

**Robinson Lake OR-015-057B
INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION**

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

No (Go to Form 2) Yes (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas.)

a) Inventory Source: Historical unit Robinson Lake Unit 1-57, with two subunits 1-57A and 1-57B.

The final intensive inventory decisions dated November 1980 contained an error in the descriptions of Unit 1-57.

In the Wilderness Unit Inventory Map of March 1980, unit 1-57 was separated into two subunits: 1-57A and 1-57B.

Descriptions for the units were switched in the text of the final intensive inventory decisions dated November 1980.

Subunit 1-57B description in the text of the 1980 final intensive inventory decision describes subunit 1-57A, as shown on the Wilderness Unit Inventory Map, dated November 1980.

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): Robinson Lake OR-015-057B

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): Wilderness Unit Inventory Map, November 1980, Robinson Lake 1-57A

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Unit is shared by the Burns and Lakeview District Offices.

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Inventory Source: Wilderness Inventory – Oregon/Washington Final Intensive Inventory Decisions November 1980

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
OR-015-057B (1-57B)	Yes 25,040 acres	Yes	No	N/A	N/A

Subunit 1-57B

Public land makes up 25,040 acres. There is one State school section in the center of the unit. Approximately 35 miles southeast of Wagontire.

The majority of the south and east boundaries are defined by private land. The remaining boundaries are Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Roads 7165, 7165C, 7175, W68, and a 3 mile segment of an unnumbered BLM road on the northeast corner of the unit.

The subunit contains high desert sage uplands dissected by canyons. It includes Augustine, Dudes, Barber, and Loggerhead canyons and their smaller tributaries. The canyons have high angle eroded slopes rather than vertical walls. The eastern boundary area contains numerous basalt rims up to several hundred feet high where the canyons open onto Clover Swale and Tucke Flat.

Naturalness: The subunit contains 12 water developments, primarily located in the canyon bottoms at scattered locations. As the developments are quite dispersed, they remain substantially unnoticeable. The unit contains approximately 17 miles of defined vehicle ways. The ways north of Balls Lake and along and in Dudes Canyon present noticeable intrusions because of their locations within the particular landscapes and the amounts of use. The subunit also contains approximately 11 miles of fence line that remains substantially unnoticeable. There are some localized detractions from naturalness, but the subunit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Solitude: The majority of the acreage in the subunit is flat sagebrush uplands offering a relatively poor opportunity to experience solitude. The canyons in the unit provide greater isolation from others in the unit. They also tend to be concentrated use areas and generally lack features that would separate parties from one another, such as great distances or strong topographic relief. The subunit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of these constraints.

Recreation: The subunit offers potential for hunting and wildlife observation. The canyons would offer values for hiking and sightseeing. The lack of water or aquatic habitat limits recreation values in the majority of the area. The unit does not offer any outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values: None known.

Rationale: Unit 1-57 does remain generally natural in appearance, but there are a number of man-made intrusions in the area which the traveler would encounter. The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities to avoid the sights, sounds, or evidence of others within the unit. The canyons are not long enough, nor are there enough of them, to adequately separate parties from each other. Opportunities for recreation are not outstanding because there is no particular feature or element to draw visitors to the area. The canyons would provide minimum opportunities for hiking and sightseeing, but such opportunities would not stand above others of their kind. Eliminate both subunits from further review.

Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) submitted a citizen-proposed KEG SPRINGS ROADLESS AREA on November 1, 2002.

The Keg Springs Roadless Area contains approximately 180,022 acres. The area is bounded on the east by Jack Mountain Road, on the north by the Foster Lake Road, and on the west by Orejana Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The south and southeast boundaries are the Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Rock Creek Road, and Duhaime Flat Road. The area includes subunits 1-57A, 2-58, 2-94A, 2-94B, 1-79, 1-93, and 1-59, which were previously eliminated from consideration as wilderness in BLM's November 1980 *Intensive Wilderness Inventory*.

The Keg Springs Roadless Area has remained in a basically natural condition, especially units 2-58, 1-57A, 1-159, and 2-94B, as stated in BLM's intensive inventory of November 1980 (pp. 135, 49, 114, 198). The few man-made reservoirs and wells remain peripheral and not substantially noticeable. The area continues to generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

The significant size (180,022 acres) of the Keg Springs Roadless Area provides for ample room to escape the sights and sounds of other visitors. The majority of the Keg Springs Roadless Area was considered not to have outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the broad expanses of sage-covered land. As stated above, with the new boundaries for the Keg Springs Roadless Area, the unit is clearly of sufficient size to provide outstanding solitude. In addition, the area contains numerous canyons and draws that provide topographic screening: the significant rim surrounding the Keg Springs Valley, the rolling hills along KS30c, the canyons of The Dipper, Hidden Spring Canyon, North Loggerhead Canyon, Augustine Canyon, and Buckhorn Canyon. Stands of big sagebrush in Keg Springs Valley and elsewhere provide significant vegetative screening.

The Keg Springs Roadless Area was also eliminated from further wilderness review because the opportunities for hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, and horseback riding offered by individual units were not deemed outstanding. Given the large size of the area, hiking, camping, and horseback riding would necessarily be outstanding because of the amazing opportunities for solitude available. Pronghorn are abundant in the area, providing many hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Recent detailed inventory has shown that in fact, the Keg Springs Roadless Area provides outstanding opportunities for not only those activities mentioned above, but in addition,

opportunities for observing wild horse behavior, birding, botany, herpetology, natural history study, photography, geology, exploration of ancient cultural sites, orienteering, and tracking.

The Keg Springs Roadless Area has numerous supplemental values. The rimrock area in the Keg Springs Valley, as well as in The Dipper, Hidden Spring Canyon, and other canyons, provides excellent nesting opportunity for raptors, including golden eagles and red tail hawks. Four groups of 7-11 pronghorn were observed on an October inventory trip, and deer and wild horses have also been observed.

This area was not recommended for WSA designation based on the original determination that the area did not contain outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude. We have documented that the Keg Springs Roadless Area meets the size and naturalness criteria, and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation as well as numerous supplemental values. This area should be designated as a wilderness study area.

FORM 2**Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics**Area Unique Identifier OR-015-057B Acreage 31,501

1. Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below.)

Yes X No _____

Unit 1-57B is bounded on the north side by Matties Ark Road (7175-OO) and Matties Ark – Foster Flat Road (8238-OO). On the west side the unit is bounded by Orejana Canyon Road (7165-OO). The south side of the unit is bounded by Balls Lake Road (7165-CO), Sand Valley Augustine Road (8241-OO), and private lands. The east side of the unit is bounded by private lands, Clover Swale Road (8239-OO), and the Warm Spring Reservoir Road (8238-BO).

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

1980 Assessment:

Naturalness: Subunit 1-57B contains 12 water developments, primarily located in the canyon bottoms at scattered locations. As the developments are quite dispersed, they remain substantially unnoticeable. The unit contains approximately 17 miles of defined vehicle ways. The ways north of Balls Lake and along and in Dudes Canyon present noticeable intrusions because of their locations within the particular landscapes and the amounts of use. The subunit also contains approximately 11 miles of fence line that remains substantially unnoticeable. There are some localized detractions from naturalness, but the subunit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

2002 ONDA Submittal:

The Keg Springs Roadless Area has remained in a basically natural condition, especially units 2-58, 1-57A, 1-159, and 2-94B, as stated in BLM's intensive inventory of November 1980 (pp. 135, 49, 114, 198). The few man-made reservoirs and wells remain peripheral and not substantially noticeable. The area continues to generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

2003 BLM Evaluation of ONDA's Proposal:

Naturalness: The interdisciplinary team (IDT) found that the western, southern, and northern portions of the area evaluated appear to be natural. The southeastern portion is heavily developed and not natural.

2017 Evaluation:

The unit is characterized by a gently rolling landscape with a southern and eastern slope, covered in sagebrush and grasses. Deep drainages run through the unit creating canyons with jagged rimrock edges. Unnatural features in the unit include: 67 acres of seedings, 13 waterholes, 10 reservoirs, 30.7 miles of interior vehicle ways, and 6 miles of interior fence lines. The unnatural features are substantially unnoticeable. The unit appears to be in a natural condition.

3. Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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 _____

1980 Assessment:

Subunit 1-57B Solitude: The majority of the acreage in the subunit is flat sagebrush uplands offering a relatively poor opportunity to experience solitude. The canyons in the unit provide greater isolation from others in the unit. They also tend to be concentrated use areas and generally lack features that would separate parties from one another, such as great distances or strong topographic relief. The subunit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude because of these constraints.

2002 ONDA Submittal:

ONDA found that the large size of the unit they assessed contributed greatly to opportunities for solitude. The unit they describe includes lands east of the unit under consideration in this document. This unit (1-57) meets the size criteria, therefore their comment is appropriate in this instance as well. ONDA found that the deep canyons and drainages created outstanding opportunities for solitude.

2003 BLM Evaluation of ONDA's Proposal:

Opportunities for Solitude: The IDT found that the area evaluated may contain opportunities for solitude, but they are not outstanding. Most of the proposed WSA is flat to rolling topography with low vegetation. Small canyons provide some isolation, but they are concentrated use areas and generally lack great distances or topographic relief that would separate parties.

2017 Evaluation:

This unit is characterized by a sagebrush dominant upland with drainages that provide topographic relief to the landscape. Opportunities for solitude are available throughout the unit due to the topography created by the drainages. Vegetative screening consists of low sagebrush and grasses in this unit; however, the deep canyons provide miles of opportunities of topographic relief to seek solitude and escape the sights and sounds of modern civilization. For these reasons, the unit is found to have outstanding opportunities for solitude.

4. Does the area (or the remainder of the area 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 X No _____ N/A _____

1980 Assessment:

Subunit 1-57B Recreation: The subunit offers potential for hunting and wildlife observation. The canyons would offer values for hiking and sightseeing. The lack of water or aquatic habitat limits recreation values in the majority of the area. The unit does not offer any outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

2002 ONDA Submittal:

ONDA describes various types of unconfined recreation available to visitors. These include: observing wild horse behavior, birding, botany, herpetology, natural history study, photography, geology, exploration of ancient cultural sites, orienteering and tracking, in addition to the usual hiking, hunting, horseback riding activities. ONDA says in their submittal that the opportunities to participate in these activities are outstanding.

2003 BLM Evaluation of ONDA's Proposal:

Opportunities for Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: The IDT found that the area evaluated may contain opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, but they are not outstanding.

2017 Evaluation:

The canyons and drainages create areas where visitors may pursue their activities in a dry desert environment. This unit contains opportunities for a wide assortment of primitive and unconfined types of activities. Examples include hiking, camping, hunting, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, and many others. Dispersed camping opportunities and the absence of developed facilities such as trails contribute to the recreation opportunities found in this unit. For these reasons, the opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are found to be outstanding.

5. Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value)?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

1980 Assessment:

None known.

2002 ONDA Submittal:

The Keg Springs Roadless Area has numerous supplemental values. The rimrock area in the Keg Springs Valley, as well as in The Dipper, Hidden Spring Canyon, and other canyons provide excellent nesting opportunity for raptors, including golden eagles and red tail hawks. Four groups of 7-11 pronghorn were observed on an October inventory trip, and deer and wild horses have also been observed.

2003 BLM Evaluation of ONDA's Proposal:

The BLM did not find outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive types of recreation. Therefore, they did not seek out supplemental values.

2017 Evaluation:

Supplemental values for this unit include Sage Grouse leks, Pygmy Rabbit habitat, and archeology sites.

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: OR-015-057B

Results of Analysis:

This unit meets the size criteria and appears to be in a natural condition. The unit is characterized by a gently rolling landscape with a southern and eastern slope, covered in sagebrush and grasses. Deep drainages run through the unit creating canyons with jagged rimrock edges. Unnatural features in the unit include 67 acres of seedings, 13 waterholes, 10 reservoirs, 30.7 miles of interior vehicle ways, and 6 miles of interior fence lines. The unnatural features are substantially unnoticeable.

This unit is a sagebrush dominant upland with drainages that provide topographic relief to the landscape. Opportunities for solitude are available throughout the unit due to topography created by the drainages. Vegetative screening is not outstanding in this unit; however, the deep canyons provide miles of opportunities in the topographic relief to seek solitude and escape the sights and sounds of modern civilization. For these reasons, the unit is found to have outstanding opportunities for solitude.

The topography of the unit contributes greatly to opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Dispersed camping, an absence of recreational facilities, the personal challenge of a dry landscape, and a wide array of potential opportunities creates outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

* 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 1610.5-3.

There are supplemental features in this unit. These features include: Sage-grouse leks, Pygmy Rabbit habitat, and archeological sites.

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

Check One:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

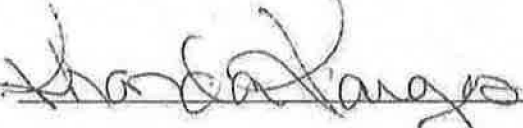
The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (Team Members):

Tom Wilcox – Wilderness Specialist Burns District
Chris Bishop – Outdoor Recreation Planner Lakeview District

Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):


Name: **Rhonda Karges** Title: **Field Manager, Andrews Resource Area**

Signature:  Date: 12/20/17

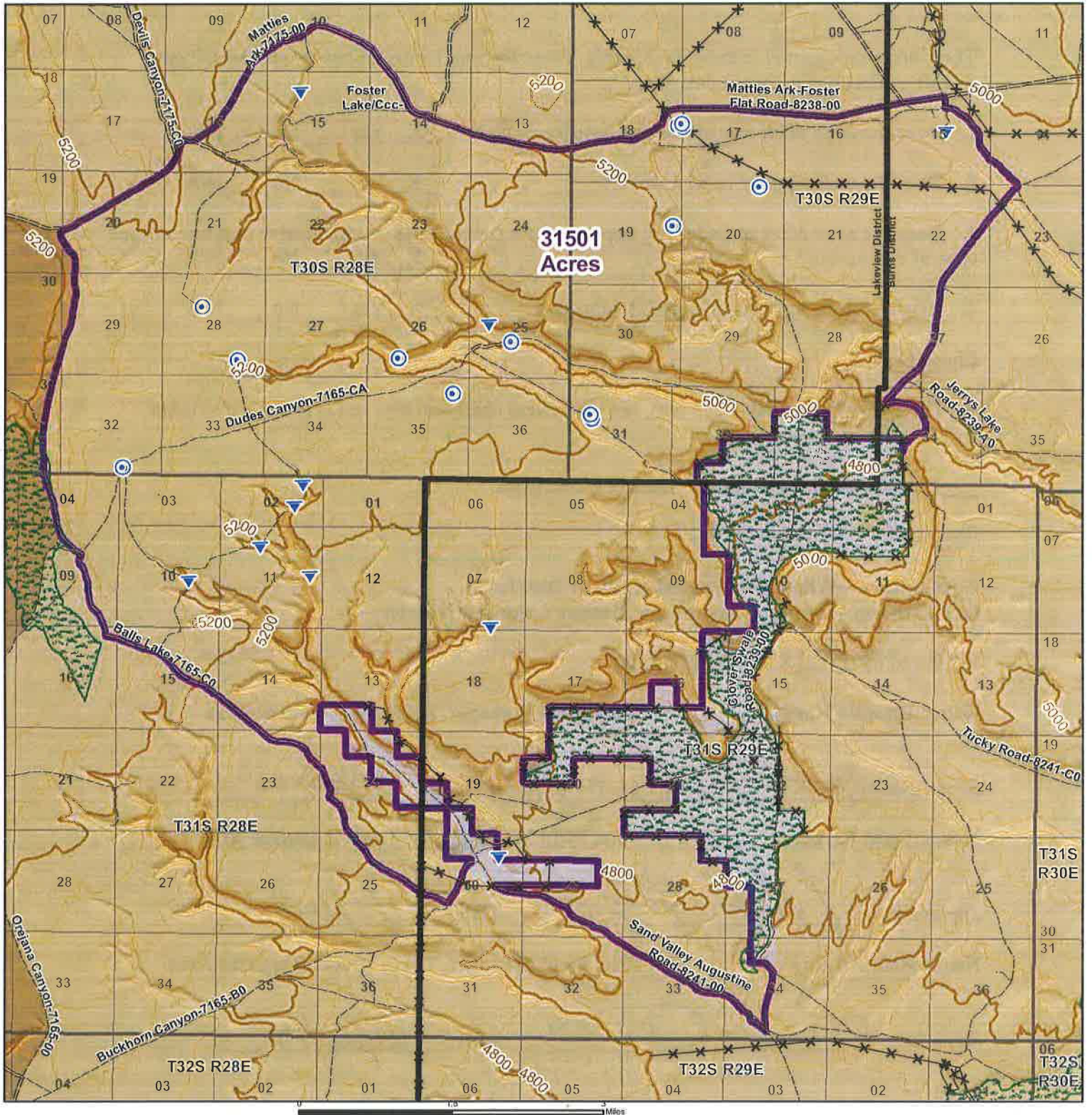
Name: **Todd Forbes** Title: **Field Manager, Lakeview Resource Area**

Signature:  Date: 1/3/2018

Name: **Richard Roy** Title: **Field Manager, Three Rivers Resource Area**

Signature:  Date: 12/20/17

OR-015-057B Robinson Lake Wilderness Characteristics Unit Map



- (Draft) Unit Boundary
- Reservoir
- Waterhole
- Fence
- Seeding
- Natural Surface
- Primitive or Unknown Surface
- Burns-Lakeview BLM District Boundary
- Land Administration**
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Privately Owned
 - BLM Wilderness Study Area

Boundary Roads - 24.2 Miles
 Interior Routes - 30.7 miles
 Interior Fences - 6 Miles
 Seedings - 67 Acres
 Reservoirs - 10
 Waterholes - 13



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 Bureau of Land Management
 Burns District, Oregon
 Note: No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of this 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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