

Louse Canyon Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
High Ridge A OR-036-009, 11 total pages

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This topographic map illustrates the Starvation Springs area in Oregon, highlighting its diverse geographical features. The map is bounded by the states of Nevada to the west, Idaho to the east, and Oregon to the south. Key geographical features include:

- Water Bodies and Rivers:** The Owyhee River and its tributaries, including the North Fork Owyhee River, West Little Owyhee River, and Pole Creek, are shown. The Battle Mountain Reservoir is also depicted.
- Landmarks and Peaks:** Numerous peaks and buttes are marked, such as Jackies Butte, Garlow Butte, Mouse Trap Butte, Three Forks Dome, Pole Creek Breaks, Toppin Creek Butte, Oregon Hill, Black Butte, Lookout Butte, Hoodoo Butte, Defeat Butte, Willow Creek Butte, Star Valley Knoll, Mahogany Butte, and Horse Hill.
- Geographical Regions:** The map identifies several distinct areas: Hanson Canyon, Rattlesnake Creek C, Coyote Wells, Five Points, High Ridge A, Rawhide, Sacramento Hill, Antelope Creek, Steer Canyon, Pole Creek, Field Creek, Black Butte, Twin Butte, Tent Creek Cow Camp, Oregon Butte, Deer Flat, and Cairn "C".
- Infrastructure:** A network of roads is shown, with a prominent dashed line indicating a major route or boundary. A purple line marks the border with Nevada, and a blue line marks the border with Idaho.

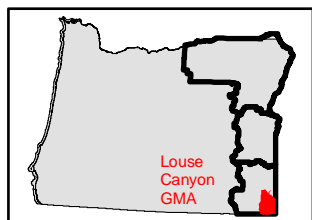
The map uses a color-coded system to represent different elevations and terrain types, with yellow and orange tones dominating the central and eastern regions, and green and blue tones in the western and southern areas. The overall layout provides a comprehensive overview of the Starvation Springs area's topography and surrounding regions.



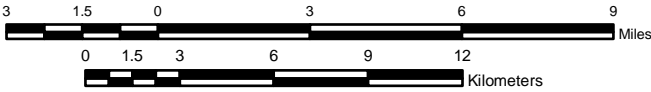
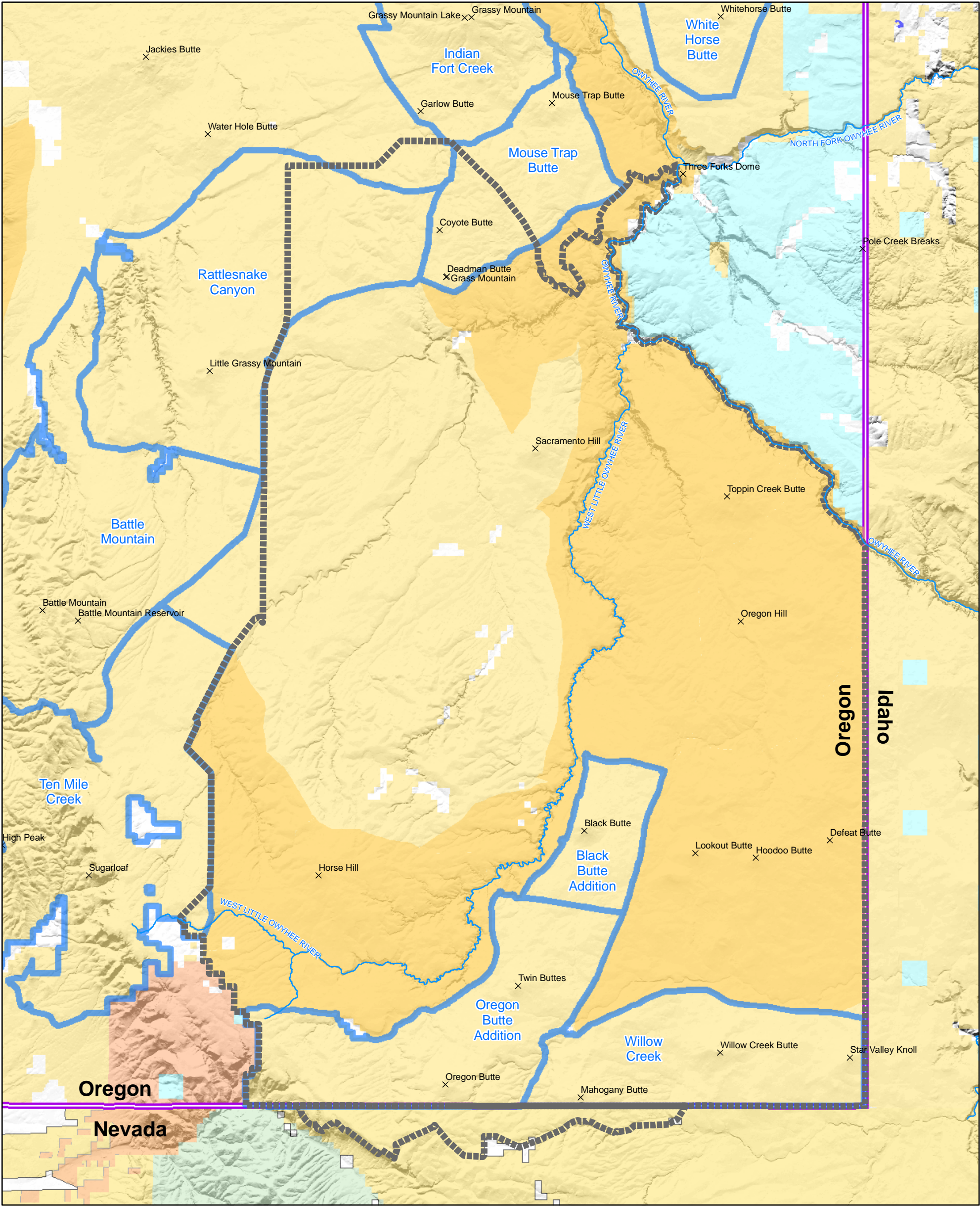
October 26, 2007

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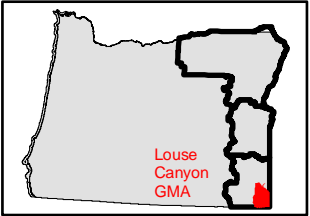
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Louse Canyon GMA - Oregon Natural Desert Association Proposed Wilderness Study Areas



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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
- 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: High Ridge A OR-036-009

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-03-13-20* (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-03-13-20 (1978); High Ridge 3-180A (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
High Ridge* 3-180 A	15,300	Y	N	N	N
High Ridge 3-180 B	129	Y	N	N	N
Total acres >>	15,429				

* Acreage includes 2,200 acres of state land that was transferred into BLM ownership after the initial inventory was completed.

FORM 2

DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Inventory Unit Name/Number: High Ridge A OR-036-009

For this exercise BLM refers to the area as 2007 High Ridge A OR-036-009.

1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes X No

The unit is comprised of 16,363 acres and meets the size criteria.

Description:

The unit is bounded by BLM road 6357-0-A0 on the east and south side, BLM road 6357-0-00 on the west side, and BLM road 8300-6-05 north side. Periodic maintenance of the 20.6 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_High_Ridge_A_OR_036_009.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, one livestock water trough, 4.8 miles of motorized primitive trails, 15.5 miles of fenceline, 1.2 miles of a livestock water pipeline, ½ mile of the Peacock Lake irrigation canal, a 1300-acre crested wheatgrass seeding, one corral, and an inactive airstrip. Because of the number of intrusions, their proximity to each other, and lack of topographic and vegetative screening, the works of man are substantially noticeable. Overall, the area appears to be primarily affected by the influences of man. Refer to map 2007_High_Ridge_A_OR_036_009A.pdf for human imprints.

3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes No X

Description:

Unit OR-036-009 is approximately 5.5 miles in length and 5 miles in width from its northern boundary to near the center of the unit where it tapers along the southeastern boundary to about 1.5 miles wide. The majority of the unit consists of a flat to rolling open sagebrush plateau that slopes to the northeast, following the Little Antelope Creek drainage. The only variation in topographic relief in the unit is the intermittent stream Little Antelope Creek that flows from west to east along the northern boundary and its ephemeral tributaries that drain approximately 95 percent of the unit. These drainages flow through broad, open sagebrush flats with a uniform gentle gradient containing no canyons, deep depressions or vegetation which would provide locations for solitude. Topographic relief is minimal within the unit with elevations ranging from about 4,875 feet mean sea level (msl) along the northeastern corner where Little Antelope Creek exits the unit, and rises to the west to about 5,490 feet (msl) near the southwestern corner. Elevation changes in most of the unit traversing from east to west are gradual and average about 80-100 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

4.8-mile network of motorized primitive trails and the absence of vegetative or topographic screening, BLM unit OR-036-009 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. Little 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 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.

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: 2007 High Ridge A OR-036-009

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.

(X) The area does not have wilderness character.



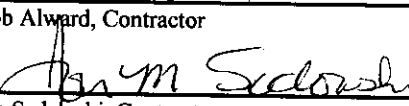
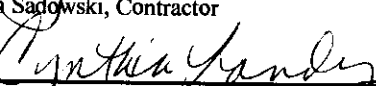

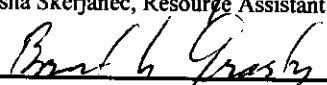
The ID team has reviewed the findings summarized in the original Statewide Wilderness Inventory as well as in the published decision documents and maps identified on Form 1. Current conditions relative to the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics have been considered including citizen wilderness 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 forces of nature, there are supplemental values present, and the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are limited for reasons already described.

Sources of Reference for Evaluation:

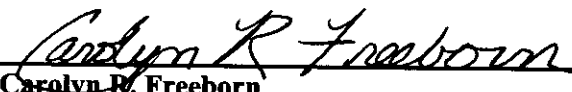
- All BLM documents listed in Form 1; existing BLM wilderness inventory information.
- Wilderness Inventory Recommendations: Vale District, Submitted by Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA), February 6, 2004.
- Current geographic information system (GIS) data on existing projects, vehicle routes/roads, 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:

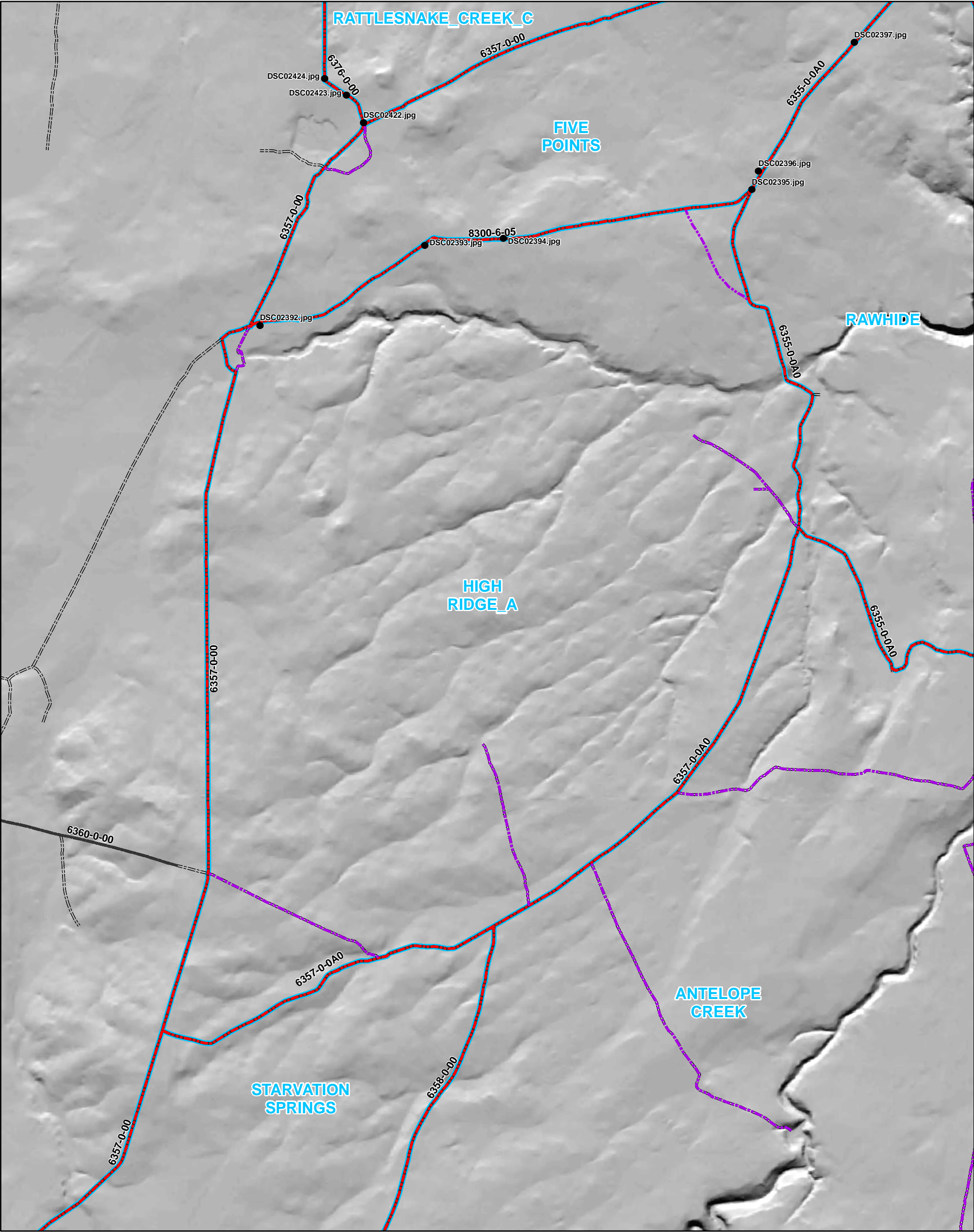
	<u>10/26/07</u>
Jack Wenderoth, Team Lead, Vale District	Date
	<u>10/26/07</u>
Bob Alward, Contractor	Date
	<u>10/26/07</u>
Jon Sadowski, Contractor	Date
	<u>10/26/07</u>
Cynthia Landing, Rangeland Management Specialist, Vale District	Date
	<u>10/26/07</u>
Trisha Skerjanec, Resource Assistant — GIS, Vale District	Date
	<u>10/24/07</u>
Brent Grasty, Natural Resource Specialist — GIS, Vale District	Date

Concurrence:

	<u>10/26/07</u>
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.

HIGH RIDGE_A
OR-036-009
ACRES: 16363



Legend

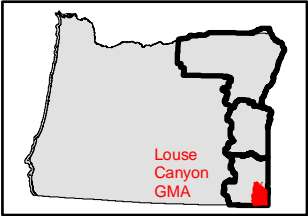
- DSC022291.jpg Photo Points
- Boundary Road
- WSA Shared Bnd
- Primitive Route
- Wilderness Inventory Unit

Land Status

- Private
- Bureau of Land Management
- Wilderness Study Area



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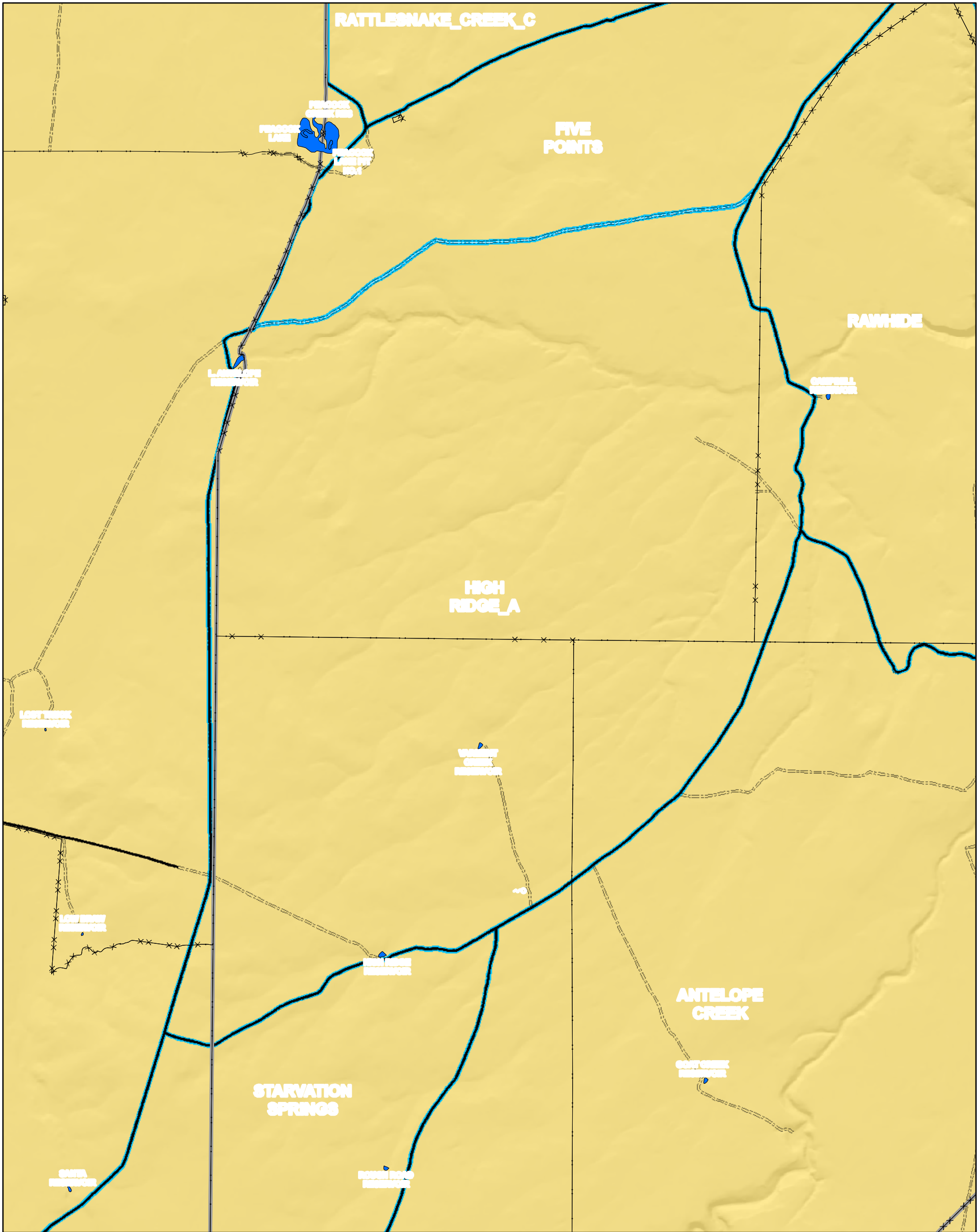


VALE DISTRICT
Louse Canyon
Geographic Management Area
Wilderness Inventory Maintenance

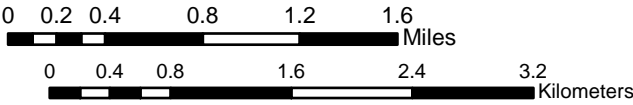
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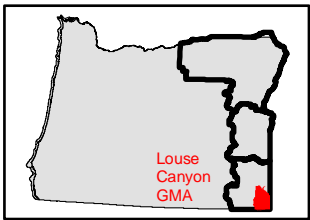
HIGH RIDGE_A
OR-036-009
ACRES: 16363



- 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



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VALE DISTRICT
Louse Canyon
Geographic Management Area
Wilderness Inventory Maintenance
October 26, 2007

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