



USDA Forest Service  
Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

## Inventoried Roadless (areas with Wilderness Potential) Process UPDATE

Updated March 24, 2006

### *The LAW* ~ (From the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984; Section 7 (b) (2))

“...with respect to the national forest system lands in the State of Oregon which were reviewed ... in RARE II, ... that review and evaluation or reference shall be deemed ...to be an adequate consideration of the suitability of such lands for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System ... the Department of Agriculture ...shall review the wilderness option *when the plans are revised.*”

### *The PROCESS* ~

The Inventoried Roadless Areas identified in Appendix C of each of the four *Final Environmental Impact Statements (FEISs)* for the Forest Plans were **reviewed in two steps** to determine if they still meet the inventory criteria outlined in the Forest Service Handbook (*FSH 1909.12 Chapter 70*).

#### **Step 1 –**

The initial review and update (done in coordination with resource specialists on each ranger district) corrected misapplication of the inventory criteria and incorporated changed conditions since the existing forest plans were implemented. This initial review and update was made available for public comment in April 2005.

#### **Step 2 –**

The *2006 inventory* incorporates changes to the maps and tables to reflect public comment and further review of roads by the ranger district's resource specialists.

#### **INVENTORY CRITERIA** (from *FSH 1909.12 Chapter 70*) –

Based on the following criteria, the maps and tables displaying Areas with Wilderness Potential were developed:

Potential wilderness areas qualify for placement on the **inventory** if they meet *one or more* of the following criteria:

1. They contain **5,000 acres or more**.
2. They contain **less than 5,000 acres but:**
  - a. Due to *physical terrain, natural conditions can be preserved*.
  - b. They are *self-contained ecosystems*, such as an island, that can be effectively managed as a separate unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System.
  - c. They are *contiguous to existing wilderness*, primitive areas, administration-endorsed wilderness, or potential wilderness in other federal ownership, regardless of their size.
3. They do not contain improved roads maintained for travel by standard passenger-type vehicles.  
(See *Figure 1 below*).

#### **Summary of Inventory Criteria for Including Improvements:**

Potential wilderness areas may qualify for the inventory **even though they include the following** types of areas or features:

Airstrips and heliports; plantations or plantings where the use of mechanical equipment is not evident; electronic installations (such as cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters) provided their impact is minimal; ground-return line (such as telephone or electric lines), if a right-of-way has not been cleared.

Areas with evidence of **historic mining** (50+ years ago), but not areas of significant current mineral activity, or areas prospected with mechanical or motorized equipment. The inventory may include areas where the only evidence of prospecting is drill holes without road access. Inventoried area may also include areas that otherwise meet inventory criteria and are covered by mineral leases having a “no surface occupancy” stipulation; or if the

lessee has not exercised development and occupancy rights. If and when these rights are exercised remove the area from the inventory.

Areas with minor structural **range improvements** such as fences or water troughs. Exclude areas where nonstructural range improvements are readily visible and apparent. Areas with spray or burning projects are permissible if there is little or no evidence of the project.

Areas with **recreation improvements** such as occupancy spots or minor hunting or outfitter camps. As a general rule, do not include developed sites. Areas with minor, easily removable recreation developments may be included.

**Timber harvest** areas where logging and prior road construction are not evident, examples include those areas containing early logging activities related to historic settlement of the vicinity, areas where stumps and skid trails or roads are substantially unrecognizable, or areas where clearcuts have regenerated to the degree that canopy closure is similar to surrounding uncut areas.

**Watershed treatment areas** if the use of mechanical equipment is not evident.

### *The NEXT STEP ~*

Once the *inventory* part of the process is complete, the next step is to *evaluate* these areas for wilderness resource capability, availability, and need as part of the forest plan revision process.

#### **EVALUATION CRITERIA** (from FSH 1909.12 Chapter 70) –

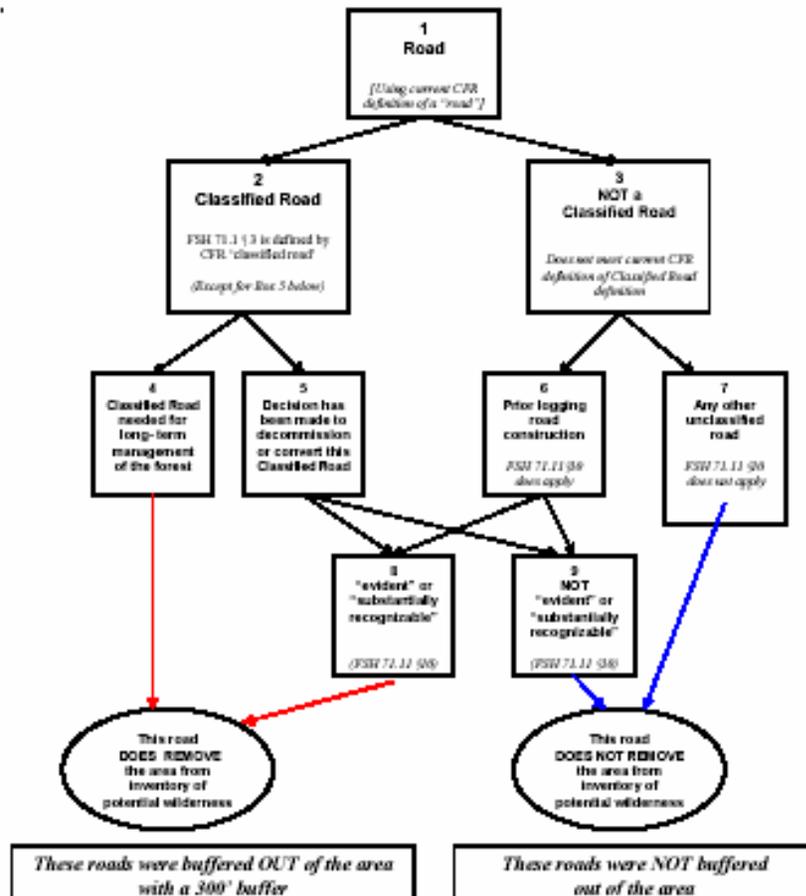
**Wilderness Capability** - This is an assessment of each area's capability for wilderness as described by the basic characteristics which make the area appropriate and valuable for wilderness. Capability includes the natural integrity of the area; natural appearance; opportunities for experiences often unique to wilderness; and any special features of the area.

**Availability for Wilderness** - Each area's summary of other resource potentials and pertinent quantitative and qualitative information including current use, outputs, trends, and potential future use and/or outputs for the applicable resources. This includes: recreation and tourism; information on wildlife species, populations, and management needs; water availability and use; livestock operations; timber; mineral, and cultural resources; authorized and potential land uses; management considerations including fire, insects and diseases; and presence of non-federal lands.

**Need for Wilderness** – For each area, an analysis of the degree to which the area contributes to the overall National Wilderness Preservation System. In addition, the need is assessed on a regional basis and evaluates such factors as the geographic distribution of existing wilderness areas and representation of landforms and ecosystems.

**Figure 1: Summary of Draft R6 Interpretations:**  
**Effect of Roads on Inventory of Potential Wilderness Areas**

*Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 Chapter 70*



*This flowchart was developed to assure consistent application of road assessment procedures for over 450 miles of existing roads in the Inventoried Roadless Areas identified in Appendix C of the Final Environmental Impact Statements (FEIS) of the Forest Plans. It also addresses the disposition of roads located inside of "roadless areas" in determining inventory criteria:*

**Box 1 Road:** Differentiated from a trail and including both classified and unclassified roads. The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) defines a *Road* as: "A motor vehicle travelway over 50 inches wide, unless designated and managed as a trail. A road may be classified, unclassified, or temporary." (36 CFR 212.1).

**Box 2 Classified Road:** The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) defines a *Classified Road* as "A road wholly or partially within or adjacent to national forest system lands that is determined to be needed for long-term motor vehicle access, including state roads, county roads, privately owned roads, national forest system roads, and other roads authorized by the Forest Service". (36 CFR 212.1). Using the CFR definition of classified road, the Forest Service Handbook, 1909.12 Chapter 70 (71.1 Paragraph 3) states that potential wilderness areas may not contain improved roads maintained for travel by standard passenger-type vehicles.

**Box 3** Any roads not in the classified roads inventory.

**Box 4** Same as Box 2

**Box 5** Classified roads for which a decision is documented to decommission (not needed for management of national forest lands), but not yet implemented (work necessary to implement the decision not completed). A road remains in the classified road inventory until this work is completed.

**Box 6** These are non-classified roads that were constructed in association with prior timber harvest. They are differentiated from other non-classified roads because they are referenced in the Forest Service Handbook, 1909.12 Chapter 70 (71.11 Paragraph 10).

**Box 7** All other non-classified roads are in this box.

**Box 8 & 9** These criteria are situational in application. Determinations are site specific, and occur over a variety of situations and conditions. If a road in Box 6 is evident or substantially recognizable, it will probably exclude a potential area from the inventory. If a road in Box 6 is not evident or is substantially unnoticeable it probably will not remove an area from the inventory.

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Tracking Number	Wallowa-Whitman Roadless Areas	Plan Appx C areas	2006 net inventory areas	Change in acres	Reason *
6276	Beaver Creek	12,470	12,122	33 875 1.5	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria proposed to drop due to roads and harvest proposed to drop – private land
1853	Big Canyon Id	14,236	13,251	851	proposed to drop based on road buffers
6282	Boulder Park	12,311	11,372	758	proposed to drop due to roads and harvest
6297	Buckhorn	16,022	16,686	480	proposed to drop due to roads and harvest
6278	Castle Ridge	8,300	7,854	10	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria
				526	proposed to drop due to other developments
6299	Cook Ridge	19,422	17,626	1,976	proposed to drop due to roads and harvest
G08	Deadhorse	10,451	17,808	7,127	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria
Ww1	Dunns Bluff	1,013	762	45	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria
6267	Grande Ronde#	5,400	5,646		
6252	Greenhorn Mountain#	200	131		
6261	Hellhole	500	0	0	All acres are administered by the Umatilla NF
6291	Homestead	5,733	9,055	3,243	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria
6289	Huckleberry	10,107	10,776	396 859	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria proposed to drop based on road buffers
6288	Hurricane Creek	1,623	1,442	162	proposed to drop based on road buffers
6294	Imnaha Face	28,716	29,374	177	proposed to drop based on road buffers
G04	Joseph Canyon	23,602	25,904	1,879 248	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria proposed to drop based on road buffers
1854	Klopton-Corral Creek	20,325	19,808	739	proposed to drop that do not meet inventory criteria
6290	Lake Fork	17,663	23,662	3,000 1,255	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria proposed to drop based on road buffers
6285	Lick Creek	2,143	2,129	372 195	proposed to add that meets inventory criteria proposed to drop based on road buffers
6280	Little Creek	2,907	2,812	21.6 22.2	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria proposed to drop based on road buffers
6283	Little Eagle Meadows	7,140	6,891	87	proposed to drop based on road buffers
6286	Little Sheep	5,278	5,234		
6295	Lord Flat Somers Point	68,295	67,572	112	proposed to drop based on road buffers
6271	Marble Point	7,135	6,943	469 442	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria proposed to drop based on road buffers
6240	Monument Rock	5,958	5,693	52	proposed to drop based on road buffers
6298	Mountain Sheep	16,777	22,650	3,723 514	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria proposed to drop based on road buffers
6277	Mt. Emily	8,822	7,935	197 678	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria proposed to drop due to roads and other developments
6262	North Mount Emily#	800	738	13	proposed to drop based on road buffers
6284	Reservoir	13,595	13,629		
6602	Sheep Divide	16,178	16,161	27	proposed to drop based on road buffers
6296	Snake River	29,933	25,594	5,611	proposed to drop due to roads and other developments
6601	Squaw#	3,220	3,241	1 238	proposed to add that meets inventory criteria proposed to drop due to roads and other developments
G03	Tope Creek	8,674	11,693	2,632 168	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria proposed to drop due to road buffers
6256	Tower	100	53	6	proposed to drop due to roads and other developments
6273	Twin Mountain	60,903	55,783	2,707	proposed to drop based on road buffers
6281	Upper Catherine Creek	6,844	6,554	236 123	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria proposed to drop based on road buffers
6275	Upper Grande Ronde	11,810	12,302	672 87	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria proposed to drop based on road buffer
6300	Wildhorse	19,868	15,286	5,053 48	proposed to drop due to roads and harvest proposed to add that meet inventory criteria
<b>Wallowa-Whitman TOTAL</b>		<b>504,474</b>	<b>512,172</b>		*Acreage changes also due to improved mapping technology

Umatilla National Forest					
Tracking Number	Umatilla Roadless Areas	Plan Appx C areas	2006 net inventory acres	Change in acres	Reason *
14016	Asotin Creek	16,900	15,050	1,528 163	proposed to drop based on roads and harvest proposed to add that meet inventory criteria
14125	Grande Ronde#	12,200	17,748	185	proposed to drop based on road buffers
14350	Greenhorn Mountain#	8,400	10,970	226	proposed to drop based on road buffers
14132	Hellhole	62,500	65,896	7,303 454	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria proposed to drop based on road buffers
14033	Horseshoe Ridge	6,300	5,992		
14023	Jaussaud Corral	5,500	5,276	516 771	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria proposed to drop based on road buffers
14249	Jumpoff Joe#	5,500	3,700	30 1,872	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria proposed to drop based on roads and harvest
14028	Lookingglass	5,000	5,634	841 62	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria proposed to drop based on road buffers
14018	Meadow Creek	5,000	4,716	162	proposed to drop based on road buffers
14021	Mill Creek Watershed	26,700	24,598	701 653	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria proposed to drop based on road buffers
	North Fork John Day Additions		2,357		area added meets inventory criteria
	North Fork Umatilla		976		area added meets inventory criteria
14135	North Mount Emily#	4,600	4,024	388	proposed to drop due to roads and other development
	Owsley		6,124		area added meets inventory criteria
14041	Potamus	5,400	5,317	72	proposed to add that meet criteria
14040	Skookum	7,700	7,152	497	proposed to drop based on roads and harvest
14143	South Fork - Tower#	16,900	14,917	1,646 6	proposed to drop due to roads and other development proposed to add that meet criteria
14017	Spangler	5,900	5,769	187 26	proposed to drop based on road buffers proposed to add that meet inventory criteria
14145	Squaw (Little Fly)#	4,500	2,882	1,164 1	proposed to drop due to roads and other development proposed to add that meets inventory criteria
14037	Texas Butte	6,900	7,609	1,030 293	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria proposed to drop due to roads and harvest
	Tiger Creek		5,562		area added that meets inventory criteria
14014	Upper Tucannon	12,600	12,546	408 480	proposed to drop due to roads and harvest proposed to add that meet inventory criteria
14027	W - T Three	2,000	1,864	191 30	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria proposed to drop based on road buffers
14022	Walla Walla River	34,500	33,859	532	proposed to drop based on road buffers
14020	Wenatchee Creek	15,500	18,793	482 3,974	proposed to drop based on roads and harvest acres proposed to add that meet inventory criteria
14015	Willow Springs	11,100	9,074	1,332	proposed to drop based on roads and harvest
<b>UMATILLA TOTAL</b>		281,600	298,405		*Acreage changes also due to improved mapping technology

Malheur National Forest					
Tracking Number	Malheur Roadless Areas	Plan Appx C acres	2006 net inventory acres	Change in acres	Reason *
6233	Aldrich Mountain	4,951	4,872	56	proposed to drop based on road buffers
6242	Baldy Mountain	6,431	6,504	242	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria
				170	proposed to drop based on road buffers
6247	Cedar Grove	112	5,648	5,535	acres added that meet inventory criteria
6243	Dixie Butte	12,110	8,149	257	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria
				3,303	dropped after separated by buffered roads
				1,009	propose to drop based on road buffers
6236	Dry Cabin	12,221	11,986	288	proposed to drop that do not meet inventory criteria
6246	Flag Creek	7,789	0		open road bisects area, neither portion meets inventory criteria
6245	Fox Creek	5,879	0		open road bisects area, neither portion meets inventory criteria
6239	Glacier Mountain	19,572	13,976	372	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria
				4,787	proposed to drop due to roads and harvest
				1,168	proposed to drop, isolated sections
6252	Greenhorn Mountain#	16,600	14,846	1,075	proposed to drop due to road buffers
6251	Jumpoff Joe#	4,100	2,128	1,760	proposed to drop based on roads and harvest
6234	Malheur River	6,984	5,500	2,339	proposed to drop due to roads and harvest
				438	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria
6237	McClellan Mountain	20,646	22,177	1,404	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria
				438	proposed to drop due to roads and harvest
6232	Myrtle Silvies	11,747	10,866	38	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria
				761	proposed to drop due to roads and harvest
				87	proposed to drop due to roads and other developments
6244	Nipple Butte	11,525	11,868	313	proposed to drop due to roads and harvest
				830	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria
6241	North Fork Malheur	18,276	0	6,002	open road bisects area, neither portion meets inventory criteria
				7,787	proposed to drop due to roads and harvest
				4,050	proposed to drop due to roads and other developments
6248	Pine Creek	5,420	4,864	600	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria
				470	proposed to drop based on road buffers
				750	dropped after separated by buffered roads
6235	Silver Creek (Ochoco)	7,459	0		areas dropped out due to roads and harvest, remaining area does not meet criteria
6218	Shaketable	7,137	7,652	1,044	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria
				157	proposed to drop based on road buffers
	Strawberry Mountain Additions				area added that meets inventory criteria
6231	Utley Butte	9,945	9,928	302	proposed to add that meet inventory criteria
				76	proposed to drop based on road buffers
	Malheur TOTALS	188,904	140,964		*Acreage changes also due to improved mapping technology
	Tri-Forest TOTALS	974,978	951,645		# Area shared between more than one forest