOSURE
RESERVOIR
SPRING
Fence
Stock Trail
Paved Road
Non-Paved Improved Road
Primitive/Unknown Rd Surface
Primitive Roads
Maintained Boundary Roads
Slick Ear WIM Units
ONDA Proposed WSA
Bureau of Land Management
State
U.S. Forest Service
Private
N
1229 Acres Unit
7073 Acres SILVIES RIVER UNIT
586 Acres Unit
7315 Acres SKULL CREEK UNIT
ONDA Deadwood Ranch
ONDA Silvies River
T20S R29E
T21S R29E
T21S R30E
T22S R29E
Skull Creek Road
Silvies River Road
Burnt Basin
GX22
GX24
GX25
GX27
SL1
SL2
SL3
SL4
SL5
SL6
SL7
GY-5
GY-6
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US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Burns District, Oregon
Three Rivers Resource Area
projects\WSAInventoryReview\SlickEarClawCr
SlickEarUnitBoundary8x11.mxd see also .pdf file
for Dave Vickstrom July 29, 2008
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.