

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents  
**Willow Creek OR-036-087, 12 total pages**

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**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-036-087 – Willow Creek 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  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 units --- partially of OR-3-152 of OR-03-12-02 (BLM documents in case files).
- (X) April 1979 – *Wilderness -- Proposed Initial Inventory – Road less 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)**

Partially of BLM OR-3-152 of OR-03-12-02

**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 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.

<b>Unit#/ Name</b>	<b>Size (historic acres)</b>	<b>Natural Condition? Y/N</b>	<b>Outstanding Solitude? Y/N</b>	<b>Outstanding Primitive &amp; Unconfined Recreation? Y/N</b>	<b>Supplemental Values? Y/N</b>
Partially of OR-3-152 of OR-03-12-02 *	1,910**	N	***	***	***
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,910				

\* -- The late 1970's inventory folder for OR-03-12-02 could not be located.

\*\* -- Most of OR-3-152 became Willow Creek WSA; this acreage is what was not included in the WSA when it was designated in 1980.

\*\*\* -- This was not provided relative to the acreage excluded from the designated WSA.

## **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.*

## **FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS**

**Unit Number/Name:** **OR-036-087 – Willow Creek 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:** There are four separate public land parcels that constitute this inventory unit (2,910 acres): an east parcel, a west parcel, a north parcel and a northeast parcel. All parcels are adjacent to Willow Creek WSA (OR-3-152). The east (432 acres), north (10 acres) and northeast (10 acres) parcels are fully within Vale District; the west parcel (2,476 acres) is partially in Vale District (1,180 acres) and partially in Burns District (1,287 acres). There are no physical features within the west parcel which distinguish Burns District from Vale District (the administrative district boundary is a legal descriptive in this area).

Unlike the past, for the following reasons all four parcels are currently contiguous with Willow Creek WSA. During the late 1970's BLM wilderness characteristics (WC) inventory, 3 of the 4 parcels were identified as being affected by land treatment projects which resulted in them being excluded from BLM's 1980 final decision of designating Willow Creek WSA. The east and northeast parcels were part of the 1968 Whitehorse brush control and disc-drilled seeding of non-native grasses. The west parcel was partially affected by the 1973 Willow Butte disc-drilled seeding of non-native grasses. During the late 1970's WC inventory, soil furrows and/or linear rows of vegetation were still visually apparent to the average visitor, with contrasting linear vegetative lines separating the seeded areas from the native range composition. Since that time, vegetative changes within the treated areas has occurred to the extent that there is no longer a distinctive visual contrast between the treated and adjacent untreated terrain.

Within Vale District, the northern-most tip boundary of the 1980 designated Willow Creek WSA was the section line between sections 26 and 35. This has resulted in the identification of the north parcel of this OR-036-087 inventory unit, since a section line is not a qualifying boundary feature to delineate a roadless area for WC inventory. The other boundaries of this parcel are BLM road 6315-00 and another road traversing public land. The northeast parcel was separated from the WSA by the edge of the drilled seeding; the east parcel was separated from the WSA by Little Whitehorse Creek and a rangeland fence (which also served as a boundary of the seeding). The other boundary feature of both the east and the northeast parcels is BLM road 6315-00. The west parcel is bounded by a rangeland fence (with a portion of the seeding against it, and the remainder of the fence not associated with the seeding) and by BLM road 6315-00. Within Burns District of the west parcel, along with a segment of BLM road 826-0-00

(alias, Country road 3180), a segment of the same rangeland fence separates it from the same WSA.

Presently, with no longer a visual contrast to the average visitor between the seedings and native rangeland, and with rangeland fence not a qualifying feature as a boundary to delineate a roadless area for WC inventory, the result is all four parcels are contiguous to Willow Creek WSA.

For the west parcel of OR-036-087, the remaining boundary features are BLM road 6319-0-00 (alias, County 3183 Willow Butte Loop Road ) on its north end, and BLM road 8260-0-00 (alias, County 3180 Trout Creek Mountain Road) on its southwest side. The remaining boundary of the north parcel is a combination of County road 3182 and a continuing road crossing public lands, and for the east parcel a rangeland fence on its south side and a road crossing public land on its west side. Burns District informs Vale District that a route to a developed spring is a 0.8 mile cherry stem road, thus is a boundary feature of this inventory unit. The inventory unit's outer boundary roads receive mechanical maintenance as needed to keep them passable on a relatively regular and continuous (seasonal) basis.

**NOTE:** The north and northeast parcels are associated solely with a portion of Willow Creek WSA which BLM has identified as not being 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  No  N/A

**Description:** The east parcel is dominated by a ridgeline through its length with moderate down slopes to where it reaches Little Whitehorse Creek on the parcel's west side and its boundary road on its east side. Elevations range from 5,080 to 5,522 feet. The north parcel (4,735 – 4,780 feet), northeast parcel (4,880 to 5,000 feet) and west parcel (5,120 – 7,000 feet) are characterized by predominately moderate to slight north-facing down slopes. Vegetation of all 4 parcels is a mix of native and nonnative grasses and sagebrush. The north parcel is within the Heath Creek – Sheephead Wild Horse Management Area.

Refer to the associated Map 1 and Map 2 of this inventory unit for human imprints within the parcels. There are no manmade developments in the north and northeast parcels. The east parcel has 1.4 miles of 3 MPTs and 1.8 miles of rangeland fence, partially for 2 riparian enclosures along Little Whitehorse Creek and the remainder along the unit's south boundary with the WSA. The west parcel has 3 earthen reservoirs (2 in Vale District -- each adjacent to the parcel's north boundary road -- and one in Burns District); 1.4 miles of buried pipeline in Burns District affiliated with the earthen reservoir; 4.4 miles of rangeland fence (2.2 miles in each district); 2.4 miles of motorized primitive

trails (MPTs) (0.5 mile of 2 MPTs in Vale District, and 1.9 miles of 5 MPTs in Burns District); and, in Burns District 2 developed springs. Within the unit, presently, to the average visitor there remains no visual contrast of soil furrows or linear lines of vegetation from a 1968 and a 1973 disc-drilled seeding.

Being that each of the 4 parcels are contiguous with the WSA, of the two parcels which have developments in them, the type, number, extent and nature of those developments are not so great as to preclude the WSA and the parcels combined from appearing to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of mankind being substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor. Further, the remaining 2 parcels – not having any developments in them – does not adversely affect the present natural condition of the combined contiguous WSA and 2 parcels. For these reasons, the 4 parcels in combination with the natural condition of the contiguous WSA is an increased area which appears, overall, to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of mankind being substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor. This is the conclusion, even should Burns District eventually determine that some of the western-most portion of the west parcel be determined to be unnatural due to a concentration of imprints in that area.

### 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 for the 1,287 acres of the west parcel located within its District. Thus, herein, findings regarding outstanding opportunities for solitude are limited to those public lands of the unit within Vale District. Each parce within Vale District, of itself, does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude due to they being too small and without sufficient screening provided by topography or vegetation. Together with the contiguous WSA, though, the overall outstanding opportunities for solitude are only slightly enhanced due to the increased size of the roadless area. However, the net increase for outstanding opportunities is very minimal because of the small size and associated nominal topographic and vegetative screening properties of the parcels.

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

Yes  No  N/A

**Description:** To date, Burns District has not provided Vale District that district's primitive and unconfined recreation finding for the 1,287 acres of the west parcel 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. Individually, none of the 4 parcels within Vale District possess special or unique features that would draw visitors to them which would provide outstanding



opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Being contiguous with the WSA, the overall increased size in area does, however, provide for a slight enhancement of some of the existing outstanding opportunities associated with the WSA, which includes wildlife viewing, panoramic sightseeing, photography and hunting of certain game species, primarily mule deer.

There is opportunity to view wild horses of the Heath Creek – Sheephead Wild Horse Management Area. Although a less common and interesting experience, viewing wild horses is not an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined recreation activity. The presence of wild horses is a feature of the natural condition of the unit and is also described as a supplemental value associated with the inventory unit.

**5. Does the unit have supplemental values?**

Yes   X              No           N/A       

**Description:** The 4 parcels of OR-036-087 are within potential bighorn sheep use habitat. The animal is a BLM special status species. Lahontan cutthroat trout, a federal Threatened species, are in Little Whitehorse Creek of the east parcel. The north parcel is within the Heath Creek – Sheephead Wild Horse Management Area. In the west parcel, within Burns District, are two sites of solitary milkvetch, a BLM special status plant species.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

**Unit Name and Number:** OR-036-087 – Willow Creek Contiguous

**Summary Results of Analysis:**


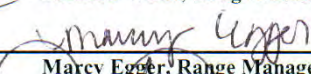
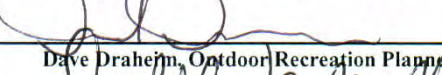

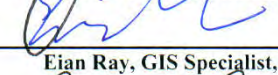
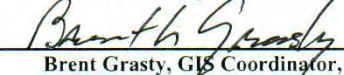
1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements?  Yes  No
2. Does the area appear to be natural?  Yes  No
3. Does the area within Vale District offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No  NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes  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>5/19/10</u>
Marcy Egger, Range Management Specialist, Vale District	Date
<u></u>	<u>7/13/10</u>
Dave Draheim, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Vale District	Date
<u></u>	<u>5-17-10</u>
Jack Wenderoth, Planning Contractor, Vale District	Date
<u></u>	<u>5-13-10</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:**

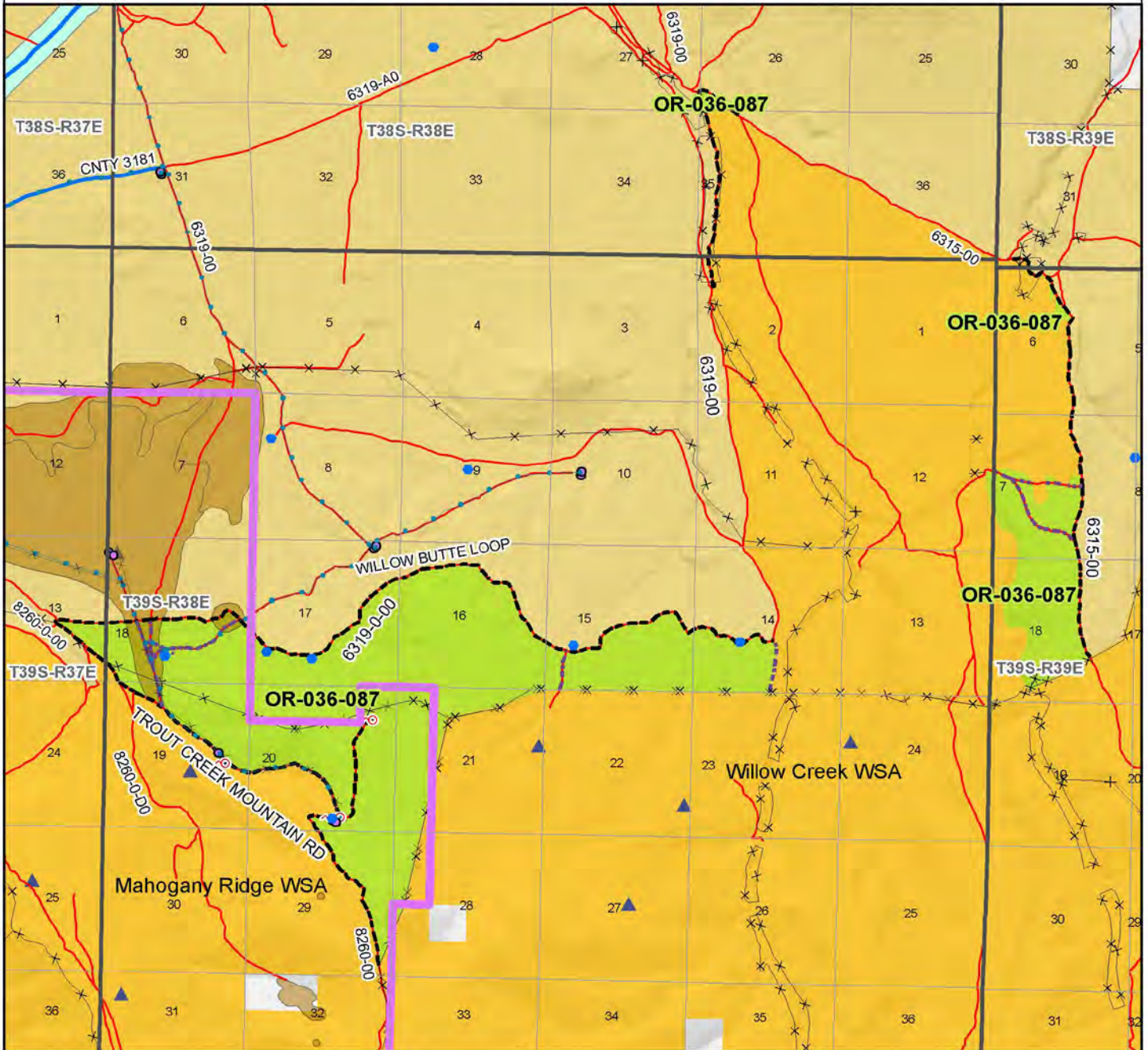
 7/19/2010  
 Carolyn Freeborn, Jordan Resource Area Field Manager, Vale District Date

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*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 Creek Contiguous - OR-036-087 - Map 1 of 2



<p><b>Legend</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Developed Spring</li> <li> Wildlife Guzzler</li> <li> Earthen Reservoir</li> <li> Pipeline</li> <li> Trough</li> <li> Fence</li> <li> Storage Tank</li> <li> Surface Mining Disturbance</li> <li> Sage Grouse Lek</li> <li> Special Status Plant</li> <li> BLM Wild Char Inventory Unit</li> <li> Wilderness Study Area</li> <li> Mineral Material Site</li> <li> Road/Utility Right-of-Way</li> <li> Major Water Body</li> </ul>	<p><b>Route Types - BLM Determination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Boundary Road</li> <li> Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT)</li> <li> Discontinued Use</li> </ul> <p><b>Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> County</li> <li> Major Highway</li> <li> BLM Numbered &amp; Other Routes</li> </ul> <p><b>Land Ownership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Bureau of Land Management</li> <li> State</li> <li> Private</li> <li> Other Federal Land</li> </ul> <p><b>District Boundary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> District Boundary</li> </ul>	
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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

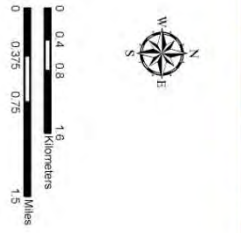
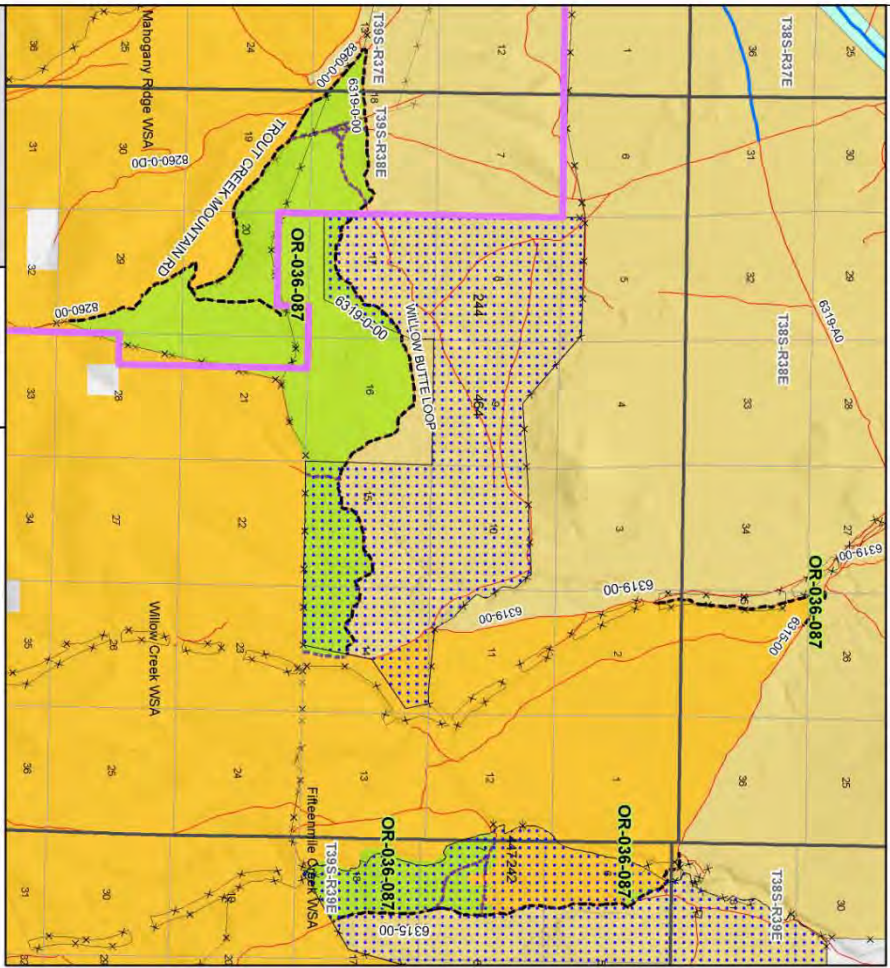
**VALE DISTRICT**  
April 15, 2009

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**--FINAL--**



**Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments**  
**Willow Creek Contiguous - OR-036-087 - Map 2 of 2**



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 VALE DISTRICT  
 April 14, 2010  
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 --FINAL--

**Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments**  
**Willow Creek Contiguous - OR-036-087 - Map 2 of 2**

OBJECTID*	NAME	TREATMENT TYPE	SEED GROUP	DATE
242	WHITEHORSE B.C.	Chemical Treatment	Not Applicable	1968
244	WILLOW BUTTE SDG	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable	1973
447	WHITEHORSE SDG	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses	1968
464	WILLOW BUTTE SDG	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses	1973

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.