

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Double Mountain OR-034-040, 18 total pages

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Prepared by:
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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: 2009 **Unit Number/Name:** OR-034-040 -- Double Mountain

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 – 1980 -- BLM Wilderness Inventory Units OR-03-04-06 Double Mountain, subunits 3-311,3-312, and 3-313 (unpublished BLM documents in 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-03-04-06 --Double Mountain, subunits 3-311, 3-312 & 3-313.

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 Office/ 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
3-311, 3-312, & 3-313 of OR-03-04-06 --Double Mountain	*	*	*	*	*
TOTAL	*				

* -- These criteria were not specifically addressed in the original inventory for these 3 subunits. The subunits (of undefined acreage) of the original larger (26,220 ac) Double Mountain unit (OR-03-04-06) is what this document is addressing. All 3-300 series wilderness characteristics units of the Vale District were part of an accelerated, separate inventory effort, related to a PP & L 500 kV transmission line proposal of 1977-78. The folder file of 1970's unit OR-03-04-06, Double Mountain, includes these 3 subunits. The statewide decision map of the August 1979 document, *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*, identifies the units as previously not meeting wilderness characteristics, thus not subject to further review.

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

APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION

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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.*

FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: **OR-034-040 – Double Mountain**

NOTE: In February, 2004, the Vale District received from Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) its evaluation of wilderness characteristics for what ONDA names its he Association's 26,155 acre "Sagebrush Gulch proposed WSA". For reference, a hard copy of ONDA's proposal is retained in this unit's file. Information provided by ONDA's proposal was considered and incorporated as appropriate for this BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory maintenance. ONDA's proposal includes basically three 1970's BLM inventory units (3-311, 3-312, and a portion of 3-313), and additional northeastern-abutting public lands along the east boundary of BLM's 3-313 unit

Differences between BLM and ONDA regarding inventory unit boundary features are that BLM's unit OR-034-040 includes (1) all of ONDA's proposal except for ONDA's southern-most tip, (2) additional public lands (of BLM's historic unit 3-313) located northwest of ONDA's proposed WSA, and (3) more public lands east of ONDA's east boundary route in the unit's northeast sector (which, thus, extends BLM's unit to BLM road 7320-0-00) in this northeast sector. Additionally, unlike BLM's unit, ONDA's northern-most boundary of its northwest portion includes – by ONDA's own depiction -- some cross-country delineation along a legal bound, not by a valid boundary feature such as a road or non-BLM land. BLM's boundary in this northwest sector is a combination of private lands to the north of ONDA's north boundary and to BLM road 7327-0-00 to the west. Compare BLM's OR-034-040 associated Map 1 with ONDA's map of its Sagebrush Gulch Proposed WSA, both which are retained in the file for BLM's OR-034-040. For additional documentation, refer to OR-034-040's associated 034-RT 4 Road Analysis form and its affiliated BLM Photo Point Map/Log and photographs.

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 this inventory unit's associated Map 1 for its location. The 28,181 acre unit is larger than the boundaries identified in BLM's original wilderness characteristics inventory of the late 1970's. Included now is (1) an acquired State parcel, and (2) an adjustment of the unit's northeast boundary to extend further east to BLM road 7320-0-00 (Twin Springs Road) due to a change in status of the vehicular route associated with the historic BLM unit's east boundary from road to a motorized primitive trail (MPT) to reflect present circumstances. The unit is also bounded by BLM roads 7327-0-00, a continuation of 7320-0-00 south of the unit's northeast sector, and by private land on its north boundary. The BLM roads receive mechanical maintenance as needed to keep them passable for relatively regular and continuous use. In 2005, an east-west route crossing public lands centrally through the unit was bladed to assist wildfire

suppression efforts. However, it is not BLM's intention to maintain the route into the future, thus the route remains a motorized primitive trail (MPT) which was – in 2005 -- subject to blading due to an emergency, short-term resource management need.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes No N/A

Description: The unit is approximately 12 miles long and predominately 4-5 miles wide; it more so narrows in its northwest sector. The unit is represented by Double Mountain (elevation 3,606 and 3,566 feet), a notable portion of the north-south oriented watershed of Sagebrush Creek with its complex of drainages, and moderate to steep rising (500 feet) terrain with a grouped complex of peaks in the inventory unit's southwest sector. There is also a significant mesa top type of terrain associated with the unit's northwest area. Elevations range from 2,420 to 3,900 feet across the unit. Vegetation is predominately of a sagebrush community with both native and non-native grasses.

Refer to this inventory unit's associated Map 1 for human developments within it. They include 21.7 miles of rangeland fence, 3 earthen reservoirs, 8 developed springs, 3 fenced enclosures, approximately 5.4 miles of 3 buried pipeline systems, a water storage tank, 8 troughs associated with the pipelines, and 41.7 miles of 23 MPTs. There also is remnant visual evidence of 12 abandoned vehicle route segments (8 miles, total) within the unit. Between 1964 and 2005, the unit has been affected by 13 land treatment projects. Refer to this unit's associated Map 2 and affiliated table of projects for their locations and additional information. Approximately 2,125 acres of the 2005 fire rehab drilled seeding project of combined native and non-native grass species and 38 acres of planted native forbes occurred within the inventory unit. Presently, visual evidence remains substantially noticeable to the average visitor of both the seedings' drill disc furrow scarring and the linear appearance of the grass seedings, themselves. The remaining land treatment projects – and the other above described human developments within the unit – presently appear to be substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor, individually and collectively. Collectively, overall, the distribution, types, and extent of the various human imprints within the unit – relative to the inventory unit's size, configuration and topographic properties -- results in the unit, as a whole, to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with existing human developments being substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.

BLM documents the presence and location of 11 MPTs within this unit for which ONDA has no location documentation. Unlike BLM, ONDA recognizes the apparent presence of certain of its labeled vehicle routes by either certain photographs or by label/mention only, but without indicating the type of route they each are (e.g., road versus MPT). Unlike ONDA, BLM documents abandoned vehicular routes within the BLM unit which are no longer traveled, thus are no longer considered to be MPTs. ONDA's proposal does not quantify or indicate location of the other known man-made features of its proposed WSA while concluding that it appears primarily affected by the forces of nature

with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable. For comparative reference, refer to the associated BLM Map 1 of OR-034-040 and to ONDA’s proposal, both located in this unit’s inventory file folder.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes No N/A

Description: The unit is approximately 12 miles long and predominately 4-5 miles wide; it more so narrows in its northwest sector. There is insufficient vegetative screening available for visitors within the unit to support outstanding opportunities for solitude. However, the nature of the complex topography distributed over much of the unit with wider widths, in combination with the unit’s size and configuration, provides outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Yes No N/A

Description: Primary primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities within the unit include hunting of common upland and big game (chukar, deer and antelope), day hiking, horseback riding, and general sightseeing and photography. The area is not so large as to typically accommodate overnight backpacking. These recreation opportunities within the unit, individually or collectively, while readily available, are not outstanding as opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation activities. There are no special or unique features or values associated with the unit which would lend to or provide for outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities.

ONDA indicates a riparian site (depicted by ONDA photo OD20) provides outstanding opportunities for wildlife viewing and hunting due to “greater habitat” for “birds and animals”. BLM does not agree that the sole presence of the ONDA identified riparian site equates to outstanding wildlife viewing or hunting opportunities — for the site, itself, nor for the inventory unit as a whole. While recognizing the presence of various wildlife habitat settings within the BLM inventory unit for wildlife viewing and hunting, (e.g., rocky outcrops, rolling hills with intermittent drainage channels, and spring sites), BLM concludes that the unit’s habitats are not so unique or otherwise possess features which result in these recreation activities being outstanding within the inventory unit.

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

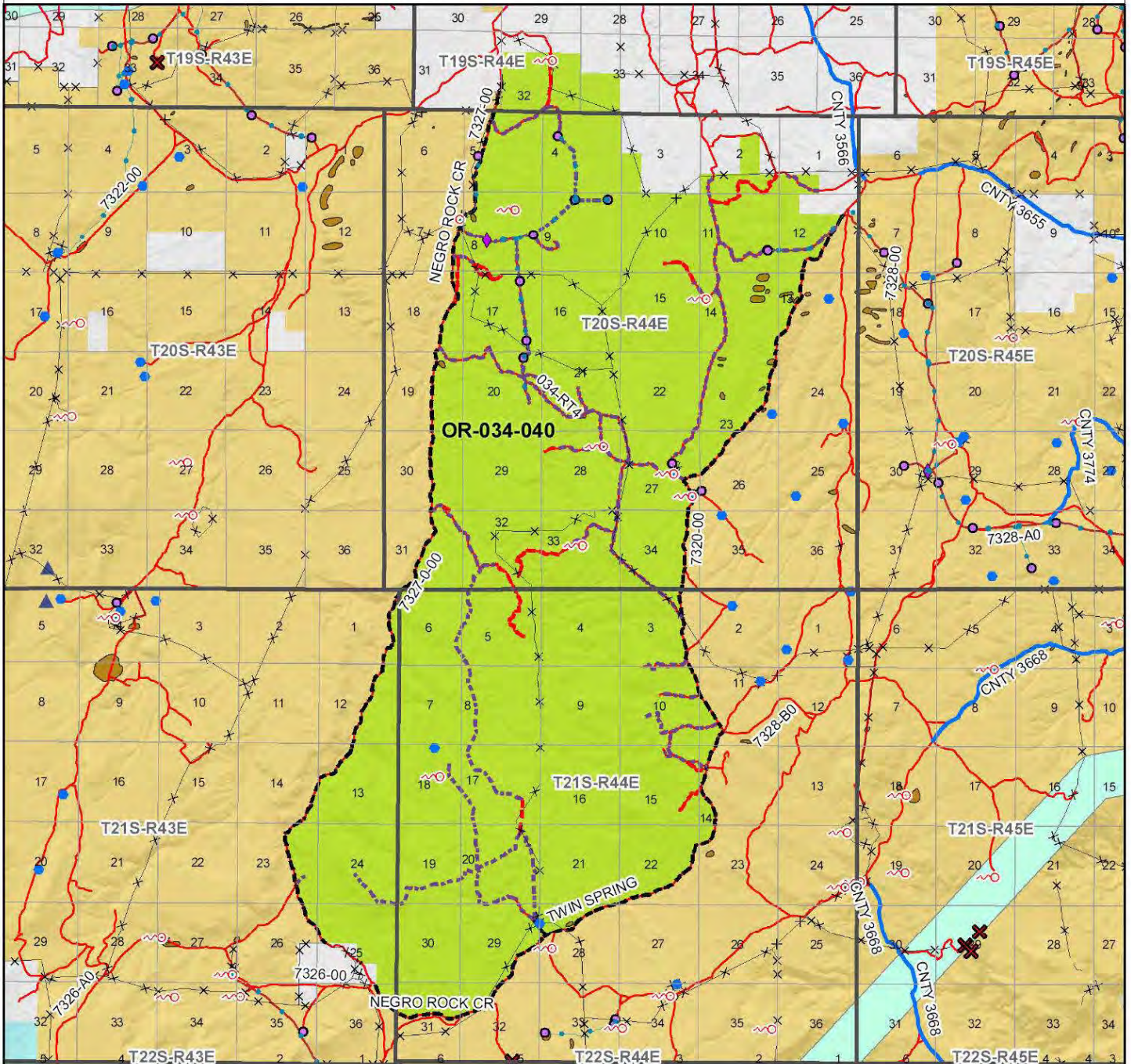
Description: Three BLM-acknowledged special status plant species are within the unit: Cronquists' stickseed, Biddle's lupine, and Cusick's chaenactis. See this unit's associated Map 1 for presently known locations of the plants.

ONDA states the SEORMP notes the presence of Sage Grouse leks in its proposed Double Mountain WSA. BLM disagrees. The SEORMP does not indicate the presence of leks within ONDA's proposed WSA, including not within this BLM OR-034-040 inventory unit.

ONDA states its proposed Sagebrush Gulch WSA "may also be home to Mojave Black-collared Lizard, Desert Horned Lizard, Ground Snake, Ferruginous Hawk, Pygmy Rabbit, and White-tailed Antelope Squirrel," which ONDA's February 2004 submission to the Vale District declares are listed as "sensitive species" in Oregon. As of 2009, the Mohave Black-collard Lizard, Desert Horned Lizard, Ground Snake and the White-tailed Antelope Squirrel were not considered sensitive by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, BLM, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. BLM has documented Desert Horned Lizard and Ferruginous Hawk occurrences within this unit. BLM acknowledges that habitat requirements may exist for the Mohave Black-collard Lizard, Ground Snake and the White-tailed Antelope Squirrel; however, neither ONDA nor any other entity has provided BLM official documentation confirming the presence of these species within this inventory unit.

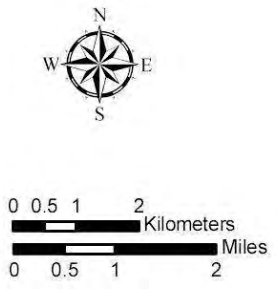
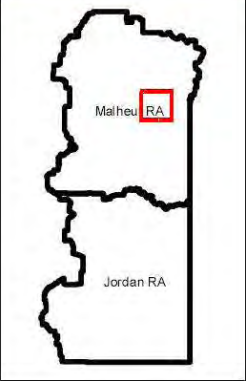
Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Double Mountain - OR-034-040 - Map 1 of 2



Legend

Developed Spring	Boundary Road
Wildlife Guzzler	Molozized 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	Bureau of Land Management
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	



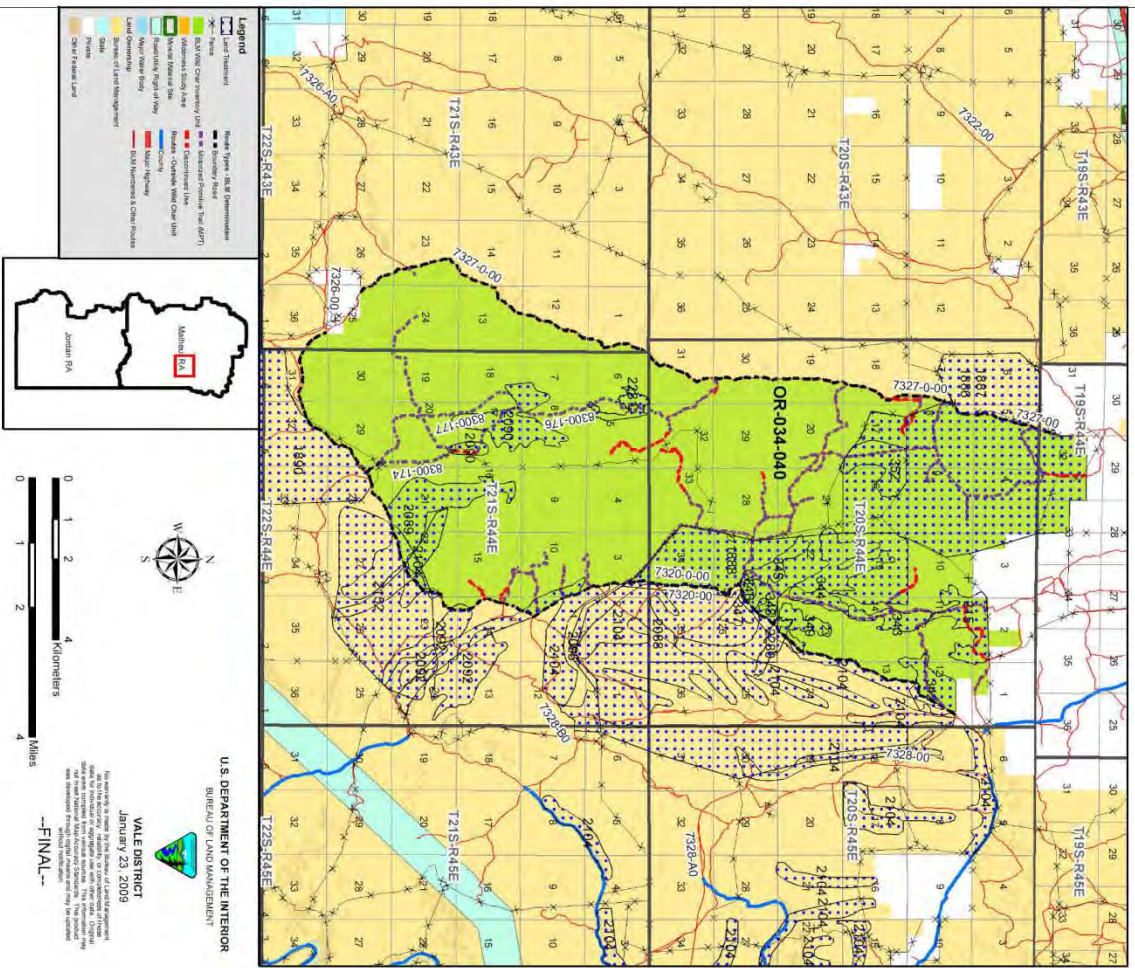
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VALE DISTRICT
January 23, 2009

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--FINAL--

Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments
Double Mountain - OR-034-040 - Map 2 of 2



Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments
Double Mountain - OR-034-040 - Map 2 of 2

OBJECTID*	NAME	TREATMENT TYPE	SEED GROUP	DATE
342	DOUBLE MOUNTAIN FIRE REHAB.	Drill Seeding	A mix of native grass	20051115
343	DOUBLE MOUNTAIN FIRE REHAB.	Drill Seeding	Combination	20051115
344	DOUBLE MOUNTAIN FIRE REHAB.	Drill Seeding	Combination	20051115
345	DOUBLE MOUNTAIN FIRE REHAB.	Drill Seeding	Combination	20051115
346	DOUBLE MOUNTAIN FIRE REHAB.	Drill Seeding	Combination	20051115
347	DOUBLE MOUNTAIN FIRE REHAB.	Drill Seeding	Combination	20051115
348	DOUBLE MOUNTAIN FIRE REHAB.	Drill Seeding	Combination	20051115
349	DOUBLE MOUNTAIN FIRE REHAB.	Drill Seeding	Combination	20051115
352	DOUBLE MOUNTAIN FIRE REHAB.	Drill Seeding	Combination	20051115
1886	SAND HOLLOW SEEDING	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable	1964
1887	SAND HOLLOW SEEDING	Drill Seeding	Unknown	1964
1888	DOUBLE MOUNTAIN BRUSH CONTROL	Chemical Treatment	Not Applicable	1965
1890	RYE FIELD SEEDING	Drill Seeding	Unknown	1966
2088	DOUBLE MOUNTAIN SEEDING	Drill Seeding	Native Grasses	1996
2089	SAGE BRUSH GULCH SEEDING	Drill Seeding	Combination	1996
2090	CANYON SEEDING	Drill Seeding	Native Grasses	1996
2092	SHEL L ROCK SEEDING	Drill Seeding	Native Grasses	1996
2095	DOUBLE MOUNTAIN FENCE GREEN STR	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses	1996
2104	COW HOLLOW SEEDING EXTENSION	Drill Seeding	Native Grasses	1996
2152	SAGEBRUSH BURN	Prescribed Burn	Not Applicable	1984
2280	TWIN BUTTE FIRE REHAB	Aerial Seeding	Combination	20030218
2281	DOUBLE MOUNTAIN FIRE REHAB	Aerial Seeding	Combination	20030218

Note: The Land Treatments represented by navy blue dots on the map to the left are labeled with the treatments' ObjectIDs listed in the first field of the Land Treatments table shown above. Multiple types of treatments may have been applied to the same area. For example, one treatment area may have been plowed and drill seeded - a record is shown in the table for each type of treatment.



034-RT4-A-NE.JPG



034-RT4-A-NE1.JPG



034-RT4-A-NE2.JPG



034-RT4-A-NW.JPG



034-RT4-A-NW1.JPG

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

APPENDIX C – ROAD* ANALYSIS

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road for wilderness inventory purposes.)

Wilderness Inventory Unit Name/Number: **OR-034-040 – Double Moutain**

Note: This BLM unit affected by ONDA’s proposed Sagebrush Gulch WSA.

Route Name and/or Identifier *(Include Transportation Plan Identifier, if known; include route number supplied by citizen information when available):*

O34-RT 4.

(Is what ONDA identifies as a combination of its routes W32b, W32a, W32c, and W16c. W32a is described as a vehicular way (alias, a Vale District MPT), and the other three as “unk” on ONDA’s Road Log).

I. LOCATION: Refer to attached map. Is a route bladed recently by BLM for fire fire suppression activities. **List photo point references (if applicable):** Refer to this BLM inventory unit’s associated hard copy of its BLM Photo Points map, and affiliated Photo Log and photos -- retained in this unit’s permanent hard copy file, and electronically retained under this unit’s subfolder Final Findings/GIS Products. Any applicable ONDA map, photos and affiliated Photo Log are electronically retained under Wilderness Characteristics/Citizen Proposals.

II. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE:

(Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment).)

Describe: Prior existing route was bladed during 2005 Double Mountain Fire. Provides access for rangeland/livestock improvements (a spring development with a short pipeline and a trough, along with 2 small fence enclosures on its far eastern segment; a short water trough pipeline on the east end of the route; and a longer pipeline, water tower and some troughs on its northwestern reaches. Also used for monitoring a special status plant species, and for hunting of common game species.

III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:

Is a road right-of-way associated with this route?

Yes _____ No X Unknown _____

IV. CONSTRUCTIONYes No Examples: Paved _____ Bladed _____ Graveled _____ Roadside
Berms _____ Cut/Fill _____ Other _____

Describe: It is unknown when it was originally constructed, yet likely it was to assist development of at least some of improvements listed above. Records indicate the route was present during the District's late 1970's WC inventory (see historic records of WC unit OR-0-304-06 ,subparts 311 and 312). At that time, for that given accelerated WC inventory for the 500 Kv PP & L power line ROW, the route was labeled a "management road".

V. IMPROVEMENTSYes No

By Hand Tools _____ By Machine _____

Examples: Culverts _____ Stream Crossings _____ Bridges _____
Drainage _____ Barriers _____ Other _____**Describe:****VI. MAINTENANCE:**

A. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery? Yes No

If yes: Hand Tools (Y/N) _____ Machine (Y/N)

Explain: This prior MPT received mechanical maintenance (blading) during emergency-initiated wildfire suppression activities in 2005. Otherwise, there is no known record of mechanical maintenance performed on this route.

B. If the route is in good condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM in the event this route became impassable?

Yes No

Comments: Although bladed for wildfire suppression in 2005, and remains passable by a high clearance vehicle such as a pickup truck for the purpose for which it was done at the time, this route would not receive any future mechanical maintenance because the improvements associated with this route are accessible without the need of mechanical

maintenance due to the gentle rolling nature of the terrain and for the soils which typically compact well. The special status plant species site is better protected without performing maintenance activities, since the route goes right through the plants’ site and associated habitat. (NOTE: the emergency blading was performed without this knowledge conveyed to fire personnel at the time). There is no managerial investment along this route that could not be accessed over the long term without the need to mechanically maintain it. Thus, there is no need to maintain this route.

VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:

Yes X No _____

Describe evidence (vehicle tracks observed) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis:

BLM personnel and livestock permittees use this road to maintain projects, administer grazing, and to monitor a special status plant species site. The route is also seasonally traveled in support of motorized recreational access for hunting.

VIII. CONCLUSION:

To meet the definition of a road, items IV or V, and VI-A or B, and VII must be checked yes.

Road: Yes _____ No X

Explanation: Because this passable route – and which has been passable by a high clearance vehicle since at least the late 1979’s – is identified for not having historically required nor is in the need for future mechanical maintenance actions in support of managing the improvements and monitoring of the special status plant species, the route is still recognized as a MPT. It’s just that it was – by happenstance -- one-time bladed for emergency-initiated wildfire suppression, only. Thus, this route has been and will continue to be managed as a MPT in the context of WC inventory maintenance purposes.

Evaluator(s): Steve Christensen Date: 3-6-2009
Steve Christensen, Range Management Specialist

Mitch Thomas Date: 4/20/09
Mitch Thomas, Range Management Specialist

* **road:** An access route which has been **improved and maintained by mechanical means** to insure **relatively regular and continuous use**. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

a. **“Improved and maintained”** – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. **“Mechanical means”** – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. **“Relatively regular and continuous use”** – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims.

* *Following is the definition from Glossary of OSO 7-3-2007 Draft H-6300-1:*

road: The BLM will continue to base the definition of what constitutes a “road” from the FLPMA’s legislative history. The language below is from the House of Representatives Committee Report 94-1163, page 17, dated May 15, 1976, on what became the FLPMA. It is the only statement regarding the definition of a road in the law or legislative history.

“The word ‘roadless’ refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.”

The BLM previously adopted and will continue to use the following sub-definitions of certain words and phrases in the BLM road definition stated above:

a. **“Improved and maintained”** – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. **“Mechanical means”** – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. **“Relatively regular and continuous use”** – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims.

A road that was established or has been maintained solely by the passage of vehicles would not be considered a road, even if it is used on a relatively regular and continuous basis. Vehicle roads constructed by mechanical means but that are no longer being maintained by mechanical methods are not roads. Sole use of hands and feet to move rocks or dirt without the use of tools or machinery does not meet the definition of “mechanical means.” Roads need not be “maintained” on a regular basis but rather “maintained” when road conditions warrant actions to keep it in a usable condition. A dead-end (cherry-stem) road can form the boundary of an inventory area and does not by itself disqualify an area from being considered “roadless”.