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

Year: **2008** Inventory Unit Number/Name: **Skull Creek Unit (2-18G)**

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 119.

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Skull Creek 2-18G.

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 119.**

Unit#/ Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
2-18G	6,850	N	N	N	Y

FORM 2 - DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: **Skull Creek Unit (2-18G)**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: **7,315** 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 June 18, 2008 to evaluate this unit. The ID-team was provided with current information and maps. The team consisted of wilderness, recreation, range, wildlife and forestry staff.

Boundary changes since 1980:

The boundary of Skull Creek Unit 18G has changed in two locations; one on the east boundary where a former state section is now BLM-administered land through a land exchange and the other on the southwest corner where a route is now a maintained road to a private parcel around Horse Spring.

Current Unit Boundaries:

N. boundary: Road 7209-0-00 (section of Upper Culp Ranch Road W. of Skull Cr. Road Jct. and E. of Willow Res. Road Jct.)

E. boundary: Road 7203-0-00 (Skull Creek Road); State Line Reservoir Road; private land in northeast corner

S. boundary: Horton Mill Road

W. boundary: Willow Reservoir Road; Horse Spring Road; private land (Horse Spring)

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

The ID-team concurred that the boundary roads above have been mechanically improved or maintained at some point and would be maintained as needed in the future. The roads are in a useable condition and use does occur on a relatively regular basis associated with recreational use by the public, private land access and permittee and BLM use associated with rangeland and forest management. Most of this use occurs in the summer and fall.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?
Yes _____ No __X__ N/A_____

1980 Unit Description:
Skull Creek Unit 2-18G contains 6,850 acre of public land and a 160-acre private inholding located thirteen miles northwest of Burns. The general elevation is 4,800' with topography ranging from broad, flat, rocky areas to gently rolling hills and a well-defined canyon (Skull Creek) in the north. Vegetation included big and low sagebrush, some ponderosa pine, juniper, mountain mahogany and bitterbrush.

The 1979 Wilderness Inventory Situation Evaluation noted interest in oil, gas and geothermal resources. Human activities included off-road vehicle use, rock hounding, artifact hunting, fishing, heavy deer, antelope and sage grouse hunting, and trapping for coyotes and bobcats.

Current Condition Description (See Unit Character Map):

The primary human uses in the unit and surrounding lands are livestock grazing related as well as dispersed recreation use, wood cutting and post cutting. Some timber harvesting on adjacent private land parcels has occurred and routes on public lands in the unit have been upgraded and maintained to allow hauling of logs.

The Skull Creek Road (unit's east boundary) has 100' fuel breaks cleared on both sides of the route for approximately 25 miles. About five miles of fuel breaks are within the unit. Three juniper thinning/piling areas each under 100 acres have been completed in the past several years and there are numerous interior routes. A division fence goes through the entire length (N-S) of the unit with a cross-fence in the SE corner.

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 associated with hunting primarily occurs on established routes. Winter sports activities (cross-country skiing, sledding, tubing and snowmobiling) occur when acceptable snow depths are available.

Below is a summary of developments and vegetative treatments:

Fences: 7 miles
Cattleguards: 2
Reservoirs: 6
Springs: 1
Juniper cutting: 154 acres
Interior Routes: 19 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: **Skull Creek Unit (2-18G)**

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

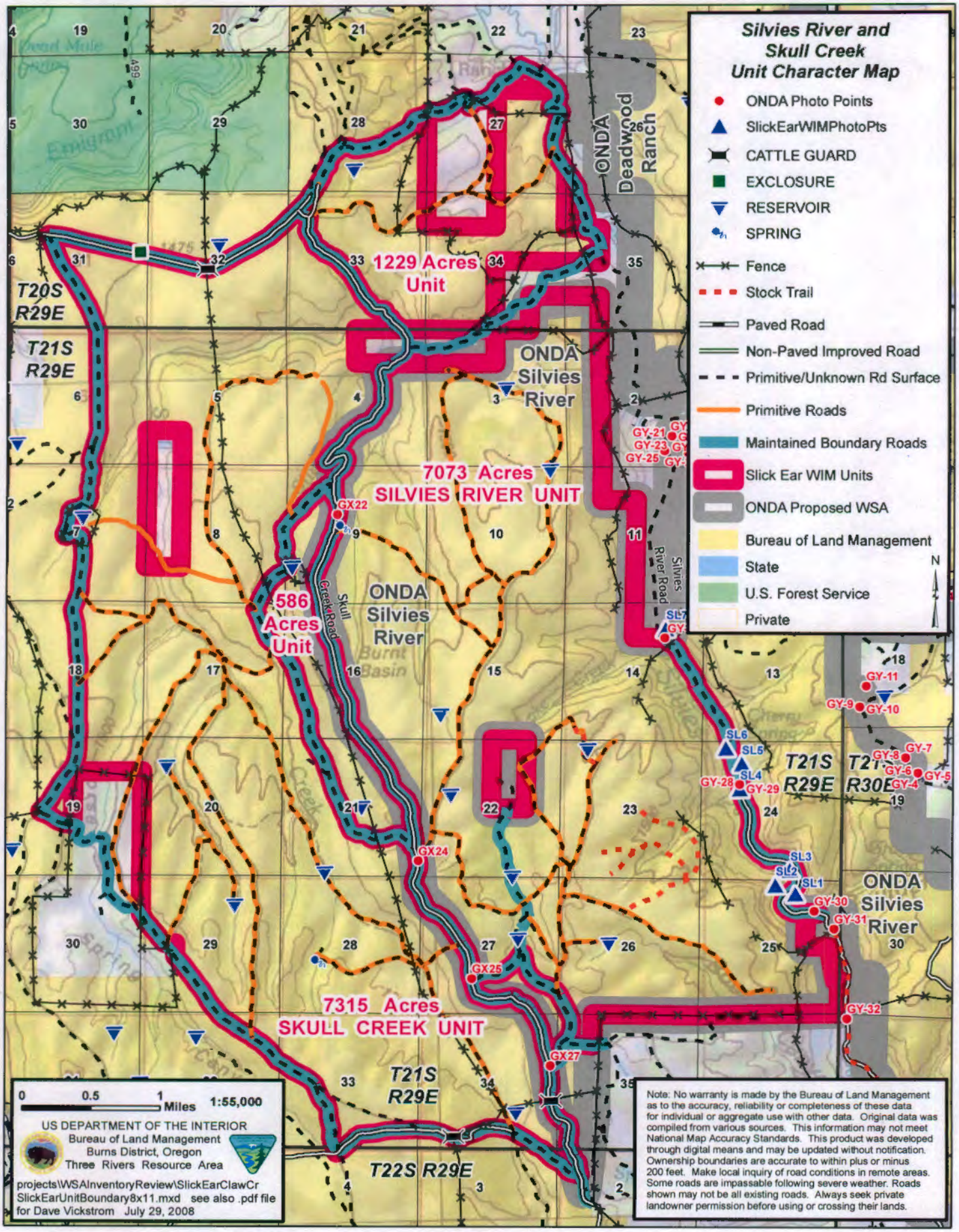
Bill Andersen — 8-5-08
Bill Andersen, Lead Range Specialist – Burns District — Date

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
GY-21
GY-23
GY-25
GY-11
GY-9
GY-10
GY-8
GY-7
GY-6
GY-5
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SL1
SL2
SL3
SL4
SL5
SL6
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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.