Louse Canyon Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Cairn C OR-036-003, 60 total pages

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Page 3: Louse Canyon GMA – Oregon Natural Desert Association Proposed Wilderness Study Areas

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Page 12: Cairn C Unit Wilderness Boundaries – Map

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Louse Canyon GMA - BLM Wilderness Inventory Units

Grassy Mountain Lake
Grassy Mountain
Whitehorse Butte
Jackies Butte
Mouse Trap Butte
Garlow Butte
Water Hole Butte
OWYHEE RIVER
NORTH FORK OWYHEE RIVER
HANSON CANYON
Three Forks Dome
RATTLESNAKE CREEK C
COYOTE WELLS
Coyote Butte
Pole Creek Breaks
Deadman Butte
Grass Mountain
FIVE POINTS
Little Grassy Mountain
HIGH RIDGE A
RAWHIDE
SACRAMENTO HILL
WEST LITTLE OWYHEE RIVER
Toppin Creek Butte
ANTELOPE CREEK
STARVATION SPRINGS
Battle Mountain
Battle Mountain Reservoir
Oregon Hill
STEER CANYON
POLE CREEK
FIELD CREEK
Oregon
Idaho
Black Butte
High Peak
Defeat Butte
Lookout Butte
Hoodoo Butte
Sugarloaf
Horse Hill
BLACK BUTTE
TWIN BUTTE
TENT CREEK COW CAMP
Twin Buttes
OREGON BUTTE
Willow Creek Butte
Star Valley Knoll
OREGON BUTTE - ID
DEER FLAT
CAIRN"C"
Oregon Butte
Mahogany Butte
Oregon
Nevada
DEER FLAT - NV
CAIRN"C" - NV
OREGON BUTTE - NV

3 1.5 0 3 6 9 Miles

0 1.5 3 6 9 12 Kilometers

1:240,000

Legend

- Louse Canyon GMA Boundary
- Resource Area Boundary
- Wilderness Inventory Unit
- Wilderness Study Areas

Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Other Federal Lands
- Private
- State

N W E S

Louse Canyon GMA

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VALE DISTRICT

Louse Canyon
Geographic Management Area
Wilderness Inventory Maintenance

October 26, 2007

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Mxd: S:\GISdata\Fy2007_Projects\WILDERNESS_CHAR\WildernessCharacteristicsDevelopment\1_FinalVersionGeoDb_Available4Editing\LOUSE GMA\WildernessInventory2007_20071026_FinalMaps_BLM_Units1.mxd

Louse Canyon GMA - Oregon Natural Desert Association Proposed Wilderness Study Areas

Grassy Mountain Lake
Grassy Mountain
Whitehorse Butte
White Horse Butte
Jackies Butte
Indian Fort Creek
OWYHEE RIVER
Mouse Trap Butte
Garlow Butte
Water Hole Butte
NORTH FORK OWYHEE RIVER
Mouse Trap Butte
Three Forks Dome
Coyote Butte
Pole Creek Breaks
Deadman Butte
Grass Mountain
Rattlesnake Canyon
OWYHEE RIVER
Little Grassy Mountain
Sacramento Hill
WEST LITTLE OWYHEE RIVER
Toppin Creek Butte
Battle Mountain
OWYHEE RIVER
Battle Mountain
Battle Mountain Reservoir
Oregon Hill
Oregon
Idaho
Ten Mile Creek
Black Butte
High Peak
Defeat Butte
Lookout Butte
Hoodoo Butte
Black Butte Addition
Sugarloaf
Horse Hill
WEST LITTLE OWYHEE RIVER
Twin Buttes
Oregon Butte Addition
Willow Creek
Willow Creek Butte
Star Valley Knoll
Oregon Butte
Mahogany Butte
Oregon
Nevada

3 1.5 0 3 6 9 Miles

0 1.5 3 6 9 12 Kilometers

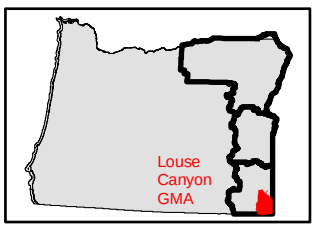
1:240,000

Legend

- Louse Canyon GMA Boundary
- Resource Area Boundary
- ONDA Units
- Wilderness Study Areas

Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Other Federal Lands
- Private
- State



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Attachment 1

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

APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION

Year: 2007 **Inventory Unit Name/Number: Cairn C OR-036-003**

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 ___

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 Units OR-03-14-05* (unpublished BLM documents stored in 6-way case files).
- (X) April 1979 - *Proposed Initial Inventory – Roadless Areas and IslandsWhich Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics* (yellow book).

Wilderness Decision Documents
- (X) August 1979 - *Wilderness Review – Initial Inventory: Final Decision on Public Lands Obviously Lacking Wilderness Characteristics, Oregon and Washington* (green book).
- ( ) October 1979 - *Wilderness Review – Intensive Inventory: Oregon, Proposed Decision on the Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas* (grey book).
- (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 book).
- (X) November 1980 - *Wilderness Inventory – Oregon and Washington, Final Intensive Inventory Decisions* (brown book).
- ( ) November 1981 - *Stateline Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah* (tan pamphlet).

B.) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s)
- BLM unpublished file OR-03-14-05 (1978); Cairn "C" 3-191A (November 1980 - *Wilderness Inventory – Oregon and Washington, Final Intensive Inventory Decisions* [brown book]).

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

- (X) Final Decision – Initial Wilderness Inventory Map August 1979
- ( ) Proposed Decision Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas Map October 1979
- (X) Intensive Wilderness Inventory Map March 1980
- (X) Intensive Wilderness Inventory, Final Decisions Map November 1980
- ( ) November 1981 *Stateline Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah* (tan pamphlet)

D.) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s)

- Vale District/Jordan Resource Area

2) BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Unit#/Name	Size (acres)	Natural Condition	Outstanding Solitude	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation	Supplemental Values
Cairn C* 3-191A	8,983	Y	N	N	N
3-191B*	160	Y	N	N	N
NV-020-810	3,700	Y	N	N	N
Total acres>>	12,843				

* Acreage includes 640 acres of state land inventoried for wilderness characteristics that was in the process of being transferred into BLM ownership during the initial inventory. The transfer was completed and the acreage is now under BLM management. BLM also added 160 additional acres from unit 3-191B that was in the initial inventory but was dropped from unit 3-191A because of road designations. BLM determined that roads surrounding unit 3-191B did not meet the road definition and were re-designated as motorized primitive trails.

FORM 2

DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS:

Inventory Unit Name/Number: Cairn C OR-036-003

For this exercise BLM refers to the unit as 2007 Cairn C OR-036-003. A citizen wilderness proposal provided by Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) received February, 2004, identified BLM unit OR-036-003 as a portion of their proposal known as the "Oregon Butte proposed WSA Addition." ONDA stated that the citizen proposal presents new information that documents wilderness criteria and therefore qualifies the area for interim protection as a Wilderness Study Area. The Oregon Butte proposed WSA Addition also includes BLM unit OR-036-002 and BLM unit OR-036-005. The Oregon Butte proposed WSA Addition utilized the Nevada state line as its southern boundary whereas the BLM inventory delineation of units OR-036-003 and OR-036-005 continued into Nevada and utilized existing roads as the southern boundaries for units OR-036-003 and OR-036-005.

1) Is the unit of sufficient size?
Yes _X_ No ___

Unit OR-036-003 is comprised of 9,143 acres in Oregon and 4,098 acres in Nevada for a total of 13,241 acres, meeting the size criteria. The acreage includes 640 acres of state land inventoried for wilderness characteristics that was in the process of being transferred into BLM ownership during the initial inventory of 1978. The transfer was completed and the acreage is now under BLM management. BLM also added 160 additional acres from the original 1980 inventory unit Cairn 3-191B that was in the initial inventory but was dropped from unit Cairn 3-191A because of road designations. BLM has presently determined that routes surrounding unit 3-191B do not meet the road definition and are designated now as motorized primitive trails. The 13,241 total acres that comprise the OR-036-003 unit in Form 2 are slightly different from the 12,843 total acres listed for this unit in Form 1. The acreage for unit OR-036-003 in Form 2 is calculated from BLM GIS information that excluded approximately 400 acres of private land in Nevada within the unit. The citizen wilderness proposal identified only the 9,143 acres of BLM unit OR-036-003 in Oregon by terminating their inventory at the Oregon-Nevada State line.

Description:
The boundaries of unit OR-036-003 are identified as BLM road 6350-0-00 on the east, BLM road 6354-0-00 on the north, BLM road 8300-6-01 on the west, and the Quinn River Road in Nevada on the south. BLM road 6350-0-00 continues south to meet the Quinn River Road. The unit is surrounded by 14.65 miles of boundary roads. Periodic maintenance of these boundary roads has occurred in the past (no confirmed dates available) and they are used regularly by ranchers (as observed by current BLM staff) and BLM employees for livestock management. Refer to map 2007_Cairn_C_OR_036_003.pdf for the unit boundary.

The citizen wilderness proposal boundaries for unit OR-036-003 differed from BLM's by utilizing the state line between Oregon and Nevada as the southern boundary for the Oregon Butte proposed WSA Addition and by including areas that are now BLM new inventory units OR-036-002 and OR-036-005. ONDA combined the three BLM inventory units into their Oregon Butte proposed WSA Addition because they do not recognize the northern and western boundary roads of BLM unit Cairn C OR-036-003 as meeting the definition of a road. BLM does not agree with their road determination and has explained why these two routes do meet the

definition of a road in the BLM road analysis forms 8300-6-01 and 6354-0-00. BLM also disagrees (BLM Road 6354-0-00 analysis form) with ONDA's determination that because BLM Road 6354-0-00 does not meet the definition of a road, the Cairn C unit is contiguous with the Upper West Little Owyhee WSA.

2) Is the unit in a natural condition?
Yes _X_ No ___

Description:
Human imprints within the Cairn C OR-036-003 unit include three developed springs, 6 miles of fence that includes 3 miles of bladed fence line and 6.25 miles of motorized primitive trails. The fenceline area was bladed and cleared of vegetation for the construction of the fence and has since rehabilitated itself by natural process. Fences and motorized primitive trails are substantially unnoticeable because of the slightly rolling terrain.

The unit exhibits a near natural condition throughout because fenceline generally blend in with the waist-high big sagebrush, the motorized primitive trails are few and widely scattered, and two of the three spring developments are substantially unnoticeable due to their small size. Cairn spring and meadow complex can be observed from the Tent Creek Road (BLM Road 6350-0-00). Overall the area appears to be primarily affected by the forces of nature with the imprint of human activity substantially unnoticeable. Refer to map 2007_Cairn_C_OR_036_003A.pdf for human imprints.

3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?
Yes _X_ No ___

Description:
Unit OR-036-003 is triangular in shape, approximately 4.0 miles in length and 6 miles in width near its northern boundary, then tapers southward where it narrows to about 2 miles wide. The majority of the unit consists of a rolling, open sagebrush plateau. Oregon Butte, a series of small knolls on the western boundary, and Tent Creek, Mahogany Creek, and Deer Creek drainages provide variation in topographic relief and visual barriers, creating the opportunity for solitude within the relative flatness of the remaining acreage of the unit.

Tent Creek drainage emanates from the south side of Oregon Butte and flows through the northeast third of the unit. Tent Creek drainage consists of broad, open sagebrush flats with dry meadows in the headwaters that transitions into a semi-confined 60-foot-deep canyon with steep side slopes, and rock escarpments that contain numerous springs and wet meadows in the area surrounding Moonshine Spring. As the channel flows eastward within the unit it broadens into a less confined stream consisting of sagebrush and dry meadow terraces.

The headwater drainages of Mahogany Creek start in the southern portion of the unit and flow toward the east. Mahogany Creek drainages consist of uniform gentle gradients with a series of springs and associated wet meadows surrounded by sagebrush flats and rolling hills. Deer Creek flows along the northwestern boundary of the unit and consists of low gradient channels supported by areas of interrupted perennial water and willow patches.

Topographic relief within the unit ranges from about 5,800 feet mean sea level (msl) along the eastern boundary and rises in the west to about 6,437 feet (msl) at the top of Oregon Butte. Elevation changes in most of the unit traversing from north to south or from east to west are gradual (average about 40-70 feet per mile) and are about 300 feet lower than the top of Oregon

Butte. The unit provides limited vegetative screening, consisting of broad expanses of low and big sagebrush. Oregon Butte and areas of rolling knolls in the southern and western portion of the unit, as well as some segments of drainage channels, provide topographic screening that creates an outstanding opportunity for solitude. BLM concludes that unit OR-036-003 provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. The original 1978 inventory did not identify these features which contribute to topographic screening and numerous opportunities for visitors to find secluded places and result in the finding of the presence of outstanding opportunities for solitude. The larger size of the unit from that identified in the original inventory also contributes to increased opportunities for solitude.

A citizen's wilderness proposal (ONDA, February 2004) includes unit OR-036-003 as a contiguous area with previously BLM-identified inventory units Deer Flat (BLM unit OR-036-005) and Twin Butte (BLM unit OR-036-002) in their Oregon Butte proposed WSA Addition. BLM has concluded that the three units are not contiguous because they are separated by existing routes that meet the definition of a road (refer to BLM road 6354-0-00 and 8300-6-01 road analysis forms).

4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?
Yes ____ No __X_

Description:
Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are available in the unit. However, opportunities for activities such as hiking, backpacking, hunting, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, and photography are not outstanding because the unit lacks scenic quality, diversity of landforms, and challenging terrain. Oregon Butte, an area of rolling hills 200 feet and less in height, and drainage depressions are the only topographic features in the unit that alter the flatness of the terrain. The present inventory agrees with the 1978 inventory that determined the unit lacks exceptional scenery and a diversity of landforms that would result in a strong attraction to the unit for any type of primitive recreation activity. Backpacking across the unit could be a monotonous experience with no change in hiking conditions or scenery. There are no unique photographic opportunities in the unit. Despite the unit's size, the lack of outstanding scenic quality and lack of diversity of landforms render the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation less than outstanding. Although wildlife viewing opportunities have been identified as a recreational value within this unit, they are not considered to be outstanding by the inventory team.

Citizens promoting the Oregon Butte proposed Addition have presented a number of scenic photographs (WA124, 129, 134-135, 137-139) as evidence of outstanding opportunities for hiking, photography, and sightseeing in the Cairn-C OR-036-003 unit. All photographs, except WA124, occur adjacent to Deer Creek in an area approximately one-half mile wide by 1 mile long. This area does not represent the majority of BLM unit OR-036-003 or the Oregon Butte proposed Addition. Photograph WA124 depicts a typical drainage of the area, 60 feet or less of a depression over a space of a quarter-mile width. By definition, "An area may possess outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation either through the diversity in the number of primitive and unconfined recreational activities possible in the unit, or the outstanding quality of one opportunity." The inventory team has determined that unit OR-036-003 does not contain any outstanding opportunities or outstanding qualities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of the extremely limited extent of diverse land forms.

5) Does the unit have supplemental values?
Yes _X_ No ____

Description:
With some minor exceptions, the ecological integrity of rangeland in this unit has been largely unaffected by the combined impacts of wildfire and invasive, non-native plants such as cheatgrass. This means the area possesses wildlife habitat supplemental values for sagebrush-dependent species of BLM management importance including pygmy rabbit, sagebrush vole, greater sage-grouse, Brewer's sparrow, black-throated sparrow, sage sparrow, loggerhead shrike, and sage thrasher. Observed rangeland conditions within this unit can be expected to contribute towards the existence of healthy sagebrush-dependent wildlife populations for a large area and over the long term because: (1) native plant functional and structural groups are well represented within the unit, and (2) wildlife forage, cover, and structure is available for use by species of management importance.

In contrast to conditions described above, rangeland at similar elevations and in similar ecological sites within Malheur County, Oregon has been highly disturbed due to the combined effects of improper historical grazing use, loss of biological crust integrity, invasive plant establishment, and catastrophic wildfire impacts over the last few decades. Cheatgrass presence is known to accelerate and aggravate wildfire spread because it is a highly flammable fine fuel, and wildfire often reduces or completely eliminates critical shrub-based forage, cover, and habitat structure values for many species of wildlife. Literally millions of acres of Wyoming big sagebrush habitat types, similar to those within this unit, have been burned over the last few decades and recovery of these losses will take multiple decades if not centuries to occur.

Finally, the land considered within this unit is also recognized as part of the Owyhee Uplands Physiographic Province, a region incorporating rangeland in Oregon, Idaho, and Nevada which supports some of the largest contiguous blocks of intact sagebrush steppe remaining west of the Continental Divide.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION:

Inventory Unit Name/Number: **Cairn-C OR-036-003**

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:

(**X**) The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.

( ) The area does not have wilderness character.

The ID team has reviewed the findings summarized in the original Statewide Wilderness Inventory as well as in the published decision documents and maps identified on Form 1. Current conditions relative to the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics have been considered including citizen wilderness proposals. Based on all the best available information and staff field visits to the area since 2000, the ID team has found compelling reasons, described in sections above, to change existing BLM inventory decisions for solitude and supplemental values wilderness characteristics described in sections above. BLM finds that the naturalness of the area is primarily affected by the forces of nature, outstanding opportunities for solitude are present in portions of the unit, and there are supplemental values present. The opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are limited for reasons already described above and BLM concludes that there are not outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

This updated inventory includes areas that overlap state boundaries with Nevada. Although inventory information was collected on the entire area, the wilderness characteristic findings are only conclusive for the portion of each unit that is within Oregon.

Sources of Reference for Evaluation:

- All BLM documents listed in Form 1; existing BLM wilderness inventory information.
- Wilderness Inventory Recommendations: Vale District, Submitted by Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA), February 6, 2004.
- Current geographic information system (GIS) data on existing projects, vehicle routes/roads, land ownership, etc.
- BLM Job Documentation Record (JDR) files.
- National Agriculture Imagery Project digital images (2005).
- Official BLM Transportation Plan Map.

- BLM staff has obtained first-hand field knowledge about this unit's plant communities, road conditions, and other attributes as a result of rangeland health investigations conducted between July and October of the year 2000. BLM gathered quantitative rangeland data from trend plots in support of the assessment and evaluation process for Louse Canyon Geographic Management Area, but most other data collected for rangeland health evaluation purposes were either estimated or qualitative in nature. BLM staff has also visited this and adjoining units annually and on multiple occasions after 2000 in the process of establishing and reading riparian monitoring locations, performing layout and design work for rangeland development projects, conducting rangeland supervision duties, collecting livestock utilization data, and documenting current road conditions. Field observations were made during Rangeland Standards and Guides assessment work in 2000.

Wilderness Characteristics Interdisciplinary Team:

Jack Wenderoth, Team Lead, Vale District — Date 10/26/07

Bob Alward, Contractor — Date 10/26/07

Jon Sadowski, Contractor — Date 10/26/07

Cynthia Landing, Rangeland Management Specialist, Vale District — Date 10-26-07

Trisha Skerjanec, Resource Assistant – GIS, Vale District — Date 10/26/07

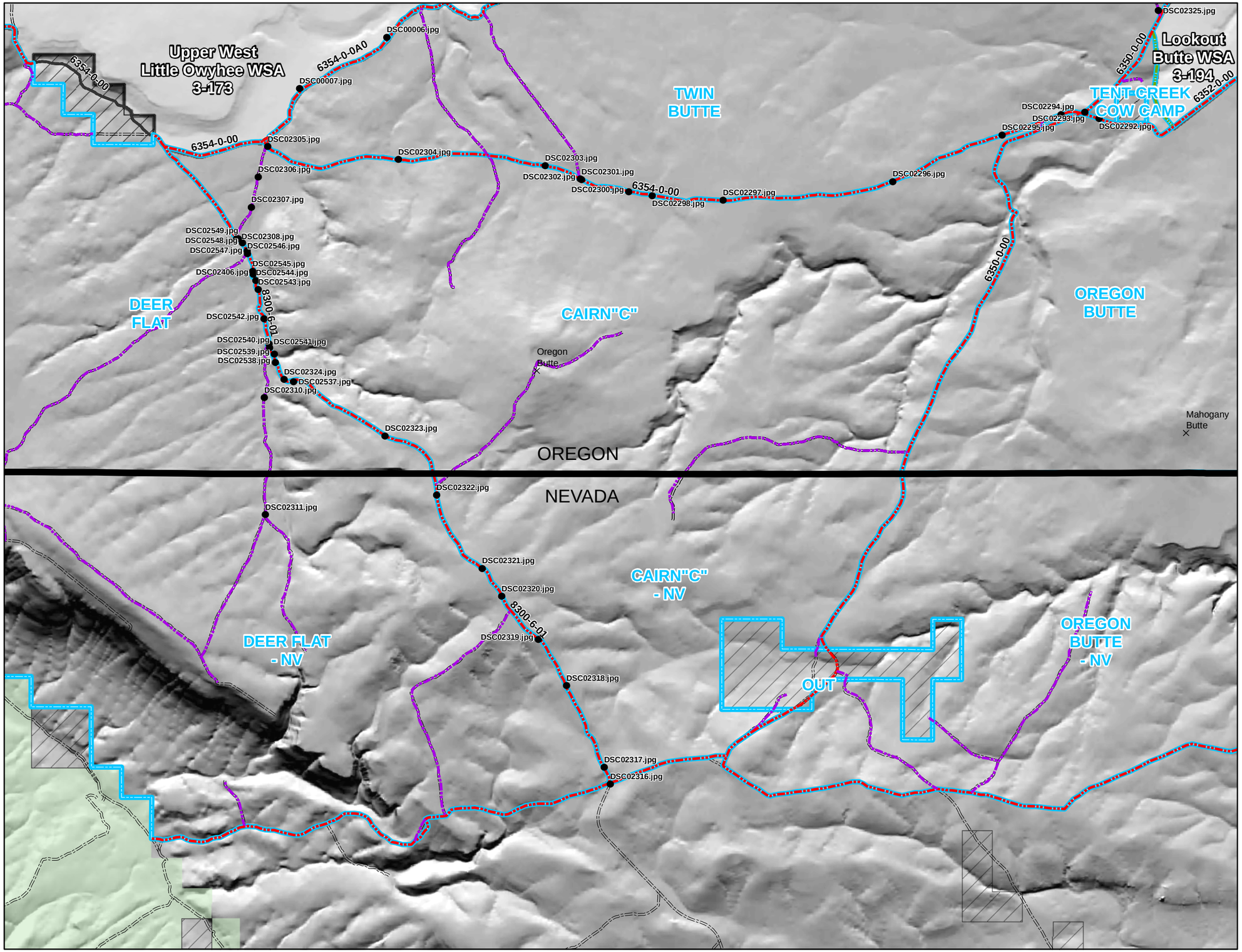
Brent Grasty, Natural Resource Specialist – GIS, Vale District — Date 10/26/07

Concurrence:

Carolyn R. Freeborn — **Date** 10/26/07

Field Manager, Jordan R. A.

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.



CAIRN C
OR-036-003
ACRES: 13241

Legend

- DSC022291.jpg Photo Points
- Boundary Road
- WSA Shared Bnd
- Primitive Route
- State of Oregon
- Wilderness Inventory Unit

Land Status

- US Forest Service
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- State Lands
- Private
- Bureau of Land Management
- Wilderness Study Area

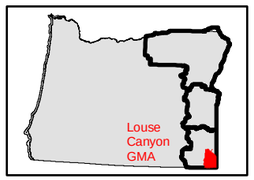
6354-0-00 B.L.M Route

0.4 0.2 0 0.4 0.8 1.2 Miles

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 1.6 Kilometers

1:50,000

N W E S



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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VALE DISTRICT

Louse Canyon
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Wilderness Inventory Maintenance

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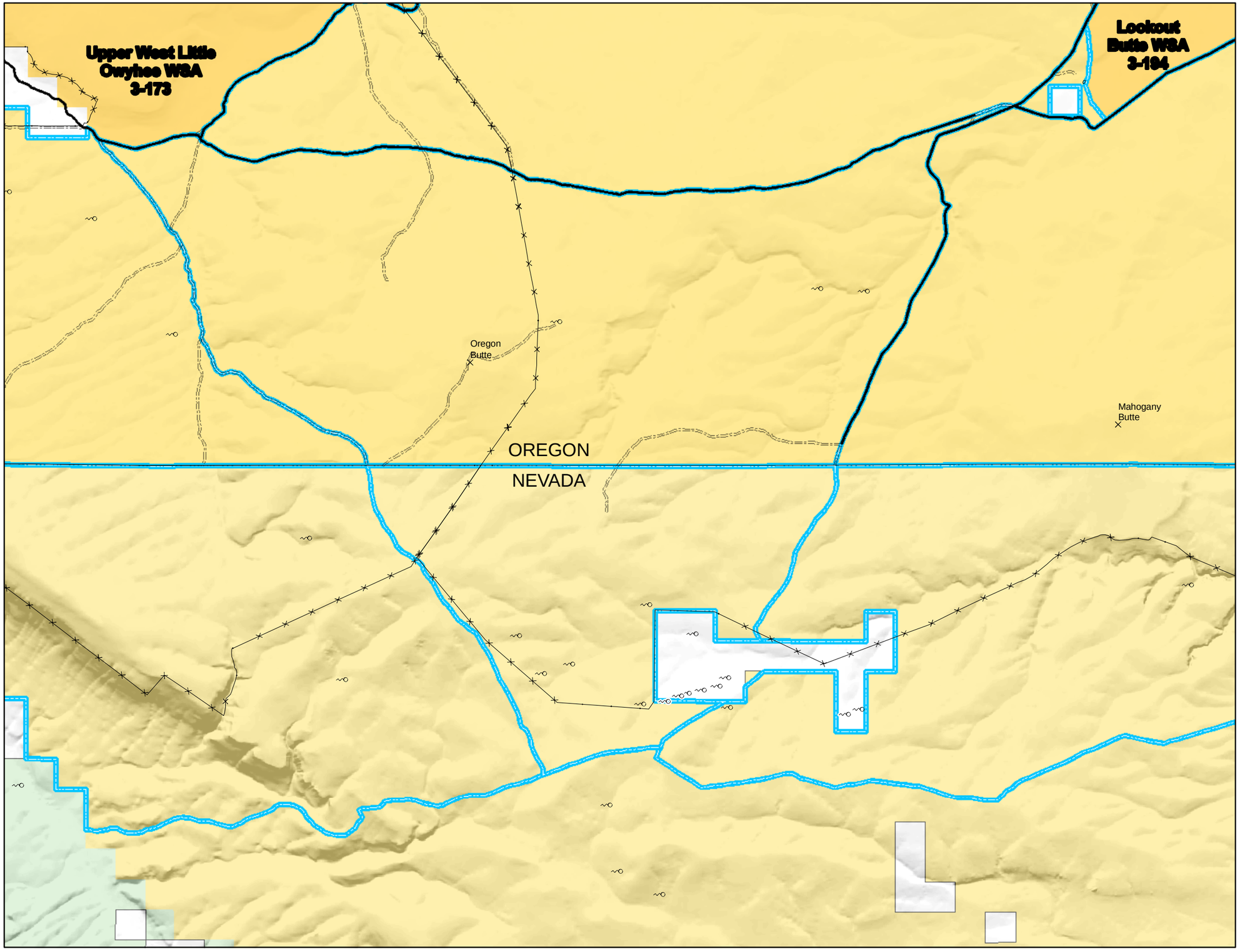


CAIRN C
OR_036_003
ACRES: 13,241

Legend

- Wilderness Inventory Unit
- BLM Inventory Routes
- Other Routes
- Allotments
- Pasture Boundaries
- BLM Developed Springs
- Other Springs
- Wilderness Study Areas

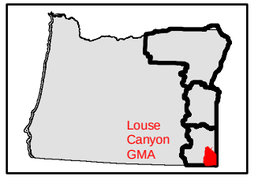
Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Other Federal Lands
- Private
- State

0.5 0.25 0 0.5 1 1.5 Miles

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Kilometers

1:50,000



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

APPENDIX C – ROAD[1] ANALYSIS

Wilderness Inventory Area Name and Number (Unit ID): Boundary road between BLM Twin Butte OR-036-002 and Cairn C OR-036-003

Route Name and/or Identifier: BLM Road Andy Fife/6354-0-00; Oregon Butte proposed WSA Addition WO13b, WO16b

I. LOCATION

Refer to attached map: 2007_Twin_Butte_OR_036_002.pdf and BLM corporate data (GIS).
List photo point references (if applicable): BLM, DSC02294-DSC02300, DSC02302-DSC02305; Oregon Butte proposed WSA Addition, WA089-WA090, WA114, WA116-117, WA119-120, WA125

II. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE

Describe: BLM road 6354-0-00 is utilized mainly by ranchers (as observed by current BLM staff) and by BLM staff for the administration of rangeland resources, livestock grazing, and the maintenance of livestock improvements (fences, springs, and reservoirs) in two allotments. The road is also used on a seasonal basis by hunters, recreation enthusiasts, and as access to private inholdings for livestock management.

III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY

Is a road right-of-way associated with this route? Yes ____ No _X_ Unknown ____

IV. CONSTRUCTION

Yes _X_ No _____

Examples: Paved _____ Bladed _X_ Graveled _____
Roadside Berms _X_ Cut/Fill _____ Other _____

Describe: Local information for the Louse Canyon area points to origins of BLM road 6354-0-00 as a wagon trail, with that use and later off-road vehicle use as the starting sources for creating a two-track trail. Road 6354-0-00 was then developed in the late

1960s to early 1970s by a blade. Whether a road-grader and/or bulldozer were utilized to construct this road is not known but from interpretation of BLM photographs DSC02297, DSC02298, and DSC02300 it appears both were used. BLM photographs show a line of boulders located approximately 3 to 6 feet from the current edges of the road. The size of these boulders and the makeup of the associated rocky roadbed in the photograph indicate that a bulldozer was used to develop the roadbed for BLM road 6354-0-00 and a grader used to widen and smooth it and to develop the side berms. Currently berms are not evident in some segments of the road. Most of the ditches and berms are covered with brush, with sediment filling in the ditches. This road consists of natural material and is part of the BLM Vale District Transportation Plan.

The citizen's proposal for the Oregon Butte WSA Addition agrees that BLM road 6354-0-00 in was developed by a blade but contends that the road is not maintained, is rocky, rutted, washed-out, and shows little sign of use. ONDA's description of roads in their 2004 document refers to pictures WA089-090, WA114, WA116-117, WA119-120, and WA125-127 for BLM road 6354-0-00. Based on these pictures and field information, ONDA determined that BLM Road 6354-0-00 was not a road but a way. BLM does not agree with ONDA's conclusion. Based on pictures taken (DSC02295-298, DSC02300, DSC02302-305) and field reconnaissance in 2007, BLM has determined that BLM road 6354-0-00 does meet the definition of a road.

Photographs WA089-WA090 from ONDA, and photo DSC02294 from BLM, show the eastern entrance to BLM road 6354-0-00. The eastern entrance contains a small aircraft landing strip that was developed in the 1960s for flying in personnel and materials to construct rangeland grazing projects as part of the Vale Project. BLM road 6354-0-00 is the northern boundary of this now relic air field. ONDA photograph WA114 and BLM photograph DSC02295 show road 6354-0-00 as it leaves the airstrip to the west. In both photographs the road width and berms can be seen, although vegetation has taken over all but the roadbed itself.

The next set of photographs, ONDA WA116-WA117 and BLM DSC02296, occur about one-half mile to the west of the airstrip. ONDA's WA116 shows a close-up of a small rut about 15 feet in length extending into a low area where water has run onto the road. Information from ONDA's photo log for photograph WA117 indicates that the road has been bladed but not used or maintained. BLM's road 6354-0-00 contains many intermittent areas of rocky soils as shown in ONDA photo WA117, and areas that are essentially void of any rock material as shown in BLM photo DSC02296, taken about 150 yards to the west of photo WA117. Photo WA117 shows a compacted and well-traveled roadbed, whereas photo DSC02296 shows a well compacted mineral roadbed. Requiring maintenance on compacted natural rock or a natural soil roadbed that is passable to virtually all types of vehicles, simply for the sake of appearance does nothing for the road except create new disturbance. As stated previously, over time vegetation has become established within the berms along each side of the roadbed but does nothing to restrict travel on this road. Low-growing vegetation is also present in rocky areas of the road and gives the appearance that the road is not often traveled. A large percentage of this vegetation can be attributed to annual species that flourish in the spring and die off or

are beaten down by traffic over the active use period during late spring, throughout the year into late fall. Most of the remaining series of photographs along BLM road 6354-0-00, both for ONDA and BLM, show variations of rocky and natural soil roadbed with various states of vegetated road berms and lines of boulders on the outer edges of the original bladed berms.

The extreme western extent of road 6354-0-00 in this inventory unit travels across Deer Creek (BLM DSC02304-305, ONDA WA125) which contains sedges and rushes in the drainage. The Deer Creek crossing pictures show that the road is not bladed to mineral soil and contains vegetation. Blading the road across Deer Creek would only disturb the natural growth established in the drainage and would tend to dewater the associated wet meadow species that now persist year-round. This road and roads in the surrounding area are used seasonally after high-water runoff has occurred. Therefore, most low-water crossings, although vegetated, are used when they are drier and less susceptible to damage. Establishing a rocked low-water crossing through the Deer Creek drainage is not needed in most years. Exceptionally wet years extend the time period when these crossings can become damaged.

V. IMPROVEMENTS

Yes ____ No _X__

Yes or No for each: By hand tools__No_____ By machine__No_____

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 ____ No _X__

By hand tools _____ By machine _____

Explain: Recent maintenance to BLM Road 6354-0-00 is not evident. All photographs show that earthen berms on the edge of the road presently contain some brush encroaching from undisturbed areas outside of the roadbed. Some pictures also show small discontinuous quantities of brush in the center of the roadbed between wheel tracks. Although it has been many years since maintenance was performed on this road, it is evident by the condition of the roadbed in BLM and ONDA photographs that little, if any, maintenance is needed to keep the roadbed in good operational condition. This is

consistent with Best Management Practices BLM has incorporated into the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan for Vale District.

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 _X_ No ____

Comments: Road 6354-0-00 receives annual use as evidence by the lack of brush in most of the road and by the well-used bare ground where vehicles travel. To reduce the potential for erosion and invasive plant and weed species BLM emphasizes minimal ground disturbance for road construction and maintenance, following Best Management Practices (BMPs) as described in the SEORMP, Appendix O. BMPs are designed to assist in achieving land use objectives for maintaining or improving water quality, soil productivity, and the protection of watershed resources from ground disturbing activities. Therefore, BLM does not grade many roads unless obstruction to vehicle passage is evident. To further reduce ground disturbance and to minimize disruption of natural drainage patterns, roads are kept to the minimal width necessary. Additional precautions are taken to reduce vegetation removal such as retention of vegetation on cut slopes, unless it poses a safety hazard or restricts maintenance activities, and roadside brushing of vegetation is conducted in a way that prevents disturbance to plant root systems and does not create visual intrusions.

VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE

Yes _X_ No ____

BLM road 6354-0-00 has annual use as evidenced by the lack of brush in most sections of the road and by well-used bare ground where vehicle tires track (BLM photos DSC02294-DSC02300, DSC02302-DSC02305). ONDA's 2004 document (photos WA089-WA090, WA114, WA116-117, WA119-120, WA125) refers to BLM road 6354-0-00 as a way and as not meeting the definition of a road. BLM does not support their decision. The road is well traveled, wide along most of its length, and is clearly defined on the landscape.

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: BLM has determined that road 6354-0-00 meets the definition of a road as stated in sections IV, VI-B, and VII above. BLM road 6354-0-00 was constructed by mechanical equipment, maintenance would be approved by management as needed if the road base became impassable, and the road has regular and continuous use.

Evaluator(s):

Jack Wenderoth, Team Lead, Vale District — Date 10-26-2007

Jon Sadowski, Contractor — Date 10-26-2007

Cynthia Landing, Rangeland Management Specialist, Vale District — Date 10-26-2007

[1] Note: The following definition of road is quoted from OSO Draft (4/19/07) H-6300-1, Wilderness Inventory Maintenance in BLM Oregon/Washington:

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."

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

APPENDIX D – PHOTO LOG

Photographer (s): Landing

Inventory Area Name and No.
Cairn C OR-036-003 Andy Fife Road 6354-0-00

DATE	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Section
4/17/2007	DSC02294	SW	Parallel to Tent Creek	477978 4654401	T41S	R46E	Sec 1
4/17/2007	DSC02295	SW	Good Road	477193 4654113	T41S	R46E	Sec 2
4/17/2007	DSC02296	W	Berms	475720 465394	T41S	R46E	Sec 2
4/17/2007	DSC02297	W	Berms	473446 465394	T41S	R46E	Sec 3
4/17/2007	DSC02298	W	Visible tracks	472504 4653311	T41S	R46E	Sec 4
4/17/2007	DSC02300	W	Visible road	472191 4653355	T41S	R46E	Sec 5
4/17/2007	DSC02301	N	Up fenceline	471546 4653529	T41S	R46E	Sec 5
4/17/2007	DSC02302	W	Into next pasture	471546 4653529	T41S	R46E	Sec 5
4/17/2007	DSC02303	W	Visible road	471066 4653721	T41S	R46E	Sec 6
4/17/2007	DSC02304	S	Into Deer Creek	466105 4653799	T41S	R45E	Sec 1

DSC02294.JPG

DSC02295.JPG

DSC02296.JPG

DSC02297.JPG

DSC02298.JPG

DSC02300.JPG

DSC02301.JPG

DSC02302.JPG

DSC02303.JPG

DSC02304.JPG

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

APPENDIX C – ROAD[1] ANALYSIS

Wilderness Inventory Area Name and Number (Unit ID): Boundary road between BLM Cairn-C OR-036-003 and Deer Flat OR-036-005

Route Name and/or Identifier: BLM Road 8300-6-01; Oregon Butte proposed WSA Addition WO15a

I. LOCATION

Refer to attached map: 2007_Cairn-C_OR_036_003.pdf and BLM corporate data (GIS).

List photo point references (if applicable): BLM, DSC02308, DSC02316-DSC02324, DSC02537-DSC02545, DSC02547-DSC02549; Oregon Butte proposed WSA Addition, WA130-WA141

II. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE

Describe: BLM road 8300-6-01 is utilized mainly by ranchers (as observed by current BLM staff) and by BLM staff for the administration of rangeland resources, livestock grazing, and the maintenance of livestock improvements (fences, springs, and reservoirs) in two allotments. The road is also used on a seasonal basis by hunters, recreation enthusiasts, and as access to private inholdings for livestock management.

III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY

Is a road right-of-way associated with this route? Yes ____ No _X_ Unknown ____

IV. CONSTRUCTION

Yes _X_ No _____

Examples: Paved _____ Bladed _X_ Graveled _____
Roadside Berms _X_ Cut/Fill _____ Other _____

Describe: Local information for the Louse Canyon area points to origins of BLM road 8300-6-01 as a wagon trail which along with later off-road vehicle use created a two-track trail. Road 8300-6-01 was then developed in the late 1960s to early 1970s by

blading. Whether a road-grader and/or a bulldozer were utilized to construct this road is not known but from interpretation of BLM photographs DSC02318 and DSC02324 it appears both were used. These two BLM photographs show a line of boulders located approximately 3 feet from the current edges of the road. The size of these boulders and the makeup of the associated rocky roadbed in the photograph indicate that a bulldozer was used to help develop the roadbed for BLM road 8300-6-01 and that a grader was used to widen and smooth it and to develop the side berms. Currently, berms are not evident in some segments of the road. Most of the ditches and berms are covered with brush, with sediment filling in the ditches. This road consists of natural material and is part of the BLM Vale District Transportation Plan.

ONDA's information about roads in their 2004 document, Oregon Butte proposed WSA Addition, referred to photographs WA130-WA141. Based on these photographs and field information, ONDA determined that BLM road 8300-6-01 was not a road but a way. BLM does not support ONDA's conclusion, and based on BLM photographs DSC02308, DSC02316-DSC02324, DSC02537-DSC02545, DSC02547-DSC02549 and on field reconnaissance, has determined that BLM road 8300-6-01 does meet the definition of a road. ONDA's photographs and information cover only about the northern 2 miles of the 5-mile length of BLM road 8300-6-01, and the last two photographs WA140-WA141 are not pictures of BLM road 8300-6-01 as stated in their wilderness inventory photo log.

V. IMPROVEMENTS

Yes _X_ No _____

Yes or No for each: By hand tools __No__ By machine __Yes__

Examples: Culverts _____ Stream Crossings ____ Bridges ____ Drainage __X__
Barriers _____ Other _____

Describe: BLM road 8300-6-01 contains a bladed "turnout" (DSC02320) constructed with a road-grader that channels water from the roadbed onto the upland sagebrush rangeland. In addition, in the autumn of 2006 ruts were filled in and water bars were placed on a sloped curve of the road with a tractor back-hoe, to control drainage before entering Deer Creek (DSC02537-DSC025390).

VI. MAINTENANCE

A. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes _X_ No _____

By hand tools _____ By machine __X__

Explain: Maintenance to BLM road 8300-6-01 has been conducted over time as needed to keep this route passable. Earthen berms, water bars, and drainage turnouts on the edge of the road in photographs DSC02308, DSC02310-312, DSC02316-DSC02324, DSC02537-DSC02545, and DSC02547-DSC02549 show maintenance work that has been performed on this road. Although it has been many years since maintenance has been performed on the entire road it is evident from photographs BLM has taken, that little to no maintenance is needed to keep the roadbed in good operational condition.

Recent maintenance to BLM road 8300-6-01 was performed in the autumn of 2006. At that time the BLM Maintenance Organization performed site maintenance to two sections of this road above and along Deer Creek. BLM reconstructed existing springs in the area of Deer Creek that summer. Spring runoff along the stream had created a problem with one stream crossing. Heavy spring rainfall also rutted a section of the road on a sloped curve above Deer Creek. The road in and above Deer Creek needed maintained to allow access by heavy equipment to the spring areas. The maintenance crew filled in the rutted road area, reshaped road berms, and placed water bars across the road with a tractor back-hoe to channel water from the road (DSC02537-DSC02539). The crew also filled in the washed-out area in the Deer Creek drainage channel (between photos DSC02547-DSC02548) with the back-hoe to allow vehicle passage across the creek. Maintaining only those sections along an existing road to allow passage is consistent with the Best Management Practices that BLM has incorporated into the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan for Vale District.

Near the northern extent of road 8300-6-01 in this inventory unit the road crosses two drainages contributing to Deer Creek, as well as the main channel (BLM DSC02541, ONDA WA131-WA132), which contain sedges and rushes. These crossing pictures show that the road is not bladed to mineral soil and contains vegetation. Blading the road across Deer Creek would only disturb the natural growth established in the drainage and would tend to dewater the associated wet meadow species that now persist year-round. This road and roads in the surrounding area are used seasonally after high-water runoff has occurred. Therefore, most low-water crossings, although vegetated, are used when they are drier and less susceptible to damage. Establishing a rocked low-water crossing through the Deer Creek drainage is not needed in most years. Exceptionally wet years extend the time period when these crossings can become damaged.

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 _X_ No _____

Comments: BLM road 8300-6-01 receives annual use, as evidence by the lack of brush in the road and by well-used bare ground where vehicles travel. It should be noted that small amounts of low brush occur sporadically throughout the length of the road. To reduce the potential for erosion and the establishment of invasive plant and weed species, BLM emphases minimal ground disturbance for road construction and maintenance, through

Best Management Practices (BMPs) as described in the SEORMP, Appendix O. BMPs are designed to assist in achieving land use objectives for maintaining or improving water quality, soil productivity, and the protection of watershed resources from ground disturbing activities. Therefore, BLM does not grade many roads unless obstruction to vehicle passage is evident. To further reduce ground disturbance and to minimize disruption of natural drainage patterns, roads are kept to the minimal width necessary. Additional precautions are taken to reduce vegetation removal by retention of vegetation on cut slopes unless it proposes a safety hazard or restricts maintenance activities, and by conducting roadside brushing of vegetation in a way that prevents disturbance to plant root systems and that does not create visual intrusions.

VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE

Yes _X_ No _____

BLM road 8300-6-01 has annual use as evidence by the lack of brush in most sections of the road and by the well-used bare ground where vehicle tires track (DSC02308, DSC02310-312, DSC02316-DSC02324). ONDA's 2004 document, Oregon Butte proposed WSA Addition, refers to BLM Road 6354-0-00 as a way and as not meeting the definition of a road. BLM does not support their decision. BLM road 8300-6-01 is well traveled, wide along most of its length, and is clearly defined on the landscape.

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: BLM has determined that road 8300-6-01 meets the definition of a road as stated in sections IV, VI-A and VI-B, and VII above. BLM road 8300-6-01 was constructed by mechanical equipment, has been maintained since being constructed, would be approved to be maintained by management as needed if the road base became impassable, and has regular and continuous use.

Evaluator(s):

Jack R Wenderoth — Date 10-26-2007

Jack Wenderoth, Team Lead, Vale District

Jon M Sadowski — Date 10-26-2007

Jon Sadowski, Contractor

Evaluator(s):

Cynthia Landing Date 10-26-2007

Cynthia Landing, Rangeland Management Specialist, Vale District

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[1] Note: The following definition of road is quoted from OSO Draft (4/19/07) H-6300-1, Wilderness Inventory Maintenance in BLM Oregon/Washington:

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."

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

APPENDIX D – PHOTO LOG

Photographer (s): Landing

Inventory Area Name and No.
2007 Cairn C OR-036-003 BLM Road 8300-6-01

DATE	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Section
4/25/2006	DSC02308	S	Visible road	467690 4650810	T41S	R46E	Sec 01
4/25/2007	DSC02316	NW	From Junction	471947 4645424	T41S	R41E	Sec 15
4/25/2007	DSC02317	NW	Good road	471859 4645650	T41S	R46E	Sec 09
4/25/2007	DSC02318	NW	Signs of construction	471254 4646748	T41S	R46E	Sec 09
4/25/2007	DSC02319	NW	Good road	470979 4647367	T41S	R46E	Sec09
4/25/2007	DSC02320	NW	Visible road	470482 4647942	T41S	R46E	Sec 04
4/25/2007	DSC02321	NW	Gate into Upper Louse	470221 4648317	T41S	R46E	Sec 04
4/25/2007	DSC02322	NW	Signs of construction	469619 4649302	T41S	R46E	Sec 04
4/25/2007	DSC02323	NW	Good road	4686903 4650095	T41S	R46E	Sec 13
4/25/2007	DSC02324	NW	Into Deer Creek	467693 4650827	T41S	R46E	Sec 13
9/11/2007	DSC02537	N	Into Deer Creek , Maintenance	467690 4650810	T41S	R46E	Sec 12
9/11/2007	DSC02538	N	Signs of Maintenance	467440 4651078	T41S	R46E	Sec 12
9/11/2007	DSC02539	N	Visible	467422	T41S	R46E	Sec 12

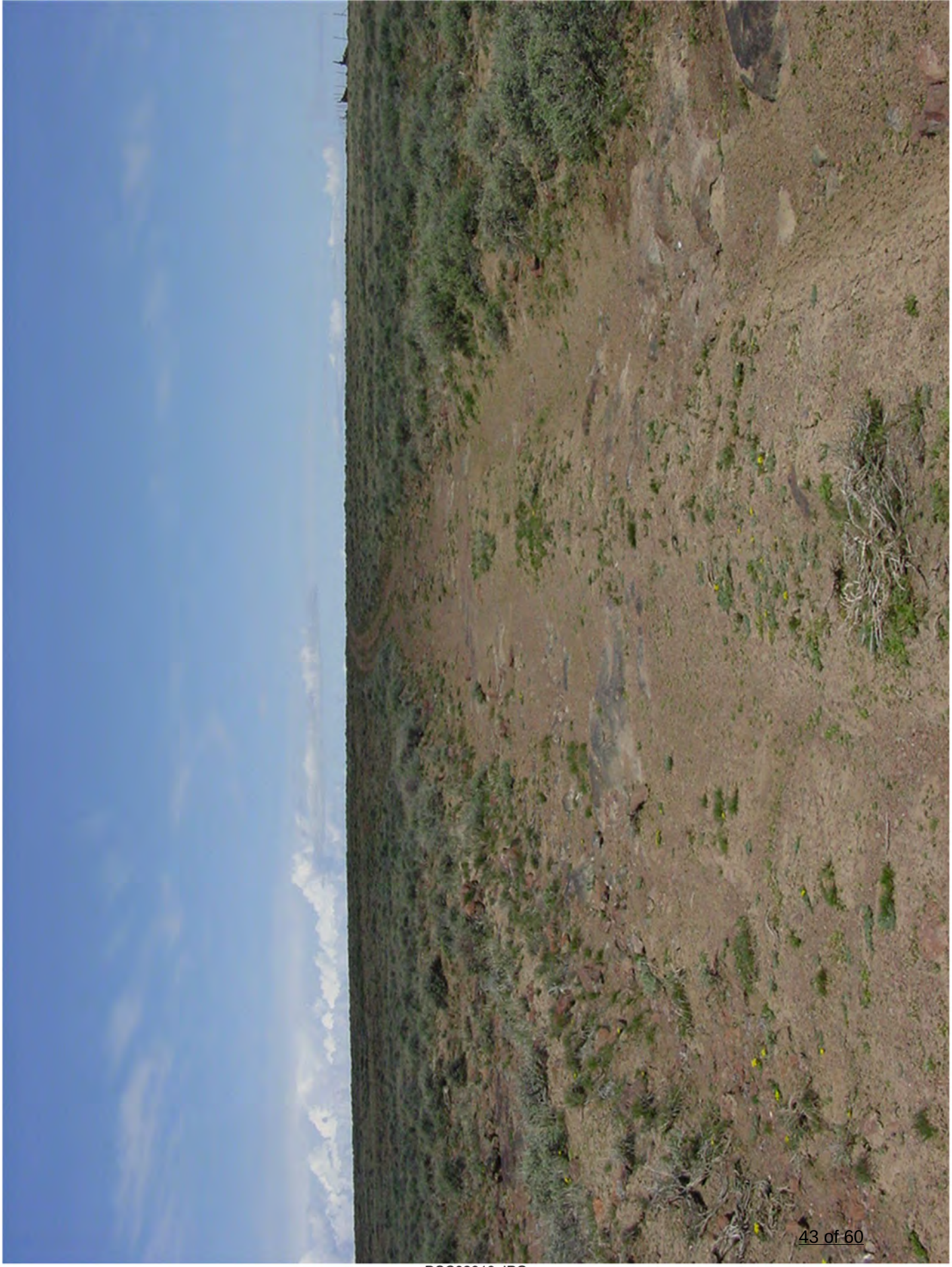
			Road	4651238			
9/11/2007	DSC02540	N	In Creek bottom	467368 4651453	T41S	R46E	Sec 13
9/11/2007	DSC02541	N	In Bottom	467422 4651363	T41S	R46E	Sec 13
9/11/2007	DSC02542	N	Visible road	467297 4651453	T41S	R46E	Sec 13
9/11/2007	DSC02543	N	Along bottom	467137 4652167	T41S	R46E	Sec13
9/11/2007	DSC02544	N	Along bottom	467154 4652327	T41S	R46E	Sec 13
9/11/2007	DSC02545	N	Road continues	467065 4652506	T41S	R46E	Sec 13
9/11/2007	DSC02547	N	Road continues	467137 4652505	T41S	R46E	Sec 13
9/11/2007	DSC02548	N	Crossing	466922 4652791	T41S	R46E	Sec 13
9/11/2007	DSC02549	N	Junction	466940 4652827	T41S	R46E	Sec 13

DSC02308.JPG

DSC02316.JPG

DSC02317.JPG

DSC02318.JPG



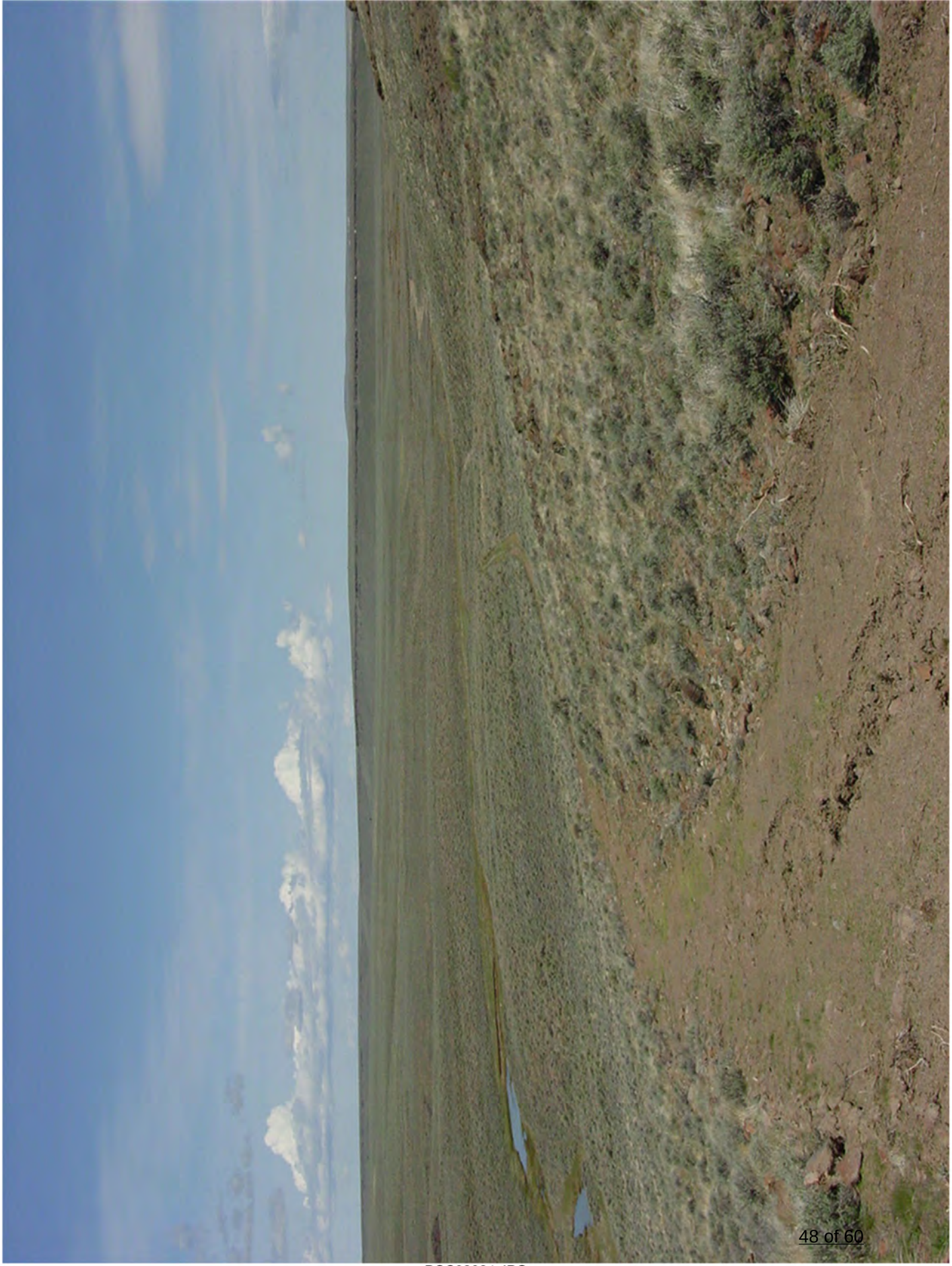
DSC02319.JPG

DSC02320.JPG

DSC02321.JPG

DSC02322.JPG

DSC02323.JPG



DSC02324.JPG

DSC02537.JPG

DSC02538.JPG

DSC02539.JPG

DSC02540.JPG

DSC02541.JPG

DSC02542.JPG

DSC02543.JPG

DSC02544.JPG

DSC02545.JPG

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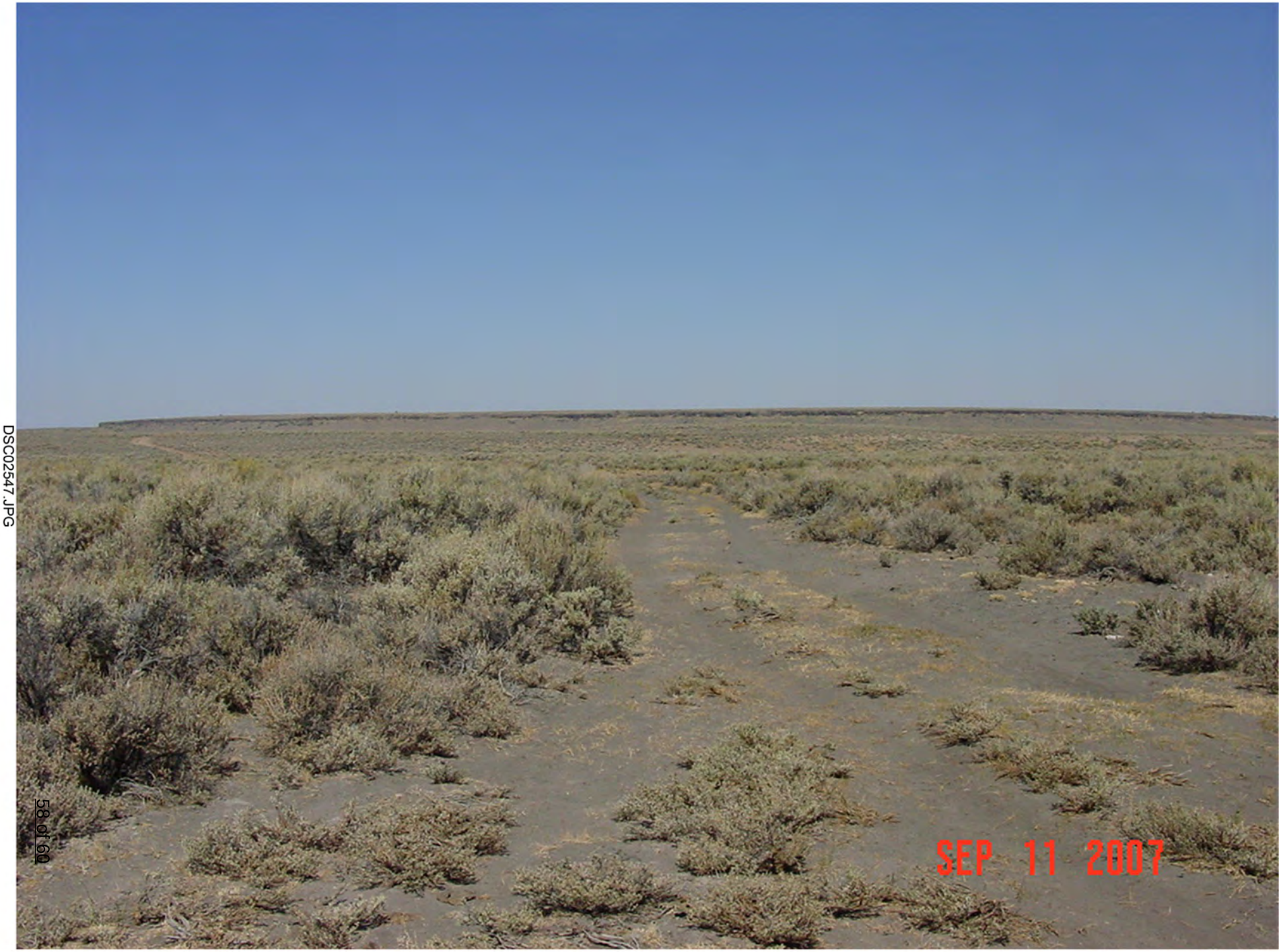

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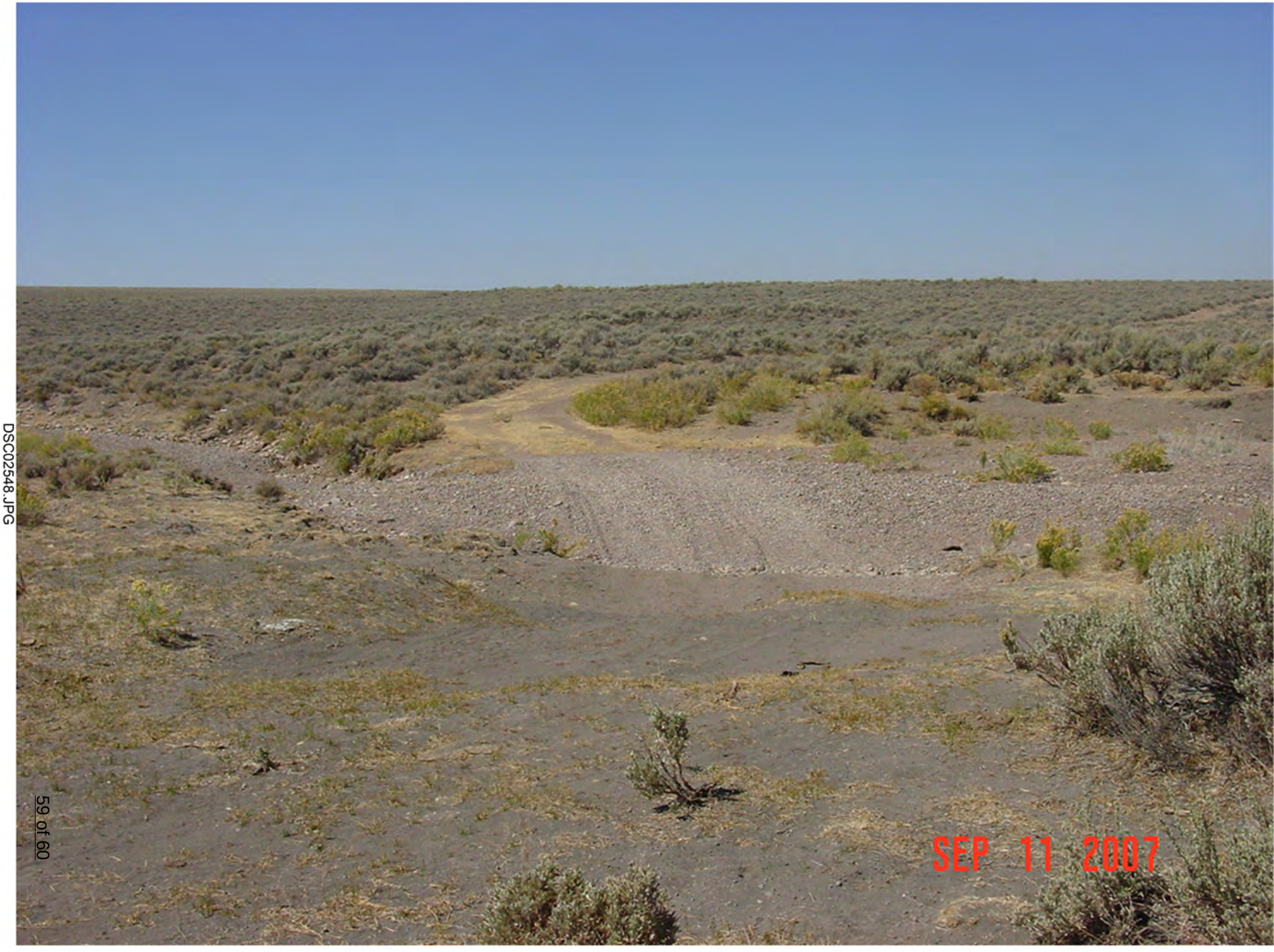

DSC02548.JPG

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DSC02549.JPG

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