

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

Year: 2011

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-025-004H/ Lunch 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 _____ Yes X (if more than one unit is within the area, list the names/numbers of those units.):

a) **Inventory Source:** Wilderness Review; Final Intensive Inventory Decisions, Oregon & Washington, November, 1980, pages 120-121.

b) **Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s):** The area that has been currently inventoried was part of a unit in 1977 that was numbered OR-020-02-30. It encompassed 13,075 acres within 11 subunits. Due to a size of less than 5,000 acres, ten of the units were not intensively inventoried and dropped from further consideration. Subunit K contained 7,885 acres. It was intensively inventoried and found not to possess wilderness characteristics. This unit was not included in the 2007 citizen (ONDA) proposed area or included in the current BLM wilderness maintenance inventory of the Palomino Area.

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** BLM Intensive Wilderness Inventory; Oregon; August, 1979.

d) **BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):** Burns District, Oregon; Three Rivers Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

| Unit#/Name | Size (historic acres) | Natural Condition? Y/N | Outstanding Solitude? Y/N | Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N | Supplemental Values? Y/N |
|------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| See 1. b | 13,075 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

FORM 2 - DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Citizen Information Received: The BLM received GIS data from Oregon Natural Desert Assoc. (ONDA) for a proposed 51,882 acre Palomino WSA in September, 2007. More information including a narrative report, maps, photographs and route logs was received in May, 2008. The information was submitted in accordance with Draft BLM Manual 6300-1 *Wilderness Inventory* (2011).

Their report was based mainly on the belief that the area was not accessible to the public, because it was surrounded on three sides by private land, no trespassing signs and locked gates were encountered and none of the interior routes were roads. These factors resulted in the area possessing naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation. Their assessment included an analysis of all the wilderness characteristics, which concluded that all of the characteristics were present and the area should be designated a Wilderness Study Area.

Their report characterized the area as being primarily effected by the forces of nature and was in natural condition as only one water hole and an old bridge were observed. The area possessed outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the large size, shape, vegetative and topographic screening. The diversity of the landscape, hiking, backpacking, camping, native flora and birding all provided outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Supplemental values included lava flows, sage grouse, wild horses and ephemeral lakes.

BLM's analysis of the area found there to be 5 sub-units within this proposed area that met the minimum size of 5,000 acres. Each of these units was inventoried intensively for wilderness characteristics. These units were named Lunch Lake, Batts Camp Lake, Weaver Lake, Chain Lake and Dog Mountain. Four units were less than 5,000 acres.

BLM Inventory Report

Unit Number/Name: **OR-025-004H/ Lunch Lake**

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: **5,019** Yes X No

BLM's Boundary Determination Process: Using all existing data and professional knowledge, BLM conducted an analysis of land ownership, ROWs and routes in the Palomino area (from Silver Creek on the west to Dog Mountain on the east). Field visits were conducted to verify the mechanical/tool construction of the routes and their current condition in July, 2010. During this inventory, conditions of roads in the Lunch Lake Unit were recorded to determine where boundaries were located. All the boundary roads are part of BLM's current transportation system as identified in BLM's Facility Asset

Management System database. GIS information was used to verify ownerships, project locations and geographic features not observed from the routes traveled.

Current Unit Boundaries: (See BLM Unit Character Map):

ONDA's photo points and the photos for each location were reviewed. ONDA's narrative indicated the routes within their Palomino proposed WSA (51,882 acres in size) are unmaintained ways and not maintained by mechanical means.

Based on current field checks and the knowledge of the area, BLM identified the Wilderness Inventory Maintenance (WIM) unit boundaries listed below. The roads have been mechanically constructed and improved or maintained at some time in the past. The roads are currently in useable condition for Bureau personnel, grazing permittees and other publics using pickup trucks and SUV's, including 4-wheel drive vehicles, to access the Wilderness Inventory Unit. These roads will be maintained in the future as needed.

Vehicle use occurs on a relatively regular basis. The grazing permittee utilizes the routes to manage livestock operations, including releasing and gathering cattle, distributing salt and mineral blocks and checking and maintaining range developments on an annual basis. BLM personnel use the routes for monitoring wildlife, botanical and range values and condition, constructing, maintaining and checking human developments and installations, wildfire suppression, and recreation use on at least a semi-annual basis. Most public use is associated with hunting from mid August through November when the roads are traveled 4-5 times a week. Camping and recreation use occurs in late summer and fall each year.

N. boundary: Private Land

ONDA Photo Points: None

BLM route analysis Photo Points: None

E. boundary: BLM Road 7228-0-00, Private Land

ONDA Photo Points: None

BLM route analysis Photo Points: PB-20

S. boundary: BLM Road 7222-0-100 Beshell Grade Road

ONDA Photo Points: None

BLM route analysis Photo Points: PB-20, PB-22, PB-21

W. boundary: BLM Road 7224-0-A0, Hegawald Road

ONDA Photos: None

BLM route analysis Photo Points: PB-25, PB-26

Where an inventory unit is bounded by a road or other linear feature that is authorized by an existing right-of-way, the legal right-of-way boundary rather than the feature itself shall be deemed the wilderness inventory unit boundary.

The following BLM photo references show examples of current road conditions in the Lunch Lake Unit.

PB-20 shows the bladed road going up the fence line on the eastern boundary of the unit.

PB-22 shows the high berm on the north side of the road looking west where the road has been maintained in the last 2-3 years.

PB-25 is looking south. The berm along the right hand side of the road is not noticeable in the photo but can be distinguished by the slight change in vegetation (low sagebrush) on the berm.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No N/A

Current Condition Description: This unit is located on a plateau at the northern end of the Great Basin. The soils are generally shallow and water drains to a series of six shallow lake beds. Three small buttes less than 200 feet high form the western edge of the unit. The vegetation is typical of shallow soils, with low sagebrush and Sandbergs bluegrass dominating the site. The unit is in the Weaver Lake grazing allotment that utilizes a 2-year grazing rotation.

The unit appears to be in natural condition, with human imprints substantially unnoticeable. There are five water holes and one reservoir that are of a low profile and not noticed by the casual observer. Most of the fence associated with the unit is found on the perimeter. There are no other intrusions by man except the interior vehicle travel routes. The vegetation is in natural condition with no evidence of recent fires or disturbance. A few scattered juniper trees can be found along the northern edge of the unit.

Even with the section of private land in the middle of the unit, there is a sense of being in a natural setting where evidence of human activity is minimal.

The unit currently has the following developments (**See Unit Character Map**):

Fences: 7.7 miles
Reservoirs: 1
Seedings: 0 acres
Boundary roads: 6.5 miles
Non-boundary roads: 7.7 miles
Pipelines: 0 miles
Wells: 0
Troughs: 0
Waterholes: 5
Brushbeat: 0 acres

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

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Current Condition Description: This unit has very little topographic screening due to an elevation difference of only 177 feet from one side of the unit to the other. This, along with the small size and irregular shape of the unit makes it difficult to experience solitude when more than one group or individual is present in the area. Another factor reducing opportunities for solitude is the sparseness of juniper trees or structural vegetation to provide visual screening from others who may be in the area. Almost all of the unit can be seen from any part of the unit. These factors make it difficult to experience outstanding opportunities of solitude.

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

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Current Condition Description: Activities associated with the area include hunting for antelope and deer, sightseeing, hiking and wildlife viewing. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not outstanding due to the proximity of roads, trails and lack of any unique features or resources that would draw a person to the area. Big game (deer and antelope,) numbers have diminished in the last fifteen to twenty years in this particular area of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Juniper hunting unit, so wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities are less than they were 10 years ago.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Current Condition Description: Wild horses can frequently be found in the area. No inventories for species of concern, except sage grouse have been conducted in the unit at this time. There may be habitat for, and the presence of, the pygmy rabbit and burrowing owl in the unit's open, sagebrush-covered areas. There are no known sage-grouse leks in this unit.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: **Lunch Lake OR-025-004H**

Summary Results of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of 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 NA

4. Does the area have supplemental values? X Yes No NA

Conclusion (Check One):

 The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.

 X The area does not have wilderness character.

Prepared by: Bill Andersen

Bill Andersen

1-21-11

Date

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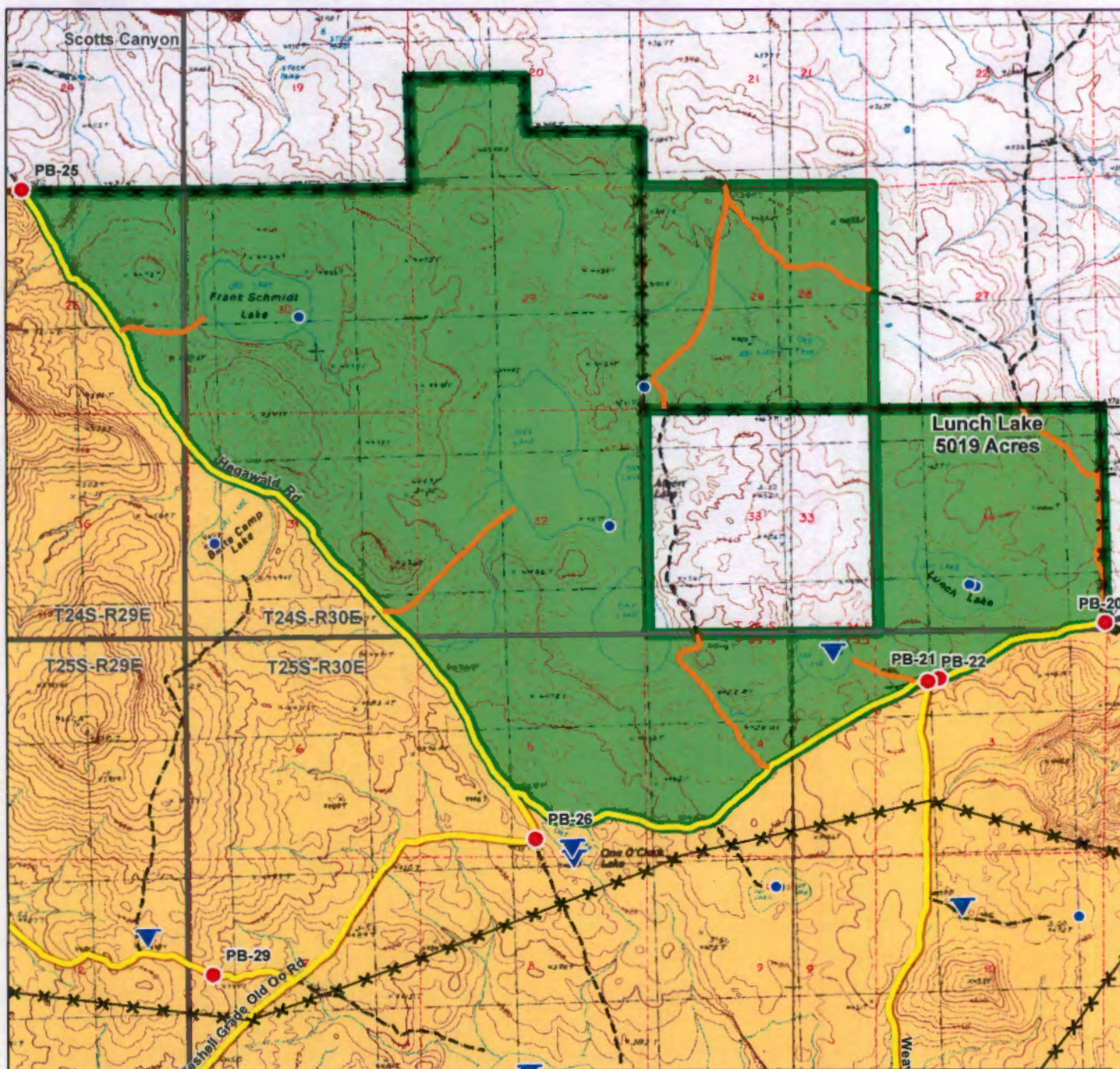
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










1/25/11

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 1610.5-2.02



Wilderness Inventory Maintenance Palomino Area Lunch Lake Unit Character Map

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Lunch Lake |  Paved Road |
|  Adjacent Palomino Units |  Non-Paved Improved Road |
|  BLM Photo Points |  Primitive Road Surface |
|  RESERVOIR (1) |  Primitive Routes (7.7 miles) |
|  WATERHOLE (5) |  Boundary Roads |
|  FENCE (7.7 miles) |  (Lunch Lake 6.5 miles) |
|  Bureau of Land Management | |
|  Private | |

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Bums District, Oregon
Three Rivers Resource Area



Note: No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources and may be updated without notification.

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UnitCharacter_LunchLake.mxd .PDF
December 27, 2010 For Bill Andersen