

Year: 2012 Inventory Unit Number/Name: Poker Jim Units <5,000 Acres

**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:** Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge Comprehensive Management Plan (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1994). Draft Environmental Statement. Proposed Hart Mountain Wilderness Area, Oregon (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, undated). Poker Jim Ridge Wilderness Study Area, Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, Lake County, Oregon, Wilderness Study Report(U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, undated).

**b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s):** Poker Jim Ridge WSA

**c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):** Map 2-14 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1994)

**d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge

**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
Poker Jim Ridge WSA	20,390 acres	Y	Not Addressed	N	Y

*Summarize any known primary reasons for prior inventory findings listed in this table:*  
 In the late 1960's, the USFWS evaluated the Poker Jim Ridge area for wilderness character. Their inventory process is not well documented, nor did they evaluate wilderness criteria in the same fashion as the BLM. However, they described the west side of the area as a ridge forming a near vertical escarpment rising 2,500 feet from the floor of

Warner Valley to an elevation of about 7,000 feet. The east side formed a long, gentle slope extending towards Catlow Valley. The west-facing scarp has very little vegetation. The top and upper part of the east slope is predominantly low sagebrush and associated grasses and forbs. Further down the east slope is an open juniper woodland. The area was found to be generally in a natural condition with few human impacts visible.

Wildlife habitat included mule deer, antelope, sage-grouse, horned larks, robins, chukar partridges, coyotes, bobcats, cottontail rabbits, white-tailed jackrabbits, marmots, ground squirrels, other small rodents, and porcupines. Primitive recreational opportunities were described as limited principally to hunting. Solitude opportunities were not directly addressed. The geology and ecology of the area was noted to be of scientific interest (USFWS, undated; p. 8-13).

## FORM 2

### DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

**a. Unit Number/Name:** Poker Jim Units <5,000 Acres

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

In 2005, the BLM received a citizen proposal from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) for the 235,445-acre Poker Jim Ridge Proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA) Addition. 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 area. The photos submitted by ONDA were taken in August and September of 2004. They identified this large area as having no interior routes which met the BLM wilderness inventory definition of a road (see Map, p. 169 of ONDA 2005).

Between 2008 and 2012, the BLM conducted field inventory of the area to update its road and wilderness inventories. This field work included photo documentation of the boundary routes. 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 2012. The results of the route analysis are documented in the route analysis forms contained in the wilderness evaluation file.

These units are bounded by County Road 3-10, 3-11, 3-12, BLM Roads 6155-C0, 8145-00, and interim numbered routes 0100, 0105, 0107, 0108, 0113, 8145-AA, 8145-AB, 8145-AC, 8145-B, 8145-C, 8145-D, and 8145-F, and by private and state lands. See Map 1, road analysis forms, photos, and photo logs in the wilderness inventory file for additional supporting information regarding these road determinations.

As a result, there are a total of 21 inventory units within the Warner Wetlands Area. Only two of these inventory units met the minimum size criteria and have been evaluated separately (OR-015-112B and OR-015-114). Fourteen other units were found to be less than 5,000 acres in size,

did not meet the minimum size criteria or any of the exceptions to the size criteria, and were eliminated from further review. Five additional units, though small in size, were located immediately adjacent to, contiguous with, or were part of the USFWS Poker Jim Ridge WSA. These five small units (OR-015-114A, OR-015-114B, OR-015-114C, OR-015-114D, and OR-015-114E) vary in size from 23 to 168 acres, but all meet the exception to the size criteria.

These parcels are small, narrow units sandwiched in between Interim Route number 0108 (Stone Corral) or state lands, and the current boundary of the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge (Map 2). Portions or all of 3 of the units (OR-014-114A, OR-014-114B, and OR-014-114E) were formerly part of the refuge and the USFWS Poker Jim Ridge WSA. These parcels came under BLM-administration as a result of a jurisdictional transfer between BLM and the USFWS in 1998 which resulted in a change in the refuge boundary in this area. Those portions that were part of the WSA are recognized as still having wilderness characteristics without a need for further evaluation. The other 2 units (OR-014-114C and OR-014-114D) and portions of 2 units (OR-014-114A and OR-014-114E) are contiguous with the Poker Jim Ridge WSA and are the subject of this evaluation.

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:**

The 5 small inventory units are currently comprised of BLM-administered lands located approximately 14 to 25 miles northeast of the town of Plush, OR (Maps 1 and 2). The topography can be described as flat valley bottom at the base of a steep fault block rim (Poker Jim Ridge).

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

The dominant vegetation in these units is greasewood flats with some sagebrush and associated grasses. The units sit right on the transition from a flat Warner Valley bottom to the edge of a steep, rocky rim face (Poker Jim Ridge). A short segment of primitive motorized route crosses two of the units and a short segment of fence intersects two other units, but overall they are devoid of human developments and are in a natural condition.

**(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  X  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

None of these units would offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude standing on their own merits due to their small size and narrow shape. However, when considered in conjunction the solitude opportunities present on the larger adjacent WSA, they minimally enhance those opportunities.

**(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 \_\_\_\_\_

None of these units would offer an outstanding opportunity for primitive or unconfined recreation standing on their own merits due to their small size. Even when considered in conjunction the recreation opportunities documented on the adjacent WSA, they would only minimally enhance those existing limited opportunities.

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

As noted above, the USFWS found that the larger Poker Jim Ridge WSA had supplemental values that included important wildlife habitat. In addition to the species noted in the 1960's, bighorn sheep, a special status species, has been reintroduced to the Poker Jim Ridge area. The area continues to offer interesting geological and ecological values that are potentially of interest to the scientific community for scientific study.

The small parcels would minimally enhance these existing supplemental values.

### Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: Poker Jim Units <5,000 Acres

#### **Summary Results of Analysis:**

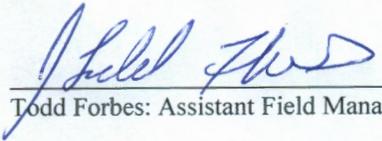
1. Does the area meet the size requirements?  X  Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
2. Does the area appear to be natural?  X  Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  X  Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_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

#### **Conclusion (Check One):**

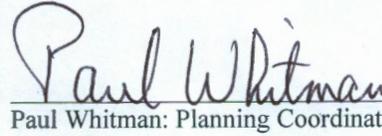
X  **The area- or a portion of the area- has wilderness character:**  
(items 1, 2 and 3 must be checked "yes").

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

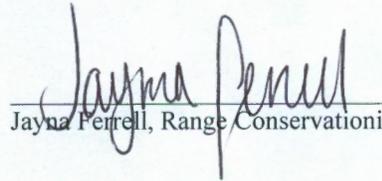
**Prepared by (ID Team Member Names and Titles):**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Todd Forbes: Assistant Field Manager

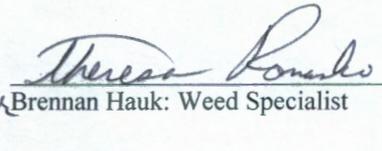
7/5/12  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Whitman: Planning Coordinator

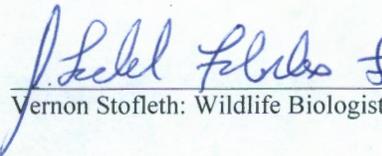
7/13/2012  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jayna Ferrell, Range Conservationist

7/16/12  
Date

*for*   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brennan Hauk: Weed Specialist

7/16/2012  
Date

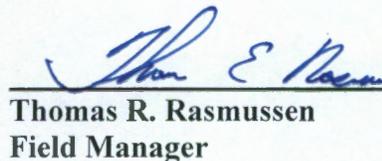
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vernon Stofleth: Wildlife Biologist

7/17/12  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Bishop: Outdoor Recreation Planner

7/15/12  
Date

**Approved by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas R. Rasmussen  
Field Manager

7/17/12  
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: 2012 Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-112B / Swamp Lake

**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:** Wilderness Review - Initial Inventory: Final Decision on Public Lands Obviously Lacking Wilderness Characteristics and Announcement of Public Lands to be Intensively Inventoried for Wilderness Characteristics, August, 1979.

**b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s):** 1-112

**c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):** U.S. Department of the Interior: Bureau of Land Management, Oregon, Final Decision – Initial Wilderness Inventory, August 1979.

**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
1-112	8,800 acres	Y	N	N	N/A

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

In 1979, this unit was eliminated early in the review process as clearly and obviously lacking wilderness character due to its relatively small size (8,800 acres), its narrow shape, its flat topography, and an obvious lack of any outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

**FORM 2**

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS**

a. **Unit Number/Name:** OR-015-112B / Swamp Lake

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

Between 2008 and 2012, BLM staff conducted field inventory of the area to update its road and wilderness inventories. This field work included photo documentation of the boundary routes. Using BLM photos, field logs, and staff field knowledge, a BLM inter-disciplinary (ID) team completed an analysis of the motorized routes within the area in 2012. The results of the route analysis are documented in the route analysis forms contained in the wilderness evaluation file.

The BLM ID team determined that County Roads 3-10, 3-11, and 3-12, BLM Roads 8145-00, and interim numbered routes 0100, 0105, 0113, 8145-B, 8145-D, and 8145-F met the wilderness inventory definition of boundary roads. These roads, along with private and state lands, form the boundaries of the unit. Much of the western portion of the original unit described in 1979 is now bisected by additional roads and split into small units (which are documented separately).

In addition, in 1979 a portion of the current unit was in private ownership. The BLM purchased approximately 5,528 acres of land in the early 1990's that makes up some of the southeast corner of the current unit. There was also a jurisdictional transfer of lands between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge and the Lakeview BLM. In this transfer, the BLM received approximately 700 acres of lands within this unit that were managed formerly by the USFWS in 1979. The unit is now somewhat larger in size and comprises approximately 8,615 acres (see Map 2).

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:**

The unit is located approximately 4 miles northeast of the town of Plush, OR (Map 1). The topography can be described as flat valley bottom. The unit is approximately 4 miles long and 4 miles wide. Much of the current unit lies to the east of the unit inventoried in 1979. This is primarily due to the purchase and exchange of property that has occurred since the previous inventory. The Warner Wetlands ACEC was established in 1989 and now overlaps this entire unit. The ACEC is over 53,000 acres and was established to protect unique geological features, wetland wildlife habitat, and cultural values.

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

In 1979, it was noted that the unit did not have any substantial human developments at that time. The current unit boundary encompasses only a small portion of the lands from the original unit.

The majority of the current unit came under BLM administration through purchase or exchange in the early 1990's.

The unit is currently bordered by private ranches to the south. While these private lands are located outside the unit boundary, some of the agricultural practices on these ranches, such as irrigation pivots and intensive farming practices, are readily visible and result in an omni-present impact on the natural quality of the southern third of the unit. Today, there are about 15 miles of pasture division fence, 3 miles of motorized routes, 13 miles of closed routes, 1 mile of reclaiming route, 2 livestock water troughs, 1 well, and 0.5 miles of livestock water pipeline located within the unit. These features are scattered across the unit and are substantially noticeable from most points within the unit. The closed and reclaiming routes within the unit are also still substantially noticeable. There are few areas within the unit that appear primarily unaffected by the forces of nature or unaffected by the imprint of man's work.

Based on a review of all the available information including photos, staff knowledge, and field review, the BLM ID team concluded that the unit is primarily in an unnatural condition (see Map 2).

**(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  

The current opportunities for solitude within this unit were not evaluated because the unit was found not to be in natural condition.

**(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  

The current opportunities for recreation within this unit were not evaluated because the unit was found not to be in natural condition.

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

Supplemental values were not evaluated because the unit was found not to be in natural condition.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

Unit Name and Number: Swamp Lake / OR-015-112B

**Summary Results of Analysis:**

- 1. Does the area meet the size requirements?        X   Yes         No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural?                 Yes      X   No         N/A
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?           Yes         No      X   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").*

**Prepared by (ID Team Member Names and Titles):**

Todd Forbes 7/5/12  
Todd Forbes: Assistant Field Manager Date

Paul Whitman 7/13/2012  
Paul Whitman: Planning Coordinator Date

Jayna Ferrell 7/16/12  
Jayna Ferrell, Range Conservationist Date

Brennan Hauk 7/16/2012  
for Brennan Hauk: Weed Specialist Date

Vernon Stoffeth 7/17/12  
Vernon Stoffeth: Wildlife Biologist Date

Chris Bishop 7/13/12  
Chris Bishop: Outdoor Recreation Planner Date

**Approved by:**

Thomas R. Rasmussen 7/17/2012  
Thomas R. Rasmussen Date  
Field Manager

*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: 2012 Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-114 / Warner Lakes

**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:** Wilderness Inventory Oregon & Washington: Final Intensive Inventory Decisions, November 1980.

**b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s):** 1-114 / Warner Lakes

**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
1-114 Warner Lakes	33,680 acres	Y	N	N	Y

**Summarize any known primary reasons for prior inventory findings listed in this table:**  
In 1980, this unit was of sufficient size and had several minor ways, but appeared primarily natural. The flat character of the unit, combined with limited vegetation cover was found to limit the opportunity to avoid the presence of others in the unit and, therefore, lacked outstanding opportunities for solitude. The pothole areas around the dry lakes were noted as having some opportunities for day hikes and nature study, but were not considered to be outstanding primitive recreation opportunities. Much of the unit consisted of large lake beds that go through cycles of filling and drying, but standing water historically occurred for only brief durations and did not provide outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation.

The unit was separated from the Poker Jim Rim unit (on USFWS lands) to the east by a road and private lands.

## FORM 2

### DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

a. **Unit Number/Name:** OR-015-114 / Warner Lakes

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

In 2005, the BLM received a citizen proposal from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) for the 235,445-acre Poker Jim Ridge Proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA) Addition. 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 area. The photos submitted by ONDA were taken in August and September of 2004. They identified this large area as having no interior routes which met the BLM wilderness inventory definition of a road (see Map, p. 169 of ONDA 2005).

Between 2008 and 2012, BLM staff conducted field inventory of the area to update its road and wilderness inventories. This field work included photo documentation of the boundary routes. 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 2012. The results of the route analysis are documented in the route analysis forms contained in the wilderness evaluation file.

In 1980, a few small portions of the current unit were managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), as part of the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge (just west of County Road 3-12 and BLM interim numbered road 0108). Management of these areas was transferred from the USFWS to the BLM through a jurisdictional transfer in 1998. Other than these small changes, the unit remains virtually identical to the unit that was analyzed in 1980.

The BLM ID team determined that County Roads 3-11 and 3-12, BLM Roads 6155-C0, and interim numbered routes 0107, 0108, 6155-CE, 6165-CH, 6165-CK, 6155-CM, and 6155-CY currently meet the wilderness inventory definition of boundary roads. These roads along with private and state lands form the boundaries of the inventory unit. In particular, the BLM ID team determined that a large block of state lands in the middle of ONDA's Poker Jim proposal effectively split that area into at least 2 smaller areas. Since the BLM has no management jurisdiction over state lands and the State of Oregon does not manage this area specifically for roadless or wilderness values, current BLM wilderness inventory policy requires that such lands not be considered in the inventory process. In addition, the BLM ID team determined that interim route number 0108 (Stone Corral) was still found to be a boundary road and effectively separated the Warner Lakes unit from the adjacent Poker Jim Ridge WSA located on the USFWS refuge. The unit is currently about 33,949 acres in size.

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:**

The unit is located approximately 12 miles northeast of the town of Plush, OR (Map 1). The topography can be described as flat valley bottom. The unit is approximately 11 miles long and 5 miles wide. The Warner Wetlands Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) was established in 1989 and now overlaps this entire unit. The ACEC is over 50,000 acres and was established to protect unique geological features, wetlands wildlife habitats, and cultural values.

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

In 2005, ONDA found the much larger Poker Jim proposal to be in a natural condition, primarily affected by the forces of nature (p. 165). However, for the reasons described above, the BLM ID team determined that this proposal is not one large, contiguous roadless area, but is comprised of several smaller inventory units that must be evaluated individually.

Since 1980, the impacts of man have increased within the Warner Lakes unit. Two new wells were constructed near the western edge in 1993 and 1994 to provide water for livestock. There are also several roads that were constructed or upgraded since the 1980 inventory. These roads all dead-end within the unit and are considered cherry-stem boundary roads. For analysis purposes, these cherry-stem roads are considered to be outside of the unit. Today, there are about 25 miles of pasture division fence, 23 miles of open motorized routes, 23 miles of closed routes, 6 miles of reclaiming routes, 3 water developments, and 13 miles of primitive trails within the unit. These features are scattered mostly across the southern and western portions of the unit. Overall, the majority of the unit still appears natural and largely unaffected by the imprints of man.

**(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  X  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

In 2005, ONDA found the much larger Poker Jim proposal to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude, primarily due to its large size (p. 166-167). However, for the reasons described above, the BLM ID team determined that this proposal is not one large, contiguous roadless area, but is comprised of several smaller inventory units that must be evaluated individually.

The BLM ID team determined that it is still possible to see across most of the northern end of the Warner Lakes unit and the large, open lakebeds scattered throughout the unit. The dune areas in the center portion of the unit and the deeply recessed main waterway (channel) through the wetlands offer some ability to avoid the presence of others.

While motorized vehicle use is currently limited to designated roads and trails in the area (see Lakeview RMP/ROD Map R-7) and many routes have been closed in recent years or have not been getting much use and are reclaiming, there is still likely more traffic within the unit than in 1980, especially along the western portion of the unit where new roads have been constructed in recent years. This additional access combined with the lack of screening make it unlikely that one can avoid the sights and sounds of others within the unit.

For this reason, the BLM ID team determined that opportunities for solitude have not improved since 1980 and the unit does not provide 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  N/A

In 2005, ONDA found the much larger Poker Jim proposal to offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation such as wildlife viewing, hunting, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and photography (p. 167). However, for the reasons described above, the BLM ID team determined that this proposal is not one large, contiguous roadless area, but is comprised of several smaller inventory units that must be evaluated individually.

The area was designated as an ACEC in 1989 and both ACEC and recreation management plans were developed in 1990 which limited motorized use to designated roads and trails. The Lakeview RMP/ROD notes that most of the area is currently managed to promote a semi-primitive motorized recreational experience. The area adjacent to County Roads 3-11 and 3-12 are currently managed to promote a roaded natural recreation experience (see Map R-3). Motorized travel was further restricted by closing several roads in the northern half of the ACEC in 2003 (Map SMA-10). A 13-mile primitive canoe trail was also developed within the Warner Lakes unit. The unit currently provides opportunities for small boating, fishing, and waterfowl hunting during high-water years. The unit also provides some opportunities for wildlife viewing, day hiking, and primitive camping.

The changes in the recreation and vehicle management within the unit in recent years have led to an increase or improvement in primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities. For these reasons, the BLM ID team determined that that the unit currently offers outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

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

Supplemental values identified in 1980 included archaeological resources. Other supplemental values currently noted within the area include an abundance of migratory wildlife, especially waterfowl, and unique geological features.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

Unit Name and Number: OR-015-114 / Warner Lakes

**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 \_\_\_N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and  
unconfined type of recreation?                   X   Yes    \_\_\_No \_\_\_N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values?        X   Yes    \_\_\_No \_\_\_N/A

**Conclusion (Check One):**

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

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

**Prepared by (ID Team Member Names and Titles):**

Todd Forbes  
Todd Forbes: Assistant Field Manager

7/5/12  
Date

Paul Whitman  
Paul Whitman: Planning Coordinator

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Jayna Ferrell, Range Conservationist

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for Theresa Kunko  
Brennan Hauk: Weed Specialist

7/16/2012  
Date

Todd Forbes for  
Vernon Stoffeth: Wildlife Biologist

7/17/12  
Date

Chris Bishop  
Chris Bishop: Outdoor Recreation Planner

7/13/12  
Date

**Approved by:**

Thomas R. Rasmussen  
Thomas R. Rasmussen  
Field Manager

7/17/2012  
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: 2012 Inventory Unit Number/Name: Warner Wetlands Area Units <5,000 Acres

**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:** Wilderness Review - Initial Inventory: Final Decision on Public Lands Obviously Lacking Wilderness Characteristics and Announcement of Public Lands to be Intensively Inventoried for Wilderness Characteristics, August, 1979; Wilderness Inventory Oregon and Washington: Final Intensive Inventory Decisions, November 1980.

**b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s):** 1-112 and 1-114/Warner Lakes

**c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):** U.S. Department of the Interior: Bureau of Land Management, Oregon, Final Decision – Initial Wilderness Inventory, August 1979. 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
1-112	8,800 acres	Y	N	N	N/A
1-114 Warner Lakes	33,680 acres	Y	N	N	Y

**Summarize any known primary reasons for prior inventory findings listed in this table:**  
In 1979, unit 1-112 was eliminated early in the review process as clearly and obviously lacking wilderness character due to its relatively small size (8,800 acres), its narrow shape, its flat topography, and an obvious lack of any outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

In 1980, unit 1-114 was of sufficient size and had several minor ways, but appeared primarily natural. The flat character of the unit, combined with limited vegetation cover was found to limit the opportunity to avoid the presence of others in the unit and, therefore, lacked outstanding opportunities for solitude. The pothole areas around the dry lakes were noted as having some opportunities for day hikes and nature study, but were not considered to be outstanding primitive recreation opportunities. Much of the unit consisted of large lake beds that go through cycles of filling and drying, but standing water historically occurred for only brief durations and did not provide outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation.

## FORM 2

### DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

**a. Unit Number/Name:** Warner Wetlands Area Inventory Units <5,000 Acres

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

In 2005, the BLM received a citizen proposal from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) for the 235,445-acre Poker Jim Ridge Proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA) Addition. 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 area. The photos submitted by ONDA were taken in August and September of 2004. They identified this large area as having no interior routes which met the BLM wilderness inventory definition of a road (see Map, p. 169 of ONDA 2005).

Between 2008 and 2012, the BLM conducted field inventory of the area to update its road and wilderness inventories. This field work included photo documentation of the boundary routes. 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 2012. The results of the route analysis are documented in the route analysis forms contained in the wilderness evaluation file.

These units are bounded by County Road 3-10, 3-11, 3-12, BLM Roads 6155-C0, 8145-00, and interim numbered routes 0100, 0105, 0107, 0108, 0113, 8145-AA, 8145-AB, 8145-AC, 8145-B, 8145-C, 8145-D, and 8145-F, and by private and state lands. See Map 1, road analysis forms, photos, and photo logs in the wilderness inventory file for additional supporting information regarding these road determinations.

As a result, there are a total of 21 inventory units within the Warner Wetlands Area. Only two of these inventory units met the minimum size criteria and have been evaluated separately (OR-015-112B and OR-015-114). Five of these units, though small in size, are located immediately adjacent to, contiguous with, or were formerly part of the USFWS Poker Jim Ridge WSA. These five small units (OR-015-114A, OR-015-114B, OR-015-114C, OR-015-114D, and OR-

015-114E) meet the exception to the size criteria and are also evaluated separately. The other 14 units are all less than 5,000 acres in size, do not meet the minimum size criteria or any of the exceptions to the size criteria, and are the subject of this evaluation.

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:**

The 14 small inventory units in the Warner Wetlands Area are comprised of BLM-administered lands located approximately 12 miles northeast of the town of Plush, OR (Maps 1 and 2). The topography can be described as flat valley bottom. The dominant vegetation in the area is predominantly greasewood flats with alternating pothole wetlands and shallow alkali lakes that alternate between wet and dry cycles.

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

The current natural condition of these units was not evaluated because the units failed to meet the minimum size requirement.

**(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

The current opportunities for solitude within these units were not evaluated because the units failed to meet the minimum size requirement.

**(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

The current opportunities for recreation within these units were not evaluated because the units failed to meet the minimum size requirement.

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

Supplemental value was not evaluated within these units because the units failed to meet the size criteria.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

Unit Name and Number: Warner Wetlands Area Units <5,000 Acres

**Summary Results of Analysis:**

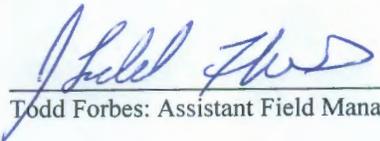
- 1. Does the area meet the size requirements?      \_\_\_ Yes    **X** No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural?            \_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No    **X** N/A
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?      \_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No    **X** 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").*

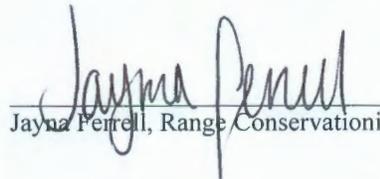
**Prepared by (ID Team Member Names and Titles):**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Todd Forbes: Assistant Field Manager

7/5/12  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Whitman: Planning Coordinator

7/13/2012  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jayna Ferrell, Range Conservationist

7/16/12  
Date

*for*   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brennan Hauk: Weed Specialist

7/16/2012  
Date

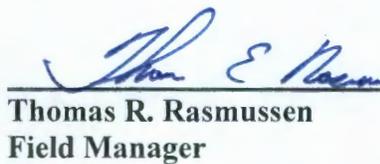
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vernon Stofleth: Wildlife Biologist

7/17/12  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Bishop: Outdoor Recreation Planner

7/15/12  
Date

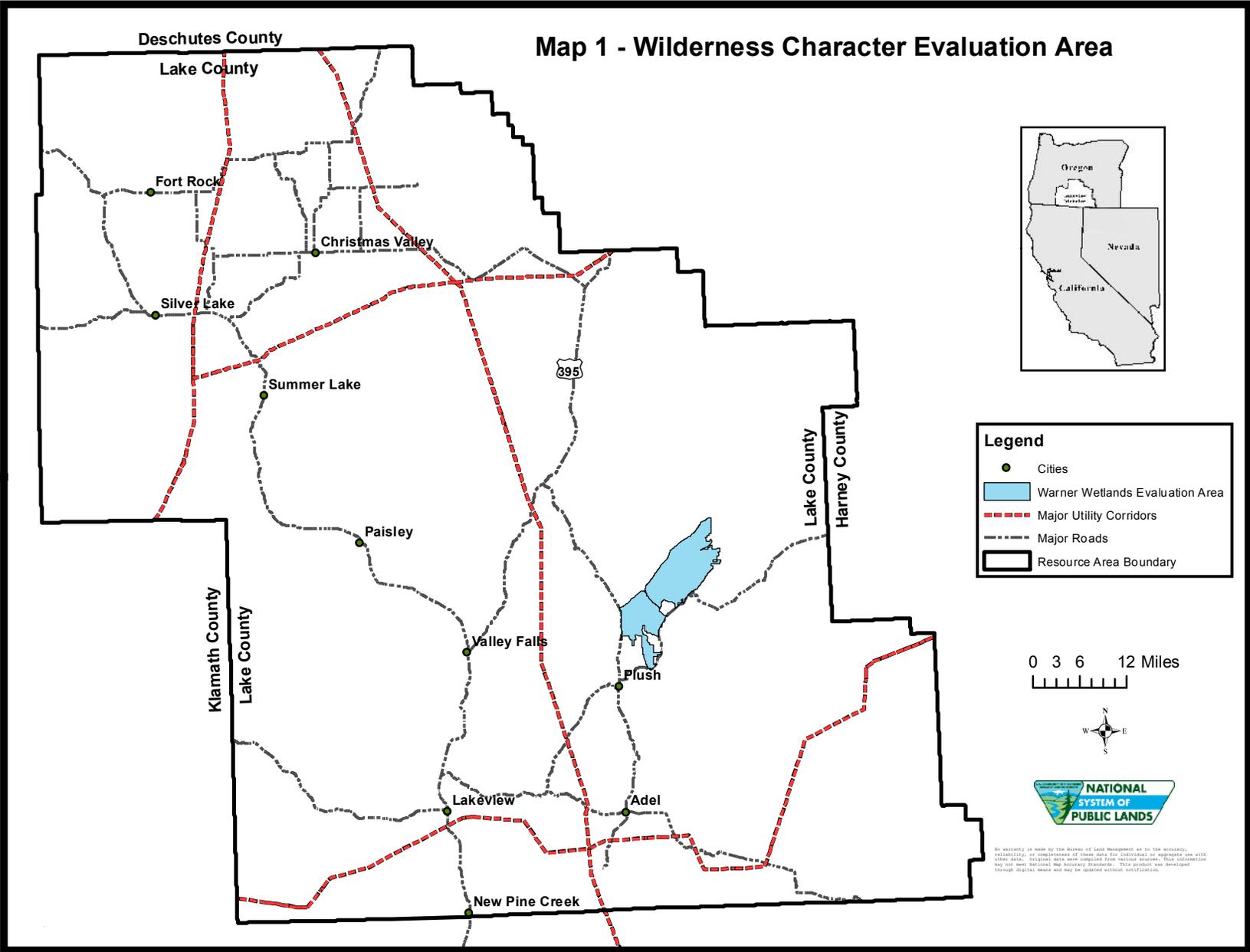
**Approved by:**

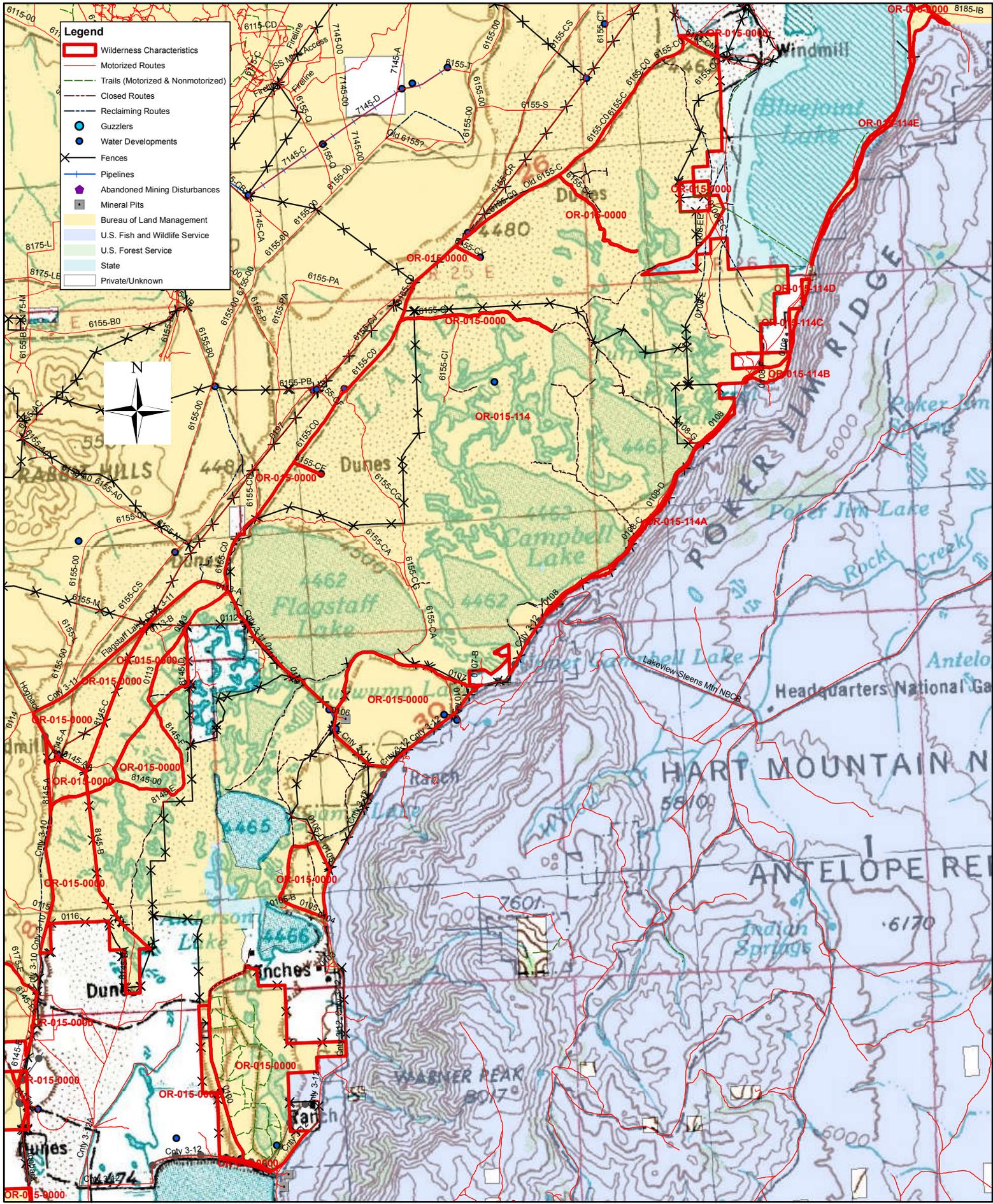
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas R. Rasmussen  
Field Manager

7/17/12  
Date

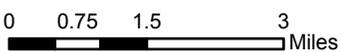
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# Map 1 - Wilderness Character Evaluation Area

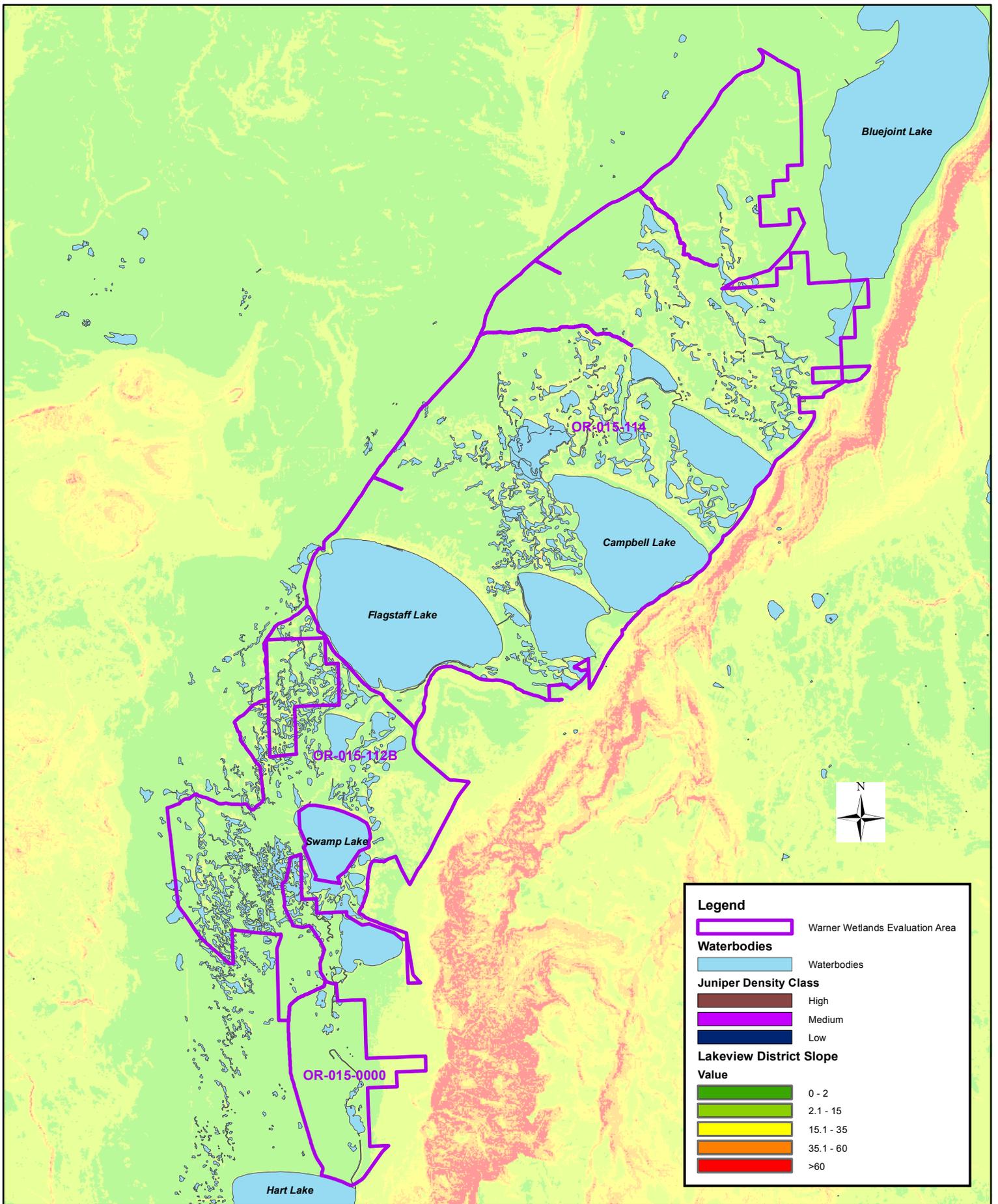




Map 2 - Wilderness Characteristics in the Warner Wetlands Area



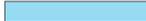
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Map 3 - Screening Warner Wetlands Area



**Legend**

-  Warner Wetlands Evaluation Area
- Waterbodies**
-  Waterbodies
- Juniper Density Class**
-  High
-  Medium
-  Low
- Lakeview District Slope**
- Value**
-  0 - 2
-  2.1 - 15
-  15.1 - 35
-  35.1 - 60
-  >60



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