

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Grenke OR-036-055, 25 total pages

Page 1: Index Cover Sheet

[Page 2: Form 1 – Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory: Findings on Record](#)

[Page 5: Form 2 – Documentation of Current Wilderness Inventory Conditions](#)

[Page 11: Form 2 – Summary of Findings and Conclusion](#)

[Page 12: Wilderness Characteristics Overview–Grenke OR-036-055 Map 1 of 2](#)

[Page 13: Wilderness Characteristics-Land Treatments-Grenke OR-036-055 Map 2 of 2](#)

[Page 14: Wilderness Characteristics–BLM Photo Points–Grenke Map & Log](#)

[Page 15: OR-036-055 Grenke BLM Photos](#)

[Page 19: H-6300-1-Wilderness Inventory Maintenance in BLM Oregon/Washington
Appendix C – Road* Analysis: BLM 6368-00 & ONDA GH34a, 34b and 35](#)

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, 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-036-055--Grenke

**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 Unit 3-133 of OR-03-10-17 Grenke & OR-03-10-15 Warm (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 3-133 of OR-03-10-17 Grenke & OR-03-10-15 Warm.

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
3-133 of OR-03-10-17 Grenke	9,280	*	N	N	*
OR-03-10-15 Warm	760	*	*	*	*
TOTAL	10,040				

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

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

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Evaluation of Current Conditions:

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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, and 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.*

FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-036-055—Grenke

Note: In February, 2004, the Vale District received from Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) its evaluation of wilderness characteristics for the Association's 47,567 acre "Whitehorse Butte 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.

The boundaries of BLM's Grenke Unit OR-036-055 and ONDA's Whitehorse Butte proposed WSA are quite different. ONDA's proposal consists of BLM inventory Units OR-036-054 and OR-036-055. BLM Unit OR-036-055 contains 9,433 acres.

Within ONDA's narrative for their Whitehorse Butte proposed WSA Unit, BLM Road 6368-00 is referred to by ONDA as a "way" with information contained in their GIS and Road Logs for a portion of the BLM Road as route GH34a, GH34b, and GH35. This presents a question of whether ONDA's section of BLM Road 6368-00 is an actual road or a way. Please refer to BLM's Road analysis for BLM Road 6368-00 where BLM has provided information about this section of road and has determined that it meets the definition of a road for inventory purposes.

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 BLM's Unit OR-036-055 location. The boundary of the 9,496 acre unit includes original 1970's inventory Unit 3-133 of OR-03-10-17. Acreage for Unit OR-036-055 in Form 2 is calculated from BLM GIS information. BLM Unit OR-036-055 is bounded on its west and southwest side by BLM Road 6368-00, on its southeast and east side by an utility corridor right-of-way for Malheur County Roads 927, 821, 979, and 785, and on its north side by an unnumbered BLM Road, state land parcels, private land parcels, and Malheur County Roads 942 and 974. 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 X No N/A

Description: Given BLM’s Unit OR-036-055 size relative to the evidence of man-made developments the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. The northeast portion of the unit is dominated by small hills while the remaining area of the unit consists of relatively flatter terrain that slopes to the west and is dissected by numerous drainages. Drainages located in the unit flow northward into Soldier Creek or west into Mud Flat Creek. The elevated east and northeast area of the unit slopes mostly to the northwest where the landscape transitions to drainage channels dissecting the relatively lower sloping terrain. Elevation within the unit ranges from 4,640 feet to 5,017 feet, with the upper elevations located mostly in the unit’s east and central area while the unit’s lower elevations are located along the west boundary. Sparsely populated vegetation throughout the unit consists predominately of big and low sagebrush with both native and non-native grass species and areas with juniper trees located in the northeast area of the unit.

Refer to this inventory unit’s associated Map 1 and Map 2 for its human developments in BLM’s Unit OR-036-055. Developments within the unit include 7.35 miles of 11 MPTs, one pipeline system with 1.05 miles of pipelines and one trough, 3 earthen reservoirs, one 63 acre privately owned earthen reservoir and associated right-of-way located on public land, 2.35 miles of irrigation canals and right-of-way, 2 corrals, 14.05 miles of fence line, and 13 vegetation manipulation treatments conducted from 1963 through 2011. The vegetation treatments were or are conducted on approximately forty-seven percent of the unit over a forty-eight year period. A large portion of the sagebrush component in the western portion of the unit has been reduced by a non-native seedings in 1963 and 1969, a chemical vegetation treatment in 1963, and by prescribed burns in 1983 and 1984. The other and on-going vegetation treatment initiated in 2006 consists of selective cutting of juniper trees within a block of approximately 1,938 acres in the unit. The tree cutting prescription is intended to reduce juniper encroachment into sagebrush dominated rangeland. To date the juniper trees that have been cut down have been left in place upon the ground and have not been removed from the landscape. The proposed prescription is to burn all cut juniper trees in place. Presently, to the average visitor, the vegetation treatments conducted in BLM Unit OR-036-055 appear as a whole, individually and collectively, mostly indistinguishable across the landscape. Because the numerous man-made-developments are scattered throughout the unit and the location of the only two MPTs that dissect the landscape are substantially unnoticeable the unit appears affected primarily by the forces of nature.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: BLM concludes that BLM Unit OR-036-055 does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Unit OR-036-055 is an irregular shaped U with a large section of the center of the unit that consists of state and private land parcels. The area’s western and eastern arms of the U are approximately 1.0 to 1.8 miles in width from west to east, with the bottom of the U ranging from about 5.0 miles at the center of the unit and tapering to about 1.0 miles at the southern tip of the unit. The eastern arm of the U has a

length of about 2.5 to 3.25 miles, the central area and bottom of the U ranges from 1.0 to 2.5 miles in length, and the western arm ranges from 2.5 to 4.0 miles in length and tapers along the western boundary to a tip in the northwest corner of the unit.

The eastern arm and a portion of the southeastern area of the unit consists of low hills populated with juniper trees and is dissected by stream channels that flow into large privately owned reservoirs. One of these privately owned reservoirs, Sheep Creek Reservoir, is 63 surface acres in size and located on public land. Because Sheep Creek Reservoir has an associated right-of-way attached to it, the reservoir surface area has been excluded from the Unit. The southern and a portion of the western arm of the unit consists of a relatively flat bench with its western edge ending at a rim 80 - 150 feet above the remaining portion of the western arm of the unit. The winding rim contains numerous small stream channel ravines cutting through the rim face. These drainage features vary in depth and length over the entire length of the rim that runs from the northwest central area to the southern boundary. Since elevation change within the unit is less than 400 feet from east to west the vast majority of the unit contains only low relief features and small secluded sites along various drainages and in and around small hills. Extensive vegetative screening that would provide seclusion from others is limited throughout the unit because of the type of low natural vegetation heights occurring throughout the western and southern areas. Past vegetation treatments performed throughout the unit coupled with the on-going juniper tree cutting occurring within the eastern arm add to the limited vegetation screening throughout the unit that would provide seclusion from others for visitors. As a result of the area's size relative to its shape, the area's limited quality of vegetative screening, and the limited diversity in relief over the entire terrain, BLM concluded that the unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Yes _____ No N/A _____

Description: BLM concludes that BLM Unit OR-036-055 does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation even though potential California Bighorn sheep habitat is present throughout the unit. The most dominate dispersed recreation activities within the unit would be hiking around the hills of the northern arm and central bench or hunting of game species (primarily deer, chukar, and antelope, and to a questionable extent California Bighorn sheep). Most recreational pursuits within the area, individually or collectively, are not outstanding in character or nature for the unit although 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 would 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.

While opportunities within the unit exist for primitive and unconfined recreation, other than the hilly area in the northeast portion there are no unique or special features associated with the unit 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.

ONDA states in their Whitehorse Butte proposed WSA: “Outstanding opportunities for hunting, birdwatching, and plant study are also available. The vegetation in the area includes willet, narrow-leafed phacelia, royal penstemon, thyme desert buckwheat, buffalo plum locoweed, checkermallow, splendor cinquefoil, thrift goldenweed, wild rose, thistle, large headed clover, Great Basin rye, golden currant, phlox, wild onion (photo I5), Oregon sun, lupine, morning glory, desert cushion buckwheat, tansy-leaved evening primrose (photo F5), false dandelion, death camas, bitterbrush, rabbitbrush, lupine (photo I16), and sage.

Bird species identified in the area include western meadowlark, Brewer’s sparrow, mallards, western kingbird, northern shoveler, loggerhead shrike, horned lark, bank swallow, barn swallow, sage sparrow, killdeer, red-winged blackbird, mourning dove. Other animals include badger (photo I17), coyote, cottontail, pronghorn, jackrabbits, blue racers, western fence lizard, caterpillars (photos F25-26), and grasshoppers”.

Although BLM has identified two separate inventory units within ONDA’s Whitehorse Butte Unit, BLM concurs that these plant and animal species may be observed and photographed within BLM’s Grenke Unit OR-036-055. These species in of themselves do not provide “outstanding” opportunities for primitive recreation because the plant and animal species listed above are common to the area.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes No N/A

Description: BLM has documented two sage grouse leks within the unit. The bird is a BLM special status animal species. BLM has also documented Leiberg’s clover (*Trifolium leiergii*) a Bureau Sensitive species known to inhabit three sites globally, one of these on the Vale District BLM administered lands within Unit OR-036-055. Within the Vale District this illusive species occurs on a reddish ash-flow tuff.

ONDA states in its Whitehorse Butte proposed WSA: “A horned lark was sighted in this area, which is a sensitive species in Oregon. Other sensitive species in the area may include Ferruginous Hawk, Pygmy Rabbit, and White-tailed Antelope Squirrel. The SEORMP notes that Whitehorse Butte proposed WSA provides habitat for Bighorn Sheep and contains Sage Grouse leks. Both of these are federal species of concern.

BLM has previously addressed sage grouse leks and Bighorn sheep above. BLM recognizes – at this point in time -- the Pygmy Rabbit as a BLM special status animal species and acknowledges that habitat requirements may exist for the Ferruginous Hawk

and the White-tailed Antelope Squirrel; however, neither ONDA nor any other entity has provided BLM official documentation of the presence of these mentioned species, or of the Pygmy Rabbit, in this inventory unit. ONDA also identified that a horned lark was sighted within the unit and referred to it as a sensitive species in Oregon. BLM agrees that horned lark are native to the area but upon further review has determined that the only horned lark listed by the state is the streaked horned lark that occurs mostly on private land in western Oregon and would not be found within the unit.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-036-055—Grenke

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 R. 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 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

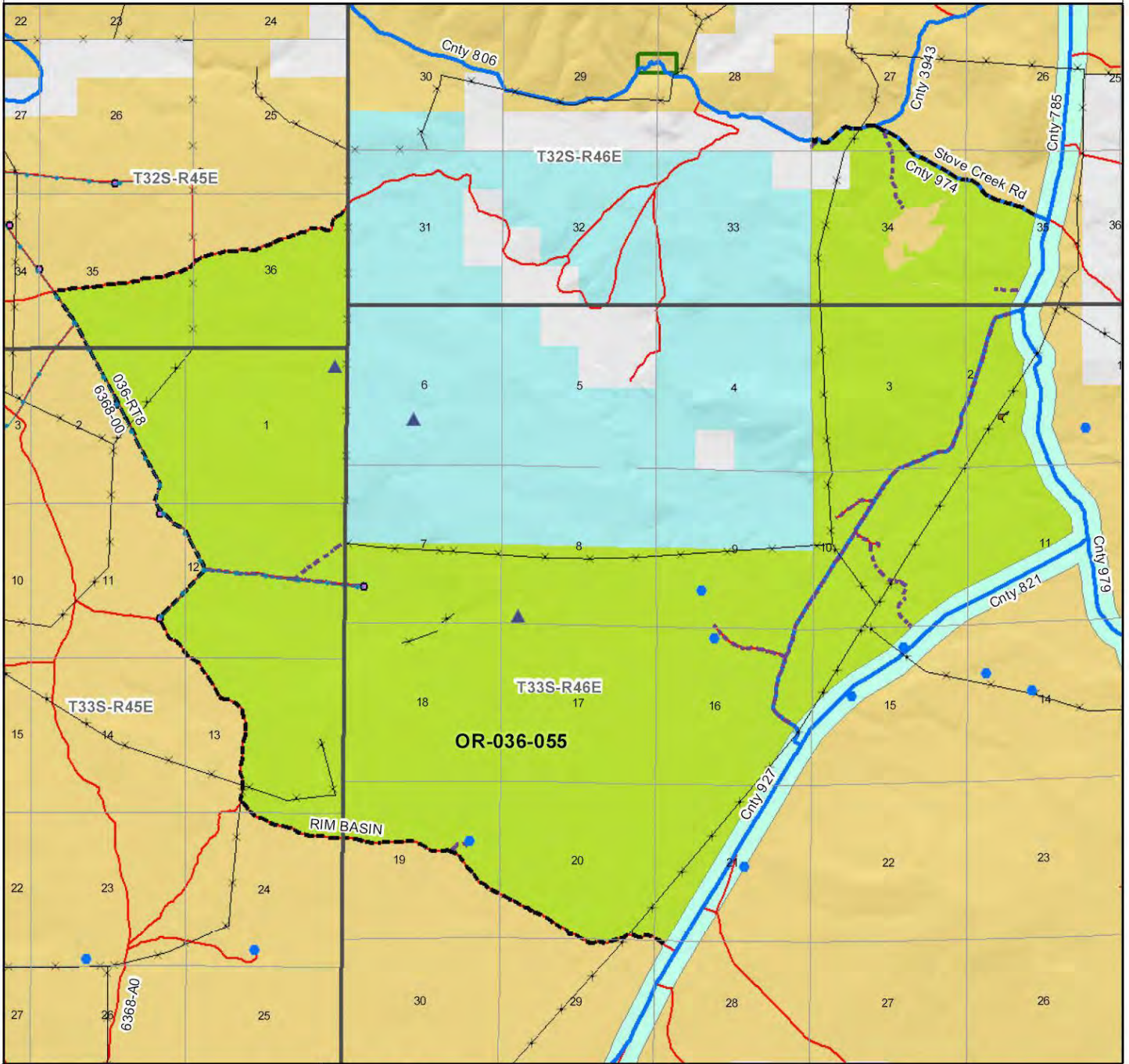
Approved by:

Carolyn R. Chad 11/29/2011
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.

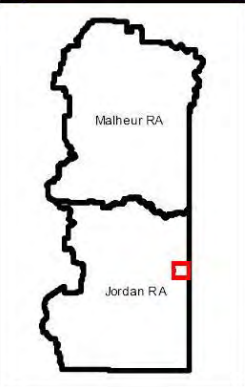
Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Grenke - OR-036-055 - Map 1 of 2



Legend

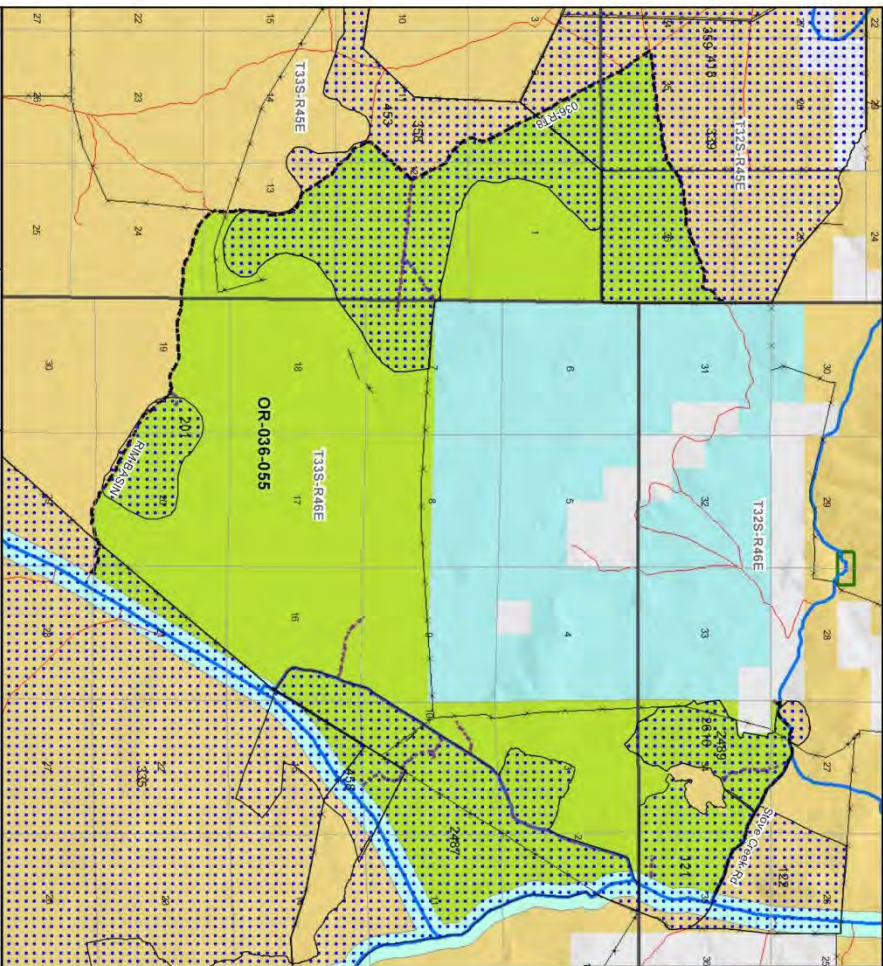
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed Spring Wildlife Guzzler Earthen Reservoir Pipeline Trough Fence Storage Tank Surface Mining Disturbance Sage Grouse Lek Special Status Plant BLM Wild Char Inventory Unit Wilderness Study Area Mineral Material Site Road/Utility Right-of-Way Major Water Body 	<p>Route Types - BLM Determination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boundary Road Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT) Discontinued Use Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit County Major Highway BLM Numbered & Other Routes <p>Land Ownership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bureau of Land Management State Private Other Federal Land
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 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VALE DISTRICT
 October 21, 2011
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.
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Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments
 Grenke - OR-036-055 - Map 2 of 2



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

VALE DISTRICT
 October 21, 2011

0 0.4 0.8 1.6 Miles

0 0.4 0.8 1.6 Kilometers

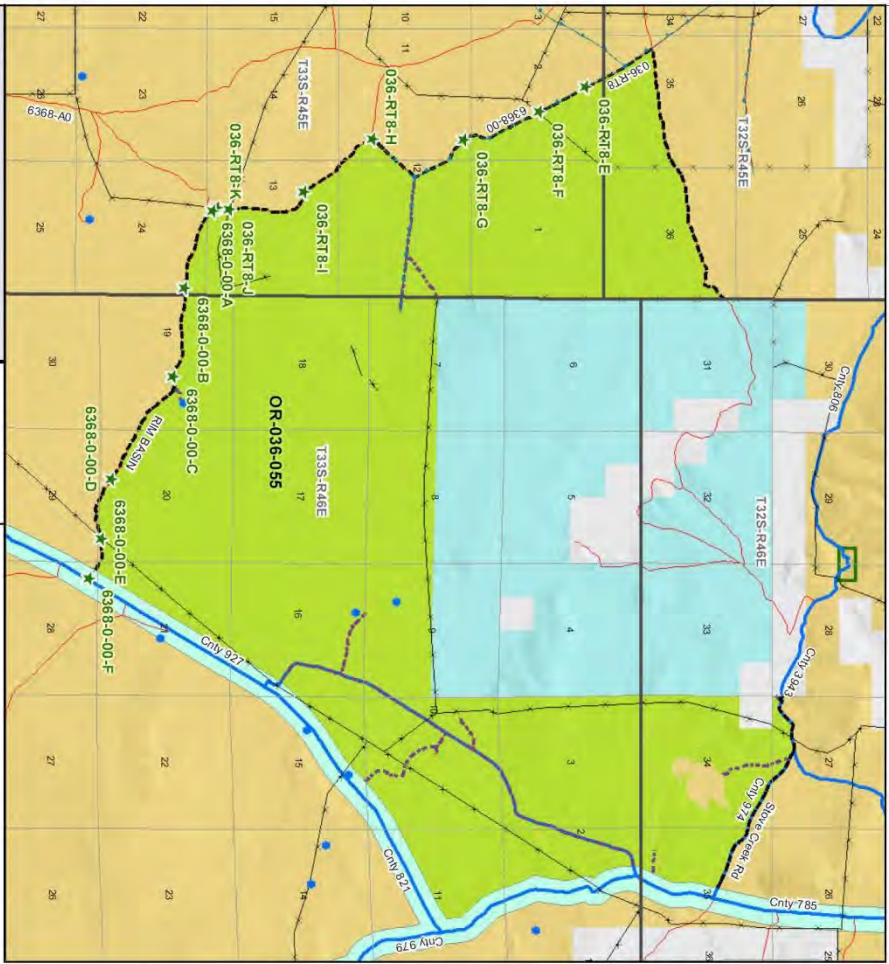
-FINAL-

Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments
 Grenke - OR-036-055 - Map 2 of 2

OBJECTID*	NAME	TREATMENT TYPE	SEED GROUP	DATE
121	JUNIPER POINT	Juniper Cutting	Not Applicable	20060605
122	JUNIPER POINT	Juniper Cutting	Not Applicable	20060605
201	WROTEN & WILLOW CR ALL OT	Prescribed Burn	Not Applicable	1984
335	WHIT HORSE CONTROLLED BU	Prescribed Burn	Not Applicable	1983
339	JACA SDG	Chemical Treatment	Not Applicable	1963
358	RIM BASIN SDG	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable	1969
359	JACA SDG B.C.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	1963
418	JACA SDG	Drill Seeding	A mix of non-native grasses	1963
453	RIM BASIN SDG	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses	1969
458	JUNIPER POINT	Juniper Cutting	Not Applicable	20060930
2487	Juniper Point F709	Juniper Cutting	Not Applicable	20081212
2489	Juniper Point Sheep Creek	Juniper Cutting	Not Applicable	20071130
2616	Juniper Point Sheep Creek	Prescribed Burn	<Null>	20100418

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.

Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Points Grenke - OR-036-055



Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Points Grenke - OR-036-055

PHOTO LOCATION*	DIRECTION	PHOTO TYPE	DATE	COMMENTS
036-RT8-E	SE	Route	20080822	Front
036-RT8-E	NW	Route	20080822	Back
036-RT8-E	S	Project	20080822	Fence
036-RT8-F	SE	Route	20080822	Front, cattle gate.
036-RT8-F	NW	Route	20080822	Back
036-RT8-F	W	Project	20080822	Fence
036-RT8-F	S	Project	20080822	Fence
036-RT8-F	E	Project	20080822	Fence
036-RT8-G	SE	Route	20080822	Front
036-RT8-G	NW	Route	20080822	back
036-RT8-G	E	Project	20080822	Cattle trough
036-RT8-G	E	Project	20080822	Cattle trough
036-RT8-H	S	Route	20080822	Front, intersection
036-RT8-H	NE	Route	20080822	Back
036-RT8-H	SE	Route	20080822	Front
036-RT8-I	NW	Route	20080822	Back
036-RT8-I	S	Route	20080822	Front, cattle gate
036-RT8-J	N	Route	20080822	Back
036-RT8-J	W	Project	20080822	Fence
036-RT8-J	E	Project	20080822	Fence
036-RT8-K	SE	Route	20080822	Front, end of 036-RT8, intersection
036-RT8-K	N	Route	20080822	Back, end of 036-RT8, fence
036-RT8-K	SE	Route	20080822	Front, beginning of 0368-0-00
036-RT8-K	NW	Route	20080822	Back, beginning of 0368-0-00
036-RT8-L	E	Route	20080822	Front
036-RT8-L	W	Route	20080822	Back
036-RT8-M	E	Route	20080822	Front
036-RT8-M	W	Route	20080822	back
036-RT8-N	SE	Route	20080822	Front
036-RT8-N	SW	Route	20080822	Back
036-RT8-O	E	Route	20080822	Front, cattle gate
036-RT8-O	W	Route	20080822	Back
036-RT8-P	E	Project	20080822	Fence
036-RT8-P	N	Project	20080822	Front, end of RT 0368-0-00
036-RT8-P	E	Route	20080822	Front, end of RT 0368-0-00
036-RT8-P	W	Route	20080822	Back, end of RT 0368-0-00

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.

Legend

- o-- Dispersed Spring
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Basic Types - BLM Wilderness

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VALE DISTRICT
October 21, 2011
FINAL



036-RT8-E-NW.JPG



036-RT8-F-SE.JPG



036-RT8-H-NE.JPG



036-RT8-E-SE.JPG



036-RT8-G-NW.JPG



036-RT8-H-S.JPG



036-RT8-F-NW.JPG



036-RT8-G-SE.JPG



036-RT8-I-NW.JPG



036-RT8-I-SE.JPG



036-RT8-K-N.JPG

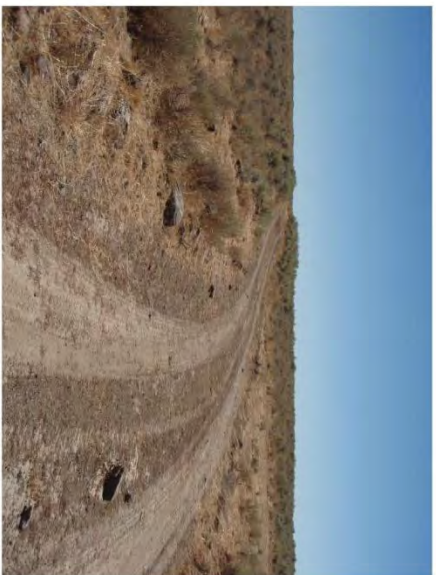


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OR-036-055 Grenke Page 2



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036-RT8-K-SE.JPG



6368-0-00-B-E.JPG



036-RT8-J-S.JPG



6368-0-00-A-NW.JPG



6368-0-00-B-W.JPG



6368-0-00-C-E.JPG



6368-0-00-D-SE.JPG



6368-0-00-F-E.JPG



6368-0-00-C-W.JPG



6368-0-00-E-E.JPG



6368-0-00-F-W.JPG



6368-0-00-D-NW.JPG



6368-0-00-E-W.JPG



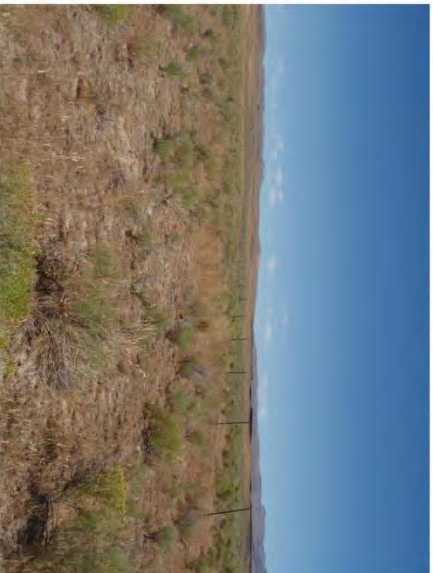
OR-036-054-D-S.JPG



OR-036-054-E-S.JPG



OR-036-054-H-E.JPG



OR-036-055-F-W.JPG



OR-036-054-F-E.JPG



OR-036-054-J-E.JPG



OR-036-055-J-W.JPG



OR-036-054-G-E.JPG



OR-036-055-E-N.JPG

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSISⁱ

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

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area Unique Identifier: OR-036-055 Grenke

Route or Route Segmentⁱⁱⁱ Name and/or Identifier: BLM 6368-00 and Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) GH34a, 34b, and 35.

(Include Transportation Plan Identifier, if known, and include route number supplied by citizen information, when available.)

I. LOCATION:

Refer to attached map **Grenke Photo Pts** and BLM corporate data (GIS). List photo point references (where applicable) or reference attached photo log:

Describe: BLM Road 6368-00 forms the western boundary of the BLM Grenke Unit OR-036-055. BLM Road 6368-00 is a boundary between two BLM WC Units; Jaca Reservoir OR-036-054 and Grenke OR-036-055. ONDA’s corresponding Routes to BLM Road 6368-00 are GH34a, 34b, and 35. ONDA concluded that these three routes are “ways”, do not meet the definition of a road, and are not boundary roads but are an internal way within the Whitehorse Butte proposed WSA that ONDA submitted to BLM in 2004. BLM photo points for BLM Road 6368-00 are 036-RT8-A, D through K, and 6368-0-00-A through F (30 photos, 2 photos at each site) and ONDA photos for their Routes GH34a are F035, I001, I002, and J114; for GH34b is J101; and for GH35 is J112.

II. ROUTE CONTEXT

- A. **Current Purpose^{iv} (if any) of Route:** (Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Recreation, Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment)).

Describe: BLM Road 6368-00 is utilized mainly by ranchers (as observed by current BLM staff) and BLM staff for the administration of rangeland resources, livestock grazing and the maintenance of livestock improvements (fences, springs, pipelines, and reservoirs) in allotments, and by recreationist to access the Owyhee Canyon WSA and Owyhee Canyon rim above the Owyhee River. The road is also used on a seasonal basis during the fall months by hunters. BLM Road 6368-00 photographs RT8-A, D through K (18 photos), and 6368-0-00-A through F (12 photos) indicate that BLM Road 6368-00 receives a level of use and most probable by those people described above.

ONDA describes BLM Road 6368-00 as three sections of “ways,” GH34a, GH34b, and GH35. ONDA states that each route in their Whitehorse Butte proposed WSA “is not a road, but is actually a way consisting of an overgrown rutted two-track (see photos J112, J114, I1, and I2). This way had not been maintained recently and was rutted, rocky, and overgrown in various places”.

BLM disagrees with ONDA’s description of use for BLM Road 6368-00 because of the information BLM has presented above stating who and why the road is traveled in addition to the photographs indicating that the road is traveled on a regular and continuous basis.

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

1. Is there a ROW associated with this route?
Yes ___ No X Unknown ___
2. If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW?
3. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?
Yes ___ No ___ Unknown or N/A ___

Explain:

III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA

A. Evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means:

Yes X (if either A.1 or A.2 is checked “yes” below)
No ___ (if both A.1 and A.2 are checked “no” below)

1. Construction:
(Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?)
Yes X No ___

Examples: Paved ___ Bladed X Graveled ___
Roadside Berms X Cut/Fill ___ Other ___

Describe: BLM Road 6368-00 was constructed by BLM sometime during the 1960s-1970s, with heavy equipment, consists of natural on-site material, and is part of the BLM Vale District Transportation Plan. No exact date for road construction can be found. The existing road contains berms along the majority of both sides of the bladed roadbed.

The majority of the berms along the roadbed are now covered mostly by annual and perennial plants since the original constructed berms have not been bladed for many years. Currently in an effort to reduce weed establishment along roads on public land the BLM blades only the roadbed when performing maintenance and not the entire width of the road that included berms and ditches when the road was originally constructed. Small mounds of roadbed natural material can be observed in BLM photos 036-RT8-A-W, B-NE, H-NE, J-N, K-N, K-SEC, 6368-0-00-B-E, B-W, C-W, E-E, and F-W where the edge of the roadbed transitions into the original constructed berms that now support various quantities of vegetation.

Existing roadside berms are not particularly pronounced in some segments of BLM Road 6368-00, especially in areas where the roadway travels over small hill tops (BLM photos 036-RT8-D-NW, I-SE, J-S, and K-SE) or in relatively flat topography (BLM photos 036-RT8-D-SE, I-NW, J-N, 6368-0-00-C-E, and C-W) since these areas require little maintenance to remain passable by vehicles. In other areas along BLM Road 6368-00 some of the berms are covered with brush as well as sediment (BLM photos 036-RT8-F-NW and I-NW).

ONDA's information about roads in their 2004 document for the Whitehorse Butte proposed WSA referred to their routes GH34a, GH34b, and GH35 and photos F035, J101, J112, J114, I001, and I002 that cover sections of BLM Road 6368-00. Based on these photographs and field information, ONDA determined that BLM Road 6368-00 is not a road but a way. BLM does not support ONDA's conclusion based on BLM photographs and on field reconnaissance. ONDA's photographs and information for BLM Road 6368-00 only portray a limited amount of the entire road and do not show as many well-traveled sections along the road as BLM photos. ONDA's six photographs make it appear that BLM Road 6368-00 is not well used, has not received maintenance, and their narrative contains reference to areas along the road that are overgrown by plants that restrict travel to vehicles. BLM has observed that the vast majority of annual plants covering the roadbed die off by early summer and disappear once vehicle use increases (BLM photos sets 036-RT8 and 6368-0-00) by recreationist, ranchers, BLM staff, and then by hunters during the fall period of use.

2. Improvements:

(Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?)

Yes ___ No X If — “yes”: by Hand Tools ___ by Machine ___

Examples: Culverts ___ Hardened Stream Crossings ___ Bridges ___
 Drainage ___ Barriers ___ Other ___

Describe:

B. Maintenance:

(Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure *relatively* regular and continuous use?):

Yes (if either B.1 *or* B.2 is checked “yes” below)

No (if both B.1 *and* B.2 are checked “no” below)

1. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes No If — “yes”: by Hand Tools by Machine

Explain: BLM has been unable to locate a written record of when maintenance was last performed on this section of BLM Road 6368-00. The roadway has received maintenance as needed throughout the past 10 years as evident by BLM photographs of the road width and the vast majority of the roadbed and berms being void of perennial vegetation.

BLM has conducted maintenance to BLM Road 6368-00 over time as needed to keep this route passable. Earthen berms on the edge of the road in photographs 036-RT8-A-W, B-NE, H-NE, J-N, K-N, K-SEC, 6368-0-00-B-E, B-W, C-W, E-E, and F-W show maintenance work that has been performed on BLM Road 6368-0-0 in the past since the road was constructed. Although it has been many years since maintenance has been performed on the entire length of BLM Road 6368-00, it is evident from photographs BLM has taken, that little to no maintenance is needed to keep the roadbed in good operational condition.

2. If the route or route segment is in good^v condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable?

Yes No

Explain: Although there is no recent (1-3 years) evidence of maintenance on BLM Road 6368-00, BLM will approve maintenance with hand tools or machine as needed when road conditions warrant actions to keep it in a usable condition. Maintenance will be conducted in this road because it is a well-used north-south route between and for accessing state and private lands, and roads to the Owyhee Canyon WSA, the Owyhee River Rim as well as access to ranchers and BLM staff for administration purposes for numerous allotments.

BLM Road 6368-00 receives annual use, as evidence by the lack of brush in majority of the roadway and by well-used bare ground where vehicles travel. It should be noted that various amounts of brush occur sporadically throughout the length of the road along berms and ditches. Vale District has reduced road maintenance needs on roads to only the roadbed and does not blade originally

constructed berms unless vegetation encroachment on berms tend to restrict vehicular travel or blade ditches unless drainage from roadways is impeded (as evident in all photos for BLM Road 6368-00). To reduce the potential for erosion and the establishment of invasive plant and weed species, BLM emphasizes minimal ground disturbance for road construction and maintenance, through Best Management Practices (BMPs) as described in the SEORMP, Appendix O. BMPs are designed to assist in achieving land use objectives for maintaining or improving water quality, soil productivity, and the protection of watershed resources from ground disturbing activities. Therefore, BLM does not grade many roads unless obstruction to vehicle passage is evident. To further reduce ground disturbance and to minimize disruption of natural drainage patterns, roads are kept to the minimal width necessary. Additional precautions are taken to reduce vegetation removal by retention of vegetation on cut-slopes unless it proposes a safety hazard or restricts maintenance activities, and by conducting roadside brushing of vegetation in a way that prevents disturbance to plant root systems and does not create visual intrusions.

C. Relatively regular and continuous use: (Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?)

Yes X No

Describe evidence (e.g., direct, vehicles or vehicle tracks observed, or indirect, evidence of use associated with purpose of the route such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a *relatively* regular basis (i.e., regular and continuous use relative to the purpose(s) of the route).^{vi}

BLM Road 6368-00 has received regular use each year and will continue to receive use by ranchers (as observed by current BLM staff) for the administration and project maintenance of three livestock grazing allotments, by BLM staff for administration of allotments and WSA monitoring, by hunters during the fall months, and by recreationist to access WSAs as evident from the roadway and tire disturbance indicating continual use. This road is well traveled as indicted by all the photographs listed above and the minimal quantity of perennial plants that inhabit any of the roadbed of BLM Road 6368-00. BLM Road 6368-00 is wide along most of its length, and is clearly defined on the landscape.

IV. CONCLUSION:

Does the route or route segment^{vii} meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road (i.e., are items III.A and III.B and III.C all checked yes)?

Yes X (Wilderness Inventory Road for inventory purposes)

No (Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes)

Explanation^{viii}: BLM has determined that BLM Road 6368-00 meets the definition of a road as stated in Sections IV, V, VI-A, VI-B, and VII above. BLM Road 6368-00 was constructed by mechanical equipment, receives continuous seasonal use, and has been maintained since being constructed. BLM Road 6368-00 would be approved by management for maintenance as needed if the road base became impassable to allow for future and continuous use on a regular basis.

Evaluator(s):

	Date: <u>11-16-11</u>
Jack Wenderoth, Planning Contractor	
	Date: <u>11/30/2011</u>
Aimee Huff, Rangeland Management Specialist	
	Date: <u>11/16/11</u>
Keri Fredrick, Outdoor Recreation Planner	
	Date: <u>11-16-11</u>
Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, Contractor	

ⁱ 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.

ⁱⁱ 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.

ⁱⁱⁱ If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria.

^{iv} The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does provide context for factors on which such a determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by BLM when the need arises.

^v Good condition would be a condition that ensures regular and continuous use relative to the purposes of the route. Consider whether the route can be clearly followed in the field over its entire course and whether all or any portion of the route contains any impediments to travel.

^{vi} Include estimate of travel rates for the stated purposes, e.g., trips/day or week or month or season or year or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases.

^{vii} If part of the route meets the wilderness inventory road definition and the remainder does not, describe the segment meeting the definition and any remaining portion not meeting the definition and why.

^{viii} Describe and explain rationale for any discrepancies with citizen proposals.