

Draft Environmental Assessment

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge: Proposed Withdrawal and Reservation of 199 acres

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Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Withdrawal

Date: July 2024

This Draft Environmental Assessment is being prepared to evaluate the effects associated with the proposed action and complies with the National Environmental Policy Act in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500-1509) and Department of the Interior (43 CFR 46; 516 DM 8) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS, Service; 550 FW 3) regulations and policies. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that Federal agencies examine and disclose the effects of the proposed actions on the quality of the human environment. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and FWS have cooperated in preparing this environmental assessment (EA) for Secretarial consideration.

Proposed Action

The Secretary of the Interior has proposed to withdraw 199 acres of land in Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge, NWR) from appropriation under the public land laws, including location and entry under the United States mining laws, subject to valid existing rights, for up to 100 years or more to protect and preserve the land for management by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) as part of the Refuge.

The proposed withdrawal and reservation of 199 acres for Refuge purposes would facilitate continued management of these acres as part of Malheur NWR, a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS). The proposed withdrawal and reservation would preclude surface entry including from any new mining claims for the 199 acres of land within the Refuge that would otherwise be open to entry under the U.S. mining laws. The General Mining Act of 1872, as amended [30 United States Code (USC) 22–54] (Mining Law), allows for the exploration and mining of certain minerals and establishment of mining claims by U.S. citizens on federal public lands, unless an area is withdrawn from mineral entry.

As described in the Federal Register Notice of Proposed Withdrawal, published September 28, 2023, the proposed withdrawal and reservation of 199 acres from the U.S. mining laws would protect these lands within the Malheur NWR from any possibility of future mining claims and associated mining-related activities, thus protecting the wildlife and wildlife habitat for which the Refuge was established. If mining activities were to be allowed on NWRS lands, such activities would potentially degrade or destroy habitat necessary for the Refuge to meet the purposes for which it was established.

Background

The Service manages units of the NWRS according to the purposes for which individual refuges were established, relevant laws, international treaties, Service policy, and the NWRS mission. The legal framework relevant to management of NWRS units includes the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (NWRSA or Administration Act), as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Improvement Act), the Refuge Recreation Act of 1962, and selected portions of the Code of Federal Regulations. The Fish and Wildlife Service Manual and other Service policies also guide management of System units.

The Administration Act (NWRSA), as amended by the Improvement Act (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.), sets forth the Service's mission regarding the NWRS as

"... to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management and, where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans"

Additionally, the NWRSA requires the Secretary of the Interior to:

- Provide for the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants, and their habitats within the NWRS;
- Ensure that the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of the NWRS are maintained for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans;
- Ensure that the mission of the NWRS described at 16 U.S.C. 668dd(a)(2) and the purposes of each refuge are carried out;
- Ensure effective coordination, interaction, and cooperation with owners of land adjoining refuges and the fish and wildlife agency of the states in which the units of the NWRS are located;
- Assist in the maintenance of adequate water quantity and water quality to fulfill the mission of the NWRS and the purposes of each refuge;
- Recognize compatible wildlife-dependent recreational uses as the priority general public uses of the NWRS through which the American public can develop an appreciation for fish and wildlife;
- Ensure that opportunities are provided within the NWRS for compatible wildlife-dependent recreational uses; and Monitor the status and trends of fish, wildlife, and plants in each refuge (16 U.S.C. 668dd(a)(4)).

Malheur NWR was established by Executive Order No. 929 in 1908 "as a preserve and breeding ground for native birds." The Refuge is located in Harney County in Southeastern Oregon high desert, at the northern end of the Great Basin (Figure 1). The Refuge consists of more than

187,000 acres of wildlife habitat including open water, wetlands, and sagebrush. A large part of the Refuge is composed of Malheur, Mud, and Harney Lakes.

In 1983, the Secretary issued Public Land Order (PLO) No. 6470 adding 199 acres to assist the management of Malheur NWR. PLO No. 6470 had a term of 40 years and expired in 2023. While these 199 acres have remained under FWS management as part of the NWRS, and the Secretary could have proposed extending PLO No. 6470 for an additional 40 years, and future Secretaries could have proposed extending PLO No. 6470 for yet another 40 years, the Secretary is proposing a new withdrawal of these acres for 100 years or more for administrative convenience, to ensure protection of these Refuge System acres from any adverse impacts associated with location and entry under the U.S. mining laws. Because land once withdrawn for addition to the Refuge System remains part of the System unless otherwise specified by Congress, this EA also evaluates the impacts of a Secretarial withdrawal of these acres for an indefinite term.

Purpose and Need for the Action

The purpose and need for the proposed action are to support continued management of the 199 acres of public lands as part of the Refuge as a preserve and breeding ground for native birds, and to preclude any new location or entry under the U.S. mining laws on these lands that may interfere with this and other Refuge purposes. The NWRSA does not, of itself, withdraw Refuge System land from location and entry under the U.S. mining laws or from mineral leasing. The proposed withdrawal and reservation of these lands would preclude location or entry under any new mining claims for these 199 acres, thus ensuring protection of these acres within the Refuge from any adverse impacts from possible mining-related activities. The continued withdrawal would allow the service to better manage land east of Malheur Lake by continuing to allow access to a boundary fence within the 199 acres that extends the Refuge boundary a quarter mile east. The withdrawal boundary adjustment allows the Refuge to access and manage lands that are subject to flooding during high water years.

The need of the proposed action is to meet not only the purpose for the Malheur NWR as set forth in the 1908 Executive Order, but also the Service's priorities and mandates as outlined by the NWRSA to (16 U.S.C. 668dd(a)(4)):

- Provide for the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants, and their habitats within the NWRS.
- Ensure that the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of the NWRS are maintained for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.
- Ensure that the mission of the NWRS described at 16 U.S.C. 668dd(a)(2) and the purposes of each refuge are carried out.

- Ensure effective coordination, interaction, and cooperation with owners of land adjoining refuges and the fish and wildlife agency of the states in which the units of the NWRS are located.

Alternatives

Three alternatives were considered in this analysis: the No Action Alternative, Indefinite Withdrawal, and 100-year Withdrawal.

Alternative A – No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the 199 acres would not be withdrawn from appropriation under the public land laws, including location and entry from the U.S. mining laws. PLO No. 6470 that previously withdrew lands for the Refuge expired in 2023. Under the No Action Alternative, while the lands would remain part of the NWRS, 199 acres of Refuge lands would no longer have the certainty with respect to protection of any adverse impacts from exploration and mining activities under the U.S. mining laws. Selection of the No Action Alternative would interfere with the Service's efforts to meet the conservation goal and stated purpose of the Refuge.

Alternative B – Indefinite Withdrawal

Alternative B would be Secretarial withdrawal of the lands identified in the September 28, 2023 Federal Register Notice of Proposed Withdrawal (88 FR 66883), for an indefinite, rather than 100-year term. The proposed withdrawal includes 199 acres on the eastern side of the Malheur NWR (Figure 1). The proposed withdrawal and reservation of 199 acres from the U.S. mining laws would protect these lands within the Refuge from any possibility of future mining claims and associated mining-related activities, thus protecting the wildlife and wildlife habitat for which the Refuge was established. If mining activities were to be allowed on NWRS lands, such activities would potentially degrade or destroy habitat necessary for the Refuge to meet the purposes for which it was established. As NWRSAA provides that these acres will remain part of the NWRS unless otherwise specified by Congress, the action is that these 199 acres be withdrawn from appropriation under the public land laws, including location and entry under the U.S. mining laws, equally as long; therefore, the action alternative is that these 199 acres be withdrawn for an indefinite term eliminating the need to administratively process additional withdrawal extensions.

Alternative B is based on the projection that allowing mining on the Refuge would be contradictory to the purposes for which the Refuge was established. Mining activities have the potential for detrimental impacts on the variety of wildlife species. Mining activities also have the potential for adverse impacts to the sensitive habitat found throughout the Refuge, including riparian areas and wetlands, which offer important stopover habitats for migratory birds and waterfowl. Any type of mining activity on the Refuge would interfere with the long-

term protection necessary to ensure the continued existence of habitat and sensitive species. Withdrawing these lands from potential mining activities would ensure these lands could still be used for Refuge purposes.

Alternative C – 100-year Withdrawal

Alternative C would be the same as the Alternative B but with 100-year term proposed by the Secretary in the Federal Register. The Secretary would withdraw the 199 acres at Malheur NWR from location and entry under the U.S. mining laws for 100 years, subject to valid existing rights; however, before the close of the 100-year term, the Service would need to apply for, and the Secretary would be required under regulations at 43 CFR 2310.4(b) to extend the withdrawal for an additional 100 years. Since lands once reserved for addition to the NWRS remain in the System unless otherwise specified by Congress, the Secretary would need to keep extending the 100-year withdrawal to protect Refuge lands until Congress decides to remove the land from the Refuge System.

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

This section is organized by affected resource categories and for each affected resource discusses both (1) the reasonably foreseeable environmental trends and planned actions in the area for each resource and (2) the effects and impacts of the proposed action and any action alternatives on each resource. This discussion includes the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed and action alternatives; that is, the effects considered here are changes to the quality of the human environment, whether adverse or beneficial. This EA describes the environmental consequences of the proposed and action alternatives on a resource only when the impacts on that resource could be more than negligible and therefore considered an “affected resource.” Where impacts from the proposed or action alternatives on specific resources do not rise beyond negligible changes to the Affected Environment, the EA dismissed these resources from further analysis.

Malheur NWR consists of approximately 190,000 acres in Harney County. The Refuge consists primarily of open water, wetland, and sagebrush habitat. The 199 acres proposed for withdrawal lie on the eastern side of the Refuge along the lake shore. (See map of the general area and proposed project site in Figure 1).

For more information regarding and the general characteristics of the Refuge’s environment, please see chapters 3, 4, and 5 of the Refuge’s Comprehensive Conservation Plan, which can be found here: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ServCat/Reference/Profile/43336>, and are incorporated herein by reference.

In general, mining-related activities include the following: prospecting/exploration, development, production, and reclamation. These activities are generally characterized by

surface disturbing activities such as digging, earth moving, trenching, widespread removal of vegetation, construction of roads, generation of traffic and dust from vehicles and the imposition of human-made lights and sounds. These are the kinds of activities a withdrawal is intended to minimize or prevent.

Natural Resources

Terrestrial Wildlife and Aquatic Species

Affected Environment

The majority lake and wetland habitats of the Refuge are particularly important foraging sites for migrating waterfowl, waterbirds, and shorebirds and as nesting habitat for colonial nesting waterbirds. Some of the most prominent migratory waterfowl found on the Refuge include snow geese, Ross's geese, American wigeon, tundra swan, American green-winged teal, ruddy duck, northern shoveler, northern pintail, mallards, redhead, and canvasback. Thirty different species of waterbirds occur on the Refuge including greater sandhill cranes, western and Clark's grebes, American white pelicans, California gulls, and Forster's terns and diving ducks. Twenty-seven shorebird species are found on the Refuge during different seasons of the year including western sandpiper, long-billed dowitcher, Wilson phalarope, American avocet, and common snipe. Various raptors, passerines, and other birds can be found on the Refuge.

A diverse assemblage of native fishes inhabit the Refuge's various aquatic habitats, including the Great Basin redband trout, bridge lip sucker, coarse scale sucker, chisel mouth, northern pikeminnow, reidsided shiner, mountain whitefish, longnose and speckled dace, and Malheur mottled sculpin. Fifty-eight species of mammals have been observed on the Refuge. Various reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates can be found on the Refuge.

Description of Environmental Trends and Planned Actions

Climate trends in the Malheur Lake region are expected to include rising temperatures and changing precipitation patterns. These climate trends are expected to result in more frequent extremes and larger fluctuations in climate conditions. Malheur Lake water levels are predicted to be impacted by these fluctuations through the increased frequency of high and low water levels. These changing water levels would potentially shift refuge habitats and increase the frequency of disturbance events. Currently, the land use around the Refuge includes agriculture and other public land including BLM land. Land use practices on the surrounding land are not anticipated to change significantly, maintaining the current agricultural footprint in the region. To continue to restore the native habitats of the region and increase the resilience of the Refuge habitats the Refuge will be implementing a wind reduction and marsh revegetation project in the central area of Malheur Lake in the next few years. This revegetation project will encompass approximately 3000 hectares of lake and marsh habitat.

Impacts on Affected Resource

Alternative A – No Action

Under the No Action Alternative there is higher potential for future mining activities on the Refuge, as location and entry of new claims would not be precluded. Based on the four mining-related activities of prospecting/exploration, development, production, and reclamation, both direct and indirect impacts would be anticipated on terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species. Mining-related activities would be detrimental to a vast variety of wildlife residing on the Refuge with emphasis on fisheries and riparian-dependent species and their habitat. Direct effects of mining-related activities could result in loss of habitat as well as the potential for both mortality and increased disturbance and displacement due to increased human presence, and noise. Indirect effects of mining-related activities include increased sedimentation rates that could leach unnaturally high concentrations of some chemicals, such as, but not limited to, arsenic, sulfuric, and mercury over a significant range of surface or subsurface area.

Alternative B - Indefinite Withdrawal

A withdrawal and reservation as proposed would prevent the location and entry of new mining claims, thereby eliminating the likelihood of mining-related activities on these 199 acres. Therefore, under the Proposed Action, there would be no adverse impacts on wildlife and aquatic species or their habitat from potential mining activities because new mining claims would not occur on federal lands within the proposed withdrawal area.

Alternative C – 100-year Withdrawal

The impacts under Alternative C would be the same as Alternative B for a 100-year term.

Threatened and Endangered Species, and Other Special Status Species

Affected Environment and Impacts on Affected Resource

No threatened or endangered species are known to occur on the Refuge or in the proposed action area. Therefore, threatened and endangered species would not be impacted by the proposed action or other action alternatives.

Habitat and Vegetation (including vegetation of special management concern)

Affected Environment

Malheur NWR is composed of three very distinct environments, each including a diversity of native habitats and landscapes. The three environments are dominated by lacustrine (lake) and riparian habitats because of the strong hydrological influences on the Refuge landscape and vegetation. The core of the Refuge is dominated by a shallow lake basin and encompasses Harney, Mud, and Malheur lakes. The Blitzen Valley, a broad corridor to the south of the lake basin, is divided along its entire length by the Blitzen River and associated riparian habitat. The valley provides most of the water feeding the central lake basin. The Double-O is a broad valley

basin which covers a smaller portion of Refuge lands. Intermittent water from the Silver Creek watershed flows through this management area and drains into Harney Lake. Together, these three environments result in a diversity of habitats dominated by lake, riparian, and wetland habitats, which support more than 415 species of birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians.

The 199 acres proposed for withdrawal lie on the eastern side of Malheur Lake along the lake edge. This area is periodically inundated during high water levels due to wave action or ice resulting in a lacustrine (lake) and upland salt desert scrub habitat depending on the time of year.

Description of Environmental Trends and Planned Actions

The same environmental trends and planned actions that are described earlier in this document also impact habitat and vegetation.

Impacts on Affected Resource

Alternative A – No action

Absent a withdrawal, mining-related activities initiated from new mining claims could result in adverse impacts to vegetation. Under the No Action Alternative there is the potential for multiple acres of lakeshore and upland salt desert scrub to be altered or removed for mining activities to occur. These activities have the potential to disturb habitat conditions (through vegetation removal, trampling/crushing, and construction of mining infrastructure) and introduce invasive species that could out-compete native vegetation.

Alternative B - Indefinite Withdrawal A withdrawal as proposed would prevent the location and entry of new mining claims, thereby eliminating the likelihood of mining-related activities on these 199 acres. Therefore, under the Proposed Action, there would be no impacts on vegetation and habitat from potential mining activities associated with any new mining claims on federal lands within this area. Refuge conservation activities would be continued to restore and preserve habitat for native species.

Alternative C – 100-year withdrawal

The impacts under Alternative C would be the same as Alternative B for a 100-year term.

Geology and Soils

Affected Environment

The geology and soils of the Refuge are primarily formed from tectonic, volcanic, and glacial activity. The soils on the Refuge are in the following orders aridisols, inceptisols, entisols, and mollisols. The soils on the Harney, Mud, and Malheur Lake beds and the terraces adjacent to them are classified as Lolak, Ausmus, Crowcamp, Poujade, and Lawen series. Soils on the lake plains that are subject to a fluctuating water table have a high level of salinity and alkalinity. The soils found on plateaus and hills surrounding the basin where a duripan has developed and

are represented by the Raz soil series (Double-O and lower Blitzen Valley). The sediment eroding from the hills and plateaus is low in alkalinity. Soils within Refuge boundaries on the steep slopes of the valley basin are Felcher (south and west aspects) and West butte (north and east aspects) series.

Based on a review of existing literature, USGS geological map, and field observation of the proposed withdrawal areas, it has been determined that these lands have low potential for the occurrence of locatable minerals and saleable minerals, with high potential for the occurrence of leasable minerals because of the presence of geothermal resources (BLM 2023). The review concluded that the high and low mineral potential should not be considered a limiting factor in executing the proposed action.

Description of Environmental Trends and Planned Actions

The same environmental trends and planned actions that are described earlier in this document also impact geology and soil.

Impacts on Affected Resource

Alternative A – No action

Absent a withdrawal, mining-related activities initiated based on new mining claims could result in the development of geologic resources that could have adverse impacts to soils. Mining and mining-associated activities could result in soil loss and increased potential for erosion. Un-natural soil conditions could arise through soil disturbance of mining activities, increase in use and construction of roads, and associated infrastructure established to maximize mining activities. These types of soil disturbing activities could introduce invasive species and promote conditions favorable to invasive species that can eventually outcompete native vegetation.

Alternative B - Indefinite Withdrawal

A withdrawal and reservation as proposed would prevent the location and entry of new mining claims, thereby eliminating the likelihood of mining-related activities on these 199 acres. Therefore, under the Proposed Action, there would be no impacts on geology or soils from potential mining activities associated with any new mining claims on federal lands within this proposed withdrawal area.

Alternative C - 100-year Withdrawal

The impacts under Alternative C would be the same as Alternative B for a 100-year term.

Air Quality

Affected Environment

Malheur NWR is not located in a Class I airshed, nonattainment area, or maintenance area (EPA 2024). Air pollution sources include local agricultural activities, wildfires, vehicle traffic on Oregon State Highway 205, and local and Refuge traffic.

Description of Environmental Trends and Planned Actions

The same environmental trends and planned actions that are described earlier in this document also impact air quality.

Impacts on Affected Resource

Alternative A – No action

Absent a withdrawal and reservation, mining-related activities that may follow new mining claims could result in degradation of air quality on the Refuge and beyond. This could occur through the increase of the amount of dust (from travel on unpaved roads and soil removal/moving activities) and emissions from vehicle engines and the use generators for power.

Alternative B - Indefinite Withdrawal

A withdrawal and reservation as proposed would prevent the location and entry of new mining claims, thereby eliminating the likelihood of mining related activities on these 199 acres. Therefore, under the Proposed Action, there would be no new impacts on air quality from potential mining activities associated with any new mining claims on federal lands within the proposed withdrawal area.

Alternative C - 100-year Withdrawal

The impacts under Alternative C would be the same as Alternative B but for a 100-year term.

Water Quality

Affected Environment

The core of the Refuge is dominated by a shallow lake basin and encompasses Harney, Mud, and Malheur lakes. Three major rivers, the Silvies River, the Blitzen River, and Silver Creek, flow into the Refuge' lakes from the north, south, and west. These rivers originate from snowmelt and runoff from higher elevations. Irrigation withdrawals throughout the basin reduces the overall flow into the Refuge's lakes. Several natural springs in the lowlands around Malheur and Harney lakes also contribute to the flow. In the past and currently various waterways and lakes in and around the Refuge have been classified as impaired under the Clean Water Act for water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and heavy meatal concentrations.

Description of Environmental Trends and Planned Actions

The same environmental trends and planned actions that are described earlier in this document also impact water quality.

Impacts on Affected Resource

Alternative A - No action

Absent a withdrawal, mining related activities initiated based on new mining claims within these 199 acres could result in degradation of water quality and quantity on the Refuge and in

the surrounding watershed. Mining-related activities could increase sedimentation rates and potentially leach unnaturally high concentrations of some chemicals, such as, but not limited to arsenic and mercury over a significant range of surface or subsurface area. This could lead to contamination of surface water and adverse impacts to ground water through leaching into the soil. Mining can also lead to large amounts of water produced from mine drainage, mine cooling, aqueous extraction and other mining processes which increases the potential for these chemicals to contaminate ground and surface water. Furthermore, mining activities can rely on local groundwater, reducing these important resources and resulting in the drawdown of local aquifers.

Alternative B - Indefinite Withdrawal

A withdrawal as proposed would prevent the location and entry of new mining claims, thereby eliminating the likelihood of mining-related activities on these 199 acres. Therefore, under the Proposed Action, there would be no impacts on water resources from potential mining activities associated with any new mining claims on federal lands within this area. Since mining activities related to new mining claims would be precluded, no additional use of water resources that could appreciably disturb or damage the land and impact surface and groundwater resources are expected. As the Malheur NWR is controlled and regulated under NWRS requirements, existing water resources are preserved, and water quality is protected. Finally, the proposed withdrawal would not require any additional water resources for Refuge purposes.

Alternative C - 100-year Withdrawal

The impacts under Alternative C would be the same as Alternative B for a 100-year term.

Floodplains

Affected Environment

The proposed withdrawal area is within the floodplain of Malheur Lake. This floodplain is primarily in the Refuge boundary and Refuge habitat management and native habitats allows for seasonal water fluctuations. The 199 acres proposed for withdrawal represent only a small percentage of the total floodplain area. The proposed action area periodically floods during high water levels from wave action or ice accumulation.

Description of Environmental Trends and Planned Actions

The same environmental trends and planned actions that are described earlier in this document also impact floodplains.

Impacts on Affected Resource

Alternative A - No action

Absent a withdrawal and reservation, mining-related activities that may follow new mining claims on these 199 acres could result in degradation of the floodplain. This could be caused by the disturbance and potential infrastructure related to mining activities. Mining activities could alter the floodplain function resulting in detrimental impacts from flooding. Overall, the proposed withdrawal area is relatively small compared to the whole floodplain minimizing the overall impact to the floodplain and the resulting impacts from a flood event.

Alternative B - Indefinite Withdrawal

Under Alternative B, the floodplain would continue to be protected by being withdrawn from mining. The withdrawal would protect the 199 acres of the Malheur lakeshore that at high water levels get inundated by water further protecting the floodplain and water quality of the lake from mining impacts in perpetuity.

Alternative C - 100-year Withdrawal

Alternative C would protect the floodplain and lakeshore the same as Alternative B but for a 100-year term.

Visitor Use and Experience

Affected Environment

The Refuge is open to the public year-round from sunrise to sunset on designated roads and trails. The Center Patrol Road, the Refuge's 42-mile auto tour route, provides the main access to the Blitzen Valley, the most frequently visited portion of the Refuge. Seasonal wildlife-dependent recreational uses are associated with the historic Sod House Ranch, and the hunting and fishing programs. Sod House Ranch is seasonally open for historic interpretive and wildlife-viewing purposes. On average the Refuge receives approximately 22,600 visitors per year. Visitors participate in various wildlife dependent activities including wildlife observation and photography, interpretation and environmental education, and hunting and fishing.

Description of Environmental Trends and Planned Actions

The same environmental trends and planned actions that are described earlier in this document also impact visitor use and experience.

Impacts on Affected Resource

Alternative A - No action

Absent a withdrawal and reservation, mining-related activities initiated based on new mining claims on these 199 acres could result in adverse impacts to visitor use and experience on the Refuge. Mining-related activities would be detrimental to a vast variety of species residing on the Refuge which visitors come to the Refuge to see. Under this alternative, there could also be impacts to the aesthetic resources of the Refuge along with decreased values of habitat quality that can result in impacts to habitat and disturb wildlife. These impacts could eventually lead to

decreased visitation since the primary reason for coming to the Refuge is to participate in wildlife-dependent recreation activities.

Alternative B - Indefinite Withdrawal

A withdrawal and reservation as proposed would prevent the location and entry of new mining claims, thereby eliminating the likelihood of mining-related activities on these 199 acres. Therefore, under the Alternative B, there would be no impacts on Refuge land and to visitor use or visitor experience from mining related activities associated with any new mining claims on federal lands within the proposed withdrawal area.

Alternative C - 100-year Withdrawal

The impacts under alternative C would be the same as alternative B for a 100-year term.

Cultural Resources and Subsistence

Affected Environment

Malheur NWR contains over 300 recorded prehistoric sites and 21 historic sites in a wide variety of habitats. Two prehistoric sites (35HA403 and 35HA1038) and three historic sites (Sod House Ranch, Double-O Ranch, and P Ranch) are listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Generally, CCC sites and structures meet the eligibility requirements for inclusion in the NRHP, and three CCC-constructed dams (Sodhouse, Busse, and Page Springs) have been determined eligible for inclusion in the NRHP by the State Historic Preservation Office, though they have not been formally nominated. Prehistoric sites on Malheur, Mud, and Harney lakes in combination are eligible for listing as an Archaeological District in the NRHP. This is also true of prehistoric sites in the Double-O Unit and the Blitzen Valley; however, additional research and investigations would be needed to determine the full extent of their importance before nomination to the NRHP. No known historic or prehistoric sites occur on the 199 acres of the proposed action.

Description of Environmental Trends and Planned Actions

The same environmental trends and planned actions that are described earlier in this document also impact cultural resources and subsistence.

Impacts on Affected Resource

Alternative A - No action

Absent a withdrawal, mining-related activities initiated based on new mining claims on these 199 acres could result in impacts to undocumented cultural or historical sites on the Refuge. Any mining-related activities could damage or destroy undocumented sites through mining operations, including construction of roadways, staging areas, and other forms of ground disturbance. Any undertakings would require cultural resource inventory and consultation with

Tribes and the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) for concurrence with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act prior to authorization.

Alternative B - Indefinite Withdrawal

A withdrawal as proposed would prevent the location and entry of new mining claims, thereby eliminating the likelihood of mining related activities on these 199 acres. Therefore, under the Proposed Action, there would be no impacts to cultural resources from mining related activities associated with any new mining claims on federal lands within the proposed withdrawal area.

Alternative C – 100-year withdrawal

The impacts under Alternative C would be the same as Alternative B for a 100-year term.

Refuge Management and Operations

Land Use and Infrastructure on the Refuge

Affected Environment

Various roadways including State highway 205, two paved county roads, major gravel roads, and multiple internal Refuge gravel roads transect the Refuge in multiple orientations. No public road provides access to the proposed withdrawal area. Power line corridors throughout the Refuge are generally along road rights-of-way or adjacent to them. There are 10 designated hiking trails throughout the Refuge, which provide over 20 miles for visitors to explore and learn about wildlife and the Refuge, including the nationally recognized Desert Trail.

Barbed wire fencing delineates and protects most of the Refuge boundary. The boundary fence runs through the proposed withdrawal area that periodically floods during high lake levels. The current withdrawal that was put in place in 1983 currently allows the boundary fence to be placed outside of the flooded area resulting in easier management and fence repair.

Description of Environmental Trends and Planned Actions

The same environmental trends and planned actions that are described earlier in this document also impact Refuge management.

Impacts on Affected Resource

Alternative A – No Action

No significant infrastructure is present on the 199 acres proposed withdrawal area. If mining-related activities were to occur within the Refuge area, there would be a potential need for additional roads, utilities, and infrastructure to access mining sites, which could impact Refuge resources. This additional infrastructure could lead to additional impacts such as erosion, habitat fragmentation, and possible contamination from gasoline spills.

Alternative B - Indefinite Withdrawal

A withdrawal as proposed would prevent the location and entry of new mining claims on these 199 acres, thereby eliminating the likelihood of mining related activities that could result in additional infrastructure and disruptive land uses such as additional roads and utility infrastructure.

Alternative C – 100-year withdrawal

The impacts under Alternative C would be the same as Alternative B for a 100-year term.

Socioeconomics

Local and Regional Economies

Affected Environment

Malheur Refuge is located in southeastern corner of Oregon in Harney County. Towns located near the Refuge include the agricultural communities of Diamond (15 miles distant), Frenchglen (immediately adjacent), and Crane (40 miles distant), and Burns/Hines (35 miles distant). The top employment sectors in Harney County are the government, agriculture, and retail (Headwaters Economics 2022). The population of Harney County has stayed fairly stable since the 1970 to 2022 vacillating between about 7,000 to 8,000 people.

Refuge visitors contribute to local economies by providing revenue for local businesses. Malheur NWR is a destination for wildlife-dependent recreation especially birding because of its unique location in the Pacific flyway. In 2010 it was estimated that Refuge visitors contributed over \$500,000 in total tax revenue to the local and regional economy (USFWS 2012).

As noted in the Geology and Soils section, based on a review of existing literature, USGS geological map, and field observation of the proposed withdrawal areas, it has been determined that these lands have low potential for the occurrence of locatable minerals and saleable minerals, with high potential for the occurrence of leasable minerals because of the geothermal resource presence (BLM 2023). The review concluded that the high and low mineral potential should not be considered a limiting factor in executing the proposed action; however, it is possible to conclude that mining-related activities in the Refuge would not be an economic driver in the communities around the Refuge because of the small area of the withdrawal and relatively minimal mineral potential.

Description of Environmental Trends and Planned Actions

The same environmental trends and planned actions that are described earlier in this document also impact local and regional economics.

Impacts on Affected Resource

Alternative A – No Action

Absent a withdrawal and reservation, mining related activities initiated based on new mining claims could occur in these 199 acres on the Refuge. The Service recognizes the importance of

the mining industry and recognizes that restricting the location of new mining claims under a withdrawal could have potential impacts to local economies and employment in the surrounding communities, and that absent such a withdrawal no restrictions would occur. Any impacts to socioeconomics from mining-related activities associated with new mining claims would be dependent on size and duration of such mining related activities. Given the moderate and low mineral potential and relatively small area of the withdrawal, it is not likely that mining-related activities on the Refuge would be an economic driver in the communities around the Refuge, even were such activities to occur. Visitors to the Refuge that are participating in recreational activities, such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching, have potential to significantly contribute to the local economy.

Absent a withdrawal and reservation, there could be impacts from mining related activities associated with new mining claims, affecting the aesthetic resources of the Refuge along with decreased habitat quality and increased disturbances to wildlife. These impacts could eventually lead to decreased visitation since the primary reason for coming to the Refuge is to participate in wildlife-dependent recreational activities. This decreased visitation could result in decreased economic benefit to the local economy because the Refuge is the main destination for visitors.

Alternative B - Indefinite Withdrawal

A withdrawal and reservation as proposed would prevent the location and entry of new mining claims, thereby eliminating the likelihood of mining-related activities on these 199 acres. Therefore, under the Proposed Action, there would be no impacts to the integrity of Refuge habitats and no impacts to the recreational values supported by the wildlife and their habitats from mining-related activities associated with any new mining claims on federal lands within the proposed withdrawal area. The natural and cultural resource protection afforded by a withdrawal as proposed would support continued recreational visitation and the economic benefits from that visitation.

Alternative C – 100-year withdrawal

The impacts under Alternative C would be the same as Alternative B for a 100-year term.

Environmental Justice

Affected Environment

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, requires all federal agencies to incorporate environmental justice into their missions by identifying and addressing disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs and policies on minorities and low-income populations and communities.

The Service has not identified any potential high and adverse environmental or human health impacts from this proposed action or any of the action alternatives. Minority or low-income communities would not be disproportionately affected by any impacts from either of the action alternatives.

Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts are defined as “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions” (40 CFR 1508.7).

The Service has considered the cumulative impacts from the proposed withdrawal. That is, the Service has considered the incremental impacts from the proposed action cumulatively with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in the nearby area. Relevant actions are those that similarly withdraw or reserve land and restrict development of mineral resources. In the proposed action, 199 acres would be withdrawn for Refuge purposes and would be restricted from development of certain mineral resources related to new mining claims. No other actions that would add to the total area withdrawn or restricted from development of mineral resources in this area of Oregon are reasonably foreseeable at this time.

Ongoing activities within area proposed for withdrawal do not approach compromising the Federal Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, or the Endangered Species Act. There are no foreseeable activities adjacent to the withdrawal area that would significantly alter existing conditions or affect life history requirements of local wildlife or have negative repercussions on other natural or cultural resources.

Summary of Analysis

Alternative A – No Action

As described above, under the No Action Alternative 199 acres on the eastern side of Malheur NWR would not be withdrawn from appropriation under the public land laws, including location and entry under the U.S. mining laws. Mining that could occur under the No Action Alternative would cause disturbance to wildlife, alter sensitive native habitat, and potentially lead to soil or water contamination. Selection of the No Action Alternative would not prevent the interference of these activities with the Service’s ability to manage the Refuge to meet its purposes of wildlife and habitat protection.

Alternative B – Indefinite Withdrawal

As described above, under the proposed action the Secretary would withdraw 199 acres on the eastern edge of the Refuge from appropriation under the public land laws, including location and entry under the U.S. mining laws. The withdrawal would prevent the interference of these activities with the Service's management of the Refuge to protect wildlife and native habitats in perpetuity.

Alternative C – 100-year withdrawal

As described above the impacts from Alternative C would be the same as Alternative B just with a shorter initial withdrawal term. The Secretary would withdraw the 199 acres at Malheur NWR from location and entry under the U.S. mining laws for 100 years, subject to valid existing rights; however, before the close of the 100-year term, the Service would need to apply for, and the Secretary would be required under regulations at 43 CFR 2310.4(b) to extend the withdrawal for an additional 100 years. Since lands once reserved for addition to the NWRS remain in the System unless otherwise specified by Congress, the Secretary would need to keep extending the 100-year withdrawal to protect Refuge lands until Congress decides to remove the land from the Refuge System.

List of Preparers

This document was prepared by USFWS Pacific Region's Planning Branch and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

State and Tribal Consultation

The Refuge has consulted with the Burns Paiute Tribe on the proposed withdrawal, and they have been supportive of the proposed action. The Refuge will also consult with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) before a decision is made on the proposed action. The Refuge is in regular contact with the Burns Paiute Tribe and ODFW on matters associated with the Refuge and expects to continue to be in contact during the NEPA process. Since the Service continues to manage these 199 acres within the Malheur NWR for Refuge purposes, without change, the Service does not expect the proposed action to generate any controversy.

Public Outreach

The BLM published a Notice of Proposed Withdrawal in the Federal Register (88 FR 66883) on September 28, 2023. Publication of this notice initiated a 90-day public comment period and invited members of the public to request a public meeting in connection with the proposal. The notice was also posted in the Burns-Times Herald. No meetings were requested. One comment was received expressing support for the proposed withdrawal.

This draft EA will be posted for a 15-day public review and comment period. The draft EA will be available at the Malheur NWR office (36391 Sodhouse Lane Princeton, OR 97721) and on the Malheur NWR website <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/malheur>. The public may submit comments or requests for additional information through any of the following methods:

Email: malheur@fws.gov

Mail: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, 36391 Sodhouse Lane Princeton, OR 97721

All comments received from individuals become part of the official public record. All requests for such comments are handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the CEQ's NEPA regulations in 40 CFR 1506.6(f). The Service's practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents can request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments.

Cooperating Agencies

The BLM cooperated with the Service in preparation of this EA in conjunction with preparation of the decision file for review and decision making by the Secretary of the Interior on the Service's application for the withdrawal of 199 acres of public lands within Malheur NWR.

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USFWS. 2012. Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. <https://ecos.fws.gov/ServCat/DownloadFile/165816>

Appendix A – Map

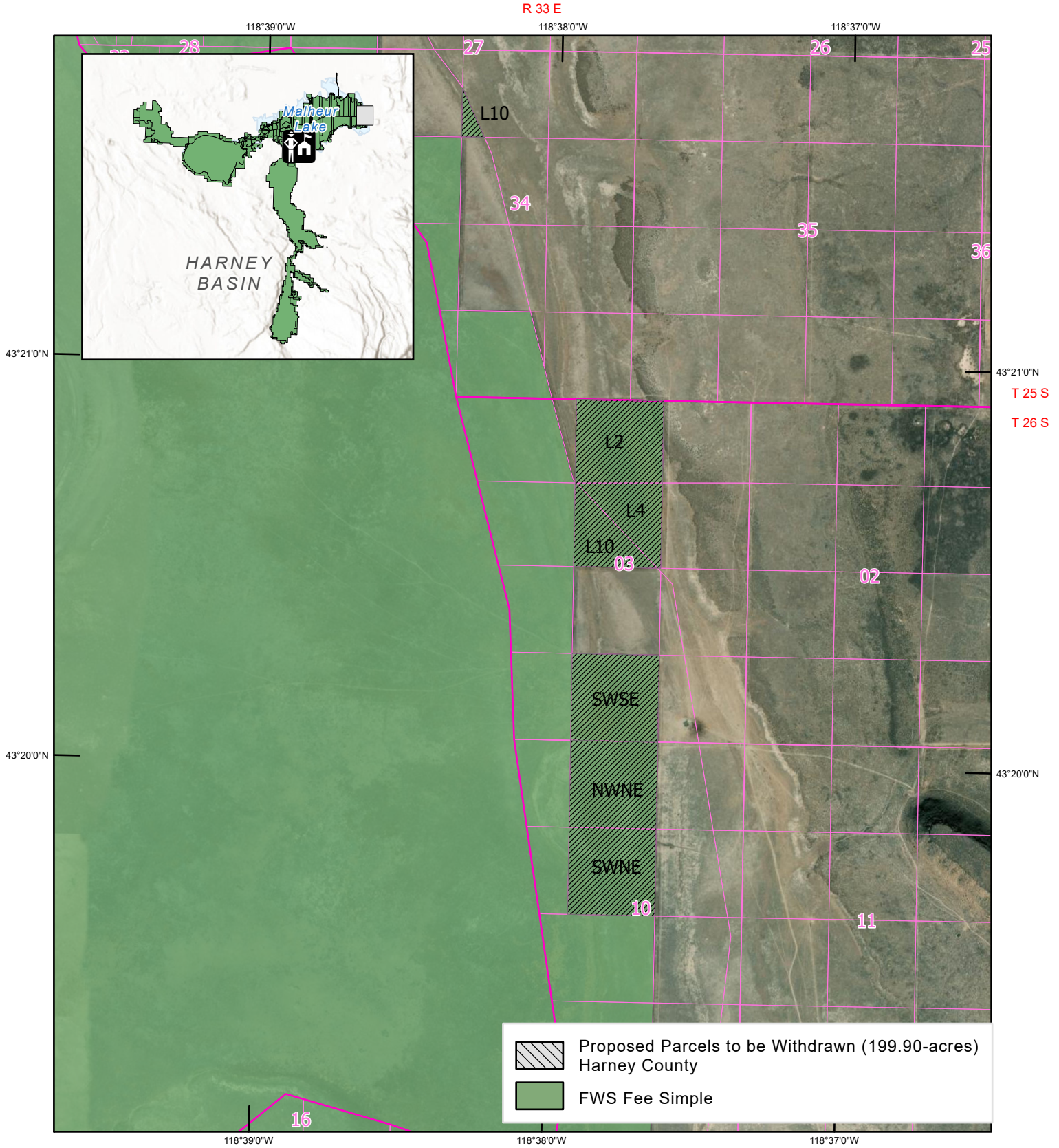


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

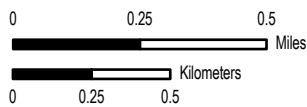
Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

Harney County, Oregon

Site Map



PRODUCED IN THE LANDS DIVISION
 PORTLAND, OREGON
 LAND STATUS CURRENT TO: 6/4/2020
 MAP DATE: 6/30/2023
 BASEMAP: ESRI WORLD IMAGERY
 MERIDIAN: WILLAMETTE
 FILE: R1_NWRS_FY23_643-2



Note:

The boundary and acreage values depicted on this map are estimates solely intended to identify the subject tract.



UTM ZONE 11
 NAD 83

Appendix B - Mineral Potential Report

Memo To File

Date: July 7, 2023

To: 2800/2770

From: Katherine Rhode, Burns District Geologist

Subject: Mineral Potential of Fish & Wildlife Land Withdrawal Renewal – Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

Introduction

Public Land Order (PLO) 6470, as part of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, withdrew 199.90 acres of National Wildlife Refuge managed lands, in Harney County, located in Lot 10, Sec. 34 of T 25S, R 33E, and in Lot 2, 4, 10, SWSE, Sec. 3 and WSE, Sec. 10 of T 26S, R 33E., (Enclosure 1) from settlement, sale, location, or entry under the general land laws, including the mining laws on September 29, 1983 for a period of 40-years.

As required in the withdrawal application a Mineral Potential Report (MPR; OR-7771) was prepared by George B. Brown, Geologist dated 1983. The original MPR was prepared in 1971 by Robert F. Ciesiel, Mining Engineer.

The purpose of this memorandum is to satisfy the requirement for a renewal of an administrative withdrawal that a Minerals Specialist review and assess the conclusions of the MPR prepared for the initial withdrawal application and inform management of any additional new information or policies not covered in the original report including requirements now included in MPRs that were not required when the report received technical approval in 1983. The 1971 and 1983 MPRs are attached to this memorandum as Enclosure 2.

Geology and Mineralization

The parcel is located in southwestern Oregon within the Harney Basin at the east end of Malheur Lake. Harney Basin occupies three physiographic provinces in southeastern Oregon; the proposed withdrawal, in the central basin, is underlain by the High Lava Planes as defined by Walker (1977). This Miocene to Holocene aged province is defined by basaltic volcanism and west-northwest migrating trend of silicic volcanism that extends across central and southeastern Oregon (Jordan and other, 2004). Nearby geologic outcrops infer that this silicic volcanism, in the form of ash-flow tuffs, underly the parcels. This volcanic activity is overlain by fluvial and lacustrine sedimentary rocks that flank the uplands and extend beneath the basin fill material and are dominated by Pleistocene (to recent) lacustrine and alluvial, poorly consolidated sedimentary deposits (Walker, 1979).

Energy Act of 2020 and Critical Minerals List

The Energy Act of 2020 (P.L. 116-260, December 27, 2020) defines critical minerals as “any non-fuel mineral, element, substance, or material that the Secretary of Energy determines (i) has a high risk of a supply chain disruption; and (ii) serves an essential function in one or more energy technologies, including technologies that produce, transmit, store, and conserve energy” excluding fuel minerals, water, ice, or snow, and common varieties of sand, gravel, stone, pumice, cinders and clay.

In 2022 the USGS published an updated report that that now includes 50 minerals determined to be currently critical to the nation’s economy and security based upon four factors: the commodity’s use; the geology and global distribution of the mineral deposit types that account for present and possible future supply of the commodity; the current status of production, reserves, and resources in the United States and globally; and environmental considerations related to the commodity’s production from different types of mineral deposits

(Schulz et al., 2017). The list was updated in 2018 and 2022 as directed by Executive Order (EO) 13817. This EO entitled “A Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals” defined critical minerals as “A mineral identified by the Secretary of Interior pursuant to subsection (b) of this section to be (i) a nonfuel mineral or mineral material essential to the economic and national security of the United States, (ii) the supply chain of which is vulnerable to disruption, and (iii) that serves an essential function in the manufacturing of a product, the absence of which would have significant consequences for our economy or our national security.” The resulting 2018 list includes 35 minerals or mineral materials and the 2022 lists updates this to include 50 mineral or mineral materials.

This definition was refined to include national security by EO 14017 entitled “America’s Supply Chains.” This EO distinguished between “critical minerals” as defined by the Strategic and Critical Materials Stockpile Act (50 U.S.C. 98) and “strategic and critical minerals” in the mandated 100-Day Review under Executive Order 14017, Building Resilient Supply Chains, Revitalizing American Manufacturing, and Fostering Broad-Based Growth. These materials are “[n]eeded to supply the military, industrial, and essential civilian needs of the United States during a national emergency and are not found or produced in the United States in sufficient quantities to meet such need.”

Materials that are considered “strategic and critical” vary over time and efforts are ongoing to describe the best methods or process by which to determine whether materials should be added or removed from the list. Pursuant to Section 7002 (“Mineral Security”) of Title VII (“Critical Minerals”) of the Energy Act of 2020 (P.L. 116-260) the Secretary of the Interior acting through the Director of the USGS is tasked with updating the Critical Minerals List every three years. Pursuant to the law, the USGS published 2022 Final List of Critical Minerals in the Federal Register (87 FR 10381) on February 24, 2022. The new list contains following 50 minerals: Aluminum, Antimony, Arsenic, Barite, Beryllium, Bismuth, Cerium, Cesium, Chromium, Cobalt, Dysprosium, Erbium, Europium, Fluorspar, Gadolinium, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Hafnium, Holmium, Indium, Iridium, Lanthanum, Lithium, Lutetium, Magnesium, Manganese, Neodymium, Nickel, Niobium, Palladium, Platinum, Praseodymium, Rhodium, Rubidium, Ruthenium, Samarium, Scandium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Terbium, Thulium, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Ytterbium, Yttrium, Zinc, Zirconium. Of the 50 listed minerals, 49 are not known to occur within the vicinity of the Wheeler Creek RNA withdrawal. Only nickel is known to occur in the vicinity and the closest possible occurrence of nickel is located six miles southeast of Wheeler Creek RNA near Packsaddle Mountain in the Josephine ophiolite ultramafic rocks which can alter to a nickel laterite soil in the right climatic conditions.

Mineral Activities Post-withdrawal

The area was withdrawn from mineral entry in 1971 and at the time there were no known mining claims or indication of mining on any of the subjected tracts, therefore no additional mining claims have been located within the existing withdrawal.

A search of the BLM Mineral and Land Records System on July 7, 2023, for mining claims and energy leases within T. 25 S., R. 33 E., and T. 26 S., R. 33 E Willamette Meridian encompassing 1,280 acres surrounding the subject 199.90 acres returned no active mining claims or energy leases.. Personnel communication with the local management, both BLM and USFWS, stated that he had not been contacted regarding any mining, common or uncommon, in the area proximal to the proposed withdrawal.

Brown (1982) mentions two existing oil and gas leases: OR-27306 (OROR105351140) and OR-27308 (OROR105343410). Both leases have been closed as of May 22, 1986 (Enclosure 3).

Conclusion

There remains LOW POTENTIAL for locatable mineralization because the non-mineral character of the geology in the immediate area of the withdrawal. As discussed above in the critical minerals section, there is LOW POTENTIAL for any of these deposits in the immediate area.

Leasable mineral conclusions reached by Brown (1982) are listed below:

Most of the area has HIGH POTENTIAL for geothermal resources, with wells occurring within less than one mile of the proposed parcel withdrawal. The area is still considered prospectively valuable for leasable minerals such as oil, gas, coal, and geothermal. However, there are no known potentially valuable deposits of leasable minerals at the surface and any present at depth would require subsurface exploration. Additionally, since of the lands are administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service this will have the effect of precluding or severely restricting exploration and development of leasable minerals due to applicable regulations.

Salable minerals such as sand, gravel, and stone are present in the lands. However, demand for those deposits will be low due to its variable quality, poor access, and existing supply.

No new information regarding leasable or saleable minerals would alter the conclusions reached by Ciesiel (1971) and Brown (1982) mineral potential reports.

No new information in the intervening years would alter any conclusions reached by Ciesiel (1971) and Brown (1982) mineral potential reports.

Evaluation of Brown (1982) MPR

The geologic site conditions have not changed since 1982 and the 1982 MPR is accurate and relevant regarding current science at the time of this letter.

Recommendations

Recommend that the withdrawal continue to be extended and the statement below remains relevant:

From Brown 1982:

“If future exploration on nearby lands in the Harney Basin provides data indicating that the subject lands contain potentially economic deposits of locatable minerals, the withdrawal should be reviewed and revoked, if appropriate.”

Prepared By: _____
Geologist

Technical Review: _____
Geologist Program Lead

Management Review: _____
Branch Chief; Lands, Minerals, and Energy Resources

References Cited

Jordan, B.T., Grunder, A.L., Duncan, R.A., and Deino, A.L., 2004, Geochronology of age-progressive volcanism of the Oregon High Lava Plains—Implications for the plume interpretation of Yellowstone: *Journal of Geophysical Research. Solid Earth*, v. 109, no. B10. [Also available at <https://doi.org/10.1029/2003jb002776>.]

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Enclosures

Enclosure 1: Map of Withdrawal Area

Enclosure 2: Mineral Report, Brown (1982) and Ciesiel (1971)

Enclosure 3: BLM Mineral and Land Records System (July 7, 2023) Oil & Gas Leases OR-27306 and OR-27308

Enclosure 1: Map of Withdrawal Area

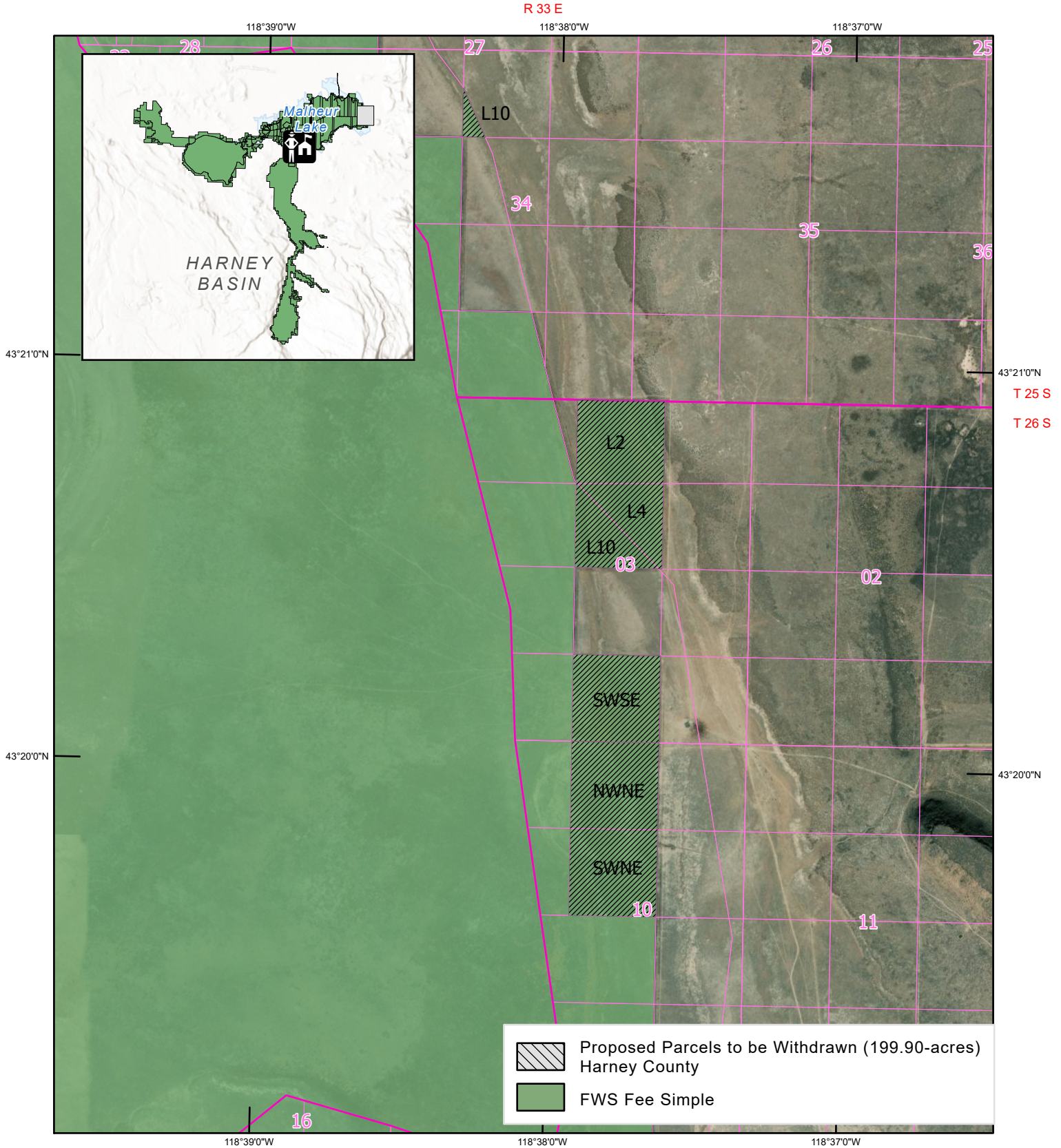




U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

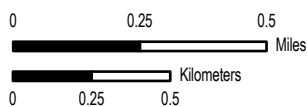
Harney County, Oregon

Site Map



 Proposed Parcels to be Withdrawn (199.90-acres) Harney County
 FWS Fee Simple

PRODUCED IN THE LANDS DIVISION
 PORTLAND, OREGON
 LAND STATUS CURRENT TO: 6/4/2020
 MAP DATE: 6/30/2023
 BASEMAP: ESRI WORLD IMAGERY
 MERIDIAN: WILLAMETTE
 FILE: R1_NWRS_FY23_643-2



Note:
 The boundary and acreage values depicted on this map are estimates solely intended to identify the subject tract.



Form 3980-1
(September 1970)
(formerly 3820-1)

Serial Number
OR 7771

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

State OREGON
Burns District

MINERAL REPORT

Fish & Wildlife Service Proposed Land
Withdrawal for Addition to the
Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

(Title)

LANDS INVOLVED

T. 25 S., R. 33 E., W.M.
Sec. 34: Lot 10

T. 26 S., R. 33 E., W.M.
Sec. 3 : Lots 2, 4, 10, SW1/4SE1/4
Sec. 10: W1/2NE1/4

Harney County, Oregon
containing ~~200.00~~ acres
199.90

September 7, 1982
(Date)

By

George B. Brown
Geologist

Technical Review

David E. Ciesiel
Sept 28 1982

Management Review

James R. Thompson
10/1/82
GPO 830-392

I Lands Involved

T. 25 S., R. 33 E., W.M.,
Sec. 34: Lot 10
T. 26 S., R. 33 E., W.M.,
Sec. 3: Lots 2, 4, 10, SW1/4SE1/4
Sec. 10: W1/2NE1/4

II. Introduction

- a. The purpose of this report is to provide a current mineral report for the withdrawal of the above described lands proposed by Fish & Wildlife Service for the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.
- b. No examination of the subject lands was conducted for this report. This report was prepared on the basis of a search of BLM records, including the Mineral Resource Inventory, mining claim and mineral leasing records, as well as data from Minerals Management Service.
- c. A previous mineral report for the subject lands was prepared by Robert F. Ciesiel, Mining Engineer, on September 13, 1971.

III. Status Record Data.

- a. The following appears to be the status which is pertinent:

Withdrawals: OR 7771, proposed withdrawal for the Malheur
National Wildlife Refuge
Rights-of-way: None
Conflicts: None

IV. Physical features.

- a. The subject lands are located at the eastern end of Malheur Lake adjacent to the present border of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Elevations range from about 4095 to 4100 feet above sea level. Most of the lands are on the shoreline of Malheur Lake and are subject to occasional seasonal flooding.
- b. The main access is provided by several unpaved roads and trails which extend westward from State Highway 78, midway between Crane, OR and New Princeton, OR, for a distance of about three miles to the subject lands.
- c. The topography is essentially flat. Principal vegetation consists of greasewood, annual grasses and salt grasses. The main activities in the area are grazing and the wildlife refuge. Climate is semiarid, averaging less than 10 inches of precipitation annually. Seasonal temperatures are mild in the summer and cold in winter, with below freezing temperatures possible every month of the year.
- d. The lands were identified using Master Title Plats and topographic maps.

V. General Geology and History of the Area.

- a. The general geology of the southern Harney Basin consists of early Miocene flood basalts overlain by several extensive, late Miocene ash-flow tuffs. The three distinct ash-flow units, in order of decreasing age, are the Prater Creek, Rattlesnake and Devine Canyon Ash-flow Tuffs (Walker, 1979). The tuffs are separated by associated tuffaceous lacustrine and fluvial sedimentary units, basalts and andesites and local silicic intrusions. Pleistocene to Recent silt, sand and gravel cover recent stream channels and most of the Harney Basin floor.
- b. About 18 miles southwest of the subject lands, mining claims for zeolites have been located on several thousand acres. Many samples from this area, located southeast of Harney Lake and south of the Narrows, contain 90 percent or more zeolites (principally clinoptilolite with lesser amounts of erionite, stilbite(?), phillipsite and heulandite) and 60 percent or more of nearly pure monoclinic potassium feldspar (Walker, 1968). Agate and petrified wood occur in the same vicinity, as well as in the Stinkingwater Mountains to the east of the subject lands.

Most of the Harney Basin has potential for geothermal resources, with thermal wells occurring within less than one mile of the subject lands.

VI. Geology and Mineralization of Lands Involved.

a. Site Geology

Rocks exposed on the subject lands consist of poorly consolidated, Pleistocene to Recent lacustrine and alluvial sedimentary deposits. Ash-flow tuffs are inferred to extend beneath the subject lands, based on projections of geology from outcrops on nearby areas (Walker, 1968).

b. Locatable Minerals

BLM records as of May 27, 1982 indicate that no mining claims had been recorded on the subject lands as of May 27, 1982. Zeolitic tuffaceous sedimentary rocks may underly the area, but such resources are classified as speculative in the Mineral Resource Inventory. There is potential that zeolites may be present in amounts comparable to the beds south of the Narrows (Walker, 1968).

c. Leasable Minerals

The Minerals Management Service, as of March 1, 1982, indicates that the subject lands are valuable for geothermal steam and associated geothermal resources, for oil and gas, and for sodium and potassium compounds. They further indicate that "the exercise of surface

rights on the lands would not interfere unreasonably with operations under the mineral leasing laws. The lands are without value for other leasable minerals."

All of the subject lands are included in two existing oil and gas leases. OR 27306, issued 07/01/82, includes T. 25 S., R. 33 E., W.M., Section 34: Lot 10. OR 27308, issued 06/01/82, includes T. 26 S., R. 33 E., W.M., Section 3: Lots 2,4,10, SW1/4SE1/4 and Section 10: W1/2NE1/4.

Feldspathized tuff beds may extend under the subject lands at an unknown depth. Grade, extent and distribution of potassium feldspar is unknown. Deposits under the subject lands may be comparable to outcrops found southeast of Harney Lake which contain as much as 60 percent or more of nearly pure monoclinic potassium feldspar (Walker, 1968).

c. Salable Minerals

There are no known presently economic salable mineral deposits on the subject lands.

VII. Mineral Development Work and Surface Improvements

- a. There are no recorded mines, mineral developments, prospects or surface improvements on the subject lands, as indicated by the Mineral Resource Inventory.

VIII. Conclusions

- a. There are no mining claims or indications of exploration or mining activity on the subject lands. There are no known deposits of locatable minerals, but there is potential that zeolites may be present at depth. Evaluation of these minerals would require subsurface exploration. The proposed withdrawal would preclude exploration for or development of any such deposits, if present.
- b. Minerals Management Service indicates that the lands are valuable for certain leasable minerals, but that exercise of surface rights would not unreasonably interfere with operations under the mineral leasing laws. However, inclusion of the lands in a wildlife refuge administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will have the effect of precluding or severely restricting exploration and development of leasable minerals, due to applicable regulations. (Note: Existing noncompetitive oil & gas leases would be unaffected by these provisions.)

In a wildlife refuge:

- 1) Geothermal leasing is prohibited.

- 2) Oil & gas leasing is limited to competitive leasing of lands subject to drainage under restrictive stipulations for protection of wildlife.
- 3) Leasing of sodium and potassium resources will be subject to the recommendations and special stipulations of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.


All of the above leasable minerals are classified in the Mineral Resource Inventory as undiscovered speculative resources, based on present information. There are no known potentially valuable deposits of leasable minerals exposed at the surface of the subject lands. Evaluation of oil and gas, geothermal resources and deposits of potassium feldspar or sodium which may be present at depth would require subsurface exploration.

- c. There is little potential for economic deposits of salable minerals on the subject lands. Development of any such materials would not be effected by the subject withdrawal.
- d. Although the inclusion of the subject lands in a withdrawal for a wildlife refuge would impose site specific restrictions on exploration and development of locatable and leasable minerals, overall effect should be minimal due to the small acreage involved, the configuration of the lands and their location on a floodplain. The majority of the public lands in the Harney Basin are open to entry under the mining and mineral leasing laws.

IX. Recommendations

I recommend that the subject lands be withdrawn from entry under the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws. If future exploration on nearby lands in the Harney Basin provides data indicating that the subject lands contain potentially economic deposits of locatable minerals, the withdrawal should be reviewed and revoked, if appropriate.

This report is the result of a mineral potential examination and should not be used for purposes other than that for which the report was prepared.


George B. Brown

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-
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APPENDIX I

Master Title Plats



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
 Minerals Management Service
 Western Region
 345 Middlefield Road
 Menlo Park, California 94025

MAR 4 7 30 AM '82

STATE
 PORTLAND OREGON

MAR 1 1982

Memorandum

To: Chief, Branch of Lands and Minerals Operations, BLM, Oregon

From: Director, Minerals Management Service

Subject: Mineral Report on Withdrawal Review OR-7771

Please refer to your request dated January 20, 1982, for a mineral report regarding lands in T. 25 S., R. 33 E., and T. 26 S., R. 33 E., W.M., Oregon.

Minerals Management Service information indicates that the lands are valuable for geothermal steam and associated geothermal resources, for oil and gas, and for sodium and potassium compounds. The exercise of surface rights on the lands would not interfere unreasonably with operations under the mineral leasing laws. The lands are without value for other leasable minerals.

Ronald W. Michelsohn

Deputy Minerals Manager
 Resource Evaluation
 For the Director



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Branch of Western Mineral Resources MS 900A
345 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, California 94025

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MAR 31 7 30 AM '82
STATE OF OREGON
PORTLAND

February 25, 1982

MEMORANDUM

TO: Assistant Chief Geologist, Western Region
FROM: Roscoe M. Smith, Geologist *Roscoe M. Smith*
SUBJECT: Locatable and Salable mineral resources -
Withdrawal Review OR 7771
2320 (943.4)

Please refer to the request of January 20, 1982 from Chief, Branch of Lands and Mineral Operations, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 2965, Portland, Oregon 97208, for a report on the locatable and salable mineral resources of the following lands:

- Willamette Meridian, Harney County, Oregon
- T. 25 S., R. 33 E., Sec. 34
- T. 26 S., R. 33 E., Sec. 3, 10

These sections are underlain by Quaternary gravel, sand, silt, and clay. We have no record of mines or prospects on the land.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

State Oregon
Burns District

MINERAL REPORT

Proposed Land Withdrawal
of
Fish & Wildlife Service
for

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

(Title)

LANDS INVOLVED

Harney County, Oregon
Willamette Meridian
T. 25 S., R. 33 E.
Sec. 34: Lot 10

T. 26 S., R. 33 E.
Sec. 3: Lots 2, 4, 10, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 10: W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
Containing 200.00 acres

September 13, 1971
(Date)

By

Robert F. Ciesiel
Mining Engineer

Management Review

[Signature]

GPO 830-392

Technical Review

[Signature]
9/22/71

STATE OFFICE
PORTLAND, OREGON

SEP 22 10 00 AM 1971

BUREAU OF
LAND MANAGEMENT



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Baker District Office
P.O. Box 589 - Baker, Oregon 97814

OR 7771
M-13046

Lands Involved

T. 25 S., R. 33 E., W.M. Harney County
Sec. 34: Lot 10

T. 26 S., R. 33 E., W.M.
Sec. 3: Lots 2, 4, 10, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 10: W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

Status

The following appears to be the status which is pertinent:

Conflicts:	None
Rights-of-Way:	None
Withdrawals:	Proposed withdrawal National Wildlife Refuge, OR 7771

Mining Claims

Examination of the land showed no evidence of mining or mining claims.

Examination

The subject land was examined by the undersigned on August 10, 1971, while accompanied by Dick Miller, Burns District Realty Specialist

Description

The lands are adjacent to the present borders of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge. The topography is essentially flat, being mostly along the shoreline of Malheur Lake. At the time of examination, Lot 10 of Section 34 was mostly underwater. Elevation is 4100 feet above sea level.



Vegetation consists of greasewood with an undercover of annual grasses and salt grasses in the lake bed.

Geology

All of the rocks in the subject area are of Pliocene or younger in age. They are volcanically derived sedimentary rocks and flow rocks deposited in a structural basin which includes Harney and Malheur lakes.

Rocks on the subject tracts are Pleistocene to Recent in age consisting of poorly consolidated lake and alluvial deposits. These sediments include sand, silt and clay with varying amounts of volcanic ash and tuff. The butte just east of the subject tracts is capped with flows of olivine basalt.

Mineral Deposits

The U.S.G.S. states that their information indicates that the subject land is valuable for oil and gas, geothermal steam and associated geothermal resources and sodium and potassium. They further state that locatable minerals are not known or reported in the area but that the BLM should make this determination for themselves.

Examination of the subject tracts indicates little to no likelihood of the occurrence of locatable minerals. There is the possibility of the occurrence of evaporative type minerals although no known commercial deposits of these type minerals are known to occur in the area. There are no economic salable minerals on the tracts.

Pertinent Information

This report is the result of a mineral character examination and should not be used for purposes other than that for which the report was prepared.

Conclusions and Recommendations

There are no known mining claims or indications of mining on any of the subject tracts. There are no locatable or salable minerals on these lands. The U.S.G.S. indicates the lands are valuable for oil and gas. There is the possibility that the land may contain saline minerals at depth and also possibly zeolites. The U.S.G.S. also states the land may be valuable for geothermal steam. However, all these minerals and resources would come under the purview of the leasing laws and such minerals are not being proposed for withdrawal.

It is recommended that the subject lands be withdrawn from entry under the mining laws but not the mineral leasing laws.

Robert F. Ciesiel

Robert F. Ciesiel
Mining Engineer

Orig: Land Office OR 7771
cc: M-13046 (SO)
T & R File (SO)
MRI (SO)
District Manager - Burns
R.F. Ciesiel - Baker



United States Department of the Interior

Minerals Management Service
Western Region
345 Middlefield Road MS 80A
Menlo Park, California 94025

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF
LAND MANAGEMENT
JUN 21 9 30 AM '82
STATE
PORTLAND OREGON

JUN 17 1982

Memorandum

To: Chief, Branch of Lands and Minerals Operations, BLM, Oregon

From: Director, Minerals Management Service

Subject: Mineral Report on Withdrawal Review OR-7771

Please refer to your request dated January 20, 1982, for a mineral report regarding lands in T. 25 S., R. 33 E., and T. 26 S., R. 33 E., W.M., Oregon.

Minerals Management Service information indicates that the lands are valuable for geothermal steam and associated geothermal resources, for oil and gas, and for sodium and potassium compounds. The present Fish and Wildlife withdrawal precludes leasing of geothermal resources. In the event of disposal of the lands, the exercise of surface rights on the lands would not interfere unreasonably with operations under the mineral leasing laws. The lands are without value for other leasable minerals.

Ronald W. Michels

Deputy Minerals Manager
Resource Evaluation
For the Director



JUN 21 1982

United States Department of the Interior

Minerals Management Service
Western Region
345 Middlefield Road, MS 80A
Menlo Park, California 94025

JUN 17 1982

To: District BLM Manager, Burns, Oregon
Attention: Geoffry Haskett

From: Deputy Minerals Manager, Resource Evaluation

Subject: Mineral report on Withdrawal Review OR-7771

Pursuant to Geoff's telephone discussion with Vern Stephens of our staff, the enclosed mineral report on OR-7771 supersedes our report of March 1, 1982. Please replace our earlier memorandum with this revised report.

Geoff is correct that Geothermal Regulation 3201.1-6 exempts Fish and Wild-
~~life reserves from Geothermal leasing. Harold's request of Jan 20, 1982,~~
however, asks "—whether disposal of the lands would—interfere with
operations—." Emphasis added. Our previous interference statement is
repeated with reference to possible disposal of the lands.

Ronald W. Michelson

Ronald W. Michelson



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Branch of Western Mineral Resources MS 900
345 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, California 94025

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF
LAND MANAGEMENT

MAR 31 7 30 AM '82

STATE
PORTLAND OREGON

February 25, 1982

MEMORANDUM

TO: Assistant Chief Geologist, Western Region

FROM: Roscoe M. Smith, Geologist *Roscoe M. Smith*

SUBJECT: Locatable and Salable mineral resources -
Withdrawal Review OR 7771
2320 (943.4)

Please refer to the request of January 20, 1982 from Chief, Branch of Lands and Mineral Operations, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 2965, Portland, Oregon 97208, for a report on the locatable and salable mineral resources of the following lands:

Willamette Meridian, Harney County, Oregon
T. 25 S., R. 33 E., Sec. 34
T. 26 S., R. 33 E., Sec. 3, 10

These sections are underlain by Quaternary gravel, sand, silt, and clay. We have no record of mines or prospects on the land.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU C
MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Minerals Management Service
Western Region
345 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, California 94025

MAR 4 7 30 AM '82

STATE
PORTLAND OREGON

MAR 1 1982

Memorandum

To: Chief, Branch of Lands and Minerals Operations, BLM, Oregon

From: Director, Minerals Management Service

Subject: Mineral Report on Withdrawal Review OR-7771

Please refer to your request dated January 20, 1982, for a mineral report regarding lands in T. 25 S., R. 33 E., and T. 26 S., R. 33 E., W.M., Oregon.

Minerals Management Service information indicates that the lands are valuable for geothermal steam and associated geothermal resources, for oil and gas, and for sodium and potassium compounds. The exercise of surface rights on the lands would not interfere unreasonably with operations under the mineral leasing laws. The lands are without value for other leasable minerals.

Ronald W. Michelson

Deputy Minerals Manager
Resource Evaluation
For the Director

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

State Oregon
Burns District

MINERAL REPORT

┌ Proposed Land Withdrawal ┐
of
Fish & Wildlife Service
for
Malheur National Wildlife Refuge
└ (Title) ┘

LANDS INVOLVED

Harney County, Oregon
Willamette Meridian
T. 25 S., R. 33 E.
Sec. 34: Lot 10

T. 26 S., R. 33 E.
Sec. 3: Lots 2, 4, 10, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 10: W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

Containing 200.00 acres

September 13, 1971
(Date)

By

Robert F. Ciesiel
Mining Engineer

Management Review

[Signature]

STATE OFFICE
PORTLAND, OREGON

SEP 22 10 00 AM 1971

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF
LAND MANAGEMENT

Technical Review

[Signature]
9/22/71



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Baker District Office
P.O. Box 589 - Baker, Oregon 97814

OR 7771
M-13046

Lands Involved

T. 25 S., R. 33 E., W.M. Harney County
Sec. 34: Lot 10

T. 26 S., R. 33 E., W.M.
Sec. 3: Lots 2, 4, 10, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 10: W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

Status

The following appears to be the status which is pertinent:

Conflicts: None

Rights-of-Way: None

Withdrawals: Proposed withdrawal National Wildlife Refuge,
OR 7771

Mining Claims

Examination of the land showed no evidence of mining or mining claims.

Examination

The subject land was examined by the undersigned on August 10, 1971, while accompanied by Dick Miller, Burns District Realty Specialist

Description

The lands are adjacent to the present borders of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge. The topography is essentially flat, being mostly along the shoreline of Malheur Lake. At the time of examination, Lot 10 of Section 34 was mostly underwater. Elevation is 4100 feet above sea level.



Vegetation consists of greasewood with an undercover of annual grasses and salt grasses in the lake bed.

Geology

All of the rocks in the subject area are of Pliocene or younger in age. They are volcanically derived sedimentary rocks and flow rocks deposited in a structural basin which includes Harney and Malheur lakes.

Rocks on the subject tracts are Pleistocene to Recent in age consisting of poorly consolidated lake and alluvial deposits. These sediments include sand, silt and clay with varying amounts of volcanic ash and tuff. The butte just east of the subject tracts is capped with flows of olivine basalt.

Mineral Deposits

The U.S.G.S. states that their information indicates that the subject land is valuable for oil and gas, geothermal steam and associated geothermal resources and sodium and potassium. They further state that locatable minerals are not known or reported in the area but that the BLM should make this determination for themselves.

Examination of the subject tracts indicates little to no likelihood of the occurrence of locatable minerals. There is the possibility of the occurrence of evaporative type minerals although no known commercial deposits of these type minerals are known to occur in the area. There are no economic salable minerals on the tracts.

Pertinent Information

This report is the result of a mineral character examination and should not be used for purposes other than that for which the report was prepared.

Conclusions and Recommendations

There are no known mining claims or indications of mining on any of the subject tracts. There are no locatable or salable minerals on these lands. The U.S.G.S. indicates the lands are valuable for oil and gas. There is the possibility that the land may contain saline minerals at depth and also possibly zeolites. The U.S.G.S. also states the land may be valuable for geothermal steam. However, all these minerals and resources would come under the purview of the leasing laws and such minerals are not being proposed for withdrawal.

It is recommended that the subject lands be withdrawn from entry under the mining laws but not the mineral leasing laws.

Robert F. Ciesiel

Robert F. Ciesiel
Mining Engineer

Orig: Land Office OR 7771
cc: M-13046 (SO)
T & R File (SO)
MRI (SO)
District Manager - Burns
R.F. Ciesiel - Baker



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Conservation Division
345 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, California 94025

April 23, 1971

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF
LAND MANAGEMENT

MAY 3 10 00 AM 1971

LAND OFFICE
PORTLAND, OREGON

Memorandum

To: Manager, Land Office, Portland
From: Director, Geological Survey
Subject: Mineral report on Withdrawal OR 7771

Please refer to your request received April 22, 1971 regarding land in Tps. 25 and 26 S., R. 33 E., W.M., Oregon.

Geological Survey information indicates that the land is valuable for oil and gas, geothermal steam and associated geothermal resources, sodium and potassium; and that the exercise of surface rights on this land would not interfere unreasonably with operations under the mineral leasing laws. The land is without value for other leasable minerals.

Locatable minerals are not known or reported in the area, but this information should not be relied on solely as a determination that the land is nonmineral in character.

District Geologist
For the Director

Enclosure 3: Oil & Gas Leases OR-27306 and OR-27308

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CASE RECORDATION
(MASS) Serial Register Page
OROR105351140**

Run Date/Time: 7/7/2023 12:50 PM

(Internal)

Page 1 of 2

Authority	Total Acres	Serial Number
02-25-1920; 041STAT0437; 30USC226; MINERAL LEASING ACT OF 1920	1,760.3900	OROR105351140
	Case File Jurisdiction	Legacy Serial No
		OROR 027306
Product Type 311111 NONCOMPETITIVE PUBLIC DOMAIN LEASE PRE 1987		
Commodity Oil & Gas		Lease Issued Date
Case Disposition CLOSED		06/28/1982

CASE DETAILS OROR105351140

Case Name	C-7889871	Split Estate	Fed Min Interest
Effective Date	07/01/1982	Split Estate Acres	Future Min Interest No
Expiration Date		Royalty Rate	Future Min Interest Date
Land Type		Royalty Rate Other	Acquired Royalty Interest
Formation Name		Approval Date	Held In a Producing Unit No
Parcel Number		Sale Date	Number of Active Wells
Parcel Status		Sales Status	Production Status Non-Producing
Participating Area		Total Bonus Amount 0.00	
Related Agreement		Tract Number	Lease Suspended No
Application Type		Fund Code	Total Rental Amount

CASE CUSTOMERS OROR105351140

Name & Mailing Address	Interest Relationship	Percent Interest
CONOCO INC PO BOX 3679 VENTURA CA 93006	LESSEE	100.000000

RECORD TITLE
(No Records Found)

OPERATING RIGHTS
(No Records Found)

LAND RECORDS OROR105351140

Mer	Twp	Rng	Sec	Survey Type	Survey Number	Subdivision	District / Field Office	County	Mgmt Agency
33	0250S	0330E	003	Aliquot		NWSW	BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE BURNS THREE RIVERS FO	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0250S	0330E	004	Lot		7	BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE BURNS THREE RIVERS FO	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0250S	0330E	009	Aliquot		E2NE	BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE BURNS THREE RIVERS FO	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0250S	0330E	017	Aliquot		SW	BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE BURNS THREE RIVERS FO	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0250S	0330E	021	Aliquot		NWSW,SWNW, N2SE,SENE	BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE BURNS THREE RIVERS FO	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0250S	0330E	021	Lot		1,2	BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	HARNEY	MALHEUR NWR
33	0250S	0330E	022	Aliquot		W2	BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE BURNS THREE RIVERS FO	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0250S	0330E	025	Aliquot		SE	BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE BURNS THREE RIVERS FO	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0250S	0330E	027	Aliquot		SE,N2NW,SENW	BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE BURNS THREE RIVERS FO	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0250S	0330E	035	Aliquot		W2	BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE BURNS THREE RIVERS FO	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT

CASE ACTIONS

Action Date	Date Filed	Action Name	Action Status	Action Information	OROR105351140
06/12/1981	06/12/1981	APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPROVED/ACCEPTED		
06/03/1982	06/03/1982	APPLICATION REJECTED/DENIED IN PART	APPROVED/ACCEPTED		
06/18/1982	06/18/1982	DEC ISSUED	APPROVED/ACCEPTED		
06/28/1982	06/28/1982	LEASE ISSUED	APPROVED/ACCEPTED		

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CASE RECORDATION
(MASS) Serial Register Page
OROR105351140**

Run Date/Time: 7/7/2023 12:50 PM

(Internal)

Page 2 of 2

Action Date	Date Filed	Action Name	Action Status	Action Information	OROR105351140
07/01/1982	07/01/1982	EFFECTIVE DATE	APPROVED/ACCEPTED		
07/01/1985	07/01/1985	TERMINATED	APPROVED/ACCEPTED		
04/01/1986	04/01/1986	REFERENCE NUMBER	APPROVED/ACCEPTED	Action Remarks: SPAR-187;	
04/01/1986	04/01/1986	SIMULTANEOUS LISTED	APPROVED/ACCEPTED		
05/22/1986	05/22/1986	CASE CLOSED	APPROVED/ACCEPTED		
05/26/1988	05/26/1988	CASE SENT TO NARA	APPROVED/ACCEPTED	Action Remarks: SEA/049-88-0041;	
05/26/1988	05/26/1988	FRC RETRIEVAL NUMBERS	APPROVED/ACCEPTED	Action Remarks: 9-11/3560;	

Enclosure 3: Oil & Gas Leases OR-27306 and OR-27308

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CASE RECORDATION
(MASS) Serial Register Page
OROR105343410**

Run Date/Time: 7/7/2023 12:51 PM

(Internal)

Page 1 of 3

Authority	Total Acres	Serial Number
02-25-1920; 041STAT0437; 30USC226; MINERAL LEASING ACT OF 1920	6,609.9800	OROR105343410
	Case File Jurisdiction	Legacy Serial No
		OROR 027308
Product Type 311111 NONCOMPETITIVE PUBLIC DOMAIN LEASE PRE 1987		
Commodity Oil & Gas		Lease Issued Date
Case Disposition CLOSED		05/14/1982

CASE DETAILS OROR105343410

Case Name	C-7893254	Split Estate	Fed Min Interest
Effective Date	06/01/1982	Split Estate Acres	Future Min Interest No
Expiration Date		Royalty Rate	Future Min Interest Date
Land Type		Royalty Rate Other	Acquired Royalty Interest
Formation Name		Approval Date	Held In a Producing Unit No
Parcel Number		Sale Date	Number of Active Wells
Parcel Status		Sales Status	Production Status Non-Producing
Participating Area		Total Bonus Amount 0.00	
Related Agreement		Tract Number	Lease Suspended No
Application Type		Fund Code	Total Rental Amount

CASE CUSTOMERS OROR105343410

Name & Mailing Address	Interest Relationship	Percent Interest
CONOCO INC PO BOX 3679 VENTURA CA 93006	LESSEE	100.000000

RECORD TITLE
(No Records Found)

OPERATING RIGHTS
(No Records Found)

LAND RECORDS OROR105343410

Mer	Twp	Rng	Sec	Survey Type	Survey Number	Subdivision	District / Field Office	County	Mgmt Agency
33	0260S	0330E	003	Aliquot		SWSE	BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE BURNS THREE RIVERS FO	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT, MALHEUR NWR
33	0260S	0330E	003	Lot		1,2,4,10	BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE BURNS THREE RIVERS FO	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT, MALHEUR NWR
33	0260S	0330E	010	Aliquot		W2NE	BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	HARNEY	MALHEUR NWR
33	0260S	0330E	011	Aliquot		W2SW,NESE	BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE BURNS THREE RIVERS FO	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	012	Aliquot		SW,S2NW, W2SE,SWNE, NESE	BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE BURNS THREE RIVERS FO	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	013	Aliquot		N2NW	BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE BURNS THREE RIVERS FO	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	014	Aliquot		NW,SWNE,S2SE, NWSE	BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE BURNS THREE RIVERS FO	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	014	Lot		1-6	BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE BURNS THREE RIVERS FO	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	015	Aliquot		SW,S2SE,NWSE	BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE BURNS THREE RIVERS FO	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT, MALHEUR NWR
33	0260S	0330E	016	Aliquot		S2S2,NESE	BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE BURNS THREE RIVERS FO	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	017	Aliquot		E2SE	BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE BURNS THREE RIVERS FO	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	017	Lot		1,2,5,6	BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE BURNS THREE RIVERS FO	HARNEY	BUREAU OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CASE RECORDATION
(MASS) Serial Register Page
OROR105343410**

Run Date/Time: 7/7/2023 12:51 PM

(Internal)

Page 2 of 3

Mer	Twp	Rng	Sec	Survey Type	Survey Number	Subdivision	District / Field Office	County	Mgmt Agency	
33	0260S	0330E	018	Aliquot		SE,SENE,N2NW, SWNW,SESW	THREE RIVERS FO BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	BURNS	HARNEY	LAND MGMT BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	018	Lot	1,2,8,14		THREE RIVERS FO BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	BURNS	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	019	Aliquot		N2NE	THREE RIVERS FO BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	BURNS	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	020	Aliquot		SWNE	THREE RIVERS FO BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	BURNS	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	020	Lot	1-5		THREE RIVERS FO BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	BURNS	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	021	Aliquot		NE,N2NW,SE,SW	THREE RIVERS FO BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	BURNS	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	021	Lot	4,5		THREE RIVERS FO BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	BURNS	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	022	Aliquot		SE,SENE,N2NW, SWNW,SESW	THREE RIVERS FO BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	BURNS	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	022	Lot	1-13		THREE RIVERS FO BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	BURNS	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	023	Aliquot		NE,S2NW,NENW	THREE RIVERS FO BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	BURNS	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	023	Lot	1,2		THREE RIVERS FO BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	BURNS	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	024	Aliquot		W2SW,SWNW	THREE RIVERS FO BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	BURNS	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	025	Aliquot		S2,NW	THREE RIVERS FO BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	BURNS	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	026	Aliquot		N2,SE	THREE RIVERS FO BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	BURNS	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	027	Aliquot		NW,SE	THREE RIVERS FO BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	BURNS	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	028	Aliquot		N2	THREE RIVERS FO BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	BURNS	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	029	Aliquot		NENE	THREE RIVERS FO BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	BURNS	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	030	Aliquot		SWSE,SE,SW, SWNE,E2SW	THREE RIVERS FO BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	BURNS	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	030	Lot	1-4		THREE RIVERS FO BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	BURNS	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	031	Aliquot		W2E2	THREE RIVERS FO BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	BURNS	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	032	Aliquot		SE,SE,SW,S2NE, NENE	THREE RIVERS FO BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	BURNS	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	033	Aliquot		SW,S2NW, NWNW	THREE RIVERS FO BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	BURNS	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
33	0260S	0330E	034	Aliquot		N2NW	THREE RIVERS FO BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE	BURNS	HARNEY	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT

CASE ACTIONS

Action Date	Date Filed	Action Name	Action Status	Action Information	OROR105343410
06/12/1981	06/12/1981	APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPROVED/ACCEPTED		
05/07/1982	05/07/1982	APPLICATION REJECTED/DENIED IN PART	APPROVED/ACCEPTED		
05/14/1982	05/14/1982	LEASE ISSUED	APPROVED/ACCEPTED		
06/01/1982	06/01/1982	EFFECTIVE DATE	APPROVED/ACCEPTED		
06/01/1985	06/01/1985	TERMINATED	APPROVED/ACCEPTED		
04/01/1986	04/01/1986	REFERENCE NUMBER	APPROVED/ACCEPTED	Action Remarks: SPAR-188;	
04/01/1986	04/01/1986	SIMULTANEOUS LISTED	APPROVED/ACCEPTED		
05/22/1986	05/22/1986	CASE CLOSED	APPROVED/ACCEPTED		
05/26/1988	05/26/1988	CASE SENT TO NARA	APPROVED/ACCEPTED	Action Remarks: SEA/049-88-0041;	
05/26/1988	05/26/1988	FRC RETRIEVAL NUMBERS	APPROVED/ACCEPTED	Action Remarks: 9-11/3560;	

LEGACY CASE REMARKS

OROR105343410

This data is a snapshot in time as of March 14, 2022. Please reference the MLRS website for more information.

Line Number	Remark Text
0001	PAR 188,4/86.233.94 AC IN PLO 6470 WDL FOR MALHEUR

NO WARRANTY IS MADE BY BLM FOR USE OF THE DATA FOR PURPOSES NOT INTENDED BY BLM
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CASE RECORDATION
(MASS) Serial Register Page
OROR105343410
(Internal)

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Line Number	Remark Text
0002	NWR IN SEC3,L1,2,4,10,SWSE;SEC10,W2NE,NOT LISTED
