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

Year: **2008** Inventory Unit Number/Name: **West Warm Springs Unit 13**

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 139-140

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Wilson Butte Subunits 2-61 B,C,D

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 139-140 for subunit 2-61 D. Subunits B and C were not over 5,000 acres, they were not evaluated further.**

Unit#/ Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
2-61 D	8,270	Y	N	N	Y
2-61 B	<5000 acres	NA	NA	NA	NA
2-61 C	<5000 acres	NA	NA	NA	NA

FORM 2 - DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: **West Warm Springs Unit 13**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: 14,815 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 closer, 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 13 appear similar to those identified (See Unit Boundary Map 2) for the outside of Subunits 2-61 B, C and D. However the roads separating the units from each other were found to no longer be boundary roads, so the units were combined. A non-federal inholding has also now become BLM land.

Current Unit Boundaries:

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

Note: All of the boundary roads for this unit have been recently bladed, likely after ONDA's photos were taken.

N: Road 8210-0-A0 (ONDA Photo Pts. FK-42 W, FK-48 ESE, FK-52 SE, FK-47 WNW-right)

E: Road 8209 (ONDA Photo Pts. FK-43 N, FK-44 SSE, FL-26 SE)

S & W: Road 7256-0-2JO (BLM Route Analysis #2, Photo Pts. A2 & A3) unnamed road (BLM Route Analysis #3, Photo Pt. A4) (ONDA Photo Pt. FL-31 W)

W: Road 8211-0-A0 (BLM Route Analysis #1, Photo Pts. A1) (ONDA Photo Pts. FK-51 SSW, FK-58 NNE)

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 20 miles northwest of the community of Frenchglen. The 1980 Inventory Report described subunit 2-61D as being dominated by an extensive flat terrace. It also includes a few scattered rolling hills. Drainages found within the subunit are wide and shallow, and two dry lakebeds are located along the northern border. Big sagebrush and greasewood are the most common vegetation. Though several developments were identified, the unit was found to be in a natural condition.

Current Condition Description: The ID-team reviewed photos from the 1977 inventory effort and landscape related photos provided by ONDA. The primary human uses in the unit and the surrounding area are associated with livestock grazing and recreation by the public. The general description above is still accurate for subunit 2-61D. Subunits B and C have a bit more topography, but still relatively limited in size with shallow small drainages. The western boundary road of the current unit has been brush beat. This consists of mowing sagebrush (24 feet) on

either side of the road to assist with providing a fire break **(See Unit Brush Beating Map)**. There has also been a recent 495-acre seeding that was drilled with non-native crested wheatgrass in 2005. The unit currently has the following developments **(See Unit Character Map)**:

- 13.6 miles of interior routes (non-boundary roads)
- 4 miles of fencing
- 1 well, 2 reservoirs and 2 waterholes

The ID-team found that many of these developments and treatments were 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 finding is generally consistent with ONDA's proposal for their Buzzard Creek Unit, which they found to be natural as a whole.

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

Yes _____ No __X__ N/A_____

1980 Unit Description: Subunit 2-61D was described as lacking topographic and vegetative diversity. The open expansive landscape, with its wide and shallow drainages, provides no screening or secluded spots for the user. The area does not provide an opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others.

Current Condition Description: No changes to the current condition of Subunit 2-61 D were identified by the ID-team related to solitude. Adding subunits B and C does increase the size of the current Unit 13; however, the unit is long and narrow in shape and there is still only limited topographic and vegetative screening. ONDA's report indicated that the sheer size of their Buzzard Creek proposed WSA with endless rolling hills, rimrock ridges, and juniper stands (not present in this unit) make the opportunities for solitude outstanding. 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 even though this unit was larger than the original inventory unit, there was not enough topographic and vegetative screening to provide for outstanding solitude.

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

Yes _____ No __X__ N/A_____

1980 Unit Description: Subunit 2-61D was described as offering opportunities for hunting and hiking; however, neither of these opportunities was found to be outstanding.

Current Condition Description: The ID-team found that the recreation opportunities identified above are still present in Unit 13. ONDA's report also identified viewing wildlife, horseback riding, backpacking, camping, rock hounding and photography. ONDA indicated that the sheer size of their Buzzard Creek proposed WSA cannot help but provide for a diverse and exceptional recreational experience with endless rolling hills, rimrock ridges, juniper stands, multiple water features, and geologic structures adding 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 units, including this BLM unit. While the recreation opportunities identified by both BLM and ONDA may be present, their diversity and quality are not unlike that which can be found on much of the public lands in eastern Oregon in the Northern Great Basin region. None of the game species generally hunted in the area including and around this unit are considered by the State as being unique or rare, thus these opportunities are not outstanding. The 1992 Three Rivers RMP/ROD show that this unit is open to off-road use by motorized vehicles, however currently most motorized vehicle use appears to be occurring along existing routes.

After reviewing the information submitted, the ID-team found that the recreation opportunities present are not unique and do not present characteristics either individually or collectively that would result in these recreation activities being outstanding within the unit.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A__X____

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: **West Warm Springs Unit 13**

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: Laura Dowlan, Wilderness Specialist

Team Members:

Laura Dowlan, Outdoor Recreation Planner (Wilderness Specialist) – Burns District — Date 9/5/08

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

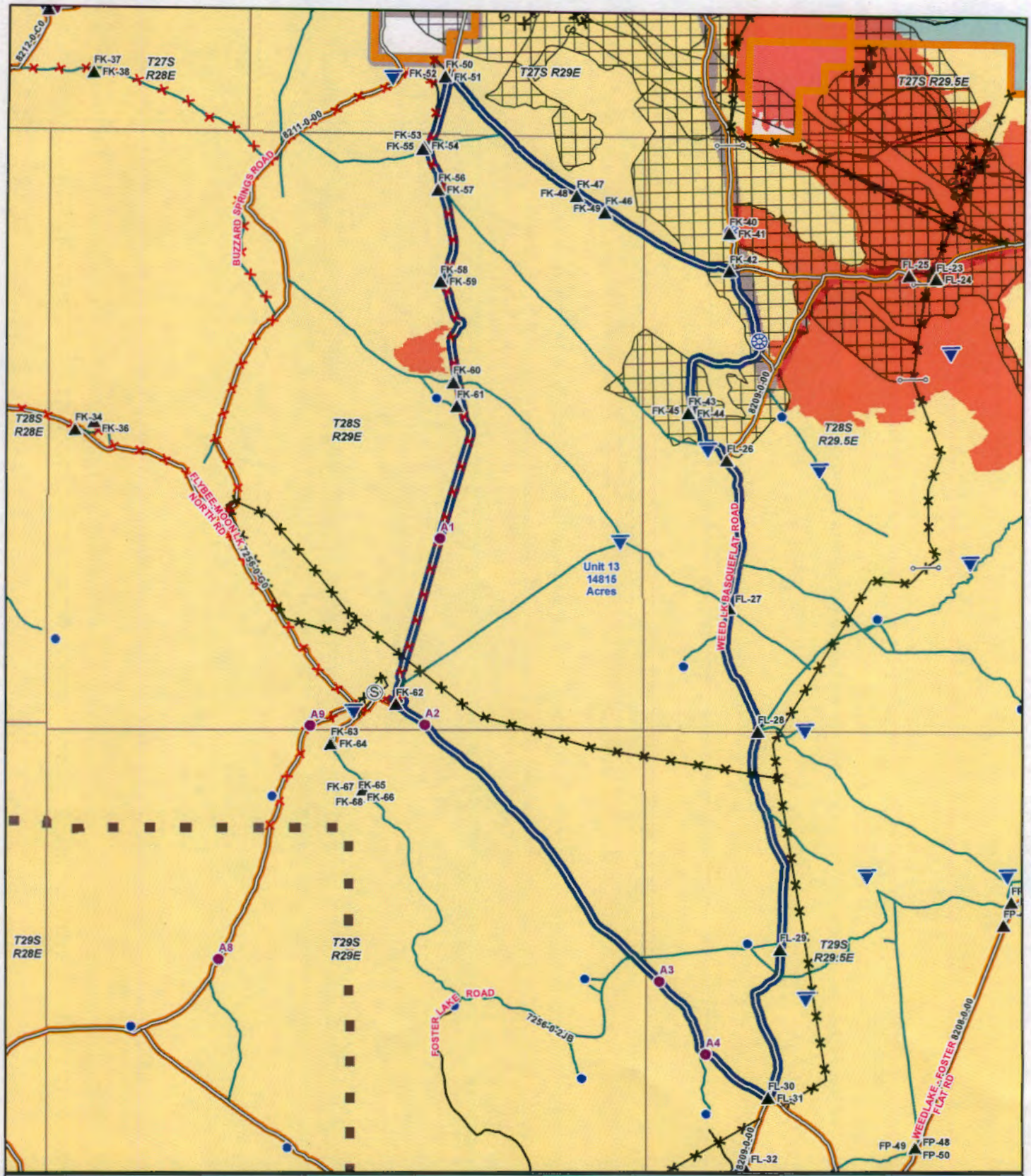
Willie Street, Range Management Specialist – Burns District — Date 8-11-2008

Autumn Richardson, SCEP Range Management Specialist – Burns District — Date 8-11-2008

Approved by:

Joan M. Suther, Three Rivers Field Manager – Burns District — Date 8/31/08

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



West Warm Springs Wilderness Character Unit Map ~ 13

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 0.4 0.8 1.6 Miles

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US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Burns District, Oregon
Three Rivers Resource Area

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January 11, 2007
All legend elements may not appear on this map.

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