



Bureau of Land Management

Burns District

1993

Wilderness Program

Tips for Using Wilderness Study Areas



Wilderness Program - Welcome

There are 23 wilderness study areas (WSAs) in the Burns District covering a total of 1,075,337 acres. Twenty-one of these are located in the Andrews Resource Area. The remaining two are located in the Three Rivers Resource Area.

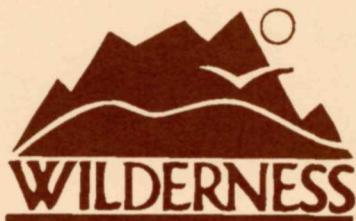
The Final Oregon Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement was published by BLM in January 1990. This document includes maps, an examination of alternatives for each individual WSA, environmental analysis, economic impacts, a proposed action and public comments/concerns (in a question-answer format).

Until Congress makes a decision on BLM-managed public lands under wilderness review, these lands will continue to be managed under the BLM's "Interim Management Policy" (IMP) regulations.

The Burns District would like your help. Volunteers are needed for several WSA management activities including reclamation projects in disturbed areas, visitor contact and data collection, monitoring, and some administrative work. If you are interested in participating as an individual or group, please contact the Burns District of the BLM.

Wilderness Process

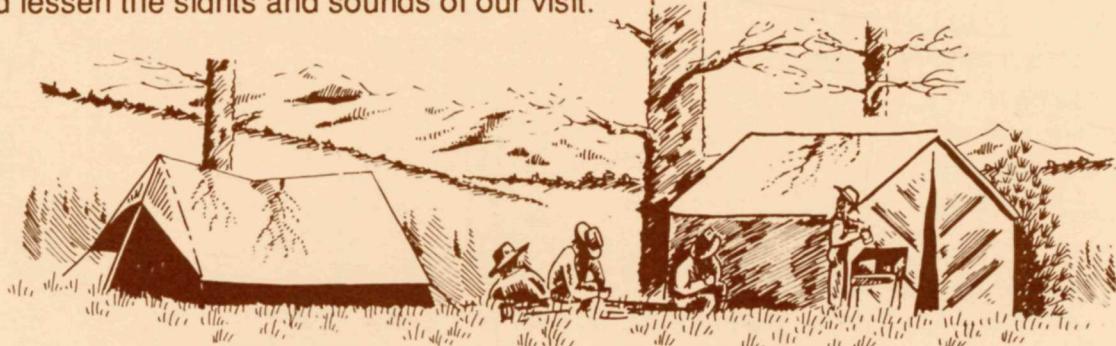
1. BLM submits its Final Wilderness Study Report to the Secretary of the Interior. Accomplished.
2. By 1991, the Secretary of the Interior submits wilderness recommendations to the President. Accomplished.
3. By 1993, the President submits recommendations to Congress. Accomplished
4. Congress reviews proposals and either designates new wilderness areas or releases lands under WSA status. Only Congress has this authority.



Use of Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas

No-Trace Ethic

Visitors practicing No-Trace Ethics can keep Wilderness Study Areas in their wild state. No-Trace guidelines are designed to aid in the protection of wilderness and back-country areas. By following these guidelines, we can better protect the land and lessen the sights and sounds of our visit.



No-Trace Camping

Choosing a campsite away from popular places will provide you with more solitude and less visibility to others. Try to camp 200 feet or more from lakes, streams, meadows or trails when you have a choice; there will be less chance of damage to fragile areas. Minimize your use of campfires and plan to carry a lightweight backpacking stove for all of your cooking. Stoves will not scar the landscape as campfires do. Hike in small groups from 4 to 6 people to lessen your impacts.

Repacking food can lighten your pack and eliminate bringing trash into the wilderness. Leave glass and aluminum packaging at home. If you pack it in, pack it out. By carrying extra trash bags you will not only have emergency rain gear, but you will be amazed at how much trash you can pick up around your campsite. If you do have a fire, build any campfires in areas of bare mineral soil and away from grassy areas. Disguise all trace of your fire when you break camp.

Human Waste:

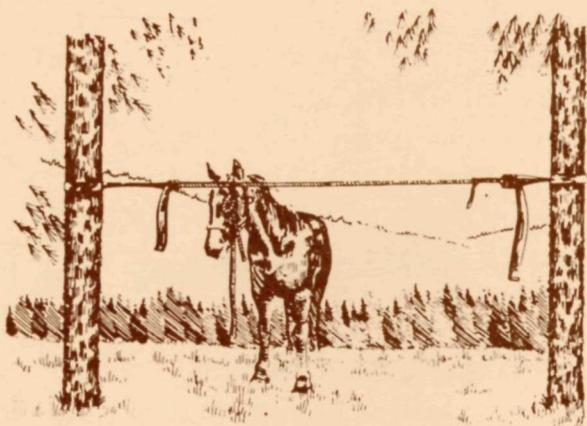
- * Carry with you a small digging tool.
- * Select a suitable screened spot at least 200 feet from any open water.
- * Dig a hole 8 to 10 inches in diameter, and no deeper than 6 to 8 inches (will decompose best at this level). Keep the sod intact if possible.
- * After use, fill the hole with loose soil and then tramp in the sod.

Using Pack Animals in Wilderness Areas or WSAs

Many people enjoy horse packing into wilderness areas. Packstock groups need to be just as conscientious of leaving No-Trace as do backpackers. Proper planning, camp location and containment of animals in camp all demand special attention.

Setting Up Camp: For the horse packer, the first rule of campsite selection is to think of your stock. The campsite should be able to accommodate your animals without any damage to the area.

As you ride into a potential campsite, look it over and decide whether there is enough feed. While you are considering feed requirements, give some thought to the wildlife in the area. Overgrazing an area may remove feed needed by deer and elk during winter months. Graze your animals on north and east slopes, which will be snow covered during winter. This will leave forage for wildlife on south and west slopes exposed during winter months.



Watering:

Where you water your stock is an important consideration. Bring along a bucket (pail) for the animals to drink from. This will reduce trampling and any further damage along the stream side

Feed: Feeding your pack animals can cause an impact too. Spreading loose hay on the ground could introduce exotic plant species to an area. Instead, pack in a good supply of processed feed for your animals. This will prevent overgrazing around the camp.



Courtesy in Wilderness Areas and WSAs

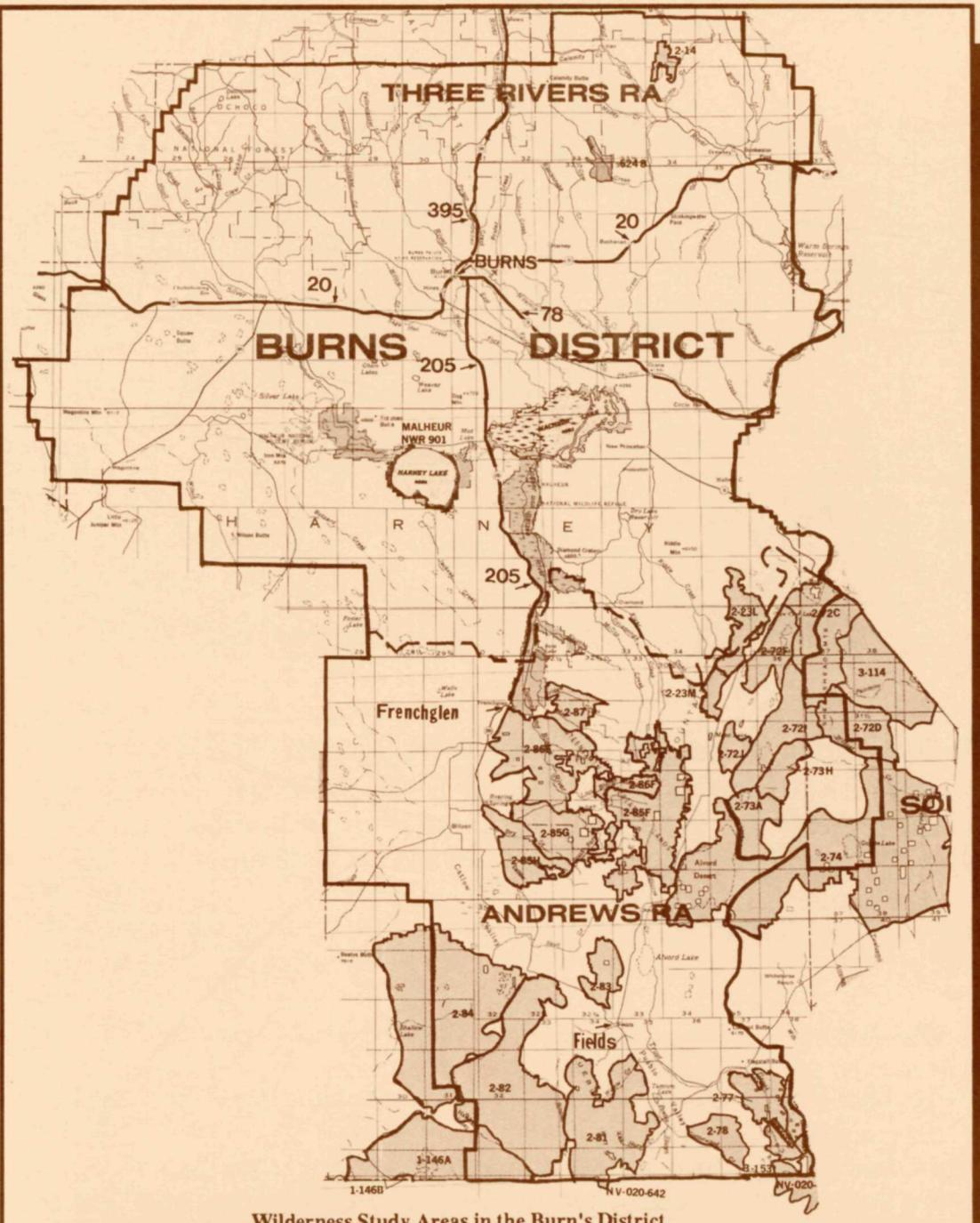
Courtesy towards others in wilderness or WSAs helps everyone enjoy their outdoor experience. Excessive noise, loose pets and damaged natural surroundings create a negative atmosphere in the wilderness.

While travelling on trails keep the noise level down. Radio and tape players do not belong in the wilderness and horses are easily spooked.

If your group encounters another group, uphill hikers have the right-of-way.

Keep pets under control at all times. Pets can frighten people and wildlife.

Wildflowers, picturesque trees, and unusual rock formations give wilderness areas the beauty we came to see. Picking flowers, hacking at trees and chipping away at rocks can detract from the primitive atmosphere. Please leave them for others to enjoy. Take nothing but pictures...leave only with your memories.



Wilderness Study Areas in the Burn's District

Wilderness Status Update in the Burns District, Oregon

Number	WSA Name	Acres
2-14	Malheur River/Bluebucket Creek	5,560
2-23L	Stonehouse	21,325
2-23M	Lower Stonehouse	8,090
2-72C	Sheepshead Mountains	54,390
2-72D	Wildcat Canyon	34,830
2-72F	Heath Lake	20,520
2-72I	Table Mountain	40,592
2-72J	West Peak	8,535
2-73A	East Alvord	22,240
2-73H	Winter Range	15,440
2-74	Alvord Desert	251,060
2-77	Mahogany Ridge	27,940
2-78	Red Mountain	16,215
2-81	Pueblo Mountains	72,690
2-82	Rincon	103,965
2-83	Alvord Peak	16,825
2-84	Basque Hills	141,410
2-85F	High Steens	69,740
2-85G	So.Fk. Donner und Blitzen	37,555
2-85H	Home Creek	26,590
2-86E	Blitzen River	55,880
2-86F	Little Blitzen Gorge	9,400
2-87	Bridge Creek	14,545
Totals		1,075,337

Total number of areas recommended for wilderness:10 for 305,588 acres
Presently, there are no designated wilderness areas in the District.

If you would like additional information on any of the above areas, please write or call: **Bureau of Land Management, Burns District, HC 74-12533, Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738, Attn: Wilderness, (503) 573-5241.** When requesting the information, please specify which WSA you would like to know more about.

Oregon



Regulated Guidelines within WSAs

We ask your cooperation in protecting these areas by observing the following:

- Keep all vehicles to existing roads and ways, includes bicycles.
- Please pack out all litter.
- Cutting of live vegetation or standing dead trees and shrubs is not allowed
- Please obey all fire closures or restrictions and be extremely careful with camp fires.
- Do not deface, disturb or remove cultural resources such as arrowheads, petroglyphs or rock shelters. These resources are protected under the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979. Please leave these resources for others to study and enjoy.
- All land use involving surface disturbance is limited and requires prior contact with the BLM.
- Hiking, Backpacking, Camping and Horseback riding are allowed.
- Some of the land you cross may be private property. Please be considerate of the private land-owners' rights. Check with your nearest BLM office for land ownership before entering these areas. Permission may be required. **Thank-you**