

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Sheep Mountain Contiguous OR-035-018, 13 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–Sheep Mountain Contiguous OR-035-018 Map 1](#)

[Page 11: OR-035-018 Sheep Mountain Contiguous BLM Photos](#)

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: 2011 **Unit Number/Name:** OR-035-018 – Sheep Mountain 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?

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

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)

BLM Sheep Mountain OR-6-3

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.

Unit#/ Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
Sheep Mountain OR-6-3 Inventory Area	8,200	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sheep Mtn. OR-6-3 final acreage	7,040	Y	Y	Y	Y
TOTAL	7,040				

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.*

FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: **OR-035-018 – Sheep Mountain 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 this inventory unit's associated Map 1 for its location. The Sheep Mountain Contiguous is a 961-acre unit includes all of the historic units of OR-6-3 (Sheep Mountain WSA) plus additional public lands contiguous with the existing WSA boundaries. The unit consists of six parcels, each of them contiguous with the WSA. For this inventory maintenance, the parcels are referenced as the north parcel (197 acres), the east parcel area (39 acres, 4 acres, 32 acres, and 7 acres), and the south parcel (682 acres). The boundaries with the WSA are contiguous predominately due to a WSA's prior boundary being a legal description that most closely followed topography. For this wilderness characteristic inventory maintenance, because each parcel is contiguous to the WSA, each parcel of this inventory unit -- regardless of its size meets size criteria.

Boundaries of the unit's parcels include a power transmission line right-of-way (ROW) of the north, east and south parcels, and BLM road #7644-0-00 on the southwest of the southern parcel. Boundary roads of the unit receive mechanical maintenance as needed to keep them passable on a relatively regular and continuous basis.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes **X** No _____

Description: The inventory unit's north and east parcels are primarily eastward-facing and dominated by very steep gradient slopes, cut by multiple drainages flowing toward the unit's east ROW boundary after originating from the historic WSA boundary description. The unit's south parcel is also dominated by very steep gradients and very steep sloping terrain that radiates from the BLM ridgeline boundary road to the west and the ROW to the south and drops continually and significantly to the east until meeting the ROW boundary. All of the contiguous parcels to the WSA are dominated by steep easterly sloping terrain with many draws and drainages extending to their boundary features. Together, the 6 parcel areas of the unit range in elevation from 2,554 to 3,598 feet. The dominate vegetation in each parcel of the unit is sagebrush and both native and nonnative grasses.

See this unit's associated Map 1, for locations of human imprints associated with the 6 parcels of this inventory unit which include approximately 1.14 miles of rangeland fencing located within the southernmost unit.

Although the acreage of the 6 parcel areas as a whole, appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, the imprint of humans outside and very close to the unit is substantially noticeable to the average visitor. The imprints from humans that were identified in the 1980 Final review that dropped these parcels from the original inventory acreage still exist and have in fact increased in their direct effect on the naturalness of the unit. The east and southern ROW boundary features of the unit have been upgraded from the initial inventory of wooden lattice 69kv transmission lines to the current larger-structured towers of a 230kv transmission line. The southern ROW boundary is grey lattice structures while the eastern boundary is brown/rust colored single pole structures. Both structures range in height from 85' to 120' and are immediately adjacent to unit boundaries. In addition, the Oxbow-Brownlee road, the oxbow village, campgrounds, Brownlee Dam, Oxbow Reservoir, power transmission substations, transmission line service roads constructed within the ROW (12 miles), and all of their ancillary structures in both Oregon and Idaho, can all or in part, be easily visible from the north, east and southern contiguous parcels. The steepness of the terrain that provides an elevated view, the size of the developments, as well as the close proximity that ranges from ¼ to ½ mile, makes these human impacts visually unavoidable, substantial and directly impact the sense of naturalness of the contiguous parcels of the unit.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: The 6 contiguous sectors identified in the inventory unit do not, by themselves, provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude. In addition, although each of these areas of the unit are contiguous to the Sheep Mountain WSA (which does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude), they do not individually or collectively provide for an extension of the outstanding solitude of the WSA, nor does the WSA provide an extension to the wilderness character of the parcels. This is somewhat qualified by the unit's transmission line ROW boundary along its east and southern sides, where the overbearing visual presence of the large power line in conjunction with human activities just outside of the unit diminishes the solitude experience as a visitor approaches the boundary within an associated parcel of this unit. Additionally, the extreme narrowness (from 100 yards to ½ mile) of the parcels, the vertical aspect of the units as well as the human imprints caused by the extensive developments of private land as part of the boundary relative to the configuration of the parcel, also precludes the potential for outstanding solitude. Uses outside the unit but directly associated with its eastern northern boundaries come from the concentrated and highly visited recreational activities of the Oxbow and Brownlee Reservoirs. These activities which include general high use vehicle traffic, motorized watercraft, vehicle-based camping including generators, the developed McCormick and Old Carters Landing campgrounds and

Brownlee Village directly affects the solitude of the unit where the sights and sounds of man existing outside the area 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: There are opportunities for hiking, camping, hunting, sightseeing, and photography. Individually or in combination, these opportunities are not outstanding within the parcels of the unit itself. There are no unique sights or attractions within the 3 parcels of the unit to draw visitors to them specifically for the purpose of recreation. The described opportunities for the 6 parcels are not enhanced or increased due to its association with the contiguous WSA, nor do the parcels enhance the opportunities associated with the WSA. The extreme narrowness and size of the parcels do not provide for enhanced opportunities of the previously described recreational activities. In summary, the primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities are not of such quality, uniqueness or rarity to consider them outstanding – individually or in combination, nor do they enhance these opportunities within the WSA.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description:

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

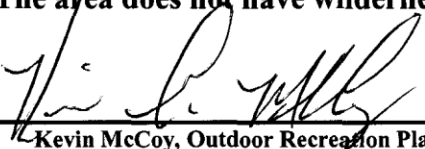
Unit Name and Number: OR-035-018 -- Sheep Mountain Contiguous

Summary Results of Analysis:

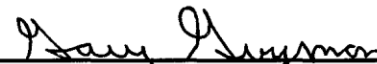
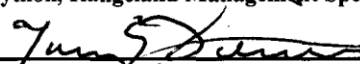



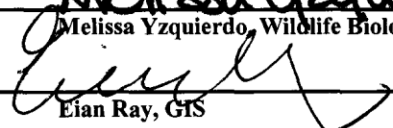
- 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No NA
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No NA

Conclusion -- check one:


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

Prepared by:  10-3-11
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>10/15/2011</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

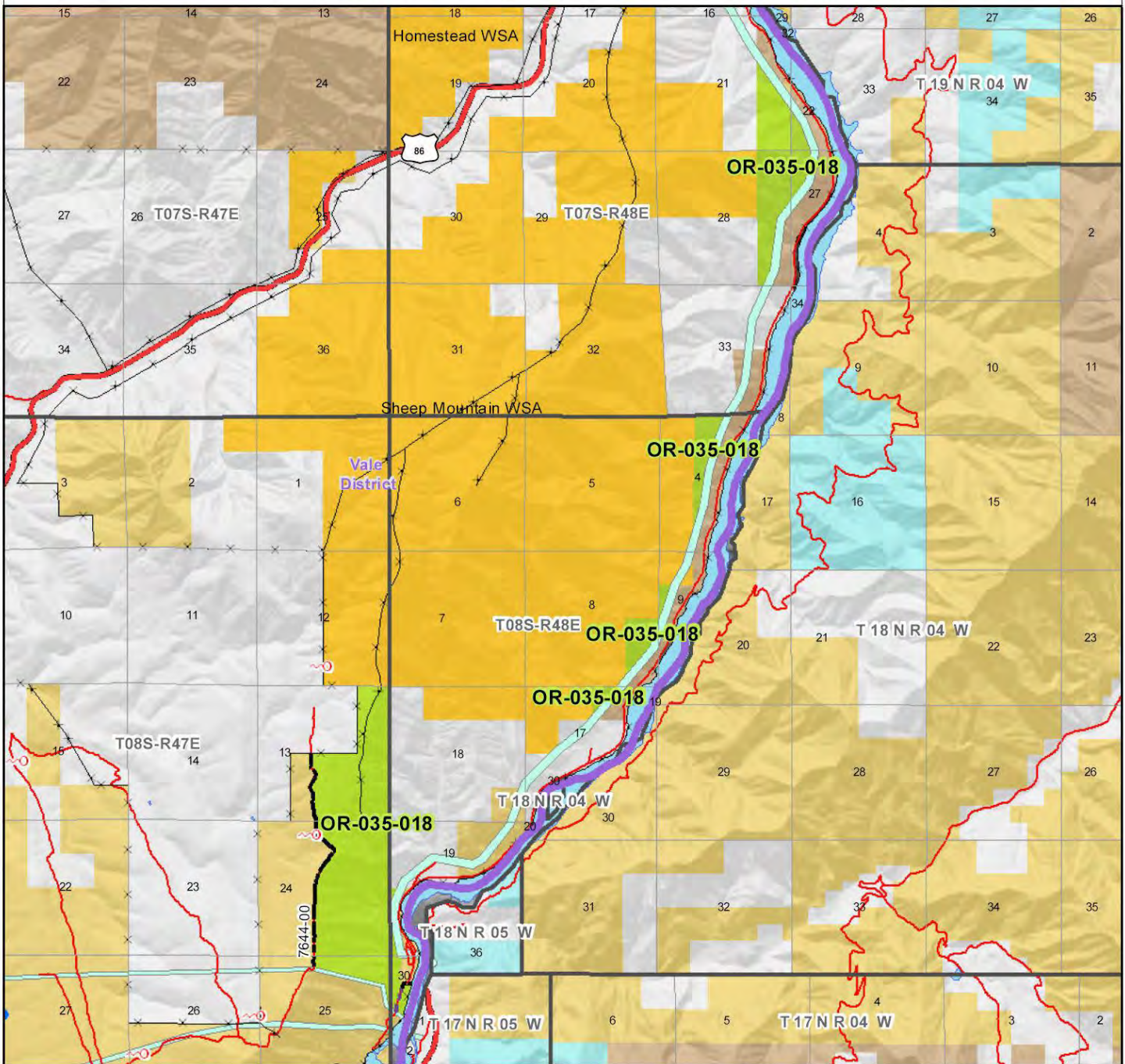
Approved by:

 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.

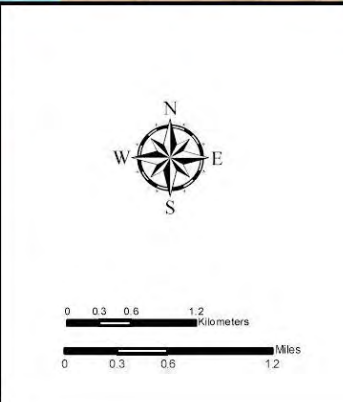
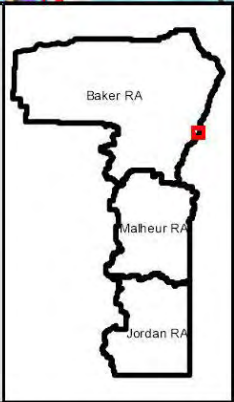
Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Sheep Mountain Contiguous - OR-035-018 - 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 	<p>Route Types - BLM Determination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boundary Road Motorized 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 District Boundary
---	--



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

VALE DISTRICT
September 28, 2011

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--

