

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Saddle Butte Contiguous OR-034-120, 9 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: 2009 **Unit Number/Name:** OR-034-120 – Saddle Butte Contiguous

**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

- 1978 – 1980 --- BLM Wilderness Inventory Unit 3-109 Dry Lakes of OR-03-06-51 (unpublished BLM documents in case files)
- 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)

BLM 3-109 Dry Lakes of OR-03-06-51.

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 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
3-109 Dry Lakes of OR-03-06-51	11,720	*	N	N	*
TOTAL	11,720				

* Determination for these criteria were not specifically clarified in the inventory of this unit.

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FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-034-120 – Saddle Butte Contiguous

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 the attached map for the inventory unit's location. The boundaries of the 5,779 acre unit are changed from those identified in the BLM late 1970's inventory. The present decreased size from its original bounds is a result of having the southern portion of the 3-109 inventory unit being included as part of the Saddle Butte WSA (OR-3-111) at the time the WSA was designated in 1980. The OR-034-120 unit's west boundary is non-BLM lands; its east side is bounded by a mix of non-BLM lands and the locally named Dry Lake Road, which to the north eventually enters the non-BLM land that constitutes the unit's west boundary. The unit's south boundary is a vehicle route against the north boundary of the Saddle Butte WSA (OR-3-111) – this route is directly adjacent to an existing rangeland fence. In the late 1970's, BLM determined that this vehicle route was a road, but since then the route has changed status to a motorized primitive trail (MPT) since no known mechanical maintenance has been performed on the route and BLM has no intent to conduct such maintenance on it. Neither a fence nor a MPT is a qualifying boundary feature for this wilderness characteristics inventory maintenance. Thus, the unit is now contiguous with the WSA. The unit's east boundary road receives mechanical maintenance as needed to keep it passable for relatively regular and seasonally continuous use.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Description: The unit, itself, has a natural appearance much as it was during BLM's late 1970's wilderness characteristics inventory. The unit is substantially flat to very low profiled rolling terrain; elevations 4,060 to 4,130 feet. The terrain has a couple of dry lake beds in its otherwise non-descript landscape. The dominate vegetation consists of low sagebrush and both native and non-native grasses.

Refer to this unit's associated Map 1 for human imprints. It has 4.25 miles of 3 motorized primitive trails (MPTs) and 2.75 miles of one rangeland fence. This includes the unit's south boundary abutting the WSA which consists of the rangeland fence and 2.75 miles of one MPT. The limited degree of the types, extent and distribution of developments results in the unit, itself, appearing to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor. This natural condition is further enhanced by the continuing natural condition of the contiguous WSA.

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

Description: On its own, the unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the unit's small size and very narrow configuration combined with the lack of both vegetative and topographic screening features. However, being contiguous with the neighboring WSA, the unit's opportunity for outstanding solitude is affected by that which the WSA possesses. Opportunities for outstanding solitude for the area at large are slightly enhanced with the addition of the unit's acreage, albeit hampered by the inventory unit's narrowness and other features mentioned above.

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

Description: Hunting of common game species and any hiking or horseback riding associated with this activity is the primary dispersed activity associated with the unit, itself. When combined with the contiguous WSA, the unit contributes to and benefits from the WSA's existing associated outstanding opportunities available for horseback riding and wildlife viewing.

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

Description: The unit possesses habitat for the kit fox, a BLM special status animal species, but has none of the contiguous WSA's supplemental values associated with the Saddle Butte lava tube system and the tubes' habitat and presence of the Townsend's big-eared bat (a BLM special status animal species) or the tubes' unique ecological niche that provides for uncommon ferns and mosses in a desert environment.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-034-120 – OR-034-120 – Saddle Butte Contiguous

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? X Yes No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? X Yes No NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values? X Yes No NA

Conclusion -- check one:

- X 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:

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Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator	Date

Approved by:

Pat Ryan 7/11/10
 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.

