

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION

OR08-1(a) Opal Creek Wilderness Additions – Nasty Rock

Evaluation of Current Conditions:

- 1) Document and review any existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory findings on file regarding the presence or absence of individual wilderness characteristics, using Form 1, below.
- 2) Consider relevant information regarding current conditions available in the office. Identify and describe any changes to the existing inventory information. Use interdisciplinary team knowledge, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc. and document the findings on Form 2, below. Document current conditions regarding wilderness characteristics, as opposed to potential future conditions.

Conduct field reviews as necessary to verify information and to ascertain current conditions. Reach conclusions on current conditions including boundaries, size of areas and presence or absence of wilderness characteristics. Fully explain the basis for each conclusion on Form 2, including any critical differences between BLM and citizen information.

Document the findings regarding current conditions for each inventoried area. Describe how the present conditions are similar to, or have changed from, the conditions documented in the original wilderness characteristics inventory. Document the findings on Form 2 for each inventory area. Cite to or attach data considered, including photographs, maps, GIS layers, field trip notes, project files, etc.

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.): OR08-1 Bull of the Woods/Opal Creek Additions is now split into subunits (a) which is Nasty Rock and (b) which is Opal Creek area containing Evan's Mountain and Elkhorn Creek.

a) Inventory Source:

Salem District Wilderness Characteristic Inventory, Western Oregon Plan Revision Draft Environmental Impact Statement – September 2006

Western Oregon Plan Revision Record of Decision (2008) – RESCINDED

b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): Opal Creek Additions-Nasty Rock

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): OR08-1(a) Bull of the Woods-Opal Creek Additions

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Salem District, Cascades Resource Area

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

OR08-1: Bull of the Woods-Opal Creek Additions was found to contain Wilderness Characteristics during the Western Oregon Plan Revisions planning effort from 2006-2008. The plan was rescinded however the inventory remains valid.

Inventory Source: Denotes all applicable BLM Inventory files, printed maps, or published BLM Decision documents with information pertaining to this unit.

Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
OR08-1 Bull of the Woods/Opal Creek Additions	Yes (3203 acres)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A

**Previous inventory includes other sub-units of this inventory unit including Evan's Mountain and Elkhorn Creek*

FORM 2**Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics****Area Unique Identifier** OR08-1(a) Opal Creek Additions – Nasty Rock *

**The unit's name has been changed from "Bull of the Woods/Opal Creek Additions" to "Opal Creek Additions".*

Acreage Total: 1196 acres

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 ☒No ☐

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.): Refer to this inventory unit's associated Map 1 for its location. The unit's boundaries are formed by a combination of roads, ownership boundaries and previous timber harvest that has a direct bearing on naturalness. The boundaries are based on a proposal submitted by the public but have been adjusted based on field verification and new BLM wilderness characteristics policy.

The majority of the unit is directly contiguous to the Opal Creek Wilderness, a 20,454 acre designated Wilderness area administered by the Willamette National Forest, Detroit Ranger District. The area was designated by the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996. The eastern portion of the original inventory unit (lands within T08S R5E Section 6) is adjacent to roadless USFS-administered land that is contiguous with, but not included within, the Opal Creek Wilderness. Because this area is not directly contiguous with the Opal Creek Wilderness, it does not meet the size criteria and has been dropped from this inventory unit.

BLM Rd 7-4E-11.1 forms the eastern boundary of the current inventory unit. The road is gravel-surfaced, obviously constructed and shows regular signs of maintenance and use. The northern and southeast boundaries of the current inventory are almost entirely determined by timber harvest that took place between 1962 and 1988.

Its western and southern boundaries are determined by BLM ownership that extends into T8S R4E, Section 12 and the watershed of the Little North Santiam River. This boundary represents an adjustment from the citizen proposal and original inventory. The previous inventory utilized the divide between the Upper Molalla and Little North Santiam watersheds. However, utilizing the watershed boundary as the inventory boundary excludes BLM lands within nearly identical topographic and vegetative characteristics.

With these boundary adjustments, the acreage of this inventory unit is now 1196 acres.

2) Does the area appear to be natural?Yes ☒No ☐N/A ☐

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities):

The unit straddles a ridge that forms a divide between three different watersheds (Molalla River, Little North Santiam River and Fish Creek). The ridge is predominately forested but is punctuated by large rock outcrops, peaks, scree slopes and open meadows. Nasty Rock and Burnt Mountain are landmarks that are visible from within and outside the inventory unit. Elevations in the unit range from 3000 feet along the Molalla River to 4726 at the top of Burnt Mountain.

The vegetative community is dominated by an overstory of conifer species including hemlock, Douglas Fir and various true fir species. The forest exhibits an understory of rhododendron, vine maple and various shrub species. Forest Operations Inventory Data indicates the forest ranges in age from 90 years to approximately 600 years. Of the total 1196 acres in this subunit, approximately 590 acres are listed as being 140 years of age, 227 acres are between 200 and 250 years, while close to 300 acres are in the 600 year age class. Less than 20 acres are 90 years or less in age. The remaining acres are classified as "non-forest" which consists mainly of brush patches and rock outcrops. There are no records of any timber harvest activities in this subunit.

Approximately 755 acres (63 percent of the subunit) are mapped as "withdrawn" from any timber production, primarily due to the steep slopes and unstable, rocky ground. The land use is currently classified as Late Successional Reserve (LSR), which prohibits any timber removal in stands over 80 years (See Willamette LSR Assessment). Lands within the Late-Successional Reserve (LSR) LUA are designated to protect, enhance and maintain conditions of functional, interacting, late-successional and old-growth ecosystems to serve as habitat for late-successional and old-growth related species (RMP p. 15). The overriding goal for managing LSRs is to create, protect and maintain late-successional ecosystems (LSRA p. 33).

Human modification outside the inventory unit is visible from portions of the unit. These modifications include recent timber management, roads and power transmission lines. However, no sounds from transmissions lines or highways are typically audible within the unit.

In landscape character and vegetation, the unit is very similar to the contiguous Opal Creek Wilderness Area and adjacent USFS roadless parcels. Direct observation and forest inventory GIS data indicate the unit has never been subject to forest management activities. No noticeable human developments were observed (such as skid roads or utility corridors) and none are known at the time of inventory. The unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.

- 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 ☐

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude): Although small in size, the unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude in association with the adjacent Opal Creek Wilderness Area. The unit is irregularly shaped, but measures approximately 1.5 miles north to south and 1.25 miles east to west. The historic Nasty Rock Trail runs through the southern portion of the inventory unit and provides for non-motorized access. The remainder of the unit can be accessed by cross country travel from gravel-surfaced roads to the north and east.

The existing vegetation has the size, height and density to contribute substantially to outstanding opportunities for solitude. The steep topography, dissected by tributaries of the Molalla River, also provides sufficient visual screening between visitors to an extent to provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude. In conjunction with the Opal Creek Wilderness, visitors to the unit would likely be unaware of other visitors unless they were directly encountered.

- 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 ☒No ☐N/A ☐

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation): Overall, the unit provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in association with the adjoining Opal Creek Wilderness lands. The unit contains Nasty Rock Trail, a historic trail on BLM-administered land that does not receive annual maintenance but remains in usable condition. The trailhead is reached by travelling from the city of Molalla, south along the Molalla Forest Rd, up the Table Rock mainline to the Joyce Lake mainline and then south to the end of BLM Rd 7-4E-11.1. From Molalla, the trip takes approximately 75 minutes.

There are opportunities for hiking, backpacking, photography, sightseeing, and hunting of common game species. In conjunction with the contiguous Opal Creek Wilderness and National Scenic Area, the unit offers opportunities that draw visitors from outside the region.

Within the unit, the peaks of Burnt Mountain and Nasty Rock offer unique attractions for visitors. The peaks, and the ridge connecting them, provide superior views of the Cascade Range. From these viewpoints, multiple high Cascade peaks are visible. To the south, Mount Jefferson, Three Fingered Jack, Mount Washington and the Three Sisters are visible. To the north, Mount Hood and Table Rock can be seen.

The views to the south and east are rare in composition and scenic quality. In the foreground, the pristine forest of the Little North Santiam watershed and Opal Creek Wilderness is visible. The middle ground is occupied by the peaks of the Old Cascades. In the background the high Cascades mentioned above are visible. This view exhibits almost no evidence of human modification, a quality rare in the central and northern portions of the Oregon Western Cascades.

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

Yes ☒

No ☐

N/A ☐

Description:

The inventory unit provides suitable habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl, a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The area is within the provincial home range of three known owl pairs. One known owl site and associated core area is within the inventory unit. A portion of the area is identified as Critical Habitat as of January 2013.

Summary of Analysis

Area Unique Identifier: OR08-1(a) Opal Creek Additions – Nasty Rock

Summary Results of Analysis:

(Note: explain the inventory findings for the entirety of the inventory unit. When wilderness characteristics have been identified in an area that is smaller than the size of the total inventory unit, explain why certain portions of the inventory unit are not included within the lands with wilderness characteristics (e.g. the inventory found that certain parts lacked naturalness).

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes ☒ No ☐
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 (name, title):

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2/19/2013
Date

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2/8/13
Date

United States
 Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 Salem District / Cascades Resource Area
Inventory Unit: Opal Creek Additions

Subunit: Nasty Rock
 OR08-01a

September 26, 2012



0 500 1,000
 Feet

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 and may be updated without notification.

- Road
- Intermittent
- Perennial
- Proposed Wilderness Characteristics Area
- Region 6 Wilderness

- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- Private/Unknown



WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

APPENDIX D – PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s): Adam Milnor, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **OR-08-01a Opal Creek Addition – Nasty Rock**

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #
10/11/2012	OR084_NastyRock1	SE	From Mining Iron Mainline on private industrial forest land.	44.920753 -122.32667	8S	5E	6	1
10/11/2012	OR084_NastyRock2	N	Photo of western boundary BLM Rd 7-4E-11.1	44.905739 -122.254744	8S	5E	6	2
10/11/2012	OR084_NastyRock3	S	Typical forest conditions on Nasty Rock Trail between trailhead and Burnt Mtn	44.904341 -122.256889	8S	5E	6	3
10/11/2012	OR084_NastyRock4	E	View from Nasty Rock Trail across the headwaters of the Molalla River	44.903976 -122.256889	8S	5E	6	4
10/11/2012	OR084_NastyRock5	E	Typical forest conditions on Nasty Rock Trail between Burnt Mtn and Nasty Rock summit	44.89966 -122.257919	8S	4E	12	5
10/11/2012	OR084_NastyRock6	E	Nasty Rock formation from below	44.898869 -122.263927	8S	4E	12	6
10/11/2012	OR084_NastyRock7	NW	(1 of 3 panorama) top of Nasty Rock, looking over unit Table Rock	44.898261 -122.270279	8S	4E	12	7
10/11/2012	OR084-NastyRock8	NE	(2 or 3 panorama) top of Nasty Rock, looking over unit towards Nohorn Butte and Mount Hood	44.898261 -122.270279	8S	4E	12	8
10/11/2012	OR084_NastyRock9	WSW	(3 of 3 panorama) top of Nasty Rock looking into the Little North Santiam Watershed and	44.898261 -122.270279	8S	4E	12	9

















