

Wilderness Character Evaluation: Big Canyon

OR-054-038



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
PRINEVILLE DISTRICT
3060 NE Third Street
Prineville, OR 97734
(541) 416-6700

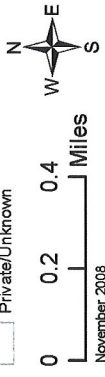
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T 14 S

Big Canyon
1157 acres

Malheur National Forest
McClellan Mountain
Roadless Area

- Legend**
- Wilderness Characteristics**
 - Yes
 - USFS Roadless Area
 - Administered Land**
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - U.S. Forest Service
 - Private/Unknown



R 28 E

R 29 E

2008 John Day Basin Wilderness Character Evaluation Form

Wilderness Character Evaluation For: OR-054-038/ Big Canyon Inventory Unit

1. Previous BLM wilderness inventory?

No _____ Yes X Partial _____

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

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): McClellan Mountain 2 / OR-2-101

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

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

Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
OR-2-101 McClellan Mountain 2	1200	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The area was dropped from further consideration as wilderness during the initial inventory phase. The initial inventory report found that the area was not of sufficient size and obviously and clearly did not have potential for wilderness.

2. New Wilderness Characteristic Review

Private Recommendation: Yes _____ No X 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-054-038 Big Canyon	1,157	Y	Y	Y	Y

OR-054-038/ Big Canyon Inventory Unit

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).

Location: The inventory unit is located in Grant County, Oregon, approximately 9 miles southwest of the town of Mount Vernon. It is bordered on the south and west sides by USFS Malheur National Forest Roadless Area, and on the north and east sides by private land. The unit is 1157 acres in size.

Location of Unit: All or portions of T. 14 S., R. 29 E., Sections 6, 7, 8.

Description: The Big Canyon Inventory Unit consists of the rocky termini of a long ridge which descends from Fields Peak (6900 feet), located on USFS land to the south of the unit. From the rocky ridge, steep, north-facing flanks drop down towards the John Day River valley. Two streams with steep canyons drop down from the ridge towards the valley; Big Canyon Creek and First Creek. The vegetation consists of grass on the ridge tops and the southwest-facing slopes and dense stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas fir on the north-facing slopes and in the canyons. It is believed that the unit contains the largest trees in the Central Oregon Resource Area of the Prineville District BLM.

Wildlife populations include mule deer, elk, mountain lion, bobcat, chukar, golden eagle, prairie falcon, California quail, meadowlarks and mountain bluebird.

No cultural inventories have been completed within the unit.

There are no known man-made improvements within the unit.

The Visual Resource Management Class of the unit is Class II.

The unit is authorized for commercial grazing under BLM permits (Allotments # 4095 and # 4109). The unit is accessible by foot or horseback from the USFS Roadless Area that borders the unit to the south and west. The nearest public road access is Grant County Fields Creek Road/USFS Road # 21 located one mile west of the unit. Recreation uses of the unit include big game hunting, hiking and horseback riding.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes ☒ No ☐ NA ☐

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Describe: Yes, there are no known man-made improvements within the unit.

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

Yes X No _____ NA _____

Description: When considered in conjunction with the adjacent USFS Roadless Area, the unit would offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Yes X No _____ NA _____

Description: When considered in conjunction with the adjacent USFS Roadless Area, the unit would provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation such as hunting, hiking, horseback riding, backpacking and backcountry exploration.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes X No _____ NA _____

Description: It is believed that the unit contains the largest trees in the Central Oregon Resource Area of the Prineville District BLM. These large trees are considered to be a supplemental value.

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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.

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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

REFERENCES

1. Realty program

- a. Master Title Plats
T 14 S., R 29 E.,
- b. Land exchange proposal Case File: OR 51858, 7/17/1998

2. Mineral Program

Oil and Gas Lease review ~ No Active Leases
BLM LR 2000 Record ~ No Mining Claims
Active

3. GIS Program

USGS National Map project
BLM GIS data
BLM Upper John Day River public lands map, June 1991
Google Earth Commercial Mapping System

The BLM has identified the following man-made features:

The lands are included in an exchange proposal: OR 51858, 7/17/1998.

Team Comments - 8/14/07

Tippy- Someone says that with the Shake Table fire they put cat lines across it.

Welch- It is adjacent to FS on two sides, private on other two sides.

Cork- It has shallow soils.

Vidourek- It has the biggest trees in BLM in plan area.

TOWNSHIP 14 SOUTH RANGE 29 EAST OF THE WILLAMETTE MERIDIAN, OREGON

PRINEVILLE DISTRICT
GRANT COUNTYSTATUS OF PUBLIC DOMAIN
LAND AND MINERAL TITLES

MT/USE PLAT

[illegible]

FOR ORDERS AFFECTING DISPOSAL OR USE OF
UNDESIGNATED LANDS WITHIN ANY FOR CLASSIFICATION,
MINERAL, WATER AND/OR OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES,
REFER TO INDEX OF MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS.
OR 0120338 9/16/167 (Act of Cong 7/13/1955)
OR 0120339 9/16/1962, all NE surface Mgmt by USFS
See Cadastral Plot approved 01/12/2000 for official
area affecting legal subdivisions.
Areas 13.14.15.17 thru 3.0.32.33



WARNING STATEMENT

This plot is the Bureau's record of title, and should be used only as a graphic display of the township survey data. Records of title are not to be used as evidence of title or other bodies of water. Refer to the cadastral surveys for official survey information.

FILE REF	1402590001011	ANIMSP0000/STX RSHR1624 6 0
CONVERT_DATE	04/24/2000	BY H. GOSCH
LAST UPDATE	09/04/2000	BY D. LEAVENWORTH
POSTED TO PUBLIC RECORDS	10/10/2002	
SURVEYED TOWNSHIP		
6000 NAD 83	CURRENT TO	N/A
COORDINATE SOURCE	PROJECTION	UNKNOW
COORDINATE ELEVATION	COORDINATE ELEVATION	N/A
SOURCE FOR METES & BOUNDS		N/A
NOTES		

8-6-1
Big Canyon

1911
area

FS
Roadless

