



Memo

April 12, 2012

To: Vale District Wilderness Characteristics (WC) Inventory Files –Vale District’s 2010 OR-034-112 (Coal Mine Basin) WC Inventory Unit

From: Pat Ryan, Field Manager, Malheur Resource Area, Vale District 
Robert Alward, Wilderness Planner, contractor, Vale District 

Subject: Regarding Wilderness Characteristics (WC) Inventory Findings for Contiguous ID BLM Public Lands with Vale District’s OR-034-112 WC Inventory Unit

I acknowledge the wilderness characteristics (WC) inventory finding of the BLM Boise District’s Owyhee Field Office, regarding the roadless public land within Idaho that is contiguous to Vale District’s Coal Mine Basin WC inventory unit (OR-034-112; 1,496 acres). Those roadless public lands in Idaho are identified by the Owyhee Field Office as the WC inventory unit ID-106-14, Dry Creek (24,400 acres). The two contiguous WC inventory units sum a total of 25,896 acres, with Vale District’s descriptor OR-034-112 / ID-106-14, Coal Mine Basin / Dry Creek.

Refer to support documents (1) WC Form 2 and applicable portion of BLM GIS-generated WC inventory unit identification map provided by Owyhee Field Office to Vale District, (2) Vale District’s Final WC Form 1 and Form 2 (with affiliated GIS-generated Map 1) for OR-034-112 (signed July 11, 2010), and (3) Vale District’s GIS-generated WC inventory map depicting the contiguous WC units between the two districts. Copies of these documents accompany this memo. These documents and additional WC inventory–related information is maintained in Vale District’s current WC inventory files (electronic and hard copy) for the OR-034-112/ID-106-14 WC inventory unit.

The Owyhee Field Office’s conclusion for its ID-106-14 WC inventory unit is that it does not possess wilderness characteristics. That conclusion is the same as what Vale District’s Malheur Resource Area concluded for its contiguous OR-034-112 WC inventory unit. The WC inventory conclusions of the two offices are, overall, consistent and cohesive with each other, resulting with the sum 25,896 contiguous acres, overall, not possessing wilderness characteristics.

Attachments: As stated above

Unit Name: Little Poison Creek

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier 106-14 Dry Creek Acreage 24,400 acres

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below),

Yes X No _____

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.):

This unit is 24,400 acres total. The unit is contiguous to BLM land in Oregon administered by the Vale District; however, there is a fence line running along the Idaho/Oregon border separating the Vale District from the Boise District. Private property borders the southern portion of the allotment. There is also private property in the central and southern portions of the unit. Additionally, there is a section of State Land in the eastern portion of this unit. Highway 95 serves as the northwestern boundary to this unit. Northern desert plant species on moderately rugged to rolling hills characterize the unit.

Unit is used for grazing.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities):

The 24,400 acres within the Idaho unit do not appear to be natural. There is a fence line running the entire length of the Idaho/Oregon Border, approximately 11 miles long. There are numerous routes penetrating and dissecting the unit totaling roughly 43 miles. Most routes are frequently used by permittees as well as motorized recreationists. Additionally, there are six exclosures, 13 developed springs, multiple substantial fence lines, and eight reservoirs, one of which is the approximately 125 acre Succor Creek Reservoir.

There are not 5,000 contiguous acres of land within this unit which appear to have been primarily affected by the forces of nature. The unit is heavily developed with routes, fence lines, reservoirs, and springs.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

Topographic and vegetative screening are generally insufficient to hide most imprints of man's work from the casual observer. These features are also insufficient in effectively screening the high number of visitors from one another.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

While primitive types of recreation such as hiking, hunting, backpacking, and camping are possible, they are considered less than outstanding due to the high amount of motorized recreation that occurs throughout the area, as well as the lack of interesting features to attract the visitor to these activities.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

Description:

Summary of Analysis*

Area Unique Identifier: 106-14 Dry Creek

Summary

Results of analysis:

(Note: explain the inventory findings for the entirety of the inventory unit. When an LWC has been identified that is smaller than the size of the total inventory unit, explain why certain portions of the inventory unit are not included in the LWC (e.g. the inventory found that certain parts lacked naturalness).

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

Check one:

___ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

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Brad Jost	Wildlife Biologist
Beth Corbin	Botanist/Ecologist
Rich Jackson	Hydrologist
Tina Ruffing	Supervisory Range Management Specialist
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Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: _____

Title: _____

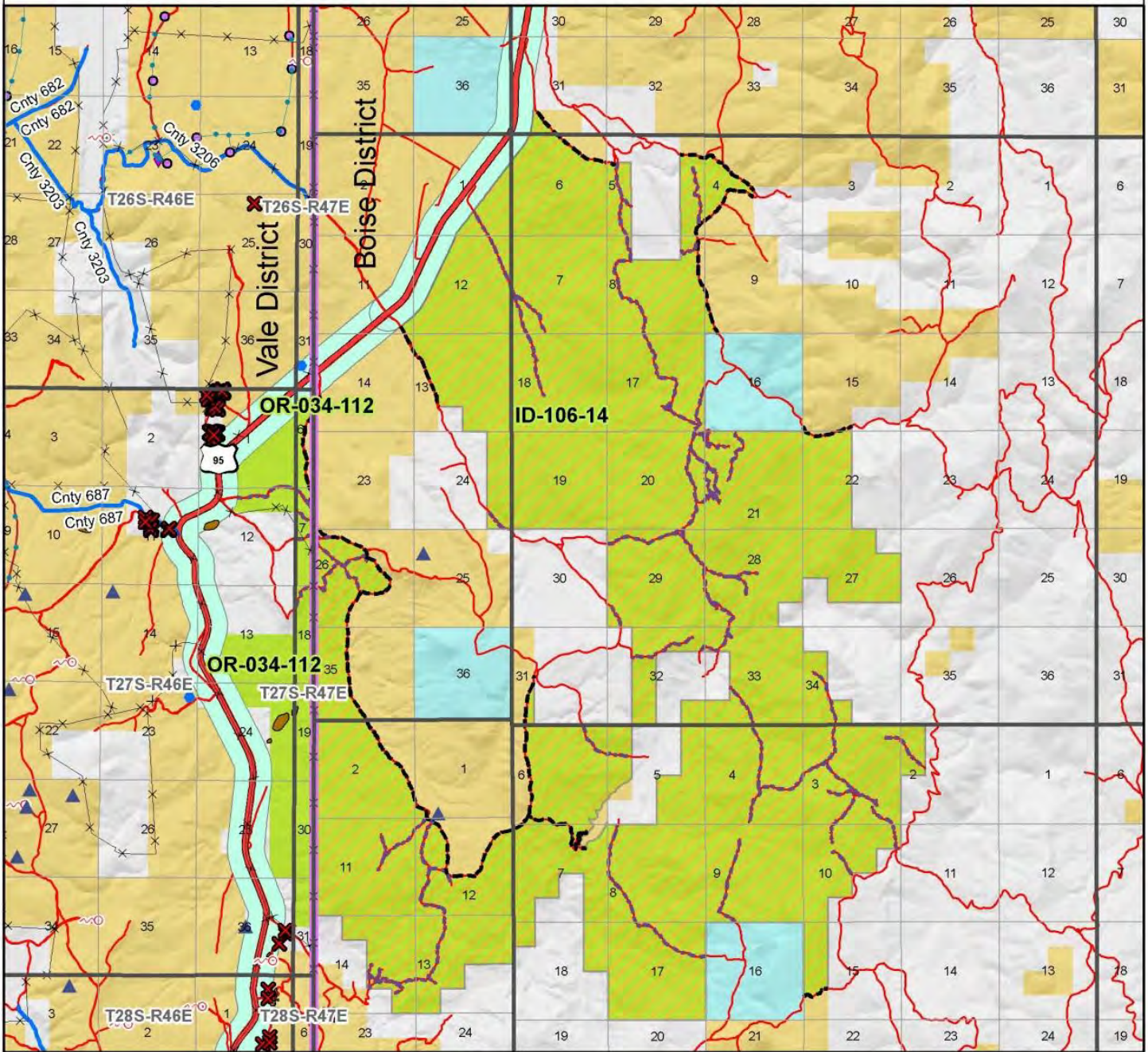
Date: _____

* 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 1610.5-3.

Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

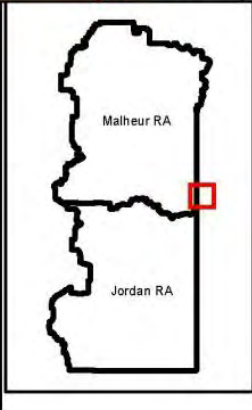
Coal Mine Basin, OR-034-112 / Dry Creek, ID-106-14

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
Fences	Major Highway
Storage Tank	BLM Numbered & Other Routes
Surface Mining Disturbance	Land Ownership
Sage Grouse Lek	Bureau of Land Management
Special Status Plant	State
OR Wild Char Inventory Unit	Private
ID Wild Char Inventory Unit	Other Federal Land
Wilderness Study Area	District Boundary
Mineral Material Site	
Road/Utility Right-of-Way	
Major Water Body	



Kilometers

Miles

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

VALE DISTRICT
April 17, 2012

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