

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Rawhide OR-036-012, 15 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.*

Attachment 1

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

APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION

Year: 2007**Inventory Unit Name/Number: Rawhide OR-036-012****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 ___

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-03-13-19* (unpublished BLM documents stored in 6-way case files).
- (X) April 1979 - *Proposed Initial Inventory: Roadless Areas and Islands Which Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics* (yellow book).

Wilderness Decision Documents

- (X) August 1979 - *Wilderness Review – Initial Inventory: Final Decision on Public Lands Obviously Lacking Wilderness Characteristics, Oregon and Washington* (green book).
- () October 1979 - *Wilderness Review – Intensive Inventory: Oregon, Proposed Decision on the Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas* (grey book).
- (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 book).
- (X) November 1980 - *Wilderness Inventory – Oregon and Washington, Final Intensive Inventory Decisions* (brown book).
- () November 1981 - *Stateline Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah* (tan pamphlet).

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

- BLM unpublished file OR-03-13-19 (1978); Rawhide 3-179 (November 1980 - *Wilderness Inventory – Oregon and Washington, Final Intensive Inventory Decisions* [brown book]).

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

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

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

- Vale District/Jordan Resource Area

2) BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

| Unit#/Name | Size (acres) | Natural Condition | Outstanding Solitude | Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation | Supplemental Values |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------------|---|---------------------|
| Rawhide 3-179 | 18,913 | N | N | N | N |
| Total acres >> | 18,913 | | | | |

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FORM 2**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS:****Inventory Unit Name/Number: Rawhide OR-036-012**

For this exercise BLM refers to the unit as 2007 Rawhide OR-036-012.

1) Is the unit of sufficient size?Yes X No

The unit is comprised of 17,846 acres, meeting the size criteria.

Description:

The unit is bounded by BLM road 6355-0-A0 on the south, west, and northwest side, BLM road 6357-0-00 on the north side, and BLM road 8300-6-04 on the northeast and southeast side, which is also the southwest boundary of the Owyhee Canyon WSA. Periodic maintenance of the 26.5 miles of boundary roads has occurred in the recent past (no confirmed dates available) and they are used regularly by ranchers (as observed by current BLM staff) and by the BLM for livestock management. Refer to map 2007_Rawhide_OR_036_012.pdf for the unit boundary.

2) Is the unit in a natural condition?Yes No X**Description:**

Human imprints within the unit include five earthen reservoirs, 10.95 miles of motorized primitive trails, 14.95 miles of fenceline which includes 2.4 miles constructed in 2006, one 10,000-gallon water storage tank, 0.8 miles of stockwater pipelines, five livestock watering troughs, one cow camp, one watering pit, an inactive airstrip, a 2,720-acre crested wheatgrass seeding, and a 1,600-acre burn. Individually the intrusions do not appear to be noticeable because of their small size and the screening provided by the rolling hills. However, the cumulative effect of the intrusions becomes substantially noticeable because of their proximity to one another. A user moving through the unit would see many of them. The unit appears to be primarily affected by the influences of man. Refer to map 2007_Rawhide_OR_036_012A.pdf for human imprints.

3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?Yes No X**Description:**

Unit OR-036-012 is approximately 10.5 miles in length and 3.75 miles in width at the central portion then tapers to about 1.5 miles wide at the northern and southern boundaries. The majority of the unit consists of a flat, open sagebrush plateau dissected by three major drainages. The main variation of topographic relief within the unit occurs in Big Antelope Creek, Little Antelope Creek, and Pole Creek drainages. Big Antelope Creek, an interrupted perennial stream, and intermittent flowing Pole Creek drain toward the north while the intermittent eastward flowing Little Antelope Creek enjoin Big Antelope Creek near the eastern boundary of the unit. Each of the creeks is entrenched within deep canyons or depressions, contain uniform gentle gradients, and are rimmed by broad, open sagebrush flat plateaus. Canyons associated with Big Antelope and Little Antelope Creeks range from 300-350 feet in depth while Pole Creek is contained within an incised depression that is about 50 feet deep near the confluence with Big Antelope

Creek and diminishes upstream to about 20 feet in depth. Topographic relief is minimal within the unit with elevations ranging from about 4,900 feet mean sea level (msl) and rising to about 5,100 feet (msl). Elevation changes are gradual in most of the unit traversing from north to south or from east to west and average about 10-20 feet per mile. The unit provides limited vegetative screening, consisting of broad expanses of low and big sagebrush with little opportunity for solitude. Because of the existing 11-mile network of motorized primitive trails, the absence of vegetative or topographic screening, and the relatively short expanses of canyons, BLM unit OR-036-012 does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Yes No

Description:

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are available in the unit. However, opportunities for activities such as hiking, backpacking, hunting, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, and photography are not outstanding because the unit lacks scenic quality, diversity of landforms, and challenging terrain. Big Antelope Creek, Little Antelope Creek and Pole Creek are the only topographic features in the unit that alter the flatness of the terrain. The present inventory agrees with the 1978 inventory that determined the unit lacks exceptional scenery and a diversity of landforms that would result in a strong attraction to the unit for any type of primitive recreation activity. Backpacking across the unit could be a monotonous experience with no change in hiking conditions or scenery except for a few miles of canyons 300-350 feet deep associated with Big and Little Antelope Creeks. There are only limited unique photographic opportunities in the unit, again associated with the stream canyons. Despite the unit's size, the lack of scenic quality and lack of diversity of landforms render the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation less than outstanding. Although wildlife viewing opportunities have been identified as a recreational value within this unit, they are not considered to be outstanding by the inventory team.

5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes No

Description:

With some minor exceptions, the ecological integrity of rangeland in this unit has been largely unaffected by the combined impacts of wildfire and invasive, non-native plants such as cheatgrass. This means the area possesses wildlife habitat supplemental values for sagebrush-dependent species of BLM management importance including pygmy rabbit, sagebrush vole, greater sage-grouse, Brewer's sparrow, black-throated sparrow, sage sparrow, loggerhead shrike, and sage thrasher. Observed rangeland conditions within this unit can be expected to contribute towards the existence of healthy sagebrush-dependent wildlife populations for a large area and over the long term because: (1) native plant functional and structural groups are well represented within the unit, and (2) wildlife forage, cover, and structure is available for use by species of management importance.

In contrast to conditions described above, rangeland at similar elevations and in similar ecological sites within Malheur County, Oregon has been highly disturbed due to the combined effects of improper historical grazing use, loss of biological crust integrity, invasive plant establishment, and catastrophic wildfire impacts over the last few decades. Cheatgrass presence is known to accelerate and aggravate wildfire spread because it is a highly flammable fine fuel, and wildfire often reduces or completely eliminates critical shrub-based forage, cover, and habitat structure values for many species of wildlife. Literally millions of acres of Wyoming big sagebrush habitat

types, similar to those within this unit, have been burned over the last few decades and recovery of these losses will take multiple decades if not centuries to occur.

Finally, the land considered within this unit is also recognized as part of the Owyhee Uplands Physiographic Province, a region incorporating rangeland in Oregon, Idaho, and Nevada which supports some of the largest contiguous blocks of intact sagebrush steppe remaining west of the Continental Divide.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION:

Inventory Unit Name/Number: 2007 Rawhide OR-036-012

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?
NA Yes **[No]**
- 4) Does the area have supplemental values?
NA **[Yes]** No

Conclusion

Check One:

- () The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness character.
- (X) The area does not have wilderness character.


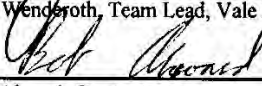
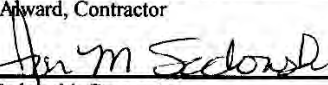
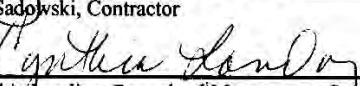
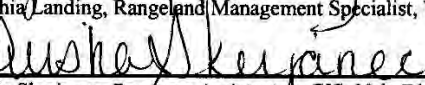
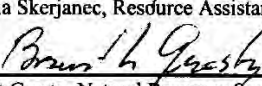
The ID team has reviewed the findings summarized in the original Statewide Wilderness Inventory as well as in the published decision documents and maps identified on Form 1. Current conditions relative to the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics have been considered, including citizen wilderness proposals (no citizen proposal covering this unit). Based on all the best available information and staff field visits to the area since 2000, the ID team has found no compelling reasons to change existing BLM decisions about wilderness characteristics. While BLM finds that there are supplemental values present, the naturalness of the area, the opportunities for solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreation are limited for reasons already described.

Sources of Reference for Evaluation:

- All BLM documents listed in Form 1; existing BLM wilderness inventory information.
- Wilderness Inventory Recommendations: Vale District, Submitted by Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA), February 6, 2004.
- Current geographic information system (GIS) data on existing projects, vehicle routes/roads, land ownership, etc.
- BLM Job Documentation Record (JDR) files.
- National Agriculture Imagery Project digital images (2005).
- Official BLM Transportation Plan Map.
- BLM staff has obtained first-hand field knowledge about this unit’s plant communities, road conditions, and other attributes as a result of rangeland health investigations conducted between July and October of the year 2000. BLM gathered quantitative rangeland data from trend plots in support of the assessment and

evaluation process for Louse Canyon Geographic Management Area, but most other data collected for rangeland health evaluation purposes were either estimated or qualitative in nature. BLM staff has also visited this and adjoining units annually and on multiple occasions after 2000 in the process of establishing and reading riparian monitoring locations, performing layout and design work for rangeland development projects, conducting rangeland supervision duties, collecting livestock utilization data, and documenting current road conditions. Field observations were made during Rangeland Standards and Guides assessment work in 2000.

Wilderness Characteristics Interdisciplinary Team:

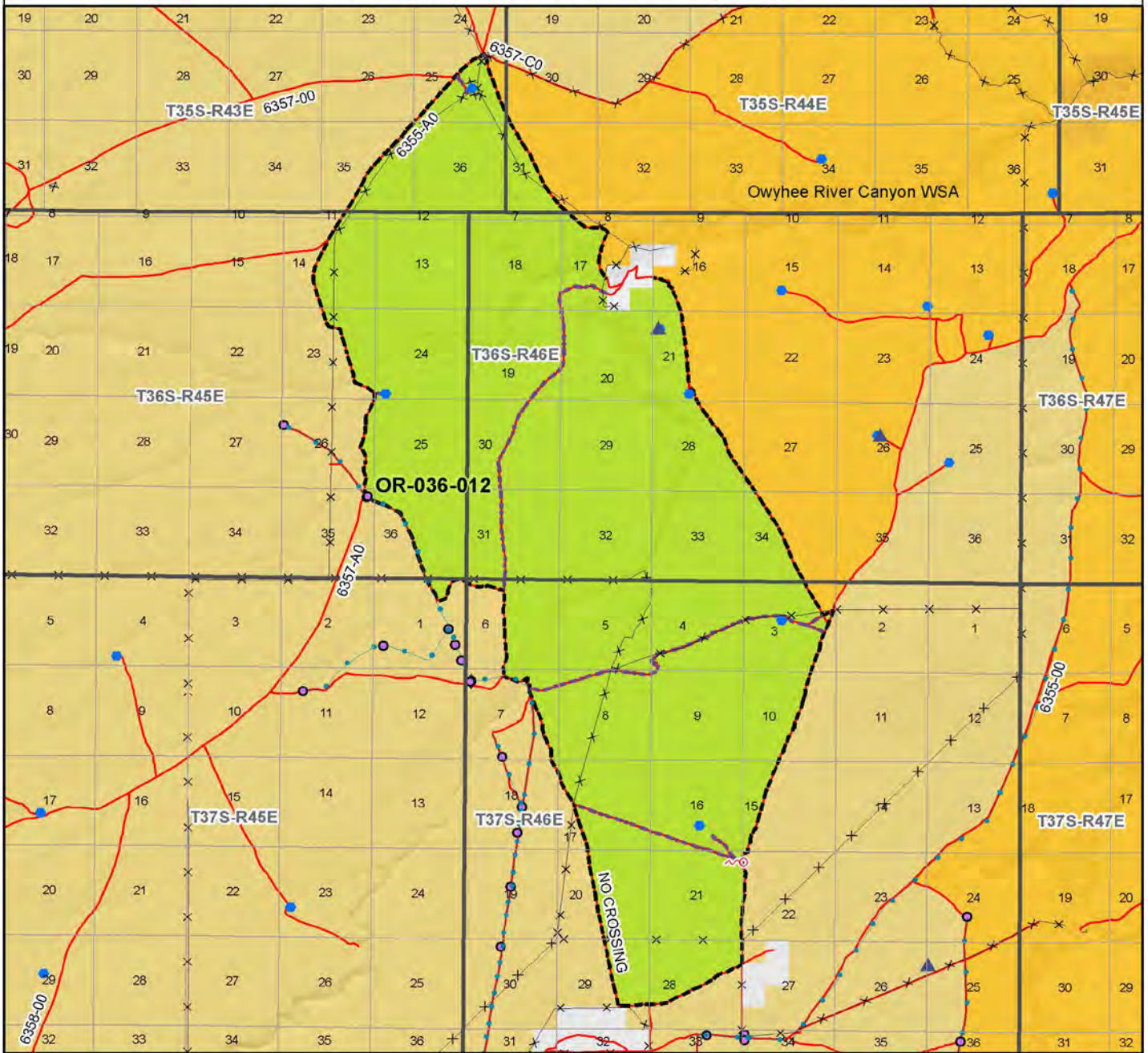
| | |
|--|-----------------|
|  | <u>10/26/07</u> |
| Jack Wenderoth, Team Lead, Vale District | Date |
|  | <u>10/26/07</u> |
| Bob Atward, Contractor | Date |
|  | <u>10/26/07</u> |
| Jon Sadowski, Contractor | Date |
|  | <u>10-26-07</u> |
| Cynthia Landing, Rangeland Management Specialist, Vale District | Date |
|  | <u>10/26/07</u> |
| Trisha Skerjanec, Resource Assistant – GIS, Vale District | Date |
|  | <u>10/26/07</u> |
| Brent Grasty, Natural Resource Specialist – GIS, Vale District | Date |

Concurrence:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
|  | <u>10/26/07</u> |
| Carolyn R. Freeborn | Date |
| Field Manager, Jordan R. A. | |

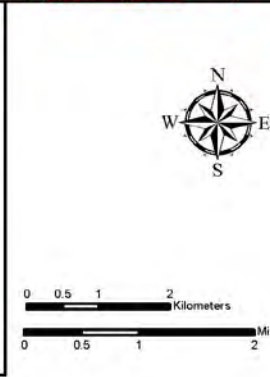
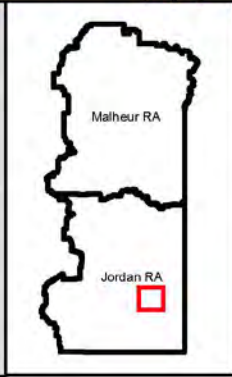
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.

Wilderness Characteristics - Overview Rawhide - OR-036-012 - 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 <p>Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 |
|---|--|



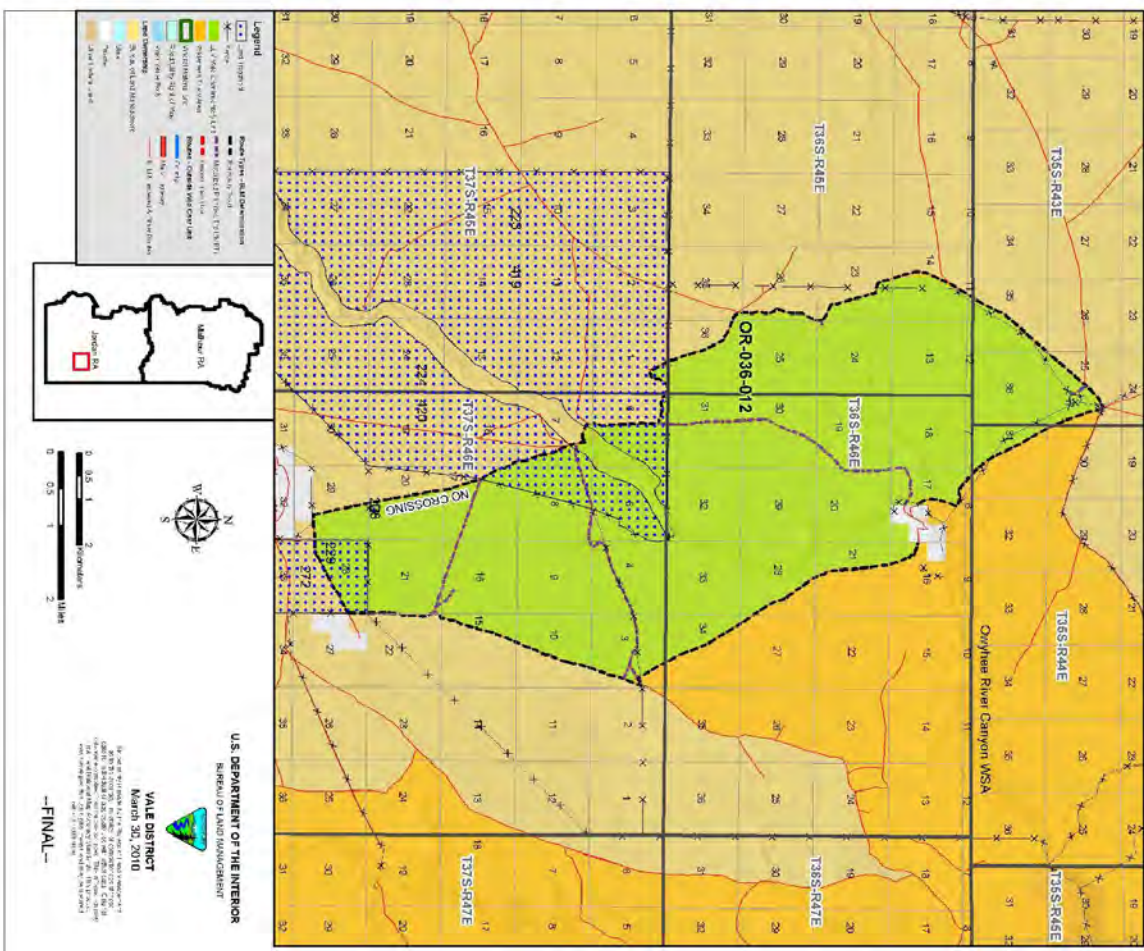
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VALE DISTRICT
March 30, 2010

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--FINAL--

Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments
Rawhide - OR-036-012 - Map 2 of 2



Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments
Rawhide - OR-036-012 - Map 2 of 2

| OBJECTID* | NAME | TREATMENT TYPE | SEED GROUP | DATE |
|-----------|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|------|
| 223 | STARVATION SDG | Chemical Treatment | Not Applicable | 1984 |
| 224 | STARVATION SDG | Chemical Treatment | Not Applicable | 1984 |
| 228 | SACRAMENTO HILL TEST PLOT | Plow/Disc | Not Applicable | 1982 |
| 229 | SACRAMENTO HILL TEST PLOT | Plow/Disc | Not Applicable | 1985 |
| 272 | SACRAMENTO HILL TEST PLOT | Drill Seeding | Unknown | 1985 |
| 283 | SACRAMENTO HILL TEST PLOT | Drill Seeding | Unknown | 1982 |
| 419 | STARVATION SDG | Drill Seeding | A mix of non-native grasses | 1984 |
| 420 | STARVATION SDG | Drill Seeding | A mix of non-native grasses | 1984 |

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.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 Bureau of Land Management
 VALE DISTRICT
 March 30, 2010
 -FINAL-



8300-6-03-A-NE.JPG



8300-6-03-D-N.JPG



8300-6-04-D-E.JPG



8300-6-03-B-N.JPG



8300-6-04-B-SE.JPG



LCGMA-No Crossing-A-S.JPG



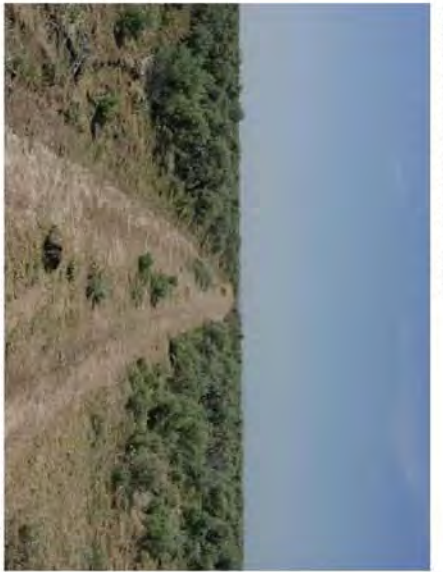
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8300-6-04-C-SE.JPG



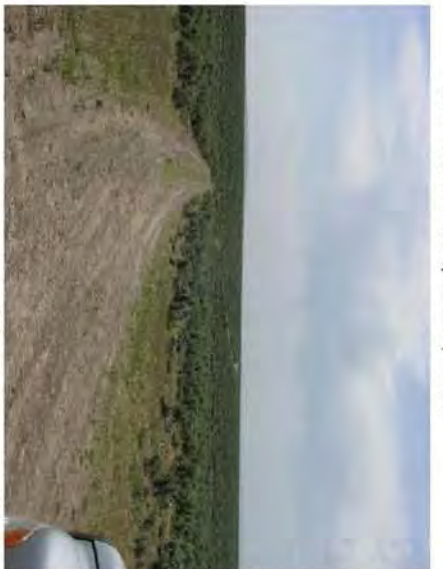
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LCGMA-No Crossing-D-SE.JPG



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