

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents  
**Ruth Gulch OR-035-017, 15 total pages**

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**Prepared by:**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**  
**Vale District Office**  
**100 Oregon Street**  
**Vale, Oregon 97918**



## **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-035-017 – Ruth Gulch

**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?**

*(If yes, and if more than one unit is within the area, list the names of those units.):*

Yes      No   X  

**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**

- 1978 – BLM Wilderness Inventory
- April 1979 – *Wilderness -- Proposed Initial Inventory – Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not have Wilderness Characteristics, Oregon and Washington*

**Wilderness Decision Documents**

- 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)**

N/A

**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                      Baker 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.

<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>
<b>TOTAL</b>					

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

**Unit Number/Name:** OR-035-017 – Ruth Gulch

**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 unit is 7,873 acres of public land. Boundaries consist of public lands abutting private land parcels, other federal lands/withdrawals and roads (Baker County #994 Snake River road, BLM road #6677-0-000. One cherry stem roads exist on the northern section of the unit (BLM #6677-0-0A0). The boundary roads, including the cherry stem road, are mechanically maintained as needed to provide for relatively regular and continuous use.

**2. Is the unit in a natural condition?**

Yes   X   No \_\_\_\_\_

**Description:** The unit includes the western extent of the Snake River Canyon and the Powder River Arm, their associated steep slopes, rim rocks and outcrops and numerous steep drainages that exist throughout the unit which primarily slope north and east. Elevations of the unit range from 3,847 at the highest point of the unit to the Snake River 2,063 feet. Drainage depths range from 300 to 800 feet from ridge top to canyon bottom over a distance of 1/4 mile or less for the larger drainages located in the northern section of the unit. Most of the drainages throughout the unit range in depths primarily from 200-500 feet from bottom to ridge and flow east. The northern quarter of the unit contains the higher elevation features and deeper drainages which flow into the Powder River. The central and southern areas of the unit are covered in more numerous drainages branching from the ridgeline that forms the western boundary, flowing east into the Snake River/Brownlee Reservoir. This southern portion of the unit consists of moderate to steep sloped topography. The dominant vegetation of the entire unit is native and non-native grasses and sagebrush.

Refer to this unit's associated Map 1 for human imprints which remain visually apparent to the average visitor of the unit including 5 MPT's totaling 5.9 miles, 4 spring developments, 3 earthen reservoirs, and 2.7 miles of rangeland fence. Visual contrast across the unit remains neutral to the average visitor. The MPT's of the unit exist on the ridge tops, side hills, and the drainage bottoms of the unit.

The presence of ridgelines in the unit provides some visual screening, as does wide distribution of and distances between the types and extent of human developments

(individually and collectively). In summary, the unit as a whole 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  X  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Description:** With the highly irregular “teardrop” shape of the unit, cherry-stem and MPT systems, and steepness of the terrain, it is not possible for a visitor to experience a sense of outstanding solitude. The modest to rugged terrain offers some topographic seclusion but does not provide for or support outstanding solitude. The characteristically low profile, and density and distribution of vegetation throughout the unit is not adequate to provide screening to support an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Additionally, the “teardrop” shape and very narrow configuration of the southern two-thirds of the unit significantly limits the distance available to visually and audibly avoid human created activities within the unit boundaries. The unit overall is approximately 8.65 miles long. However, 5.78 miles of that total averages on ½ to ¾ miles in width and flows steeply from the western boundary road downhill to the Snake River/Brownlee Reservoir. The largest portion of the unit, the northern portion, is only 2.96 miles by 2.36 miles wide at its widest points. This irregular shape and size in conjunction with the steepness of the terrain and motorized uses within affects the solitude of the unit where the sights and sounds of man cannot easily be avoided. In summary, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Description:** This unit provides general hunting opportunities for common game species (primarily chukar, quail, deer, and some elk) which is the primary form of recreational pursuits within the unit. The area’s topographic features provide for good day hiking, photography, equestrian and backpacking activities. However, the area is not recognized as being a destination for any of these activities. The area does have some elevated scenery views and topographic changes associated within the unit. However, these characteristics are not determined to be outstanding for recreational opportunities and pursuits within the unit and are not considered unique to the area. In summary, the primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities are not of such quality, uniqueness or rarity to consider them outstanding – individually or in combination.

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

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Description:**

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

Unit Name and Number: OR-035-016 -- Ruth Gulch

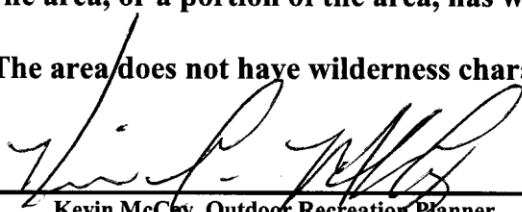
**Summary Results of Analysis:**

- 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


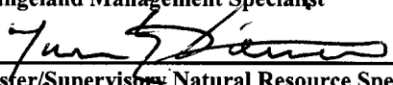
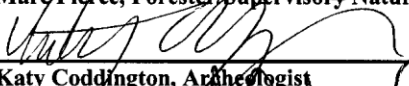

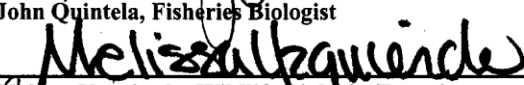
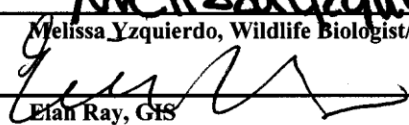
**Conclusion -- check one:**

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness character.


The area does not have wilderness character.

**Prepared by:**   
Kevin McCoy, Outdoor Recreation Planner

**Team Members:**

<u></u>	<u>10/3/11</u>
Gary Guymon, Rangeland Management Specialist	Date
<u></u>	<u>10/03/11</u>
Marc Pierce, Forester/Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist	Date
<u></u>	<u>10/5/2011</u>
Katy Coddington, Archeologist	Date
<u></u>	<u>10/3/11</u>
John Quintela, Fisheries Biologist	Date
<u></u>	<u>10/3/11</u>
Melissa Yzquierdo, Wildlife Biologist/Botanist	Date
<u></u>	<u>10-6-11</u>
Eian Ray, GIS	Date

**Approved by:**

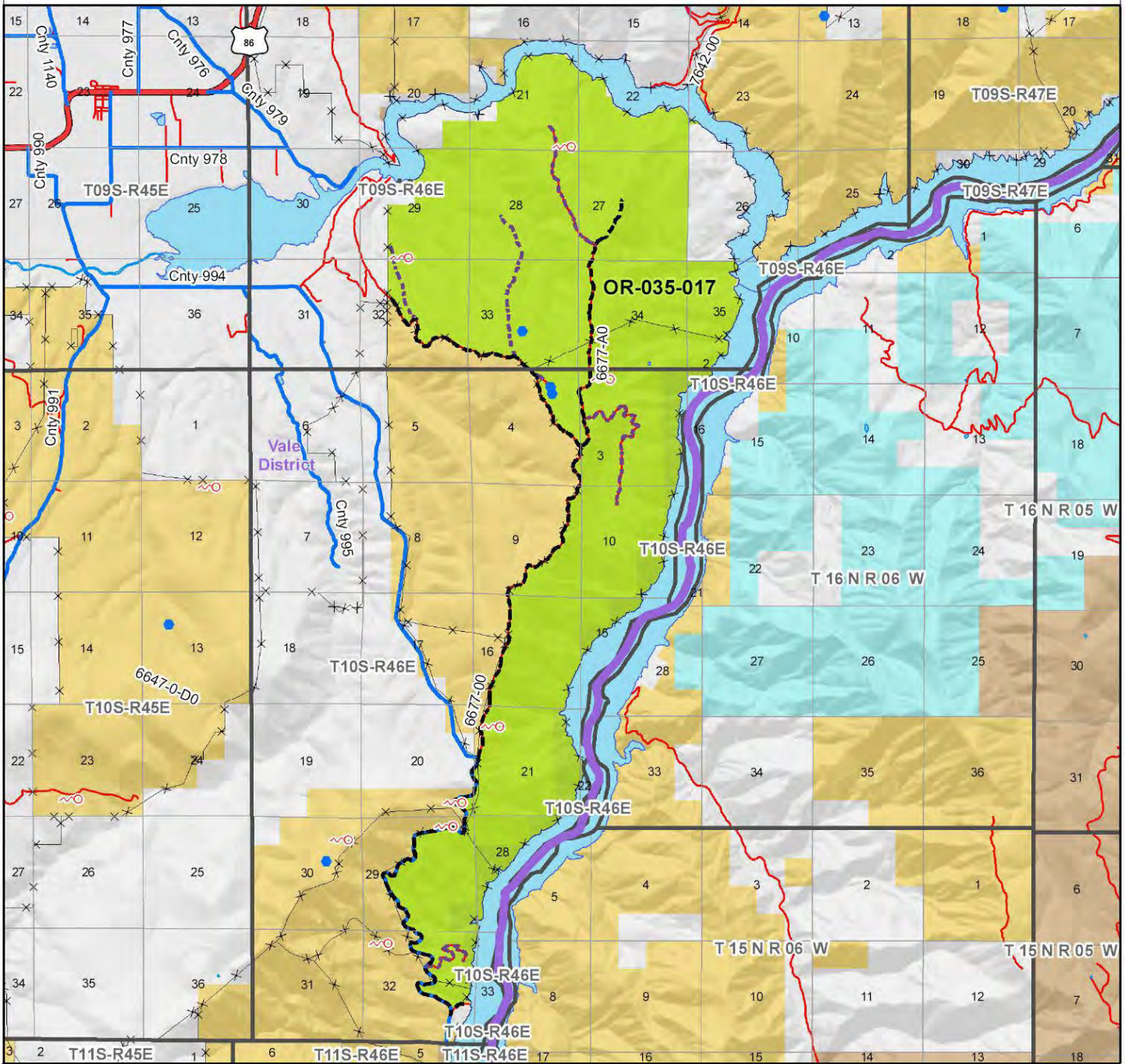
 10-11-11  
**Ted Davis**, Baker Field Office Manager Date

*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

## Ruth Gulch - OR-035-017 - Map 1 of 1



**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**

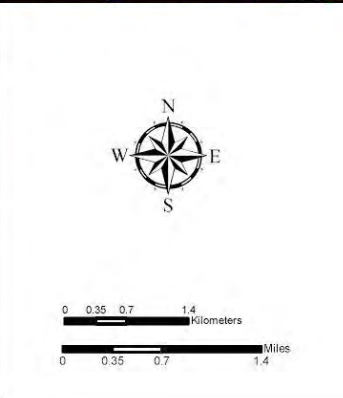
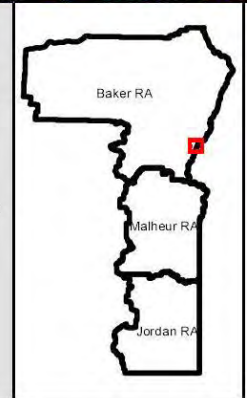
- Boundary Road
- Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT)
- Discontinued Use

**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**  
September 28, 2011

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--FINAL--





