WILDERNESS INVENTORY MAINTENANCE
IN BLM OREGON/WASHINGTON

Year: **2008** Inventory Unit Number/Name: **West Warm Springs Unit 11**

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), Pages 144-145**

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): **Buzzard Creek Subunit 2-64B and Smokey Hollow Subunit 2-68A**

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:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory unit is associated with the area, list each unit and answer each question individually for each inventory unit):

Inventory Source: **Wilderness Inventory – OR/WA Final Intensive Inventory Decisions (November 1980), Pages 144-145**

Unit#/ Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
2-64B	14,570	Y	N	N	Y

FORM 2 - DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: **West Warm Springs Unit 11**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: 11,403 Yes X No _____

[State the BLM acreage of the unit. Describe the boundaries of the unit (roads, property lines, etc.) If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception. If more than one inventory unit is involved, list the acreage in each and evaluate each unit/subunit separately. Complete the analysis for (1), (2), (3),(4) and (5) for each unit or sub-unit. If you check "No" above, check "N/A" (Not Applicable) in the remaining boxes below, and you need not provide additional evaluation for the unit or subunit. Use additional space as necessary].

Description of the Current Conditions: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

Citizen Information Received: On September 19, 2007 the BLM received a citizen proposal from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) for the 462,828-acre Buzzard Creek 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 of 2004 and June of 2005. They identified the Buzzard Creek proposed WSA as having no routes which meet their definition of a boundary road and included state land within their proposal.

As part of BLM's boundary determination process, it was determined that several of ONDA's "ways" are still boundary roads. It is BLM's finding that ONDA's Buzzard Creek proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is made of several smaller units that are similar, though not exactly the same, as those units identified by the 1979 and 1980 wilderness inventory effort.

Boundary changes since 1980: The boundaries for Unit 11 are similar to those identified in the 1980 report except there is now a new boundary road to the north and a non-federal parcel is now BLM land.

Current Unit Boundaries:

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

N: Unnumbered BLM Road that route analysis determined to be a road (BLM Route Analysis #46, Photo Pt. A42) (no ONDA photos)

E: Buzzard Springs Road #8211-0-00 (no BLM or ONDA photos)

S: Flybee-Moon Lake North Road #7256-0-GO (ONDA Photo Pts. FK-34 SE right track) while road does have some vegetation in the center, it is not overgrown and is still in a useable condition and does receive relatively regular use.

W: BLM Road #8212-0-C0 (BLM Route Analysis #44, Photo Pt. A40 and Route Analysis #45, Photo Pt. A41) (ONDA Photo Pts. FV-14 NE) and BLM Roads Road #7256-0-GA and #8212-0-CB (No BLM or ONDA photos)

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

The ID-team confirmed that based on their knowledge of the area and reviewing ONDA's information the BLM information gathered as part of the unit boundary determination process, that these routes do meet boundary road criteria.

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

1980 Unit Description: The unit is located approximately five miles southwest of Harney Lake and 30 miles south east of Wagontire. The 1980 Inventory Report described the subunit as having topography consisting of gently rolling hills, broad drainages and scattered rimrock. The common vegetative types are big and low sage brush and grass. The subunit appears to be in a basically natural condition.

Current Condition Description: The ID-team reviewed photos from the 1977 inventory effort and landscape related photos provided by ONDA. The general description above is still accurate. Most of the boundary roads have had brush beating, which consists of mowing sagebrush (24 feet) on either side of the road to assist with providing a fire break **(See Unit Brush Beating Map)**. The primary human uses in the unit and the surrounding area are associated with livestock grazing and recreation by the public. The unit currently has the following developments **(See Unit Character Map)**:

- 8.1 miles of interior routes
- 3 miles of fencing

- 1 reservoir
- 1 well

The ID-team found that the developments and treatments were either along the outer edges of the unit or dispersed enough that the imprint of humans is still substantially unnoticeable and that the unit is in a natural condition. This is generally consistent with ONDA's findings for their proposed Buzzard Creek Unit as a whole.

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

Yes _____ No __X____ N/A_____

1980 Unit Description: The 1980 inventory report described the unit as having limited topographic and vegetative screening and that Buzzard Creek Canyon was not large enough to provide an outstanding feeling of solitude.

Current Condition Description: The ID-team found that making the solitude determination was challenging, but did find that Buzzard Canyon, along with the smaller drainages to the north offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. This is generally consistent with ONDA's findings for their proposed Buzzard Creek Unit as a whole.

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

Yes __X____ No _____ N/A_____

1980 Unit Description: The subunits provide opportunities for activities such as horseback riding, hunting, viewing wildlife, and hiking; however, none of these activities are outstanding.

Current Condition Description: The ID-team found that the recreation opportunities identified above are likely still present. ONDA's report also identified backpacking, camping, rock hounding and photography for their Buzzard Creek proposed WSA. Their report also indicated that the sheer size of their unit cannot help but provide for a diverse and exceptional recreational experience and that the endless rolling hills, rimrock ridges, juniper stands, and multiple water features, and geologic structures present add to the interest of their unit. They also indicated they observed several wildlife species including birds of prey, pronghorn antelope, coyotes, badgers, and numerous birds. Again, BLM found that ONDA's Buzzard Creek proposed WSA is not one large roadless area, but rather several smaller BLM units, including this unit.

The ID-team found that making the recreation determination was challenging, but did find that Buzzard Canyon would contribute to making

some of the recreation opportunities identified above as being outstanding. This is generally consistent with ONDA's findings for their Buzzard Creek proposed WSA as a whole.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes __X____ No _____ N/A_____

1980 Unit Description: This subunit was found to lie in a major avian flyway from Hart Mountain to Silver Creek Valley, Oregon.

Current Condition Description: No additional information about the avian flyway could be identified by BLM staff for any specific species of concern or public interest, so it is unclear why it was identified as a supplemental value. The ID-team found that the unit is part of the Warm Springs Herd Management Area and does contain wild horses and burros. The unit does contain cultural resources associated with prehistoric use by indigenous people. The unit provides habitat for pygmy rabbits and greater sage-grouse, both of which are Bureau Sensitive Species. The unit also has some geological features of interest primarily associated with Buzzard Canyon.

ONDA also listed several other species which they identified as "federal species of concern" such as California bighorn sheep, burrowing owls, and peregrine falcons. BLM staff reviewed these species, but did not feel they would be a supplemental value for this unit. Peregrine falcons are a Bureau Sensitive Species and may occasionally fly over, but are not known to nest in this area. Burrowing owls do not currently have any federal status, but are likely present in the general area including this unit. California bighorn sheep do not currently have any federal status and they may occasionally migrate through the general area, however, the habitat in this area is not ideal for bighorn sheep and sightings would be expected to be very rare.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: **West Warm Springs Unit 11**

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? __X__Yes ____No ___NA

4. Does the area have supplemental values? __X__ Yes ____ No ___ NA

Conclusion (Check One):

___X___ The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.

_____The area does not have wilderness character.

Prepared by: Laura Dowlan, Wilderness Specialist

Team Members:

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Brett Page, Outdoor Recreation Planner – Burns District — Date 8/20/08

Nick Miller, Wildlife Biologist – Burns District — Date 8/18/08

Rob Sharp, Range Management Specialist – Burns District — Date 8/25/2008

Ronda Purdy, Range Technician – Burns District — Date 8-13-2008

Fred McDonald, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist – Burns District — Date 8/22/08

Willie Street, Range Management Specialist – Burns District — Date 8-11-2008

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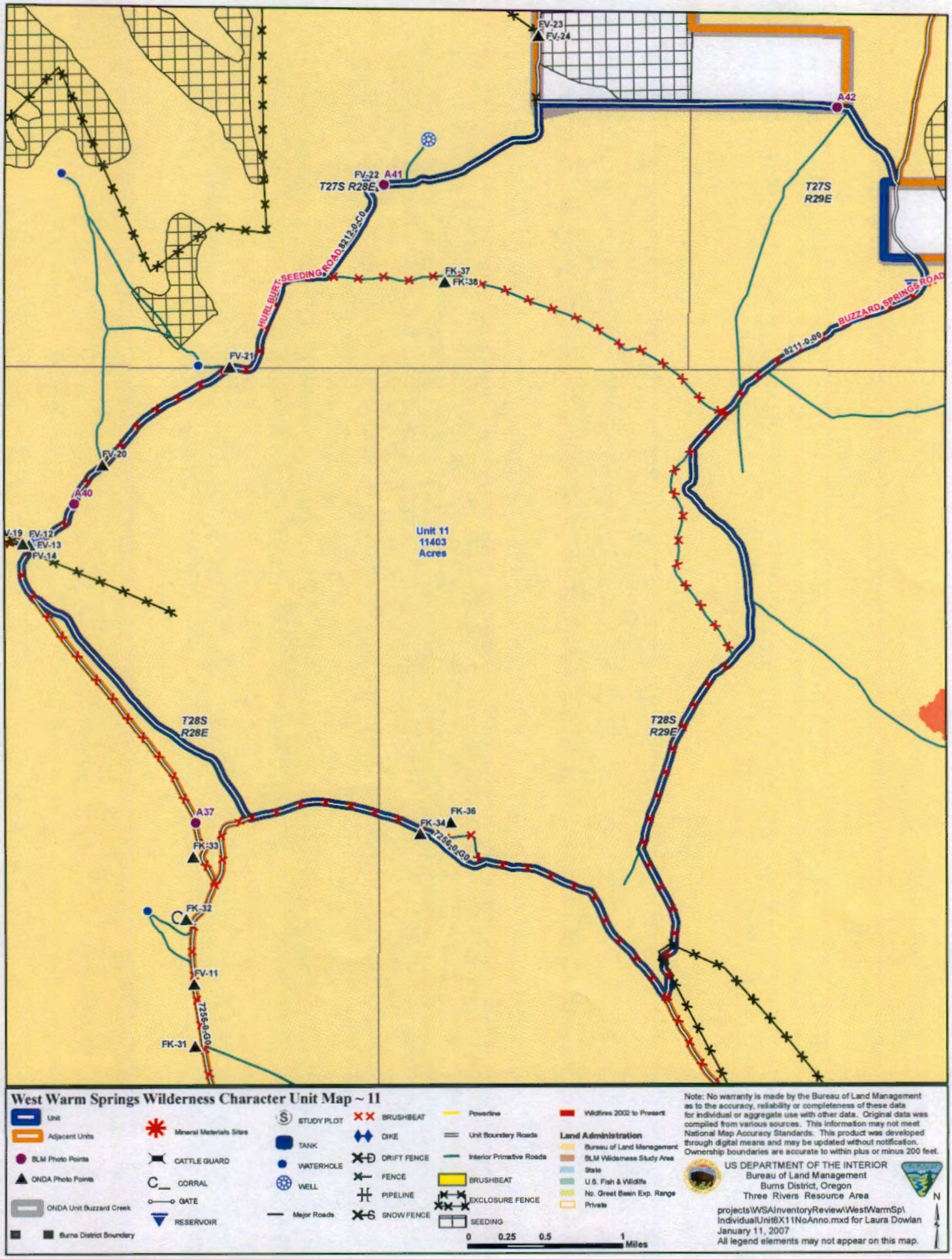
Approved by:

Joan M. Suther, Three Rivers Field Manager – Burns District — Date 8/27/08

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


FV-23
FV-24
A42
FV-22
A41
T27S R28E
T27S
R29E
HURLBURT SEEDING ROAD 8212-0-00
FK-37
FK-38
BUZZARD SPRINGS ROAD
8211-0-00
FV-21
FV-20
A40
FV-12
FV-13
FV-14
Unit 11
11403
Acres
T28S
R28E
T28S
R29E
A37
FK-33
FK-34
FK-36
7256-0-00
FK-32
FV-11
FK-31
West Warm Springs Wilderness Character Unit Map ~ 11
Unit
Adjacent Units
BLM Photo Points
ONDA Photo Points
ONDA Unit Buzzard Creek
Burns District Boundary
Mineral Materials Sites
CATTLE GUARD
CORRAL
GATE
RESERVOIR
STUDY PLOT
TANK
WATERHOLE
WELL
Major Roads
BRUSHBEAT
DIKE
DRIFT FENCE
FENCE
PIPELINE
SNOW FENCE
Powerline
Unit Boundary Roads
Interior Primative Roads
BRUSHBEAT
EXCLOSURE FENCE
SEEDING
Wildfires 2002 to Present
Land Administration
Bureau of Land Management
BLM Wilderness Study Area
State
U.S. Fish & Wildlife
No. Great Basin Exp. Range
Private
0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles
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.
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projects\WSAInventoryReview\WestWarmSp\IndividualUnit8X11NoAnno.mxd for Laura Dowlan
January 11, 2007
All legend elements may not appear on this map.
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