

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Box Canyon OR-034-091, 9 total pages

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H-6300-1-WILDERNESS INVENTORY MAINTENANCE IN BLM OREGON/WASHINGTON

APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION

Evaluation of Current Conditions:

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

When Citizen Information has been submitted regarding wilderness characteristics, document the submitted materials including: date of Submission; Name of District(s) and Field Office(s) Affected; Type of material Submitted (e.g. narrative, map, photo). Evaluate any submitted citizen information regarding the validity of proposed boundaries of the unit(s), the existence of roads and other boundary features, the size of the unit(s), and the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics based on relevant information available in the office (prior BLM inventories, ID team knowledge, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc.)

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

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

Year: 2010 Unit Number/Name: OR-034-091 -- Box Canyon

FORM 1 -- DOCUMENTATION OF BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY FINDINGS ON RECORD

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?

Yes X No _____ (If yes, and if more than one unit is within the area, list the names of those units.):

A.) Inventory Source(s) -- (X) Denotes all applicable BLM Inventory files, printed maps, or published BLM Decision documents with information pertaining to this unit.

Wilderness Inventories

- **(X)** 1978-1980 – BLM Wilderness Inventory Unit 3-101 of OR-03-06-12 East Swamp Creek; Partially each of: OR-03-06-10 Cottonwood Creek; OR-03-06-11 Board Corral (unpublished BLM documents in files)
- **(X)** April 1979 – *Wilderness -- Proposed Initial Inventory – Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not have Wilderness Characteristics, Oregon and Washington*

Wilderness Decision Documents

- **(X)** August 1979 – *Wilderness Review – Initial Inventory, Final Decision on Public Lands Obviously Lacking Wilderness Characteristics and Announcement of Public Lands to be Intensively Inventoried for Wilderness Characteristics, Oregon and Washington* (green document)
- **()** October 1979 – *Wilderness Review – Intensive Inventory - Oregon, Proposed Decision on the Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas* (grey document)
- **()** March 1980 – *Wilderness Review – Intensive Inventory; Final Decisions on 30 Selected Units in Southeast Oregon and Proposed Decisions on Other Intensively Inventoried Units in Oregon and Washington* (orange document)
- **()** November 1980 - *Wilderness Inventory – Oregon and Washington, Final Intensive Inventory Decisions* (brown document)
- **()** November 1981 *Stateline Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah* (tan document)

B.) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s)

BLM 3-101 of OR-03-06-12 East Swamp Creek; Partially each of: OR-03-06-10 Cottonwood Creek; OR-03-06-11 Board Corral

C.) Map Name(s)/Number(s)

- **(X)** Final Decision – Initial Wilderness Inventory Map, August 1979, Oregon
- **()** Proposed Decision -- Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas Map, October 1979, Oregon
- **()** Intensive Wilderness Inventory Map, March 1980, Oregon
- **()** Intensive Wilderness Inventory --Final Decisions Map, November 1980, Oregon
- **()** November, 1981 *Stateline Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah* (tan document)

D.) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s)

Vale District/ Malheur Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

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

Inventory Source: See above.

Unit#/ Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
3-101 East Swamp Creek of OR-03-06-12	6,700	Y	N	N	**
Partially of Cottonwood Creek OR-03-06-10	680	*	*	*	*
Partially of Board Corral OR-03-06-11	1,440	*	*	*	*
TOTAL	8,820				

* -- These criteria were not addressed during the inventory of this unit since the units did not meet minimum size criteria.

** -- This criterion was not addressed during the inventory of this unit.

H-6300-1-WILDERNESS INVENTORY MAINTENANCE IN BLM OREGON/WASHINGTON

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FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-034-091 -- Box Canyon

Description of Current Conditions: [Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities.]

1. Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes X No

Description: Refer to associated Map 1 of this unit for its location. The unit has 10,899 acres of public land. This OR-034-091 unit is larger than the late 1970's combined units because of the inclusion of public lands to the north and east of those historic units. The unit is a combination of those public lands identified in Form 1 as a result of motorized vehicle routes which at the time separated the three late 1970's BLM units having changed status from road to either a motorized primitive trail (MPT) or as an abandoned route -- meaning it has not been used by motorized vehicles for quite some time. Those which have changed to a MPT are routes which BLM presently does not intend to mechanically maintain over the long term.

The boundary consists of a combination of both private land and a segment of two roads traversing public land. BLM road 7317-0-00 is along a portion of the unit's west side; another road traversing public lands is located along portions of the unit's north and east boundary. An eighty acre inholding is also a feature of the unit's boundary. Boundary roads are mechanically maintained as needed to provide for relatively regular and continuous use.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No N/A

Description: The terrain consists mostly of flat to rolling hills. The more apparent Swamp Creek Butte in the unit's northeastern-most area is situated against a boundary road; similarly, the other higher elevation points or ridges of the unit also hug boundary features of the unit in various locations. Elevations range from 4,180 feet in the unit's northwest sector to Swamp Creek Butte's 5,728 feet. Vegetation is predominately native bunchgrass, sagebrush, and patches of scattered juniper.

Refer to this inventory unit's associated Map 1 for human imprints. There is 5.3 miles of 3 MPTs, 8.7 miles of rangeland fence, 8 earthen reservoirs, and one developed spring. There is no substantially apparent visual contrast of 5 abandoned motorized vehicle routes within the unit. The type, extend and spatial distribution of these developments results in the unit appearing to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprints of humans substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: The scattered nature of juniper, along with the type and small profile of the other dominant vegetation of the unit does not – individually or in combination – allow sufficient screening between visitors to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The unit has a very irregular shape. Although with a maximum length of about 7 miles and a maximum width of about 3.5 miles, there is only a very small core area where these greater dimensions converge, but which is affected – as elsewhere throughout the unit – by the very irregular and resultant substantially narrow configuration of the unit with narrow widths and/or otherwise fingered extensions. Higher elevations of the unit are widely distributed, but virtually all are against boundary features of the unit. Although a visitor may experience a sense of being alone, the above mentioned factors -- individually or in combinations – results in the unit not possessing adequate settings for outstanding opportunities for solitude.

4. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: Hunting of common game species (primarily deer, elk, pronghorn and chukar) is the most common primitive and unconfined recreation within the unit. Day hiking and general sightseeing also occurs, mostly in combination with hunting. There are no special or unique features or activities that more so attracts visitors to the inventory unit. Individually or in combination, these activities do not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: None known.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-034-091 -- Box Canyon

Summary Results of Analysis:

- 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No NA
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No NA

Conclusion -- check one:

- The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness character.
- The area does not have wilderness character.

Prepared by: Robert Alward
Robert Alward, Wilderness Planner, contractor

Team Members:

<u>Steve Christensen</u>	<u>12-6-2010</u>
Steve Christensen, Rangeland Management Specialist	Date
<u>Dan Thomas</u>	<u>12/6/10</u>
Dan Thomas, Range Technician	Date
<u>Lynn Silva</u>	<u>12-17-2010</u>
Lynn Silva, Weed Coordinator	Date
<u>Gillian Wigglesworth</u>	<u>12/6/10</u>
Gillian Wigglesworth, Botanist	Date
<u>Michelle Caviness</u>	<u>12/6/10</u>
Michelle Caviness, Wildlife Biologist	Date
<u>Eian Ray</u>	<u>12-6-10</u>
Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, contractor	Date
<u>Brent Grasty</u>	<u>12/9/10</u>
Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator	Date

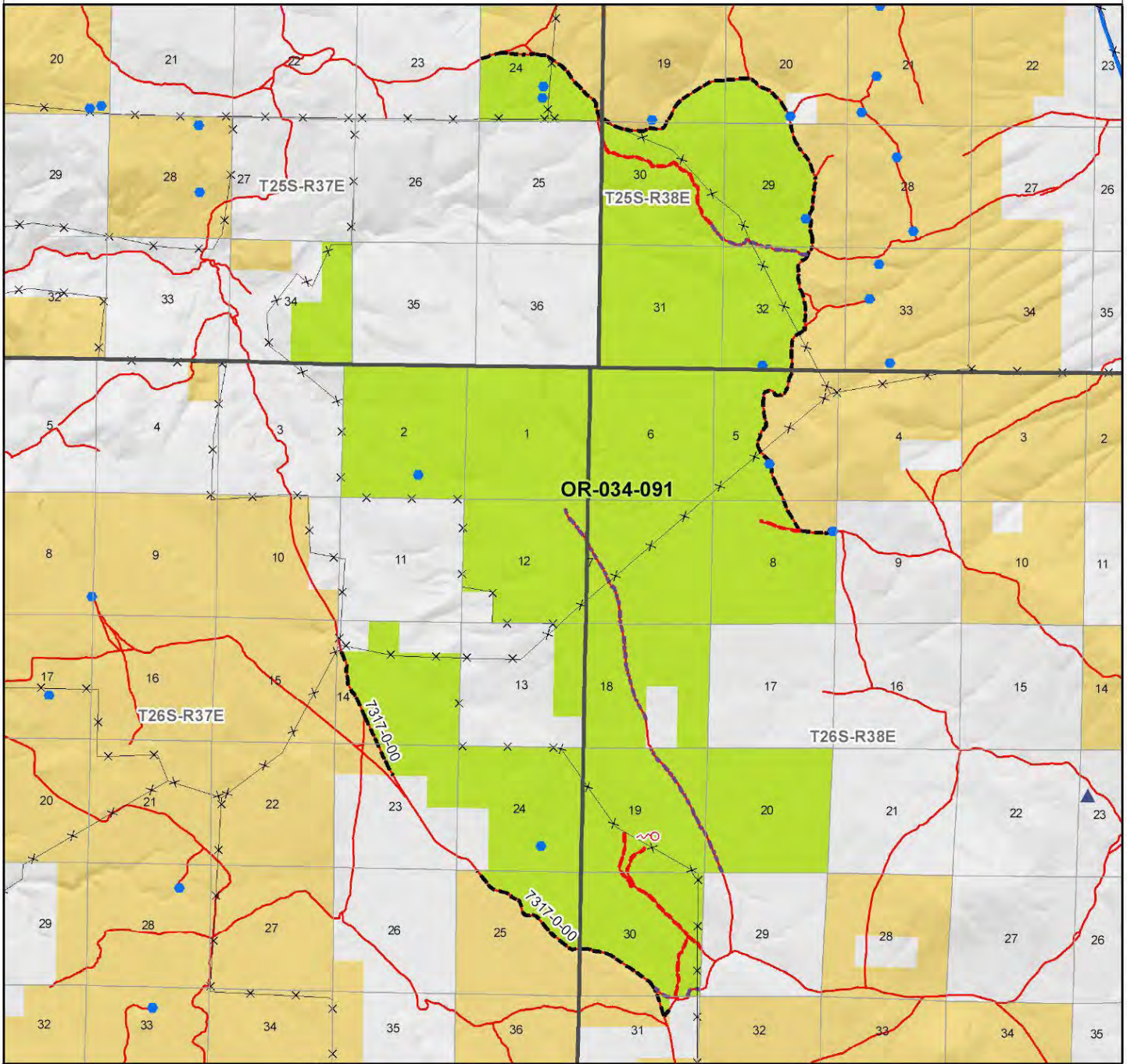
Approved by:

Pat Ryan _____
Pat Ryan, Malheur Resource Area Field Manager 6-17-11
Date

This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.

Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Box Canyon - OR-034-091 - Map 1 of 1



Legend	
Developed Spring	Route Types - BLM Determination
Wildlife Guzzler	Boundary Road
Earthen Reservoir	Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT)
Pipeline	Discontinued Use
Trough	Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit
Fence	County
Storage Tank	Major Highway
Surface Mining Disturbance	BLM Numbered & Other Routes
Sage Grouse Lek	Land Ownership
Special Status Plant	Bureau of Land Management
BLM Wild Char Inventory Unit	State
Wilderness Study Area	Private
Mineral Material Site	Other Federal Land
Road/Utility Right-of-Way	
Major Water Body	

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VALE DISTRICT
May 12, 2010

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