

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Spring Mountain OR-034-096, 11 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-034-096 — Spring Mountain

**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 X 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) 1978-1980 – BLM Wilderness Inventory Unit BLM 3-70A Spring Mountain of OR-03-05-18 (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

- (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)
- () 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 3-70A Spring Mountain of OR-03-05-18

C.) Map Name(s)/Number(s)

- (X) Final Decision – Initial Wilderness Inventory Map, August 1979, Oregon
- () Proposed Decision -- Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas Map, October 1979, Oregon
- (X) Intensive Wilderness Inventory Map, March 1980, Oregon
- (X) 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/Malheur Resource Area

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
3-70A Spring Mountain of OR-03-05-18	23,620	N	N	N	N
TOTAL	23,620				

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FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-034-096 — Spring Mountain

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 has 18,311 acres of public lands. It is smaller than what was identified by BLM in the late 1970's (23,620 acres). This is because the entire length of a vehicle route which now serves as the unit's east boundary was mechanically maintained (within the past 10 years) to provide for relatively regular and continuous use; thus, this route is now a road. In the late 1970's a portion of the same route was identified as a cherry-stem road; the remainder of it as a motorized primitive trail (MPT). The unit's boundaries consist of numerous private land parcels, County roads 3802 and 3623, and two other roads traversing public lands. A 40 acre mineral materials site with its 0.3 mile cherry-stem road, 2 other cherry stem roads (1.7 miles), and 7 private land inholdings totaling 4,280 acres are also features of the unit's boundary. Rangeland fence encompasses each of the 4 largest private inholdings. The unit's boundary roads receive mechanical maintenance as needed to ensure their ability to provide for relatively regular and seasonally continuous use.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No N/A

Description: Elevations range from 4,565 to 5,987 feet within the unit. The unit contains the 5,987-foot tabletop mountain known as Spring Mountain. Within the unit from the many natural springs found on and around the tabletop, are Spring Branch, Old Maids, Thomas and Mahogany creeks, and Hog Gulch. The unit's east boundary road is on Thomas Creek Ridge, which rises to 5,070 feet at the very southeast corner of the unit. Vegetation is dominated by sagebrush and native and nonnative range grasses. BLM's 1,002 acre Spring Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) / Research Natural Area (RNA) is within the unit. The ACEC/RNA's relevant and important values are the mountain big sagebrush/Idaho fescue, low sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass, and riparian community dominated by the peachleaf willow and coyote willow with quaking aspen/whortleleaf snowberry vegetation cells identified by the Oregon Natural Heritage Program.

Refer to the unit's associated Map 1 and Map 2 for human imprints. There is 10.9 miles of rangeland fence, 11.2 miles of 10 motorized primitive trails (MPTs), 19 developed springs, 2 pipelines totaling 2.7 miles and an associated trough, and a diversion ditch along Spring Branch Creek in the southern portion that follows gradual slopes of a shallow drainage. Rangeland fence encompasses each of the 4 largest private inholdings. To the average visitor of the unit, there remains some visual contrast of the plowed furrows of six 2007 disc-drilled seeding plots of non-native grasses in the unit's northeast area (approximately 1,000 acres, total). There remains no visual evidence of other vegetation treatments which have occurred within various locations of the unit, including broadcast seeding of native seed mixes (2007) and plowed drill-disc seedings (1964 – 1971, in southwest sector of the unit).

Overall, given the small size of the most recent land treatments and both the wide distribution and small extent of the very few developments within the unit, the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans being substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor. The late 1970's BLM finding was the unit did not appear natural. This can be attributed to additional cumulative adverse visual effects of certain disc-seedings still visually apparent at the time and the number of additional developments within the eastern approximate quarter of the historic unit – which now is an area not included in the current OR-034-096 unit.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes X No N/A

Description: The area is approximately 5 by 7 miles in configuration. The unit lacks adequate vegetative density or height to provide sufficient vegetative screening to have outstanding opportunities for solitude. In the unit's eastern sector, the overall area size of the 4,280 acres of 7 inholdings and their extended distribution relative to the outside boundaries of the unit results in several narrow necks of public land, each being a half mile or less within the unit. The result is this sector of the unit is substantially broken up by the inholdings, particularly where the largest four are located and affecting over half of the unit. This eastern sector does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

The western sector of the unit is generally described as those public lands located west of the unit's larger inholdings of its eastern sector, including west of Spring Branch Creek; itself, west of the headwaters of Thomas Creek; and Spring Mountain and west of it and of the Old Maid Spring area to the unit's west boundary. This sector (about 5 miles long and 2.5 to 3.25 miles wide) has extensive moderate to steep multi-directional topography along with a sufficient size (greater than 5,000 acres) and configuration to provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Description: Restriction to the narrow corridors associated with the numerous inholdings does not provide an outstanding opportunity for an unconfined type of recreation. Photography, sightseeing hiking, and equestrian activities occur, but individually and collectively there are no unique, unusual or special features to draw visitors to the unit. Hunting of common game species (primarily chukar, elk, and deer) is considered good, but not outstanding in quality. Backpacking opportunities, while available, are hampered by needing to restrict travel to narrow corridors between the various larger inholdings and between three of them and the unit's east boundary. Due to the lack of unique, unusual or interesting features, the poor to moderate topographic screening, and the substantially dissected nature of the unit with multiple narrow corridors of travel, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

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

Description: The unit displays excellent examples of mountain-shrub communities with aspen pockets and high elevation wetland meadow basins. BLM's 1,002 acre Spring Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) / Research Natural Area (RNA) is within the unit. The ACEC/RNA's relevant and important values are the mountain big sagebrush/Idaho fescue, low sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass, and riparian community dominated by the peachleaf willow and coyote willow with quaking aspen/whortleleaf snowberry vegetation cells identified by the Oregon Natural Heritage Program.

Eleven leks of sage grouse, a BLM special status animal species, are documented within the unit. A site of barren milkvetch, a BLM special status plant species, is located in the unit.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-034-096 — Spring Mountain

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:

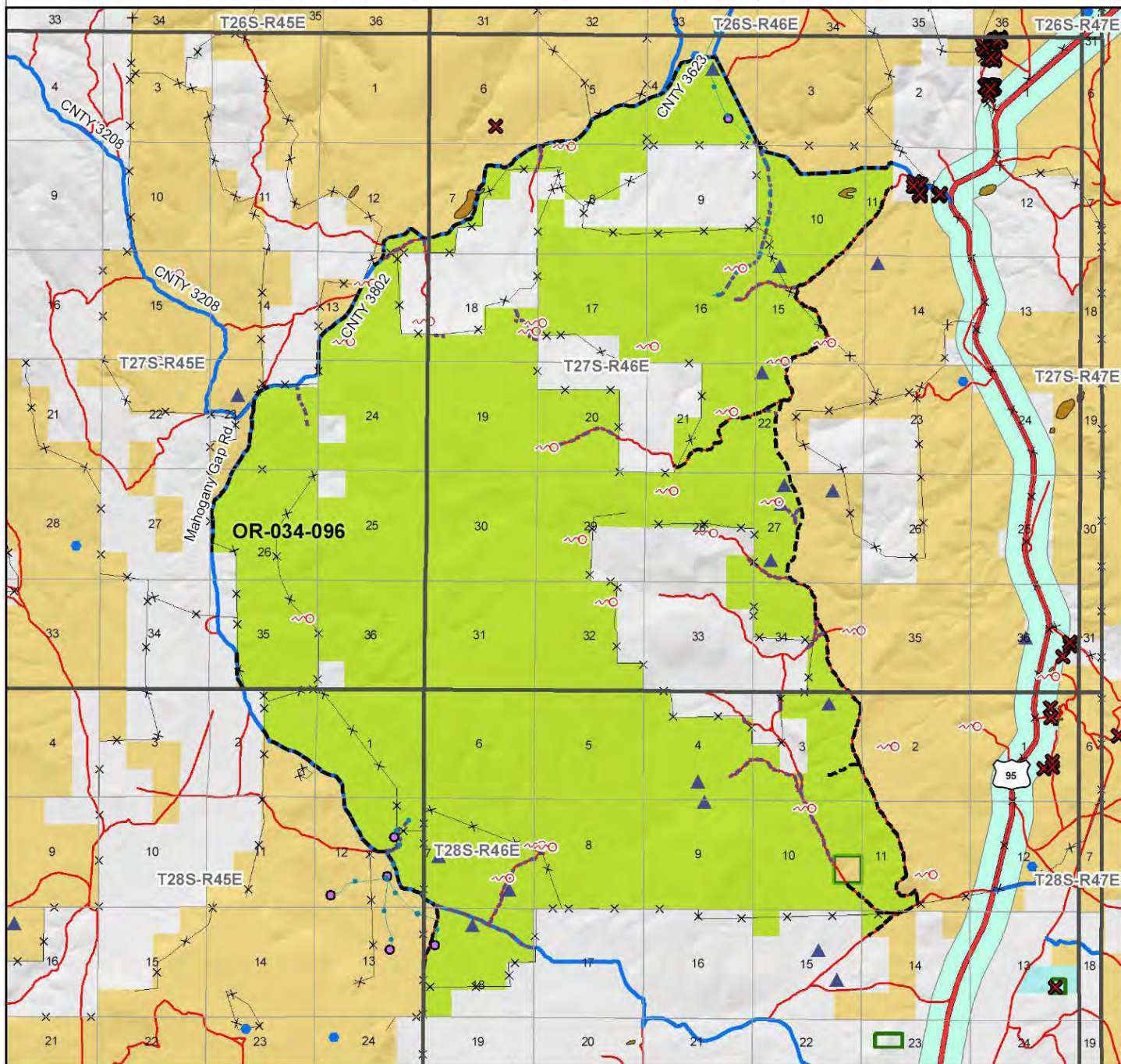
<u>Mitch Thomas</u>	<u>2/4/10</u>
Mitch Thomas, Rangeland Management Specialist	Date
<u>Gillian Wigglesworth</u>	<u>2/5/10</u>
Gillian Wigglesworth, Botanist	Date
<u>Shahey Rockefeller</u>	<u>3/10/10</u>
Shahey Rockefeller, Soil Scientist	Date
<u>Dave Draheim</u>	<u>2/10/10</u>
Dave Draheim, Outdoor Recreation Planner	Date
<u>Michelle Caviness</u>	<u>3/10/10</u>
Michelle Caviness, Wildlife Biologist	Date
<u>Eian Ray</u>	<u>02/09/10</u>
Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, contractor	Date
<u>Brent Grasty</u>	<u>2/9/10</u>
Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator	Date

Approved by: Pat Ryan 12/13/10
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.

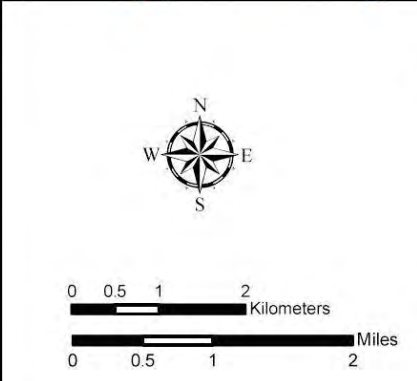
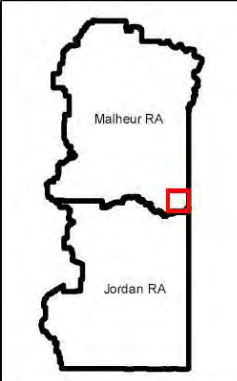
Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Spring Mountain - OR-034-096 - Map 1 of 2



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 Land Ownership Bureau of Land Management State Private Other Federal Land
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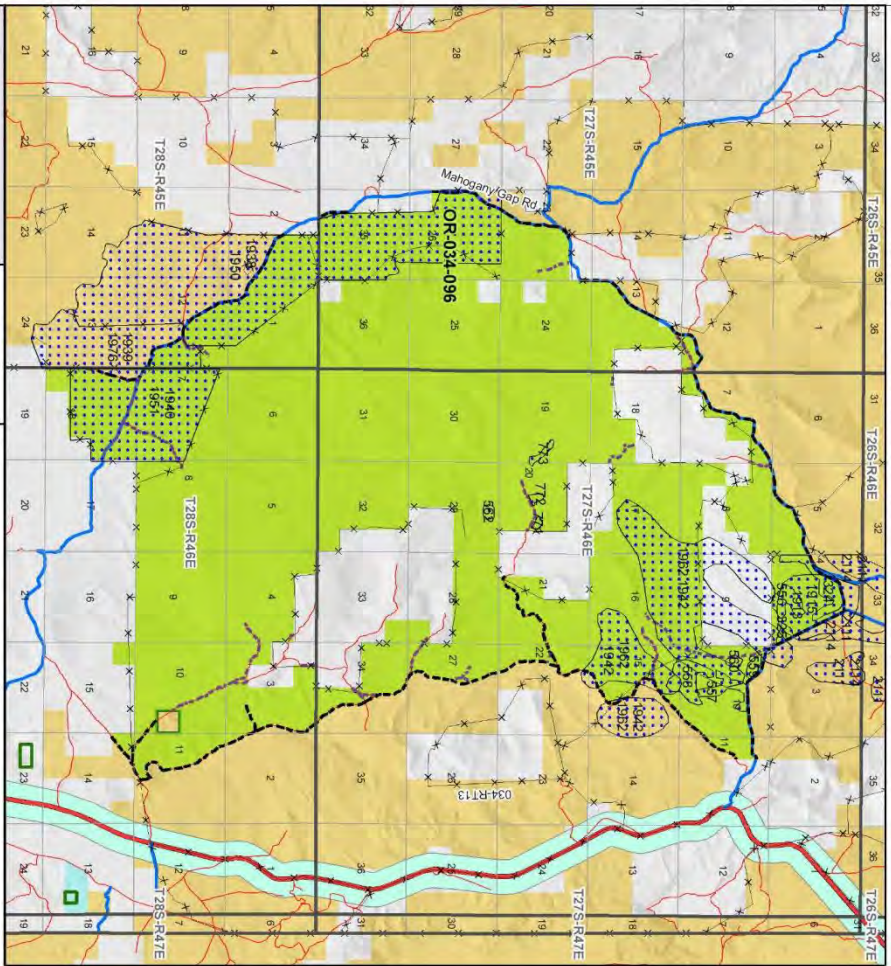
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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VALE DISTRICT
 July 14, 2009

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--FINAL--

Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments
Spring Mountain - OR-034-096 - Map 2 of 2



Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments
Spring Mountain - OR-034-096 - Map 2 of 2

OBJECTID*	NAME	TREATMENT TYPE	SEED GROUP	DATE
324	OLD MAID ESR	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses	2007/1130
325	OLD MAID ESR	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses	2007/1130
556	OLD MAID ESR	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses	2007/1130
557	OLD MAID ESR	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses	2007/1130
558	OLD MAID ESR	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses	2007/1130
559	OLD MAID ESR	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses	2007/1130
560	OLD MAID ESR	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses	2007/1130
562	OLD MAID ESR	Broadcast Seeding w/ Native Grasses	Native Grasses	2007/1031
771	OLD MAID ESR	Broadcast Seeding w/ Native Grasses	Native Grasses	2007/1031
772	OLD MAID ESR	Broadcast Seeding w/ Native Grasses	Native Grasses	2007/1031
773	OLD MAID ESR	Broadcast Seeding w/ Native Grasses	Native Grasses	2007/1031
1913	SPRING BASIN SEEDING	Drill Seeding	Unknown	1971
1915	SPRING BASIN SEEDING	Drill Seeding	Unknown	1971
1938	OLD MAID SEEDING	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable	1964
1939	FALLER SEEDING	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable	1971
1940	STICKY JOE SEEDING	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable	1964
1942	SPRING MOUNTAIN SEEDING	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable	1971
1950	OLD MAID SEEDING	Drill Seeding	Unknown	1964
1951	STICKY JOE SEEDING	Drill Seeding	Unknown	1964
1952	SPRING MOUNTAIN SEEDING	Drill Seeding	Unknown	1971
1976	FALLER SEEDING	Drill Seeding	Unknown	1971
2111	SPRING BASIN SEEDING	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable	1970
2114	SPRING BASIN SEEDING	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses	1970

Note: The Land Treatments represented by navy blue dots on the map to the left are labeled with the treatments ObjectIDs listed in the first field of the Land Treatments table shown above. Multiple types of treatments may be applied to the same area. For example, one treatment area may have been plowed and drill seeded - a record is shown in the table for each type of treatment.

Legend

- Land Treatment
- Private Land
- Public Land
- Other Federal Land
- Johnson RA
- Malheur RA

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