

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Scott Butte OR-036-019, 25 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 10: Form 2 – Summary of Findings and Conclusion](#)

[Page 11: Wilderness Characteristics Overview–Scott Butte OR-036-019 Map 1 of 1](#)

[Page 12: Wilderness Characteristics–BLM Photo Points–Scott Butte Map & Log](#)

[Page 13: OR-036-019 Scott Butte BLM Photos](#)

[Page 16: H-6300-1-Wilderness Inventory Maintenance in BLM Oregon/Washington
Appendix C – Road* Analysis: County Road 790](#)

[Page 21: H-6300-1-Wilderness Inventory Maintenance in BLM Oregon/Washington
Appendix C – Road* Analysis: BLM Road 7337-0-00](#)

Prepared by:
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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, and 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: 2011 **Unit Number/Name:** OR-036-019 -- Scott Butte

**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 OR-03-08-04 Scott’s Butte 3-112 (unpublished BLM documents stored in Vale District 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

- (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)
- (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 OR-03-08-04; Scotts Butte 3-112

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
3-112 Scott Butte OR-03-08-04	46,130	Y	N	N	Y
TOTAL	46,130				

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

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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, and 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.*

FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Name and Number: OR-036-019 -- Scott Butte

Note: In February, 2004, the Vale District received from Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) its evaluation of wilderness characteristics for the Association's 66,825 acre "Saddle Butte 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.

The boundaries of this BLM unit OR-036-019 and ONDA's proposed WSA addition are different. Basically, ONDA's proposal consists of this BLM inventory unit plus BLM unit OR-036-020 (Rye Grass). Variances between BLM and ONDA regarding inventory unit boundary features are that, unlike ONDA's proposal, BLM concludes that ONDA's vehicle routes SB2a and SB2b combined is BLM Road 7337-0-00 and serves as the west boundary of OR-036-019. Additionally, ONDA states its SB7 route (BLM Road 036-RT2) is not a road (thus making the adjacent Saddle Butte WSA [OR-3-111] contiguous with the Association's WSA Addition proposal) and does not meet the definition of road (see size criteria, below, for additional information). BLM has a slightly different boundary than ONDA at OR-036-019's SE corner with BLM concluding that ONDA's route at the SE corner location is a motorized primitive trail rather than a road. Refer to the two attached Road Analysis forms for additional documentation. An attachment to this Form 2 identifies any variances of motorized vehicle routes between ONDA's and BLM's findings.

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 attached Map 1 for the inventory unit's location. The boundaries of the 45,273 acre unit is the same as identified in the BLM 1970's inventory except for a slight adjustment along the southwest boundary. The unit's northeast boundary is County Road 790, which separates it from Saddle Butte WSA (OR-3-111); the utility corridor of State Highway 78 and the northwest to southeast oriented airstrip of the BLM Burns Junction complex constitute the unit's southwest boundary; the utility corridor of U.S. Highway 95 forms the south boundary; non-BLM private land parcels are the unit's southeast boundary, and BLM Road 7337-0-00 traversing public lands constitutes the unit's west boundary. The unit's boundary roads receive mechanical maintenance as needed to keep them passable for regular and seasonal use.

ONDA states that its SB7 route (County Road 790) that presently defines the boundary of the adjacent Saddle Butte WSA (OR-3-111) is no longer a road, thus making its proposed WSA addition contiguous with the WSA. In 2006, portions of this route was bladed in support of wild fire suppression activities, and this route's length along OR-036-019 will continue to be maintained as needed to provide for regular and seasonal use. ONDA states that SB2a and SB2b routes (BLM Road 7337-0-00, the unit's western boundary) do not meet the definition of road. The attached Road Analysis forms support BLM's determination that ONDA's two described routes meet the road definition satisfactorily.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes No N/A

Description: The unit's natural appearance remains much as it did during BLM's late 1970's wilderness characteristics inventory. Three small buttes of near equal elevation – Dome, Iron Mountain and Scott – are dispersed within the unit. Dome Butte is the unit's highest point at 4,257 feet; the lowest elevation of 3,435 feet is along the unit's east boundary. The vast majority of the unit is near flat to rolling terrain with lava outcrops and small, shallow drainages of varying orientation. The vegetation consists of sagebrush, bunchgrass, and a salt desert shrub plant community.

Refer to the attached Map 2 for human imprints in the unit. They constitute a total of 16.75 miles of 9 motorized primitive trails, 0.8 miles of a cherry stem route that is a portion on an active airstrip, 4.1 miles of fence line, an irrigation ditch, and 4 private ranch structures on Public Land. The unit contains a portion of one BLM administration site, the Burns Junction Fire Guard station complex that contains two airplane landing strips, an affiliated MPT and a fence line enclosing the airstrips. The northwest to southeast oriented airstrip is a boundary of the 036-019 unit. The northeast portion of the northeast to southwest oriented airstrip is a cherry steam route into the unit because it is an actively used motorized route utilized by aircraft. An area of Public Land within the unit consisting of approximately five acres in the southeast corner of SE ¼ SW ¼ of section 18, T31S, R41E contains numerous structures, an irrigation ditch, fences, and highly disturbed livestock and ranch use areas. This small area of acreage is Public Land but has been encroach by the adjacent private land owner. The vast majority of 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 area is up to 10 miles long and 9.5 miles wide. Although the unit is substantial in size and is of a configuration in support of gaining a sense of being alone, it is predominately nearly flat with no vegetative and nominally site-selective in relief for

providing some topographic screening. While offering an expansive open landscape setting to experience a reasonably good sense of being alone, its size does not compensate for the lack of vegetative and topographic screening. The overall nature of the unit is not conducive to offering outstanding opportunities for solitude.

ONDA states its proposed WSA addition provides outstanding opportunities for solitude on the premise that “lava mounds which provide texture in topography and visual screening”, and that the area the outstanding solitude opportunities associated with the Saddle Buttes WSA. While such “mounds” may aid in providing for a sense of solitude in some areas of the BLM inventory unit OR-036-019, their presence, frequency or extent – independently or in combination with other factors for solitude -- do not offer outstanding solitude opportunities within the BLM inventory unit. BLM’s determination that the area is not contiguous with the WSA precludes considering shared solitude opportunities. Also, BLM’s inventory unit is not as expansive as ONDA’s proposed WSA addition. Given the size and overall features of ONDA’s proposal, it may provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude, although BLM takes no position on its own or on ONDA’s conclusion regarding this wilderness value for ONDA’s unit, this criteria, considering the notable variance between ONDA and BLM of what constitutes a wilderness characteristic inventory unit for the area.

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

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: The unit avails itself primarily to horseback riding and day and overnight hiking. However, there are no unique or special features associated with the unit which would draw visitors to experience an outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation experience. The unit constitutes the southern-most extent of the expansive (192,524 acre) Sand Springs Wild Horse Herd Management Area. The unit provides an opportunity to view wild horses, but viewing them in this area is not as likely as in some other neighboring locations. Although a less common and interesting experience, viewing wild horses is not an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined recreation activity. The presence of wild horses is a supplemental value associated with the inventory unit.

ONDA states its proposed WSA addition provides for outstanding wildlife watching and geological exploration. One of the wildlife referenced is the presence of wild horses; refer to the above paragraph. ONDA also list four Oregon sensitive wildlife species that may inhabit the unit. Please refer to the Supplemental Vales section below. ONDA’s geological mention of Coyote Trap Cave is not within this BLM inventory unit but in the 036-020 unit because BLM has addressed two inventory units within ONDA’s proposal. This decision is consistent with the original BLM 1980 wilderness inventory.

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

Description: The unit contains a portion of the Palomino Playa Research Natural Area. The 847 acre Palomino Playa ACEC/RNA contains the special status plant *Lepidium davisii* - Davis' peppergrass and is located along the southern half of Road 7337-0-00. Davis' peppergrass (*Lepidium davisii*) was identified and documented at two additional sites in addition to the Palomino Playa ACEC site within the unit. BLM has documented 1 sage grouse lek within the unit. The bird is a BLM special status animal species. The entire unit is also a portion of the larger Sand Springs Horse Management Area (HMA). The HMA is an area containing habitat for and management of wild horse herds.

ONDA states that its proposed Saddle Butte Proposed WSA Addition may provide habitat for the Ferruginous Hawk, Pygmy Rabbit, White-tailed Antelope Squirrel and the Mojave Black-collared Lizard that are all “sensitive species” by the State of Oregon. BLM recognizes – at this point in time-- the Pygmy Rabbit as a BLM special status animal species and acknowledges that habitat requirements may exist for the Ferruginous Hawk, the White-tailed Antelope Squirrel and the Mojave Black-collared Lizard however, neither ONDA nor any other entity has provided BLM official documentation of the presence of these mentioned species, or of the Pygmy Rabbit, in the inventory unit.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-036-019 -- Scotts Butte

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 4-5-11
Jack Wenderoth, Planning Contractor

Team Members:

<u> Aimee Huff </u>	<u> 4/5/2011 </u>
Aimee Huff, Rangeland Management Specialist	Date
<u> Eian Ray </u>	<u> 4-5-11 </u>
Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, Contractor	Date
<u> Garth R. Ross </u>	<u> 4/5/2011 </u>
Garth Ross, Wildlife Biologist	Date
<u> Brent Grasty </u>	<u> 4/5/11 </u>
Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator	Date

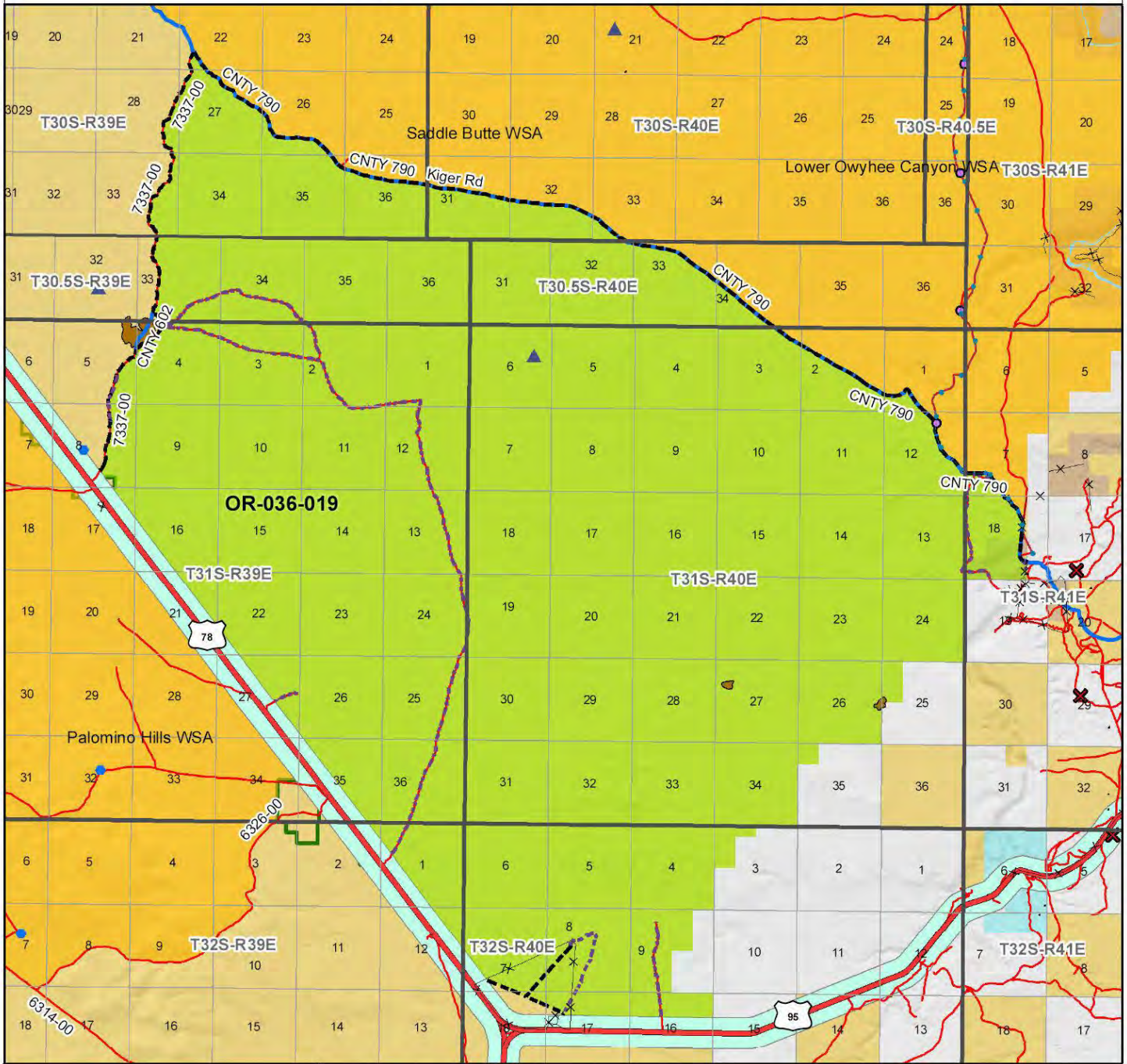
Approved by:

Carolyn R. Freeborn 4/5/2011
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.

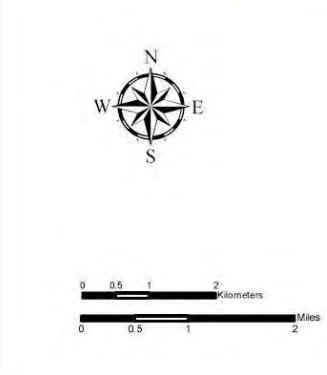
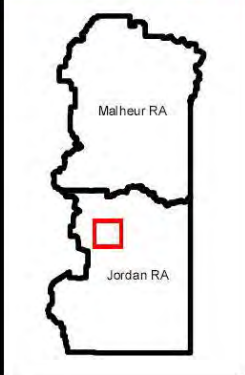
Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Scott Butte - OR-036-019 - 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 Unit Wilderness Study Area Mineral Material Site Road/Utility Right-of-Way Major Water Body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Route Types - BLM Determination Boundary Road Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT) Discontinued Use Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit County Major Highway BLM Numbered & Other Routes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bureau of Land Management State Private Other Federal Land 	



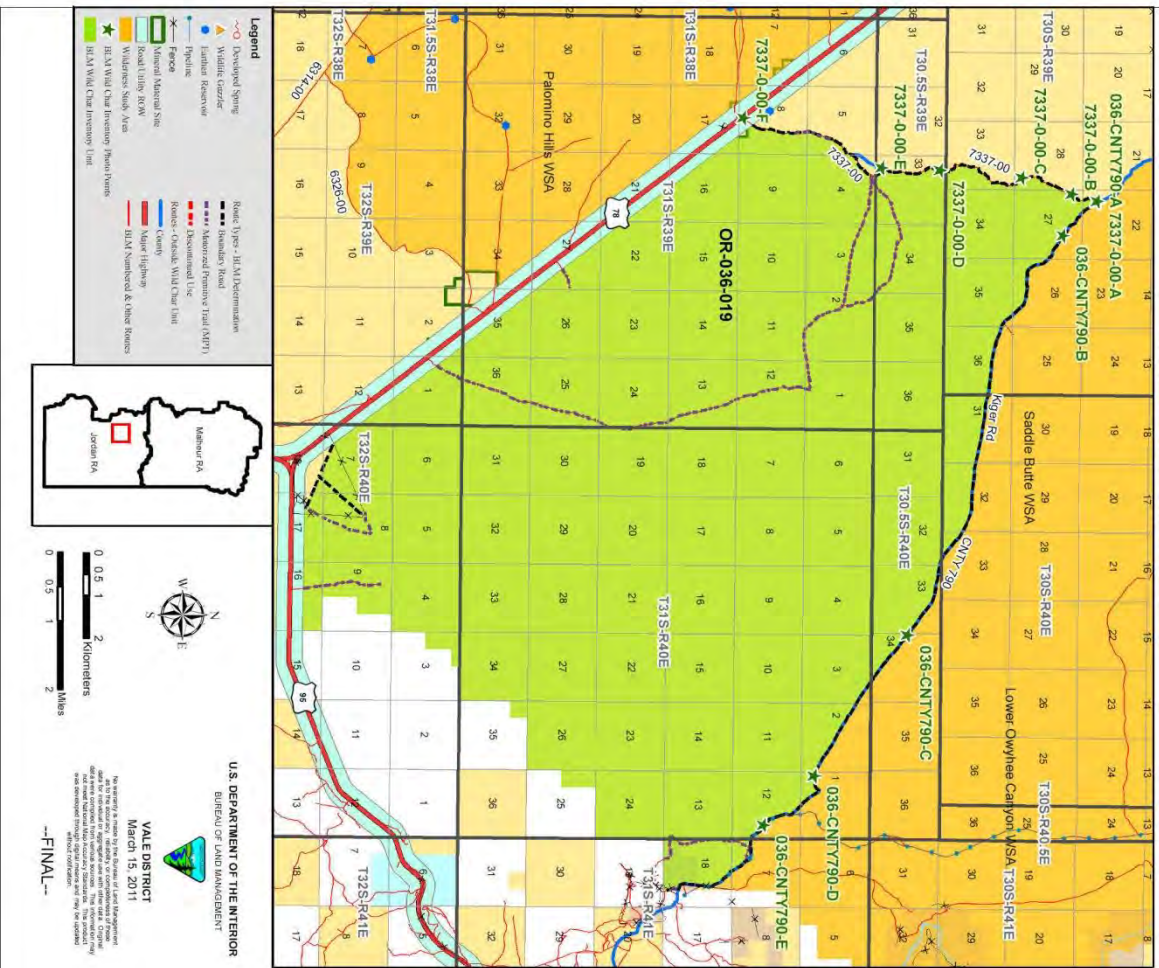
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VALE DISTRICT
March 15, 2011

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--FINAL--

Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Points
Scotts Butte - OR-036-019



Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Log
Scotts Butte - OR-036-019

PHOTO_LOCATION *	DIRECTION	PHOTO_TYPE	PHOTO_DATE	COMMENTS
7337-0-00-A	S	Route	20080506	start from WSA-towards playa
036-CNTY790-A	NW	Route	20080506	looking into WSA
7337-0-00-B	S	Route	20080506	signs of construction/berms
7337-0-00-B	N	Route	20080506	back - 6 horses
7337-0-00-C	S	Route	20080506	berms
7337-0-00-C	SE	Route	20080506	into playa of OR-036-020
7337-0-00-C	N	Route	20080506	back
7337-0-00-D	SW	Route	20080506	signs of construction
7337-0-00-D	NE	Route	20080506	back
7337-0-00-E	W	Route	20080506	into playa of OR-036-020
7337-0-00-E	S	Route	20080506	route around playa
7337-0-00-F	W	Route	20080506	back
7337-0-00-F	E	Route	20080506	at HWY 78
036-CNTY790-A	SE	Route	20080506	back
036-CNTY790-A	NW	Route	20080506	CNTY 790 from Jct RT2/3
036-CNTY790-B	SE	Route	20080506	back up RT2
036-CNTY790-B	NW	Route	20080506	berms
036-CNTY790-C	SE	Route	20080506	berms
036-CNTY790-C	NW	Route	20080506	berms
036-CNTY790-D	SE	Route	20080506	route goes to horizon
036-CNTY790-D	NW	Route	20080506	back (berms)
036-CNTY790-E	S	Route	20080506	on towards Rome
036-CNTY790-E	N	Route	20080506	back - visible berms

Note: The BLM Wild Char PhotoPoints displayed on the map are labeled with their Photo Locations. The BLM Photo Log table shown above lists the photos taken at their respective Photo Locations. Multiple photos may be taken at each Photo Location. Scenery and Project Photo Type pictures have their Photo names provided in the Comments field.



036-CNTY790-A-NW.JPG



036-CNTY790-A-SE.JPG



036-CNTY790-B-NW.JPG



036-CNTY790-B-SE.JPG



036-CNTY790-C-NW.JPG



036-CNTY790-C-SE.JPG



036-CNTY790-D-NW.JPG



036-CNTY790-D-SE.JPG



036-CNTY790-E-N.JPG



036-CNTY790-E-S.JPG



036-RT3-B-N.JPG



036-RT3-C-S.JPG



036-RT3-A-NW.JPG



036-RT3-B-S.JPG



036-RT3-C-SE.JPG



036-RT3-A-S.JPG



036-RT3-C-N.JPG



036-RT3-D-NE.JPG



036-RT3-D-SW.JPG



036-RT3-E-W.JPG

OR-036-019 Scott Butte Page 3



036-RT3-E-E.JPG



036-RT3-E-S.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 (UNIT_ID): OR-036-019 -- Scott Butte

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

Malheur County Road 790; ONDA designated route (way) SB7

- I. LOCATION:** See attached map. BLM Unit OR-036-019 is bounded on its north-northeast side by Malheur County Road 790. This county road corresponds with ONDA's designated route (way) SB7. The northwest-southeast oriented road intersects with the junction of BLM Road 036-RT2 and BLM Road 7337-0-00 at the unit's northwest corner and enters onto private lands at the unit's northeast corner. Malheur County Road 790 also serves as the boundary between Unit OR-036-019 and the Saddle Butte WSA.

List photo point references: Malheur County Road 790; BLM photos 036-CNTY790 - A through E; ONDA route (way) SB7; photos AD 027, 028.

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: Malheur County Road 790 is a access/egress connector from US Highway 95 to the junction of BLM Roads 7337-0-00 and 036-RT2 that continues northwest to private ranch land and then on to State Highway 78. Malheur County Road 790 serves as the unit's northeast boundary and the southwest boundary of the Saddle Butte WSA. Malheur County Road 790 is traveled on a continuous seasonal basis by local ranchers and for administrative purposes, including resource protection, range and wild horse monitoring (within the Sand Springs HMA). Malheur County Road 790 serves as a connector access/egress route for resource monitoring and activities associated with the Palomino Playa ACEC/RNA located on the unit's western boundary BLM Road 7337-0-00 and the Coyote Trap Cave and lava tube that is contained within the 7,056 acre Saddle Butte Area of Critical Environmental Concern located along BLM Road 036-RT2. The ACEC contains habitat for the special status western big-eared bat. County Road 790 also connects with BLM Road 7337-0-00 that is the primary

access/egress route for resource monitoring and other activities associated with the Palomino Playa ACEC/Research Natural Area. The 847 acre Palomino Playa ACEC/RNA contains the special status plant *Lepidium davisii* - Davis' peppergrass. Dispersed recreation travel includes vehicle access for hunting of upland game species.

ONDA's "Saddle Butte Proposed WSA Addition" proposal identifies Malheur County Road 790 as a vehicular way (BLM's motorized primitive trail) between its proposed area and the Saddle Butte WSA. The proposal stated; "This inventory found that the boundary (SB7) between Saddle Butte proposed WSA Addition and Saddle Butte WSA is an unimproved, overgrown, two track way (see photos AD 027 and AD 028). Saddle Butte proposed WSA Addition and Saddle Butte WSA are therefore contiguous".

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 X Graveled _____
 Roadside Berms X Cut/Fill _____ Other _____

Describe: Information on when and how Malheur County Road 790 was constructed is not available. Sometime in the mid-1900s the road surface was bladed and berms added on the roadsides, using a road-grader. The bladed road and old berms can clearly be seen along the route as evident in BLM photographs 036-CNTY790 A through E. Although vegetation now covers much of the original berms, rows of rock material pushed aside by heavy equipment are apparent outside of any new maintenance performed on Malheur County Road 790 in 2006. BLM's photographs clearly show sections of Malheur County road 790, throughout the entire 13.0 mile length, where the road has been bladed and contain remnants of berms on sides of the road. Because wildfire suppression made it necessary to use Malheur County Road 790 as a fire access route in 2006, maintenance was applied to the road, creating roadside soil berms and a bladed roadbed along segments of its length where it is the boundary between unit OR-036-019 and the Saddle Butte WSA (OR 3-111). The roadbed of Malheur County Road 790 consists of natural on-site materials.

V. IMPROVEMENTSYes _____ 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 X No _____If yes: Hand Tools (Y/N) _____ Machine (Y/N) Y

Explain: During 2006, BLM responded to a wildfire within the Saddle Butte Allotment by utilizing Malheur County Road 790 and other routes. To facilitate the suppression of this wildfire it was necessary to improve access for heavy equipment over Malheur County Road 790. The roadbed of Malheur County Road 790 was bladed along various segments with a road-grader as required as evident in the series of photographs BLM recorded in 2008 (BLM photos, 036-CNTY790 - A through E).

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: Malheur County Road 790 would be approved by management to be maintained as necessary because the road is a primary access/egress road from and to US Highway 95 and state Highway 78 in conjunction with public lands throughout the Saddle Butte Allotment, Saddle Butte WSA, and portions of the Palomino Playa Research Natural Area and the Saddle Butte Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

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:

Malheur County Road 790 has annual seasonal use as evidence by the lack of vegetation in all road segments and by well-used bare ground where vehicle tires tracks can be observed. The road is well traveled, wide along most of its length, and is clearly defined on the landscape. The road is also used on a seasonal basis by hunters and recreation enthusiasts.

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: BLM has determined that Malheur County Road 790 meets the definition of a road as stated in sections IV, VI-A, and VII above. County Road 790 was constructed by mechanical equipment, has been maintained since being constructed, would be approved to be maintained by management as needed if the road base became impassable, and has regular and continuous seasonal use.

Evaluator(s):

Jack R Wenderoth Date 4-5-11
Jack Wenderoth, Planning Contractor, Vale District

Aimee Huff Date 4/5/2011
Aimee Huff, Range Management Specialist, Vale district

Eian Ray Date 4-5-11
Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, Contractor

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

* **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.

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:

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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 (UNIT_ID): OR-036-019 --- Scott Butte

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

BLM Road 7337-0-00; ONDA designated route (way) SB2a and SB2b

VIII. LOCATION: See attached map. BLM Unit OR-036-019 contains BLM Road 7337-0-00 that corresponds with ONDA’s designated route (way) SB2a and SB2b. BLM Road 7337-0-00 is a mostly north-south oriented road that serves as BLM Unit OR-036-020’s eastern boundary and intersects with the junction of BLM Road 036-RT2 and Malheur County Road 790 at its north end and State Highway 78 at its south end.

List photo point references: BLM Road 7337-0-00; BLM photos 7337-0-00 - A through F; ONDA route (way) SB2a; photos AD 007, 009, 012 and ONDA route (way) SB2b; photos AD 011 and 016.

IX. 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: BLM Road 7337-0-00 is the western boundary of BLM unit OR-036-019 that is located between State Highway 78 and the junction of BLM Road 036-RT2 and County Road 790. BLM Road 7337-0-00 allows access/egress to the Coyote Trap Cave and lava tube that is contained within the 7,056 acre Saddle Butte Area of Critical Environmental Concern located along BLM Road 036-RT2. The ACEC contains habitat for the special status western big-eared bat. BLM Road 7337-0-00 is traveled as needed by local ranchers and BLM staff for administrative purposes, including resource protection, range and wild horse monitoring (Sand Springs Horse Management Area). BLM Road 7337-0-00 is the primary access/egress route for resource monitoring and other activities associated with the Palomino Playa ACEC/Research Natural Area. The 847 acre Palomino Playa ACEC/RNA contains the special status plant *Lepidium davisii* –

Davis' peppergrass and is located along the southern half of Road 7337-0-00. Dispersed recreation use of Road 7337-0-00 includes vehicle access for hunting of upland game species as well as those associated with the cave, lava tube, and lava field exploration.

ONDA's Saddle Butte Proposed WSA Addition states that Road 7337-0-00 is a vehicular way (BLM motorized primitive trail) and not a road. ONDA's inventory information for Road 7337-0-00 was recorded during 2003 (ONDA photos, AD 007, 009, 011, 012, and 016). In 2006, BLM responded to a wildfire within the Saddle Butte Allotment by utilizing Road 7337-0-00 and other routes. To facilitate the suppression of this wildfire it was necessary to improve access for heavy equipment through Road 7337-0-00. The roadbed of BLM Road 7337-0-00 was bladed where required as evident in the series of photographs BLM recorded in 2008 (BLM photos, 7337-0-00 - A through F) and by supporting information provided within this analysis.

X. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:

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

Yes _____ No X Unknown _____

XI. CONSTRUCTION

Yes X No _____

Examples: Paved _____ Bladed X Graveled _____
Roadside Berms X Cut/Fill _____ Other _____

Describe: Information on when and how BLM Road 7337-0-00 was constructed is not available. Sometime in the mid-1900s BLM Road 7337-0-00's road surface was bladed and berms added on the roadsides, using a road-grader and or a bull dozer. BLM Road 7337-0-00's bladed road and old berms can clearly be seen along the road as evident in BLM photographs 7337-0-00 - A through F. Although vegetation now covers much of the original berms, rows of rock material pushed aside by heavy equipment are apparent outside of the new maintenance performed on BLM Road 7337-0-00 in 2006. BLM's photographs clearly show sections of BLM Road 7337-0-00, throughout the entire 5.7 mile length, where the road has been bladed and contains remnants of berms on both sides of the road. Because wildfire suppression made it necessary to utilize BLM Road 7337-0-00 as a fire access route, maintenance was applied to the road, creating roadside soil berms and a bladed roadbed along most of its length that

serves as the boundary between unit OR-036-019 and OR-036-020. The roadbed of BLM Road 7337-0-00 consists of natural materials and is one of the BLM roads in the Vale District Transportation Plan.

XII. IMPROVEMENTS

Yes _____ No X

By Hand Tools _____ By Machine _____

Examples: Culverts _____ Stream Crossings _____ Bridges _____
 Drainage _____ Barriers _____ Other _____

Describe:

XIII. MAINTENANCE:

A. Is their Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery? Yes X No _____

If yes: Hand Tools (Y/N) _____ Machine (Y/N) Y

Explain: During 2006, BLM responded to a wildfire within the Saddle Butte Allotment by utilizing Road 7337-0-00 and other routes. To facilitate the suppression of this wildfire it was necessary to improve access for heavy equipment through Road 7337-0-00. Various segments of the roadbed of BLM Road 7337-0-00 were bladed with a road-grader where required as evident in the series of photographs BLM recorded in 2008 (BLM photos, 7337-0-00 - A through F).

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: BLM Road 7337-0-00 would be approved by management to be maintained as necessary because the road is a primary access/egress road from and to State Highway 78 in conjunction with public lands throughout the Saddle Butte Allotment, Saddle Butte WSA, and portions of the Palomino Playa Research Natural Area and the Saddle Butte Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

XIV. 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:

BLM Road 7337-0-00 has annual seasonal use as evidence by the lack of vegetation in all road segments and by well-used bare ground where vehicle tires tracks can be observed. The road is well traveled, wide along most of its length, and is clearly defined on the landscape. The road is also used on a seasonal basis by hunters and recreation enthusiasts.

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: BLM has determined that Road 7337-0-00 meets the definition of a road as stated in sections IV, VI-A, and VII above. BLM Road 7337-0-00 was constructed by mechanical equipment, has been maintained since being constructed, would be approved to be maintained by management as needed if the road base became impassable, and has regular and continuous seasonal use.

Evaluator(s):

Jack Wenderoth Date 4-5-11
Jack Wenderoth, Planning Contractor, Vale District

Aimee Huff Date 4/5/2011
Aimee Huff, Range Management Specialist, Vale district

Eiah Ray Date 4-5-11
Eiah Ray, GIS Specialist, Contractor

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

*** 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.

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.

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