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NOVEMBER 2008

OR-054-013/ Priest Hole Inventory Unit

**2008 John Day Basin Wilderness Character Evaluation Form**

**Wilderness Character Evaluation For: OR-054-013/ Priest Hole Inventory Unit**

**1. Previous BLM wilderness inventory?**

No  Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Partial \_\_\_\_\_

a) Inventory Source: \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s):

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Unit#/ Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Note:** A portion of this area was included in the Sutton Mountain Roadless Area review completed by the Central Oregon Resource Area, Prineville District BLM, in 1994. It was dropped from further review at that time, and was not carried forward to a wilderness inventory process.

**2. New Wilderness Characteristic Review**

Private Recommendation: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  by? \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Results of BLM Analysis: (separate by subunit if appropriate)

Unit#/ Name	Size (acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N/NA	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N/NA	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N/NA	Supplemental Values? Y/N/NA
OR-054-013 Priest Hole Subunit A (Upland)	1,918	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## OR-054-013/ Priest Hole Inventory Unit

OR-054-013 Priest Hole Subunit B (River)	2,351	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
OR-054-013 Priest Hole Subunit C (Bridge Creek)	289	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Conclusion  
Check One:

Area reviewed lacks sufficient size and does not meet one of the exceptions for small size.

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

The area does not have wilderness character.

(1) Describe current conditions: (Include boundary features, land ownership, size, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities).

The inventory unit is located in Wheeler County, Oregon, approximately 12 miles northwest of the town of Mitchell, and 4 miles west of the community of Twickenham. The unit is bordered on the north by private land, on the west by Wheeler County maintained gravel road (Burnt Ranch Road), on the south by a Wheeler County maintained gravel road (Twickenham-Burnt Ranch Road) and on the east by private lands. The unit is split into three (3) subunits by a BLM maintained natural surface road (BLM Road # 7559 Priest Hole Road), which provides access to Priest Hole Recreation Site from each of the county roads. The three subunits that remain, A (Upland) at 1,918 acres, B (River) at 2,351 acres, and C (Bridge Creek) at 289 acres, each lack sufficient size to be considered as wilderness, and do not meet one of the exceptions for small size.

**Location of Unit A:** Portions of or all public Lands in T 10 S., R 20 E., Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14

**Location of Unit B:** Portions of or all public lands in T 10 S., R 20 E., Section 1; T 9 S., R 20 E., Section 36; T 9 S., R 21 E., Sections 28, 29, 30, 31, 32.

**Location of Unit C:** Portions of or all public Lands in T 10 S., R 20 E., Section 2.

OR-054-013/ Priest Hole Inventory Unit

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ NA X

Describe:

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

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ NA X

Description:

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

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ NA X

Description:

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ NA X

Description:



OR-054-013/ Priest Hole Inventory Unit

**Prepared by:**

Team Members: (Names, Titles, Date)

Initial Review Aug. 14, 2007 by: Heidi Mottl (Recreation/Wilderness), Teal Purrington (NEPA/Planning), Dorothy Thomas (GIS), Anna Smith (Hydrology), Mike Tietmeyer (Range), Dan Tippy (Assistant Field Manager), Rick Demmer (Riparian), Monte Kuk (Wildlife), Robert Vidourek (Forestry), Mike Williams (Planning), Berry Phelps (Recreation), Craig Obermiller (Range), John Morris (Fish), Dana Cork (Transportation), Christina M. Welch (Field Manager), Don Tschida (Fire), Gavin Hoban (GIS), John Zancanella (Cultural), JoAnne Armson (Plants).

Realty/Mineral Records researched by Timothy Finger, BLM Wilderness Specialist on detail from Richland, UT, October, 2008.

**Approved by:**

Christina M. Welch  
Field Manager

Oct. 31, 2007  
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.*

OR-054-013/ Priest Hole Inventory Unit

PURPOSE:

This addendum provides signatory authority across gaps in supervisory oversight in the preparation process.

DISCUSSION:

Further study has been conducted to validate the findings approved by the original signator, Christina Welch. As the new Field Manger for the Resource Area and Ms. Welch's replacement I have been briefed by the specialists assigned on the contents and underlying rationale for the findings contained in this document. I approve these findings with my signature below.

APPROVED BY:

  
SIGNATURE

Thursday, July 08, 2010

**John Day Basin RMP Road Analysis Form**

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road for wilderness inventory purposes.)

**Wilderness Inventory Area Name and Number (UNIT\_ID):** Priest Hole/OR-054-013

**Route Name and/or Identifier:** Priest Hole Road/ BLM Road # 7559

**I. LOCATION:** Please refer to attached map and BLM corporate data (GIS). Route begins in T 10 S., R 20 E., Section 12, at its intersection with Wheeler County Twickenham-Burnt Ranch Road, heads north to the John Day River, then west where it intersects with Wheeler County Burnt Ranch Road in T 10 S, R 20 E., Section 2.

**II. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE:** This route provides access to Priest Hole Recreation Site and other recreation access points along the John Day River. It also provides access to range/livestock improvements (spring development, fences), to agricultural fields, irrigation diversions, and a small sliver of private land.

**III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:**

Yes  No  Unknown

**IV. CONSTRUCTION**

Yes  No

Examples:

Paved  Bladed  Graveled  Roadside Berms   
Cut/Fill  Other

**V. IMPROVEMENTS**

Yes  No

By Hand Tools  By Machine

Culverts  Stream Crossings  Bridges  Drainage  Barriers  Other   
X - Two Cattle Guards

OR-054-013/ Priest Hole Inventory Unit

**VI. MAINTENANCE:**

A. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

Hand Tools \_\_\_(Y/N)\_\_\_\_\_ Machine  Yes (Y/N)\_\_\_\_\_

Explain: **See BLM FAMS data in reference section. Is the route scheduled to receive maintenance?** No

B. If route is in good condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM in the event this route became impassable?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:**

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

**VIII. CONCLUSION:**

To meet the definition of a road, items IV or V, *and* VI-A or B, *and* VII must be checked yes.

Road: Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation: FAMS Maintained Road.

Evaluator(s):  Heidi Mottl  Date:  9/30/07

\* **road:** An access route which has been **improved and maintained by mechanical means** to insure **relatively regular and continuous use**. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

a. **“Improved and maintained”** – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. **“Mechanical means”** – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. **“Relatively regular and continuous use”** – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims.



## OK-054-013/ Priest Hole Inventory Unit

### REFERENCES

#### 1. Realty program

- a. Master Title Plats  
T 10 S., R 20 E.,  
T 9 S., R 21 E
- b. Executive Order (07/2/1910)
- c. BLM LRM 2000 Record data.

#### 2. Mineral Program

Public Law 167 (July 23, 1955). Restriction of use of Unpatented Mining Claims.  
43 CFR 3710  
BLM Oil and gas Leases 9/5/2001, 3/3/1999.

#### 3. GIS Program

USGS National Map project  
BLM GIS data  
BLM Lower John Day River public lands map, June 1991

#### **The BLM has identified the following man-made features:**

**Subunit A:** Several active mining claims exist in T. 10 S., R. 20 E., Section 1 and 2. A seasonal unmaintained vehicle route, approximately 1.5 miles long, leaves the County Rd. in Section 12 and heads up to the high point of the subunit, overlooking the John Day River. A wildlife guzzler is located in Section 11. Approximately 2 miles of fencing runs east-west through Sections 1 and 2. Fencing runs along the edge of the Twickenham-Burnt Ranch County Road.

**Subunit B:** A developed recreation site is located at Priest Hole on the John Day River, including a concrete vault toilet, a bulletin board with boater registration station, and a primitive boat ramp. Two seasonal unmaintained vehicle routes, about ½ mile each, leave the County Road and head up to high points overlooking the river. A developed spring is located in Section 1. Fencing runs along the edge of the Twickenham-Burnt Ranch County Road. A 50 acre material pit in Section 2 adjacent to Burnt Ranch Rd. has been leased to Wheeler County.

**Subunit B and C:** Agricultural fields in each of these subunits are being leased out for farming. An irrigation point of diversion and associated water pump and piping are located along the river in each subunit. A wooden power line comes in from the Burnt Ranch County Road to feed the irrigation pumps. There is fencing associated with each agricultural field. There is an Executive Order (07/21/1910) establishing an approximately 720 acre portion of these units as a potential power site reserve.

## OR-054-013/ Priest Hole Inventory Unit

### **Team Comments – 8/14/07:**

**Dana-**There is a BLM maintained road to Priest Hole Recreation Site.

**Heidi-** There is a county road on southern boundary and a powerline ROW that bisects it. Priest hole has a developed recreation site and a dispersed launch site.

**Zancanella-**There are a couple of wildlife guzzlers.











**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
CASE RECORDATION  
(MASS) Serial Register Page**

Run Time 04:04 PM

Page 1 of 1

Run Date: 06/24/10

**01 08-27-1958;072STAT0892;23USC107(D)**  
**Case Type 282102: MATERIAL SITES(SEC 107)**  
**Commodity 971: NON-ENERGY FACILITIES**  
**Case Disposition: AUTHORIZED**

**Total Acres**  
**50.000**

**Serial Number**  
**OROR-- - 061529**

**Serial Number: OROR-- - 061529**

Name & Address			Int Rel	% Interest
WHEELER COUNTY ROAD	COURTHOUSE	FOSSIL OR 97830	HOLDER	100.000000000

**Serial Number: OROR-- - 061529**

Mer Twp	Rng	Sec	SType	SNr Suff	Subdivision	District/Resource Area	County	Mgmt Agency
33 0100S	0200E	011	ALIQ		W2:	PRINEVILLE CENTRAL ORE	WHEELER	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT

**Serial Number: OROR-- - 061529**

Act Date	Code	Action	Action Remark	Pending Office
05/16/2005	124	APLN RECD		
07/21/2005	307	ROW GRANTED-ISSUED		
07/21/2005	846	EXEMPT FROM COST RECOV		
07/21/2005	852	RENTAL EXEMPT		
07/21/2015	853	COMPL/REVIEW DUE DATE		
07/21/2035	763	EXPIRES		

**Serial Number: OROR-- - 061529**

Line Nr	Remarks
---------	---------

RUN TIME: 11:11 AM

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

RUN DATE: 06/03/2010

Input Parameters for MC Geographic Report

System Id = MC

Admin State = OR

Geo State =

Mer Twp Rng =

Section =

Mtrs = 33 0090S 0200E 036, 33 0090S 0210E 028, 33 0090S 0210E 029, 33 0090S 0210E 030, 33 0090S 0210E  
031, 33 0090S 0210E 032, 33 0100S 0200E 001, 33 0100S 0200E 002, 33 0100S 0200E 011, 33 0100S 0200E 012,  
33 0100S 0200E 013, 33 0100S 0200E 014

Adm Agency Begins With

Aliquot Part contains

Case Disp Txt = ACTIVE, CLOSED, PENDING, VOID

Total Rows Returned: 7

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PURPOSES NOT INTENDED BY BLM

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MINING CLAIM GEOGRAPHIC REPORT  
LIST OF MINING CLAIMS BY SECTION

MER TWP RNG SEC  
33 0090S 0210E 030

*Private Land*

<u>Serial Num</u>	<u>Quad</u>	<u>Claim Name/Number</u>	<u>Claimant(s)</u>
<del>ORMC26159</del>	<del>NE</del>	<del>ANGEL WING</del>	<del>SORRELLS HUGHL</del>

<u>Lead File</u>	<u>Case Type</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Loc Dt</u>	<u>Last Assessment</u>
<del>ORMG26159</del>	<del>384101</del>	<del>CLOSED</del>	<del>08/01/1976</del>	<del>1979</del>

MER TWP RNG SEC  
33 0100S 0200E 001

<u>Serial Num</u>	<u>Quad</u>	<u>Claim Name/Number</u>	<u>Claimant(s)</u>
ORMC156652	SW	JOHN DAY OVERLOOK	ARP CHRISTOPHER E
ORMC156652	SW	JOHN DAY OVERLOOK	CYPHERS JEFF

<u>Lead File</u>	<u>Case Type</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Loc Dt</u>	<u>Last Assessment</u>
ORMC156650	384101	ACTIVE	04/05/2002	2010
ORMC156650	384101	ACTIVE	04/05/2002	2010

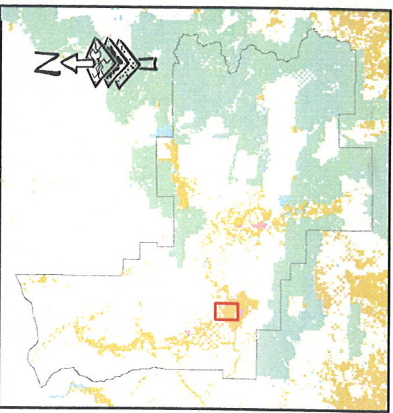
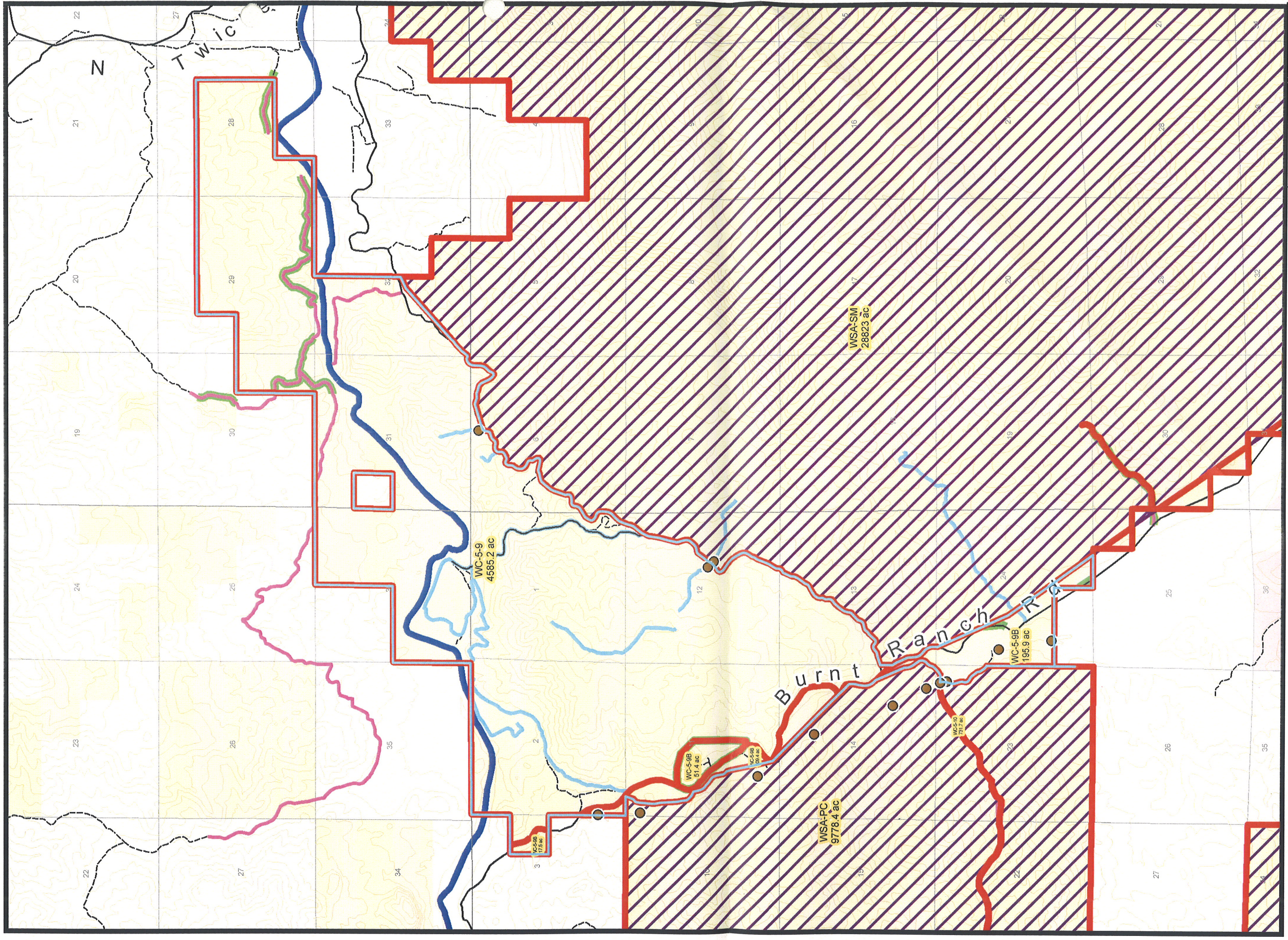
MER TWP RNG SEC  
33 0100S 0200E 002

<u>Serial Num</u>	<u>Quad</u>	<u>Claim Name/Number</u>	<u>Claimant(s)</u>
ORMC154862	SE	JOHN DAY OVERLOOK	ARP CHRISTOPHER E
ORMC154862	SE	JOHN DAY OVERLOOK	CYPHERS JEFF
ORMC155357	SE	BYRDS POINT OUTLOOK	ARP CHRISTOPHER E
ORMC156651	SE	BYRDS POINT OVERLOOK	ARP CHRISTOPHER E

<u>Lead File</u>	<u>Case Type</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Loc Dt</u>	<u>Last Assessment</u>
	384101	CLOSED	08/20/1999	2001
	384101	CLOSED	08/20/1999	2001
	384101	CLOSED	07/21/2000	2001
ORMC156650	384101	ACTIVE	04/05/2002	2010







### WC-5-9 WILDERNESS CHARACTER INVENTORY

**Public Access - Interim Designations**

- US County, State and Local Roads
- Interstate Highway
- US Highway
- State Highway
- County Road
- Municipal Road
- Forest Service Roads
- BLM Maintained Roads
- BLM Private
- Admin Use Only
- Build New Road
- BLM Maintained Roads
- Easement
- Right of Way
- Unknown Status

**Public Access - Interim Designations**

- Rivers
- Corrals
- Mineral Resources
- Water Points
- Fences
- Powerlines
- Treatments

**Selected Inventory Unit**

- Inventory Unit
- Wilderness Study Areas
- BLM
- US Forest Service
- National Park Service
- State
- Private or Unaffiliated
- FS roadless areas
- FS Wilderness

**Legend**

- Culvert
- Gate
- Sign
- Natural Barrier
- Cattle Guard
- Ford
- End of Road
- Pipe
- Washout

0.0 0.2 0.4 Miles

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Land Management  
PRINEVILLE DISTRICT  
5030 NE Third Street  
Prineville, OR 97754  
(541) 416-6700

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