

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Wild Horse Basin Contiguous OR-034-118, 9 total pages

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

APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION

Evaluation of Current Conditions:

- 1) Document and review the existing BLM wilderness inventory findings on file, if available, regarding the presence or absence of individual wilderness characteristics, using Form 1, below.
- 2) Consider relevant information regarding current conditions available in the office to identify and describe any changes to the existing information (use interdisciplinary (ID) team knowledge, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc.), and document your findings on Form 2, below.

When Citizen Information has been submitted regarding wilderness characteristics, document the submitted materials including: date of Submission; Name of District(s) and Field Office(s) Affected; Type of material Submitted (e.g. narrative, map, 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-034-118 — Wild Horse Basin 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?

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

NOTE: See “NOTE” ’s, below under “1. A.)”..

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 partially within OR-034-05-31; 3-77B Wild Horse Basin (unpublished BLM documents in case files) – **and See NOTE, following the table, below.**
- () April 1979 – *Wilderness -- Proposed Initial Inventory – Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not have Wilderness Characteristics, Oregon and Washington*

Wilderness Decision Documents

NOTE: Neither of the two parcels of present BLM unit OR-034-118 was included in any of BLM’s late 1970’s wilderness characteristics inventory units because both parcels apparently were under State of Oregon jurisdiction at the time.

- () 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)

Partially within OR-03-05-3; 3-77B Wild Horse Basin

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

NOTE: Neither of the two parcels of present BLM unit OR-034-118 were included in any of BLM’s late 1970’s wilderness characteristics inventory units because both parcels apparently were under State of Oregon jurisdiction at the time. Only a BLM Northern Malheur unit resource analysis (URA) land use planning map depicts the original OR-03-05-31 wilderness characteristic (WC) unit of which only the west parcel of the present OR-034-118 WC unit is a portion of this URA WC unit.

- () 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/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
Partially of OR-03-05-31 *	*	*	*	*	*
3-77B Wild Horse Basin**	NA**	**	**	**_	**
TOTAL					

* -- Acreage is unknown, but did include what presently is Wild Horse Basin and Honeycombs WSAs. Only the west parcel (within section 16) of present OR-034-118 was within this initial OR-03-05-31 WC unit. No determination of these wilderness characteristics criteria was established for OR-03-05-31.

** -- Current OR-034-118 was never a part of 3-77B; rather, were acquired land parcels since the initial inventory, thus no criteria was determined regarding these parcels in late the 1970’s.

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

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FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-034-118 — Wild Horse Basin 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. See Form 1 of OR-034-118 for explanation of this OR-034-118's origin. The unit has two separate parcels. The west parcel is 290 acres, and the north parcel is 318 acres, for a total of 608 acres of public lands. Both parcels have as part of its boundary the conservation pool level of Owyhee Reservoir. The remaining boundary feature of each parcel is section lines against the boundary of Wild Horse Basin WSA (OR-3-77B). Thus, both parcels are presently contiguous with the WSA and, respectively, meet size criteria for wilderness characteristics.

NOTE: Both the west and north parcels are associated with Wild Horse Basin WSA of which its entirety BLM determined in 1991 as being not suitable and/or manageable for designation as Wilderness by Congress. However, matters of suitability and manageability are not factors of consideration for wilderness characteristic inventory.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Description: Vegetation of both parcels is predominately a mix of sagebrush with native and nonnative grasses. The west parcel consists of steep to very steep rising terrain inland from its conservation pool level shoreline boundary of the Owyhee Reservoir; elevations range from approximately 2,740 to 3,450 feet. The north parcel from its shoreline of Owyhee Reservoir has very steep rising slopes on either side of a central oriented canyon drainage; elevations range from approximately 2,740 to 3,775 feet. The north parcel is on the very north end of the Three Fingers Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA); the west parcel is on the west edge of the northwestern sector of the HMA.

Refer to this unit's associated Map 1 for human imprints. There are no human developments within either of the parcels. Both parcels are affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans being substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor. This natural condition is further enhanced by the continuing natural condition of the contiguous WSA.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Description: Both parcels -- being of small acreage, themselves and collectively -- do not provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude. However, being contiguous with the WSA, which does possess outstanding opportunities for solitude, the both parcels of the unit in combination with the WSA takes on a continuum of landscape area which, overall, provides for outstanding opportunities for solitude. Within each parcel, themselves, this is occasionally somewhat dampened by the unavoidable occasional outside sight and sounds of motorized boating on Owyhee Reservoir.

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

Description: Being contiguous with the WSA, certain outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation associated with the WSA are also available within the two parcels of this inventory unit in combination with the WSA. The most noted example is a continuum of hiking opportunities combined with geologic sightseeing and photography. Although within a much larger area identified as bighorn sheep habitat – with the species being a prized trophy hunting game species in Oregon – there have been no recorded sightings of the species in either parcel of this inventory unit.

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

Description: Both parcels are within a much larger bighorn sheep habitat area; the species is a BLM special status animal species in Oregon. Northern bald eagles pass through the area on their annual spring and fall migrations. The species was delisted in June 2007 from under the federal Endangered Species Act; however, per current (since 12/12/2008) BLM management direction, BLM identifies delisted species to be conserved as BLM sensitive species for 5 years following delisting by the federal Fish and Wildlife Service.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-034-118 — Wild Horse Basin Contiguous

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:

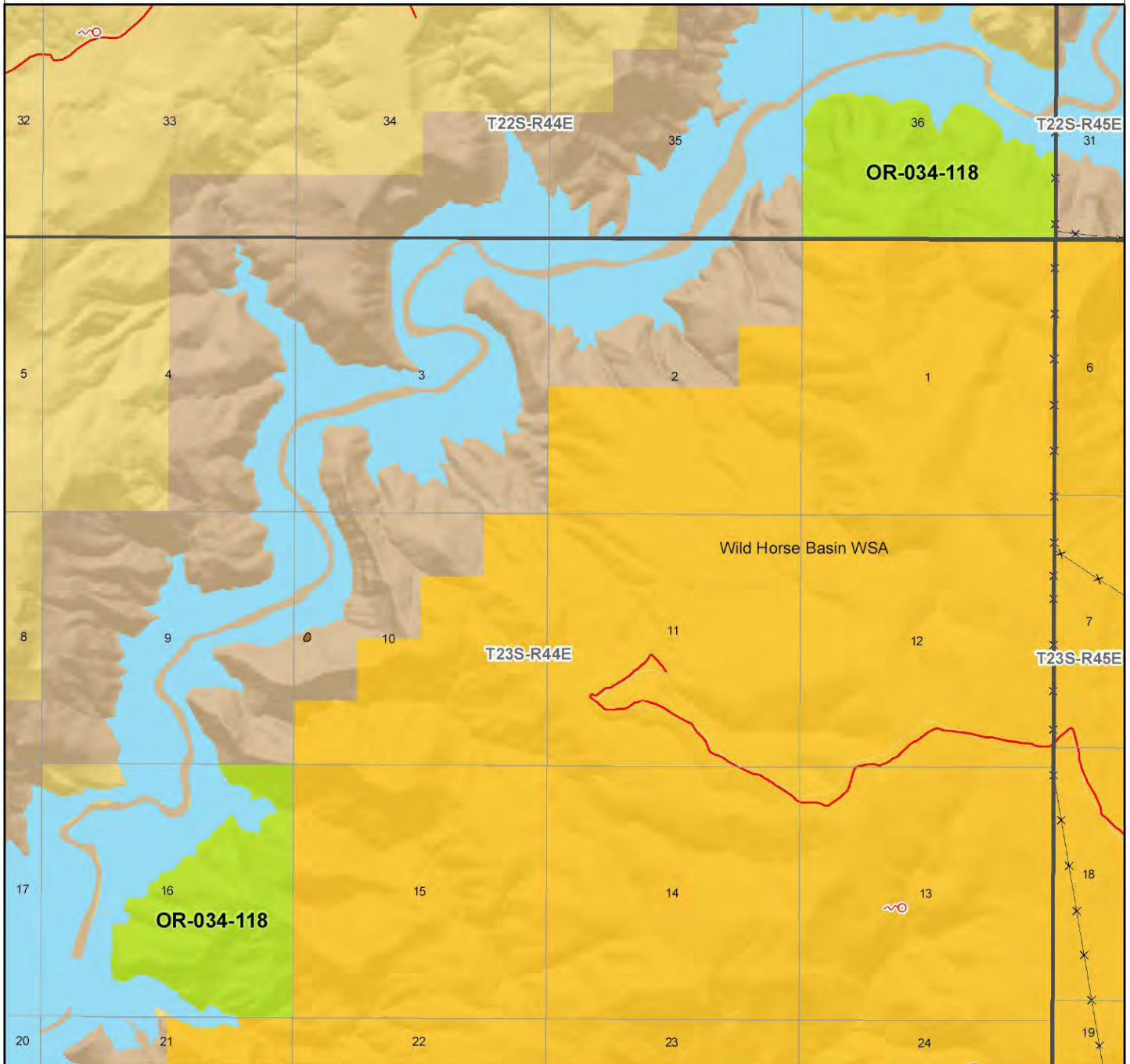
<u>Mitch Thomas</u>	<u>2/4/10</u>
Mitch Thomas, Rangeland Management Specialist	Date
<u>Gillian Wigglesworth</u>	<u>3/16/10</u>
Gillian Wigglesworth, Botanist	Date
<u>Shaney Rockefeller</u>	<u>3/10/10</u>
Shaney Rockefeller, Soil Scientist	Date
<u>Michelle Caviness</u>	<u>2/25/10</u>
Michelle Caviness, 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 7/11/10
Pat Ryan, Malheur Resource Area Field Manager Date

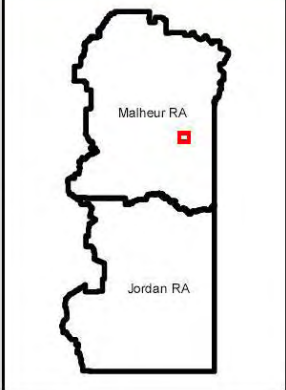
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.

Wilderness Characteristics - Overview


Wild Horse Basin Contiguous - OR-034-118 - Map 1 of 1



Legend	
	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
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



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



VALE DISTRICT
December 15, 2009

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