

Wilderness Characteristics Evaluation

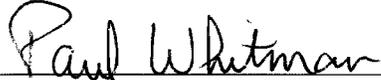
Interdisciplinary Team Signature Sheet

The following interdisciplinary (ID) team reviewed the citizen's wilderness proposal. 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 proposed area. This signature sheet documents the available ID Team members that participated in this wilderness evaluation process along with the member's agreement with the conclusions reached in the road analysis forms and wilderness character forms completed for the area. These forms are contained in this wilderness inventory file.

Proposed WSA: Sucker Creek

Team Members:

Todd Forbes  Date: 7/6/09
Associate Field Manager for Wildlife, Fisheries, Riparian, Hydrology, Wilderness, Recreation, and Cultural

Paul Whitman  Date: 7/6/2009
Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Les Boothe  Date: 7/6/2009
Range Management Specialist

Breanna Sabin-O'Conner  Date: 7/6/2009
Recreation Technician

James Price  Date: 7/14/09
Fuels Specialist

Bill Cannon  Date: 7/6/09
Archaeologist

FORM 1

**DOCUMENTATION OF BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY
FINDINGS ON RECORD**

Year: 2009 Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-120A/Coleman Rim South

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.): NA

a) Inventory Source: Wilderness Inventory: Oregon and Washington Final Intensive Inventory Decisions November 1980, pages 85-86

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Coleman Rim/1-120A

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 within Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
1-120A					
BLM	6,160	N	N	N	Unknown
Private	0				

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

a. Unit Number/Name: **OR-015-120A/Coleman Rim South**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes X No

Citizen Information Received: In 2005, the BLM received a citizen proposal from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) for the 15,665-acre Sucker Creek proposed Wilderness Study Area (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 these materials were considered during the BLM's wilderness inventory process for this BLM Unit, as documented herein. The photos submitted by ONDA were taken in September 2004. They identified the area as having no interior routes which they felt met the BLM wilderness inventory definition of a road (see Map, p. 228 of ONDA 2005).

Boundary Determination and Consideration of Citizen Information: BLM staff reviewed ONDA's information to identify potential data gaps. BLM staff conducted their own field inventory of the area in 2008 and 2009 to gather additional information to supplement the information provided by ONDA. This included taking numerous additional route photos throughout the area. Using both ONDA and BLM photos, field logs, and staff field knowledge, a BLM inter-disciplinary (ID) team completed a road analysis on all of the existing main routes within this proposal. The results of the road analysis are documented in the road analysis forms and the ID team meeting notes contained in the wilderness evaluation file.

The ID team determined that several of the routes that ONDA identified as "ways" are still, in fact, boundary roads. For this reason, the BLM found the Sucker Creek proposal is not one large roadless unit, but rather is comprised of several smaller units (Map 1).

The ID team found that the boundary for this unit has changed little since the previous inventory was completed in 1980. The west boundary is a combination of private land and BLM Road 6172-00; the east boundary is BLM Road 6172-00; and the north boundary is a combination of BLM Roads 6172-00, 6172-A0, and private land (Map 2). The current unit boundary encompasses approximately 7,143 acres of BLM-administered lands. Refer to the road analysis forms, photos, photo logs, and BLM ID team minutes in the wilderness inventory file for additional supporting information regarding these boundary determinations.

Following the boundary determination, the BLM ID team subsequently evaluated the wilderness characteristics within this unit. The results are contained in the following section. Additional background on 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 unit is located about 7 miles south of Adel, Oregon (Map 1). The unit contains several fault block terraces of fairly low height which add some contour and broken terrain to this part of the unit. The flats between the rims are still fairly exposed with scattered juniper cover to the south.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition? Yes No N/A

Previous Inventory Description: In 1980, the unit contained five reservoirs and approximately 2.5 miles of vehicle ways going to the reservoirs on the east side of the unit in sections 4 and 9. The developments on the south half were “quite noticeable” and the unit did not appear in a generally natural condition. The works of man were substantially noticeable.

Current Description: The topography and vegetation has not changed substantially since 1980. Vegetation is a combination of sagebrush/grassland and young, encroaching western juniper stands (Map 3).

This unit falls completely within the Rahilly-Gravelly Area of Critical Environmental Concern and Research Natural Area (ACEC/RNA) which was designated in 2003 during the Lakeview RMP process (Map 2). This designation is intended to recognize and protect important cultural, wildlife, and botanical values. The ACEC/RNA “contains scattered western juniper stands, tall sagebrush mosaic, and low sagebrush on lithic soil flats”. In particular, the area contains three vegetation community cell needs of the Oregon Natural Heritage Program (Draft RMP/EIS, Appendix I, p. A-247 and Proposed RMP/Final EIS, p. 2-58):

- 1) Western juniper/big sagebrush-bitterbrush
- 2) Mountain brush
- 3) Bitterbrush-sagebrush, mountain snowberry/Thurber needlegrass mosaic

At the present time this unit contains about 5 miles of primitive, motorized routes and 7.4 miles of pasture boundary fence. Constructed livestock water developments include 2 developed springs (with enclosure fences and troughs), 6 waterholes, and 2 reservoirs (Map 2). In the early 1980’s, the area was explored extensively for potential geothermal energy. Remnants of this activity may include small areas of ground disturbance and a capped well-heads scattered throughout the unit. The unit contains substantially more developments than it did in 1980, however, juniper cover has increased during this same

time providing additional screening of these developments. For this reason, many of the developments are less noticeable or harder to see than 1980. Most of the existing developments are located near the boundary of the unit or are substantially unnoticeable.

For these reasons, the ID team found that overall, the natural condition of this unit has improved since 1980 and the unit is predominantly natural.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude? Yes No
N/A

Previous Inventory Description: In 1980, the unit offered some degree of solitude along the rims and in the juniper stands. However, the unit does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude due to the narrow shape and small size of the unit.

Current Description: The unit's shape, size, and topography has not changed since 1980. However, the interspersion of rims and valleys does provide some screening when looking in either and east or west direction. In addition, western juniper has continued to expand across the unit (Map 3) providing additional vegetative screening. One can gain an overall impression of the screening within the unit by reviewing the photos contained in the wilderness inventory file (see photo logs).

The *Lakeview RMP/ROD* (Map R-7) shows that off-highway vehicle (OHV) use within the unit is limited to existing roads and trails. This designation allows motorized vehicle use on all boundary roads and existing primitive motorized routes inside the unit which can increase the likelihood of encountering other people in the unit. However, access to the unit is limited to some extent by Twelvemile Creek to the west and private lands to the north.

For these reasons, the BLM ID Team found that solitude opportunities have improved since 1980, primarily due to increased vegetative screening, and the unit currently provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation? Yes No N/A

Previous Inventory Description: In 1980, the unit offered moderate opportunities for hunting. The potential for hiking and backpacking was limited due to the size and narrow shape of the unit.

Current Description: In 2005, ONDA felt that the size of their larger proposal made the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation (hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, and hunting) outstanding (ONDA 2005; p. 226). As described previously, the BLM ID team found that the Sucker Creek proposal is not one large contiguous roadless area, but is actually composed of several smaller inventory units that must be individually evaluated for primitive recreation opportunities.

The ID team concurs that the unit may provide some hiking, backpacking, wildlife observation, and hunting opportunities. However, these recreational opportunities tend to be indirectly associated with the motorized access provided by the existing road system and off-highway vehicle designations within the unit. Further, the noise associated with this motorized activity diminishes the potential for a visitor to enjoy a primitive (non-motorized) and unconfined recreation experience within the unit.

The unit does not currently offer any single outstanding primitive recreation opportunity or an outstanding diversity of primitive recreational opportunities. Similar primitive recreation opportunities are found throughout surrounding BLM lands in southeast Oregon.

For these reasons, the BLM ID Team found that the recreation opportunities in this unit have not changed or improved substantially since 1980. The unit continues to lack outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values? Yes _____ No _____ NA ___

Previous Inventory Description: In 1980, the unit was noted as having the potential for archeological values, but none were documented at that point in time.

Current Description: The ACEC evaluation noted the presence of a “wide variety and high density of (archeological) sites”. It “has significant prehistoric and historic cultural resources present” (Draft RMP/EIS, Appendix I, p. A-247).

The BLM sensitive plant species, Cooper’s goldflower occurs in the surrounding area. The Draft RMP/EIS also noted the presence of “known critical habitat for greater sage-grouse” (Appendix I, p. A-247).

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: Coleman Rim South/OR-015-120A

Results of Analysis:

- 1. Does the area meet 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
- 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.

ID Team Members (Names and Titles)

Kim McLean, Outdoor Recreation Planner/Wilderness Specialist
Paul Whitman, Planning and Environmental Coordinator
Todd Forbes, Assistant Field Manager
Les Boothe, Range Management Specialist
Lucile Housley, Botanist
James Price, Fuels Specialist
Breanna Sabin-O'Conner, Recreation Technician
Bill Cannon, Archeologist

Approved by:



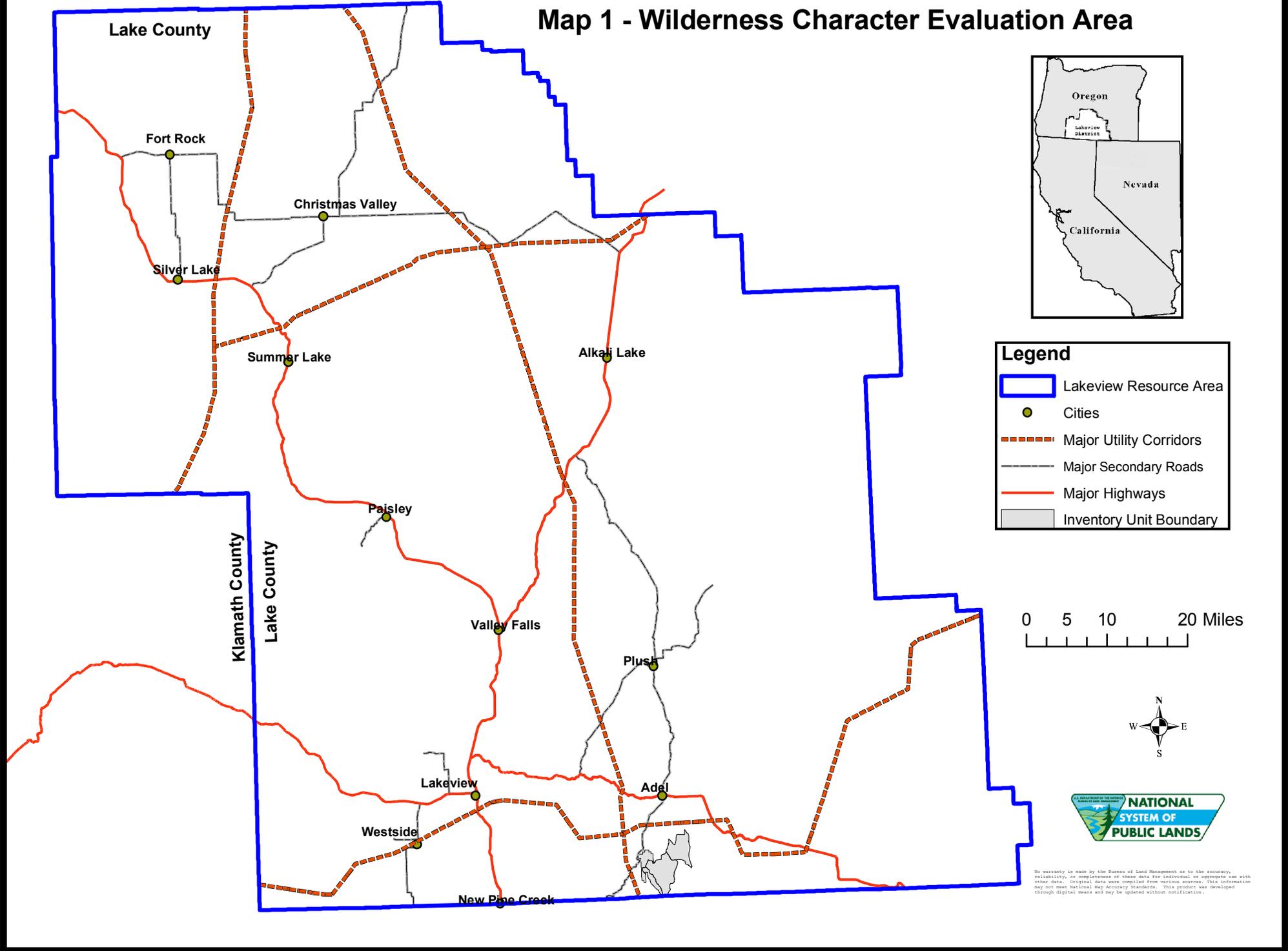
Tom Rasmussen, Field Manager

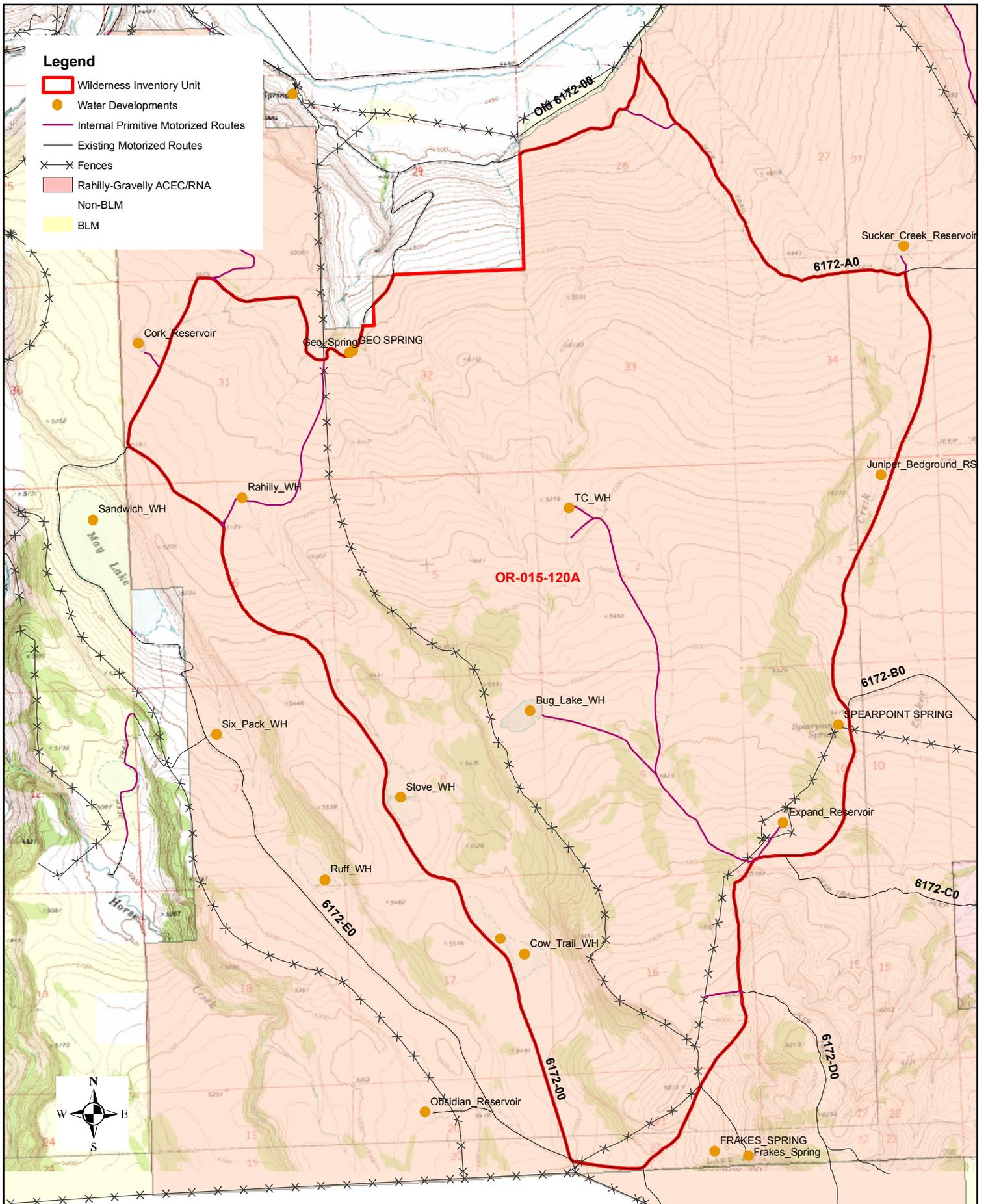
7/14/09

Date

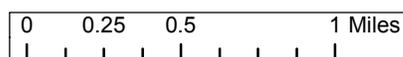
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.

Map 1 - Wilderness Character Evaluation Area



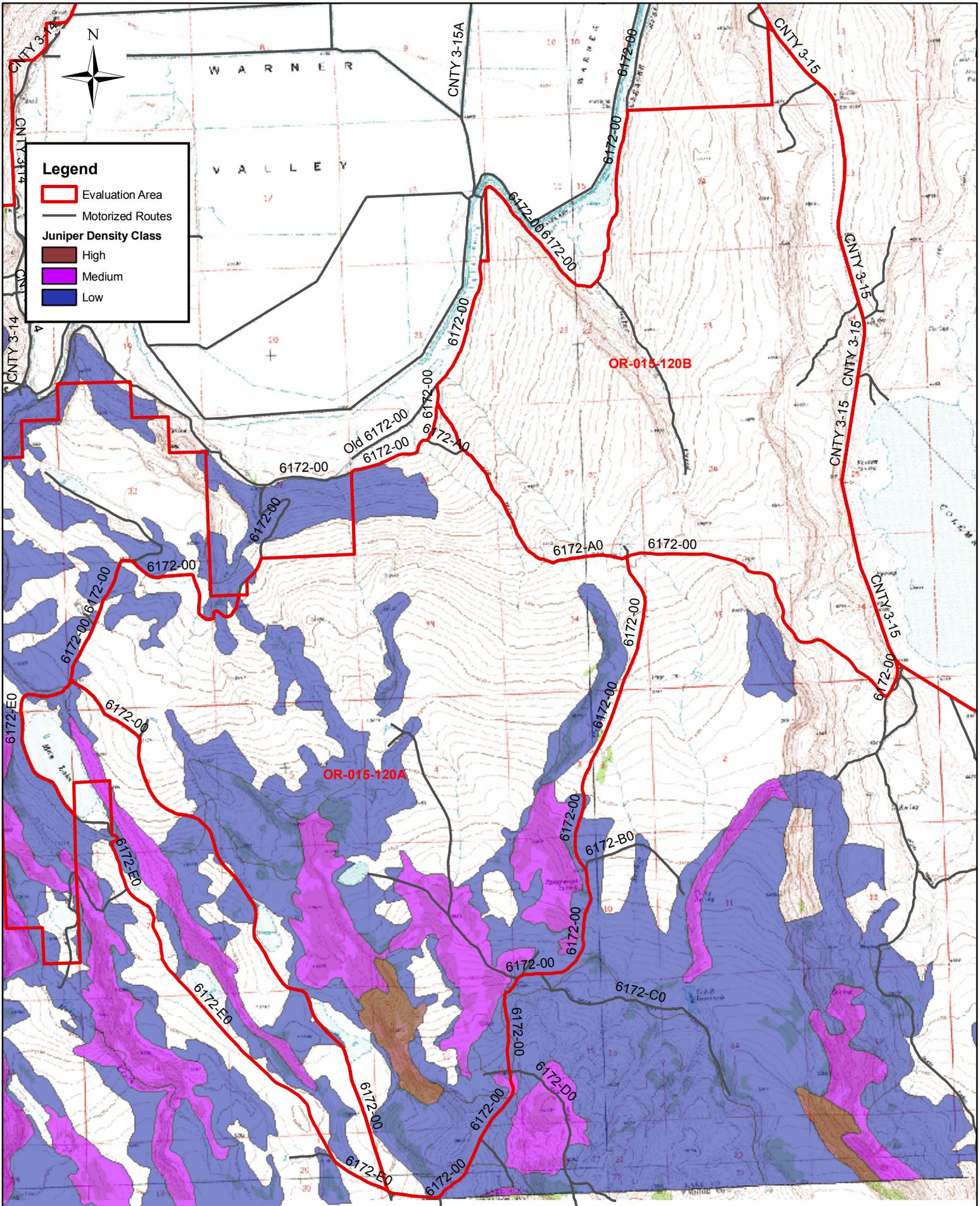


**Map 2 - Coleman Rim South
(OR-015-120A) Wilderness
Inventory Unit**



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use with other data. Original data were compiled from maps. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated notification.





Legend

- Evaluation Area
- Motorized Routes
- Juniper Density Class**
- High
- Medium
- Low

1 0.5 0 1 Miles

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 were 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.

Map 3 - Vegetative Screening based on Juniper Density Classes

FORM 1

**DOCUMENTATION OF BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY
FINDINGS ON RECORD**

Year: 2009

Inventory Unit Number/Name: Coleman Rim Northwest

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.): NA

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

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): None

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 within Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
None					
BLM	<5,000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Private	0				

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

a. Unit Number/Name: Coleman Rim Northwest

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes _____ No X

Citizen Information Received: In 2005, the BLM received a citizen proposal from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) for the 15,665-acre Sucker Creek proposed Wilderness Study Area (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 these materials were considered during the BLM's wilderness inventory process for this BLM Unit, as documented herein. The photos submitted by ONDA were taken in September 2004. They identified the area as having no interior routes which they felt met the BLM wilderness inventory definition of a road (see Map, p. 228 of ONDA 2005).

Boundary Determination and Consideration of Citizen Information: BLM staff reviewed ONDA's information to identify potential data gaps. BLM staff conducted their own field inventory of the area in 2008 and 2009 to gather additional information to supplement the information provided by ONDA. This included taking numerous additional route photos throughout the area. Using both ONDA and BLM photos, field logs, and staff field knowledge, a BLM inter-disciplinary (ID) team completed a road analysis on all of the existing main routes within this proposal. The results of the road analysis are documented in the road analysis forms and the ID team meeting notes contained in the wilderness evaluation file.

The ID team determined that several of the routes that ONDA identified as "ways" are still, in fact, boundary roads. For this reason, the BLM found the Sucker Creek proposal is not one large roadless unit, but rather is comprised of several smaller units (Map 1).

This area did not meet the minimum size criteria during the 1980 inventory. The ID team found that the unit is currently bounded on the north, west, and south by private land, and on the east by BLM Roads 6172-00 and 6172-E0 and private lands (Map 2). Refer to the road analysis forms, photos, photo logs, and BLM ID team minutes in the wilderness inventory file for additional supporting information regarding these boundary determinations. The current unit boundary encompasses approximately 1,977 acres of BLM-administered lands. Since the area does not encompass at least 5,000 acres in size, and does not meet any of the exceptions to the size criteria, it was not evaluated further.

Additional background on 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 unit is located about 5 miles south of Adel, Oregon (Map 1). The unit is long and narrow.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X _____

Description: Since the unit did not meet the minimum size criteria or any of the exceptions to the size criteria, the natural quality was not evaluated.

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

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X _____

Description: Since the unit did not meet the minimum size criteria or any of the exceptions to the size criteria, the opportunities for solitude were not evaluated.

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

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X _____

Description: Since the unit did not meet the minimum size criteria or any of the exceptions to the size criteria, the recreation opportunities were not evaluated.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X _____

Description: Since the unit did not meet the minimum size criteria or any of the exceptions to the size criteria, the supplemental values were not evaluated.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: Coleman Lake Northwest

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
Todd Forbes, Assistant Field Manager
Les Boothe, Range Management Specialist
James Price, Fuels Specialist

Approved by:



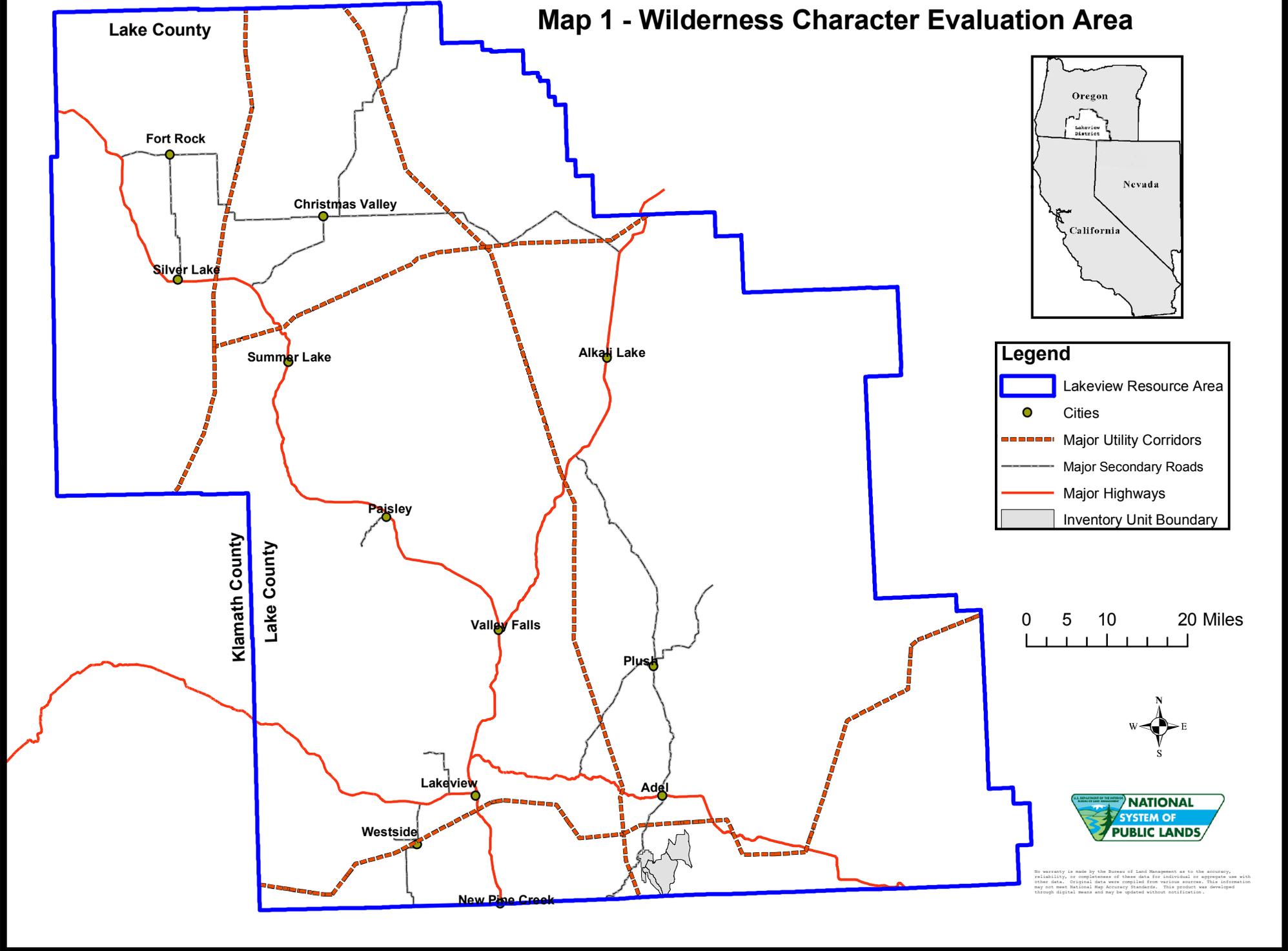
Tom Rasmussen, Field Manager

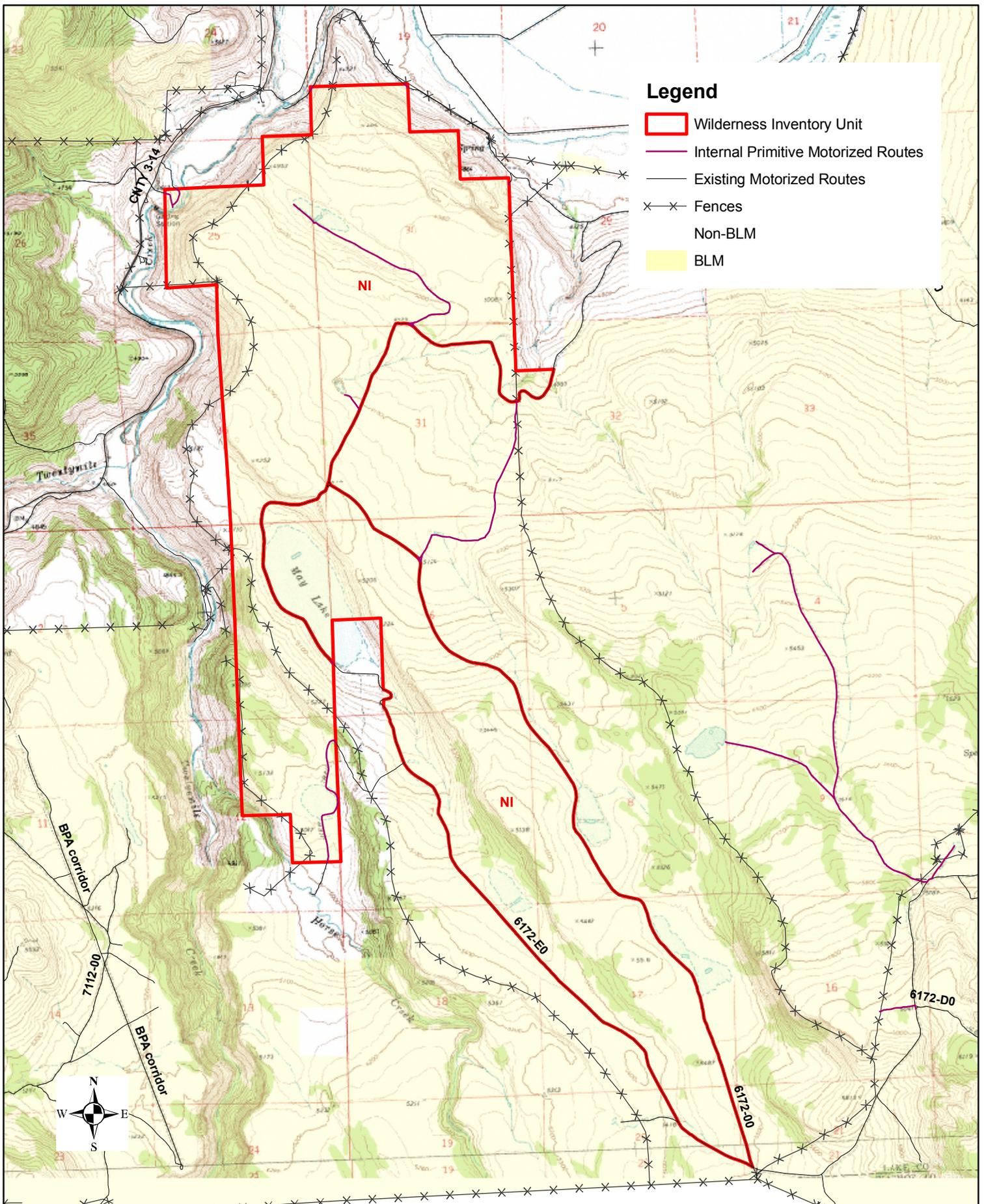
7/14/05

Date

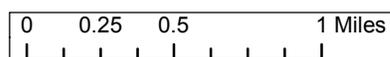
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.

Map 1 - Wilderness Character Evaluation Area





Map 2 - Wilderness Inventory Units Failing to Meet the Size Criteria



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use with other data. Original data were compiled from maps. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated notification.



FORM 1

**DOCUMENTATION OF BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY
FINDINGS ON RECORD**

Year: 2009

Inventory Unit Number/Name: Coleman Rim Southwest

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.): NA

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

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): None

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 within Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
None					
BLM	<5,000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Private	0				

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

a. Unit Number/Name: Coleman Rim Southwest

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes _____ No X

Citizen Information Received: In 2005, the BLM received a citizen proposal from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) for the 15,665-acre Sucker Creek proposed Wilderness Study Area (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 these materials were considered during the BLM's wilderness inventory process for this BLM Unit, as documented herein. The photos submitted by ONDA were taken in September 2004. They identified the area as having no interior routes which they felt met the BLM wilderness inventory definition of a road (see Map, p. 228 of ONDA 2005).

Boundary Determination and Consideration of Citizen Information: BLM staff reviewed ONDA's information to identify potential data gaps. BLM staff conducted their own field inventory of the area in 2008 and 2009 to gather additional information to supplement the information provided by ONDA. This included taking numerous additional route photos throughout the area. Using both ONDA and BLM photos, field logs, and staff field knowledge, a BLM inter-disciplinary (ID) team completed a road analysis on all of the existing main routes within this proposal. The results of the road analysis are documented in the road analysis forms and the ID team meeting notes contained in the wilderness evaluation file.

The ID team determined that several of the routes that ONDA identified as "ways" are still, in fact, boundary roads. For this reason, the BLM found the Sucker Creek proposal is not one large roadless unit, but rather is comprised of several smaller units (Map 1).

This area did not meet the minimum size criteria during the 1980 inventory. The ID team found that the unit is currently bounded on the west by BLM Road 6172-E0 and private land, and on the east by BLM Road 6172-00 (Map 2). Refer to the road analysis forms, photos, photo logs, and BLM ID team minutes in the wilderness inventory file for additional supporting information regarding these boundary determinations. The current unit boundary encompasses approximately 1,349 acres of BLM-administered lands. Since the area does not encompass at least 5,000 acres in size, and does not meet any of the exceptions to the size criteria, it was not evaluated further.

Additional background on 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 unit is located about 6 miles south of Adel, Oregon (Map 1). The unit is long and narrow with one relatively low-lying juniper covered rim running in a southwesterly direction through the center on the unit.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X _____

Description: Since the unit did not meet the minimum size criteria or any of the exceptions to the size criteria, the natural quality was not evaluated.

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

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X _____

Description: Since the unit did not meet the minimum size criteria or any of the exceptions to the size criteria, the opportunities for solitude were not evaluated.

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

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X _____

Description: Since the unit did not meet the minimum size criteria or any of the exceptions to the size criteria, the recreation opportunities were not evaluated.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X _____

Description: Since the unit did not meet the minimum size criteria or any of the exceptions to the size criteria, the supplemental values were not evaluated.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: Coleman Lake Southwest

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
Todd Forbes, Assistant Field Manager
Les Boothe, Range Management Specialist
James Price, Fuels Specialist

Approved by:



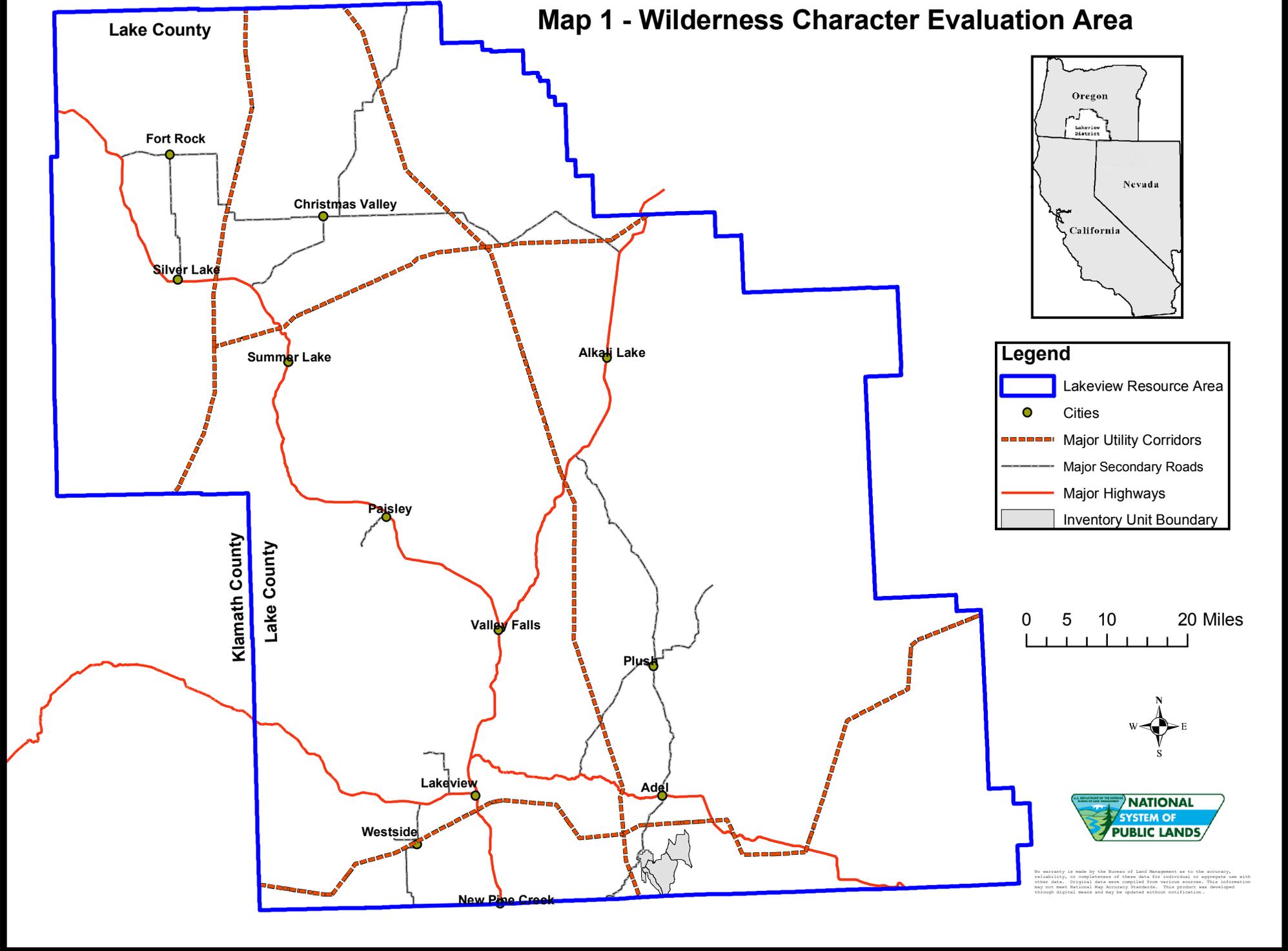
Tom Rasmussen, Field Manager

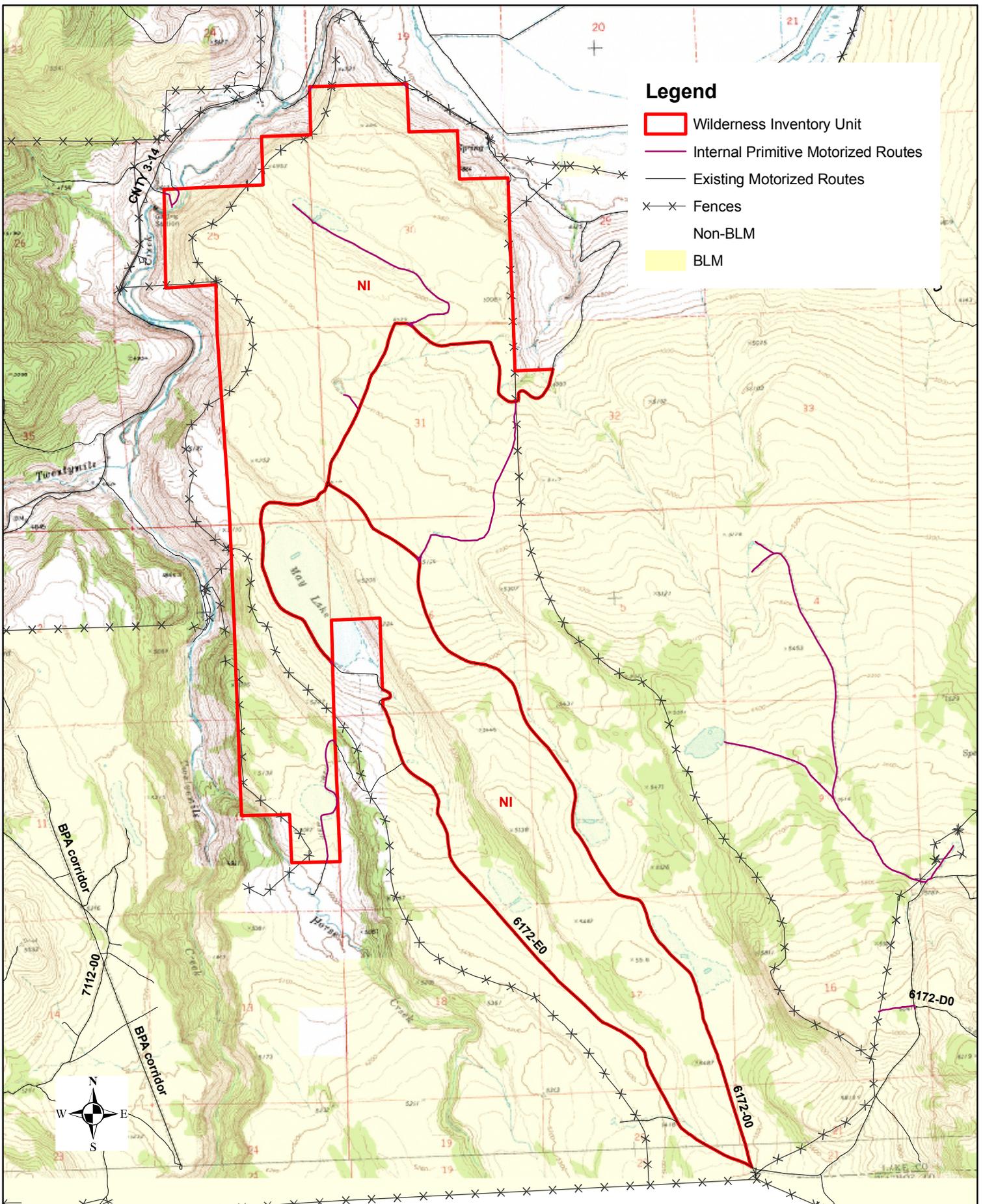
7/14/09

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.

Map 1 - Wilderness Character Evaluation Area

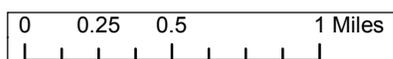




Legend

- Wilderness Inventory Unit
- Internal Primitive Motorized Routes
- Existing Motorized Routes
- x x Fences
- Non-BLM
- BLM

Map 2 - Wilderness Inventory Units Failing to Meet the Size Criteria



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use with other data. Original data were compiled from maps. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated notification.



FORM 1

**DOCUMENTATION OF BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY
FINDINGS ON RECORD**

Year: 2009 Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-120B/Coleman Rim North

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.): NA

a) Inventory Source: Wilderness Inventory: Oregon and Washington Final Intensive Inventory Decisions November 1980, pages 85-86

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Coleman Rim/1-120B

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 within Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
1-120B					
BLM	5,120	Y	N	N	N
Private	0				

FORM 2

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

a. Unit Number/Name: **OR-015-120B/Coleman Rim North**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes X No

Citizen Information Received: In 2005, the BLM received a citizen proposal from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) for the 15,665-acre Sucker Creek proposed Wilderness Study Area (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 these materials were considered during the BLM's wilderness inventory process for this BLM Unit, as documented herein. The photos submitted by ONDA were taken in September 2004. They identified the area as having no interior routes which they felt met the BLM wilderness inventory definition of a road (see Map, p. 228 of ONDA 2005).

Boundary Determination and Consideration of Citizen Information: BLM staff reviewed ONDA's information to identify potential data gaps. BLM staff conducted their own field inventory of the area in 2008 and 2009 to gather additional information to supplement the information provided by ONDA. This included taking numerous additional route photos throughout the area. Using both ONDA and BLM photos, field logs, and staff field knowledge, a BLM inter-disciplinary (ID) team completed a road analysis on all of the existing main routes within this proposal. The results of the road analysis are documented in the road analysis forms and the ID team meeting notes contained in the wilderness evaluation file.

The ID team determined that several of the routes that ONDA identified as "ways" are still, in fact, boundary roads. For this reason, the BLM found the Sucker Creek proposal is not one large roadless unit, but rather is comprised of several smaller units (Map 1).

The ID team found that the boundary for this unit has changed little since the previous inventory was completed in 1980. The west boundary is BLM Road 6172-00; the east boundary is County Road 3-15; the south boundary is a combination of BLM Roads 6172-00 and 6172-A0; the north boundary is private land (Map 2). The current unit boundary encompasses approximately 5,032 acres of BLM-administered lands. Refer to the road analysis forms, photos, photo logs, and BLM ID team minutes in the wilderness inventory file for additional supporting information regarding these boundary determinations.

Following the boundary determination, the BLM ID team subsequently evaluated the wilderness characteristics within this unit. The results are contained in the following section. Additional background on 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 unit is located about 5 miles south of Adel, Oregon (Map 1). The unit is a broad open dip slope with sage cover dropping in elevation from the east and south towards the north where the unit is bound by the flat lands of the south Warner Valley. The unit has very little topographic relief and is very open in appearance.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition? Yes No N/A

Previous Inventory Description: In 1980, the unit was found to be in an essentially natural condition with a way passing up Sucker Creek as the only intrusion in the unit.

Current Description: The topography and vegetation has not changed substantially since 1980.

About 75% of this unit falls completely within the Rahilly-Gravelly Area of Critical Environmental Concern and Research Natural Area (ACEC/RNA) which was designated in 2003 during the Lakeview RMP process (Map 2). This designation is intended to recognize and protect important cultural, wildlife, and botanical values. The ACEC/RNA “contains scattered western juniper stands, tall sagebrush mosaic, and low sagebrush on lithic soil flats”. In particular, the area contains three vegetation community cell needs of the Oregon Natural Heritage Program (Draft RMP/EIS, Appendix I, p. A-247 and Proposed RMP/Final EIS, p. 2-58):

- 1) Western juniper/big sagebrush-bitterbrush
- 2) Mountain brush
- 3) Bitterbrush-sagebrush, mountain snowberry/Thurber needlegrass mosaic

Vegetation within the inventory unit is primarily sagebrush/grassland. The western juniper community described above is not found in this portion of the ACEC/RNA.

At the present time, this unit contains about 3.2 miles of primitive, motorized routes, 3.9 miles of pasture boundary fence, and one livestock reservoir (Map 2). In the early 1980’s, the area was explored extensively for potential geothermal energy. Remnants of this activity may include small areas of ground disturbance and a capped well-heads scattered throughout the unit. These developments are substantially noticeable within close proximity (one-quarter mile) and less noticeable from further distances.

For this reason, the ID team found that overall, this unit is in a natural condition where the imprints of man are substantially unnoticeable.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude? Yes _____ No X
N/A _____

Previous Inventory Description: In 1980, the unit was described as a west facing slope with little vegetation cover. This slope exposed one to the sights and sounds of others in the unit and did not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Current Description: The unit's shape, size, topography, and vegetative cover has not changed substantially since 1980. One can gain an overall impression of the lack of screening within the unit by reviewing the photos contained in the wilderness inventory file (see photo logs).

The *Lakeview RMP/ROD* (Map R-7) shows that off-highway vehicle (OHV) use within about 75% of the unit is limited to existing roads and trails. The remaining 25% is open to off-road vehicle use. These designations allow motorized vehicle use on all boundary roads and existing primitive motorized routes inside the unit, as well as, some cross-country travel. Vehicle traffic typically includes livestock permittees, private land owners, BLM staff, and hunters. The presence of these motorized routes increases the likelihood of encountering other people and reduces the potential to experience solitude. Further, the noise associated with this motorized activity diminishes the potential for a visitor to experience solitude within the unit.

The existing exposed topography (mostly sloping in a southwesterly direction), lack of tall vegetative screening, relatively small unit size, and narrow unit configuration still limit the opportunities for solitude. It is possible to see across large portions of the unit from given observation points making it difficult to escape from others and find solitude.

For these reasons, the BLM ID Team found that solitude opportunities have not changed or improved substantially since 1980 and the unit still does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation? Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Previous Inventory Description: In 1980, the unit offered limited opportunities for hunting, hiking, and backpacking due to the size, shape and featureless topography of the unit.

Current Description: In 2005, ONDA felt that the size of their larger proposal made the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation (hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, and hunting) outstanding (ONDA 2005; p. 226). As described previously, the BLM ID team found that the Sucker Creek proposal is not one large contiguous roadless area, but is actually composed of several smaller inventory units that

must be individually evaluated for primitive recreation opportunities.

The ID team concurs that the unit may provide some hiking, backpacking, wildlife observation, and hunting opportunities. However, these recreational opportunities tend to be indirectly associated with the motorized access provided by the existing road system and off-highway vehicle designations within the unit. Further, the noise associated with this motorized activity diminishes the potential for a visitor to enjoy a primitive (non-motorized) and unconfined recreation experience within the unit.

The unit does not currently offer any single outstanding primitive recreation opportunity or an outstanding diversity of primitive recreational opportunities. Similar primitive recreation opportunities are found throughout surrounding BLM lands in southeast Oregon.

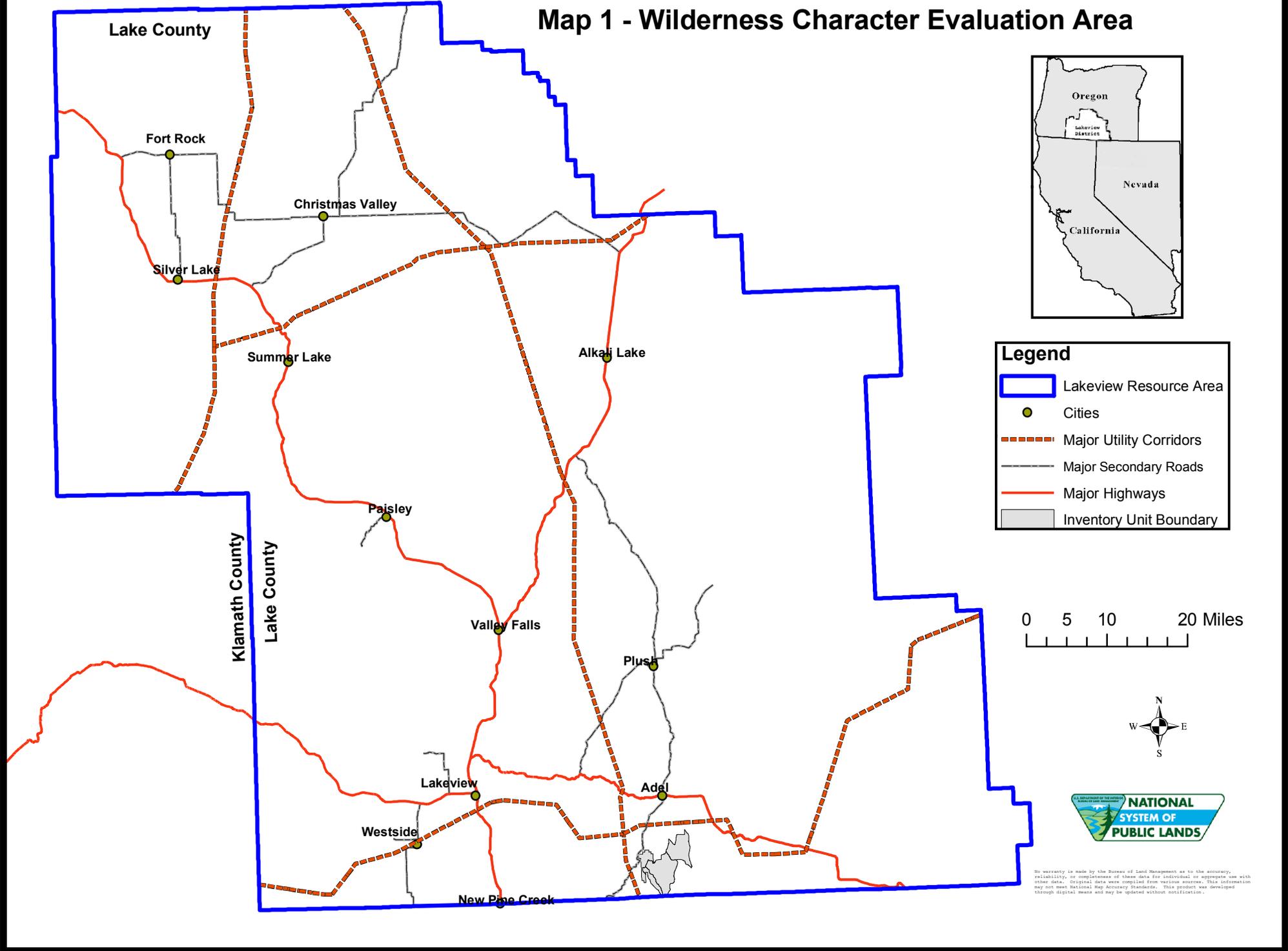
For these reasons, the BLM ID Team found that the recreation opportunities in this unit have not changed or improved substantially since 1980. The unit continues to lack outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities.

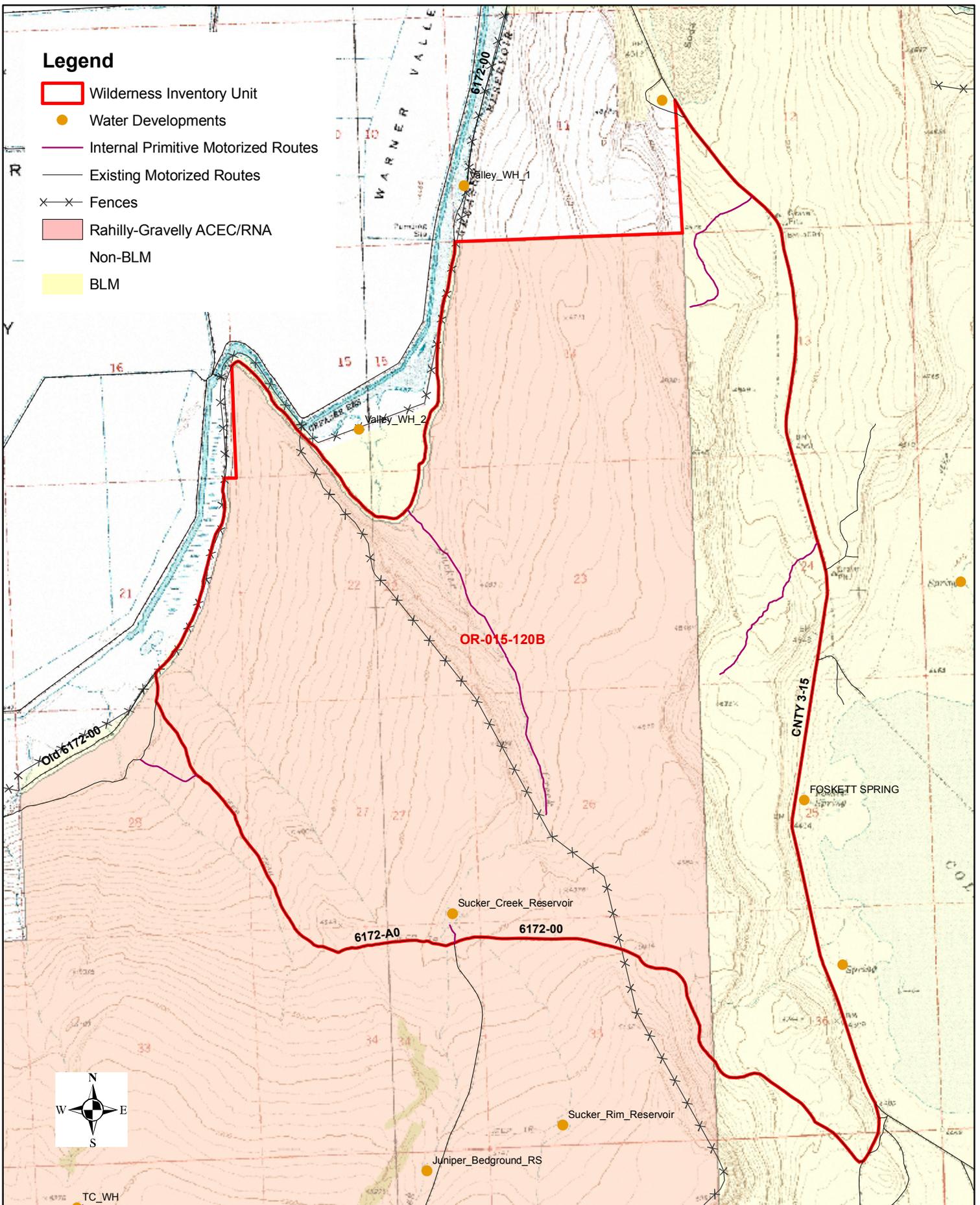
(5) Does the unit have supplemental values? Yes _____ No _____ NA X

Previous Inventory Description: In 1980, no supplemental values were identified within the unit.

Current Description: Since this unit does not meet the minimum criteria for wilderness character, supplemental values did not need to be evaluated.

Map 1 - Wilderness Character Evaluation Area

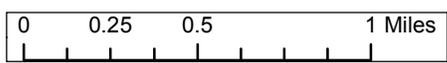




Legend

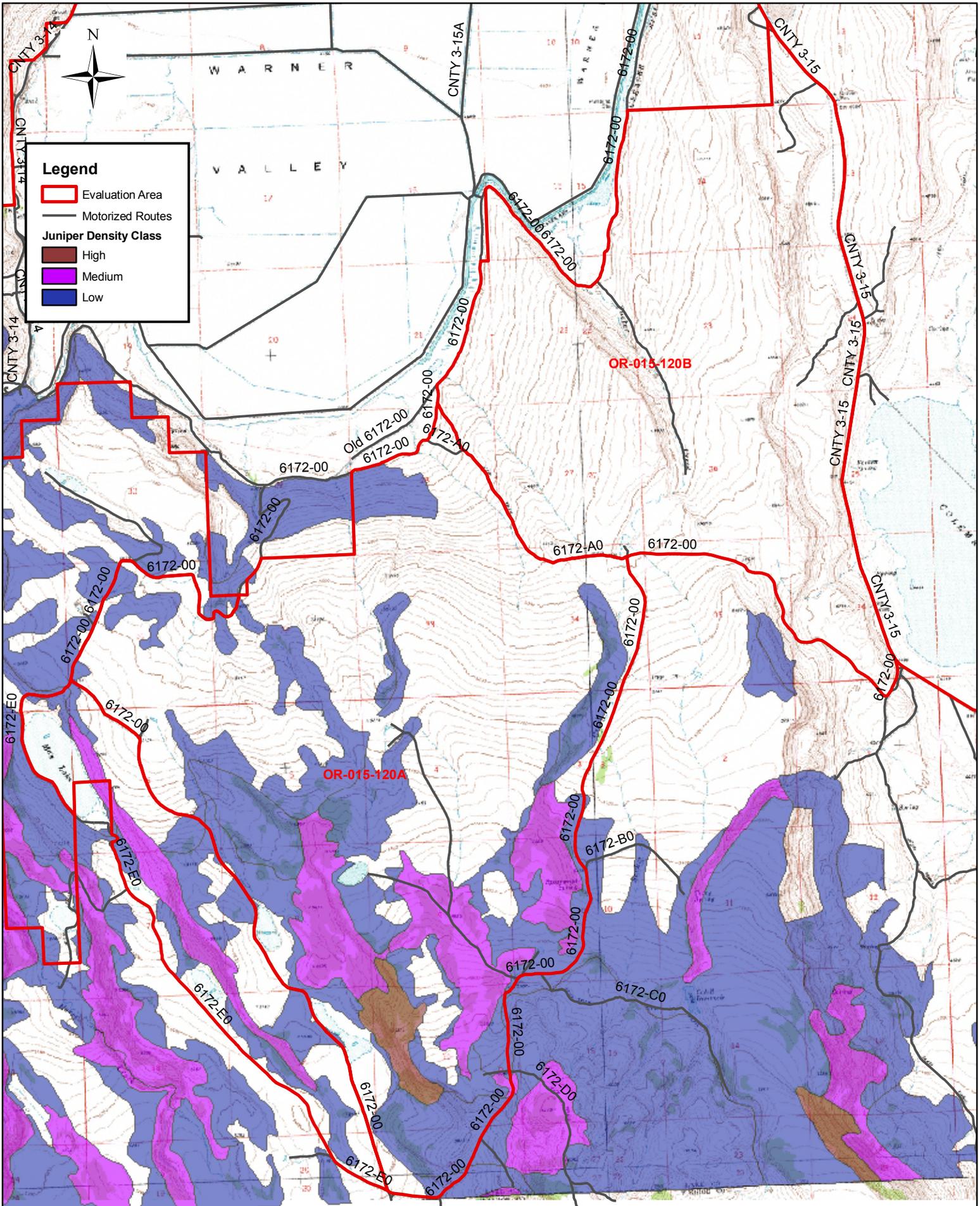
- Wilderness Inventory Unit
- Water Developments
- Internal Primitive Motorized Routes
- Existing Motorized Routes
- X X Fences
- Rahilly-Gravelly ACEC/RNA
- BLM
- Non-BLM

Map 2 - Coleman Rim North (OR-015-120B) Wilderness Inventory Unit



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use with other data. Original data were compiled from USGS 7.5 minute topographic maps. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated notification.





 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 were 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.

Map 3 - Vegetative Screening based on Juniper Density Classes