WILDERNESS INVENTORY MAINTENANCE
IN BLM OREGON/WASHINGTON

Year: **2008** Inventory Unit Number/Name: **West Warm Springs Unit 7**

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 142

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Notbing There 2-62C

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 142**

Unit#/ Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
2-62C	7,955	Y	N	N	Y

FORM 2 - DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: **West Warm Springs Unit 7**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: 8,187 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 1979: The boundaries for Unit 7 appear similar to those identified (See Unit Boundary Map 2) for Subunit 2-62C, except a non-federal inholding is now BLM land making the unit slightly larger is acreage.

Current Unit Boundaries:

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

N: BLM Road 8212-0-A0 (Also an ONDA boundary – Photo Pt.GQ-33 SW)

E: Private land – also an ONDA boundary

S: BLM Road 8212-0-00 (no BLM or ONDA photo pts.) This is a road that was mechanically constructed, is in a useable condition and does get relatively regular use.

W: BLM Road 8212-0-A0 (Also an ONDA boundary – Photo Pt.GQ-34 SW)

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

Except for the road to the south, the unit boundaries correspond to ONDA's unit boundaries. 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 24 miles southwest of the community of Burns. The 1980 Inventory Report described this unit as having topography which varies from flat to gently rolling with several long, low ridges running northwest to southeast and containing some scattered rimrock. A 300-acre saltgrass flat is located in the northwest. The vegetation is primarily big sagebrush and grass with saltgrass and greasewood on the flat. The general elevation is 4,500 feet.

Current Condition Description: The ID-team reviewed photos from the 1977 inventory effort. The general description above is still accurate with the addition of brush beating along a portion of the southern boundary. 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)**. The unit has a relatively small (129 acres) seeding that was drilled and planted with non-native crested wheatgrass along the southern edge of the unit. 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)**:

- 5.9 miles of interior routes (non-boundary roads)
- 1 waterhole

- 16 miles of fencing

The ID-team found that 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 proposed 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 flat to gently rolling topography and the lack of sufficient vegetative screening do not provide a user with an outstanding opportunity to avoid the presence of others or to find a secluded spot.

Current Condition Description: The unit still offers very little topographic or 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. As part of its boundary determination process, the BLM found that ONDA's Buzzard Creek proposed WSA is not one large contiguous roadless area, but is made up of several smaller BLM units including this unit.

The BLM ID-team found that given the limited topographic and vegetative screening in this particular BLM unit, outstanding opportunities for solitude are not present.

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

Yes _____ No __X__ N/A_____

1980 Unit Description: The subunit offers opportunities for hiking and hunting (deer and antelope), but none of the opportunities are outstanding.

Current Condition Description: The ID-team found that these opportunities are likely still present. ONDA identified wildlife viewing, 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 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. As part of its boundary determination process, the BLM

found that ONDA's Buzzard Creek proposed WSA is not one large contiguous roadless area, but is made up of several smaller BLM units including this unit.

No unique features of interest were identified for this BLM unit and the diversity and quality of the recreational opportunities for this particular BLM unit are not unlike that which can be found on mucb 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 roads for this unit.

The ID-team determined that the unit's recreational opportunities do not collectively nor individually possess attributes which would provide outstanding opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation.

(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 7**

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.

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Team Members:

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

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

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

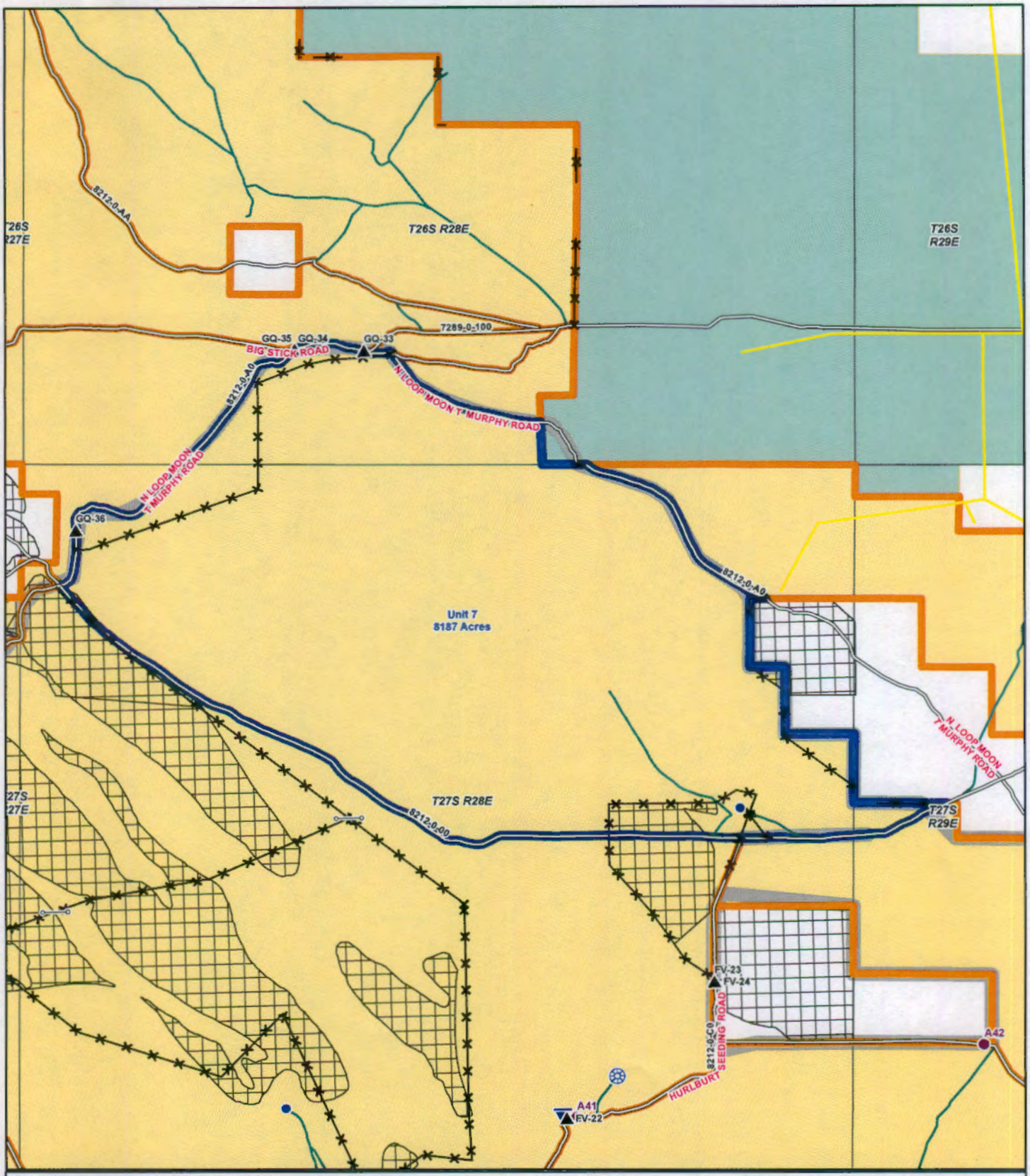
Willie Street, Range Management Specialist – Burns District — Date 8-11-2008

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

Approved by:

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

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



West Warm Springs Wilderness Character Unit Map ~ 7

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

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

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All legend elements may not appear on this map.

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