

Louse Canyon Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents

Starvation Spring OR-036-001, 12 total pages

Page 1: Index Cover Sheet

Page 2: Louse Canyon GMA – BLM Wilderness Inventory Units – Map

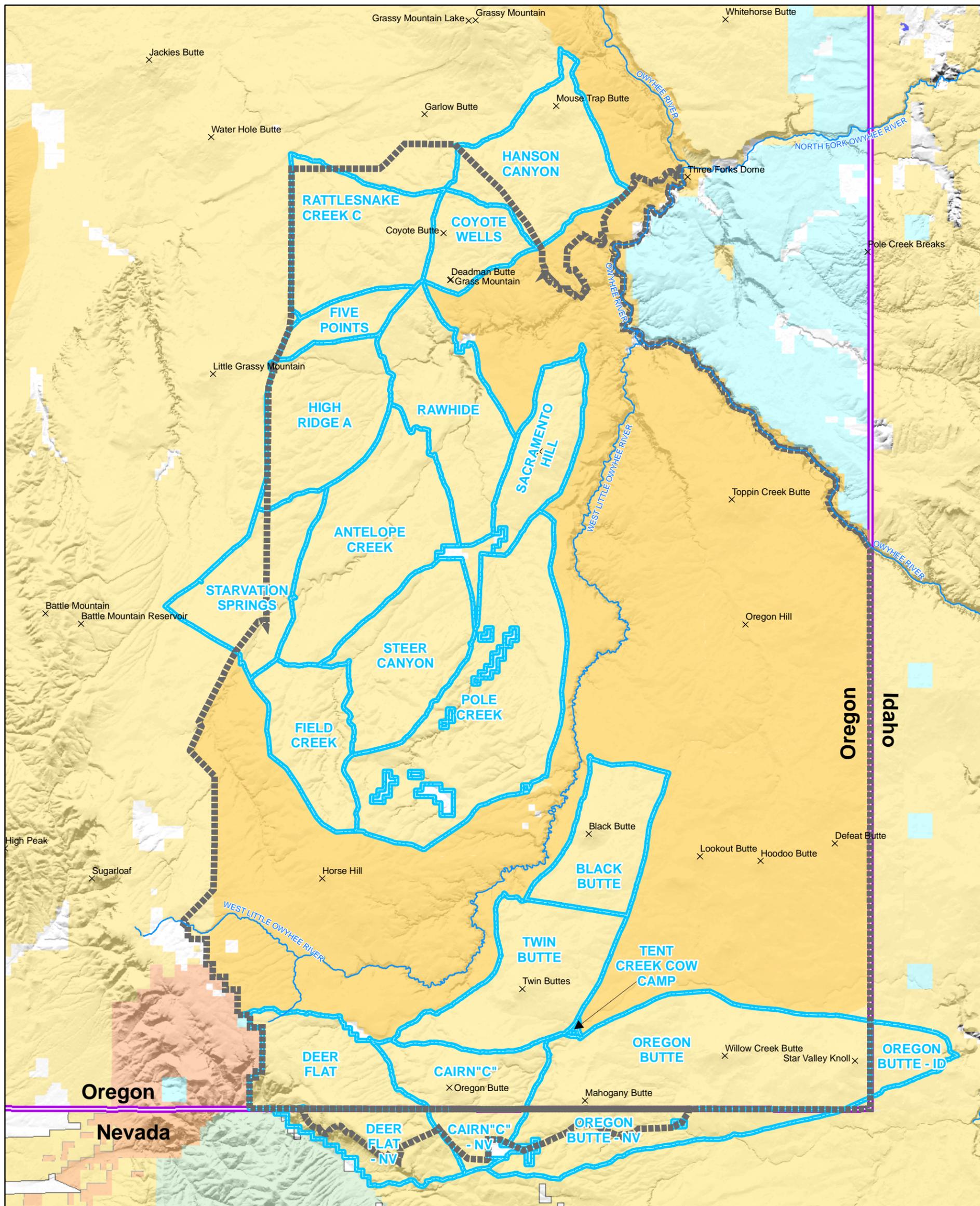
Page 3: Louse Canyon GMA – Oregon Natural Desert Association Proposed Wilderness Study Areas

Pages 4-10: H-6300-1-Wilderness Inventory Maintenance in BLM Oregon/Washington Appendix B – Inventory Area Evaluation

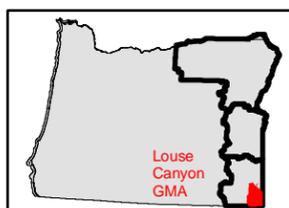
Page 11: Starvation Springs Unit Wilderness Boundaries – Map

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Louse Canyon GMA - BLM Wilderness Inventory Units



1:240,000



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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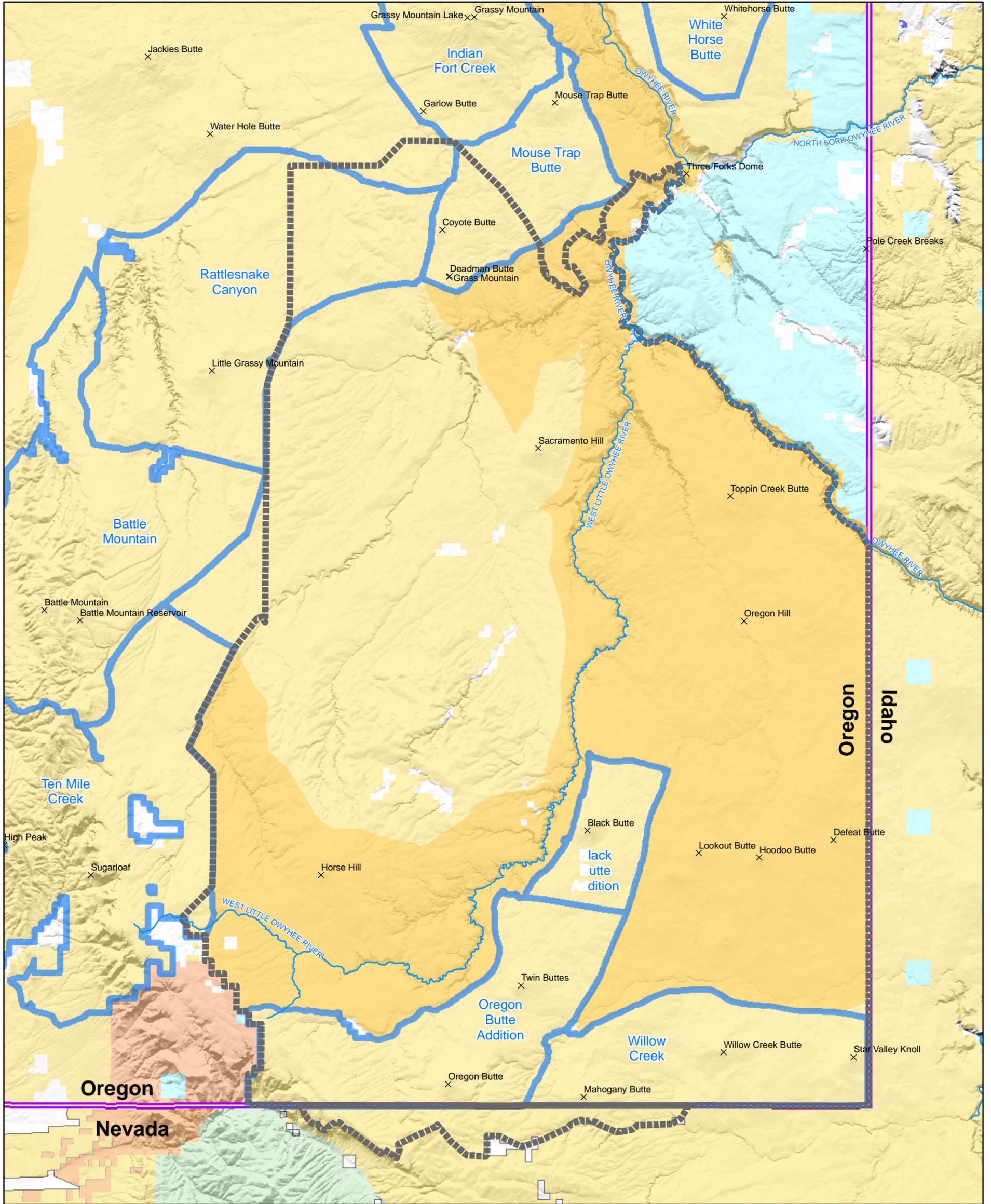
Legend

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

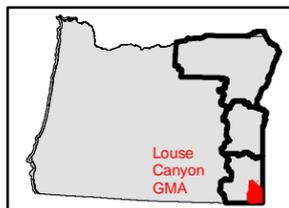
Land Status

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

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



1:240,000



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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

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

APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION

Year: 2007

Inventory Unit Name/Number: Starvation Spring OR-036-001

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-03-13-21* (unpublished BLM documents stored in 6-way case files).
- (X) April 1979 - *Proposed Initial Inventory: Roadless Areas and Islands Which 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).
- () 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).
- () 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-03-13-21 (1978); Starvation 3-158 (August 1979 – *Wilderness Review – Initial Inventory: Final Decision on Public Lands Obviously Lacking Wilderness Characteristics, Oregon and Washington* [green 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
- () Intensive Wilderness Inventory Map March 1980
- () 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
Starvation Spring 3-158	13,180	N	N	N	None stated
Total acres >>	13,180				

FORM 2

DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS:

Inventory Unit Name/Number: Starvation Springs OR-036-001

For this exercise BLM refers to the unit as 2007 Starvation Springs OR-036-001.

1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes X No

The unit is comprised of 13,180 acres, meeting the size criteria.

Description:

The unit is bounded on the west side by BLM road 6357-0-00, on the north side by BLM road 6357-0-A0, on the east and southeast by BLM road 6358-0-00, and on the southwest by BLM road 6350-0-00. The original southern boundary of this unit has been changed by the alteration of BLM road 6358-0-00. The original route of the road crossed Antelope Creek to the Lucky 7 Cow camp and then continued northward along the eastern boundary of the Starvation Springs unit. The new route extends from BLM road 6350-0-00 northeast to the Lucky 7 Cow Camp. Periodic maintenance of the 21.8 miles of boundary roads has occurred in the recent past (no confirmed dates available) and they are used regularly by ranchers (as observed by current BLM staff) and by the BLM for livestock management. Refer to map 2007_Starvation_Springs_OR_036_001.pdf for the unit boundary.

2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes No X

Description:

Human imprints within the unit include one developed spring, three earthen reservoirs, 3.5 miles of motorized primitive trails, 7 miles of fenceline, and 5,080 acres of brush control. Due to the number of intrusions, users moving through the unit would not be able to avoid the works of man. Overall, the area appears to be primarily affected by the influences of man. Refer to map 2007_Starvation_Springs_OR_036_001A.pdf for human imprints.

3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes No X

Description:

Unit OR-036-001 is approximately 6.0 miles in length and 4.5 miles in width in the south-central portion of the unit, then tapers to about 2.5 miles wide near the northern boundary and about 1.5 miles wide near the southern boundary. The majority of the unit consists of a flat to rolling open sagebrush plateau that slopes to the northeast, following the Big Antelope Creek drainage. The only variation in topographic relief in the unit is the 120-foot-deep entrenched canyon, of interrupted perennial flowing, Big Antelope Creek. This rimmed drainage flows through broad, open sagebrush flats and has a uniform, gentle gradient that provides little opportunity for solitude. Topographic relief is minimal within the unit with elevations ranging from about 5,220 feet mean sea level (msl) along the northeastern corner where Big Antelope Creek exits the unit, rising to the southwest to about 5,600 feet (msl) near the southwestern corner. Elevation changes in most of the unit, traversing from north to south, are gradual and average about 50-70 feet per

mile. The unit provides limited vegetative screening, consisting of broad expanses of low and big sagebrush with little opportunity for solitude. Because of the existing 3.5-mile network of motorized primitive trails and the absence of vegetative or topographic screening, BLM unit OR-036-001 does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Yes No

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. Big Antelope Creek and associated drainages 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 because of the vast acres of homogeneous topography and vegetation, which lack significant points of interest or attractive sites. Despite the unit's size, the lack of both scenic quality and 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.

5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes 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: Starvation Springs OR-036-001

Summary

Results of Analysis:

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

Conclusion

Check One:

- The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness character.
- The area does not have wilderness character.

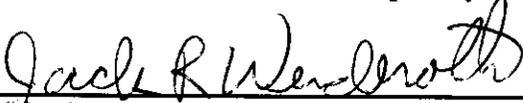
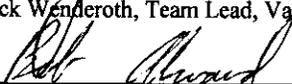
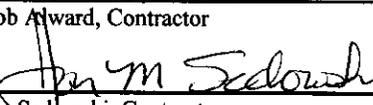
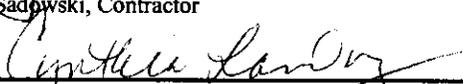
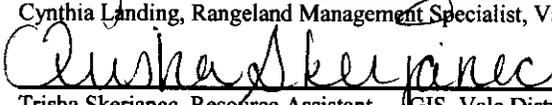
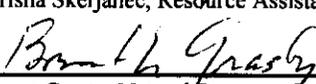
The ID team has reviewed the findings summarized in the original Statewide Wilderness Inventory as well as in the published decision documents and maps identified on Form 1. Current conditions relative to the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics have been considered including citizen wilderness proposals (no citizen proposal covering this unit). Based on all the best available information and staff field visits to the area since 2000, the ID team has found no compelling reasons to change existing BLM decisions about wilderness characteristics. While BLM finds that the naturalness of the area is primarily affected by the influences of man, there are supplemental values present, and the opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation are limited for reasons already described.

Sources of Reference for Evaluation:

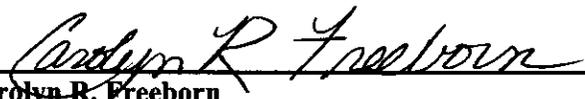
- All BLM documents listed in Form 1; existing BLM wilderness inventory information.
- Wilderness Inventory Recommendations: Vale District, Submitted by Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA), February 6, 2004.
- Current geographic information system (GIS) data on existing projects, vehicle routes/roads, 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
 _____ Bob Atward, Contractor	_____ 10/26/07 Date
 _____ Jon Sadowski, Contractor	_____ 10/26/07 Date
 _____ Cynthia Landing, Rangeland Management Specialist, Vale District	_____ 10-26-07 Date
 _____ Trisha Skerjanec, Resource Assistant — GIS, Vale District	_____ 10/26/07 Date
 _____ Brent Grasty, Natural Resource Specialist — GIS, Vale District	_____ 10/26/07 Date

Concurrence:

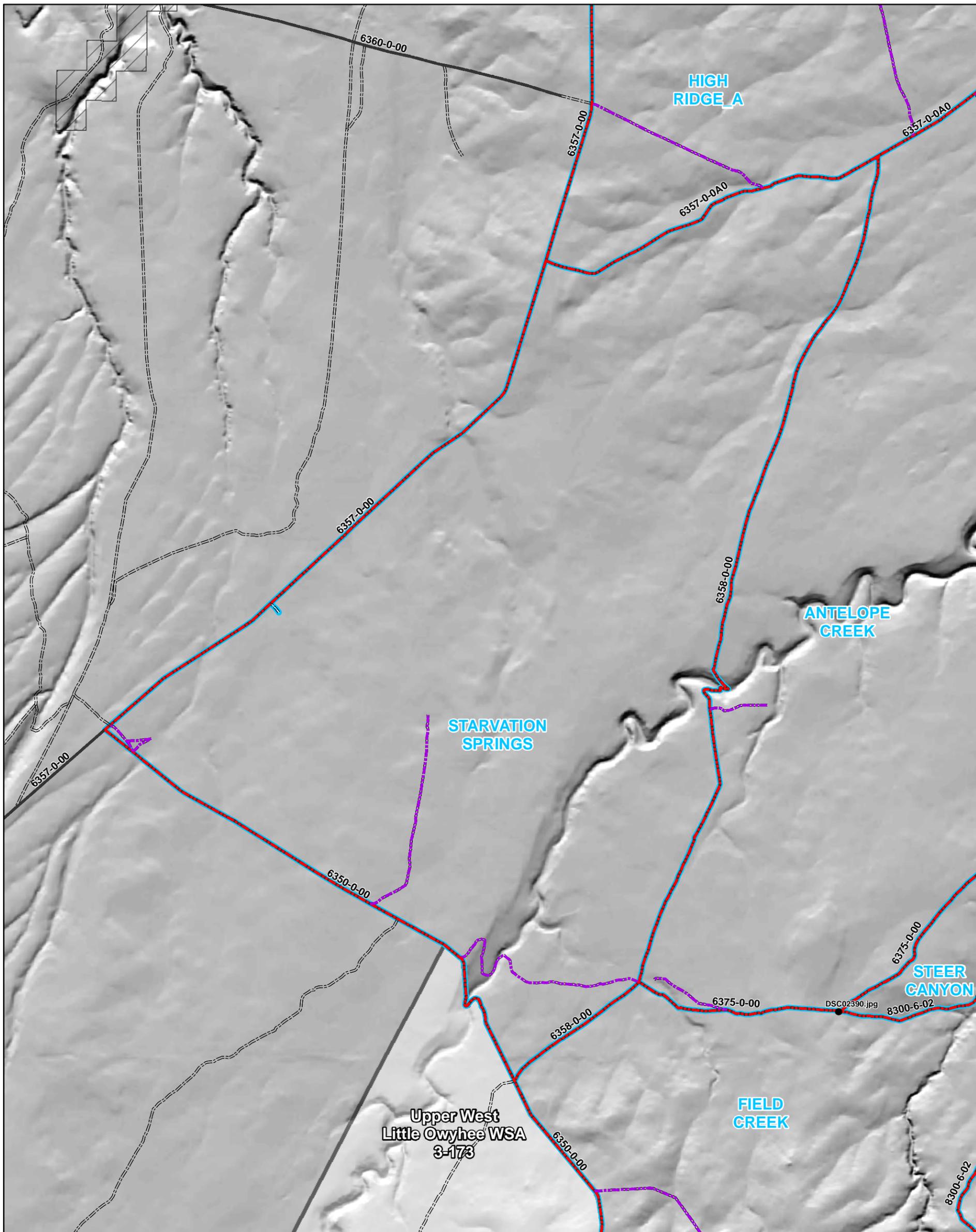
 _____ Carolyn R. Freeborn Field Manager, Jordan R. A.	_____ 10/26/07 Date
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This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.

STARVATION SPRINGS

OR-036-001

ACRES: 13598



Legend

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

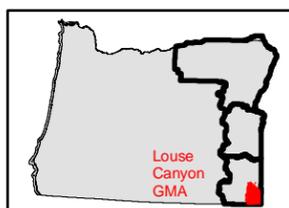
Land Status

- ▨ Private
- Bureau of Land Management
- ▭ Wilderness Study Area

6354-0-00 B.L.M Route



1:50,000



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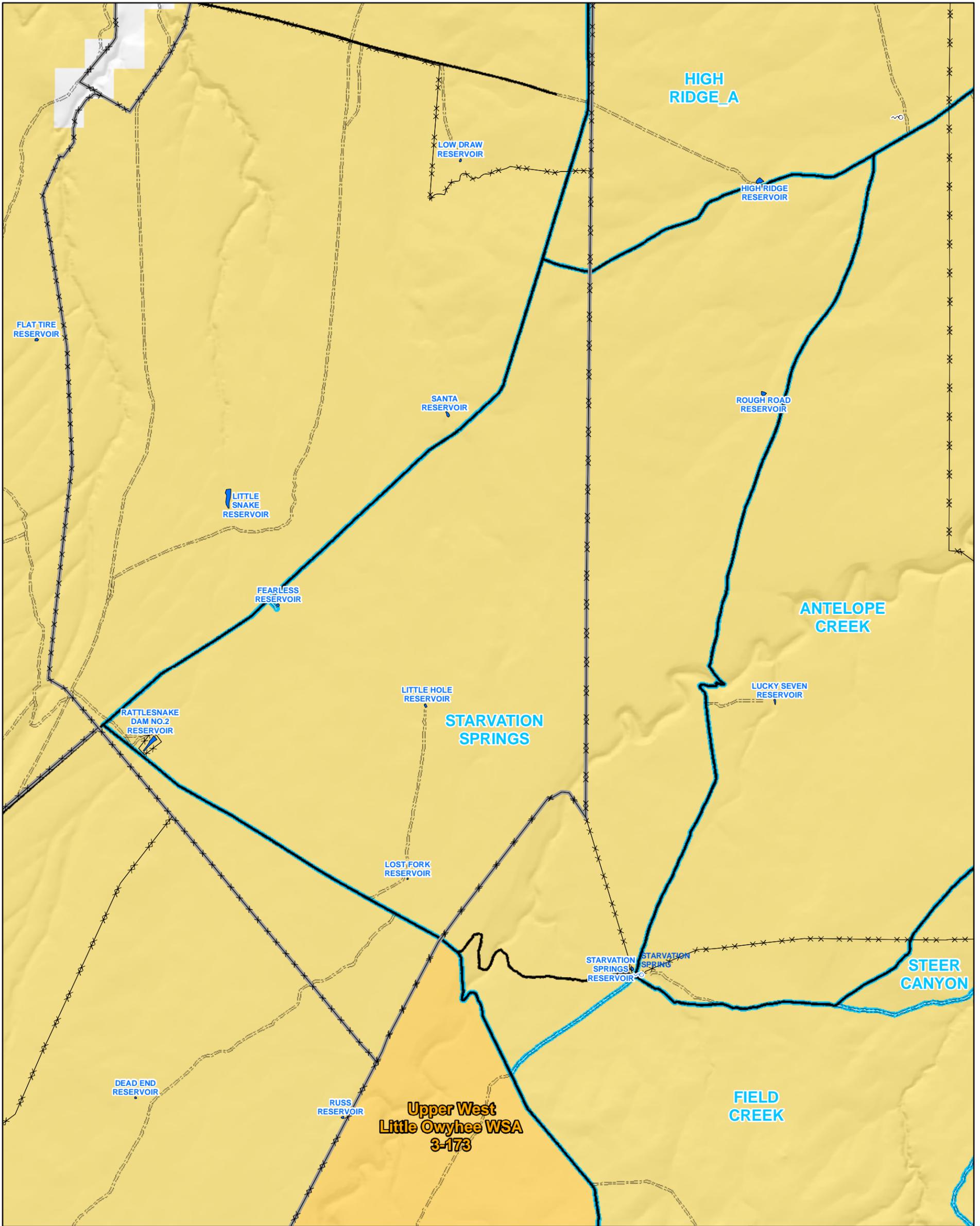
VALE DISTRICT

Louse Canyon
Geographic Management Area
Wilderness Inventory Maintenance

October 26, 2007

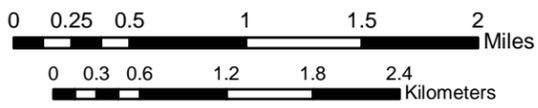
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STARVATION SPRINGS
 OR-036-001
 ACRES: 13598

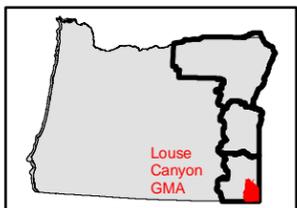


Upper West
 Little Owyhee WSA
 3-173

- Legend**
- Wilderness Inventory Unit
 - Wilderness Study Areas
 - BLM Inventory Routes
 - Other Routes
 - Allotments
 - Pasture Boundaries
 - BLM Reservoirs
 - BLM Developed Springs
 - Other Springs
 - Land Status**
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Forest Service
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - Other Federal Lands
 - Private
 - State



1:50,000



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 Louse Canyon
 Geographic Management Area
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