

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Stemler Ridge OR-034-010, 21 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 11: Form 2 – Summary of Findings and Conclusion](#)

[Page 12: Wilderness Characteristics Overview–Stemler Ridge OR-034-010 Map 1 of 2](#)

[Page 13: Wilderness Characteristics-Land Treatments-Stemler Ridge OR-034-010 Map 2 of 2](#)

[Page 14: Wilderness Characteristics–BLM Photo Points–Stemler Ridge Map & Log](#)

[Page 15: OR-034-010 Stemler Ridge BLM Photos](#)

[Page 18: H-6300-1-Wilderness Inventory Maintenance in BLM Oregon/Washington](#)
[Appendix C – Road* Analysis: 034-RT66](#)

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: 2010 Unit Number/Name: OR-034-010 — Stemler Ridge

**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) 1978-1979 – BLM Wilderness Inventory Unit 3-7 of OR-03-02-06 Stemler Ridge (BLM documents in case file)
- (X) April 1979 – *Wilderness -- Proposed Initial Inventory – Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not have Wilderness Characteristics, Oregon and Washington*
- (X) August 2007 – Vale District wilderness characteristics inventory maintenance for the *North Fork Malheur Geographic Management Area – Range Health Project*. Unit 3-4010, Stemler Ridge (BLM documents in case files)

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)
- () 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)
- (X) August 2007 - BLM Vale District North Fork Malheur Geographic Management Area -- Wilderness Characteristic Inventory Maintenance.
- (X) August 2007 -- North Fork Malheur Geographic Management Area, BLM Vale District -- Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Maintenance; Stemler Ridge, 3-4010

B.) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s)

BLM 3-7 of OR-03-02-06 Stemler Ridge (1979); 3-4010 Stemler Ridge (2007)

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
- **()** 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)
- **(X)** June 2007 -- North Fork Malheur Geographic Management Area, BLM Vale District -- Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Maintenance; Stemler Ridge, 3-4010

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
8/1979 finding: 3-7 of OR-03-02-06 Stemler Ridge	5,400	*	N	N	*
8/1/2007 finding: 3-4010, Stemler Ridge	5,903	N	N	N	N
TOTAL	(see above)				

* -- 1979 finding for natural condition is not specifically clarified; supplemental values were not stated in the inventory of this unit.

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-034-010 — Stemler Ridge**

NOTE: In February, 2004, the Vale District received from Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) its evaluation of wilderness characteristics for what ONDA names its 67,783 acre “Lake Ridge proposed WSA”. 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. OR-034-010 is only a portion of ONDA’s much larger proposed WSA. ONDA’s proposal also includes all of three other current BLM wilderness characteristics (WC) units which meet size criteria (OR-034-003, and OR-034-011) and about two-thirds of BLM’s current OR-034-012 unit which meets size criteria, and, lastly, a tract of public land which does not meet size criteria (what was BLM’s 2007 WC unit 3-4002 Calf Creek).

Relative to BLM unit OR-034-010, there is one primary difference between BLM and ONDA regarding inventory unit boundary features (refer to the BLM Photo Points Map/Log for OR-034-010). Unlike ONDA’s WSA proposal, BLM concludes that the BLM unit’s east boundary is BLM 034-RT66 road (and the private land parcel associated with sections 15 and 16). In this area, ONDA identifies this route as its WF39 vehicular “way” (i.e., what BLM describes as a motorized primitive trail [MPT] with this current wilderness characteristics inventory maintenance). ONDA describes its WF39 as “not improved, access to private land, rutted, overgrown”. For further BLM information regarding BLM 034-RT 66, refer to this BLM inventory unit’s associated BLM Road Analysis form for this route and its associated BLM Photo Point Map/Photo Log and affiliated BLM photos, which are support documents of this Form 2 for this OR-034-010 inventory unit. Additionally, due to the BLM’s 034-RT66 being a road, BLM – unlike ONDA -- does not identify the BLM 7354-00 to be a cherry-road road (but rather a connective boundary feature with other roads as associated with two other adjacent BLM inventory units to this OR-034-010 inventory unit (see current BLM wilderness characteristics documentation for BLM inventory units OR-034-011 and OR-034-012).

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 5,813 acres of public land. It has nearly the same bounds as both the BLM 1979 inventory unit 3-7 Stemler Ridge and the 2007 BLM inventory unit 3-4010 Stemler Ridge. Unlike those two inventories, this current wilderness characteristics inventory maintenance identifies three minor edits of boundary features: (a) the right-of-way along US Highway 20 is recognized as a boundary feature; (b) the current unit’s north boundary

now accurately depicts the location of a certain segment of the existing BLM 7354-00 road; and (c) the route to the Horseshoe Bend hot springs area from US Highway 20 is a cherry-stem road., not a MPT.

Boundary features of OR-034-010 are BLM road 7354-00 on its east and north sides, private land and BLM road 034-RT66 on its east side, a right-of-way along US Highway 20 on its south side, and BLM road 7354-00 on its west side. A 0.5 mile cherry-stem road to the hot springs from US Highway 20 is occasionally mechanically maintained to provide relatively regular and continuous vehicle travel. Boundary roads are mechanically maintained as needed to provide for relatively regular and continuous use.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No N/A

Description: The inventory unit is somewhat rectangular shaped with its length being a northwest-southeast orientation. The roughly rectangular shape is disrupted by the abutting private land parcels bordering its northeastern corner. The unit is no greater than 2.25 miles wide by about 4 miles long with Stemler Ridge extending most of its length but is variably oriented relative to the unit's east and west boundary features. The ridge's west-facing slopes are steeper than its mostly moderate gradient eastern slopes, with the ridgeline , itself, as close as a half mile in the unit's northwest sector, then oriented more central to the unit's width the further southeast the ridgeline extends through the unit. Elevations range from about 2,910 to 5,040 feet, with rim rock stretching along some portions of Stemler Ridge, predominately on its central west side. Vegetation is primarily rangeland native and non-native grasses and scattered juniper trees in most of the area. A recent wildfire through the unit has resulted in a substantial absence of sagebrush of any size and extensive burning of the juniper.

Refer to this inventory unit's associated Map 1 and Map 2 for human imprints. The unit has 3.7 miles of 5 motorized primitive trails, one known developed spring, and 5 earthen reservoirs. Within the unit is 7.6 miles of rangeland fence, including one which runs up the middle of the unit's length and another which bisects the northern portion of the inventory unit. In the southwestern-most corner of the unit motor vehicle supported camping and day use activities occur, often associated with a hot spring source on the Malheur River. There is a public-established pool on the bank of the river to soak in the spring's hot water. In BLM's Vale District 2002 Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan, the bend of the river at this location is identified for potential development of a day use and overnight camping recreation site. To the average visitor, the 6 separate planted shrub sites along the unit's boundary roads do not cause an apparent visual contrast. In combination, the type, distribution and extent of the human imprints relative to the size of unit results in the unit appearing to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans being substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor. This is a differing determination than BLM's 2007 wilderness characteristics (WC) inventory maintenance. This current inventory maintenance

acknowledges that the locations of the 5 reservoirs (not 6, as stated in BLM's 2007 inventory) are very close to if not abutting boundary roads of the unit, thus not being a substantial contributing factor affecting the otherwise natural appearing condition of the vast majority of the unit. This circumstance, when combined with the presence of the 7.6 miles of fence (not 10.29 miles as stated in 2007 -- which apparently also included the fence on the boundary of the private land of section 16, but the present (2008-2010) inventory maintenance does not document fences located on boundary lines between BLM and non-BLM lands as being within a WC unit -- results in BLM presently concluding that OR-034-010 appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans being substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.

In 2007, the inventory unit's wilderness characteristics Form 1 (Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record) indicates that the July 27, 1979 inventory of BLM inventory unit OR-03-02-06 concludes the unit is not in a natural condition. A current review of the 1979 inventory cannot conclude that the 1979 inventory determined that the unit was not in a natural condition. Rather, the 1979 record indicates that the unit did not possess wilderness characteristics for reasons related to two other wilderness characteristics criteria: outstanding opportunities for solitude and outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. It appears the 1979 record does not specifically state a finding regarding the natural condition of the unit. In 2007, BLM's WC inventory maintenance states (of its 3-4010 Stemler Ridge WC inventory unit), "resource and human imprint conditions have not substantially changed so that no change in the management is necessary. The decision that the wilderness characteristics did not exist in the unit remains valid". While this statement may represent the conclusion finding of the combined WC criteria for the inventory unit, it cannot be concluded whether or not the unit was in a natural condition based on information in the 1970's inventory. The 2007 WC inventory, when addressing 3-4010's status of natural conditions, states: "The following currently approved BLM-approved actions and other circumstances are present within the area:", then lists imprints known to exist at that time within the WC unit. With the excepted differences of the total miles of fences and 5 rather than 6 earthen reservoirs present, the current inventory concurs with the findings of the 2007 inventory regarding the type and extent of human developments within OR-034-010. However, for reasons explained in this and the preceding paragraph, these differences result in this OR-034-010 unit having a different finding regarding natural condition than does BLM's 2007 finding.

ONDA states that within is substantially larger proposed Lake Ridge WSA the earthen reservoirs present "are for the most part overgrown and inconspicuous" and that "the vegetative cover and diverse terrain provides sufficient screening making these developments visible for only a short distance ". ONDA states that after 20 years since BLM's last (meaning late 1970's)WC inventory "most of the ways in this unit are now overgrown and barely noticeable"..."(M)any of the ways could not be found at all.". For each of these imprints, ONDA references certain photos it has taken. ONDA does not indicate a number or extent of these types of reservoirs, and does not provide information of certain other types of developments (e.g., fences and developed springs) while concluding, "(P)anoramas of the area show Lake Ridge proposed WSA to be primarily

affected by the forces of nature without obvious intrusive works of man” and references certain photos taken of the area. BLM draws no conclusions about the natural condition of ONDA’s proposed Lake Ridge WSA. However, BLM has findings of certain current BLM WC inventory units which, in sum, include most of the public lands within ONDA’s proposed Lake Ridge WSA, as well as some additional BLM-determined contiguous public lands to -- but are not within -- ONDA’s proposed WSA.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: There is insufficient height and/or density of vegetation to provide sufficient screening for outstanding opportunities for solitude. Presently, this is further hampered by the extent of the inventory unit which was recently affected by a large wildfire. The orientation and elevation differential of Stemler Ridge within the unit does provide some settings for experiencing a sense of being isolated, but, overall, the inventory unit’s relatively narrow width combined with the proximity of the ridge and its side slopes to extended portions of the unit’s boundary roads do not provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Regarding its proposed Lake Ridge WSA, ONDA states the “sheer size (67,783 acres) of this area ensures outstanding opportunities for solitude”. Additionally, ONDA, with referenced photos, states the ‘terrain is diverse and broken offering topographic screening” and that “sage and juniper further enhance opportunities for solitude by providing excellent vegetative screening”. Of ONDA’s proposed Lake Ridge WSA, BLM draws no conclusions about outstanding opportunities for solitude. For current BLM WC units which affect portions of ONDA’s proposed WSA, including this OR-034-010 unit, BLM does make determinations regarding outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: The area provides opportunities for hiking, hunting of common game species (primarily deer, chukar and elk), wildlife viewing, horseback riding, photography, general sightseeing, and backpacking with associated camping. The hot spring provides soaking for day and overnight camping visitors who access the area by the existing cherry-stem road which branches indirectly from US Highway 20. The inventory unit is of the northern extent of a substantially larger area of known bighorn sheep habitat. However, this highly prized big game species is not known to presently occupy the area. Although the varied terrain provided by Stemler Ridge invites various activities, the area is absent of unique or special attractions or challenging features that would specifically

lure the recreating public to this area. Thus, the activities -- alone or in combinations -- do not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

ONDA states that its substantially larger Lake Ridge proposed WSA offers outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. It states the combination of three BLM late 1970's inventory units (3-, 3-7, and 3-20) and certain other BLM unnamed units of that time "further enhance opportunities for primitive recreation by offering steep buttes, rim rock, and spectacular views, and abundant water", and references several photos. ONDA states BLM's 1979 finding that the agency's 3-7 Stemler Ridge unit "did not by itself offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation by virtue of its shape and size", but that its (i.e., ONDA's) inventory "documents that unit 3-7 is not separate from unit 3-6 and should therefore be considered only a small portion of a larger roadless area". ONDA states that BLM's November, 1980 wilderness inventory found that unit 3-6 (adjacent, in part, to 3-7/OR-034-010) "has outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation including camping, hiking, backpacking, hunting, photography, and sightseeing". Lastly, ONDA states that its Lake Ridge proposed WSA has "a variety of habitats and vegetation including willow and streamside riparian, juniper, aspen, and mountain mahogany groves, sage, and native grasses. Wildlife is prolific in the area. These characteristics offer outstanding opportunities for wildlife study, botany studies, bird watching, and hunting". Of ONDA's proposed Lake Ridge WSA, BLM draws no conclusions about ONDA's findings of outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: Presently, BLM has no specific documentation of supplemental values within the unit.

ONDA states that its proposed Lake Ridge WSA "provides habitat for Golden Eagle and Sage Grouse. It may also provide habitat for Mojave Black-Collared Lizard, Desert Horned Lizard, Ferruginous Hawk, Pygmy Rabbit, and White-tailed Antelope Squirrel," which ONDA's February 2004 submission to the Vale District declares are listed as "sensitive species" by the State of Oregon. As of 2009, the Mohave Black-collard Lizard, Desert Horned Lizard, Ground Snake and the White-tailed Antelope Squirrel were not considered sensitive by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, BLM, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. BLM acknowledges that habitat requirements may exist for Golden Eagle, Sage Grouse Mojave Black-Collared Lizard, Desert Horned Lizard, Ferruginous Hawk, Pygmy Rabbit, and White-tailed Antelope Squirrel; however, neither ONDA nor any other entity has provided BLM with official documentation confirming the presence of these species within this inventory unit.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-034-010 — Stemler Ridge

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: Robert Alward
Robert Alward, Wilderness Planner, contractor

Team Members:

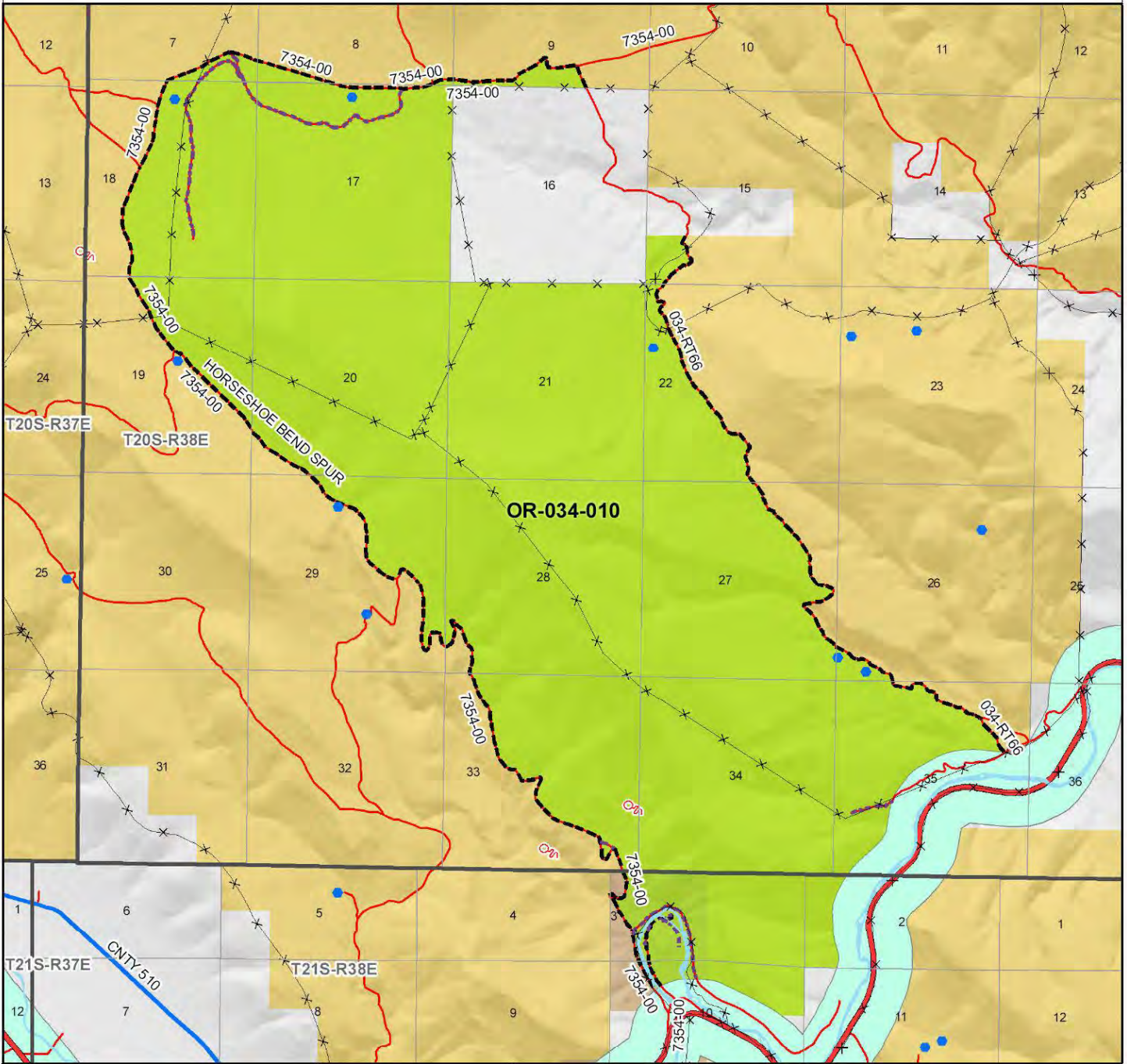
<u>WR</u>	<u>12/7/10</u>
Bill Lutjens, Rangeland Management Specialist	Date
<u>Dan Thomas</u>	<u>12/6/10</u>
Dan Thomas, Range Technician	Date
<u>Lynn Silva</u>	<u>11-16-2010</u>
Lynn Silva, Weed Coordinator	Date
<u>Gillian Wigglesworth</u>	<u>12/6/10</u>
Gillian Wigglesworth, Botanist	Date
<u>Michelle Caviness</u>	<u>12/10/10</u>
Michelle Caviness, Wildlife Biologist	Date
<u>Eian Ray</u>	<u>12-6-10</u>
Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, contractor	Date
<u>Brent Grasty</u>	<u>12/9/10</u>
Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator	Date

Approved by:

Pat Ryan 12/13/10
Pat Ryan, Malheur Resource Area Field Manager Date

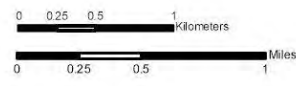
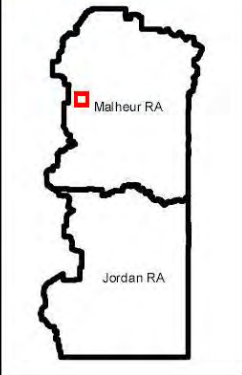
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.

Wilderness Characteristics - Overview Stemler Ridge - OR-034-010 - Map 1 of 2



Legend

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Developed Spring | Boundary Road |
| Wildlife Guzzler | Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT) |
| Earthen Reservoir | Discontinued Use |
| Pipeline | Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit |
| Trough | County |
| Fence | Major Highway |
| Storage Tank | BLM Numbered & Other Routes |
| Surface Mining Disturbance | Land Ownership |
| Sage Grouse Lek | Bureau of Land Management |
| Special Status Plant | State |
| BLM Wild Char Inventory Unit | Private |
| Wilderness Study Area | Other Federal Land |
| Mineral Material Site | |
| Road/Utility Right-of-Way | |
| Major Water Body | |



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

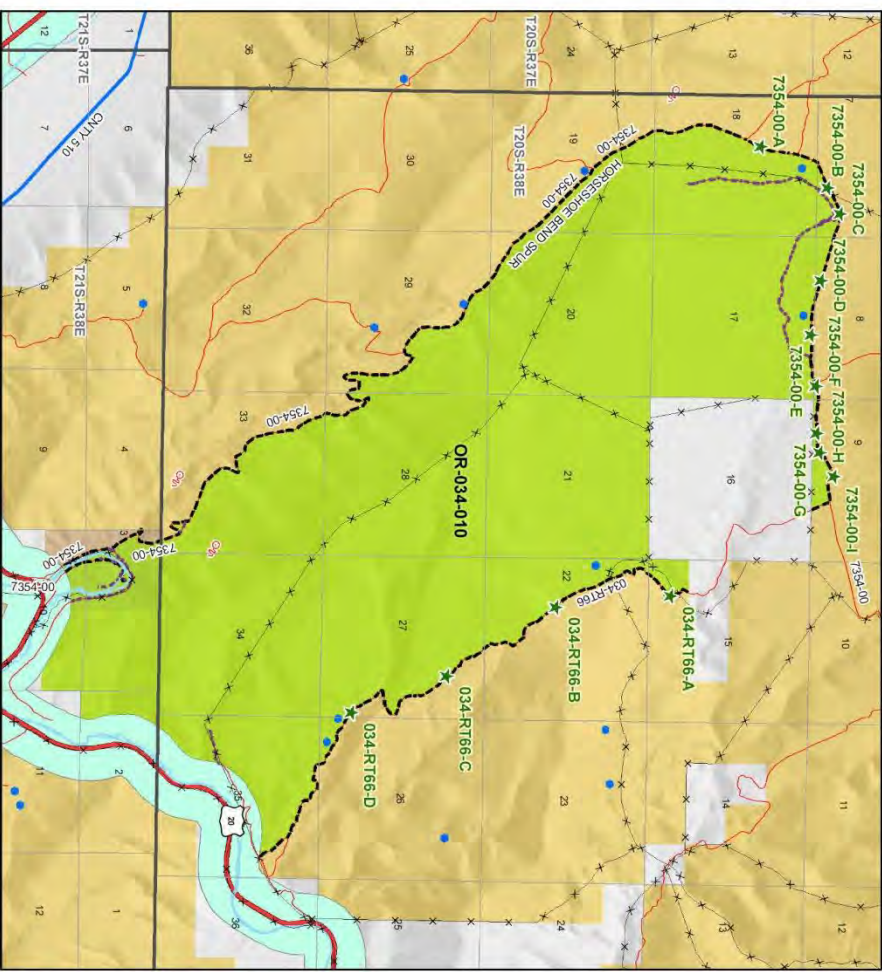


VALE DISTRICT
September 22, 2010

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--

**Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Points
Stemler Ridge - OR-034-010**



Legend

- Developed Spring
- Wildlife Guzzler
- Lateral Reservoir
- Pyroclastic
- Recent Mineral Site
- Road Utility ROW
- Wilderness Study Area
- BLM Wild Char Inventory Photo Points
- BLM Wild Char Inventory Point

Road Types - BLM Examination

- Boundary Road
- Monitored Primary Trail (MPT)
- Examined Use
- Access - Allowed Wild Char Trail
- Minor Highway
- BLM Network & Other Routes

Scale: 0 0.25 0.5 1 Kilometers / 0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

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

**VALE DISTRICT
September 22, 2010**

-FINAL--

**Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Log
Stemler Ridge - OR-034-010**

PHOTO LOCATION *	DIRECTION	PHOTO TYPE	PHOTO DATE	COMMENTS
7354-00-A	NE	Route	20090623	Ditch, Double berm.
7354-00-B	SW	Route	20090623	Ditch, Double berm.
7354-00-B	NE	Route	20090623	Ditch, rock berm on South side of route.
7354-00-B	SW	Route	20090623	Ditch, rocky berm on South side of route.
7354-00-C	E	Route	20090623	Small ditch, rocky berm. Road cut.
7354-00-C	W	Route	20090623	Ditch, culvert.
7354-00-D	E	Route	20090623	Ditch, rocky berm.
7354-00-E	W	Route	20090623	Ditch, rocky berm.
7354-00-E	E	Route	20090623	Ditch, rocky berm.
7354-00-F	W	Route	20090623	Culvert.
7354-00-F	E	Route	20090623	Large ditch.
7354-00-G	E	Route	20090623	Small ditch, large rocks moved off route.
7354-00-G	W	Route	20090623	Drainage.
7354-00-H	NE	Route	20090623	Drain, Rocky berm.
7354-00-H	SW	Route	20090623	Small ditch.
7354-00-I	S	Route	20090623	Side cut.
7354-00-I	N	Route	20090623	Side cut with culvert hidden in weeds.
034-RT66-A	SE	Route	20090624	Side cut.
034-RT66-A	NW	Route	20090624	Side cut.
034-RT66-B	S	Route	20090624	Rocky berm. Side cut.
034-RT66-B	N	Route	20090624	Rocky berm. Side cut.
034-RT66-C	SE	Route	20090624	Rocky berm. Side cut.
034-RT66-C	NW	Route	20090624	Rocky berm. Side cut.
034-RT66-D	SE	Route	20090624	Rocky berm. Side cut.
034-RT66-D	NW	Route	20090624	Rocky berm. Side cut.

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.



034-RT66-A-NW.JPG



034-RT66-B-S.JPG



034-RT66-D-NW.JPG



034-RT66-A-SE.JPG



034-RT66-C-NW.JPG



034-RT66-D-SE.JPG



034-RT66-B-N.JPG



034-RT66-C-SE.JPG



7354-00-A-NE.JPG



7354-00-A-SW.JPG



7354-00-C-E.JPG



7354-00-D-W.JPG

OR-034-010 Stemler Ridge Page 2



7354-00-B-NE.JPG



7354-00-C-W.JPG



7354-00-E-E.JPG



7354-00-B-SW.JPG



7354-00-D-E.JPG



7354-00-E-W.JPG



7354-00-F-E.JPG



7354-00-G-W.JPG



7354-00-I-N.JPG



7354-00-F-W.JPG



7354-00-H-NE.JPG



7354-00-I-S.JPG



7354-00-G-E.JPG



7354-00-H-SW.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: OR-034-010 – Stemler Ridge

NOTE: This unit is affected by ONDA’s Lake Ridge proposed WSA.

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

034-RT66

(This route is identified by ONDA on its Road Log as its “WF39”, described as a motorized vehicle “way” (i.e., what BLM terms a motorized primitive trail (MPT) for this wilderness characteristics inventory maintenance).

I. LOCATION: Refer to attached map (is part of the east boundary of this BLM inventory unit). **List photo point references (if applicable):** Refer to this BLM inventory unit’s associated hard copy of its BLM Photo Points map, and affiliated Photo Log and photos -- retained in this unit’s permanent hard copy file, and electronically retained under this unit’s inventory files Any applicable ONDA photos maps and affiliated Photo Log and other information are also retained in current Vale District BLM wilderness characteristics inventory files.

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: This is a route frequently accessed from the highway. The short segment of route traversing the private land located at and junctions with the highway (in section 36) then continues on as 034-RT66 on abutting public lands. There is a legal access instrument between the State of Oregon (Department of Fish and Wildlife -- ODFW) and the private land owner through the state’s Access and Habitat Improvement Program. The program is designed to provide for legal access to non-private lands for the hunting public and to support the agency’s management activities of game species. The route is also traveled for management of livestock and monitoring of associated activities. The route provides connective access to the private land (and which also serves as a feature of this unit’s boundary) and to BLM road 7354-00.

III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:**Is a road right-of-way associated with this route?**Yes _____ No X Unknown _____

Although no ROW associated with the route on public lands, there is a legal access instrument between the State of Oregon (Department of Fish and Wildlife - ODFW) and the adjacent private land owner through the state's Access and Habitat Improvement Program. The program is designed to provide for legal access to non-private lands for the hunting public and to support the agency's management activities of game species.

IV. CONSTRUCTIONYes X No _____

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

Describe: Date of construction is unknown, but occurred prior to the late 1970's BLM wilderness characteristics inventory, since it is identified as a road in that inventory.

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: The route was bladed in 2006 or 2007 (which was after ONDA submitted to Vale District its Lake Ridge proposed WSA in 2004) which allows for relatively regular and continuous use more so on a seasonal basis.

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 _____ No _____

Comments:

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:

It is used by BLM and OFDW personnel, and livestock permittees. On an annual basis the route is used by hunters of common game species of the area at large (e.g., deer, elk, grouse). ODFW’s work to provide continuous access over time for the recreating public allows for relatively regular use.

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: Meets criteria for road, as described and explained, above.

Evaluator(s): Michelle Caviness Date: 8/17/10
Michelle Caviness, Wildlife Biologist

Bill Lutjens Date: 8/17/10
Bill Lutjens, Rangeland Management Specialist

* **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.

a. **“Improved and maintained”** – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

- b. **“Mechanical means”** – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.
- c. **“Relatively regular and continuous use”** – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims.

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

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:

- a. **“Improved and maintained”** – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.
- b. **“Mechanical means”** – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.
- c. **“Relatively regular and continuous use”** – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims.

A road that was established or has been maintained solely by the passage of vehicles would not be considered a road, even if it is used on a relatively regular and continuous basis. Vehicle roads constructed by mechanical means but that are no longer being maintained by mechanical methods are not roads. Sole use of hands and feet to move rocks or dirt without the use of tools or machinery does not meet the definition of “mechanical means.” Roads need not be “maintained” on a regular basis but rather “maintained” when road conditions warrant actions to keep it in a usable condition. A dead-end (cherry-stem) road can form the boundary of an inventory area and does not by itself disqualify an area from being considered “roadless”.