

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents  
**Rookie Creek OR-034-019, 21 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 9: Form 2 – Summary of Findings and Conclusion](#)

[Page 10: Wilderness Characteristics Overview – Rookie Creek OR-034-019 Map](#)

[Page 11: Wilderness Characteristics – BLM Photo Points – Rookie Creek Map & Log](#)

[Page 12: OR-034-019 Rookie Creek BLM Photos](#)

[Page 14: H-6300-1-Wilderness Inventory Maintenance in BLM Oregon/Washington  
Appendix C – Road\\* Analysis: 034-RT 15](#)

[Page 18: H-6300-1-Wilderness Inventory Maintenance in BLM Oregon/Washington  
Appendix C – Road\\* Analysis: 034-RT 16](#)

**Prepared by:**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**  
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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: 2009 Unit Number/Name: OR-034-019 — Rookie Creek

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

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

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

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

#### **Wilderness Inventories**

- (X) 1978-1980 – BLM Wilderness Inventory Unit partially of 3-77 of OR-03-05-31 (most which evolved into 3-77A and 3-77B, Honeycombs and Wild Horse Basin WSA's) (unpublished and published BLM documents, respectively)
- ( ) 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)
- ( ) November 1981 *Stateline Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah* (tan document)

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

BLM Unit 3-77 of OR-03-05-31, which evolved into two units -- 3-77A, Honeycombs and 3-77B, Wild Horse Basin.

#### **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
- ( ) November, 1981 *Stateline Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah* (tan document)

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

Vale District/Malheur Resource Area

**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.

<b>Unit#/ Name</b>	<b>Size (historic acres)</b>	<b>Natural Condition? Y/N</b>	<b>Outstanding Solitude? Y/N</b>	<b>Outstanding Primitive &amp; Unconfined Recreation? Y/N</b>	<b>Supplemental Values? Y/N</b>
3-77A Honey-combs of OR-03-05-31	43,700	Y	Y	Y	Y
3-77B Wild Horse Basin of OR-03-05-31	15,500	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>TOTAL</b>	57,120*				

\* -- Inventory of the present Rookie Creek WC unit OR-034-019 was done in combination of the two historic units. Also, see “1. A.”, above.

## **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.*

## **FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS**

**Unit Number/Name:** OR-034-019 – Rookie Creek

**Note:** In February, 2004, the Vale District received from Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) its evaluation of wilderness characteristics for what ONDA names its 899 acre “Rookie Creek 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.

BLM’s OR-034-019 inventory unit represents the same area and the same boundaries and boundary features as ONDA’s proposal. OR-034-019 was part of BLM’s 1970’s original unit OR-03-05-31 (most which became part of either Honeycombs or Wild Horse Basin WSAs). However, the area which now constitutes OR-034-019 was not included as part of the BLM’s November, 1980 WSA designation decisions. BLM, as does ONDA, presently recognizes that OR-034-019’s south boundary no longer meets road criteria. That route (previously prescribed by BLM as part of Honeycombs WSA’s north boundary) -- as presently identified for location -- has changed status from a road to a motorized primitive trail (MPT) because since that time no mechanical maintenance has occurred on the route and BLM has no intent to conduct such maintenance. This results in OR-034-019 being contiguous with Honeycombs WSA. Refer to each of two Road Analysis forms, the BLM Photo Points Map/Log and the photos associated with this BLM inventory unit for additional documentation. Additional information is also provided in section “1.”, below.

**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 890 acre unit is contiguous with the 39,000 acre Honeycombs WSA. The contiguous nature is a result of a change in a vehicle route’s (034-RT15) status (since the WSA was designated in 1980) from road to MPT for that segment of the WSA’s north boundary which abuts OR-034-019. The remainder of OR-034-019 is bounded by two roads (including BLM’s 034-RT16) which, together, serve as the only land access for motorized vehicles to a shoreline cabin of Owyhee Reservoir. The unit’s boundary roads receive mechanical maintenance as needed to keep them passable on a relatively regular and seasonally continuous basis.

**2. Is the unit in a natural condition?**Yes   X              No \_\_\_\_\_            N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Description:** The unit is dominated by a segment of the east-west oriented Rookie Creek and some of its side drainages with their moderate to steep slopes and dispersed ridge tops. Elevations range from 3,600 to 4,283 feet. The vegetation is sagebrush and both native and nonnative grasses. The northern sector of the Three Fingers Wild Horse Management Area (HMA) is within the unit.

Refer to this inventory unit's Map 1 for human developments within the unit. They include 1.25 miles of a rangeland fence and one developed spring. Land treatments have not occurred within the unit. BLM's 034-RT15, a MPT, distinguishes the unit from the neighboring 39,000-acre Honeycombs WSA to the south. The types and nominal number, extent, and locations of the 2 developments associated with the substantially incised and varied terrain results in this inventory unit – as well as this unit combined with the WSA – being affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprints of mankind being substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.

**3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?**Yes   X              No \_\_\_\_\_            N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Description:** The unit itself, due to its small size, does not provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude. However, with the determined outstanding solitude opportunities of the contiguous Honeycombs WSA and the generally incised topographic nature of the inventory unit, the combined two areas possess slightly increased outstanding opportunities for solitude.

ONDA makes comment of a “mountain” associated with its proposed “Rookie Creek Proposed WSA Addition” to aid in providing screening and seclusion. There is no topographic feature which BLM describes as a mountain within the inventory unit. The USGS named Iron Mountain (within Honeycombs WSA) is approximately 1 mile southwest of the inventory unit; Owyhee Ridge, at over 4,900 feet elevation, is about 1.5 miles east of the unit.

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

**Description:** Dispersed recreational activities within OR-034-019, itself, primarily include hunting of game species (primarily deer and chukar), general photography and

day hiking. The unit is likely visited by periodic backpackers, as well, although it does not possess any unique features or destinations as a draw for such activity. The unit is within the northernmost reach of known bighorn sheep habitat along the Owyhee River and reservoir corridor, and, though not commonly, hunting of this special permit trophy game species may occur within the unit. (Hunting of the bighorn sheep occurs more so further south within the abutting WSA and beyond.) While a variety of recreational pursuits are available within the unit, are considered outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation activities -- individually or in combination. This is due primarily to the area possessing no special features to draw recreationists, and that the area is located in the outermost reaches of where trophy bighorn sheep hunting may occur. However, due to the unit being contiguous with the WSA with its known collective outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, this inventory unit benefits from those of the WSA, and this unit slightly enhances those outstanding opportunities when combined with the WSA.

**5. Does the unit have supplemental values?**

Yes   X              No                       N/A           

**Description:** The unit is within the northern reaches of known California bighorn sheep habitat associated with the Owyhee River and reservoir. The bighorn sheep is a BLM special status animal species in Oregon.

ONDA states that it's Rookie Creek WSA "may provide habitat for Woodhouse's Toad, Mojave Black-collared Lizard, Desert Horned Lizard, Ferruginous Hawk, Pygmy Rabbit, and White-tailed Antelope Squirrel," which ONDA's February 2004 submission to the Vale District declares are listed as "sensitive species" by the State of Oregon. As of 2009, the Woodhouse's Toad, Mohave Black-collard Lizard, Desert Horned Lizard, and White-tailed Antelope Squirrel were not considered sensitive by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, BLM or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. BLM acknowledges that habitat requirements may exist for Woodhouse's Toad, Mojave Black-collared Lizard, Desert Horned Lizard, Ferruginous Hawk, Pygmy Rabbit, and White-tailed Antelope Squirrel however; neither ONDA nor any other entity has provided BLM official documentation confirming the presence of these species within this inventory unit.



**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

**Unit Name and Number:** OR-034-019—Rookie Creek

**Summary Results of Analysis:**

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

**Conclusion -- check one:**

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

**Prepared by:** Robert Alward  
 Robert Alward, Wilderness Planner, contractor

**Team Members:**

<u>Mitch Thomas</u>	<u>2/4/10</u>
Mitch Thomas, Rangeland Management Specialist	Date
<u>Shaney Rockefeller</u>	<u>3/1/10</u>
Shaney Rockefeller, Soil Scientist	Date
<u>Dave Drabem</u>	<u>2/10/10</u>
Dave Drabem, Outdoor Recreation Planner	Date
<u>Michelle Caviness</u>	<u>2/22/10</u>
Michelle Caviness, Wildlife Biologist	Date
<u>Gillian Wigglesworth</u>	<u>2/5/10</u>
Gillian Wigglesworth, Botanist	Date
<u>Eian Ray</u>	<u>02/09/10</u>
Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, contractor	Date
<u>Brent Grasty</u>	<u>2/9/10</u>
Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator	Date

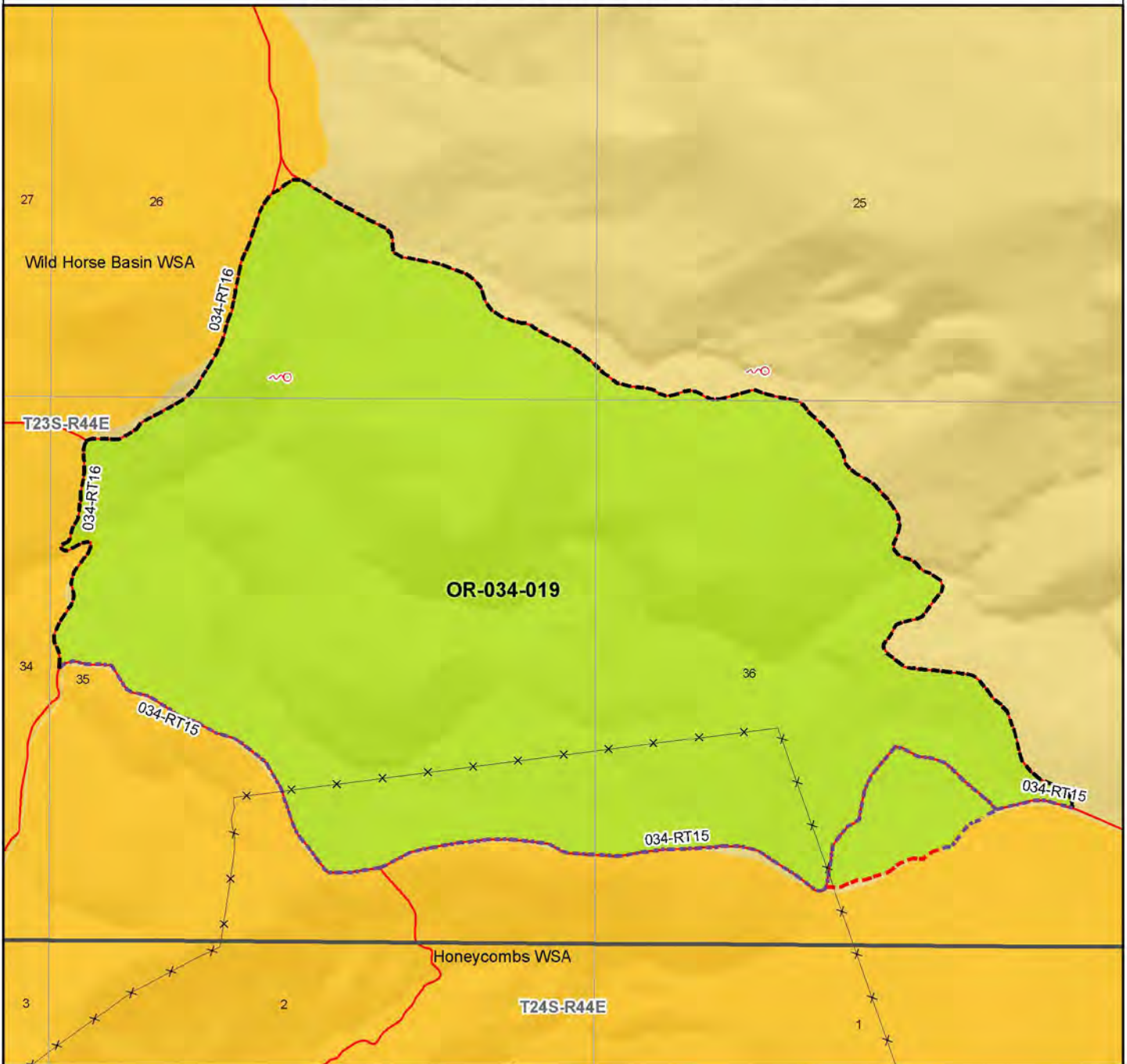
**Approved by:**

Pat Ryan 3/30/2010  
 Pat Ryan, Malheur Resource Area Field Manager Date

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

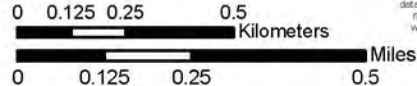
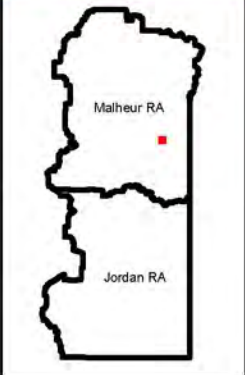
# Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

## Rookie Creek - OR-034-019 - Map 1 of 1



**Legend**

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



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



**VALE DISTRICT**  
December 10, 2008

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.

--FINAL--









034-RT15-A-E.JPG



034-RT15-B-S.JPG



034-RT16-A-N.JPG



034-RT15-A-W.JPG



034-RT15-C-E.JPG



034-RT16-A-S.JPG



034-RT15-B-N.JPG



034-RT15-C-W.JPG



034-RT16-B-NE.JPG





034-RT16-B-SW.JPG



034-RT16-C-W.JPG

**OR-034-019 Rookie Creek Page 2**



034-RT16-B-W.JPG



034-RT16-C-E.JPG

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

### APPENDIX C – ROAD\* ANALYSIS

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

**Wilderness Inventory Unit Name/Number: OR-034-019—Rookie Creek**

**NOTE:** This unit is affected by ONDA’s proposed Rookie Creek WSA.

**Route Name and/or Identifier** (*Include Transportation Plan Identifier, if known; include route number supplied by citizen information when available*):

034-RT 15

(ONDA references the route as “HC8b”.)

**I. LOCATION:** Refer to attached map—is south boundary of this BLM WC unit, abutting Honeycombs WSA. **List photo point references (if applicable):** Refer to this BLM inventory unit’s associated hard copy of its BLM Photo Points map, and affiliated Photo Log and photos -- retained in this unit’s permanent hard copy file, and electronically retained under this unit’s subfolder Final Findings/GIS Products. Any applicable ONDA map, photos and affiliated Photo Log are electronically retained under Wilderness Characteristics/Citizen Proposals.

**II. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE:**

*(Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment).)*

**Describe:** The route from Photo Points (PP) 034-RT15A to RT16A is occasionally used by both the public for recreational access and for access to the two fence crossings and a developed spring (Iron Mtn. Spring, within sec. 2 of Honeycombs WSA).

**Note 1:** The existing WSA boundary route from PP 15A - 15B is rarely used, with most of its presently no longer a vehicle route (and that eastern portion obscured and an alternative route to the north has become the dominant route from east to west).

**Note 2:** At the time of the 1970’s BLM wilderness inventory, this route between PPs 034-RT15A and 034-RT16A was determined to be a road. Since that time, the route north of this (i.e., OR-034-019’s north boundary) has served as the primary connector to route 034-RT16, and in combination with 034-RT 16 serving as the primary connector to the reservoir, where a private cabin is located.

**III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:**

**Is a road right-of-way associated with this route?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X Unknown \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. CONSTRUCTION**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

**Examples:** Paved \_\_\_\_\_ Bladed \_\_\_\_\_ Graveled \_\_\_\_\_ Roadside  
Berms \_\_\_\_\_ Cut/Fill \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe:** Route may have been originally construction but there is no apparent evidence remaining of construction activities.

**V. IMPROVEMENTS**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

By Hand Tools \_\_\_\_\_ By Machine \_\_\_\_\_

**Examples:** Culverts \_\_\_\_\_ Stream Crossings \_\_\_\_\_ Bridges \_\_\_\_\_  
Drainage \_\_\_\_\_ Barriers \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe:**

**VI. MAINTENANCE:**

**A. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

**If yes:** Hand Tools (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_ Machine (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_

**Explain:** No known maintenance performed since establishment of the Honeycombs WSA in 1980. (Also see “II.”, above.)

**B. If the route is in good condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM in the event this route became impassable?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

**Comments:** (Note: A segment of this route in its eastern third has become a discontinued route due to lack of travel over an extended period of time, and no longer qualifies even as a motorized primitive trail.)

## VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:

Yes   X   No \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe evidence (vehicle tracks observed) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis:**

Evidence of vehicle tracks observed on date photos taken, where a route still remains visually evident (but not on the discontinued segment). Regular and continuous over time only as associated with dispersed seasonal hunting activities, but not for access specifically to range improvements.

## VIII. CONCLUSION:

**To meet the definition of a road, items IV or V, and VI-A or B, and VII must be checked yes.**

Road: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No   X  

**Explanation:** No longer meets the definition of road, as described and explained above. Thus, those two segments which presently remain today are motorized primitive trails, which results in BLM unit OR-034-019 being contiguous with Honeycombs WSA.

Evaluator(s):



Mitch Thomas, Rangeland Management Specialist

Date: 2/10/09



Dave Draheim, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: 4/06/09

\* **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.

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*Following is the definition from Glossary of OSO 7-3-2007 Draft H-6300-1:*

**road:** The BLM will continue to base the definition of what constitutes a “road” from the FLPMA’s legislative history. The language below is from the House of Representatives Committee Report 94-1163, page 17, dated May 15, 1976, on what became the FLPMA. It is the only statement regarding the definition of a road in the law or legislative history.

“The word ‘roadless’ refers to the absence of roads which have 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.”

The BLM previously adopted and will continue to use the following sub-definitions of certain words and phrases in the BLM road definition stated above:

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.

A road that was established or has been maintained solely by the passage of vehicles would not be considered a road, even if it is used on a relatively regular and continuous basis. Vehicle roads constructed by mechanical means but that are no longer being maintained by mechanical methods are not roads. Sole use of hands and feet to move rocks or dirt without the use of tools or machinery does not meet the definition of “mechanical means.” Roads need not be “maintained” on a regular basis but rather “maintained” when road conditions warrant actions to keep it in a usable condition. A dead-end (cherry-stem) road can form the boundary of an inventory area and does not by itself disqualify an area from being considered “roadless”.

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

**APPENDIX C – ROAD\* ANALYSIS**

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

**Wilderness Inventory Unit Name/Number: OR-034-019—Rookie Creek**

**NOTE:** This unit is affected by ONDA’s proposed Rookie Creek WSA.

**Route Name and/or Identifier** *(Include Transportation Plan Identifier, if known; include route number supplied by citizen information when available):*

034-RT 16.

(ONDA references this route as “HC6b”, a road.)

**I. LOCATION:** Refer to attached map—is west boundary of this BLM WC unit. **List photo point references (if applicable):**

**II. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE:**

*(Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment).)*

**Describe:** Historically and continues presently as primary access connector to a private cabin on Owyhee Reservoir

**III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:**

**Is a road right-of-way associated with this route?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X Unknown \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. CONSTRUCTION**

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

**Examples:** Paved \_\_\_\_\_ Bladed \_\_\_\_\_ Graveled \_\_\_\_\_ Roadside Berms X Cut/Fill \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe:** Date of construction is unknown , but likely associated with construction of the cabin on Owyhee reservoir, which has been at least since the late 1970’s.

**V. IMPROVEMENTS**Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X \_\_\_\_\_

By Hand Tools \_\_\_\_\_ By Machine \_\_\_\_\_

Examples: Culverts \_\_\_\_\_ Stream Crossings \_\_\_\_\_ Bridges \_\_\_\_\_  
Drainage \_\_\_\_\_ Barriers \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe:

**VI. MAINTENANCE:****A. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X \_\_\_\_\_

If yes: Hand Tools (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_ Machine (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_

**Explain:** While some form of maintenance may be occurring, BLM is not aware of any, nor of any evidence of relatively recent maintenance activities having occurred on this route.**B. If the route is in good condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM in the event this route became impassable?**Yes X \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_**Comments:** As the sole land route to the cabin (although also accessible via water watercraft), which is located on BOR-administered land near the shore line of Owyhee Reservoir, BLM would authorize to have certain maintenance tasks performed in order for this route to continue to be used in a regular and continuous manner (even if only seasonally) so long as the cabin is authorized by BOR.**VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:**Yes X \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_**Describe evidence (vehicle tracks observed) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis:**

Vehicle tracks were evident on the date BLM photos were taken of this route (8/21/08). The frequency of use is not documented, although it is likely traveled seasonally by hunters (likely predominately by chukar hunters) and by people going to the cabin/Owyhee Reservoir.

**VIII. CONCLUSION:**

**To meet the definition of a road, items IV or V, and VI-A or B, and VII must be checked yes.**

Road: Yes   X   No       

**Explanation:** Meets road criteria, as described and explained, above. This road segment serves as a boundary for both this WC inventory unit and the adjacent Wild Horse Basin WSA.

Evaluator(s):  Mitch Thomas  Date:  2/10/09   
 Mitch Thomas, Rangeland Management Specialist

Dave Draheim  Date:  4/06/09   
 Dave Draheim, Outdoor Recreation Planner

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\* **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.

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*Following is the definition from Glossary of OSO 7-3-2007 Draft H-6300-1:*

**road:** The BLM will continue to base the definition of what constitutes a “road” from the FLPMA’s legislative history. The language below is from the House of Representatives Committee Report 94-1163, page 17, dated May 15, 1976, on what became the FLPMA. It is the only statement regarding the definition of a road in the law or legislative history.

“The word ‘roadless’ refers to the absence of roads which have 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.”

The BLM previously adopted and will continue to use the following sub-definitions of certain words and phrases in the BLM road definition stated above:

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.

A road that was established or has been maintained solely by the passage of vehicles would not be considered a road, even if it is used on a relatively regular and continuous basis. Vehicle roads constructed by mechanical means but that are no longer being maintained by mechanical methods are not roads. Sole use of hands and feet to move rocks or dirt without the use of tools or machinery does not meet the definition of “mechanical means.” Roads need not be “maintained” on a regular basis but rather “maintained” when road conditions warrant actions to keep it in a usable condition. A dead-end (cherry-stem) road can form the boundary of an inventory area and does not by itself disqualify an area from being considered “roadless”.