

Wilderness Character
Evaluation:
Cottonwood Creek

OR-054-028



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
PRINEVILLE DISTRICT
3050 NE Third Street
Prineville, OR 97754

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R 27 E

R 26 E

R 25 E

January 2009

OR-054-028/ Cottonwood Creek Inventory Unit

2008 John Day Basin Wilderness Character Evaluation Form

Wilderness Character Evaluation For: OR-054-028/ Cottonwood Creek Inventory Unit

1. Previous BLM wilderness inventory?

No _____ Yes _____ Partial X

a) Inventory Source: Bureau of Land Management, OR/WA Wilderness Review Initial Inventory Final Decision, August 1979.

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): OR-2-110 / Cottonwood Creek, OR-5-12 / Canyons

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): 1979 Final Decision- Initial Wilderness Inventory (Map incorrect)

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): (OR-2-110) Burns District Office (District boundaries were later changed and these lands became part of the Prineville District, Central Oregon Resource Area.) (OR-5-12) Prineville District Office.

Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
OR-2-110 Cottonwood Creek	5,460	Y	N	N	Y
OR-5-12 Canyons	840	Y	Y	N	N/A

2. New Wilderness Characteristic Review

Private Recommendation: Yes X by? ONDA Date 12/15/2006
Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) submitted these lands as a portion of its Cottonwood Creek Proposed WSA, received by the Prineville BLM on December 15, 2006.

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	Supplemental Values? Y/N/NA
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OR-054-028/ Cottonwood Creek Inventory Unit

				Recreation? Y/N/NA	
OR-054-28 Cottonwood Creek - Subunit A (Cottonwood Basin)	5,237	No – some portions Yes - most	No – most portions Yes – small portion	No – most portions Yes – small portion	Y
OR-054-28 Cottonwood Creek - Subunit B (Battle Creek)	1,954	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
OR-054-28 Cottonwood Creek - Subunit C (Tennessee Gulch)	1,538	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
OR-054-28 Cottonwood Creek - Subunit D (Day Basin)	835	Yes	Yes	Yes	Y
OR-054-28 Cottonwood Creek - Subunit E (McNulty Basin)	2,735	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).

OR-054-028/ Cottonwood Creek Inventory Unit

The inventory unit is located in Grant County and Wheeler County, Oregon, approximately 2 miles west of the town of Dayville. The unit is bordered on the north and west by private land, on the east by private lands and a Grant County paved road (South Fork John Day Road), and on the south by a combination of USFS Ochoco National Forest Roadless Area, State Lands, and private lands. The location is described as portions of or all public lands in T. 13 E., R. 25 E., Sections 12, 13, 14, 23, 24; T. 12 S., R. 26 E., Sections 32, 33, 34, 35; and T. 13 S., R. 26 E., Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29

Original Inventory

The lands in the 2007 inventory include lands previously inventoried in 1979-1980 for their wilderness characteristics under Section 603 of FLPMA, and some lands that were not previously inventoried.

In August 1979, the initial BLM OR/WA Wilderness Inventory effort addressed the lands in 2007 Subunits A (1979 Unit OR-2-110) and D (1979 Unit OR-5-12). The lands in 2007 Subunits B, C, and E were not previously inventoried because they were considered to be too small in size to meet wilderness review requirements.

The 1979 initial inventory for Unit OR-2-110 (2007 Subunit A) found the area to be in a relatively natural condition, but to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation:

“Although the unit appears to be in a relatively natural condition, it does not offer outstanding opportunities of solitude or recreation” “....The unit’s topography includes drainages which are relatively short and narrow. A few of these drainages are timbered but the opportunities they provide for solitude and primitive recreation are less than outstanding. The gentle slopes and open ridges found throughout the remainder of the unit contain low to moderate vegetative screening and do not provide any outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.”

The Final Intensive Inventory Decisions in November 1980 dropped 5,145 acres within the Cottonwood Creek Inventory Unit from further study.

The 1979 Unit OR-5-12 (2007 Subunit D) was originally inventoried despite its small size, because it was adjacent to a USFS RARE II Area (#6220). OR-5-12 also included a separate parcel in Back Creek and the two parcels totaled 840 acres. The initial inventory provided the following rationale for the decision not to carry this unit forward to the intensive inventory stage:

“Although this area is generally affected primarily by the forces of nature, the size of this inventory unit would seriously restrict any attempts to experience outstanding opportunities of solitude or outstanding primitive and unconfined types of recreation within its boundaries.”

OR-054-028/ Cottonwood Creek Inventory Unit

“This inventory unit is situated along the U.S. Forest Service boundary which was being considered for wilderness potential #6220), but was not recommended for wilderness designation.”

Description of Current Conditions

The unit is split into five subunits by two constructed, BLM-maintained natural surface roads that travel from U.S. Highway 26 in a general southerly direction through the unit, Cottonwood Creek Road and Battle Creek Road. The five subunits include:

Subunit A- Cottonwood Basin (5,237 acres). This subunit includes all of the public lands contained in previous initial inventory as Unit 2-110 (Cottonwood Creek). The subunit is bordered on the east by BLM FAMS Road # 6206 Battle Creek Road, private lands and state lands, on the west by BLM FAMS Road # 7546 Cottonwood Creek Road and private lands, on the south by the U.S. Forest Service Cottonwood Creek Roadless Area, and on the north by private lands.

Subunit B- Battle Creek (1,954 acres). Subunit B was not previously inventoried during the initial inventory effort. The subunit is bordered on the west by BLM FAMS Road # 6206 Battle Creek Road, and on all other sides by private lands.

Subunit C- Tennessee Gulch (1,538 acres). Subunit C was not previously inventoried during the initial inventory effort. The subunit is bordered on the west and south by sections of the BLM FAMS Road # 7546 Cottonwood Creek Road which is also a road ROW (OR 53549) and private lands, and elsewhere by private lands.

Subunit D- Day Basin (835 acres). This subunit includes a portion of the public lands contained in the previous initial inventory as Unit 5-12 (Canyons Rare II area). The subunit is bordered on the north by BLM FAMS Road # 7546 Cottonwood Creek Road which is also a road ROW (OR 53549) and private lands, on the south by the U.S. Forest Service Cottonwood Creek Roadless Area, and elsewhere by private lands.

Subunit E- McNulty Basin (2,735 acres). Subunit E was not previously inventoried during the initial inventory effort. The subunit is bordered on the west by BLM FAMS Road # 6206 Battle Creek Road, on the south and east by a combination of state lands and private lands, and elsewhere by private lands.

Subunits B, C, and E lack sufficient size to be considered as wilderness under current BLM Wilderness Inventory direction, and do not meet one of the exceptions for small size, therefore these subunits will not be discussed further in this inventory report.

Subunit A and Subunit D meet the size requirements and are described below:

Subunit A - Cottonwood Basin:

This subunit is generally located between Cottonwood Creek Road on the west and Battle Creek Road on the east. It is bordered elsewhere by private lands except along its southern boundary, which is the USFS Cottonwood Creek Roadless Area. There is a 40 acre private land inholding

OR-054-028/ Cottonwood Creek Inventory Unit

in T. 13 S., R. 26 E., Section 17 which is completely surrounded by public lands. Additionally both the Battle Creek Road and the Cottonwood Creek Road also cut small portions of the subunit into isolated parcels which lack the size requirements. Please see the attached map for details. The lands are grazed under commercial permits from BLM under Allotment # 4049, Allotment # 4163 and Allotment # 4076.

Subunit D - Day Basin:

This subunit is bordered on the south by a USFS Cottonwood Creek Roadless Area. The rest of the boundary is either private lands or a segment of the Cottonwood Creek Road. The topography consists of draws draining from the north slopes of the Ochoco Mountains, varying from 10% to 60%. There are two patches of timber in separate draws. The timber stands are predominantly Ponderosa and Douglas Fir. The rest of the subunit is rangeland consisting of sagebrush, juniper and bunch grasses. Wildlife populations found in the subunit are those common to the region. The lands are grazed under a commercial permit from BLM under Allotment # 4131.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X – Some portions of Subunit A and all of Subunit D
NA _____

No X – Some of Subunit A

Describe:

Subunit A - Cottonwood Basin:

The 1979 initial wilderness inventory concluded that the lands within the current subunit were in a relatively natural condition at that time. However, the BLM staff on the current review identified a timber harvest area, with a motorized access route and log landing area, that has occurred on a portion of the subunit adjacent to the USFS land (located in T. 13 S., R 26 E., Section 28), which has degraded the natural condition on approximately 320 acres – the entire portion of public lands in Section 28. Juniper cuts have been conducted on portions of Sections 4, 5, 8 and 9 in T. 13 S., R. 26 E. There is a reservoir in T. 12 S., R 26 E., Section 4. The areas where the past timber harvest, juniper cuts, and the reservoir occur are no longer in a natural condition, while the BLM staff confirms that the rest of the subunit still is.

The BLM staff also located the remnants of a minor vehicle route in T. 13 S., 26 E., Section 29, which was constructed by mechanical means but which is not currently being used, has vegetation screening along its length and which is as a result, substantially unnoticeable. The BLM staff identified the existence of a motorized vehicle route in T. 12 S., R 26 E., Sections 32 and 33 which enters the subunit from the north and dead-ends. This route is substantially unnoticeable since it is not maintained other than by the random and occasional use it receives and it appears to have been constructed only by passage of vehicles. There are a number of range fences, but they are substantially unnoticeable.

Subunit D - Day Basin:

The 1979 initial wilderness inventory concluded that the lands within the current subunit were in a natural condition at the time. The BLM staff on this new inventory has not identified any man-made intrusions which are substantially noticeable, although there are minor human impacts (fences) from the authorized grazing program. There is also a minor vehicle route which crosses

OR-054-028/ Cottonwood Creek Inventory Unit

the subunit from the west to the south and which appears to receive random or minor use. This route was constructed solely by the passage of vehicles and is not maintained and is also not substantially noticeable.. There are a number of range improvements, chiefly fences, but they are substantially unnoticeable. The entire subunit is in a natural condition.

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

Yes X – A small portion of Subunit A and all of Subunit D No X – most of Subunit A
NA _____

Description:

Subunit A - Cottonwood Basin:

While actual use levels are believed to be very low, the long and linear configuration of the subunit, together with the topography and lack of vegetation screening over most of the area, result a lack of expectation of solitude. There is only a small portion of the subunit, immediately adjacent to the FS lands, which has enough topography and vegetation screening of an outstanding level. Views from most specific locations in the subunit elsewhere are expansive and cover most of the entire subunit. Any human activities in the majority of the subunit or on the Battle Creek Road boundary would attract the attention and affect the observation of a casual observer.

Subunit D - Day Basin:

The initial inventory considered that the opportunity for solitude was not outstanding on its own. However, when considered together with the adjacent Forest Service Road less Area, the subunit does have significantly more value. There is both vegetation and topography screening which runs seamlessly across the artificial administrative boundary and which increases the feeling of isolation and expectation of solitude. Actual use levels are unknown but are believed to be extremely low, as also noted in the initial inventory.

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

Yes X – A small portion of Subunit A and all of Subunit D No X – most of Subunit A
NA _____

Description:

Subunit A - Cottonwood Basin:

The majority of the subunit lacks outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation since there is no one quality or any great diversity of the landscape which could serve as an attraction. Hunting is occurring, but is not at an outstanding level. When considered in association with the adjacent USFS Roadless Area a small portion of the BLM inventory subunit possesses outstanding primitive recreational opportunities.

Subunit D - Day Basin:

The area, in consideration with the USFS adjacent Roadless Area, possesses outstanding recreational opportunities since the same opportunities are present across an artificial boundary with the same features present.

OR-054-028/ Cottonwood Creek Inventory Unit

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes X No NA

Description:

Subunit A - Cottonwood Basin:

The initial inventory identified the supplemental values of deer winter range and viewing off-site scenery. These values are still present today.

Subunit D - Day Basin:

The initial inventory identified the supplemental values of deer winter range and viewing off-site scenery. These values are still present today.

OR-054-028/ Cottonwood Creek 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-054-028/ Cottonwood Creek 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

OR-054-028/ Cottonwood Creek Inventory Unit

John Day Basin Wilderness Characteristics – PHOTO LOG
(modify form as needed)

Photographer(s): Heidi Mottl /Berry Phelps

Inventory Area Name & No.: **OR-054-028/ Cottonwood Creek Inventory Unit**

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UT M Location	Township	Range	Sec.
7/24/07	1	south	Closed route in Section 27				28
7/24/07	2	southeast	Skid trails from past timber harvest				28
7/24/07	2A	northesat	Old route heading northeast from old log landing				28
7/24/07	3	west	Standing in clearing created by timber harvest				28
7/24/07	4	south	Standing on Battle Ck Rd. looking south to Section 29				20
7/24/07	5	north	Looking north at juniper cut in drainage. Subunit A is left of road.				9
7/24/07	6	south	Juniper cut in drainage				9



#14 Closed Route in Section 27



#2 Looking SE at skid trails from past timber harvest



#2A Old route heading NE from old log landing



#3 Standing in clearing created by timber harvesting



#4 Looking South to Section 29

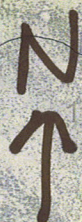


#5 Looking N at juniper cut in drainage. Subunit A is to left of road.



#6 Juniper Cut in drainage - section 9

Photo Points
(See Photo Log)



References

Realty Program–

- a. MTPs for T. 13 E., R 25 E., T. 12 S., R. 26 E., T. 13 S., R. 26 E.
- b. Case Files for ROWs (OR 53549), (OR 51263 – Expired), (OR 36573 – Expired?)
- c. Site Development Case File OR 26708

Mineral Program –

- a. Oil and Gas Lease review
- b. BLM LR 2000 Record

GIS Program –

- a. USGS National Map project
- b. BLM GIS data
- c. BLM Lower John Day River public lands map, June 1991
- d. Google Earth Commercial Mapping System, 2009

Other-

- a. Categorical Exclusion for Battle Creek Juniper Cut
- b. BLM FAMS Road System data sheet

Subunit A- Cottonwood Basin Subunit Team Comments – 8/14/07:

Mottl- The size was adequate, some unnatural features from logging on top. However, we didn't feel that you could find solitude and opportunity for primitive recreation because of the way the topography lays. See report from field review.

Phelps – Burns district inventory didn't find solitude or recreation – Brown Book p205 rationale still the same.

Mottl – Land is adjacent to Forest Service and roadless.

Morris- There might be an old cabin in there. Area has a lot of old juniper cuts.

Mottl- I want to take everyone to the top so we can see the view. BLM has an easement across it.

Subunit C - Tennessee Gulch Subunit Team Comments – 8/14/07:

Morris-A road separates it from the rest of the BLM in WC9-2-6, making it too small. It also has a road.

Subunit D - Day Basin Subunit Team Comments-8/14/07:

Welch- Land is contiguous to FS and roadless

No one has been there, might need investigation.

Private land owners may use lands piece without right of way.

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

Run Time 04:25 PM

Page 1 of 1

Run Date: 07/08/10

01 10-21-1976;090STAT2776;43USC1761
Case Type 281001: ROW-ROADS
Commodity 971: NON-ENERGY FACILITIES
Case Disposition: AUTHORIZED

Total Acres
3.000

Serial Number
OROR-- - 053549

Serial Number: OROR-- - 053549

Name & Address	Int Rel	% Interest
	PREVIOUS INT PARTY	0.000000000
	HOLDER/BILLEE	100.000000000

Serial Number: OROR-- - 053549

Mer Twp	Rng	Sec	STyp	SNr Suff	Subdivision	District/Field Office	County	Mgmt Agency
33	0130S	0250E 013	ALIQ		SWSW;	PRINEVILLE CENTRAL ORE	WHEELER	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0130S	0250E 014	ALIQ		SESE;	PRINEVILLE CENTRAL ORE	WHEELER	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0120S	0260E 032	ALIQ		W2W2;	PRINEVILLE CENTRAL ORE	GRANT	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0130S	0260E 007	ALIQ		N2NE;	PRINEVILLE CENTRAL ORE	GRANT	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT

Serial Number: OROR-- - 053549

Act Date	Code	Action	Action Remark	Pending Office
01/20/1997	124	APLN RECD		
01/23/1997	065	COST RECOV (MON) RECD	\$50;	
01/23/1997	840	CAT 1 COST RECOVERY-PROC		
01/23/1997	971	COST RECOV (PROC) RECD	\$125;	
03/21/1997	111	RENTAL RECEIVED	\$30.71;	
04/23/1997	307	ROW GRANTED-ISSUED		
04/23/1997	503	LENGTH IN MILES	1.25;	
04/23/1997	504	WIDTH IN FEET (TOTAL)	20;	
06/22/2006	111	RENTAL RECEIVED	\$1128.60;27	
06/22/2006	140	ASGN FILED		
06/22/2006	971	COST RECOV (PROC) RECD	\$100.00;1	
08/09/2006	139	ASGN APPROVED	VIGNERY;	
04/23/2017	853	COMPL/REVIEW DUE DATE		
04/23/2027	763	EXPIRES		

Serial Number: OROR-- - 053549

Line Nr	Remarks
0001	RENT PAID FOR LENGTH OF GRANT

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

Run Time 04:28 PM

Page 1 of 1

Run Date: 07/08/10

01 01-21-1895;028STAT0635;43USC956

Total Acres

Serial Number

Case Type 281100: TRAM & LOG ROAD-PUB LAND

0.240

OROR-- - 051263

Commodity 971: NON-ENERGY FACILITIES

Case Disposition: AUTHORIZED

Serial Number: OROR-- - 051263

Name & Address	Int Rel	% Interest
	HOLDER	100.000000000

Serial Number: OROR-- - 051263

Mer Twp	Rng	Sec	SType	SNr Suff	Subdivision	District/Field Office	County	Mgmt Agency
33 0120S	0260E	032	ALIQ		W2W2;	PRINEVILLE CENTRAL ORE	GRANT	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33 0130S	0260E	006	ALIQ		S2SE;	PRINEVILLE CENTRAL ORE	GRANT	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33 0130S	0260E	007	ALIQ		N2NE;	PRINEVILLE CENTRAL ORE	GRANT	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33 0130S	0260E	018	ALIQ		SESENW;	PRINEVILLE CENTRAL ORE	GRANT	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT

Serial Number: OROR-- - 051263

Act Date	Code	Action	Action Remark	Pending Office
08/30/1994	387	CASE ESTABLISHED		
09/19/1994	111	RENTAL RECEIVED		
09/20/1994	307	ROW GRANTED-ISSUED		
09/20/1994	503	LENGTH IN MILES	2;	
09/20/1994	504	WIDTH IN FEET (TOTAL)	20;	
12/31/1994	763	EXPIRES		

Serial Number: OROR-- - 051263

Line Nr	Remarks
0001	TO HAUL TIMBER

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

Run Time 04:29 PM

Page 1 of 1

Run Date: 07/08/10

01 10-21-1976;090STAT2781;43USC1767
Case Type 281007: ROW-ROADS FEDERAL FAC
Commodity 971: NON-ENERGY FACILITIES
Case Disposition: AUTHORIZED

Total Acres
8.930

Serial Number
OROR-- - 036572

Serial Number: OROR-- - 036572

Name & Address			Int Rel	% Interest
FS-CHOCO NF	PO BOX 490	PRINEVILLE OR 97754	HOLDING AGENCY	100.000000000

Serial Number: OROR-- - 036572

Mer Twp	Rng	Sec	STyp	SNr Suff	Subdivision	District/Field Office	County	Mgmt Agency
33	0130S	0260E	028	ALIQ	S2SWSW,SE:	PRINEVILLE CENTRAL ORE	GRANT	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT

Serial Number: OROR-- - 036572

Act Date	Code	Action	Action Remark	Pending Office
02/01/1983	124	APLN RECD		
04/29/1983	307	ROW GRANTED-ISSUED		
04/29/1983	500	GEOGRAPHIC NAME	BATTLE T.S. ;	
04/29/1983	502	LENGTH IN FEET	UNK;	
04/29/1983	504	WIDTH IN FEET (TOTAL)	66 ;	

Serial Number: OROR-- - 036572

Line Nr	Remarks

Cottonwood

Prineville District
Categorical Exclusion
Review and Approval

Name of Proposed Action: Battle Creek Juniper cut

CE Number: OR-^{054 004}~~05-04-005~~

Project or Serial Number: CORA 735215 (2824 JT MD96)

Location of Proposed Action: This project is located approximately 4 miles SW of Dayville, Oregon in Township 13S, Range 26E. Sections 4 and 9 (about 1 mile south of Nash Reservoir)

Purpose of and Need for Action:

Western juniper was traditionally confined, as a result of its natural susceptibility to wildfire, to the rocky outcroppings, cliffs and scab flats common to much of central Oregon. In the last two hundred years, potentially resulting from grazing practices, general climate change and alterations in the natural fire regime, western juniper has made its way down from canyon rims to interact with the vegetative, hydrologic and terrestrial systems of this region.

The majority of rangeland sites considered for treatment dominated by western juniper and the projects goal is to have a greater mix of ecological conditions throughout the area. Juniper cutting would increase desirable shrubs, grasses, and forbs while reducing the quantity of juniper. Habitat and vegetative diversity are expected to increase, leading to a corresponding increase in species richness. In the long term, increased vegetative diversity will also enhance the scenic quality of the region.

The purpose of this project is to cut western juniper in the Battle Creek area in order to 1) restore the health and diversity of the vegetation, 2) control the spread of western juniper, 3) reduce hazardous fuels, and 4) improve long-term hydrological regimes (water quality, flow, timing etc.) 5) in the long term reintroduce fire as a natural process in the ecosystem (and maintain the natural fire cycle in the future) in order to restore the ecosystem to a more healthy, better functioning state. The proposed action will also serve to improve watershed conditions by reducing the amount of bare ground and increasing grass cover and organic matter.

The movement of these areas toward their ecological site potential would improve wildlife habitat and diversity and assist in moving the areas toward fire cycles that could be maintained (Central Oregon Fire Plan [Chapter 3, pgs 3-6].

Description of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to cut, by chainsaw, approximately 150 acres of western juniper within prescribed fire unit A1 as delineated on the attached map. Cutting will occur in areas identified by the fuels specialist and district biologist and will consist of areas of Juniper trees not consumed by the prescribed fire. All juniper trees will be completely severed from the stump(s). No live limbs will be left on the stump of cut trees. Stump height will not exceed 10", measured on the uphill side. Juniper trees over 18" dbh or exhibiting "old growth" characteristics will not be cut. All Ponderosa pine, hardwoods, and snags (including juniper snags) will not be cut. Any trees with cultural significance or obvious wildlife occupation (i.e., cavities, bird nests) will not be cut.

Portions of some units may be seeded with a mixture of native grass and/or forb species prior to executing a cut. The areas to be seeded will be those that it is determined do not have enough understory vegetation to recover naturally. Seeding will aid in vegetative recovery and improve watershed health

Plan Conformance:

The above project has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with one or more of the following BLM plans:

Two Rivers RMP; ROD and RPS (1986)

Manage upland vegetation to achieve maximum wildlife habitat diversity (Page 10).

Upland vegetation will be managed through.....range/wildlife habitat development to provide maximum wildlife habitat diversity (Page 11).

Vegetative manipulation project will be designed to minimize wildlife habitat impacts and to improve habitat when possible (Page 11).

~~John Day RMP (1985)~~

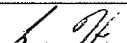
Improve and maintain vegetative condition to benefit vegetative condition to benefit livestock and wildlife. Maintain all existing improvements and continue existing activity plans. (page 12)

Categorical Exclusion Reference:

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further analysis or documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM2, Appendix 1, 1.12 (Fuels reduction). The application of this categorical exclusion is appropriate, as there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects which may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action would not create adverse environmental effects or trigger an exception. None of the following exceptions apply.

Exceptions to Categorical Exclusions Documentation:

The proposed action would not create adverse environmental effects under the CE exceptions, unless as noted. The proposed action will:

E Exception		YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety?			X
2. Have significant, adverse effects on unique geographic characteristics or features, or on special designation areas such as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; or prime farmlands. This also includes ecologically significant or critical areas, such as significant caves, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), National Monuments, Wilderness Study Areas, Research Natural Areas, and those listed on the National Register of Natural Landmarks?			X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects (40 CFR 1508.14)?			X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks?			X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?			X
6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but significant cumulative environmental effects, which include connected actions on private lands (40 CFR 1508.7 and 1508.25(a)?			X
7. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, which includes Native American religious or cultural sites, archaeological sites, or historic properties?			X
Cultural Clearance Initial			

<p>8. Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed as Federally Endangered or Threatened Species, or adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species? This includes impacts on BLM-designated sensitive species or their habitat. When a Federal listed species or its habitat is encountered, a Biological Evaluation (BE) shall document the effect on the species. The responsible official may proceed with the proposed action without preparing a NEPA document when the BE demonstrates either a “no affect” determination or a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” determination.</p>			X
T&E Clearances Initial	Wildlife	see 11/7/03	
	Fish	JDM 11/12/03	
	Plants	WML 11/7/03	
<p>9. Fail to comply with (Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management); (Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act?</p>			X
<p>10. Violate a Federal, State, Local, or Tribal law, regulation or policy imposed for the protection of the environment, where non-Federal requirements are consistent with Federal requirements?</p>			X
<p>11. Involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E)) not already decided in an approved land use plan?</p>			X
<p>12. Have disproportionate significant adverse impacts on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice)?</p>			X
<p>13. Restrict access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioner or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites)?</p>			X
<p>14. Have significant adverse effects on Indian Trust Resources?</p>			X
<p>15. Contribute to the introduction, existence, or spread of federally listed noxious weeds (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act); or invasive non-native species (Executive Order 13112, Invasive Species)?</p>			X
<p>16. Have a direct or indirect adverse impact on energy development, production, supply, and/or distribution (Executive Order 13212, Actions to Expedite Energy-Related Projects)?</p>			X

Documentation of Recommended Mitigation:

For any item checked "YES" identify the mitigating measures proposed. If an item is checked "YES" and no mitigation measures are proposed, the conditions for the CE cannot be met.

Item Number	Can Be Mitigated	Cannot Be Mitigated	Mitigation Measures
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Summary of Findings:

The proposed action would not create adverse environmental impacts or require the preparation of an EA or EIS under 516 DM 2, Appendix 1 or 516 DM 6, Appendix 5. The proposed action has been reviewed against the criteria for an exception to a categorical exclusion listed in 516 DM 2.3 A(3), or the additional criteria listed in Instruction Memorandum No. 99-178, the Lacey Act, as amended; the Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974; the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; EO 13112 on Invasive Species; EO 12898 on Environmental Justice; Clean Water Act of 1987; Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments to the Clean Water Act of 1996; EO 12088 on federal compliance with pollution control standards, as amended; EO 12589 on Superfund compliance; and EO dated July 14, 1982 on intergovernmental review of federal programs. In addition, this CE complies with IM 2002-053 on the Preparation of Statement(s) of Adverse Energy Impact.

Recommendation:

(Type any additional comments you may have here.)

Shawn Larson
Prepared By

AFMO
Title

11/10/03
Date

CE Determination:

The proposed action and any specified mitigation measure(s) has been determined to meet the criteria for a CE and does not fall under any of the CE exceptions. No additional environmental analysis required. All cultural, T&E plant, and T&E wildlife specialists have provided clearances for the proposed project. *(Initial exception list or provide survey report or waiver as an attachment.)*

Danny L. Dwyer
Reviewed By: Environmental Coordinator

Asst. Rd. Mgr.
Title

11/10/03
Date

Approval:

Based on a review of the proposal and field office staff recommendations, I approve of the project as proposed and mitigated:

Christine M. Welch CORA MANAGER
Approved By Title

NOVEMBER 12, 2003
Date

CORA FAM Roads

Route Name	Parent Eq. #	Seg.	Child Eq. #	Location T-R-Sec Aliquot	County	Length	Ave. Width	Surface Material	Maint. level	Use Period	Condition	DO Priority	Grade	Pull Ditches	Cut Brush	Clean Culverts	Cattle- Guards	Last Maint.	Other
6207 SF John Day	1392338	OO	1515160	14-26-12 NWSW	Grant	23.11	18	Aggregate	4	All year	Fair		2 x	x		x		2007	place aggregate - 2450 CY
				Total =		23.11													
6203 Franks-Holmes Cr.	1392334	OO	1515157	10-26-6 SENW	Grant	30.11	14	Natural - Grade/Drain	3	May-Oct	Good		3 26 mi	x				2007	
7569 NF John Day	1400528	OO	1517683	6-31-35 SESE	Umatilla	18.8	16	Natural - Grade/Drain	3	all year	FAIR		4 x	as need				2007	
7548 Old Logging Rd	1392510	OO	1515199	11-21-21 NENW	Wheeler	3.75	24	Natural - unimproved	3	May-Oct	FAIR							2007	
7559 Priest Hole	1392520	OO	1515203	10-20-02 SWSW	Wheeler	1.34	14	Natural - Grade/Drain	3	May-Oct	FAIR							2007	
6578 South Boundry	1392468	OO	1513041	16-20-34 NESE	Crook	22.11	16	Aggregate	3	Mar-Dec	Good		10 8 mi	as need				2007	
GI Ranch Road	MOU	to	maintain	23-22-10 NESW	Lake	7.5	20	Natural - Grade/Drain	3				8 x	as need				2007	
				Total =		83.61													
6203 Ridge RD	1392333	BO	1515156	11-26-12 NWNE	Grant	10.11	12	Natural - unimproved	2	May-Oct	Good								
6206 Battle Creek	1392335	OO	1512810	12-26-34 SWNE	Grant	8.11	10	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct	Fair								
6583 Un-named	1392476	OO	1515192	13-21-35 NWSE	Crook	2.5	10	Natural - unimproved	2	May-Oct	Fair								
7540 Squaw Creek	1392496	OO	1513460	11-26-30 NWSE	Grant	6.51	14	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct	Fair		5			*			*install roll dip @ double culverts
7542 Un-named	1392497	AE	1515194	11-25-8 NWSE	Wheeler	0.6	10	Natural - unimproved	2	May-Oct	Fair								
7542 Un-named	1392498	AO	1513461	11-25-3 NWNE	Wheeler	0.9	12	Natural - unimproved	2	May-Oct	Fair								
7542 Black Snag Spring	1392499	BO	1513462	10-25-34 NWSE	Wheeler	2.3	10	Natural - unimproved	2	May-Oct	Fair								
7542 Vortac	1392500	CO	1513463	10-25-33 SWSW	Wheeler	2.1	10	Natural - unimproved	2	May-Oct	Fair								
7542 Un-named	1392501	DO	1513464	10-25-33 NESW	Wheeler	0.4	10	Natural - unimproved	2	May-Oct	Fair								
7542 Un-named	1392502	EO	1515195	10-25-8 SENW	Wheeler	0.9	10	Natural - unimproved	2	May-Oct	Fair								
7542 McGinnis Cr	1392503	OO	1513465	11-25-17 NENW	Wheeler	5.11	12	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct	Fair								
7543 Un-named	1392504	AO	1515196	11-24-1 NWNW	Wheeler	0.3	10	Natural - unimproved	2	May-Oct	Fair								
7543 Un-named	1392505	BO	1515197	10-25-30 NESE	Wheeler	0.4	10	Natural - unimproved	2	May-Oct	Fair								
7543 Johnson Creek	1392506	OO	1513466	11-25-4 SWNE	Wheeler	3.61	10	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct	Fair								
7546 Cottonwood Creek	1392507	OO	1513467	12-26-29 SESW	Grant	6.05	10	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct	Poor								
7547 Un-named	1392508	AO	1515198	13-25-16 NWNW	Wheeler	1	10	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct	Poor								
7547 Birch Creek	1392509	OO	1513468	12-25-34 NENW	Wheeler	4.9	10	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct	Poor								
6207 Dear Creek	1392336	FO	1515158	16-27-7 SWSE	Grant	3.01	12	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct.	Fair								
6207 Indian Creek	1392337	HO	1515159	16-27-33 NWSW	Grant	4.46	14	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct.	Good								
6562 un-named	1392450	DO	1513028	19-23-7 NWSE	Crook	2.81	10	Natural - unimproved	2	May-Oct.	Poor								
6562 North End	1392451	OO	1513029	17-22-13 SWNW	Crook	4.7	10	Aggregate	2	May-Oct.	Good								
6562S South End	1392452	OO	1515185	19-23-21 NESE	Crook	3.41	10	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct.	Poor								
6564 Un-named	1392453	OO	1513030	17-24-22 NWSW	Crook	3.86	10	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct.	Fair								
7569 Skull Canyon Road	1400527	DO	1517682	6-29-3 SESE	Umatilla	1	14	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	all year	FAIR								
7549 Un-named	1392511	AO	1515200	11-21-14 NWNW	Wheeler	1.62	10	Natural - unimproved	2	May-Oct	FAIR								
7549 Meyers Canyon	1392512	OO	1515201	11-21-16 SENE	Wheeler	1.75	18	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct	FAIR								
7559 Un-named	1392519	BO	1515202	10-20-02 NWNE	Wheeler	2.52	14	Natural - unimproved	2	May-Oct	FAIR								
Clarno Homestead Road				7-19-32 NESW	Wasco	3	10	Natural - unimproved	2	May-Oct	Poor		12 x						Install Gate
6528 Stoffard Road	1392382	OO	1512973	23-22-7 SWNW	Lake	9.06	16	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct	Good								
6539 Un-named	1392407	AO	1512997	22-21-32 NESE	Deschutes	4.26	10	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct	Fair								
6539 Un-named	1392408	BA	1515173	23-20-10 SWNE	Lake	2.11	10	Natural - unimproved	2	May-Oct	Poor								
6539 Un-named	1392409	BO	1515174	23-20-11 NWSE	Lake	3.55	10	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct	Poor								
6539 Un-named	1392410	CO	1515175	23-21-20 NWNW	Lake	7.36	10	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct	Poor								
6539 Un-named	1392411	DO	1515176	23-21-22 NWNW	Lake	9.06	10	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct	Fair								
6539 Three Wells	1392412	OO	1512998	22-21-8 SESE	Deschutes	17.35	12	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct	Good								
6540 Un-named	1392413	AO	1512999	20-22-16 NENE	Crook	3.36	10	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct	Poor								
6540 Un-named	1392414	BO	1513000	23-22-25 SESE	Lake	4.56	10	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct	Fair								
6540 Un-named	1392415	CO	1513001	24-22-01 SENW	Lake	5.41	10	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct	Poor								
6540 Glass Buttes	1392416	OO	1513002	23-22-12 SWSW	Lake	9.11	12	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct	Good		9 6.5 miles						Upto Priv. Prop. T23-R22-S35
6545 Un-named	1392425	AO	1515179	21-21-34 SENW	Crook	1.6	10	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct	Poor								
6545 Un-named	1392426	OO	1513009	22-21-08 NWSW	Deschutes	11.85	10	Natural - Grade/Drain	2	May-Oct	Fair								