

Year: 2009

Inventory Unit Number/Name: Unnumbered/Lost Forest West

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 (if more than one unit is within the area, list the names/numbers of those units.)

a) Inventory Source: Wilderness Inventory: Oregon and Washington Final Intensive Inventory Decisions, November 1980

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Lost Forest Instant Study Area (ISA)

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): U.S. Department of the Interior: Bureau of Land Management Oregon: Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decisions, November, 1980

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Lakeview District, Lakeview 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):

Ownership	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
BLM	8,900	N	N	N	Y
Private	0				

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

Unit Number/Name: Unnumbered/Lost Forest West

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes No

Boundary Determination: In the summer of 2009, members of the BLM staff conducted additional field inventory to update its road and wilderness inventories for this area. This field work included photo documentation of the boundary and interior routes and a re-evaluation of wilderness characteristics within the area. Using BLM photos, field logs, and staff field knowledge, a BLM inter-disciplinary (ID) team completed road analyses on the main routes within the inventory area. The results of the route analysis are documented in the road analysis forms and ID team meeting notes contained in the wilderness evaluation file.

The ID team initially determined the area was bounded by private lands on the west, BLM Road 6151-00 and private lands on the south, BLM Road 6141-A0 on the east, and BLM Roads 6141-00 on the north. The ID team subsequently determined that one additional unnumbered route, coupled with private land boundaries, further sub-divided the area into two smaller inventory units (Map 2). These two units currently contain approximately 1,107 and 4,390 acres of BLM-administered lands respectively.

On the basis of this boundary determination, the BLM ID team did not further evaluate the wilderness characteristics within these two units. In addition, since the ID team determined that BLM Road 6151-00 was a boundary road, there was no basis for considering any of these lands as an addition to the Sand Dunes WSA located immediately to the south.

The process that the BLM ID team followed during this evaluation is contained in the document, *Wilderness Inventory Maintenance Process for the Lakeview Resource Area, BLM*, and the ID team meeting notes contained in the wilderness inventory file.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS

The two units are located approximately 15 miles northeast of Christmas Valley, in north Lake County, Oregon (Map 1). One unit contains the western portion of the Lost Forest Research Natural Area. Both units fall within the northern portion of the Lost Forest/Fossil Lake/Sand Dunes ACEC complex (Map 2).

The previous inventory first considered the entire Lost Forest Research Natural Area as a distinct inventory unit called an instant study area. The previous evaluation found the RNA, as a whole, did not meet the wilderness, but recommended further consideration of

portions of the RNA when evaluating surrounding inventory units. The eastern half of the RNA became a separate inventory unit (Lost Forest/OR-010-12). The southern portion was considered along with the Sand Dunes area and became part of the Sand Dunes WSA. The northwestern portion does not appear to have been considered further, possibly because it was estimated at that time to be smaller than 5,000 acres.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

1980 Unit Description: The previous inventory described the land inside the RNA as sand dunes and rolling hills covered with juniper and ponderosa pine. The previous evaluation found the RNA, as a whole, did not meet the naturalness criteria due to the negative effects of existing roads, ways, off-road vehicle and other heavy recreational use, and past logging activity (dead stumps and skid trails) dating back to 1954.

Current Condition Description: Since both units failed to meet the minimum size criteria or any of the exceptions to the size criteria, the current natural conditions were not evaluated.

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

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

1980 Unit Description: During the previous inventory of the RNA, the opportunity for solitude was not found to be outstanding due to the existing roads, limited size, low-density tree growth, and topography.

Current Condition Description: Since both units failed to meet the minimum size criteria or any of the exceptions to the size criteria, the current opportunities for solitude were not evaluated.

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

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

1980 Unit Description: The RNA was found to offer an excellent opportunity for nature study, but other primitive recreational opportunities such as backpacking, rock climbing, etc. were limited and not outstanding.

Current Condition Description: Since both units failed to meet the minimum size criteria or any of the exceptions to the size criteria, the current opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation were not evaluated.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes _____ No _____ NA X

1980 Unit Description: The disjunct ponderosa pine stand in the Lost Forest was noted as unique because it is growing in an area with an average annual precipitation that is considered inadequate to sustain the species.

Current Description: Since both units failed to meet the minimum size criteria or any of the exceptions to the size criteria, supplemental values were not evaluated.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: Lost Forest West/Unnumbered

Results of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet the size requirements? Yes No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No NA
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No NA

Conclusion (Check One):

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

The area does not have wilderness character.

ID Team Members (Names and Titles):

Paul Whitman, Planning and Environmental Coordinator
Theresa Romasko, Associate Field Manager
Breanna O'Connor, Recreation Technician
Vernon Stofelth, Wildlife Biologist

Approved by:



Tom Rasmussen, Field Manager

8/14/09

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.

**Wilderness Characteristics Evaluation
Lost Forest West
Interdisciplinary Team Signature Sheet**

The following interdisciplinary (ID) team reviewed the wilderness inventory unit. The review included field inventory and an analysis of the routes within the proposed area, as well as an evaluation of the wilderness characteristics within the area. This signature sheet documents the BLM ID Team members that participated in this process along with the member's agreement with the conclusions reached in the road analysis and wilderness character forms completed for the area.

Team Members:

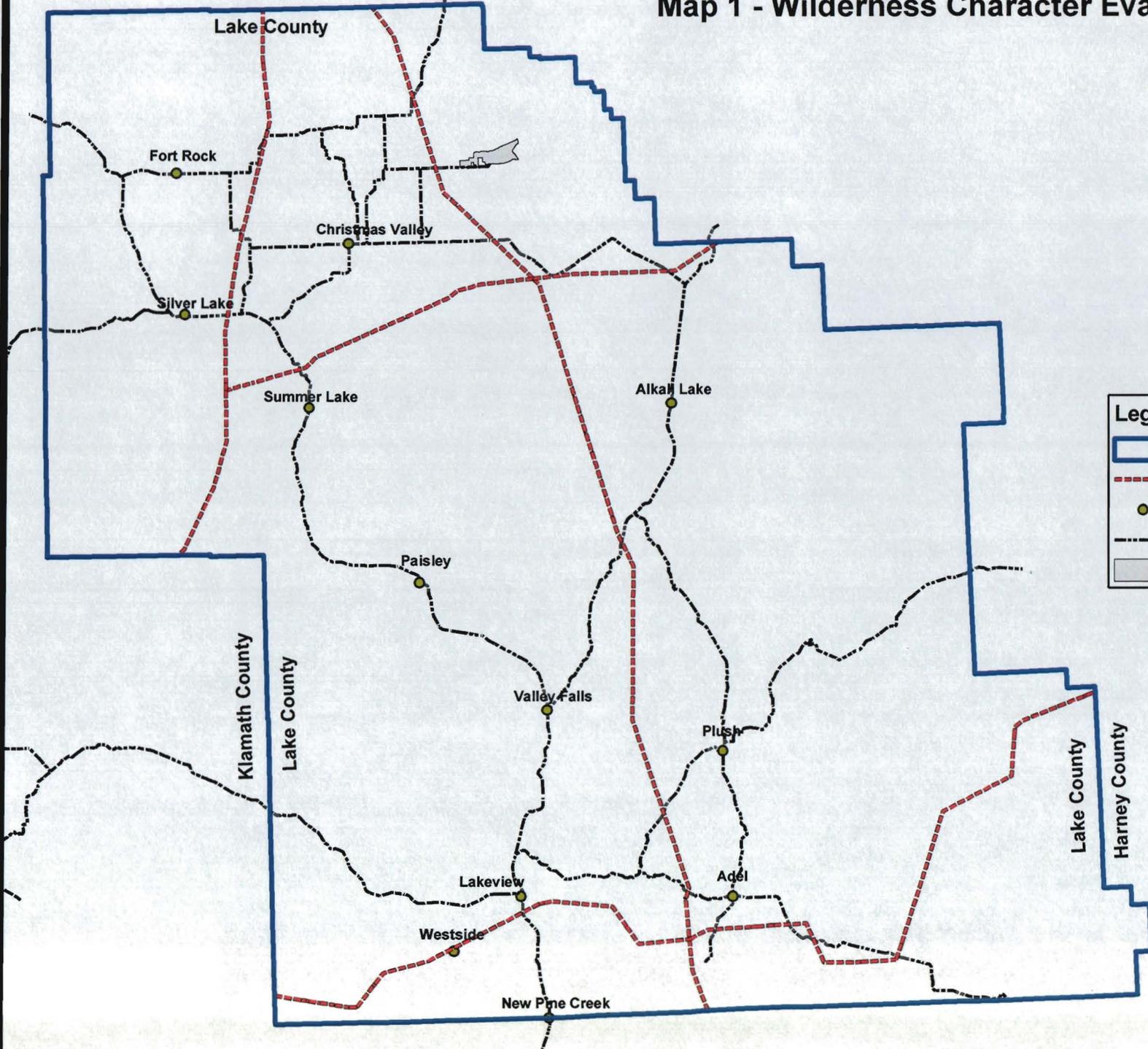
Theresa Romasko Theresa Romasko Date: 8/11/2009
Associate Field Manager for Range, Fuels, Weeds, Botany, and Special Forest Products

Paul Whitman Paul Whitman Date: 8/11/2009
Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Vernon Stofleth Vern Stofleth Date: 8/11/09
Wildlife Biologist

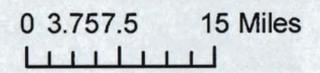
Breanna O'Connor Breanna O'Connor Date: 8/11/09
Recreation Technician

Map 1 - Wilderness Character Evaluation Area



Legend

- Lakeview Resource Area
- Major Utility Corridors
- Cities
- Major Roads
- Wilderness Unit Boundary



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