

Year 2012 Inventory Unit Number/Name: Mill Creek Contiguous OR 135-018

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 X (Go to Form 2) Yes _____ (if more than one unit is within the area, list the names/numbers of those units.):

a) Inventory Source: _____

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): _____

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): _____

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): _____

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):

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics¹:
Inventory Source: _____

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

FORM 2

Use additional pages as necessary

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

a. Unit Number/Name Mill Creek Contiguous OR 135-018

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes X No _____

[State the BLM acreage of the inventory unit. Describe the boundaries of the unit (roads, property lines, etc.) If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception. If more than one inventory unit is involved, list the acreage in each and evaluate each unit/subunit separately. Complete the analysis for (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) for each unit or sub-unit. If you check "No" above, check "N/A" (Not Applicable) in the remaining boxes below, and you need not provide additional evaluation for the unit or subunit. Use additional space as necessary.]

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

The 120-acre BLM inventory unit at its eastern boundary is contiguous to the USFS 26,700 acre Mill Creek Watershed Roadless Area. It is proposed in all alternatives of the ongoing Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision to protect the USFS area's wilderness characteristics. Additionally, during the Umatilla National Forest 2008 inventory of "areas with wilderness potential", it was determined that the USFS area met the inventory criteria for areas with wilderness potential.

Because the inventory unit is contiguous with USFS lands that have formally been determined to have wilderness or potential wilderness values, the BLM inventory unit currently meets the size exception for consideration for wilderness characteristics. Its acreage plus the acreage of the described contiguous USFS lands is at least 5,000 acres.

Once the final Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision is completed and signed, if it determines that the contiguous USFS Mill Creek Roadless Area lands will not be recommended as wilderness and managed to protect wilderness characteristics, then the inventory unit will fail to meet size criteria, and thus will no longer have wilderness characteristics.

Geography of the surrounding area is basically a large basalt uplift that has been deeply incised through time with rugged canyons. The steep canyon slopes contain numerous ledges of exposed basalt.

Major tree species in the vicinity are white fir, mixed conifers, and subalpine fir.

Mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, black bear, and cougar are some of the big game species within the area.

There are no inventoried threatened or endangered species of animals or plants known to inhabit the area.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes No N/A

Description:

Because the inventory unit is remote, small, and difficult to access, analysis of naturalness of its condition relies primarily on: 1) Bing 2011 air photo imagery, 2) office knowledge of the inventory unit, and 3) characterizations from the USFS March 2010 Mill Creek Watershed Potential Wilderness Area (PWA) Wilderness Evaluation which assesses contiguous USFS lands, and those identified conditions in large part are considered to be the same or very similar to the conditions of the inventory unit.

The inventory unit is largely conifer forest with approximately 20% open ground. Most of the unit consists of the west-facing slope of a north-south running canyon. The overall appearance is natural and undisturbed.

(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

Description:

The inventory unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude in association with the adjoining USFS PWA.

(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

Description:

The inventory unit provides outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation in association with the adjoining USFS Roadless Area, on which permit-only public access is allowed since it is a protected watershed, primarily for elk hunting.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes No N/A

Description:

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: Mill Creek Contiguous OR 135-018

Summary

Results of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No
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.

Prepared by:

Team Members:

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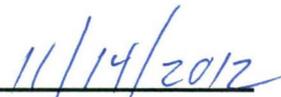
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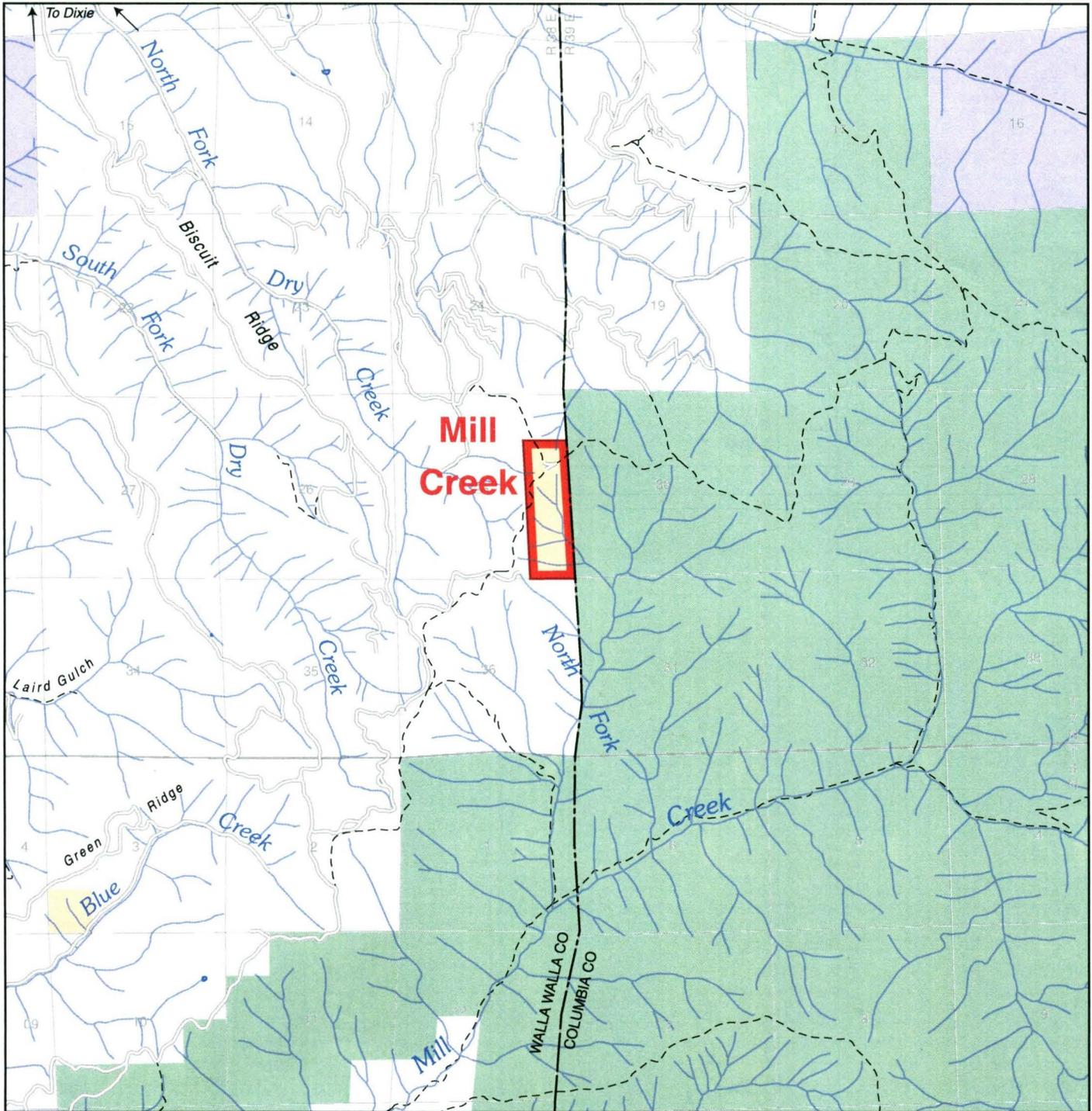
Deborah Wilkins, Blue Mountains Forest Plan Team

Larry Randall, Umatilla National Forest

Approved by:


Field Manager

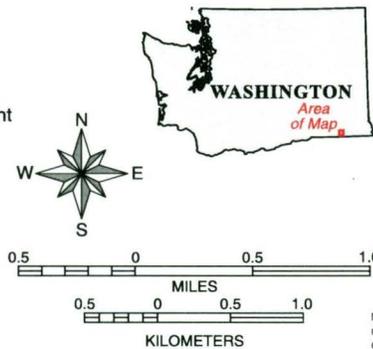

Date



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
|  | Area Possessing Wilderness Character | Administed Land | |
|  | Road |  | Bureau of Land Management |
|  | Trail |  | National Forest Roadless Area |
|  | County Boundary |  | State Land |
| | |  | Private or Other |

Mill Creek Area



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Draft Wilderness Character Inventory Results



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