Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Squaw Creek OR-034-034, 23 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: __2009_ Unit Number/Name: OR-034-034 -- Squaw Creek_____

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 ____ *(If yes, and if more than one unit is within the area, list the names of those units.):*

A.) Inventory Source(s) -- (X) Denotes all applicable BLM Inventory files, printed maps, or published BLM Decision documents with information pertaining to this unit.

Wilderness Inventories

(X) 1978 – BLM Wilderness Inventory Units OR-03-03-04, 3-34 Squaw Creek (unpublished BLM documents stored in 6-way case files)

( ) April 1979 – *Wilderness -- Proposed Initial Inventory – Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not have Wilderness Characteristics, Oregon and Washington*

Wilderness Decision Documents

( ) 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)

BLM OR-03-03-04; Squaw Creek 3-34 (1978 unpublished BLM documents stored in 6-way case files)

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

(X) Final Decision – Initial Wilderness Inventory Map, August 1979, Oregon

( ) Proposed Decision -- Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas Map, October 1979, Oregon

(X) 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/ <u>Malheur</u> Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

(Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory unit is associated with the area, list each unit and answer each question individually for each inventory unit):

Inventory Source: See above.

Unit#/ Name	**Size (historic acres)**	**Natural Condition? Y/N**	**Outstanding Solitude? Y/N**	**Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N**	**Supplemental Values? Y/N**
(3-34) OR-03-03-04 Squaw Creek	3,040	*	N	N	N
TOTAL	3,040				

* -- The March 1980 and November 1980 decision documents make it difficult for a reader to know whether or not the unit meets the naturalness criteria. However, since the minimum size requirement was not met for the unit, a naturalness determination made no difference regarding wilderness characteristics. Additionally, there were negative determinations of the other criteria.

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-034-034 – Squaw Creek**

Description of Current Conditions: [Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities.]

1. Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes___X_____ No_____

Description: Refer to this unit's associated Map 1 for its location. The boundary of 12, 646-acre unit encompasses substantially more area than the original 1970's BLM Squaw Creek inventory unit (3-34 of OR-03-03-04). Adjacent public lands to the original unit's north and to its southwest are now included due to BLM's conclusion that certain routes which were determined to be roads during the 1970's inventory are now motorized primitive trails (MPT). The unit's boundary consists of the BLM roads 7332-0-00and 7332-0-0A0 (alias 7332-0-00 and 7332-0-0A0, depending on which map is referenced)), County Road 3583, other roads traversing public lands on its central east, one cherry-stem road (1.3 miles), the US Highway 20/utility ROW, and a mineral materials site which abuts that ROW. One 320-acre private inholding is a feature of the unit's boundary. In addition, all of the abutting Gold Creek WSA's (OR-3-33) east boundary – which was previously determined to be a road -- is now considered to be a MPT, as has a portion of the Camp Creek WSA's (OR-3-31) abutting east boundary route with this OR-034-034 Squaw Creek inventory unit.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes___X____No_____N/A_____

Description: The unit consists predominately of portions of the South Fork Squaw Creek watershed, most of the North Fork Squaw Creek watershed, a short stretch of the Cottonwood Creek's watershed in the unit's southeast reaches, and of some short creek drainages flowing toward US Highway 20. Associated with these creeks are dominate sharp to moderate-rising slopes to ridgelines, buttes and hilltops with rock outcrops distributed throughout the unit. Drainage patterns are highly diverse (length, elevation depth ranges, slopes' steepness, etc) and, collectively, are multi-directional within the unit amongst rugged terrain. Elevations range from approximately 2,180 to 6,500 feet. Dominant vegetation type is sagebrush community with native and non-native rangeland grasses.

Refer to the attached maps for human developments within the unit. They include 7.1 miles of rangeland fence, 3 earthen reservoirs, 2 developed springs, 2 fence enclosures, and 31.4 miles of 14 motorized primitive trails (which includes those portions abutting

the two WSA's which changed from road to MPT status). There is remnant evidence of two abandoned vehicle route segments within the unit. Approximately 120 acres of a 1969 drilled seeding affected the unit along its east boundary road. A portion of a 1970 drilled seeding project affected approximately 1,900 acres of a southeast stretch of the unit along County Route 3583. While visually evident during the 1970's inventory, currently only small scattered remnants of the 1970 drilled affect is noticeable; none of the 1966 drilled is visual noticeable today. Due to the unit's topographic screening properties, appearance and wide distribution of its varied natural features (e.g., the complex and extent of steep, rugged draws and drainages), combined with the distribution, extent and types/nature of the human developments within the unit in context of the unit's size, the developments' presence -- when considered individually and collectively -- result in the unit appearing to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with human imprints substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes___X____No_____N/A_____

Description: The unit is irregular in shape, with a maximum length of approximately 12 miles and widths ranging from less than one mile to 4.25 miles. The complex and diverse topography associated with the multiple drainages of the unit provide excellent screening for outstanding opportunities to experience a sense of solitude. The unit has very few locations where creek-side vegetation would assist screening users from each other to any significant extent within the unit. Additionally, now with no road or other feature being a separating boundary between the unit and the abutting 2 WSAs – thus, the unit being contiguous with the two WSAs and their associated wilderness characteristics -- the outstanding opportunities for solitude within this unit and within both WSAs are further benefited.

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

Yes ___X____ No _____ N/A _____

Description: Primary primitive and unconfined outdoor recreation activities include dispersed hunting of common game species chukar and big game (deer, predominately), day hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and other sightseeing, and photography. Additionally, Squaw Creek Reservoir is accessible by motorized vehicle via a cherry-stem road, which continues to be periodically stocked with trout by ODFW for recreational fishing. There are no unique sights or attractions within the unit, itself. While there are a variety of recreation activities provided for within the unit itself, none -- individually or in combination – are outstanding primitive and confined recreation

opportunities. However, with no road now between the unit and the abutting 2 WSAs – thus, the unit being contiguous with the two WSAs and their associated wilderness characteristics -- the outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation associated with the two WSAs (for each WSA, a combination of all of the above-mentioned activities and with the recreational draw of the major Gold Creek and Camp Creek canyons) -- now extends into this unit, thus enhancing such opportunities within a larger area.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes ___X____ No _____ N/A _____

Description: The western approximate half of the unit is within a notably larger suitable bighorn sheep habitat use area that extend further west, although the animal – a BLM special status species in Oregon – rarely visits or occupies this part of the habitat.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number:__OR-034-034 – Squaw Creek_____

Summary Results of Analysis:

1. **Does the area meet any of the size requirements? __X__Yes _____No**

2. **Does the area appear to be natural? ___X___Yes _____No**

3. **Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ___X__Yes _____No _____NA**

4. **Does the area have supplemental values? __X____Yes _____No _____NA**

Conclusion -- check one:

__X___ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness character.

_____ The area does not have wilderness character.

Prepared by: _____
Robert Alward, Wilderness Planner contractor

Team Members:

_____ 2-25-2010
Steve Christensen, Rangeland Management Specialist — Date

_____ 3/10/10
Shaney Rockefeller, Soil Scientist — Date

_____ 2/10/10
Dave Draheim, Outdoor Recreation Planner — Date

_____ 02/08/2010
Jon Westfall, Geologist — Date

_____ 2/5/10
Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator — Date

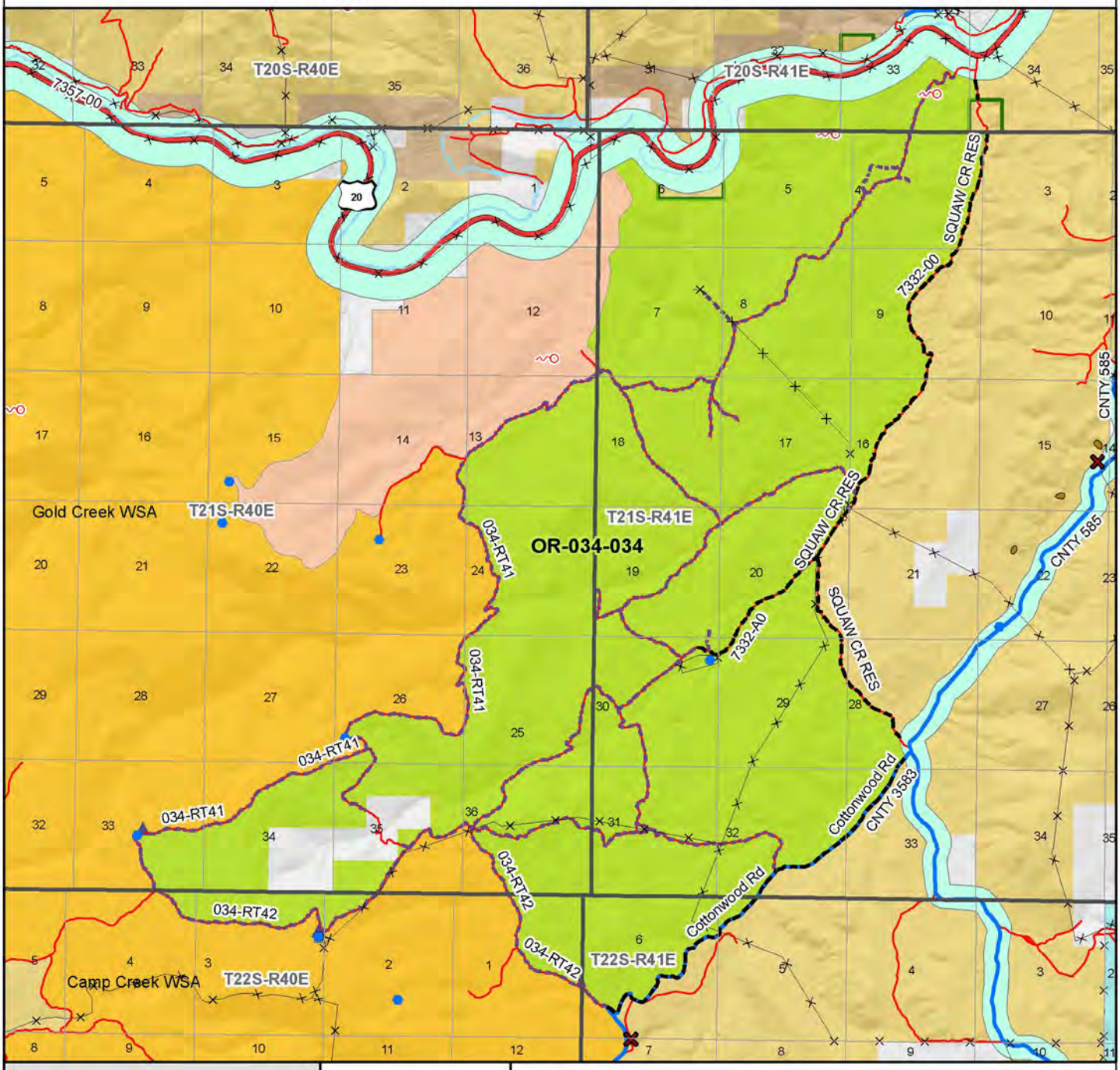
(NOTE: Previous staff members who reviewed this unit include Botanist Jean Findley (retired 7/2008), and Wildlife Biologist Technician Sandy Vistine Ambor (transferred 8/2008)).

Approved by:

_____ 3/30/2010
Pat Ryan, Malheur Resource Area Field Manager — Date

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

Wilderness Characteristics - Overview
Squaw Creek - OR-034-034 - Map 1 of 2



Legend

- Developed Spring
- Wildlife Guzzler
- Earthen Reservoir
- Pipeline
- Trough
- Fence
- Storage Tank
- Surface Mining Disturbance
- Sage Grouse Lek
- Special Status Plant
- BLM Wild Char Inventory Unit
- Wilderness Study Area
- Mineral Material Site
- Road/Utility Right-of-Way
- Major Water Body

Route Types - BLM Determination

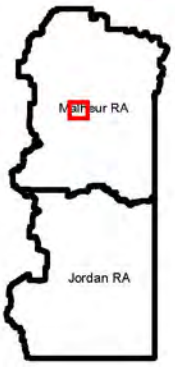
- Boundary Road
- Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT)
- Discontinued Use

Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit

- County
- Major Highway
- BLM Numbered & Other Routes

Land Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Private
- Other Federal Land
- Non-WSA, BLM Recommended Wilderness - 1991



N
W E
S

0 0.5 1 2 Kilometers

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

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

VALE DISTRICT
February 11, 2010

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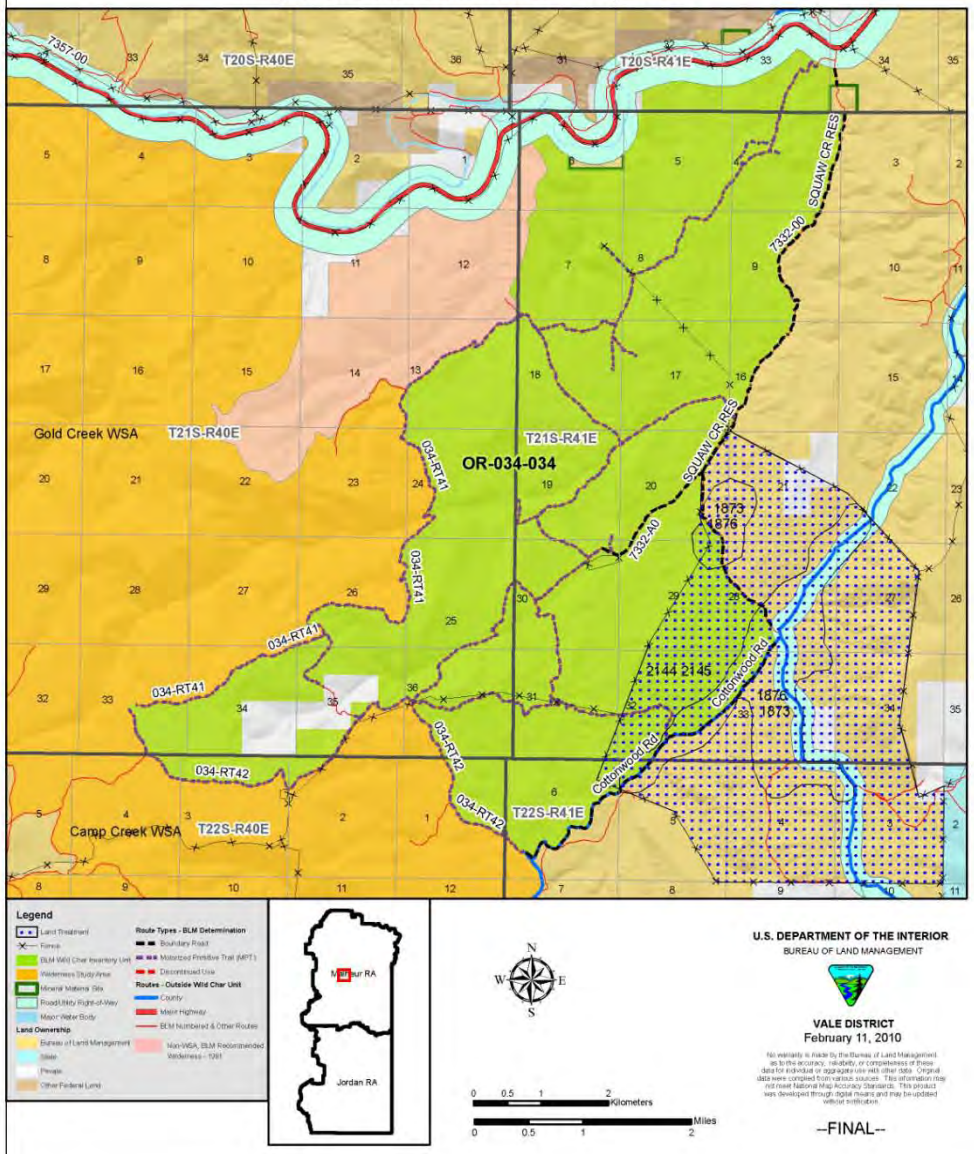
--FINAL--

Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments
Squaw Creek - OR-034-034 - Map 2 of 2

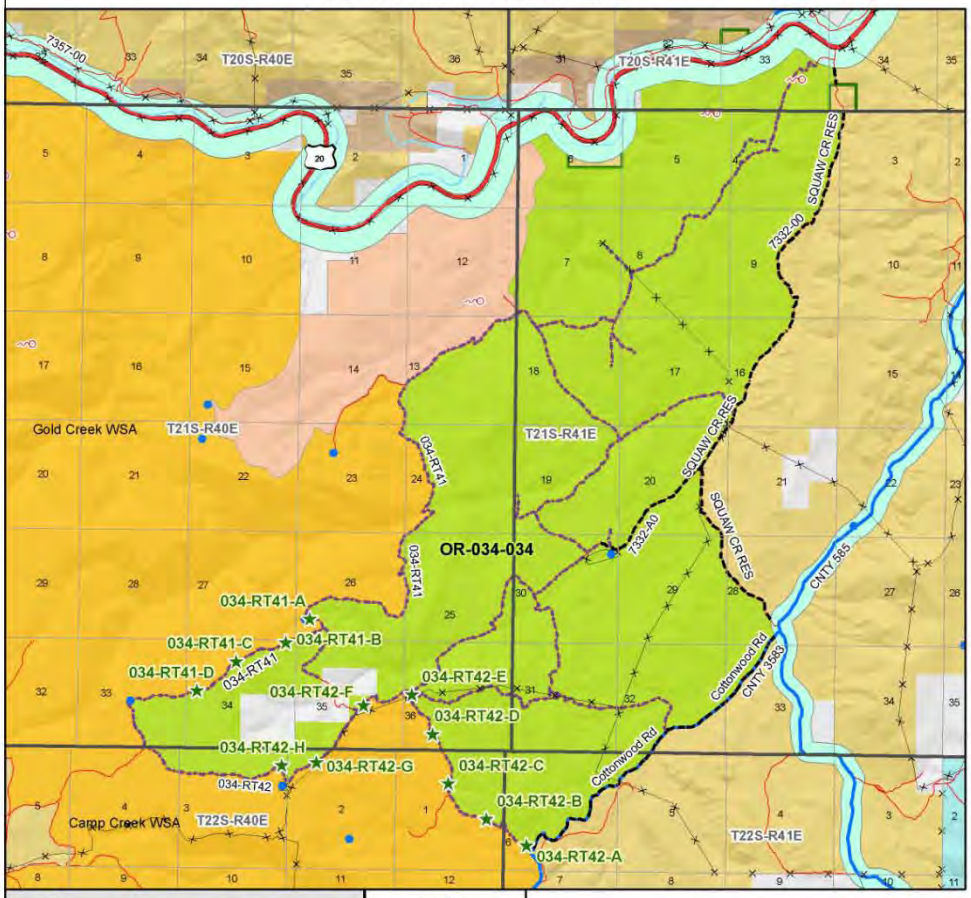


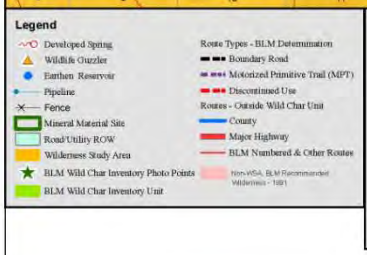
Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments
Squaw Creek - OR-034-034 - Map 2 of 2

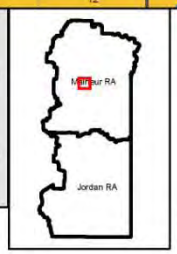
OBJECTID *	NAME	TREATMENT TYPE	SEED GROUP	DATE
1873	SQUAW CREEK SEEDING	Plow /Disc	Not Applicable	1966
1876	SQUAW CREEK SEEDING	Drill Seeding	Unknown	1966
2144	SQUAW CREEK SEEDING	Plow /Disc	Not Applicable	1970
2145	SQUAW CREEK SEEDING	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses	1970

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.

Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Points
Squaw Creek - OR-034-034







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--FINAL--

Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Points
Squaw Creek - OR-034-034

PHOTO_LOCATION *	DIRECTION	PHOTO_TYPE	PHOTO_DATE	COMMENTS
034-RT42-A	NW	Route	20081104	front, begin 034-RT42
034-RT42-A	SE	Route	20081104	back , intersection w/ CNTY 3583
034-RT42-B	NW	Route	20081104	front
034-RT42-B	SE	Route	20081104	back
034-RT42-C	N	Route	20081104	front
034-RT42-C	S	Route	20081104	back
034-RT42-D	N	Route	20081104	front, berms
034-RT42-D	S	Route	20081104	back
034-RT42-E	NW	Route	20081104	front
034-RT42-E	E	Project	20081104	OR-034-034-E-E fence
034-RT42-E	S	Route	20081104	back
034-RT42-F	SW	Route	20081104	front
034-RT42-F	NE	Route	20081104	back
034-RT42-G	SW	Route	20081104	front, rte gets rocky & conditions worsen
034-RT42-G	NE	Route	20081104	back
034-RT42-H	N	Route	20081104	front, turned around-too rocky & muddy, end 034-RT42
034-RT42-H	S	Route	20081104	back
034-RT41-A	E	Route	20081105	front, big ditch,
034-RT41-A	W	Route	20081105	back, narrow route, ATV tracks
034-RT41-B	SW	Route	20081105	front , vegetation
034-RT41-B	NE	Route	20081105	back, vegetation
034-RT41-C	SW	Route	20081105	front, rte narrows, vegetation
034-RT41-C	NE	Route	20081105	back
034-RT41-D	SW	Route	20081105	front, end 034-RT41, too narrow & rocky to cont.
034-RT41-D	NE	Route	20081105	back

Note: The BLM Wild Char PhotoPoints displayed on the map are labeled with their Photo Locations. The BLM Photo Log table shown above lists the photos taken at their respective Photo Locations. Multiple photos may be taken at each Photo Location. Scenery and Project Photo Type pictures have their photo names provided in the Comments field.

Wilderness Characteristic Photos

OR-034-034 Squaw Creek Page 1

Date Taken: 11/04/2008

034-RT41-A-E.JPG

034-RT41-A-W.JPG

034-RT41-B-NE.JPG

034-RT41-B-SW.JPG

034-RT41-C-NE.JPG

034-RT41-C-SW.JPG

034-RT41-D-NE.JPG

034-RT41-D-SW.JPG

034-RT42-A-NW.JPG

Wilderness Characteristic Photos

OR-034-034 Squaw Creek Page 2

Date Taken: 11/04/2008

034-RT42-A-SE.JPG

034-RT42-B-NW.JPG

034-RT42-B-SE.JPG

034-RT42-C-N.JPG

034-RT42-C-S.JPG

034-RT42-D-N.JPG

034-RT42-D-S.JPG

034-RT42-E-NW.JPG

034-RT42-E-S.JPG

OR-034-034 Squaw Creek Page 3

Date Taken: 11/04/2008

034-RT42-F-NE.JPG

034-RT42-F-SW.JPG

034-RT42-G-NE.JPG

034-RT42-G-SW.JPG

034-RT42-H-N.JPG

034-RT42-H-S.JPG

OR-034-034-E-E.JPG

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

APPENDIX C – ROAD* ANALYSIS

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road for wilderness inventory purposes.)

Wilderness Inventory Unit Name/Number: **OR-034-034 -- Squaw Creek**

Route Name and/or Identifier *(Include Transportation Plan Identifier, if known; include route number supplied by citizen information when available)***:**

034-RT41

I. LOCATION: Is this BLM inventory unit's west boundary route along the east boundary of Gold Creek WSA. **List photo point references (if applicable):** Refer to this BLM inventory unit's associated hard copy of its BLM Photo Points map, and affiliated Photo Log and photos -- retained in this unit's permanent hard copy file, and electronically retained under this unit's subfolder Final Findings/GIS Products.

II. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE:
(Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment).)

Describe: Accesses two rangeland reservoirs adjacent to the route, both within the adjacent Gold Creek WSA. Within this BLM inventory unit, a motorized primitive trail branches from this route to a private land parcel. The parcel has no improvements for developments associated with it; rather, it traverses the private parcel back onto public land as a motorized primitive trail to eventually connect with 034-RT 42 of this inventory unit.

III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:
Is a road right-of-way associated with this route?

Yes _____ No ___X__ Unknown _____

IV. CONSTRUCTION

Yes __X___ No __X_____

Examples: Paved _____ Bladed _____ Graveled _____ Roadside Berms_____ Cut/Fill ___X__ Other _____

Describe: At photo point 034-RT-A-E, appears cut/fill was done to cross the drainage. No evidence of mechanical construction on remainder of this route.

V. IMPROVEMENTS

Yes _____ No ___X____

By Hand Tools _____ By Machine _____

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_____

If yes: Hand Tools (Y/N) _____ Machine (Y/N) _____

Explain:

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 _____ No __X__

Comments: Not in good condition, although is passable with a high clearance, favorably four-wheel drive ATV type of vehicle.

VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:

Yes _____ No ___X____

Describe evidence (vehicle tracks observed) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis:

There is no evidence of regular and continuous use, although the route is likely traveled (likely using mostly an ATV type of vehicle) occasionally by hunters of upland and/or big game species.

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 _____ No __X____

Explanation: Does not meet road criteria. Appears this route was established for developing the two reservoirs, with no maintenance performed on it for a long time to present. This route was used as a boundary for the adjacent Gold Creek WSA, but presently is the status of a motorized primitive trail.

Evaluator(s): _____ **Date:** 3-6-2009
Steve Christensen, Rangeland Management Specialist

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* **road**: An access route which has 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.

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.

Following is the definition from Glossary of OSO 7-3-2007 Draft H-6300-1:

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 C – ROAD* ANALYSIS

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road for wilderness inventory purposes.)

Wilderness Inventory Unit Name/Number: **OR-034-034 -- Squaw Creek**

Route Name and/or Identifier *(Include Transportation Plan Identifier, if known; include route number supplied by citizen information when available)***:**

034-RT 42

VIII. LOCATION: Is that portion of this BLM unit's southwest boundary that is a route along the North boundary of Camp Creek WSA. **List photo point references (if applicable):** Refer to this BLM inventory unit's associated hard copy of its BLM Photo Points map, and affiliated Photo Log and photos -- retained in this unit's permanent hard copy file, and electronically retained under this unit.

IX. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE:

(Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment).)

Describe: Route eventually bypasses a rangeland reservoir which is within the adjacent Camp Creek WSA. A fence is near it for a portion of the route (between photo points (PP) 034-RT42-E and the reservoir in section 3), but no vehicle travel occurs along the fence line, itself. Within this BLM inventory unit, a motorized primitive trail (MPT) branches from this route to a private land parcel. The parcel has no improvements or developments associated with it; rather it traverses the private parcel back onto public land as a MPT to eventually connect with 034-RT 41 of this inventory unit (which also is a MPT at this location in section 35).

X. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:

Is a road right-of-way associated with this route?

Yes _____ No ___X__ Unknown _____

XI. CONSTRUCTION

Yes ___X___ No _____

Examples: Paved _____ Bladed _____ Graveled _____ Roadside Berms__X___ Cut/Fill _____ Other _____

Describe: Time of construction is unknown, although it was present at the time of the late 1970's BLM wilderness characteristics inventory, and was identified as a boundary road for the adjacent Camp Creek WSA. Some isolate stretches indicate evidence of berms, apparently at time of construction since, at present, no evidence of mechanical maintenance is associated with this route.

XII. IMPROVEMENTS

Yes _____ No __X_____

By Hand Tools _____ By Machine _____

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

Describe:

XIII. MAINTENANCE:

A. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery? Yes _____ No _____X_____

If yes: Hand Tools (Y/N) _____ Machine (Y/N) _____

Explain:

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 _____ No __X ____

Comments: Some segments of the more western portion of this route appear to be in fair condition (see PP 034-RT42-G as an example). This is due more so to the nature of the surface materials on fairly flat to slightly sloped terrain. Other

segments of this western portion of the route are in poor condition (see PPS 034-RT42-H as an example). Photo Points 034-RT42-A through 034-RT42-F reflect the route being in fair condition, most which traverses either a ridge line or steeper terrain than does the western portion of this route. None of the route is in good condition, though is passable by a high clearance vehicle. Motorized heavy equipment to maintain the earthen reservoirs associated with this route would not require mechanical maintenance of this route to access the reservoirs.

XIV. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:

Yes _____ No ___X___

Describe evidence (vehicle tracks observed) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis:

Use does occur, but not on a relatively regular basis along this route's entire length; travel is likely largely by the occasional seasonal big or small game hunter.

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 ___ ___ No __X____

Explanation: Does not meet road criteria, as described and explained, above. Thus, this route has changed since the late 1970's from a road to a MPT, resulting in this inventory unit being contiguous with the Camp Creek WSA.

Evaluator(s): _____ **Date:** 4-10-2009
Steve Christensen, Rangeland Management Specialist

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* **road**: An access route which has 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.

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.

Following is the definition from Glossary of OSO 7-3-2007 Draft H-6300-1:

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".