

Year: 2018

Inventory Unit Number/Name: OR-015-098/ Coglán Buttes South*

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 – Final Intensive Inventory Decisions; USDI BLM - Oregon and Washington, November 1980.

b) **Inventory Number(s)/Name(s):** 1-98/ Abert Burn South

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

d) **BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):** Lakeview District, Lakeview Resource Area.

*Note: Unit name was changed to better reflect values and features found within the unit, and to reduce confusion of similarly named inventory units.

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):

Unit#	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
1-98	18,200	N	N	N	Y
1-98*	18,251	Y	N	N	N/A

* The inventory of this unit was updated in 2012. However, due to a State Office-sponsored Wilderness Inventory Consistency Evaluation and subsequent guidance, the 2012 inventory analysis and findings are being replaced by this current 2018 inventory review. Documentation of the 2012 inventory can be found in the wilderness inventory project record.

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

In 1980, historic Unit 1-98 was described as a large fault block with a steep escarpment, rugged rims, and erosion features on the west. The east side of the unit contains a low angle slope, broken up with minor gullies, falling away to the shore of Abert Lake. The unit is sagebrush covered with a crested wheatgrass seeding in the northeast. The unit was deemed to not appear primarily affected by the forces of nature due to a 2,400 acre seeding, cut banks and scaring from the historic Hotchkiss Road, and a gravel pit. The unit was found to offer limited opportunities for solitude. However, due to little vegetative cover and the flatness of the eastern side of the area, the unit was found to not offer any real degree of solitude. The unit possessed opportunities for wildlife observation (raptors), near the west cliffs. However, the area was ultimately found to not offer outstanding recreation opportunities due to its size and shape limiting the degree to which one could pursue activities such as backpacking and hiking. Supplemental values were expected to be present (archeological), though none were documented.

FORM 2

DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-015-098/ Coglan Buttes South

(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 55,268-acre Coglan Buttes proposed Wilderness Study Area (WSA). ONDA included in their information a narrative report, maps, photos, photo and route logs, and GIS data with 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 July of 2004 and June of 2005. They identified the area as having no interior routes, which meet the BLM's wilderness inventory definition of a road.

In 2008 and 2016, members of the BLM staff conducted field inventory in the area as part of a process to update its road and wilderness inventory and to gather additional information to supplement ONDA's wilderness information. This included driving and collecting photo documentation of routes and human disturbances in the area. This fieldwork included photo documentation of the boundary and interior routes and a re-evaluation of wilderness characteristics for this area. Using both ONDA and BLM photos, field logs, and staff field knowledge, the BLM completed route analysis and made boundary determinations within the area in 2017.

The BLM determined that several of the routes ONDA identified as "ways" are in fact boundary roads defining inventory units. For this reason, the BLM found the Coglan Buttes proposed WSA is not one large roadless unit, but is comprised of several smaller inventory units (3 meet the size criteria) which must be evaluated individually.

The Coglan Buttes South inventory unit is bounded by the following: BLM Roads 6154-00 (Big Basin, and 6154-A0 (Hotchkiss); BLM interim numbered roads 6154-C0, 6154-AA, and 1195-D0; two rights-of-ways for Oregon State Highway 31 and above ground telephone/power lines; and private lands along the western and southern boundaries. BLM Roads 6104-A0 (Clark Ranch) and 6154-B0 (Abert Burn) on the eastern and northern boundaries. The boundary of the unit was also changed to remove approximately 18 acres of internal right-of-ways (see above), disturbances (large water tanks), and a portion of BLM Road 6154-A0 was cherry-stemmed.

Thus, based on these boundary and road determinations, the BLM found the Coglan Buttes South inventory unit to exceed the minimum size criteria at 18,233 acres of BLM administered lands.

Additional background on the process the BLM followed during this evaluation is contained in the document, *Wilderness Inventory Maintenance Process for the Lakeview Resource Area, BLM* and in the *Route Analysis Forms*. Both documents can be found in the wilderness inventory file.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS:

The unit is located about 7.5 miles north of Valley Falls, Oregon. The unit is approximately 12 miles long by 3 miles wide. Topography has not changed since the original inventory and can still be described as a large fault block with a steep escarpment, rugged rims, and erosion features on the west. The east side of the unit contains a low angle slope, broken up with minor gullies, falling away to the shore of Abert Lake.

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

In 1980, the unit was described as containing a 2,400 acre seeding, cut banks/scaring from the historic Hotchkiss Road, and a gravel pit. This unit did not meet the criteria for naturalness as the existing disturbances were found to be substantially noticeable. The unit as a whole did not appear to be primarily affected by the forces of nature.

ONDA's 2005 inventory concluded that their proposed 55,268-acre Coglan Buttes proposed WSA appeared in a generally natural condition. Rationale for finding was due to their assessment that guzzlers are not permanent structures, have limited visibility due to topography, and could be removed; power lines, and a gravel pit should be cut out of the unit; and while the unit does contain seedings, they blend into the landscape and appear natural. However, for the reasons described in sections above, the BLM found that this proposal did not represent one large roadless unit, but is comprised of several smaller inventory units, which must be evaluated individually.

The unit currently contains the following man-made developments/disturbances: 12,108 acres of wildfire, 864 acres of seedings, 591 acres of chemical treatments, 10.5 miles of motorized routes, 4.5 miles of reclaiming routes, 9 miles of fence, 5 guzzlers, 2 abandoned mines, and 1 mineral pit.

Presently, almost 4 decades after the original inventory, these developments are weathered and grown over with herbaceous grasses and sagebrush. As a result, developments now fade into the background of the unit and are largely only noticeable at a close distance (1/4th mile or less) and are thus substantially unnoticeable from further distances. The topography of the area also plays a large role in screening disturbances and man-made developments. Areas that possessed obvious visual impacts and/or high concentrations of disturbances have been removed from the unit. Crested wheatgrass seedings (1971) and wildfire scars (1986), that were allowed to revegetate naturally, have been invaded by sagebrush and have returned to a natural appearing condition.

Based on a review of all the available information including photos, staff knowledge, and field review, the BLM concluded that the unit appears in a natural condition where the imprints of man are substantially unnoticeable.

(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

The original 1980 inventory found the unit offered limited opportunities for solitude due to little vegetative cover and the flatness of the eastern side of the area.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory found their larger 55,268-acre Coglan Buttes proposed WSA and the original individual units within the proposal to have plentiful topographic and vegetative screening on their own. ONDA cited rolling topography, rimrock, tall sagebrush, and sheer size as evidence of outstanding opportunities for solitude. However, for the reasons described in sections above, the BLM found that this proposal did not represent one large roadless unit, but is in fact comprised of several smaller inventory units, which must be evaluated individually.

The BLM determined that while the unit lacks vegetative screening, the area is topographically diverse with numerous opportunities for solitude along the unit's rims, buttes, tabletops, points, and many deeply eroded drainages, particularly in the southern two-thirds of the area.

Thus, for the reasons specified above and based on a review of all the available information including (BLM and citizen provided) photos, staff knowledge, and field review, the BLM concluded the Coglan Buttes South inventory unit possesses sufficient topographic screening that one would easily be able to avoid the sights and sounds of others and experience 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

The original 1980 inventory found the unit offered opportunities for wildlife observation (raptors), near the west cliffs. However, the area was ultimately found to lack outstanding recreation opportunities due to its size and shape limiting the degree to which one could pursue activities such as backpacking and hiking.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory found their larger Coglan Buttes proposed WSA and the original individual units within the proposal to have plentiful opportunities for hiking, backpacking, photography, birding, horseback riding, and exploration of area's diverse geology. However, for the reasons described above, the BLM found that this proposal did not represent one large roadless unit, but is in fact comprised of several smaller inventory units which must be evaluated individually.

The BLM finds all activities listed above in combination with the diversity of hunting, camping, sightseeing, and wildlife viewing (bighorn sheep) as exceptional opportunities. The BLM determined that hiking along the unit's escarpment, running 14 miles atop the entire length of the unit, in combination with the area's many rims and buttes represent a unique opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.

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

The original 1980 inventory found the unit likely to possess archaeological values, although none were documented at that time.

In 2005, ONDA's inventory found the same supplemental values as the 1980 inventory, as well as scenic views of Lake Abert and Abert Rim and wildlife habitat (sage grouse, pygmy rabbits, bighorn sheep, burrowing owls, and peregrine falcons).

The BLM agrees with many of ONDA's supplemental findings and in addition noted habitat for raptor nesting (golden eagle), pronghorn, deer winter range, and mule deer as potential supplemental values.

Additionally, in 1996, the BLM designated Lake Abert and surrounding public lands as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The ACEC management plan recognized and provided special management for four important resource values or processes in this area including wildlife resources, cultural resources, scenic values, and ecological processes. The western edge of the ACEC overlaps with the eastern edge of this inventory unit. These wildlife values and ecological processes were primarily associated with Lake Abert proper, which lies to the east and just outside of the unit boundary.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Number and Name: OR-015-098/ Coglan Buttes South

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
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? X Yes No NA
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? X Yes No NA

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 (Member Names and Titles):



Chris Bishop: Outdoor Recreation Planner

6/4/18
Date


Jami Ludwig: Assistant Field Manager

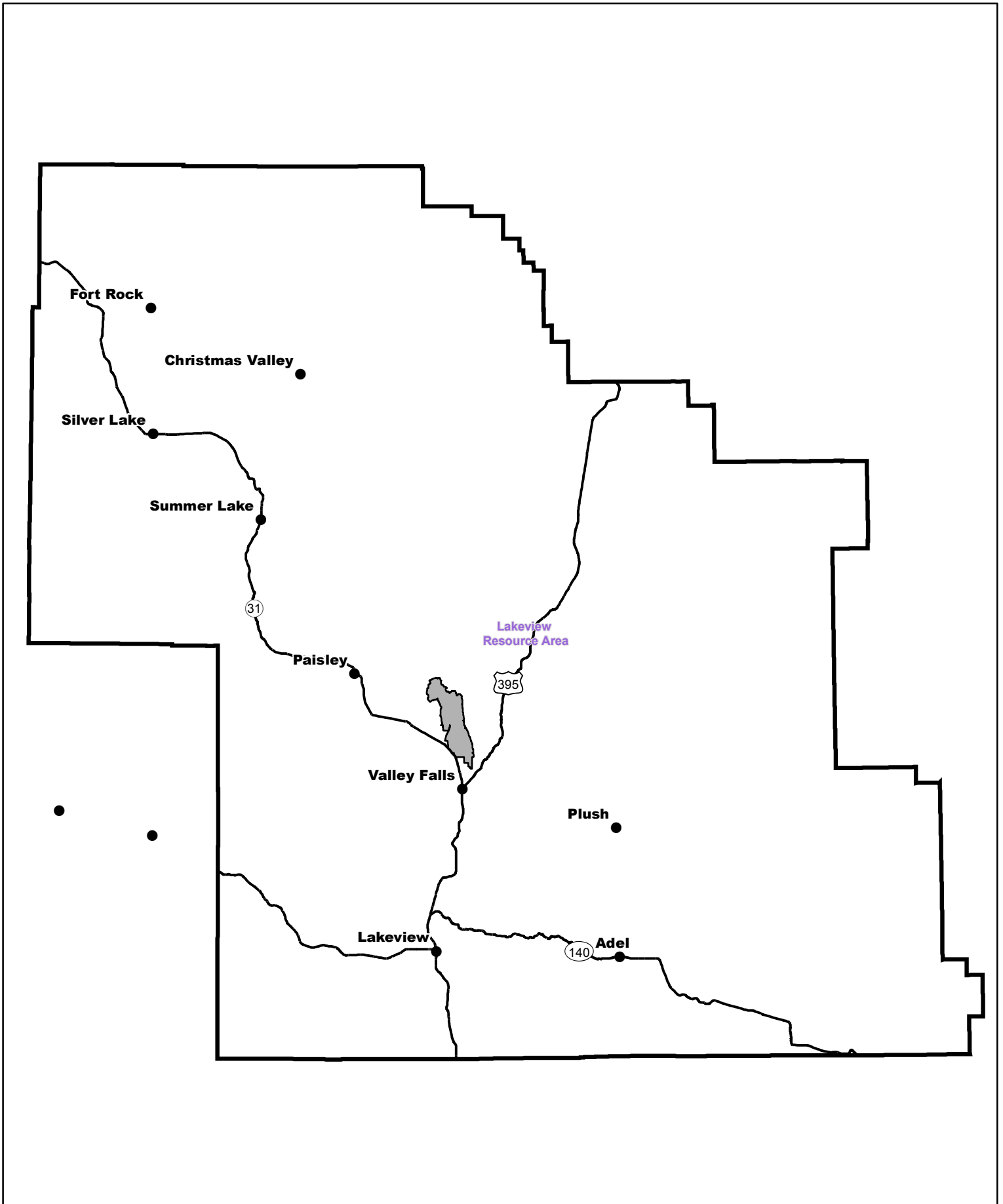
6/4/18
Date


Approved by:

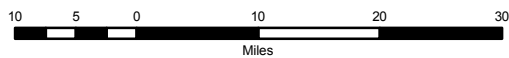

J. Todd Forbes
Field Manager


6/4/18
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 43 CFR parts either 4 or 1610.5-2.



 Wilderness Character Inventory Unit



 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 were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.



<p>Wilderness Character Inventory Unit</p> <p>Ownership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bureau of Land Management U.S. Forest Service Private/Unknown 	<p>Roads/Trails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motorized Routes Highways Reclaiming Routes Interim Routes 	<p>Pipelines and Ditches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ditch Water Pipeline Guzzler Fences 	<p>Water Developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dam Reservoir Spring Development Trough Water Diversion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Tank Waterhole Well - Water 	<p>1.5 0.75 0 1.5 Miles</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>N</p> <p>S</p> </div> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;"> <p>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 were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.</p> </div>
--	---	---	--	--	--