

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Castro Ridge OR-036-096, 13 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, photos). 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: 2011 **Unit Number/Name:** OR-034-096—Castro Ridge

**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 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 – BLM Wilderness Inventory Units OR-03-10-16 Coburn; OR-03-10-38 Mahar. (unpublished BLM documents stored in Vale District case 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 OR-03-10-16 Coburn; OR-03-10-38 Mahar

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

- 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 Jordan 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
OR-03-10-16 Coburn	2,860	*	*	*	*
OR-03-10-38 Mahar	3,980	*	*	*	*
TOTAL	6,840				

*-- These criteria were not specifically addressed during the inventory of these units.

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FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-036-096—Castro Ridge

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 No

Description: Refer to this inventory unit's associated Map 1 for BLM's Unit OR-036-096 location. The boundary of the 6,393 acre unit includes original 1970's inventory Units OR-03-10-16 and OR-03-10-38 that were excluded from further intensive inventory because of not meeting the size criteria. Acreage for unit OR-036-096 in Form 2 is calculated from BLM GIS information. BLM Unit OR-036-096 is bounded on its north side by BLM Road 6371-00 and an unnumbered BLM Road, on its west side by an unnumbered Malheur County Road and private land parcels, on its south side by an unnumbered BLM Road, state land parcels, private land parcels, Malheur County Roads 806 and 942, and a mineral material site right-of-way, and on its east side by private land parcels. The natural-surfaced boundary roads receive mechanical maintenance as needed to keep them passable on a regular and continuous (seasonal) basis.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes No N/A

Description: Given BLM's Unit OR-036-096 size relative to the evidence of man-made developments in all areas of the unit, the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. Most of the unit is dominated by the centrally located Castro Ridge that runs from the northwest boundary to the southeast boundary and a group of moderately sized hills located in the east and northeastern areas that are dissected by small drainages of Spring Branch Creek and Soldier Creek. The elevated east and central area of the unit slopes mostly to the north and to a minor amount to the south. The landscape in the western half of the unit transitions to fewer drainage channels that dissect the relatively flatter terrain. Elevation within the unit ranges from 4,638 feet to 5,257 feet, with the upper elevations located along Castro Ridge in the unit's central area while the unit's lower elevations are located along the west boundary in Soldier Creek drainage. The unit completely surrounds an island of private land 160 acres in size and also contains a 240 acre intrusion of private land extending from the western boundary up the Soldier Creek drainage to the east. Sparsely populated vegetation throughout the unit consists predominately of big and low sagebrush with both native and non-native grass species.

Refer to this inventory unit's associated Map 1 and Map 2 for its human developments in BLM's Unit OR-036-096. Developments within the unit include 9.8 miles of 13 MPTs, 1.05 miles of one cherry-stem road, one pipeline system with 4.5 miles of pipelines and 7 troughs, 3 earthen reservoirs, two reservoir exclosures and one vegetation exclosure, 3 developed springs and 3 troughs, 7.9 miles of fence line, and 5 vegetation manipulation treatments conducted from 1963 through 1969. The vegetation treatments were conducted on approximately thirty-eight percent of the unit over a six year period. A large portion of the sagebrush component within the western half of the unit has been reduced by the various vegetation treatments conducted during this period as well as 2,400 acres in the eastern half of the unit by a wildfire in 1985. With the exception of a few fence line contrast of vegetation densities, to the average visitor, the vegetation treatments conducted in the unit presently appear as a whole, individually and collectively, mostly indistinguishable across the landscape. Because of the minimal and widely dispersed man-made-developments throughout the unit and the location of MPTs that dissect the landscape the unit does not appear affected primarily by the forces of nature.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No N/A _____

Description: BLM concludes that BLM Unit OR-036-096 does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Much of the character of the inventory unit has not changed since the 1970's. The unit is mostly an irregular extended triangle in shape. The width of the unit averages about three and one-quarter miles at its widest along the western boundary and then tapers to a saw toothed shaped point at its eastern edge. Because the unit tapers from west to east the maximum length of the unit along its central and mostly northern area is about five to five and one-half miles long, whereas the southern area of the unit is truncated and only about two and one-half miles long. Diversity in landscape relief throughout the unit is limited to mostly flat to gentle sloping terrain in the western portion while the eastern area contains well defined ridgeline and dissected hills by numerous small drainages of Spring Branch and Soldier creeks. Elevation gradually rises in the unit by about 600 feet from the west to the high point of the unit located in Castro Ridge along the central portion of the unit. The flatter terrain in the western half of the unit west of Malheur County Road 806 provides little diversity that one might experience any opportunities of solitude, whereas the area east of County Road 806 rises above this road almost 500 feet to the top of Castro Ridge just to the east. The unit's vegetation that is comprised of both low and big sage brush and both native and non-native grasses across the landscape does not provide any extensive vegetative screening opportunities for solitude or a sense of isolation in a large portions of the unit. Approximately thirty percent of the unit lacks a large portion of its sagebrush vegetation screening component when it was reduced by vegetation treatments throughout the 1960s. An additional thirty-seven percent of the sagebrush component was eliminated or reduced in the eastern half of the unit in 1985 by wildfire.

The number and location of MPTs in the western half of the unit limit the extent of available areas that one could experience opportunities for solitude. As a result of the area's size relative to its shape, the absence of large diverse areas, the location of roads and MPTs, the absence of vegetative screening, and the lack of diversity in relief, there is no outstanding opportunities for solitude within the western half of the unit. Although the eastern half of the unit provides terrain for areas of seclusion where people may experience a sense of solitude, the eastern half of the unit from County Road 806 eastward is only about 3,000 acres in size any vegetation screening provided by sagebrush across the landscape was reduced by a wildfire in 1985. Because of the lack of quality diversity of terrain and vegetation screening across the landscape the unit does not qualify for wilderness values associated with outstanding solitude.

4. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: BLM concludes that BLM Unit OR-036-096 does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The most dominate dispersed recreation activities within the unit would be hiking throughout the central Castro Ridge and eastern rolling hills or hunting of game species (primarily deer, chukar and antelope). The only unique or special feature associated with the unit is the Castro Ridge that would attract a visitor who is seeking a primitive and unconfined recreational experience. Recreational pursuits within the area, individually or collectively, are not outstanding in character or nature for the unit.

California bighorn sheep habitat is identified in the unit, a species dependent upon wildlands habitat for survival. Although the opportunity to hunt Bighorn sheep within the unit may exist, BLM does not find it to be outstanding due to the limited terrain within the area that Bighorn sheep occupy and utilize on a regular basis (e.g., rugged, rocky, cliffy or steep-sloped terrain). Moreover, while this area is included within the identified potential habitat for Bighorn sheep, no local sheep herd is known to inhabit or move through the area within the parcel.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description:

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-036-096—Castro Ridge

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: Jack Wenderoth 11-16-11
Jack Wenderoth, Planning Contractor

Team Members

<u>Keri Fredrick</u>	<u>11-16-11</u>
Keri Fredrick, Outdoor Recreation Planner	Date
<u>Aimee Huff</u>	<u>11/16/2011</u>
Aimee Huff, Rangeland Management Specialist	Date
<u>Eian Ray</u>	<u>11-16-11</u>
Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, Contractor	Date
<u>Garth R. Ross</u>	<u>11/16/2011</u>
Garth Ross, Wildlife Biologist	Date
<u>Brent Grasty</u>	<u>11/16/11</u>
Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator	Date

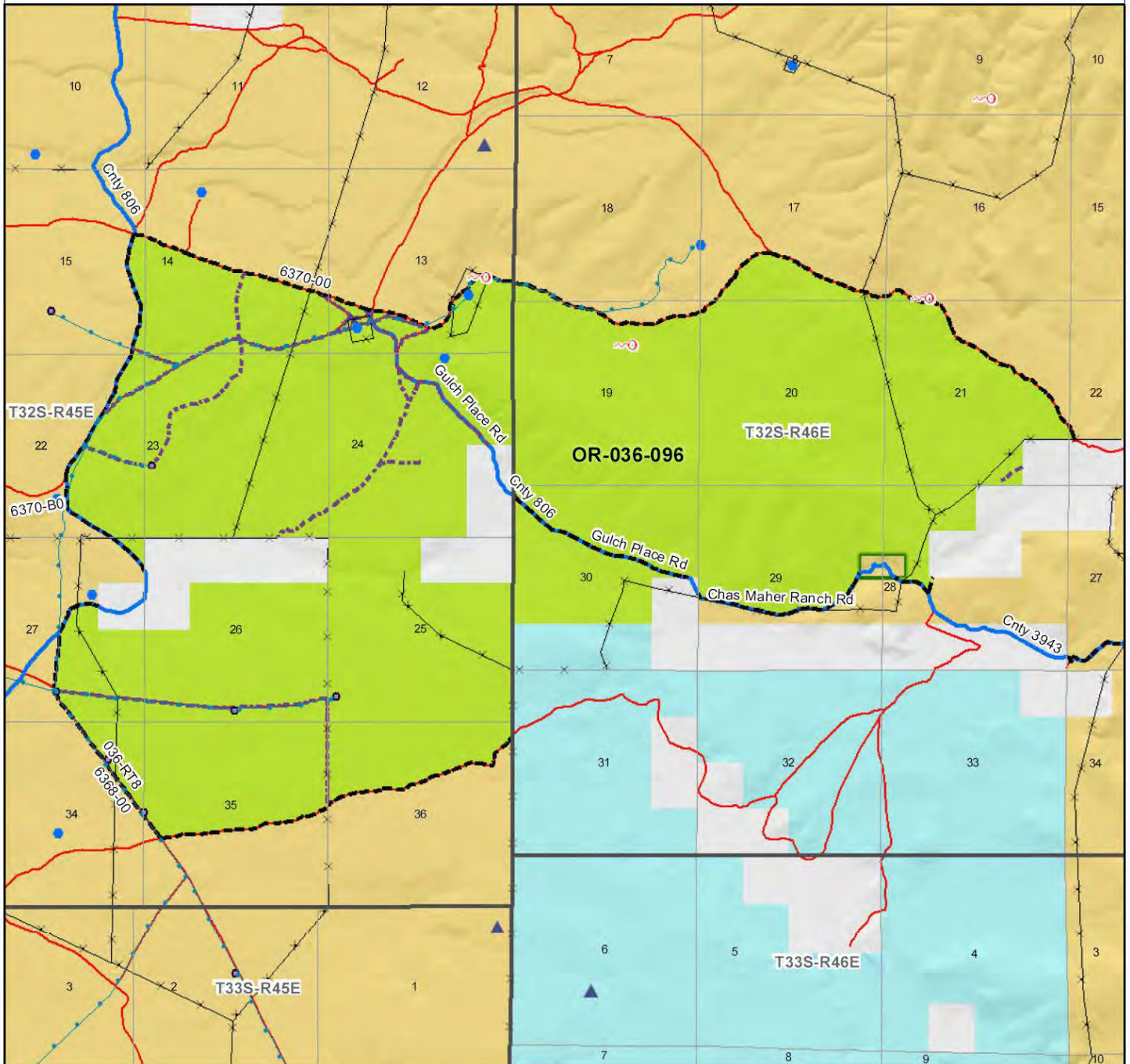
Approved by:

Carolyn R. Chast 11/28/2011
Carolyn Freeborn, Jordan Resource Area Field Manager 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.

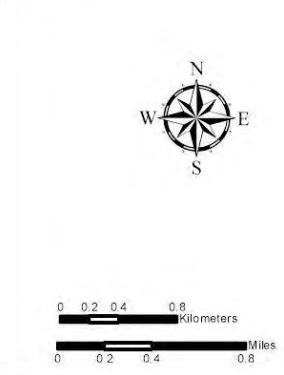
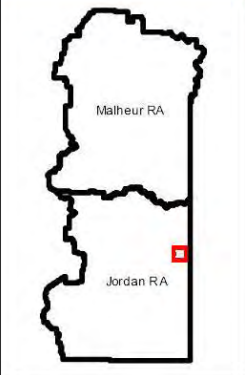
Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Castro Ridge - OR-036-096 - Map 1 of 2



Legend

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



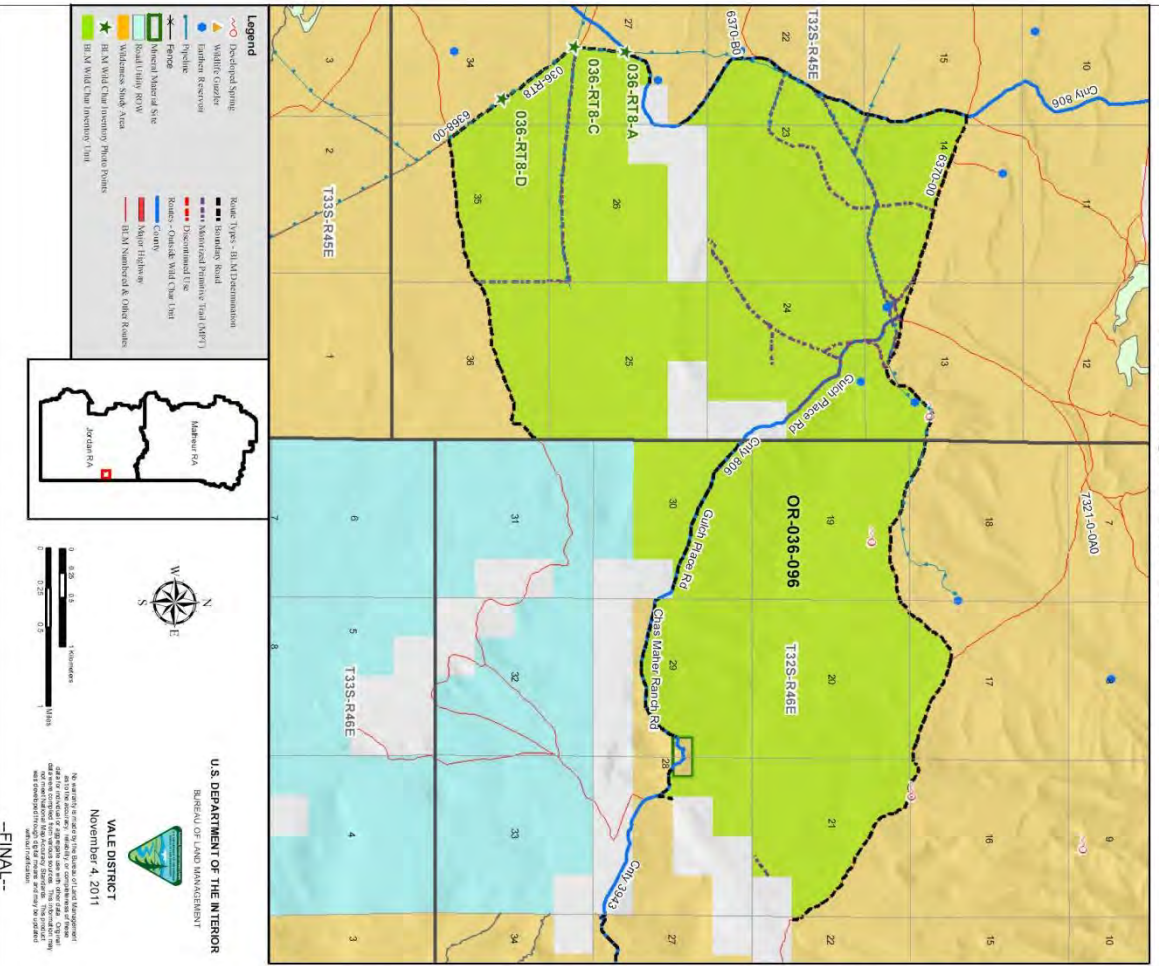
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VALE DISTRICT
October 20, 2011

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--FINAL--

**Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Points
Castro Ridge - OR-036-096**



**Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Points
Castro Ridge - OR-036-096**

PHOTO_LOCATION *	DIRECTION	PHOTO_TYPE	PHOTO_DATE	COMMENTS
036-RT8-A	S	Route	20080822	Back: beginning of 036-RT8
036-RT8-A	W	Route	20080822	Front: beginning of 036-RT8
036-RT8-C	SE	Route	20080822	Front
036-RT8-C	NW	Route	20080822	Back
036-RT8-C	N	Route	20080822	Back
036-RT8-C	E	Project	20080822	OR-036-054-C-E Cattle trough
036-RT8-D	SE	Route	20080822	Front: Fence
036-RT8-D	NW	Route	20080822	Back
036-RT8-D	N	Project	20080822	OR-036-055-D-N Fence

Note: The BLM Wild Char PhotoPoints displayed on the map are labeled with their Photo Locations. The BLM Photo Log table shown above lists the photos taken at their respective Photo Locations. Multiple photos may be taken at each Photo Location. Scenery and Project Photo Type pictures have their photo names provided in the Comments field.

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
VALE DISTRICT
November 4, 2011
-FINAL-



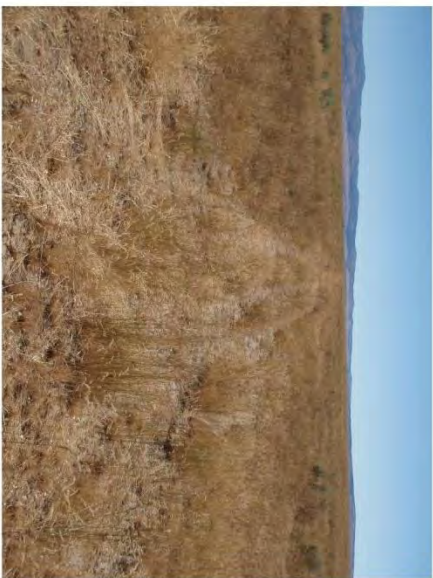
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036-RT8-A-W.JPG



036-RT8-B-NE.JPG



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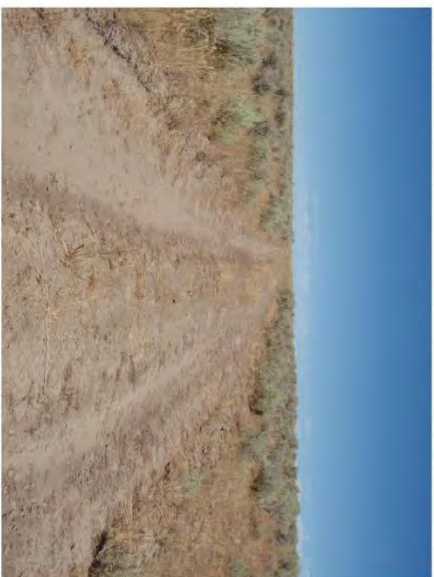
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036-RT8-C-NW.JPG



036-RT8-C-SE.JPG



036-RT8-D-NW.JPG



036-RT8-D-SE.JPG