

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Alvord Desert Contiguous OR-036-093, 9 total pages

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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, photos). 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: 2010 **Unit Number/Name:** OR-036-093 -- Alvord Desert (Contiguous)

**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 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

- 1978 – BLM Wilderness Inventory Partially of OR-03-08-24 Coyote Lake (unpublished BLM documents stored in 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).
- 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)
- 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)

Partially of OR-03-08-24 Coyote Lake

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

- Final Decision – Initial Wilderness Inventory Map, August 1979, Oregon
- Proposed Decision -- Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas Map, October 1979, Oregon
- 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

Jordan 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
Partially of OR-03-08-24 Coyote Lake *	18,800	*	*	*	*
TOTAL	18,800				

* There was no original inventory documentation found for OR-03-08-24 Coyote Lake in the Vale District files.

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FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-036-093 – Alvord Lake (Contiguous)

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 inventory unit's associated Map 1 for its location. Unit OR-036-093 is comprised of two parcels totaling 358 acres of public land contiguous with the existing Alvord Desert WSA (OR-2-74). This 358 acre unit was included as part of the BLM inventory unit OR-03-08-24 Coyote Lake of the latter 1970's. For this inventory maintenance, the parcels are referenced as the west parcel (39 acres) and the east parcel (319 acres) and are separated by a two mile distance. The east parcel's western and northern boundary consists of the Alvord Desert WSA, while its eastern and southern boundary borders private land. The west parcel's northern boundary is the Alvord Desert WSA, its eastern boundary borders private land, and its southwestern boundary consists County Road 3148. The boundary road of the west parcel receives seasonal mechanical maintenance as needed to keep it passable on a regular and continuous (seasonal) basis.

The boundaries with the WSA are contiguous predominately due to acquiring the east parcel through a land acquisition while the west parcel contains no documented information as to why this 39 acre area was not previously included as part of the existing Alvord Desert WSA. For this wilderness characteristic inventory maintenance, neither parcel contains any features that would constitute a qualifying boundary feature for an inventory unit isolated from the existing WSA boundary. Thus, being contiguous to the WSA each parcel of this inventory unit, regardless of size, meets size criteria.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Description: The two parcels lie within the end point of the Whitehorse Creek drainage that terminates within the Coyote Lake Basin. Both parcels are essentially flat with elevation differences within both parcels consisting of less than ten feet of change. Contrasting topographic features are not found within either parcel although existing vegetation is interlaced with wind-blown sand and playa deposited fine sediments throughout both. Vegetation within the unit consists of salt desert shrubs and native grasses. Refer to this unit's associated Map 1 for human imprints. Due to neither parcel containing any human imprints the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor and is a continuation of the natural conditions found within the contiguous Alvord Desert WSA.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?Yes No N/A

Description: The unit is comprised of 2 separate parcels that are contiguous with Alvord Desert WSA. The east parcel area located to the southeast of the WSA is rectangular in shape and is approximately 1.0 mile in length and has a width of one-half mile. The west parcel is triangular in shape, about 1,200 feet wide at its north boundary that is contiguous with the WSA and tapers to a point about 2,500 feet to the south. Both parcels are essentially flat with elevation differences within both parcels consisting of less than ten feet of change.

The unit by itself would not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude due to both parcels containing small quantities of acreage, limited vegetative screening consisting of only salt desert shrub communities, and ability to find a secluded spot in any of the areas of unit. However, because there are no human imprints within the unit and both parcels being contiguous with Alvord Desert WSA, which does offer outstanding opportunities for solitude, the inventory unit does benefit from the outstanding opportunities associated with the WSA. Overall, the opportunity for outstanding solitude in the unit, itself, is adequately compensated by that available within the WSA in combination with the unit's component locations; thus, with the unit's various component locations and the WSA combined, outstanding opportunities for solitude, overall, do remain available.

4. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?Yes No N/A

Description: There are opportunities for hiking, camping, hunting, sightseeing, and photography. Individually or in combination, these opportunities are not outstanding within the unit, itself. There are no unique sights or attractions within the unit to draw visitors to the unit specifically for pursuing recreation. A visitor may occasionally view wild horses within the unit. The unit is affected by a portion of the Coyote Lake-Alvord-Tule Springs Wild Horse Herd Management Area. While a less common and interesting viewing experience, wild horses are not considered to be an outstanding primitive and unconfined recreational experience. On foot, the unit's eastern and western component areas could, for the most part, be hiked in an hour or less. The aforementioned opportunities are enhanced and increased due to its association with the contiguous WSA. By example, hiking opportunities are enhanced by the unit's association with the WSA, which possesses outstanding hiking opportunities, especially day-hiking. This unit offers outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?Yes No N/A

Description: The parcels and surrounding acreage is within the range of the kit fox, which is on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) list of threatened species. This areas vegetation is mainly a salt desert shrub type, a dryer zone than sagebrush, which kit fox inhabit.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-036-093 Alvord Desert Contiguous

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.

Prepared by: Jack Wenderoth 3/3/10
Jack Wenderoth, Planning Contractor

Team Members:

<u>Marcy Egger</u>	<u>3/22/10</u>
Marcy Egger, Rangeland Management Specialist	Date
<u>Dave Draheim</u>	<u>2/10/10</u>
Dave Draheim, Outdoor Recreation Planner	Date
<u>Garth R. Ross</u>	<u>3/23/2010</u>
Garth Ross, Wildlife Biologist	Date
<u>Jon Sadowski</u>	<u>3-4-2010</u>
Jon Sadowski, Environmental Contractor	Date
<u>Eian Ray</u>	<u>03/03/10</u>
Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, Contractor	Date
<u>Brent G. Grasty</u>	<u>3/19/10</u>
Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator	Date

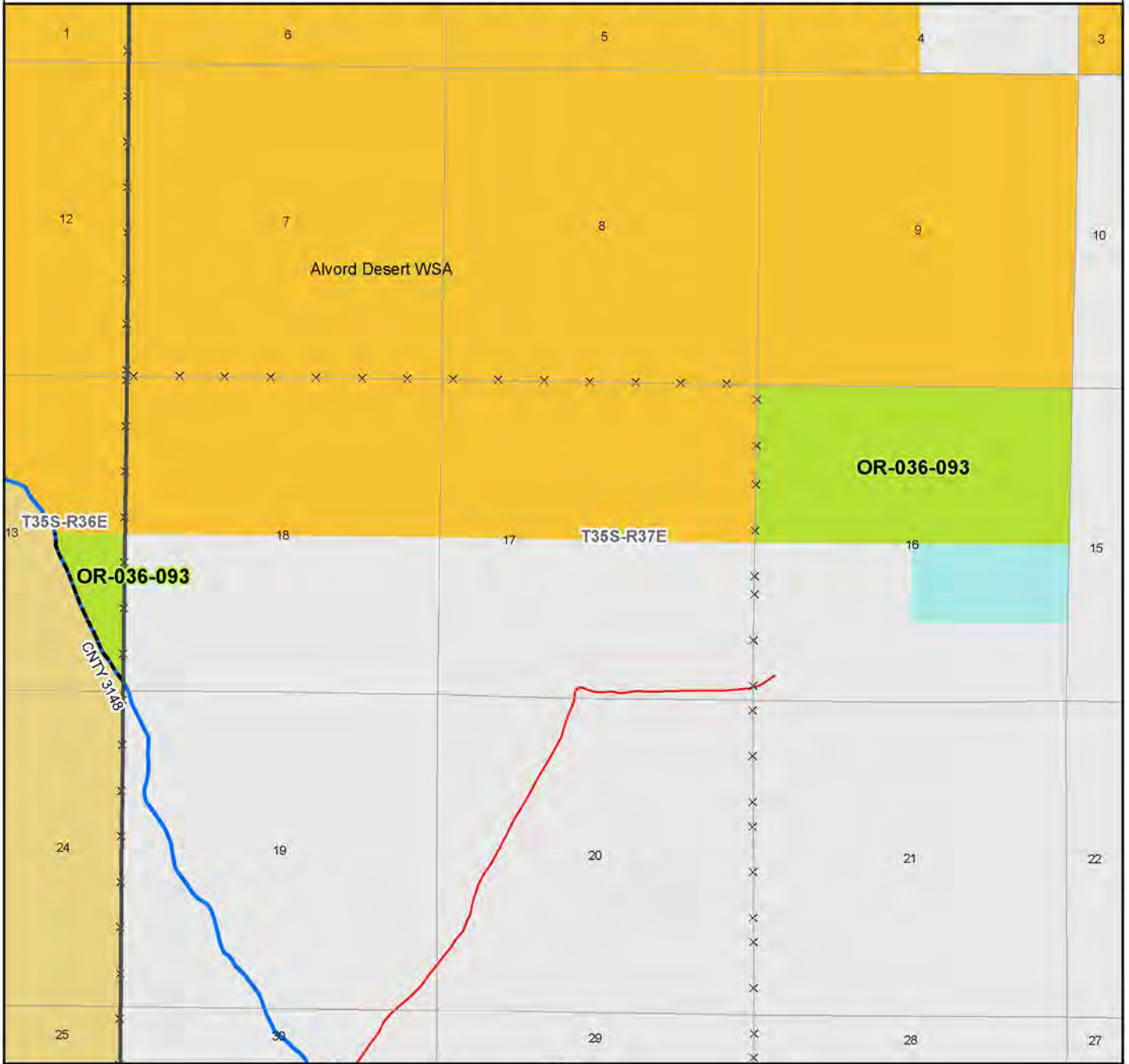
Approved by:

Carolyn R. Freeborn 4/6/10
Carolyn Freeborn, Jordan 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

Alvord Desert Contiguous - OR-036-093 - Map 1 of 1



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

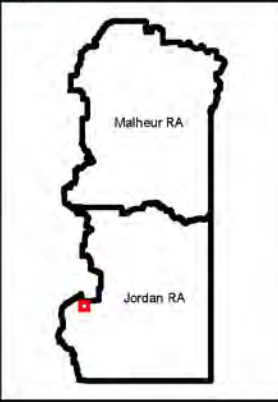
- Boundary Road
- Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT)
- Discontinued Use

Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit

- County
- Major Highway
- BLM Numbered & Other Routes

Land Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Private
- Other Federal Land



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

VALE DISTRICT
February 15, 2010

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