

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Monument Pass OR-036-078, 16 total pages

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

APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION

Evaluation of Current Conditions:

- 1) Document and review the existing BLM wilderness inventory findings on file, if available, regarding the presence or absence of individual wilderness characteristics, using Form 1, below.
- 2) Consider relevant information regarding current conditions available in the office to identify and describe any changes to the existing information (use interdisciplinary (ID) team knowledge, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc.), and document your findings on Form 2, below.

When Citizen Information has been submitted regarding wilderness characteristics, document the submitted materials including: date of Submission; Name of District(s) and Field Office(s) Affected; Type of material Submitted (e.g. narrative, map, photos). Evaluate any submitted citizen information regarding the validity of proposed boundaries of the unit(s), the existence of roads and other boundary features, the size of the unit(s), and the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics based on relevant information available in the office (prior BLM inventories, ID team knowledge, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc.)

Conduct field reviews as necessary to verify information and to ascertain current conditions. Reach conclusions on current conditions including boundaries, size of areas and presence or absence of wilderness characteristics. Fully explain the basis for each conclusion on form 2, including any critical differences between BLM and citizen information.

Document your findings regarding current conditions for each inventoried area. Describe how the present conditions are similar to, or have changed from, the conditions documented in the original wilderness inventory. Document your findings on Form 2 for each inventory area. Cite to or attach data considered, including photographs, maps, GIS layers, field trip notes, project files, *etc.*

Year: 2011 **Unit Number/Name:** OR-036-078—Monument Pass

**FORM 1 -- DOCUMENTATION OF BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY
FINDINGS ON RECORD**

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?

Yes No (If yes, and if more than one unit is within the area, list the names of those units.):

A.) Inventory Source(s) -- (X) Denotes all applicable BLM Inventory files, printed maps, or published BLM Decision documents with information pertaining to this unit.

Wilderness Inventories

- (X) 1978 – BLM Wilderness Inventory Units OR-03-10-36 Bold; Partial of 3-143B, C, and D of OR-03-11-01 Owyhee River, (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).
- (X) 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)
- (X) November 1980 - *Wilderness Inventory – Oregon and Washington, Final Intensive Inventory Decisions* (brown document)
- (X) November 1981 *Stateline Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah* (tan document).

B.) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s)

BLM OR-03-10-36 Bold, Partial of 3-143B, C, and D of OR-03-11-01 Owyhee River

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

- (X) Final Decision – Initial Wilderness Inventory Map, August 1979, Oregon
- () Proposed Decision -- Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas Map, October 1979, Oregon
- (X) Intensive Wilderness Inventory Map, March 1980, Oregon
- (X) Intensive Wilderness Inventory --Final Decisions Map, November 1980, Oregon.
- (X) November, 1981 *Stateline Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah* (tan document).

D.) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s)

Vale District Office

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
3-143; 3-195; OR-03-10-36; Bold	3,240*	**	**	**	**
TOTAL					

*-- Unit 03-10-36 was originally 5,380 acres in size and reduced to 3,240 acres that did not meet size requirements. The area outside of the 3,240 acre unit was incorporated into unit 3-143 a 250,380 acre unit of which 216,680 was in Oregon and 33,700 in Idaho. Unit 143 of OR-03-11-01 Owyhee River was then divided into units 3-143 A, B, C, D, and E of which B-E were dropped forming unit 143A. The Monument Pass Unit now consists of revised unit 03-10-36 plus units 3-143 B, C, and D. Unit 3-143A was renumbered into 3-195 which now consist of the Owyhee River Canyon WSA.

**-- These criteria were not specifically addressed during the inventory of this unit.

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

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FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Name/Number: OR-036-078—Monument Pass

Note: In February, 2004, the Vale District received from Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) its evaluation of wilderness characteristics for the Association's 6,474 acre "Owyhee River Canyon proposed WSA Addition". 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 Monument Pass Unit OR-036-078 and ONDA's proposed WSA addition are slightly different. Basically, ONDA's proposal consists of this BLM inventory unit plus about 280 acres within the utility corridor right-of-way associated with U.S. Highway 95 that BLM has excluded. BLM has included a small area approximately 70 acres in size located west of the Owyhee River and north of County Road 522 forming the extreme western tip of the Monument Pass Unit that ONDA did not include within their unit. Taking these slight boundary changes into account, BLM Unit OR-036-078 contains 6,399 acres for a difference of about 75 acres compared to ONDA's proposed unit.

Description of Current Conditions: [Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities.]

1. Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes No

Description: Refer to this inventory unit's associated Map 1 for BLM's Unit OR-036-078 location. The 6,399 acreage for Unit OR-036-078 in Form 2 is calculated from BLM GIS information. The unit is bounded on its east side by BLM Road 6367-0-00, on its south side by lands contiguous with the Owyhee Canyon WSA, on its west side by Malheur County Road 522 and private land parcels, and on its north side by the utility corridor right-of-way for U.S. Highway 95. The natural-surfaced boundary roads receive mechanical maintenance as needed to keep them passable on a regular and continuous (seasonal) basis.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes No N/A

Description: Given its size relative to the evidence of man-made developments, much of BLM Unit OR-036-078 appears to be affected not primarily by the forces of nature but with the imprint of humans substantially noticeable to the average visitor. The unit is dominated by an elevated plateau and extended nearly flat terrain that slopes toward and overlooks the break lands and corridor of the Owyhee River drainage to the west. The plateau contains numerous small drainages that flow to the west into the Owyhee River.

A small portion of the unit located along the west bank of the Owyhee River consists of small knolls and flat land that drain into the Owyhee River. China Gulch, the only sizeable drainage in the unit besides the Owyhee River, flows through the extreme western tip of the unit. Elevation within the unit ranges from 3,380 feet to 3,958 feet, with the upper elevations located in the unit's north and east-central plateau area while the unit's lower elevations are located in the unit's northwest and west boundary areas along the Owyhee River. Sparsely populated vegetation throughout the unit consists predominately of big and low sagebrush with both native and non-native grass species within the plateau, the Owyhee River break lands, and lands on the west side of the Owyhee River.

Refer to this inventory unit's associated Map 1 and Map 2 for its human developments. They include 26.05 miles of 21 motorized primitive trails (MPTs), 0.45 miles of 3 discontinued routes, 0.05 miles of one cherry stem road that services the BLM Rome Launch Administration Site, 11.0 miles of pipelines with 17 troughs, one storage tank, and one well on one pipeline system, 2 earthen reservoirs, one reservoir enclosure, one corral, one well enclosure around Round Mountain Well, 8.3 miles of fence line, and 5 vegetation manipulation treatments conducted from 1957 through 1968. The vegetation treatments were conducted in all but about 23 percent of the acreage within the unit over an eleven year period. A large portion of the sagebrush component within the unit was reduced by the chemical spraying vegetation treatments conducted in 1960 and 1968. Presently, to the average visitor, the vegetation treatments conducted in the unit appear as a whole, individually and collectively, mostly indistinguishable across the landscape in respect to vegetation composition. Although vegetation composition may be indistinguishable across the landscape, drill rows produced during reseeding in 1957 or 1968 can still plainly be seen across the unit in many areas leaving an unnatural pattern visible to the average visitor.

The only area in the unit that could be considered to be affected primarily by the forces of nature are contiguous with the Owyhee Canyon WSA and lie within the confines of the Wild and Scenic River boundaries of the Owyhee River. This area within the Wild and Scenic River corridor has remained mostly unchanged since the original inventories of the 1970s and 80s were conducted.

Although the area east of the Owyhee River and upslope to the rim continues to remain unaffected by human intrusions it is extremely limited in width because of the unit's western-southwestern area contains the units boundary road, MPTs, an irrigation ditch, fences, an earthen reservoir, and private land parcels on that side of the river. Because of the numerous man-made-developments scattered throughout the unit and the location of the numerous MPTs that dissect the entire landscape, the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces man and not of nature.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: BLM concludes that BLM Unit OR-036-078 does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude even in limited areas within the confines of the Wild and Scenic River boundaries of the Owyhee River that are contiguous with the Owyhee Canyon WSA. Much of the character of the entire inventory unit has not changed since the 1970's and early 1980's. The unit is mostly an irregular rectangle in shape. The width of the unit averages a little over two miles wide while the length of the unit is about four miles. Diversity in landscape relief throughout most of the unit except for the Owyhee River and its associated rim and break lands on the eastern slope of the river corridor. Landscape diversity in the remaining portion of the unit above the river corridor is limited to a few elevated flat hill tops along the eastern boundary that are dissected by numerous small drainages that slope to the west. Elevation differences within the bench above the river corridor are very gradual and average about 100 feet of change per mile from the east boundary traversing west to the rim.

The unit's diversity of vegetation is comprised of both low and big sage brush and both native and non-native grasses across the landscape but does not provide any extensive vegetative screening opportunities for solitude or a sense of isolation anywhere within the unit. A large portion of the historic sagebrush vegetation screening component within the unit was reduced by the vegetation chemical treatments conducted in 1960 and 1968. These cold-desert plateau lands located above the breaks of the Owyhee River canyon that received vegetation altering treatments reducing the natural sagebrush over vast areas of the landscape on the bench within the unit contain lower quality and availability of any outstanding opportunities for solitude offered to visitors because of the reduced vegetation screening and the natural lack of topographic diversity across the terrain.

The sights and sounds emanating from traffic along adjacent U.S. Highway 95 along the unit's northern boundary also detracts from opportunities for solitude along much of the northern portion of the unit. The location and number of MPTs that dissect the unit in relation to the unit's boundary roads limit the extent of available areas that one could experience opportunities for solitude. As a result of the area's size relative to its shape, the presence of U.S. highway 95 forming the unit's northern boundary, the location of roads and MPTs, the absence of vegetative screening, and the lack of diversity in relief, there is no outstanding opportunities for solitude within the unit east of the rim of the Owyhee River Wild and Scenic corridor or in a small area that lies on the western boundary between Malheur County Road 522 and a private land parcel outside of the western Wild and Scenic River boundary of the Owyhee River.

BLM's Unit OR-036-078 does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude or the lands attributed to the isolated, intimate seclusion of canyon lands within the confines of the eastern slope of the Wild and Scenic River boundaries of the Owyhee River. The length of canyon in the unit is extremely limited in the Owyhee River Wild and Scenic River corridor that is contiguous with the Owyhee Canyon WSA.

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

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: BLM concludes that BLM Unit OR-036-078 does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation above the rim of the Owyhee River or in the limited area along the eastern slope of the Owyhee River. Within the boundaries of BLM Unit OR-036-078 the Owyhee River has been included within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The most dominate dispersed recreation activity within the unit is the end and take-out area of whitewater rafting throughout the section containing the northward flowing river. The scenic natural features and diversity of rugged landforms along the Owyhee River within the unit attract people interested in river running and secondary activities of sight-seeing, outdoor photography, wildlife viewing, botanical studies, float boating, and fishing but are impeded upon by roads and routes on the western shore of the river..

The 1.6 miles of Owyhee River canyon within the eastern slope of the river, it's diversely and eroded rock landscape and steep eastern slope would create a sense of isolation or solitude, thereby enhancing the primitive recreation experience if the western shore did not contain roads and trails that allow human intervention along the entire length of this section of the unit. Talus slopes of the canyon encourage water travel along the river and hiking near the plateau rim that overlooks the river. Recreational use of the plateau areas above the break lands of the river concentrate visitors near the canyon rim. This rimrock area offer less arduous hiking conditions than those in the canyons and provide opportunities for vistas of the canyon below making visitors traveling along the Owyhee River canyon constantly aware of the forces of nature as well as human intrusion upon the landscape.

Whitewater rafting opportunities on the Owyhee River are of exceptionally high quality and considered nationally significant. Although the Wild and Scenic River corridor extends into the Unit, this section of the river consists of only slack-water leading to the BLM Rome launch and take-out site for whitewater rafters. The Rome launch site is host to numerous people and their vehicles for the entry and exit of rafting on the river.

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

The entire remaining portion of the unit contains no unique or special features other than the Owyhee River and its steep eastern side slope that would attract a visitor who is seeking a primitive and unconfined recreational experience. Recreational pursuits within the area outside of the Wild and Scenic River corridor, individually or collectively, are not outstanding in character or nature.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes X No N/A

Description: BLM Unit OR-036-078 contains the Owyhee River Wild and Scenic River corridor that is rich in features including scenic, scientific, wildlife and cultural values. The special features within the corridor contribute to the overall quality of obtaining a wilderness experience.

The canyon of the Owyhee River is of exceptionally high scenic quality. The combination of moving water, colorful sheer cliffs, grass-covered talus slopes and blue sky creates a dramatic, stark beauty. In places, reddish brown cliffs drop hundreds of feet to the water. These fractured, blocky rock monoliths are tinted with brilliant green, yellow and orange microflora. Near the base of the cliffs, water sometimes seeps from the fractures to nourish small, lush, clinging, deep green plant communities. The sheer rock walls often give way to steep slopes covered with a mosaic of red rock rubble and subdued green and yellow sagebrush and grasses.

Geyer's milkvetch (*Astragalus geyeri*) is an annual plant that occurs at one known site on BLM lands within Unit OR-036-078. This Bureau Sensitive species prefers sandy soils in mobile or stabilized dunes, along draws in gullied hills and on margins of alkaline sandy playas.

Sensitive wildlife species that may be found in the Owyhee River corridor system include California bighorn sheep, river otter, and redband trout.

The Owyhee River corridor contains historic archaeological sites.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-036-078—Monument Pass

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:

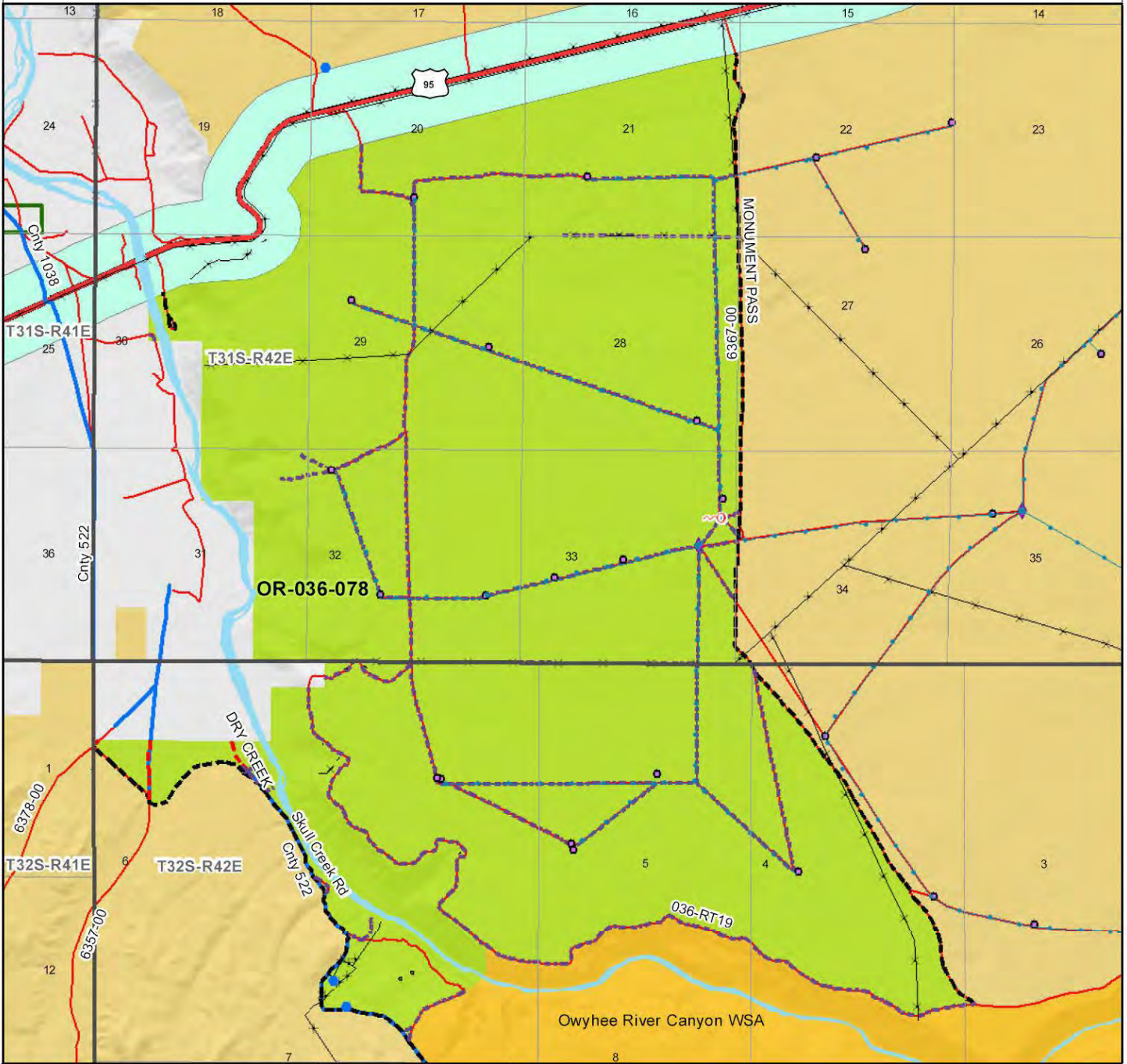
<u>Keri Fredrick</u>	11-16-11
Keri Fredrick, Outdoor Recreation Planner	Date
<u>Aimee Huff</u>	11/16/2011
Aimee Huff, Rangeland Management Specialist	Date
<u>Eian Ray</u>	11-16-11
Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, Contractor	Date
<u>Garth Ross</u>	11/16/2011
Garth Ross, Wildlife Biologist	Date
<u>Brent Grasty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

Approved by:

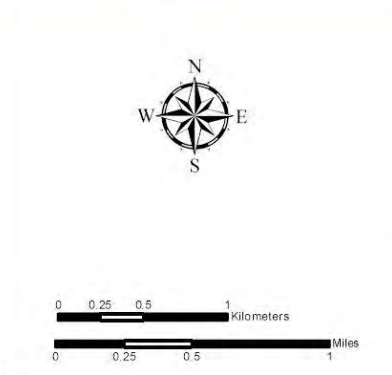
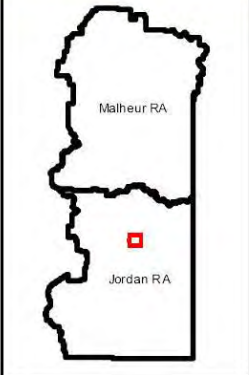
Carolyn R Chad 11/28/2011
 Carolyn Freeborn, Jordan Resource Area Field Manager Date

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

Wilderness Characteristics - Overview Monument Pass - OR-036-078 - Map 1 of 2



Legend	
	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
	Route Types - BLM Determination Boundary Road
	Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT)
	Discontinued Use
	Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit
	County
	Major Highway
	BLM Numbered & Other Routes
	Land Ownership Bureau of Land Management
	State
	Private
	Other Federal Land



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

VALE DISTRICT
 October 20, 2011
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--FINAL--



036-RT19-A-E.jpg



036-RT19-A-W.jpg



036-RT19-B-E.jpg



036-RT19-B-W.jpg



036-RT19-C-E.jpg



036-RT19-C-W.jpg



036-RT19-D-E.jpg



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036-RT19-F-N.jpg



036-RT19-F-S.jpg