

Louse Canyon Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Antelope Creek OR-036-011, 11 total pages

Page 1: Index Cover Sheet

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

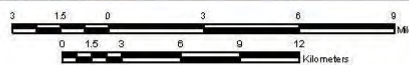
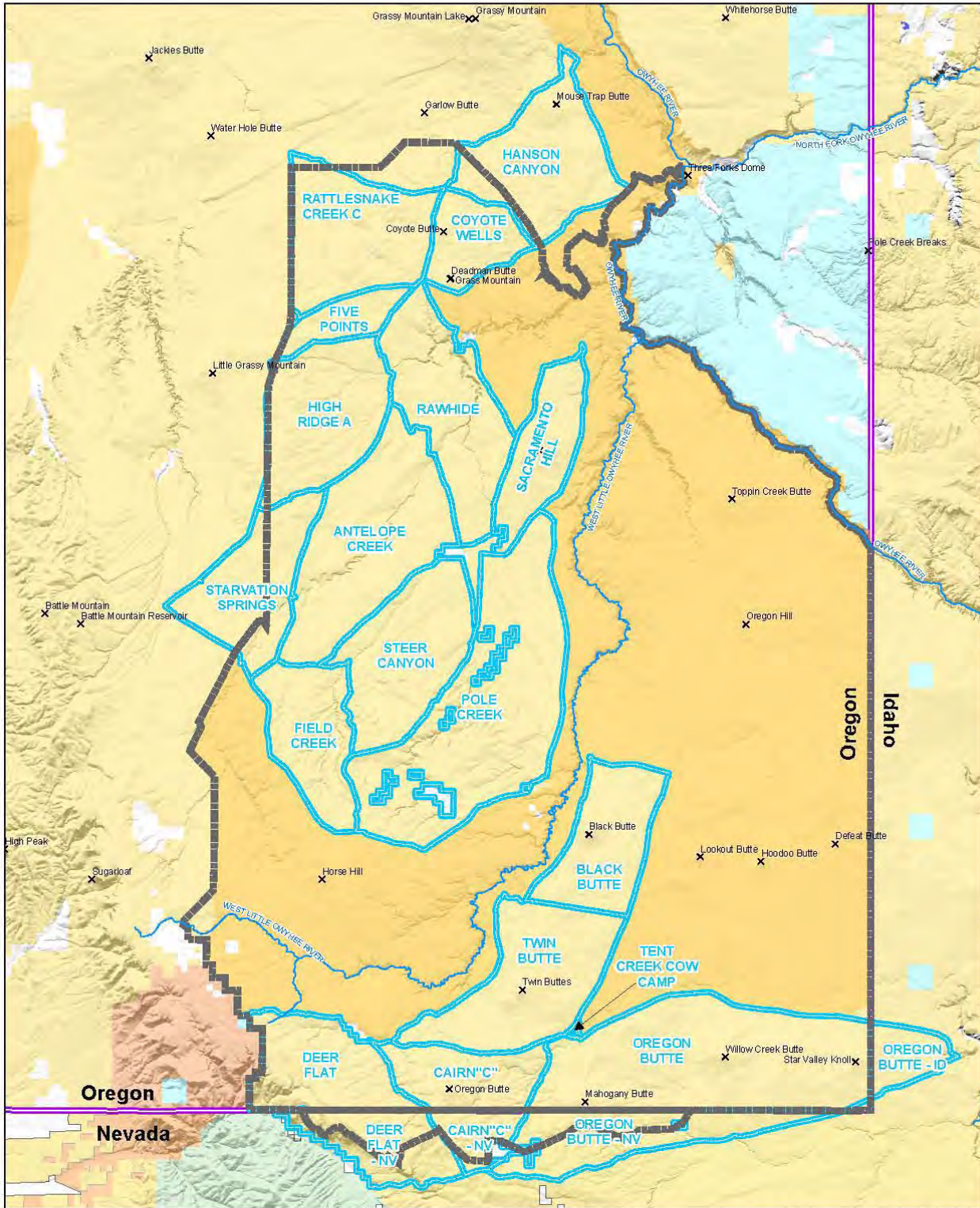
Page 3: Louse Canyon GMA – Oregon Natural Desert Association Proposed Wilderness Study Areas

Pages 4-9: H-6300-1-Wilderness Inventory Maintenance in BLM Oregon/Washington Appendix B – Inventory Area Evaluation

Page 10: Antelope Creek Unit Wilderness Boundaries – Map

Page 11: Antelope Creek Unit with Projects – Map

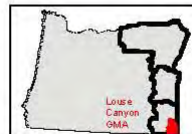
Louse Canyon GMA - BLM Wilderness Inventory Units



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Legend

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| | Louse Canyon GMA Boundary | | Land Status |
| | Resource Area Boundary | | Bureau of Land Management |
| | Wilderness Inventory Unit | | Forest Service |
| | Wilderness Study Areas | | Bureau of Indian Affairs |
| | | | Other Federal Lands |
| | | | Private |
| | | | State |



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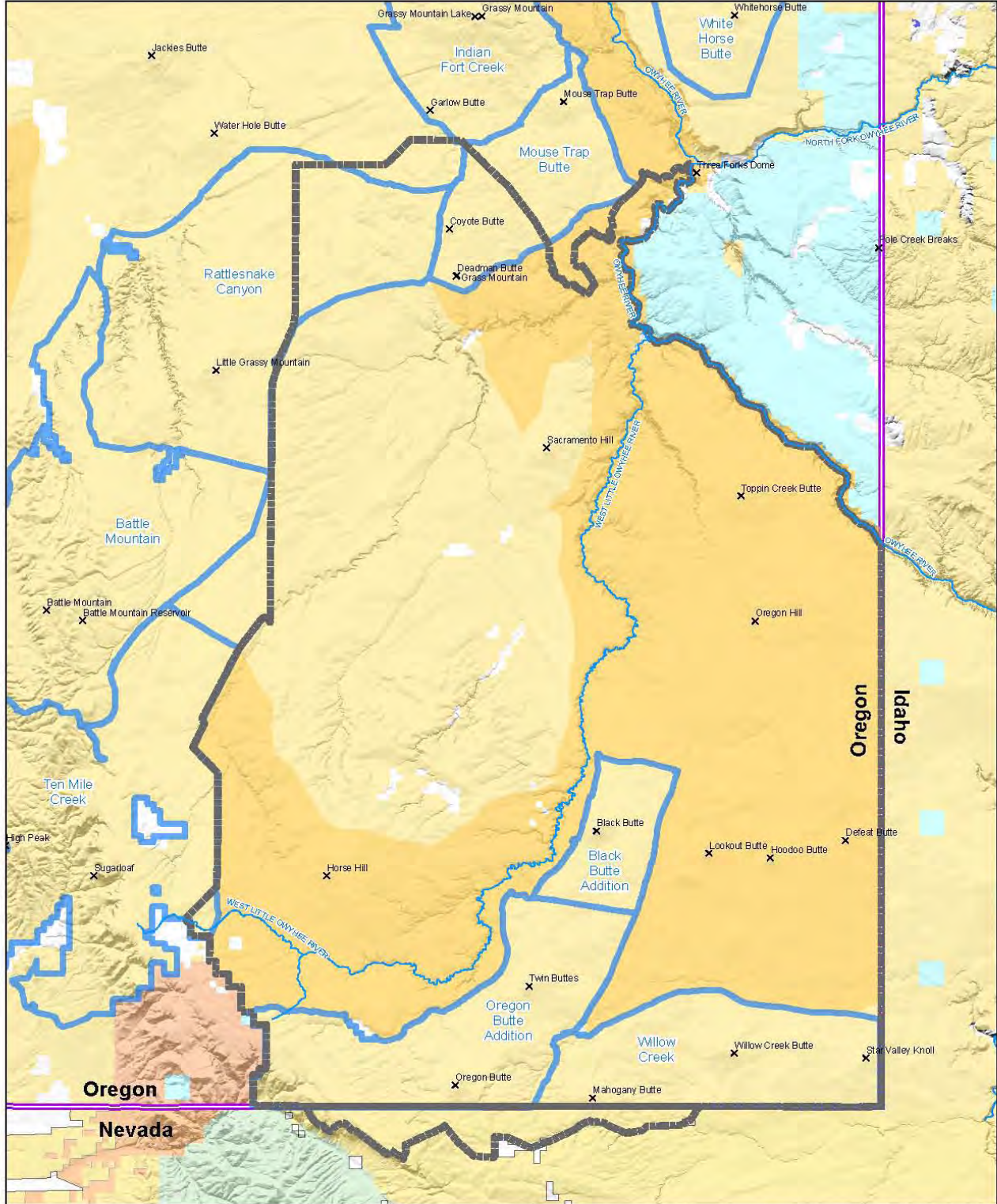
VALE DISTRICT
Louse Canyon
Geographic Management Area
Wilderness Inventory Maintenance

October 26, 2007

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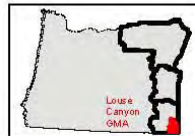
Louse Canyon GMA - Oregon Natural Desert Association Proposed Wilderness Study Areas



Legend

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Louse Canyon GMA Boundary | Land Status |
| Resource Area Boundary | Bureau of Land Management |
| ONDA Units | Forest Service |
| Wilderness Study Areas | Bureau of Indian Affairs |
| | Other Federal Lands |
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| | State |

1:240,000



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

APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION

Year: 2007 **Inventory Unit Name/Number: Antelope Creek OR-036-011**

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).
- (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-03-13-21 (1978); Antelope Creek 3-181 (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
Antelope Creek 3-181	23,280	N	N	N	N
Total acres >>	23,280				

FORM 2

DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS:

Inventory Unit Name/Number: Antelope Creek OR-036-011

For this exercise BLM refers to the unit as 2007 Antelope Creek OR-036-011.

1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes X No _____

The unit is comprised of 23,967 acres and does meet the size criteria.

Description:

The unit is bounded by BLM road 6375-0-00 on the south and east sides, by private land inholdings on the east side, by BLM road 6355-0-A0 on the northeast side, by BLM road 6357-0-A0 on the northwest side, and by BLM road 6358-0-00 on the west side. The unit is surrounded by 27.75 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_Antelope_Creek_OR_036_011.pdf for the unit boundary.

2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes _____ No X

Description:

Human imprints within the unit include three earthen reservoirs, 12.85 miles of motorized primitive roads, 16.2 miles of fenceline, 7.8 miles of stock water pipelines, 3 livestock water troughs, an 11,200-acre crested wheatgrass seeding, 1.55 miles of private property boundary, and one cow camp on public land. 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_Antelope_Creek_OR_036_011A.pdf for human imprints.

3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No X

Description:

Unit OR-036-011 is approximately 11 miles in length and 6 miles in width at the central portion and tapers to about 2 miles wide at the northern and southern boundaries. The majority of the unit consists of a flat to rolling, open sagebrush plateau, which slopes to the northeast following the Big Antelope Creek drainage. The only variation in topography in the unit is the 120-foot-deep entrenched canyon of Big Antelope Creek. This rimmed, interrupted perennial drainage flows through approximately 9 miles of 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 4,960 feet mean sea level (msl) along the northeastern corner and rising to the southwest to about 5,530 feet (msl) near the southwestern corner. Elevation changes in most of the unit traversing from north to south are gradual and average about 40-50 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 12.85-mile network of motorized vehicular trails and the absence of vegetative or topographic screening, BLM unit OR-036-011 does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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. Big Antelope Creek, Little Antelope Creek, and Pole Creek 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 except for the 9 miles of 100- to 120-foot deep canyon associated with the Big Antelope Creek. There are limited unique photographic opportunities in the unit, again associated with the stream canyon. Despite the unit's size, the lack of scenic quality and lack of diversity of landforms render the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation less than outstanding.

The unit is relatively flat so there are no points of interest, attractive landmarks, or challenging terrain. The unit does not have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Although wildlife viewing opportunities have been identified as a recreational value within this unit, they are not considered to be superior to those found in similar adjacent units.

5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes X No _____

Description:

The ecological integrity of rangeland in this unit has been largely unaffected by the influences of invasive non-native plants such as cheatgrass. The land considered is recognized as part of the Owyhee Uplands Physiographic Province which supports some of the largest blocks of intact and un-fragmented sagebrush steppe in the western United States. Wildlife of special management interest such as greater sage-grouse, pygmy rabbit, and a host of sagebrush-obligate landbirds occupy the area on a seasonal basis.

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.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION:

Inventory Unit Name/Number: Antelope Creek OR-036-011

Summary

Results of Analysis:

- | | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1) Does the area meet any of the size requirements?
No_____ | | [Yes] |
| 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?
NA | Yes | [No] |
| 4) Does the area have supplemental values?
NA | [Yes] | No |

Conclusion

Check One:

- () The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.
- (X) The area does not have wilderness character.

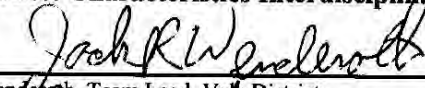
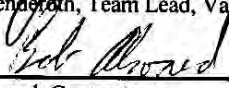
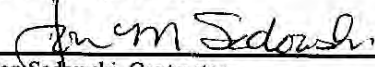

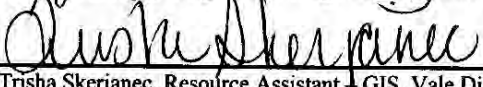

The ID team has reviewed the findings summarized in the original Statewide Wilderness Inventory as well as in published decision documents and maps identified on Form 1. Current conditions relative to the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics have been considered including citizen wilderness 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, described in sections above, to change existing BLM decisions for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation 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:

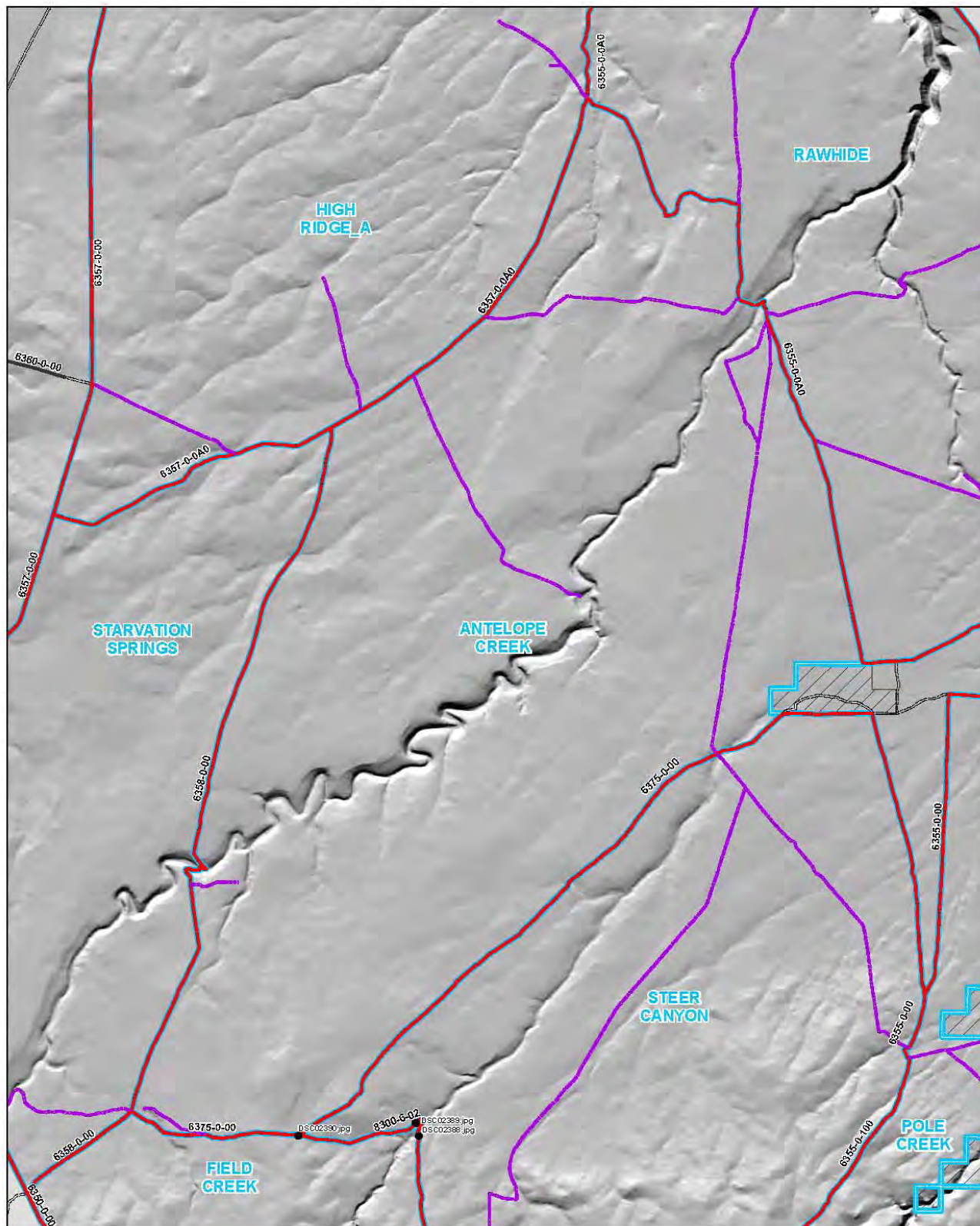
	10/26/07
Jack Wenderoth, Team Lead, Vale District	Date
	10/26/07
Bob Akward, Contractor	Date
	10/26/07
Jon Sadowski, Contractor	Date
	10/26/07
Cynthia Landing, Rangeland Management Specialist, Vale District	Date
	10/26/07
Trisha Skerjanec, Resource Assistant - GIS, Vale District	Date
	10/26/07
Brent Grasty, Natural Resource Specialist - GIS, Vale District	Date

Concurrence:

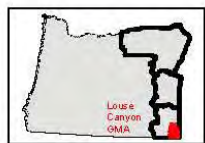
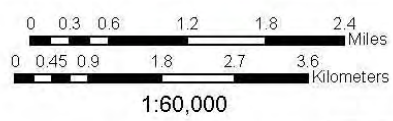
	10/26/07
Carolyn R. Freeborn	Date
Field Manager, Jordan R. A.	

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.

ANTELOPE CREEK
 OR-036-011
 ACRES: 23967



- 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



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VALE DISTRICT

Louse Canyon
 Geographic Management Area
 Wilderness Inventory Maintenance

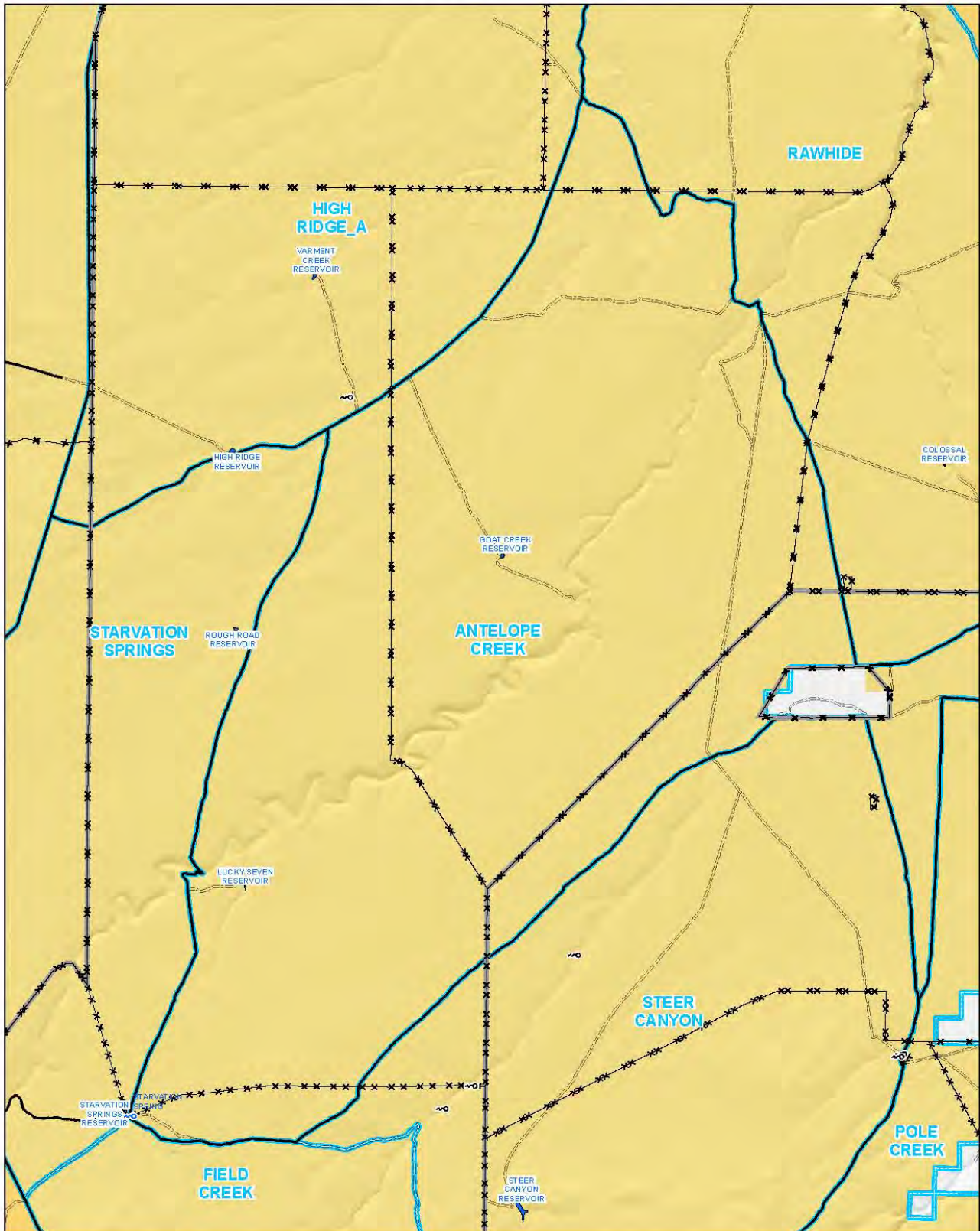
October 26, 2007

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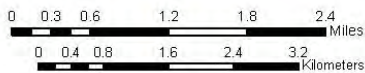
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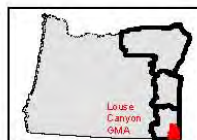
ANTELOPE CREEK
 OR-036-011
 ACRES: 23967



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



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 Louse Canyon
 Geographic Management Area
 Wilderness Inventory Maintenance

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