

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Granite Creek OR-034-075, 11 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-034-075 -- Granite Creek

**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) 1977 – BLM Wilderness Inventory Unit part of original 3-30 Slaughter Gulch of OR-03-03-03 (unpublished BLM documents in case files)
- () April 1979 – *Wilderness -- Proposed Initial Inventory – Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not have Wilderness Characteristics, Oregon and Washington*

Wilderness Decision Documents

Note: The portion of 3-30 of OR-03-03-03 which affects the current 2010 unit OR-034-075 was removed from further wilderness characteristics inventory review during an accelerated late 1970's wilderness characteristics review for the 1977 proposed Pacific Power and Light (PP & L) right-of-way application for a 500Kv transmission line; thus, no decisions listed herein affected the current OR-034-075 unit. See note below following the table of this Form 1 for additional information.

- () 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 Part of 3-30 Slaughter Gulch of OR-03-03-03

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

- Final Decision – Initial Wilderness Inventory Map, August 1979, Oregon
Note: see explanation following the table, below, of this Form 1.
- 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
Part of 3-30 Slaughter Gulch* of OR-03-03-03	*	*	*	*	*
TOTAL	*				

* -- The southern portion of this late 1970's unit is identified with the current unit OR-034-075 Granite Creek being reviewed. This southern portion of 3-30 was one part of a larger 3-30 unit subjected to an accelerated wilderness characteristics (WC) inventory due to submission of a Pacific Power and Light (PP & L) right-of-way application for a 500Kv transmission line in 1977. Only a map (August 1979 wilderness inventory decision map) which depicts the accelerated "3-30" unit has been located in BLM WC inventory files kept at Vale District. The map indicates that the southern portion of the "3-30" unit was found to not possess wilderness characteristics, but no written text associated with the map or unit have been found, to date, in Vale District associated with this accelerated WC inventory.

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-034-075 -- Granite Creek

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 unit's associated Map 1 for its location. The unit has 17,415 acres of public land. The unit's boundaries encompass a smaller area than did the 1977 map-depicted southern portion of the notably larger 1977 accelerated wilderness characteristics (WC) inventory unit "3-30". This is due to the PP & L 500Kv transmission line having been developed since the accelerated WC inventory was conducted, with the line's designated utility corridor width presently serving as the north boundary of this present OR0-034-075 unit. Otherwise, boundaries of this OR-034-075 are close to the same as identified on maps of the late 1970's "3-30" unit. Other boundaries of OR-034-075 include non-BLM lands on the unit's east side, a combination of non-BLM lands and County road 514 on its south side, and non-BLM lands and county road 587 on the unit's west side. 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 X N/A

Description: Elevations of the unit range from about 3,280 to 4,700 feet. The approximate east half of the unit of the higher elevations is of plateau features dominated by very low profiled rolling terrain. Much of the west half has more diverse topography dropping off from (A) the north and east rims of the upper northern and eastern watershed of Granite Creek in the southwestern sector of the unit (to as far south as the rim within sections 15 and 16, T24S, R38E), and (B) the upper reaches of the smaller Juniper Canyon watershed, located more in the northwestern-most portion of the unit. Vegetation is predominately sagebrush and native and non-native grasses above the rims and upper canyon reaches. Below the rims and ridges of the two canyons is sagebrush and more native grasses; there is a concentration of juniper in the upper portions of Juniper Canyon, and patches of the tree species in the main branch of Granite Creek. Additionally, slopes of both watersheds have scattered individual junipers.

Refer to this inventory unit's associated Map 1 and Map 2 for human imprints. There remains no visual contrast of late 1960's disc-plow seedings and chemical vegetation treatments which occurred over the majority of the upper plateau (east half) of the unit. Within the entire unit, there are 51.8 miles of 27 motorized primitive trails (MPTs), 4.6 miles of one buried branched pipeline system with 4 trough sites, 23.6 miles of rangeland fences, 14 small earthen reservoirs (one in a fence enclosure), and two larger earthen reservoirs (Chapman and Lower Chapman).

A concentration of developments is associated with the plateau within the unit's northeast sector. The close proximity of developments to each other -- combined with the number and extent/density of them -- results in this sector of the inventory unit appearing to not being affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprints of humans substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor. This area of the unit is not in a natural condition. The unnatural appearing area (see Map 1) is bounded by (A) a segment of the unit's north boundary and east boundary, (B) the southern-most east-west line of connecting rangeland fence through sections 26 – 29 of T23S., R38E., and (C) the north-south fence within sections 19, 20 and 29 of T23S, 38E.. This area of approximately 3,575 acres has 6 small earthen reservoirs, 9.5 miles of rangeland fence, the entire pipeline/trough system, and 9.7 miles of 8 MPTs. Any two developments are within no greater than a half mile of each other.

The remainder of the unit has approximately 13,840 acres. The type, extent and locations of most of this remaining area's associated developments -- relative to the diverse nature of its terrain -- results in it, overall, 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 X No N/A

Description: Only that area of the unit which appears natural is subject to review for outstanding opportunities for solitude. The density and area size of concentrated juniper in the higher elevations of the canyon environment of Juniper Canyon enhances screening between visitors. Otherwise, vegetation of the 13,840 acre area does little to enhance such opportunities. The configuration of this area, when combined with the diversity of terrain within the included two primary watersheds of this unit, is sufficient to provide adequate screening for outstanding opportunities for solitude. The included 5-mile long plateau to the east above the rim and canyon ridges, while not otherwise precluding outstanding opportunities, does little to enhance outstanding opportunities for solitude due to its low topographic profile combined with its narrow width (no greater than 2 miles).

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

Description: Only that area of the unit which appears natural is subject to review for outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Recreation opportunities within the area include hiking, photography, general sightseeing, hunting of common game species (primarily deer, pronghorn and chukar), and hunting of bighorn sheep -- a prized and highly sought trophy game species in Oregon,. The opportunity to hunt for bighorn sheep is an outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation activity. Although the northwestern portion of the area is of a substantially larger bighorn sheep suitable habitat area, it is on the habitat area's outer edge where the species use of it is not as frequent as elsewhere in the habitat area. Hunting of this highly prized Oregon game species results in this area possessing outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The high scenic values of the Malheur River Canyon enhance outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

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

Description: One sage grouse lek -- a BLM special status animal species -- has been documented within the unit. Bighorn sheep, a BLM special status species, occasionally use the northwest sector of the unit.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-034-075 -- Granite Creek

Summary Results of Analysis:

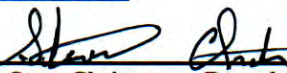
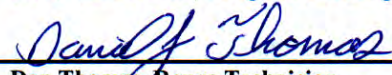
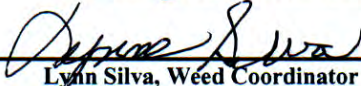
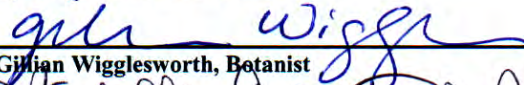
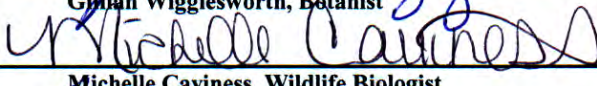
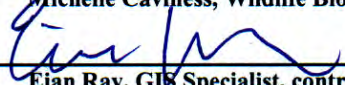
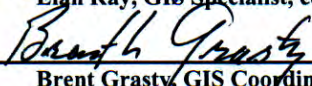
1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No NA

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, Wilderness Planner contractor

Team Members:

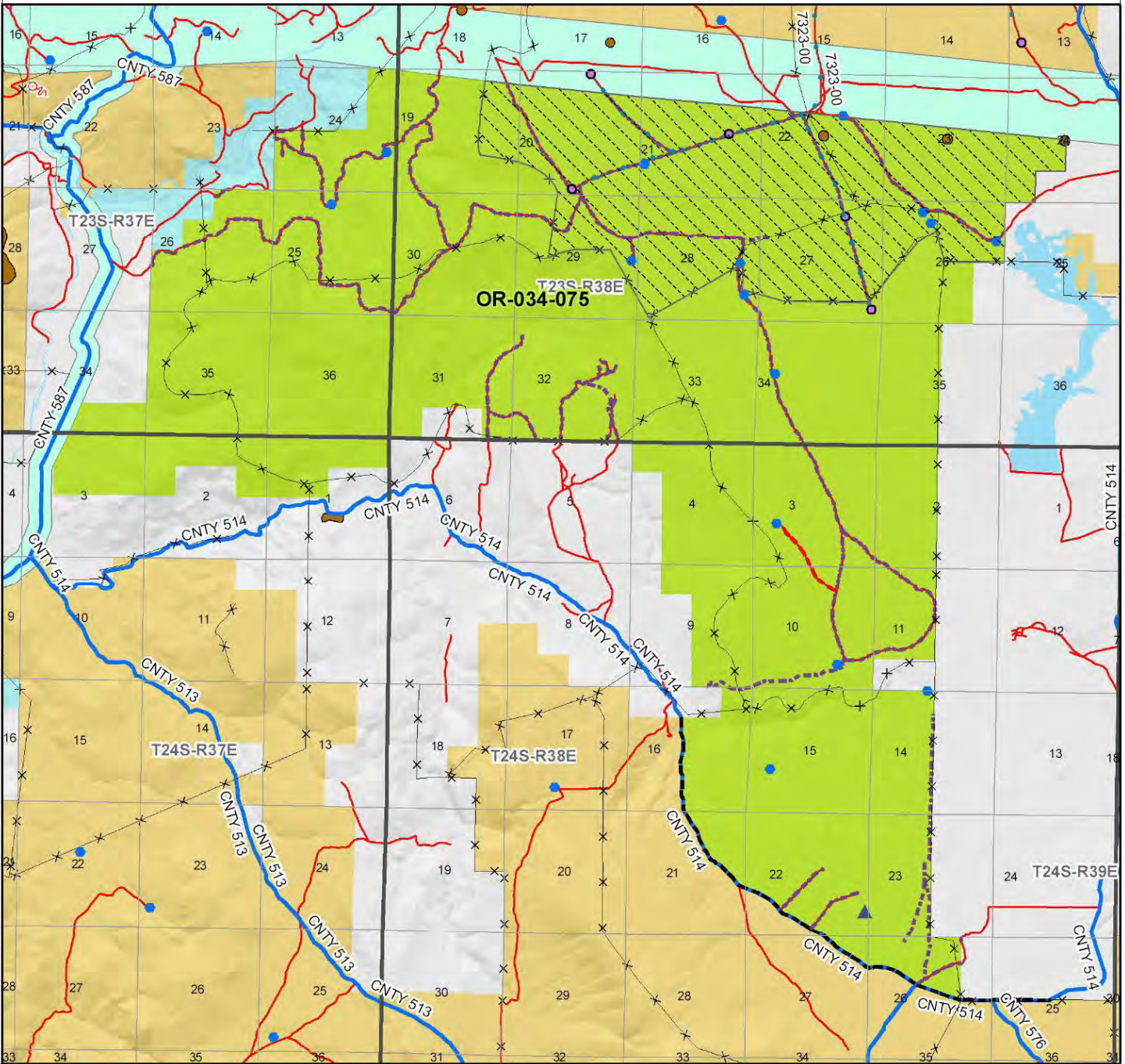
<u></u>	<u>12-6-2010</u>
Steve Christensen, Rangeland Management Specialist	Date
<u></u>	<u>12-6-10</u>
Dan Thomas, Range Technician	Date
<u></u>	<u>12-17-2010</u>
Lynn Silva, Weed Coordinator	Date
<u></u>	<u>12/6/10</u>
Gillian Wigglesworth, Botanist	Date
<u></u>	<u>12/10/10</u>
Michelle Caviness, Wildlife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

Approved by:

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

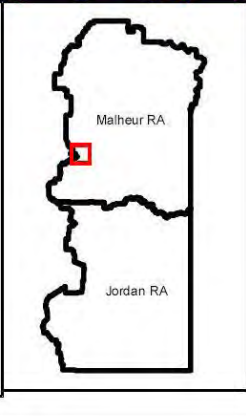
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.

Wilderness Characteristics - Overview Granite Creek - OR-034-075 - Map 1 of 2



Legend

Developed Spring	Boundary Road
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	Bureau of Land Management
Special Status Plant	State
BLM Wild Char Inventory Unit	Private
Wilderness Study Area	Other Federal Land
Mineral Material Site	Unnatural Areas
Road/Utility Right-of-Way	
Major Water Body	



Kilometers

Miles

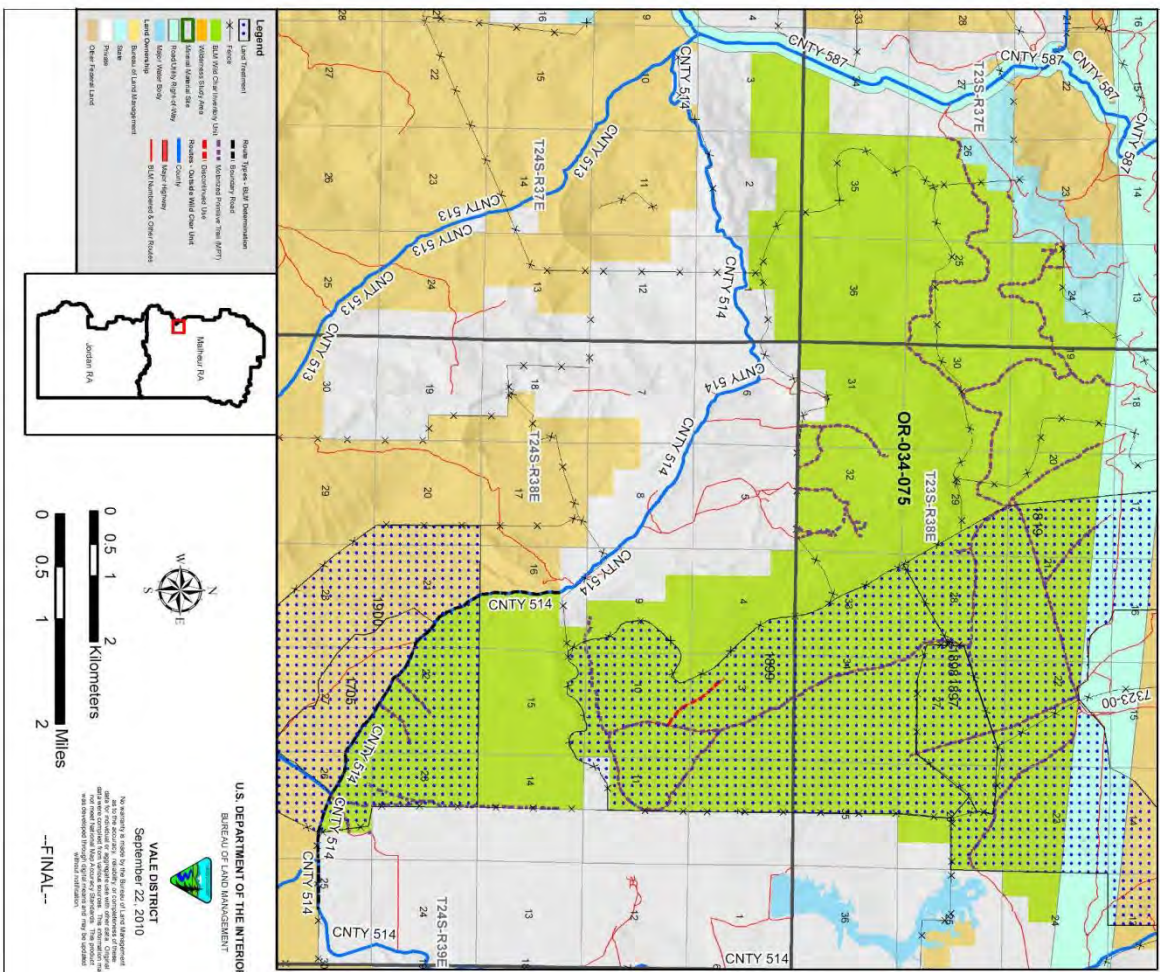
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VALE DISTRICT
September 22, 2010

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--FINAL--

**Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments
Granite Creek - OR-034-075 - Map 2 of 2**



**Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments
Granite Creek - OR-034-075 - Map 2 of 2**

OBJECTID*	NAME	TREATMENT TYPE	SEED GROUP	DATE
1705	BLUTE ESR SEEDING	Broadcast Seeding w/ Native Grasses	Native Grasses	2007/11/25
1819	SLAUGHTER GLU CH BRUSH CONTROL	Chemical Treatment	Not Applicable	1966
1887	UPPER MEADOW SEEDING	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable	1989
1888	UPPER MEADOW SEEDING	Drill Seeding	Unknown	1969
1899	GRANITE CREEK BRUSH CONTROL	Chemical Treatment	Not Applicable	1964
1900	CRESTON BRUSH CONTROL	Chemical Treatment	Not Applicable	1965

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.