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 17**

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 149-150**

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): **Wilson Butte Subunit 2-70A**

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 149-150**

Unit#/ Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
2-70A	7,905	Y	N	N	Y

FORM 2 - DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: **West Warm Springs Unit 17**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: 7,192 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 17 appear similar to those identified (See Unit Boundary Map 2) for Subunit 2-70A.

Current Unit Boundaries:

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

N: Road 7256-0-B0 (BLM Route Analysis #38, Photo Pt. A29) (ONDA Photo Pt. FU-9 W)

E: Road 7256-0-00 (BLM Route Analysis #39, Photo Pt. A30) (ONDA Photo Pts. FU-16 NW – not quite in unit, FU-47-E)

W: Road 7256-0-00 (BLM Route Analysis #25, Photo Pt. A15) (ONDA Photo Pts. FU-48 W, FU-25 S, FU-26 N, FU-5 SE, FU-6 NE, CY-11 S)

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 14 miles southeast of the community of Wagontire. The 1980 Inventory Report described this unit as consisting primarily of relatively flat to gently rolling terrace edged with rimrock. The most dominant feature is Wilson Butte, a sagebrush-covered hill which lies in the south-central portion of the area. The vegetation includes sagebrush and grasses. 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 general description above is still accurate with the addition of brush beating along most of the boundary roads for the unit **(See Unit Brush Beating Map)**. This consists of mowing sagebrush (24 feet) on either side of the road to assist with providing a fire break. 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)**:

- 5.6 miles of interior routes (non-boundary roads)
- 1 reservoir and two 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: The lack of topographic screening within this subunit prevents the area from offering outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Current Condition Description: No changes to the current condition of the unit were identified by the ID-team relative to solitude. ONDA's report indicated that the sheer size of their Buzzard Creek proposed WSA with its 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 did not feel that Wilson Butte was a significant enough feature to provide for outstanding solitude and given the lack of topographic and vegetative screening in the unit, the ID-team concurred with the original finding that outstanding opportunities for solitude are not present in this unit.

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

Yes _____ No __X__ N/A_____

1980 Unit Description: Opportunities for hunting, viewing wildlife, horseback riding, and hiking are present in this area. None of these opportunities is 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. ONDA indicated that the sheer size of their Buzzard Creek proposed WSA cannot help but provide for a diverse and exceptional recreational experience and that the endless rolling hills, rimrock ridges, juniper stands, 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.

BLM found that ONDA's Buzzard Creek proposed WSA is not one large roadless area, but rather several smaller units, including this 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. The ID-team did not identify any unique features of interest for this particular unit. 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 roads.

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 17**

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

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

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

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

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

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

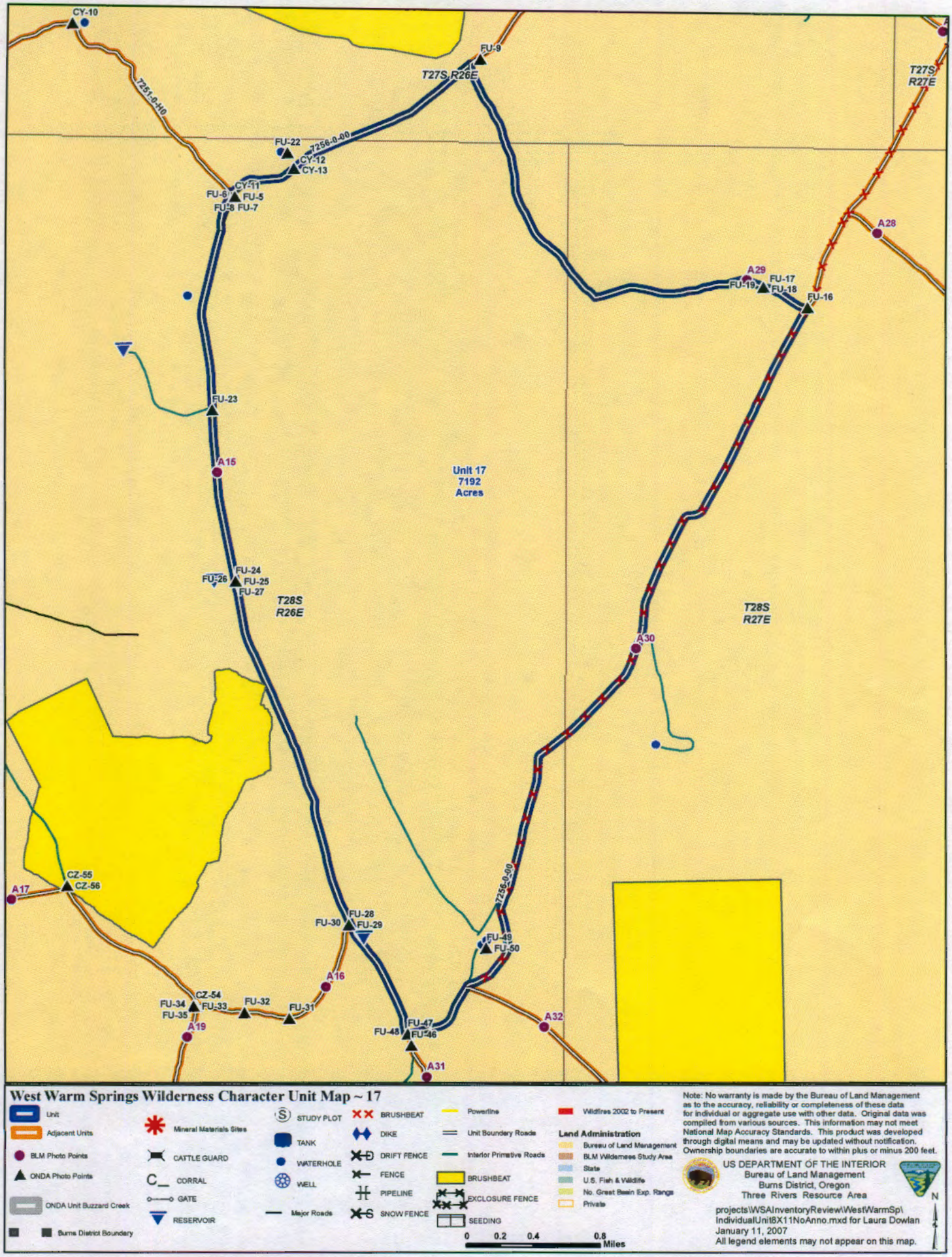
Willie Street — 8-11-2008
Willie Street, Range Management Specialist – Burns District — Date

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

Approved by:

Joan M. Suther — 8/31/08
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


CY-10
7251-0-H0
FU-9
T27S R26E
T27S R27E
FU-22
7256-0-00
CY-12
CY-13
CY-11
FU-6
FU-5
FU-8
FU-7
A28
A29
FU-19
FU-17
FU-18
FU-16
FU-23
A15
Unit 17
7192
Acres
FU-24
FU-26
FU-25
FU-27
T28S
R26E
T28S
R27E
A30
CZ-55
CZ-56
A17
FU-28
FU-30
FU-29
FU-49
FU-50
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A16
CZ-54
FU-34
FU-33
FU-32
FU-31
FU-35
A19
FU-47
FU-48
FU-46
A32
A31
West Warm Springs Wilderness Character Unit Map ~ 17
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 0.2 0.4 0.8 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.
US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Burns District, Oregon
Three Rivers Resource Area
projects\WSAInventoryReview\WestWarmSp\IndividualUnit8X11NoAnno.mxd for Laura Dowlan
January 11, 2007
All legend elements may not appear on this map.
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