

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Red Hills OR-036-026, 10 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-036-026 -- Red Hills

**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 partial of OR-03-08-16 Crooked Creek and OR-03-08-17 Echave Well and BLM Wilderness Inventory Unit 3-117 of OR-03-08-18 Lone Stud (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 partial of OR-03-08-16 Crooked Creek and OR-03-08-17 Echave Well; and BLM 3-117 of OR-03-08-18 Lone Stud

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FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name OR-036-026 -- Red Hills

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

1. Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes X No _____

Description: Refer to this inventory unit's associated Map 1 for its location. The 14,161 acre unit was included as part of the original BLM unit 3-117 of OR-03-08-18 Lone Stud and partial units of OR-03-08-16 Crooked Creek; and OR-03-08-17 Echave Well of the latter 1970's meeting the size criteria. Acreage for unit OR-036-026 in Form 2 is calculated from BLM GIS information. The acreage includes 490 acres of state land inventoried for wilderness characteristics that was in the process of being transferred into BLM ownership during the initial inventory of 1978. The transfer was completed and the acreage is now under BLM management. The remaining 461 acre difference from Form 1 was either not calculated properly or resulted from a rounding error from methods and maps used in the initial 1978 inventory. The unit boundary consists of a utility corridor right-of-way on its west side, County Road 608 on its south side, a BLM non-numbered road and private property on its east and northeast side, and private property on its north side. 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: The unit consists of a rolling nearly flat terrain that gently slopes to the north and east from the Red Hills, the predominate feature within the unit. The unit's small drainages flow mainly toward Rattlesnake Creek while one small drainage area near the western boundary flows into Crooked Creek. The main channel of Rattlesnake Creek is located just outside of the unit's east and northeast boundary roads. Vegetation within the unit consists primarily of either big or low sagebrush that contain native grass species. Some of the more alkali prone acreages of this parcel also contain small patches or isolated islands of salt-desert shrub species.

Elevation levels within the unit range from a low of 3,870 feet above mean sea level (msl) along its northeast boundary near Rattlesnake Creek to a high of 4,281 feet (msl) in the Red Hills located throughout the central northeast portion of the unit.

Refer to this inventory unit's associated Map 1 and Map 2 for its human developments. Human imprints within the unit include 11.8 miles of 5 motorized primitive trails, 0.7 miles of fenceline, and an enclosure encompassed by about 0.25 miles of fenceline. There is remnant visual evidence of one (0.5 miles) discontinued vehicle route and one vegetation manipulation (implemented 2006) project located along the boundary roads. Presently, to the average visitor, the various vegetation treatments affecting the unit appear, individually and collectively, indistinguishable. Given its size relative to the minimal evidence of man-made developments, the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No N/A _____

Description: The character of this inventory unit has not changed since the 1970's. The unit is an irregular narrow linear shape. The unit is narrow near its western boundary, slightly over one mile, then widens to the east until it extends up to width of 4.0 miles and has an overall length of 9.0 miles. The unit's relatively narrow shape combined with the lack of both vegetative screening and sufficient topographic diversity, precludes outstanding opportunities for solitude. The sights and sounds emanating from traffic on U.S. Highway 95 also detract from opportunities for solitude along much of the western edge of unit. BLM concludes that unit OR-036-026 does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Yes _____ No N/A _____

Description: The dominate dispersed recreation activity is hunting of upland and big game species (deer and chukar); associated horseback riding and hiking occurs. Dispersed rockhounding for snake agate occasionally occurs near its northern boundary. Individually or collectively the opportunity to participate in and experience these activities within the unit is not outstanding. There are no unique or special features associated with the unit which would more so attract a visitor who is seeking a primitive and unconfined recreational experience. Despite the units size BLM concludes that unit OR-036-026 does not possess outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

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

Description: The BLM's 1970s inventory indicated that surrounding acreage near Unit 3-118 (adjacent to and including a portion of unit OR-036-026) is one of the few areas where black sagebrush and sand dropseed grass occur in southeastern Oregon, and it is the most northerly distribution of these species. Unit OR-036-026 contains an area of the black sagebrush plant community. These vegetation types are dependent upon unusual combinations of soils and exposure, and are of interest to soil scientist, botanists, and ecologist.

The 1970s inventory also indicated that Unit 3-118 and surrounding acreage (adjacent to and including a portion of unit OR-036-026) is within the range of the kit fox, which is on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) list of threatened species. This areas vegetation is partially a salt desert shrub type, a dryer zone than sagebrush, which kit fox inhabit.

BLM has documented 2 sage grouse leks within the unit. The bird is a BLM special status animal species.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-036-026 -- Red Hills

Summary Results of Analysis:

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

Conclusion -- check one:

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

Prepared by: Jack Wenderoth 3/3/10
 Jack Wenderoth, Planning Contractor

Team Members:

<u>Marcy Egger</u>	<u>3/22/10</u>
Marcy Egger, Rangeland Management Specialist	Date
<u>Dave Draheim</u>	<u>2/10/10</u>
Dave Draheim, Outdoor Recreation Planner	Date
<u>Garth Ross</u>	<u>3/23/2010</u>
Garth Ross, Wildlife Biologist	Date
<u>Jon Sadowski</u>	<u>3-4-2010</u>
Jon Sadowski, Environmental Contractor	Date
<u>Eian Ray</u>	<u>03/03/10</u>
Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, Contractor	Date
<u>Brent Grasty</u>	<u>3/19/10</u>
Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator	Date

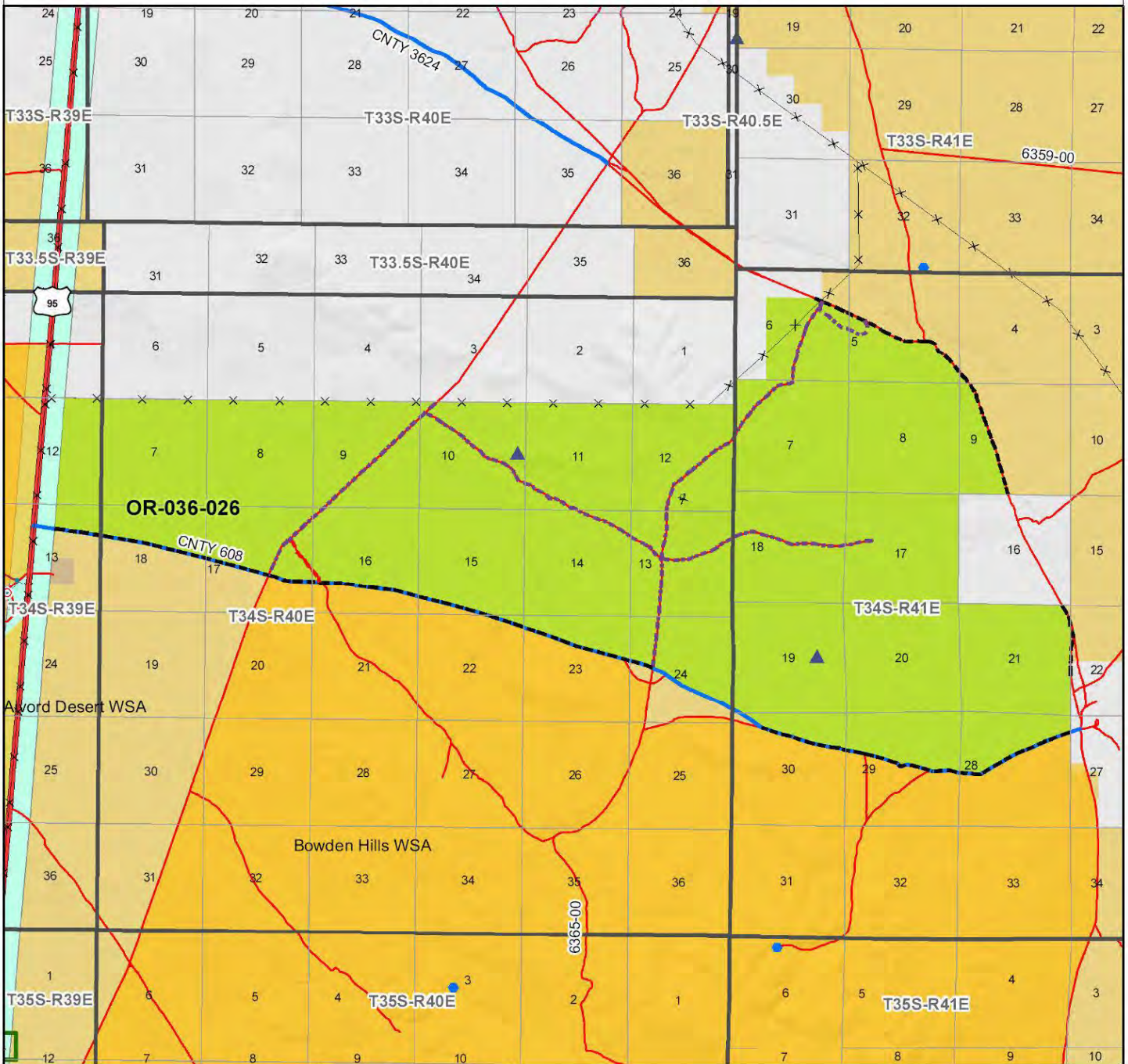
Approved by:

Carolyn Freeborn 4/6/10
 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.

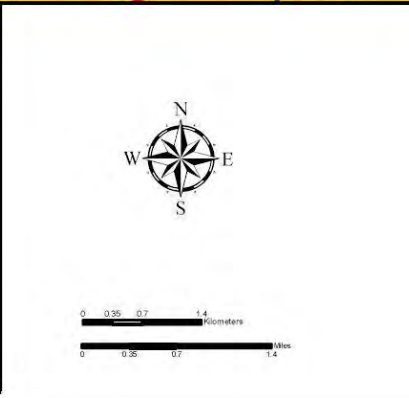
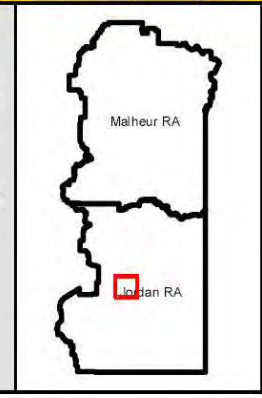
Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Red Hills - OR-036-026 - Map 1 of 1



Legend

Developed Spring	Route Types - BLM Determination
Wildlife Guzzler	Boundary Road
Earthen Reservoir	Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT)
Pipeline	Discontinued Use
Trough	Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit
Fence	County
Storage Tank	Major Highway
Surface Mining Disturbance	BLM Numbered & Other Routes
Sage Grouse Lek	Land Ownership
Special Status Plant	Bureau of Land Management
BLM Wild Char Inventory Unit	State
Wilderness Study Area	Private
Mineral Material Site	Other Federal Land
Road/Utility Right-of-Way	
Major Water Body	



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

VALE DISTRICT
November 19, 2009

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