

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
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Prepared by:
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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-036-040 -- Bedground Reservoir

**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) 1978-1979 BLM Wilderness Inventory Partially of OR-03-12-27 Blue Mountain (Unpublished BLM documents stored in case files)
- (X) April 1979 – *Wilderness -- Proposed Initial Inventory – Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not have Wilderness Characteristics, Oregon and Washington*

Wilderness Decision Documents

- (X) 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 BLM Unit OR-03-12-27 Blue Mountain

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-03-12-27 Blue Mountain**	10,210***	*	*	*	*
TOTAL	10,210				

* These criteria were not addressed during the inventory of this unit.

** Original inventory documentation for this partial of OR-03-12-27 was not found in the Vale District files.

*** Estimate from original 1970s inventory map information.

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FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name – OR-036-040 -- Bedground Reservoir

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 No

Description: Refer to this inventory unit's associated Map 1 for its location. The boundary of the 9444 acre unit is nearly the same as the area excluded from BLM inventory unit 3-163 partial of OR-03-12-27 Blue Mountain during the 1970's meeting the size criteria. Acreage for unit OR-036-023 in Form 2 is calculated from BLM GIS information. Any acreage difference from Form 1 being the exclusion of utility corridor right-of-way widths for U.S. Highway 95 and County Road 1123 (Whitehorse Road) and three mineral material site right-of ways associated with the two highway ROWs. The unit is bounded on its east and north sides by utility corridors and intrusions of three mineral material site right-of-ways, the west side by BLM road 6130-0-00 and the south by a section of an unnumbered BLM road and road 6324-0-00. The natural-surfaced roads are in reasonably good passable condition when not water saturated, receiving a measure of mechanical maintenance as needed to keep them passable on a regular and continuous (seasonal) basis.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes No N/A

Description: The unit is dominated by low profiled rolling hills and extended nearly flat terrain. Elevations range from 4,272 feet to 5,473 feet, with the three upper elevation north-south ridgelines located along the unit central axis and west boundary. The unit's small drainages flow northward into the upper tributaries of Crooked Creek. Vegetation consists predominately of low sagebrush with both native and non-native grass species. Some of the more alkali prone acreages of this parcel also contain small patches or isolated islands of salt desert shrub species.

Refer to this inventory unit's associated Map 1 and Map 2 for its human developments. They include 2 earthen reservoirs, one wildlife guzzler, 7.2 miles of fence, one fenced enclosure around a reservoir, 4 vegetation manipulation treatments (implemented 1969-2001), 1.5 miles of three motorized primitive trails (MPTs) and visual remnants of 0.8 miles of discontinued MPTs. These consist of a 1.4 mile MPT that traverses the unit in its southwest corner and two MPTs of 0.1 mile each that lead to a reservoir and enter the unit from the county road from the north. Given its size relative to the minimal evidence of man-made developments, the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No N/A _____

Description: The character of the inventory unit has not changed since the 1970's. The unit approaches a rectangular shape, with its narrowest area in its southwest corner and its widest breadth being about 3.5 miles along the northern boundary. Length varies throughout the unit with the southwest boundary about 5.0 miles that grades to about 3.5 miles near the corner of the southeast boundary. The sights and sounds emanating from traffic on U.S. Highway 95 and County Road 1123 located along the eastern and northern boundaries detract from opportunities for solitude along the entire eastern half and northern area of the unit. As a result of the area's size relative to its shape, the absence of vegetative screening, and the lack of diversity in relief in over half of the unit, there is no outstanding opportunities for solitude. BLM concludes that unit OR-036-040 does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Yes _____ No N/A _____

Description: The most dominate dispersed recreation activity of the area is hunting of game species (primarily deer, chukar and antelope). Horseback riding and hiking are hunt-associated activities. Recreational pursuits within the area, individually or collectively, are not outstanding in character or nature. There are no unique or special features associated with the unit which would more so attract a visitor who is seeking a primitive and unconfined recreational experience. A portion of the unit contains the northernmost reach of a huge bighorn sheep habitat area which encompasses much of the adjacent Blue Mountain area. Although the opportunity to hunt the species within this inventory unit exists it is not considered outstanding due to the limited terrain within the unit that bighorn sheep occupy and utilize on a regular basis (e.g., rugged, rocky, cliffy or steep-sloped terrain). BLM concludes that unit OR-036-040 does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

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

Description: The BLM's 1970s inventory indicated that surrounding acreage of Unit OR-036-040 is one of the few areas where black sagebrush and sand dropseed grass occur in southeastern Oregon, and it is the most northerly distribution of these species. Unit OR-036-040 contains an area of the black sagebrush plant community. These vegetation types are dependent upon unusual combinations of soils and exposure, and are of interest to soil scientist, botanists, and ecologist.

The 1970s inventory also indicated that the surrounding acreage of the unit 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 partially a salt desert shrub type, a dryer zone than sagebrush, which kit fox inhabit.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-036-040 -- Bedground Reservoir

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:

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

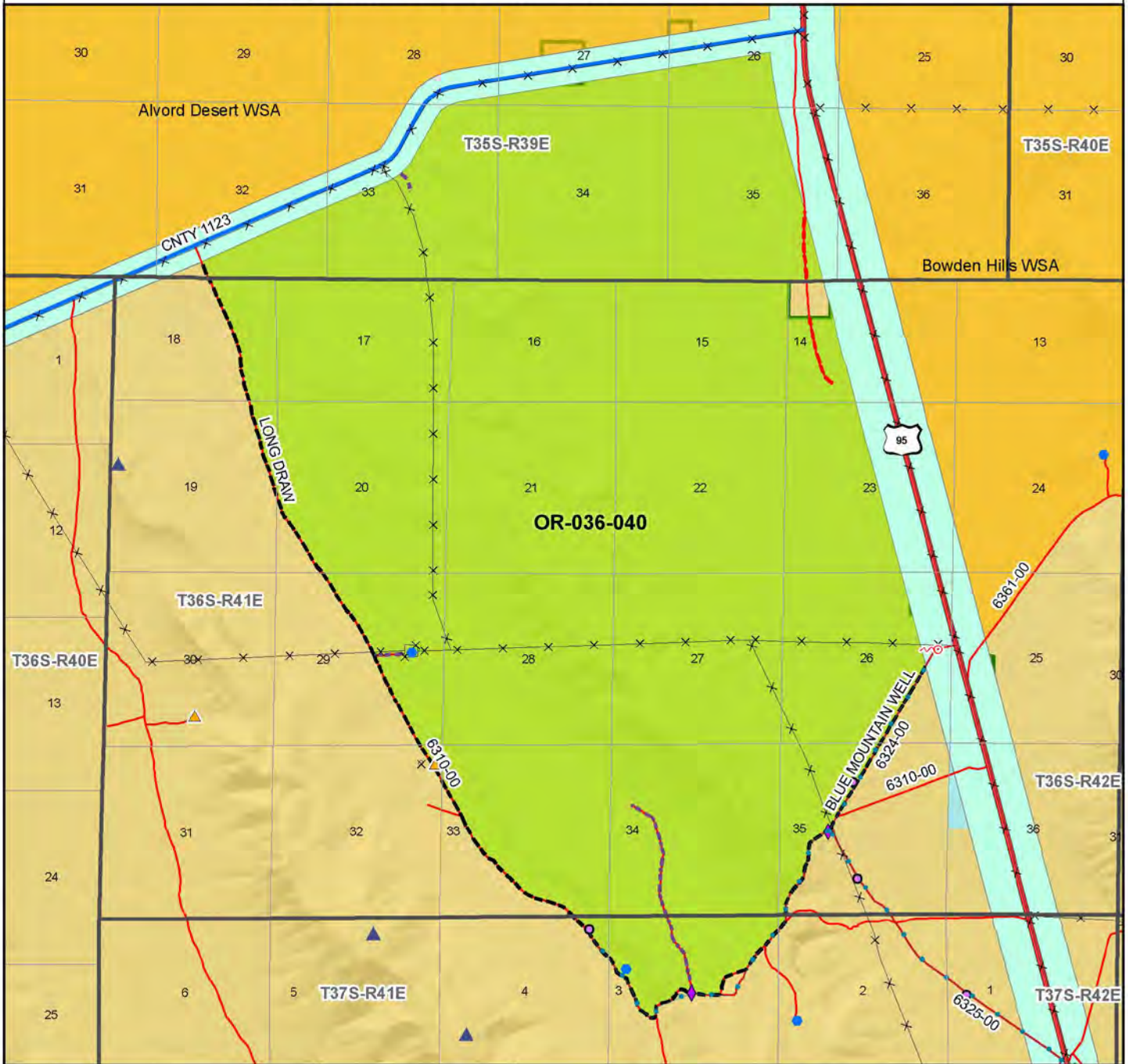
Approved by:

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.

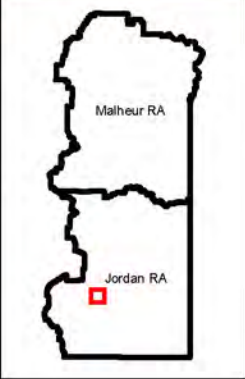
Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Bedground Reservoir - OR-036-040 - Map 1 of 2



Legend

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <p>Route Types - BLM Determination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boundary Road Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT) Discontinued Use <p>Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Major Highway BLM Numbered & Other Routes <p>Land Ownership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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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--FINAL--

