

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Sand Dunes OR-036-027, 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, photos). 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-036-027 -- Sand Dunes

**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 3-154 of OR-03-08-24 Sand Dunes (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)
- (X) 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)
- () 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 3-154 of OR-03-08-24 Military Road

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
3-154 of OR-03-08-24 Military Road	6,680	Y	N	N	Y
TOTAL	6,680				

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FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-036-027 -- Sand Dunes

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 No

Description: Refer to the attached Map 1 for the inventory unit's location. The boundaries of the 6,600 acre unit is the same as identified in the BLM 1970's inventory. Two of its three sides are bounded by County Road 3148, which also separates the unit from the Alvord Desert WSA (OR-2-74). About half of the unit's eastern side and its entire southern side are bounded by non-BLM lands. The county road receives mechanical maintenance as needed to keep it passable for regular and continuous (seasonal) use.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes No N/A

Description: The unit's natural appearance remains unchanged since the late 1970's. Very close to much of the unit's west boundary sharply rises a 400 foot high rim that for the most part, gradually slopes off toward the east and south boundaries. Elevations range from 4,300 to 4,110 feet. At the bottom of the eastern slopes about a third of the unit possesses some stabilized sand dunes of 5 to 15 feet in height. They represent a climax sand dune ecosystem that is barely recognizable as sand dunes. Minor amounts of sagebrush can be found on the dunes with the remaining vegetation typical of a sandy desert saltbrush environment. There are no expanded locations of active, shifting sand dunes within the unit. One drainage flows to the south end. Signs of water in that proximity include the presence of saltbrush and greasewood. The vegetation over the rest of the unit is predominately sagebrush and bunchgrass.

Refer to attached Map 1 for the nominal human developments in the unit. In the unit's northwest sector three short motorized primitive trails together parallel the unit's road boundary for a total 3.0 miles. Unit OR-036-027 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 unit extends up to three miles in width and 5 miles in length. The opportunity for solitude is limited due to the size of the area and the lack of vegetative screening. The steep side of the rim abuts the unit's west and northern boundary road, and from there the very gradually eastward-sloping terrain provides little opportunity for concealment. The sand dunes offer a limited opportunity for isolation with a few secluded locations behind the small hummocks. However, this opportunity, as elsewhere within the unit, is not outstanding in character or extent.

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

Yes _____ No N/A _____

Description: The frequency of occurrence of geologic features (volcanic rim and table and a small stabilized sand dune area) are not unique or rare. The extent or area covered by these features is small. The average person would find limited hiking or backpacking opportunities. The form, shape and mass of the sand dune area are not dramatic or inspiring. Sightseeing and photography of a stabilized sand dune environment are available but are not unique to the unit, but are rather commonplace examples. Animal species present include varying common mammals (e.g., coyote, deer, antelope, rodents, possibly fox), reptiles, and birds, with no special status species known to be present. Wild horses may be observed within the unit, given that it is within the very expansive Alvord-Tule Springs Wild Horse Herd Management Area. While a less common and interesting experience, viewing wild horses is not an outstanding primitive and unconfined recreational experience. The unit possesses no unique or special features which would more so attract a visitor who is seeking a primitive and unconfined recreational experience. For reasons stated, individually or collectively the primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities within the unit are not outstanding. The wetter area associated with a portion of the unit's southwest sector offers study opportunities for someone interested in ancient lakeshore geomorphology.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes No _____ N/A _____

Description: The unit and surrounding acreage 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 mainly a salt desert shrub type, a dryer zone than sagebrush, which kit fox inhabit.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-036-027 -- Sand Dunes

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? 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:

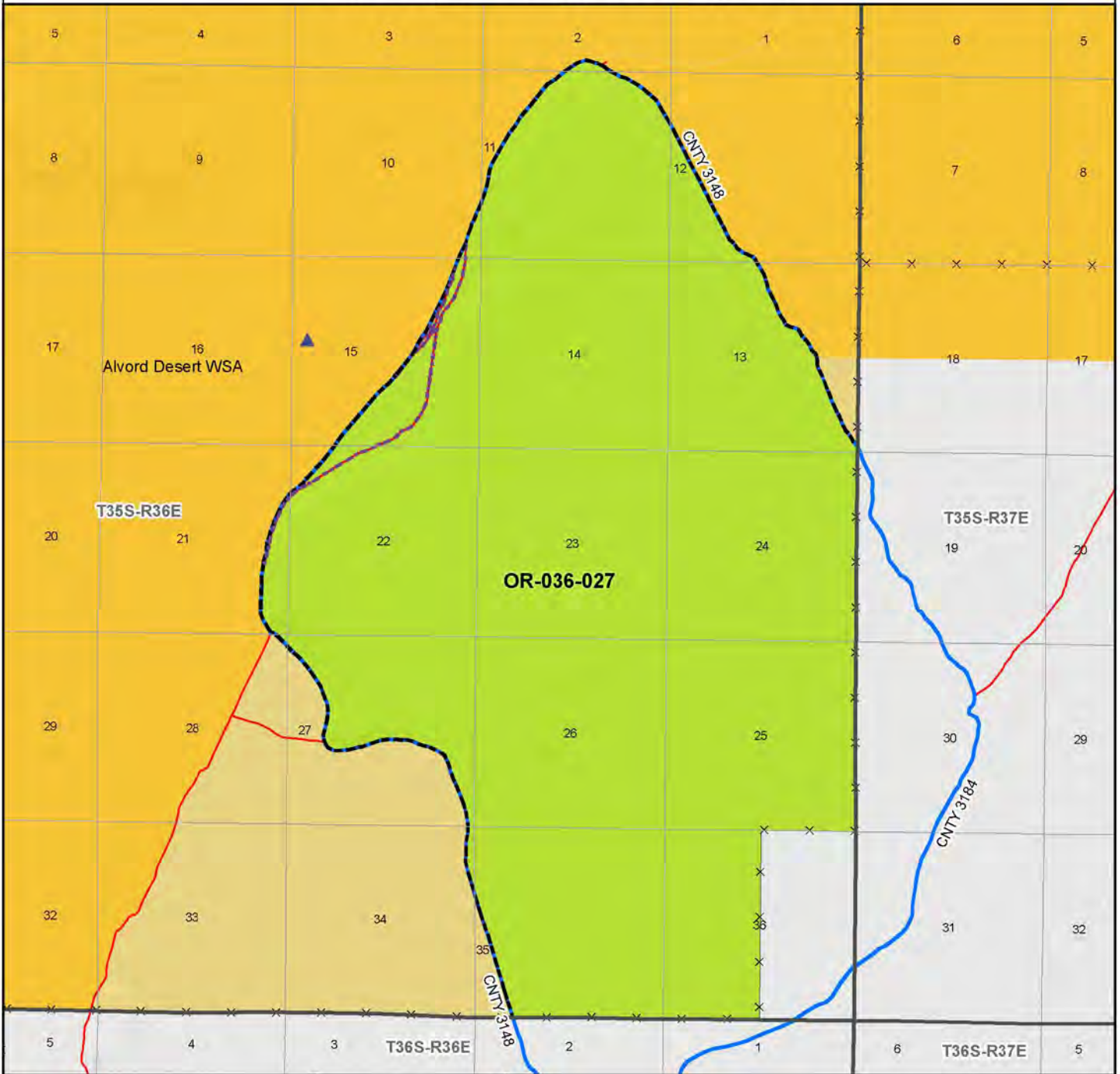
<u>Richard White</u> Richard White, Rangeland Management Specialist	<u>3/17/2010</u> Date
<u>Dave Draheim</u> Dave Draheim, Outdoor Recreation Planner	<u>2/10/10</u> Date
<u>Garth Ross</u> Garth Ross, Wildlife Biologist	<u>3/23/2010</u> Date
<u>Jon Sadowski</u> Jon Sadowski, Environmental Contractor	<u>3-4-2010</u> Date
<u>Eian Ray</u> Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, Contractor	<u>03/03/10</u> Date
<u>Brent Grasty</u> Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator	<u>3/19/10</u> Date

Approved by:

Carolyn Freeborn 4/6/10
 Carolyn Freeborn, Jordan Resource Area Field Manager Date

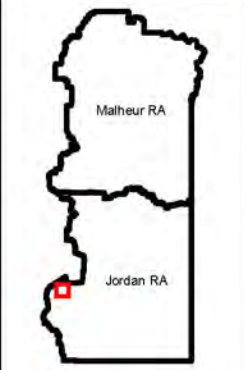
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.

Wilderness Characteristics - Overview Sand Dunes - OR-036-027 - Map 1 of 1



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

VALE DISTRICT
February 15, 2010

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