

Year 2013 Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-053A/Rawhide Creek

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Form 2) Yes  X  (if more than one unit is within the area, list the names/numbers of those units.)

a) **Inventory Source:** U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Inventory, Oregon and Washington: Final Intensive Inventory Decisions, November 1980. Pgs. 46-47.

b) **Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s):** Rawhide Creek/1-53

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/acreage and answer each question individually for each inventory unit):

Unit#	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
1-53 Rawhide Creek					
BLM	21,600	NO	NO	NO	YES

Summarize any known primary reasons for prior inventory findings listed in this table:

The unit was described as a high plateau with Rawhide Canyon along the north and east, and several tributaries to Rawhide Creek forming substantial canyons within the unit. The streams were ephemeral and the canyons were dry most of the year. Rawhide Canyon divided into several smaller canyons in the southern half of the unit. The canyons are the only significant topographic relief and reach a maximum depth of about 200 feet. The canyon walls are generally sloped with few vertical or near-vertical features.

Vegetation in the unit was primarily sagebrush communities with low sagebrush on or near the flats and big sagebrush near wetter areas. The unit did not meet the naturalness criteria due to the presence of approximately 24 miles of ways running throughout the interior of the unit, including the canyon bottoms.

The unit was found to offer only limited potential for solitude based on the rationale that it would be very difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of others on the flat plateau areas. While some potential for topographic screening was identified within the canyons, it was limited. The canyons would likely be a high interest area, but were not big enough to avoid the sights and sounds of others and, therefore, did not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

The previous inventory noted hunting, horseback riding, and hiking as primitive recreation opportunities present in the unit, but concluded that none were outstanding due to the high level of human impacts in the area, most notably the ways running in and around the canyons.

The unit was also known to contain some documented archeological values.

**FORM 2**

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS**

**Unit Number/Name:** OR-015-053A/Rawhide Creek

Citizen Information Summary: In 2007, the BLM received a citizen proposal from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) for a 462,828-acre Buzzard Creek proposed WSA. A portion of their proposal overlaps BLM's wilderness inventory analysis area. 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 evaluation for this area. They identified this large area as having no interior routes which they felt met BLM's definition of a wilderness inventory unit boundary road (see p. 2-35 of ONDA 2007).

**(1) Is the unit of sufficient size? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_**

Boundary Determination: BLM staff reviewed its own historic wilderness inventory information and ONDA's information to identify potential data gaps. Between 2008 and 2011, the BLM conducted field inventory of the area to update its road and wilderness inventories and to gather additional information to supplement ONDA's wilderness information. This field work included collecting additional photo documentation of potential inventory unit boundary roads in the area. Using BLM and citizen-provided photos, field logs, and staff field knowledge, a BLM interdisciplinary (ID) team completed an analysis of the motorized routes within the area in April 2011.

ONDA's 2007 inventory concluded that their 462,828-acre proposal was one large roadless area. However, BLM's ID team determined that several of the routes that ONDA identified as "ways" are, in fact, inventory unit boundary roads. For this reason, the BLM found the Buzzard Creek proposal is not one large roadless unit, but rather is comprised of several smaller inventory units, which must be evaluated individually (Map 2). (*Note:* the majority of the Buzzard Creek proposal was evaluated previously by the Burns and Lakeview District BLM staff as part its West Warm Spring wilderness evaluation, completed in 2008, and is not addressed further herein).

The ID team determined that the inventory unit is bounded on the west by BLM 6165-00 Road (Corn Lake). On the north the unit is bounded by interim numbered road 0198 and BLM Road 6155-00 (Warner Valley). On the east the unit is bounded by a combination of BLM Roads 6155-K0 (Hemmy Cabin), 6155-G0 (Juniper Ridge), interim numbered road 6155-KB, and private land. On the south, the unit is bounded BLM Road 6165-E0 (Brushy Lake) (Map 2). Based on these boundary determinations, historic unit 1-53 was divided into 2 smaller inventory units, 1 of which still met the size criteria and 1 that did not. This evaluation focuses on the southern portion of historic unit 1-53. Refer to the route analysis forms, photos, and photo log(s) contained in the wilderness inventory file for additional information regarding these boundary road determinations.

Following the unit boundary determination, a BLM ID team conducted an inter-disciplinary evaluation of the current wilderness characteristics within the unit boundary. 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*, located in the wilderness inventory file.

**DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS:** Inventory unit OR-015-053A is located about 12 miles southeast of Wagonfire (Map 1) and is comprised of approximately 15,021 acres of BLM-administered land (Map 2). The current unit is smaller than the historic unit 1-53 by approximately 6,000 acres, but still contains most of the topography described in the previous inventory. The southern two-thirds of the unit burned in a wildfire in 2001 and was allowed to revegetate naturally. As a result, grasses and scattered sagebrush currently dominate the unit.

**(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?** Yes  No

The 1980 inventory evaluated a larger historic inventory unit (1-53) and found that it was unnatural in character.

ONDA (2007, p. 10) felt their much larger Buzzard Creek proposal was primarily affected by the forces of nature. While they noted the area did contain some manmade developments such as fence lines, ways, stock tanks, and other features, they felt these few developments were substantially noticeable only at close proximity, if at all, and did not dominate the landscape. As noted above, the BLM did not find this proposal to be one large roadless area, but is in fact comprised of a number of smaller inventory units that much be evaluated individually.

Compared to historic unit 1-53, the current inventory unit (OR-015-053A) has been reduced in size due to the identification of additional boundary roads that now break up the historic inventory unit into smaller subunits that must be evaluated separately.

The unit currently contains approximately 12.7 miles of primitive motorized routes and 8 known water developments. These disturbances are located mostly near the periphery of the unit with the exception of two roads which cherry-stem through the middle portion of the unit (Map 2) and can be observed by the casual observer within close proximity (one-quarter mile), but are less noticeable from further distances. See also *Table 1: Cox Canyon Disturbance Summaries* contained in the wilderness inventory file.

Based on a review of all of the available information including photos, staff knowledge, and field review, the ID team concluded that this smaller unit boundary removed most of the previous inventory unit's human disturbances and is currently in a condition mostly free from the works of man and is primarily affected by the forces of nature.

**(3) Does the unit (or the remainder of the unit if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?** Yes  No  N/A

The previous inventory evaluated a larger historic unit (1-53) and determined that it did not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

ONDA (2007, p. 11) felt their Buzzard Creek proposal offered an outstanding opportunity for solitude, primarily because of the sheer size and varied terrain of the area. As noted above, the BLM did not find this proposal to be one large roadless area, but is in fact comprised of a number of smaller inventory units that much be evaluated individually.

Compared to historic unit 1-53, the current inventory unit (OR-015-053A) is smaller, still lacks tall vegetative screening, and contains large expanses of flat plateau topography (Map 3).

Based on a review of all of the available information including photos, staff knowledge, and field review, the ID team concluded that the majority of the unit continues to lack opportunities for solitude. While the unit does offer some opportunities to find solitude, they remain limited to the narrow canyon areas which are not large enough to avoid the sights and sounds of others within the unit. Therefore, the unit as a whole continues to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude.

**(4) Does the unit** (or the remainder of the unit if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) **have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?**    Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No   X   N/A \_\_\_\_\_

The previous inventory noted that the larger historic unit (1-53) offered some potential for primitive recreation including hunting, hiking, and horseback riding within the canyon areas, but it was not outstanding.

ONDA (2007, p. 11) felt their Buzzard Creek proposal offered an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation, primarily due to its large size. They state that an area of this size cannot help but provide for diverse and exceptional recreation experiences such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, camping, wildlife viewing, rock hounding, hunting, and photography. As noted above, the BLM did not find this proposal to be one large roadless area, but is in fact comprised of a number of smaller inventory units that much be evaluated individually.

The ID team noted that the current unit (OR-015-053A) still offers similar primitive recreation opportunities. However, the current inventory unit has been reduced in size. As a result, these primitive recreation opportunities have also been reduced. These recreation opportunities are similar to those available on surrounding public lands. The unit does not currently offer a single unique primitive recreational opportunity or a unique diversity of primitive recreation opportunities.

Based on a review of all of the available information including photos, staff knowledge, and field review, the ID team concluded that, although many of the man-made disturbances that previously impacted primitive recreation opportunities in 1980 have been excluded from the current inventory unit boundary, the recreation opportunities within the area have not changed substantially and the unit continues to lack outstanding opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation experiences.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Unknown  X

The unit was identified as having archeological values in 1980.

ONDA (2007, p. 11) noted their much larger Buzzard Creek proposal contained wild horse and burros, cultural resources, petrified wood, migratory bird habitat, and special status species habitat.

Supplemental values were not specifically evaluated during this analysis because the unit failed to meet the minimum wilderness criteria described above. However, it is important to note that the presence of either wild horses or burros is not a resource value that meets the definition of a supplemental value, nor are these species actually present in this inventory unit. Further, petrified wood is not present in this inventory unit.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion:** Unit Name and Number: Rawhide Creek/OR-015-053A

**Summary 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? \_\_\_ Yes  X  No \_\_\_ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  X  N/A

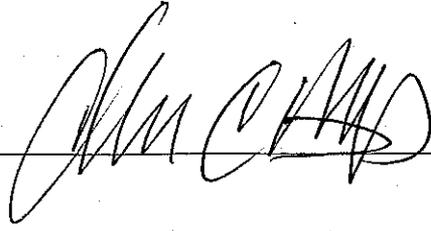
**Conclusion (Check One):**

       **The area- or a portion of the area- has wilderness character:**  
(items 1, 2 and 3 must be checked "yes").

X  **The area does not have wilderness character:** (any of items 1, 2 and 3 are checked "no").

**ID Team Members:**

Chris Bishop  
Recreation Planner



Date: 6/13/2013

Edward Hennagin  
Cartographic Technician



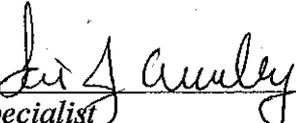
Date: 6/13/13

Jayna Ferrell  
Range Management Specialist



Date: 6/12/13

Lori Crumley  
Range Management Specialist



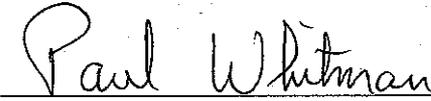
Date: 6/12/13

Mike Cutler  
Range Management Specialist



Date: 6/13/13

Paul Whitman  
Planning and Environmental Coordinator



Date: 6/12/2013

**Approved by:**



Tom Rasmussen, Field Manager

6/19/13

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.***

Year 2013

Inventory Unit Number/Name Small Units/Cox Canyon Area

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Form 2) Yes  X  (if more than one unit is within the area, list the names/numbers of those units.)

**a) Inventory Source:** PP and L Inventory files (1978), Wilderness Proposed Initial Inventory, Oregon and Washington: Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics (April 1979), Wilderness Inventory, Oregon and Washington: Final Intensive Inventory Decisions (November 1980).

**b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s):** Cox Canyon Area

**c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):** Proposed Initial Inventory. Roadless Areas and Islands which do not have Wilderness Characteristics, April 1979. 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/acreage and answer each question individually for each inventory unit):

<b>Unit#/Name</b>	<b>Size (historic acres)</b>	<b>Natural Condition? Y/N</b>	<b>Outstanding Solitude? Y/N</b>	<b>Outstanding Primitive &amp; Unconfined Recreation? Y/N</b>	<b>Supplemental Values? Y/N</b>

*Summarize any known primary reasons for prior inventory findings listed in this table):*

No summaries are available for these small units, presumably because they all were found to be smaller than 5,000 acres during the previous inventory and were not documented in detail.

**FORM 2**

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS**

**a. Unit Number/Name Cox Canyon Area/Small Unnumbered Units**

Citizen Information Summary: In 2007, the BLM received a citizen proposal from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) for a 462,828-acre Buzzard Creek proposed WSA. A portion of their proposal overlaps BLM's wilderness inventory analysis area. 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 evaluation for this area. They identified this large area as having no interior routes which they felt met BLM's definition of a wilderness inventory unit boundary road (see p. 2-35 of ONDA 2007).

**(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?** Yes  No

Boundary Determination: BLM staff reviewed its own historic wilderness inventory information and ONDA's information to identify potential data gaps. Between 2008 and 2011, the BLM conducted field inventory of the area to update its road and wilderness inventories and to gather additional information to supplement ONDA's wilderness information. This field work included collecting additional photo documentation of potential inventory unit boundary roads in the area. Using BLM and citizen-provided photos, field logs, and staff field knowledge, a BLM interdisciplinary (ID) team completed an analysis of the motorized routes within the area in April 2011.

ONDA's 2007 inventory concluded that their 462,828-acre proposal was one large roadless area. However, BLM's ID team determined that several of the routes that ONDA identified as "ways" are, in fact, inventory unit boundary roads. For this reason, the BLM found the Buzzard Creek proposal is not one large roadless unit, but rather is comprised of several smaller inventory units, which must be evaluated individually (Map 2). (*Note: the majority of the Buzzard Creek proposal was evaluated previously by the Burns and Lakeview District BLM staff as part its West Warm Spring wilderness evaluation, completed in 2008, and is not addressed further herein).*

The BLM ID team determined that existing BLM Roads, 12 existing interim numbered routes, the Highway 395 ROW, several utility corridor ROWs, and private and state land boundaries formed inventory unit boundaries within the analysis area. The results of the route analysis process are documented in the route analysis forms contained in the wilderness evaluation file.

The ID team determined that the Cox Canyon area contained 8 units that met the size criteria (and were evaluated separately) and 23 others that did not, including 4 small units that overlapped ONDA's Buzzard Creek proposal (see Map 2). This evaluation focuses on these small, unnumbered units. These units are all less than 5,000 acres in size and failed to meet the size criteria or any of the exceptions to the size criteria. Based on this determination there was no need for the BLM ID team to evaluate these units 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* contained in the wilderness inventory file.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: These units are scattered throughout the Cox Canyon area and are all less than 5,000 acres in size (see Maps 1 and 2).

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

Naturalness was not evaluated as the units did not meet the minimum size criteria.

**(3) Does the unit (or the remainder of the unit if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  X

Solitude opportunities were not evaluated as the units did not meet the minimum size criteria.

**(4) Does the unit (or the remainder of the unit if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  X

Recreation opportunities were not evaluated as the units did not meet the minimum size criteria.

**(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  X

Supplemental values were not evaluated as the units did not meet the minimum size criteria.

## Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number Cox Canyon Area/Small Unnumbered Units

### Summary Results of Analysis:

1. Do the areas meet the size requirements?      \_\_\_Yes    **X**No
2. Do the areas appear to be natural?            \_\_\_Yes    \_\_\_No    **X**NA
3. Do the areas offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?      \_\_\_Yes    \_\_\_No    **X**NA
4. Do the areas have supplemental values?      \_\_\_Yes    \_\_\_No    **X**NA

### Conclusion (Check One):

\_\_\_\_\_ The areas- or portions of the areas- have wilderness character (*items 1, 2 and 3 are checked "yes"*).

**X** The areas do not have wilderness character (*any of items 1, 2 and 3 are checked "no"*).

**ID Team Members:**

Chris Bishop  
Recreation Planner



Date: 6/13/2013

Edward Hennagin  
Cartographic Technician



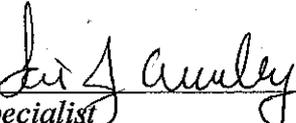
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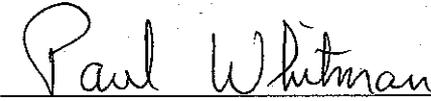
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Tom Rasmussen, Field Manager

6/19/13

Date

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