Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents Bull Spring OR-034-104, 10 total pages

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Page 9: Wilderness Characteristics Overview – Bull Spring OR-034-104 Map 1 of 2

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H-6300-1-WILDERNESS INVENTORY MAINTENANCE IN BLM OREGON/WASHINGTON

APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION

Evaluation of Current Conditions:

1) Document and review the existing BLM wilderness inventory findings on file, if available, regarding the presence or absence of individual wilderness characteristics, using Form 1, below.

2) Consider relevant information regarding current conditions available in the office to identify and describe any changes to the existing information (use interdisciplinary (ID) team knowledge, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc.), and document your findings on Form 2, below.

When Citizen Information has been submitted regarding wilderness characteristics, document the submitted materials including: date of Submission; Name of District(s) and Field Office(s) Affected; Type of material Submitted (e.g. narrative, map, photo). Evaluate any submitted citizen information regarding the validity of proposed boundaries of the unit(s), the existence of roads and other boundary features, the size of the unit(s), and the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics based on relevant information available in the office (prior BLM inventories, ID team knowledge, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc.)

Conduct field reviews as necessary to verify information and to ascertain current conditions. Reach conclusions on current conditions including boundaries, size of areas and presence or absence of wilderness characteristics. Fully explain the basis for each conclusion on form 2, including any critical differences between BLM and citizen information.

Document your findings regarding current conditions for each inventoried area. Describe how the present conditions are similar to, or have changed from, the conditions documented in the original wilderness inventory. Document your findings on Form 2 for each inventory area. Cite to or attach data considered, including photographs, maps, GIS layers, field trip notes, project files, *etc*.

Year: 2010 Unit Number/Name: OR-034-104 — Bull Spring

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?

Yes <u>X</u> No <u>(If yes, and if more than one unit is within the area, list the names of those units.):</u>

A.) Inventory Source(s) -- (X) Denotes all applicable BLM Inventory files, printed maps, or published BLM Decision documents with information pertaining to this unit.

Wilderness Inventories

- (X) 1978 BLM Wilderness Inventory Unit OR-03-02-41 Bull Spring (unpublished BLM document in case files)
- () April 1979 Wilderness -- Proposed Initial Inventory Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not have Wilderness Characteristics, Oregon and Washington

Wilderness Decision Documents

- August 1979 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, Oregon and Washington (green document)
- () October 1979 Wilderness Review Intensive Inventory Oregon, Proposed Decision on the Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas (grey document).
- () March 1980 Wilderness Review Intensive Inventory; Final Decisions on 30 Selected Units in Southeast Oregon and Proposed Decisions on Other Intensively Inventoried Units in Oregon and Washington (orange document)
- () November 1980 *Wilderness Inventory Oregon and Washington, Final Intensive Inventory Decisions* (brown document)
- () November 1981 *Stateline Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah* (tan document).

B.) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s) BLM OR-03-02-41 Bull Spring

C.) Map Name(s)/Number(s)

- () Final Decision Initial Wilderness Inventory Map, August 1979, Oregon
- () Proposed Decision -- Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas Map, October 1979, Oregon
- () Intensive Wilderness Inventory Map, March 1980, Oregon
- () Intensive Wilderness Inventory --Final Decisions Map, November 1980, Oregon.
- () November, 1981 *Stateline Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah* (tan document).

D.) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s)

Vale District Office/ Malheur

Field Office

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):

Inventory Source: See above.

| Unit#/ Name | Size (historic acres) | Natural Condition? Y/N | Outstanding Solitude? Y/N | Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N | Supplemental Values? Y/N |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| OR-03-02- 41 Bull Spring | 11,520* | ** | ** | ** | ** |
| TOTAL | 11,520 | | | | |

* -- The 1978 final determination for this original 11,520 acre OR-03-02-41 unit was that it was further divided by roads, which resulted in smaller roadless areas than this original delineated unit. The largest of these smaller roadless areas was documented to be 4,480 acres.

** -- Since none of the determined roadless areas of the original OR-03-02-41 unit met any size criteria, these criteria were not specifically addressed during the inventory.

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FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: <u>OR-034-104 — Bull Spring</u>

Description of Current Conditions: [Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities.]

1. Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes X No

Description: Refer to this inventory unit's associated Map 1 for its location. The unit has 12,758 acres of public land. The unit represents a larger area than any one of the determined roadless areas of the BLM 1978 original inventory unit which – originally combined at the time -- constituted OR-03-02-14. This is because since 1978 two of the routes dividing this original unit has changed status from a road at that time to a motorized primitive trail (MPT) now due to no known mechanical maintenance performed and BLM not intending to provide such maintenance on the routes in the future. Additional, a sector of public land included in the original OR-03-02-41 unit (in its southwest corner area) is not within this present OR-034-104 unit because it is separated from the rest of the present unit by private lands which serve as a boundary feature for OR-034-104. Since the late 1970's more accurate means of determining area size have evolved and are applied.

The unit's boundaries are BLM road 7360-00 on its east side and north end, private land and a road traversing public lands on it west side, and another road traversing public land on its south side. The boundary roads are mechanically maintained as needed to provide for relatively regular and continuous use.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes <u>No X</u> N/A

Description: The unit includes generally north-to-south draining segments of East Prong Dry Creek which is very close to and parallels the unit's west boundary features; Solders Creek which flows in the middle of the unit's southern approximate two- thirds length; Swede Flat Creek in the unit's southeastern sector; and a branch of NG Creek within the unit's northern half which nearly parallels the unit's east boundary road. Elevations range from approximately 3,531 to 5,741 feet. The northern third of the unit is dominated by East Prong Dry Creek and its short side tributaries. The southern-most approximate third of the unit includes substantial nearly flat terrain along Swede Flat Creek; steeper gradients and slopes are more so characteristic of the NG Creek and Solders Creek drainage features within the unit. Vegetation is predominately a mix of sagebrush and both native and non-native grasses.

Refer to this inventory unit's associated Map 1 and Map 2 for human imprints. There are 12.5 miles of rangeland fence, 19.3 miles of 11 motorized primitive trails (MPTs), 5 earthen reservoirs, 5 developed springs, and a total of 5.2 miles of a buried pipeline system in two segments of spatially separated locations within the unit with 4 associated troughs. There

presently remains no visual contrast of a 1965 plow disc seeding which involved the southeastern sector of the unit. However, in the same sector of the unit there remains evident visual contrast of a linear nature associated with a 2003 approximate 300 acre brush beating project that is distributed over an area of several hundred more acres in size. See this inventory unit's associated Map 2. This project's appearance recognizably detracts from a visual sense of naturalness within the unit, and collectively with the extent, number and often the proximity to each other of the other developments, overall the unit does not appear to the average visitor to be affected primarily by the forces of nature but rather is substantially affected by the works of mankind.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes____No__X__N/A_____

Description: The unit lacks adequate size or density of vegetation to support sufficient screening for outstanding opportunities for solitude. The unit is basically spearhead shaped, being 10 miles long with a greatest width of 3 miles and gradually narrowing to less than a mile wide. The upper approximate third of the unit is more so characterized by steeper terrain; it is noticeably more varied within the approximate lower two-thirds of the unit including the near flat area associated with the central located Swede Flat Creek area in the unit's lower third. More so in the unit's upper approximate two-thirds, its narrowing width (about 2.5 to less than a mile) does not provide sufficient area of topographic settings to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The unit's approximate southern third with its centrally oriented open and approaching flat topography of much of the Swede Flat Creek area does not – relative to the unit's width of this southern portion of the unit -- provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Much of the unit's area does provide a mix of topographic screening features such that a visitor can experience the sense of being isolated, but due to the above stated reasons precludes the opportunities from being outstanding in nature.

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

Yes _____ No __X ___ N/A _____

Description: Hunting for common game species (primarily elk, deer and chukar) occurs in the unit. Other opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, photography, and general sightseeing. There are no special or unique features or activities that attract visitors to the inventory unit. The orientation of the canyon of the East Prong Dry Creek drainage does provide opportunities for backpacking/camping, but are not activities known to be specifically pursued within the unit and are not outstanding in character or opportunity. Individually or in combinations the unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes X No N/A

Description: A sage grouse lek – a BLM special status animal species – has been documented.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

| Unit Name and Number: <u>OR-034-104 — Bull Sprin</u> | Ig | | | |
|---|----------|-----------|-------------------|-----|
| Summary Results of Analysis: 1. Does the area meet any of the size require | ments? _ | X Y | es | _No |
| 2. Does the area appear to be natural? | _ | Y | es <u>X</u> | _No |
| 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportuni and unconfined type of recreation? | | | or a primi _No | |
| 4. Does the area have supplemental values? | X | Yes | No | NA |
| Conclusion check one: The area, or a portion of the area, has | wildern | ess chara | ncter. | |
| X The area does not have wilderness c | haracter | | | |
| Prepared by: Robert alward | | | | |
| Robert Alward, Wilderness Planner, cont | tractor | | | |
| Team Wempers: | | | 12/7/10 Date | |
| Bill Lutjens, Rangeland Management Specialist | | | Date | |
| Omell. Thomas | | | plil. | |
| Dan Thomas, Range Technician | | | Date |) |
| Agrine Latera | | 11.16 | .2010 | |
| Lynn Silva, Weed Coordinator | | | Date | |
| aili - Wicen | | 1- | 11/1 | '> |
| Gillian Wigglesworth, Botanist | | | Date | |
| 4NV SERONO ALOUNAM | | 12 | 110/1 | 0 |
| Michelle Caviness, Wildlife Biologist | | 1 x | Date | U |
| Tunn | | 1 | 7-6- | 10 |
| Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, contractor | | 10 | Date | |
| R. LLCI. L | | | 2/4/4 | - |
| Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator | | 1 | Date | D |
| | | | Date | |
| Approved by: | | | 1 | 1 |
| 100 Ku | | 1 | ZIR | 10 |
| Pat Ryan, Malheur Resource Area Field Manager | | | 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.



