

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Willow Butte OR-036-046, 12 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: 2010 **Unit Number/Name:** OR-036-046 -- Willow 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 3-199 Willow Butte (and its subunit 3-199A of OR-03-12-02 -- **which eventually [11/1980] became part of 3-152 Whitehorse Creek WSA**) (unpublished BLM documents in case files)
- (X) 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)
(NOTE: See decision for unit 3-152 Whitehorse Creek)
- () November 1981 *Stateline Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah* (tan document).

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

BLM 3-199 of OR-03-12-02 Willow Butte (**which eventually [11/1980] became part of 3-152 Whitehorse Creek WSA**).

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.
(NOTE: See Map for decision of unit 3-152 Whitehorse Creek)rel
- 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
3-199 Willow Butte of OR-03-12-02 ; (Subunit 3-199A was joined into 3-152)*	18,250	Y	N	N	N
TOTAL	18,250				

* -- Subunit 3-199A was 12,360 acres, which eventually was added into 3-152 (Whitehorse Creek) during the closing stages of the intensive WC inventory in 1980. For additional information, also review 1980 inventory documents for OR-3-152.

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-036-046 -- Willow Butte

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. Approximately 2,325 acres of the unit is within Burns BLM District. This 18,253 acre unit is virtually the same size as the 18,250 acre late 1970's original 3-199 unit (see the footnote of Form 1 for further explanation). However, certain private land parcels along Willow Creek have been acquired by BLM since that original inventory, and are included in this OR-036-046 unit. Even with these added lands, current more so accurate means of determining acreage does result in the acreage figure presently being nearly the same as stated in the BLM late 1970's wilderness characteristics inventory. Three routes (County 3181, a segment of BLM 6319-0-00, and another route that crosses public land in the unit's northern reach) which in the 1970's were determined to be roads (resulting in part, in subunit 3-199A (12,360 acres) and 3 other subunits each which did not meet size criteria) have since the late 1970's changed status to motorized primitive trails (MPTs) due to no mechanical maintenance of them so to provide for regular and continuous use and with no intent by BLM to perform such maintenance on them.

The unit is triangular in shape with boundaries consisting of the right-of-way for County Road 203 (Whitehorse Ranch Road), a utility right-of-way corridor, and a BLM mineral materials site on its west boundary; BLM 6319-0-00 on its east boundary; and, BLM 8260-0-00 and a segment of 6319-0-00 on its south boundary. It is bounded by private property in the southwest corner of the unit. An 80 acre private inholding with its associated cherry-stem road and the BLM Willow Hot Spring recreation site and its associated short cherry-stem road also serve as boundary features of the unit. The boundary roads receive mechanical maintenance as needed to keep them passable on a relatively regular and seasonally continuous basis.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No N/A

Description: The unit is largely of undulating very low profile terrain with minor, shallow ravines and gullies which flow predominately in a northerly direction. Willow Butte, in the unit's southeast sector, possesses the highest elevation at 5,439 feet; the unit's lowest elevation of about 4,500 feet is in the northern reach of the unit.

Vegetation is predominately sagebrush and range grasses with riparian vegetation along Willow Creek.

Refer to this inventory unit's associated Map 1 and Map 2 for human developments. Most of the developments are located within the southern approximate third of the inventory unit. The unit has 35 miles of 22 motorized primitive trails (MPTs) (which about 7 miles of 4 of the MPTs are in Burns District), 11.0 miles of rangeland fence (0.8 mile of it in Burns District), 11.0 miles of one buried water pipeline system with 5 troughs (2.25 pipeline miles and 2 of the troughs in Burns District), 6 earthen reservoirs, 3 fenced enclosures, and 2 corrals. There is some remnant visual evidence of 2.1 miles of 2 abandoned routes, and of 3 small old surface mining sites. Three old buildings in advanced stages of ruin are in the eastern reaches of the unit in section 35); their effect is more pastoral than obtrusive. (The surface mined sites -- located in sections 19 and 30 -- and 3 buildings are not depicted on Map 1.) Presently, to the average visitor, each of the four disc-drilled seedings of native and non-native grasses affecting the unit between 1973-1996 appear indistinguishable. Overall, due to the type, nature, spatial distribution and location of human developments, the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of mankind being substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor. This is the same conclusion for the unit by BLM in the late 1970's.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No N/A _____

Description: To date, Burns District has not provided Vale District that district's solitude finding in context of the 2,325 acres of the unit located within its District. Thus, herein, findings regarding outstanding opportunities for solitude are limited to those public lands of the unit within Vale District. That said, the late 1970's the BLM finding for the entire unit was that the unit did not have outstanding opportunities for solitude; factors affecting that conclusion have not substantially changed since that time.

The Vale District portion of the unit lacks sufficient vegetation types and/or density to -- alone -- support outstanding opportunities for solitude. The same area possesses limited topographic screening provided by the expanse of ravines and gullies. Willow Butte does not provide much screening because of its relatively low relief profile and its location proximate to the unit's southeast boundaries with only fairly flat sagebrush-covered terrain around much of it. However (and although not a qualifying factor for consideration with this WC inventory maintenance), this perception is partially negated by the expanded viewshed east of the Butte -- associated with the adjacent Willow Creek WSA. The unit is generally an acute-shaped triangle (with inclusion of Burns District's portion of the unit), with the width across its southern approximate third being about 5.5 miles 3.25 miles within Vale District). The narrower width of the unit's northernmost sector -- relative to its substantially nearly flat terrain and vegetation type (sagebrush) -- is not sufficient to support outstanding opportunities for solitude. Even when accounting for the presently increased size of this unit (versus the size of the 3-199A unit -- 12,360

acres – studied in the late 1970's) – and while discounting the unit's narrower northern approximate third – the unit has some topographic screening to accommodate a sense of being alone, yet the overall topographic settings and the narrow character of the northern approximate third of the unit and of the unit's southeast area within Vale District remain insufficient to prove outstanding opportunities for solitude, even within the core of the unit.

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

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: To date, Burns District has not provided Vale District that district's primitive and unconfined recreation finding in context of the 2,325 acres of the unit located within its District. Thus, herein, findings regarding outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are limited to those public lands of the unit within Vale District. That said, the late 1970's BLM finding was that the entire unit did not have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation; factors affecting that conclusion have not substantially changed since that time.

The Lahontan (alias Willow/Whitehorse) cutthroat trout – a Federal listed Threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and yet a game species within the State of Oregon -- is present in Willow Creek within the unit, but the riparian habitat for the species is of marginal quality and with insufficient size or quantity of fish to provide for an outstanding primitive and unconfined fishing opportunity. (The species is more abundant and fished in higher elevations with more suitable habitat requirements for the species within the proximate Trout Creek Mountains and Oregon Canyon Mountains, most which are presently within BLM-designated Wilderness Study Areas.) Similarly, bighorn sheep habitat is in the northernmost reach of the unit, a part of a much larger bighorn sheep habitat area which encompasses the entire complex of the Oregon Canyon/Trout Creek Mountains, but hunting of the sheep (a prized big game species in Oregon) within this inventory unit is not considered outstanding due to marginal habitat suitability for the species. There are also opportunities for hiking, backpacking and horseback riding, sightseeing and photography. The area does not possess any unique or special natural or cultural features which would draw recreating visitors. For reasons stated, none of the unit's primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities within Vale District -- individually or in combination(s) -- are determined outstanding.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Description: The unit is in the northern-most reach of a bighorn sheep habitat area which encompasses the entire complex of the Oregon Canyon/Trout Creek Mountains. The animal is a BLM special status species in Oregon. The Lahontan (alias Willow/Whitehorse) cutthroat trout is present in Willow Creek within the unit; the fish

species is a federally listed Threatened species under the ESA. Solitary milkvetch and fourwing milkvetch, both a BLM special status plant species, are located in the southwest corner area of the unit. Present inventory indicates the presence of one lek of sage grouse, a BLM special status animal species. The lek is within the Burns District portion of the unit, as are the majority of both milkvetch species and a portion of the unit's bighorn sheep habitat use area.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-036-046 -- Willow Butte

Summary Results of Analysis:


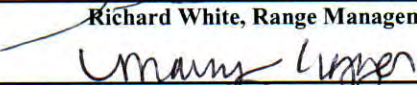

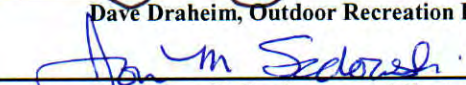
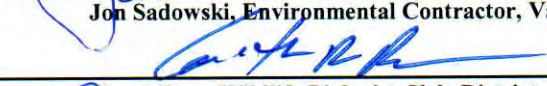
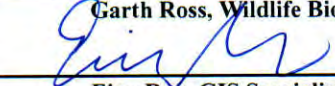
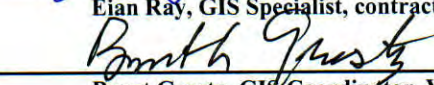
- 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No
- 3. Does the area within Vale District offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No NA
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes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

Conclusion -- check one:

- Within Vale District the area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness character.
- Within Vale District the area does not have wilderness character.

Prepared by: 
 Robert Alward, Wilderness Planner contractor, Vale District

Team Members:

<u></u>	<u>4/29/10</u>
Richard White, Range Management Specialist, Vale District	Date
<u></u>	<u>5/11/10</u>
Marcy Egger, Range Management Specialist, Vale District	Date
<u></u>	<u>7/13/2010</u>
Dave Draheim, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Vale District	Date
<u></u>	<u>4-28-2010</u>
Jon Sadowski, Environmental Contractor, Vale District	Date
<u></u>	<u>5/13/2010</u>
Garth Ross, Wildlife Biologist, Vale District	Date
<u></u>	<u>5-14-10</u>
Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, contractor, Vale District	Date
<u></u>	<u>5/18/10</u>
Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator, Vale District	Date

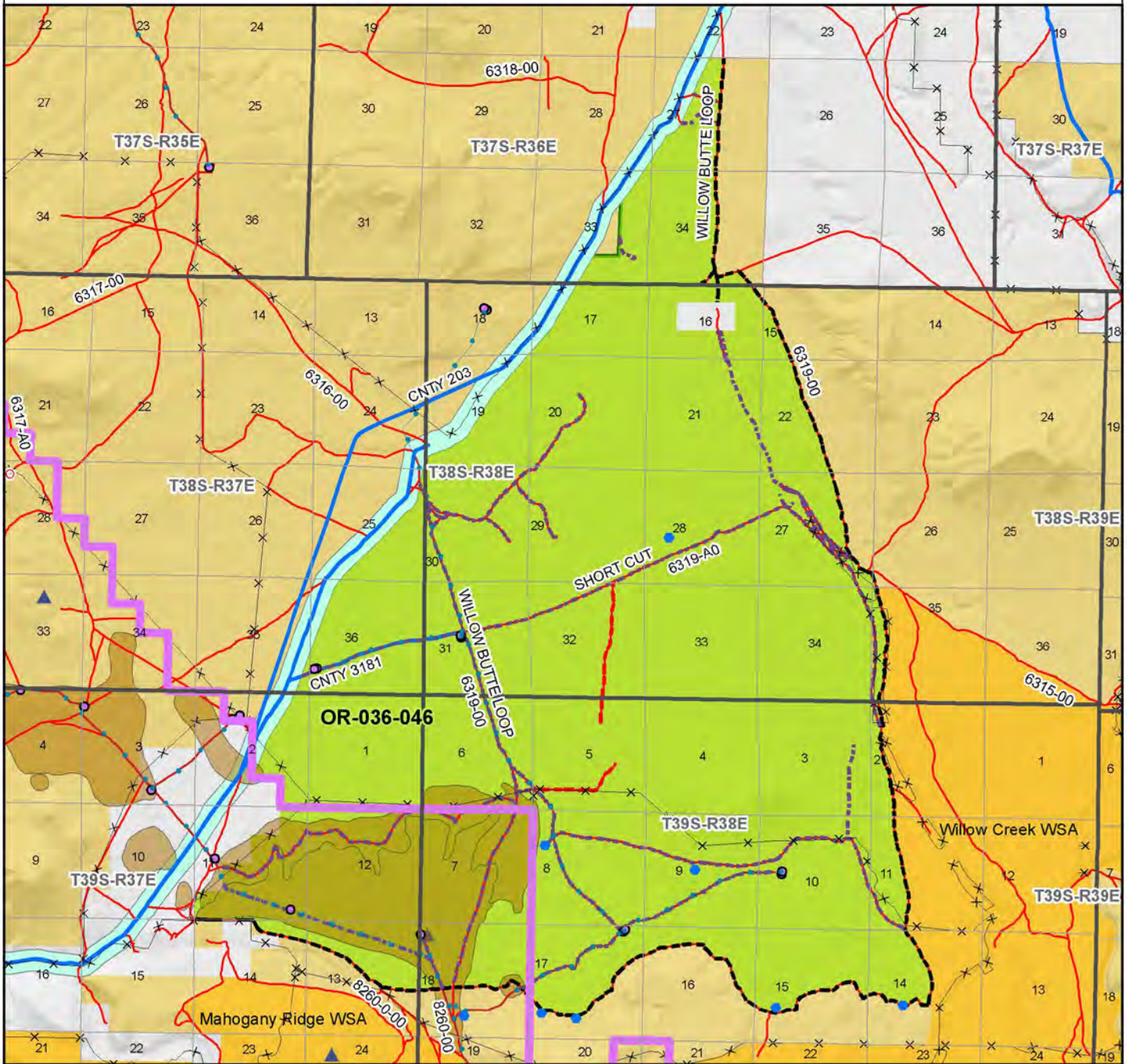
Approved by:

 7/19/2010
 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.

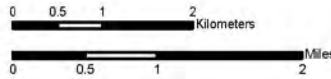
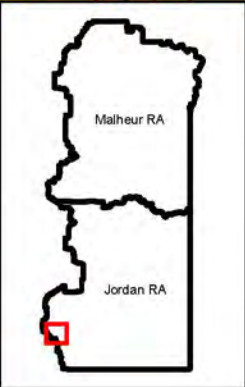
Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Willow Butte - OR-036-046 - 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 | <p>Route Types - BLM Determination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boundary Road Molonized 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 |
|---|--|



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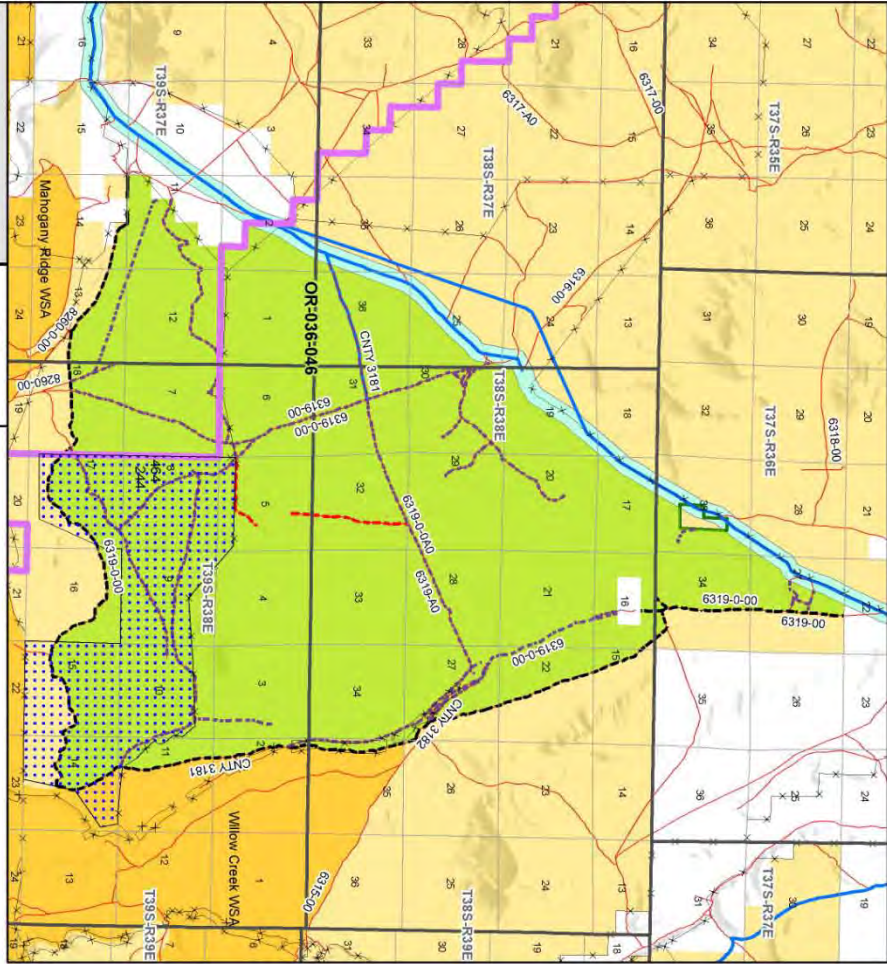


VALE DISTRICT
January 11, 2010

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--FINAL--

Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments
Willow Butte - OR-036-046 - Map 2 of 2



Legend

- Blue Line: Land Treatment
- Black Line: Boundary Line
- Green Line: EOL (End of Line) boundary line
- Red Line: Sectional Boundary Line (MPT)
- Blue Line: Mahogany Ridge WSA
- Green Line: Willow Creek WSA
- Orange Line: Productivity Ridge-300y
- Red Line: Productivity Ridge-300y
- Blue Line: Willow Creek WSA
- Green Line: Mahogany Ridge WSA
- Orange Line: Productivity Ridge-300y
- Red Line: Productivity Ridge-300y
- Blue Line: Willow Creek WSA
- Green Line: Mahogany Ridge WSA
- Orange Line: Productivity Ridge-300y
- Red Line: Productivity Ridge-300y

Other Types of Land Determination

- Blue Line: Sectional Boundary
- Green Line: Sectional Boundary
- Orange Line: Sectional Boundary
- Red Line: Sectional Boundary
- Blue Line: Sectional Boundary
- Green Line: Sectional Boundary
- Orange Line: Sectional Boundary
- Red Line: Sectional Boundary

Scale: 0 0.5 1 2 Kilometers / 0 0.5 1 2 Miles

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

VALE DISTRICT
 August 7, 2009

Map 2 of 2

Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments
Willow Butte - OR-036-046 - Map 2 of 2

OBJECTID*	NAME	TREATMENT TYPE	SEED GROUP	DATE
244	WILLOW BUTTE SDG	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable	1973
464	WILLOW BUTTE SDG	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses	1973
2069	COYNE SEEDING PROJECT	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses	1983
2104	COW HOLLOW SEEDING EXTENSION	Drill Seeding	Native Grasses	1996

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 have been 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.