

**WILDERNESS INVENTORY MAINTENANCE
IN BLM OREGON/WASHINGTON**
(Source: Oregon State Office Internal Guidance as of July 2007)

Year: 2009

Inventory Unit Number/Name: Jack Mountain

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

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

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Frenchglen, 2-55

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): USDI, BLM, Oregon, Intensive Wilderness Inventory, Final Decisions, November, 1980.

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Burns District-Andrews Resource Area

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record: Final Inventory Decisions, November, 1980, Pages 132-133.

Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
Frenchglen, 2-55	65,925	N	N	N	Y

**FORM 2 - DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS
INVENTORY CONDITIONS**

Unit Number/Name: **Jack Mountain**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: **11,761** Yes X No

Citizen Information Received: No citizen information for this unit was received.

Resource Specialists' Input: Resource specialists for range, wildlife, botany, archaeology and recreation were consulted prior to writing this document. The specialists were provided with current maps showing travel routes, land status, communication sites and transmission lines as well as range, wildlife and recreation projects and developments.

BLM's Boundary Road Determination Process: BLM conducted a route analysis, including a field check to verify the current conditions for the boundary roads identified for the unit. District staff were also contacted and provided information about current uses of routes by BLM personnel, grazing permittees, recreationists, hunters and other publics.

Some of the interior routes not identified as boundary roads may have been mechanically constructed and improved. However, they are not in a useable condition, and during the field review, relatively regular use was not evident. Other supporting information about regular use was not observed in the field or identified by resource specialists. Therefore, John Cabin Spur Road, Bailey Cabin Road, a route connecting Bailey Waterhole Road with Bailey Fields Road and a route along the east side of Jack Mountain were not recognized as boundary roads.

Boundary changes since 1980: Jack Mountain Unit is only a portion (northwest area of 11,761 acres) of the original 65,925 acre Frenchglen, (2-55) unit. The east boundary is the combined S. Fork Jackman Cr.-Hoghouse Canyon Road and the Bailey Waterhole Road. These boundary roads were inventoried as ways in the original 1970's wilderness inventory process. The northern section of this boundary road(s) accesses Big Foot Reservoir and the southern end accesses the Waterhole Canyon-P Hill Road.

The original Frenchglen Unit is approximately 18 miles in length from the private lands of Juniper Park Ranch on Jackass Mountain on the north to private lands bordering Catlow Valley on the south. The original unit was approximately 8 miles in width from the State Highway 205 and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) on the east to the Jack Mountain Road (county road) on the west.

BLM staff previously identified another wilderness inventory unit, Jackass Butte, through the wilderness update process in March, 2009, which is also another part of the original Frenchglen Unit, 2-55.

Current Unit Boundaries: (See BLM Unit Character Map): Routes forming boundaries were driven during field review. All have been mechanically maintained, improved in the past and will continue to be maintained as needed to allow vehicle passage for public land users.

Vehicle use will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. The grazing permittee uses routes to manage livestock operations, including releasing and gathering of cattle, distributing salt and mineral blocks and checking and maintaining range developments. BLM personnel utilize the routes for monitoring and checking range condition and developments as well as inventorying, monitoring and managing wildlife, archaeological and botanical resources, recreational values/use and wildfire suppression. Most public use is associated with antelope and some deer hunting in late summer and fall.

N. boundary: Jack Mountain Road (county road) and Bigfoot Reservoir Road

BLM Photo Point: JM-6

E. boundary: S. Fork Jackman Cr.-Hoghouse Canyon Road, 8237-0-OO; Bailey Waterhole Road, 8242-0-DO

BLM Photo Points: JM-1, 2, 3

S. boundary: Bailey Waterhole Road, 8242-0-DO; Bailey Fields Road, 8242-0-CO and Private land (Dunbar Ranch)

BLM Photo Points: JM-4, 10, 21, 22

W. boundary: Jack Mountain Road (county road)

BLM Photo Points: None

Interior non-boundary roads: Two routes, one to John Cabin Spring/Reservoir and another to Dead Cow Spring for a total of 7.5 miles.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes ____ No X N/A ____

1980 Unit Description: This area contains a wide variety of topography. Most of the unit lies atop a plateau which rises 1,000 feet above the Blitzen Valley to the east. Many smaller ridges, buttes, canyons, and intermittent natural lakes are located between the ridgeline which forms the top of the plateau and the valley below. This ridge area is 12 miles long and is less than one and one-half miles wide. Jackass Butte rises 400 feet above the flat to gently rolling lands to the south. Several moderate sized buttes are in the middle of the unit and two canyons cut through the plateau in the southwest. The southwest side of the unit contains two canyons which cut through the plateau. The southern portion of the unit contains the LaVoy Tables, a relatively flat-topped mesa. South of the rim which surrounds this end of the unit is the northern end of the Catlow

Valley. Most of the unit is covered with sagebrush and grass; however, patches of juniper occur in the area, especially in the central portion and along the east side.

This unit contains a large number of developments, including nine miles of dead-end roads, 58 miles of vehicle ways, 34 reservoirs, six miles of fence, one open dump, one borrow pit, a radio facility, a powerline which intermittently cuts through the east side of the area, and a power substation. With a few exceptions most of these developments are substantially unnoticeable on an individual basis.

The ways and dead-end roads crisscross the unit and most of the range developments are associated with these travel routes. It would be difficult for a visitor to travel through the unit without encountering a man-made development. In addition, many of the developments are visible from higher points within the unit. The cumulative impact of these developments makes man's imprint within the area substantially noticeable. Due to the presence of numerous developments which, cumulatively, are substantially noticeable, this unit does not appear to be in a generally natural condition.

Current Condition Description: Jack Mountain Unit lies approximately three miles northwest of the rural community of Frenchglen. Much of the 1980 description for naturalness does not apply to the current, much smaller unit. Jack Mountain, which is actually a narrow, elevated table about seven miles long and a mile wide, ranges in elevations from 5300'-5700'. It is located along the northern and eastern boundary of the unit and is approximately a third of the unit's area.

The rest of the unit is composed of small, open, sagebrush-covered valleys and juniper-covered hills descending westward from Jack Mountain. A number of the intermittently flowing upper forks of Juniper Creek cut through these hills as they drop to the main drainage and Walls Lake Reservoir to the southwest beyond the boundaries of the unit.

The primary human uses in the Jack Mountain Unit and surrounding lands are livestock grazing-related as well as some recreation use, mainly big game hunting for antelope and deer. Two-thirds of the unit is within the northeastern corner of Keg Springs Allotment. The remaining upper third is in the East Warm Springs Allotment. A division fence crosses the upper end from northwest to southeast, crosses Jack Mountain and continues eastward toward Irish Lake, the rim above State Highway 205 and Malheur NWR. Eight livestock reservoirs and one waterhole have been constructed, mostly at spring locations.

Below is a summary of developments:

- Fences: 10.2 miles
- Pipeline: .15 mile
- Reservoirs: 8
- Springs: 1
- Waterhole: 1
- Interior Non-boundary Routes: 7.6 miles

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

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

1980 Unit Description: Much of the area is flat to gently rolling, has little vegetative screening, and offers little opportunity for solitude. Portions of the unit have diverse topography and vegetation which is tall enough to provide areas for individuals to screen themselves from the presence of others. However, these areas are generally small, isolated, and few in number (e.g., the long narrow strip along the ridgeline on the eastern side and isolated spots in the center of the area). In addition, the long and relatively narrow configuration of the unit and the large intrusion of private land on the western side limit opportunities for solitude. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Current Condition Description: This wilderness inventory unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. It is less than a fifth the size of the original Frenchglen Unit. Most of the Jack Mountain Unit is low, open, sagebrush-covered hills with scattered juniper. Very little vegetative or topographic screening is present. The higher elevation table of Jack Mountain may provide a small area of solitude, but vehicles traveling on the Jack Mountain Road to the west could be seen and heard from this landmark and many other locations within the unit. The ranching operations at Dunbar Ranch would also eliminate any solitude in the southern portions of the unit.

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

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

1980 Unit Description: This unit provides opportunities for hiking, chukar hunting, wildlife viewing, sightseeing and fishing. Most of these opportunities are only fair to good. The unit as a whole does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Current Condition Description: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. There are opportunities for antelope, deer and chukar hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing and sightseeing. These opportunities do not, either individually or collectively, possess attributes which would make them outstanding. The diversity and quality of these recreation activities are not unlike those which can be found throughout eastern Oregon in the Northern Great Basin region.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

1980 Unit Description: Many raptors nest along the ridge from Frenchglen south to the end of the unit. The unit also contains scenic values because of the views of off-site

features such as the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and the west side of Steens Mountain.

Current Condition Description: Jack Mountain Unit provides habitat for Greater Sage Grouse, Pygmy Rabbit, Ferruginous Hawk and Swainson's Hawk, all Federal Species of Concern. No sagegrouse leks or special plant species have been identified at this time within the unit. There may be archaeological values, as evidence of prehistoric Native American sites have been identified in several nearby areas on Lavoy Tables and along the rims above State Highway 205.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: Jack Mountain

Summary Results of Analysis:

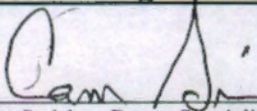
1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☐ Yes ☒ No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA

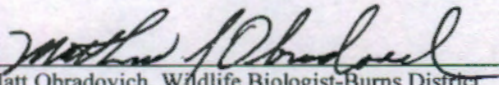
Conclusion (Check One):

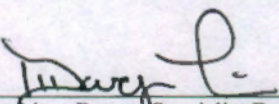
- ☐ The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.
- ☒ The area does not have wilderness character.


Prepared by: David E. Vickstrom, Wilderness Specialist

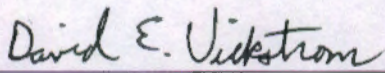
Coordinating and Consulted Personnel:

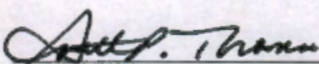

Cam Swisher, Range Specialist-Burns District
9-29-09
Date


Matt Obradovich, Wildlife Biologist-Burns District
9/30/09
Date

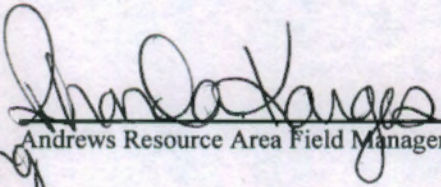

Doug Einn, Botany Specialist-Burns District
10/2/09
Date


Willie Street, Range Specialist-Burns District
10-2-2009
Date

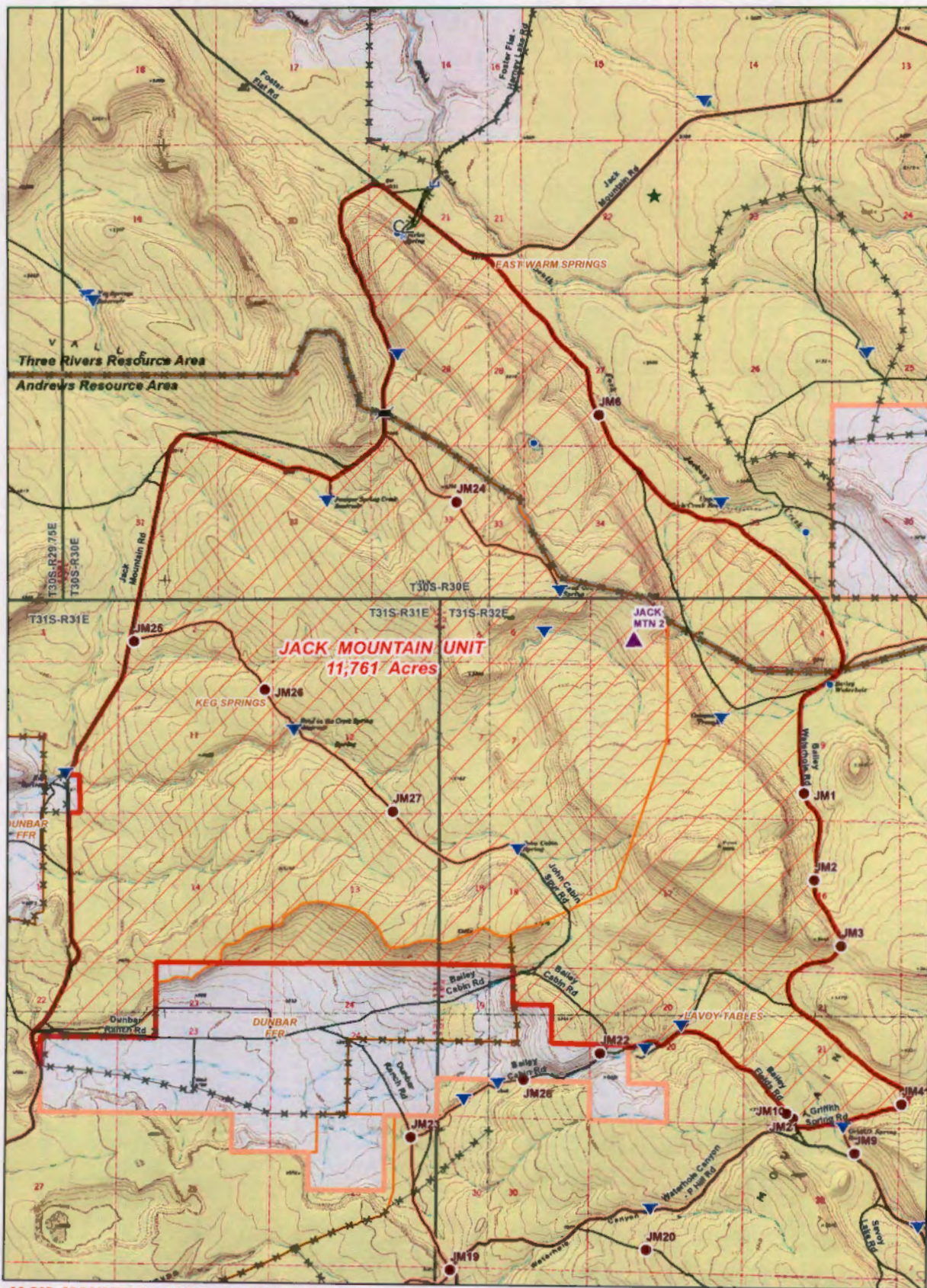

Dave Vickstrom, Wilderness Specialist - Burns District
9-29-2009
Date


Scott Thomas, Archaeologist-Burns District
10/1/2009
Date

Approved by:


Charles Karges, Andrews Resource Area Field Manager-Burns District
12/10/09
Date
Acting

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 1610.5-2.02



JACK MOUNTAIN UNIT CHARACTER MAP

- Jack Mountain Unit Boundary
- Adjacent Units and Boundary Roads
- BLM Photo Points
- ▲ Proposed Wind Testing Tower
- ★ Sage Grouse Leks
- x—x— FENCE
- |—| PIPELINE

- ⌵ CATTLE GUARD
- CORRAL
- ▼ RESERVOIR
- ⦿ SPRING
- ⌊ TROUGH
- WATERHOLE

USGS 24K Topo

- Non-Paved Improved Road
- Primitive Road Surface
- Allotment
- ▭ Resource Area Boundary
- Land Administration
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private (White)



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US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau District, Oregon
Three Rivers Resource Area
projects\WSA\InventoryReview\JackMtn
JackMtnUnitCharacter.mxd
September 3, 2009 for Dave Vickstrom
see also .pdf file

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