

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents  
**Black Butte OR-034-105, 19 total pages**

Page 1: Index Cover Sheet

[Page 2: Form 1 – Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory: Findings on Record](#)

[Page 5: Form 2 – Documentation of Current Wilderness Inventory Conditions](#)

[Page 9: Form 2 – Summary of Findings and Conclusion](#)

[Page 10: Wilderness Characteristics Overview–Black Butte OR-034-105 Map 1 of 2](#)

[Page 11: Wilderness Characteristics-Land Treatments-Black Butte OR-034-105 Map 2 of 2](#)

[Page 12: Wilderness Characteristics–BLM Photo Points–Black Butte Map & Log](#)

[Page 13: OR-034-105 Black Butte BLM Photos](#)

[Page 16: H-6300-1-Wilderness Inventory Maintenance in BLM Oregon/Washington  
Appendix C – Road\\* Analysis: 034-RT57](#)

**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: 2010 Unit Number/Name: OR-034-105 — Black Butte

**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) 1977 - 1979 – BLM Wilderness Inventory Unit partially of OR-03-03-02 Black Butte (unpublished BLM documents 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 BLM OR-03-03-02 Black Butte

**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/Malheur Resource Area

**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.

<b>Unit#/ Name</b>	<b>Size (historic acres)</b>	<b>Natural Condition? Y/N</b>	<b>Outstanding Solitude? Y/N</b>	<b>Outstanding Primitive &amp; Unconfined Recreation? Y/N</b>	<b>Supplemental Values? Y/N</b>
Part of OR-03-03-02 Black Butte*	15,700*	**	**	**	**
<b>TOTAL</b>	15,700				

\* -- Acreage is approximate; represents the total of this late 1970’s unit.

\*\* -- This BLM Vale District late 1970’s inventory unit extended west to the BLM Vale/Burns District boundary. At some point in time, the adjacent Burns District late 1970’s notably larger adjacent OR-020-01-2 Warm Springs inventory unit was expanded to include a western portion of this Vale District unit; however, none of the Burns District expanded unit includes any of the current Vale District OR-034-105 inventory unit.

Additionally, the south approximate half of the current OR-034-105 unit (the unit is fully within Vale District) was part of a 1977 map-depicted BLM-identified accelerated wilderness characteristic inventory unit (although no identifier for the accelerated unit can be located in historic Vale District wilderness characteristics inventory files or maps). This accelerated inventory unit is depicted on an OR/WA BLM August 1979 wilderness characteristics decision map as a unit which had previously been determined to not possess wilderness character. The accelerated inventory was conducted (during 1977) due to a Pacific Power and Light right-of-way application for a proposed 500 kV transmission line. The portion of the accelerated inventory unit area that is now part of OR-034-105 was found to not possess wilderness character under this accelerated inventory, but no detailed breakdown determination by wilderness criteria could be found.

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

### **APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION**

#### **Evaluation of Current Conditions:**

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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, and 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.*

## **FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS**

**Unit Number/Name:** OR-034-105 — Black Butte

**Note:** In September, 2007, the Burns District received from Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) its evaluation of wilderness characteristics for what ONDA names its 56,535 acre “Middle River proposed WSA”. The ONDA proposal includes most of this OR-034-105 inventory unit, which is fully within Vale District. For reference, a hard copy of ONDA’s proposal is retained in this unit’s file. Information provided by ONDA’s proposal was considered and incorporated as appropriate for this BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory maintenance.

OR-034-105 represents only a portion of ONDA’s proposal. For Vale and Burns Districts, ONDA’s proposal includes basically all or a portion of three late 1970’s BLM inventory units of the two districts (OR-03-03-02 and 3-300 of Vale District and OR-02-02 of Burns District), which, respectively, are currently associated with this OR-034-105 BLM unit and BLM Vale District units OR-034-106 River (includes contiguous public lands of both Vale and Burns Districts) and OR-034-107 Selley Gap (fully within Vale District).

Relative to this BLM unit OR-034-105, the primary difference between BLM and ONDA regarding inventory unit boundary features is that, unlike ONDA’s proposal, BLM concludes that BLM route 034-RT57 is a road (ONDA identifies this route as its M9a “way”; what Vale District terms a motorized primitive trail [MPT] ), and thus serves as the west-southwest boundary of BLM unit OR-034-105 (and separating this unit from the adjacent BLM unit OR-034-106). Refer to BLM’s associated Road Analysis form and associated BLM Photo Points Map/Log and photos for 034-RT57 of this BLM inventory unit for additional documentation. Another difference is that BLM includes slightly more public land along the north and northeast sectors of its OR-034-105 unit than does ONDA in its proposed WSA because what ONDA identifies as (not described/labeled) roads are what BLM has determined are MPTs within OR-034-105. The route status change to MPTs from roads by BLM at this location is due to no mechanical maintenance known to be conducted and with BLM’s intention not to perform such maintenance in the future.

**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. The unit has 5,623 acres of public land. The unit is substantially smaller than the late 1970’s unit (although the late 1970’s wilderness characteristics inventory unit map for Vale District’s OR-03-03-02 Black Butte unit does depict most of this current OR-034-105 unit as a

subpart of that larger Vale District Black Butte unit). Boundaries of the present unit consist of a road (labeled 034-RT57) and private lands on its south and west sides, private lands on its north and much of its east sides, and by the right-of-way of County road 587 on its southeast side. The boundary roads are mechanically maintained as needed to provide for relatively regular and continuous use. Vale District has a Road Analysis form and affiliated Photo Points Map, Photo Log and photographs of O34-RT57 in support that it is presently – as it was identified in the late 1970’s by BLM – a road. Three private inholdings totaling 200 acres are also boundary features of the inventory unit.

Refer to the “Note” above, for described differences between ONDA’s proposed WSA and this BLM inventory unit.

**2. Is the unit in a natural condition?**

Yes   X              No                       N/A           

**Description:** The unit has a dominant hill in its northwest sector, just south of Black Butte (which its south slopes are just within the unit’s boundary); 2 smaller hills are in the south and central part of the unit. These features have multi-directional slopes and some minor drainages extending throughout the unit. Elevations range from approximately 3,790 to 5,295 feet. Vegetation is predominately sagebrush and native and non-native grasses; juniper is distributed throughout much of the unit, of greater density in the higher elevations of its northwest area.

Refer to this unit’s associated Map 1 and Map 2 for human imprints. There are 4.5 miles of 5 motorized primitive trails, 1 earthen reservoir, and 6.3 miles of rangeland fence. There remains no visual evidence of a 1969 vegetation chemical treatment in the unit’s southeast corner. The types and limited extent of developments results in the unit appearing to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.

ONDA’s description of naturalness of its proposed WSA does not identify any developments within that portion which is Vale District’s OR-034-105 inventory unit. BLM does not draw conclusions of ONDA’s proposed WSA regarding natural condition.

**3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?**

Yes                       No   X              N/A           

**Description:** The locations of the abutting private lands along the unit’s north and east boundary combined with the location/orientation of two 80-acre inholdings in its northeastern sector precludes the unit from being more than approximately 2 miles wide by, at most, 3 miles long, with the majority of the unit otherwise being of notably shorter dimensions. Where more dense, juniper distribution and spatial densities combined with

changes in elevations and terrain orientation aids to a limited extent a low level of visual screening between visitors. While there are some locations where a visitor can experience a sense of being isolated, the unit's overall configuration relative to its natural properties and the extent of boundary features which creates some very narrow and/or broken dimensions of the inventory unit precludes outstanding opportunities for solitude.

ONDA states that its much larger proposed WSA provides outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the presence of dense stands of juniper, and diverse and broken topography of an extensive complex of hills and ravines which provide settings absent of sights and sounds of other visitors. Vale District draws no conclusions of ONDA's proposed WSA regarding outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Description:** Hunting of common game species (predominately deer, pronghorn, elk and chukar) is the primary activity occurring within the unit. Affiliated activities include hiking and general sightseeing; the area avails itself to equestrian use and photography of a general nature. There are no unique or special features within the unit which would attract visitors. Individually or in combinations, the activities do not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

ONDA states that its much larger proposed WSA provides outstanding opportunities for hunting, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, wildlife viewing, photographing and rockhounding. Vale District draws no conclusions of ONDA's proposed WSA regarding outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

**5. Does the unit have supplemental values?**

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Description:** The unit is within a much larger area of bighorn sheep habitat, but the species does not occupy or utilize public lands of the unit at this time.

ONDA states its larger proposed WSA provides prime habitat for and has at least one lek of the Greater Sage Grouse, and provides habitat for Pygmy Rabbit and Western Burrowing Owl. ONDA states the sage grouse is a "species of concern"; the others as "Federal species of concern". The 3 species are BLM special status species. BLM has no documentation of grouse leks within OR-034-105, although sage grouse may be found within the inventory unit. BLM acknowledges that habitat requirements may exist for the rabbit and owl; however; neither ONDA nor any other entity has provided BLM with official documentation confirming the presence of these species within this inventory unit.



**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

Unit Name and Number: OR-034-105 — Black Butte

**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:** Robert Alward  
Robert Alward, Wilderness Planner, contractor

**Team Members:**

<u>Steve Christensen</u>	12-6-2010
Steve Christensen, Rangeland Management Specialist	Date
<u>Dan Thomas</u>	12/6/10
Dan Thomas, Range Technician	Date
<u>Gillian Wigglesworth</u>	12/6/10
Gillian Wigglesworth, Botanist	Date
<u>Michelle Cayiness</u>	12/6/10
Michelle Cayiness, Wildlife Biologist	Date
<u>Ejan Ray</u>	12-6-10
Ejan Ray, GIS Specialist, contractor	Date
<u>Brent Grasty</u>	12/3/10
Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator	Date

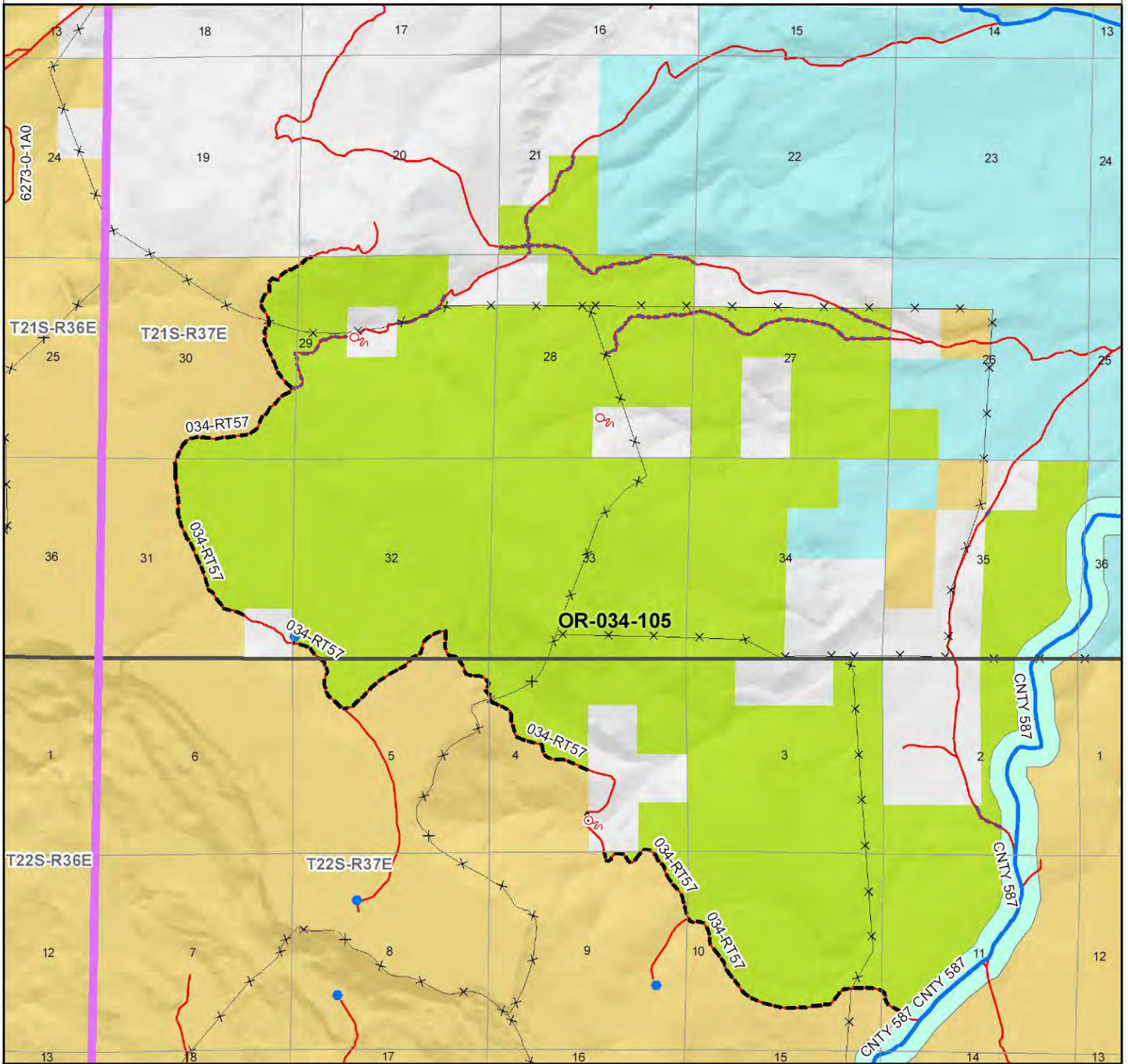
**Approved by:**

Pat Ryan 12/13/10  
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.*

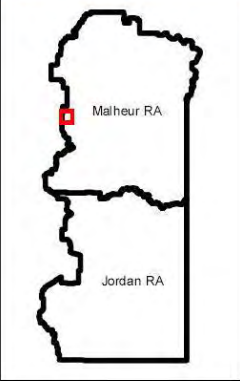
# Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

## Black Butte - OR-034-105 - Map 1 of 2



**Legend**

Developed Spring	Boundary Road
Wildlife Guzzler	Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT)
Earthen Reservoir	Discontinued Use
Pipeline	Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit
Trough	County
Fence	Major Highway
Storage Tank	BLM Numbered & Other Routes
Surface Mining Disturbance	<b>Land Ownership</b>
Sage Grouse Lek	Bureau of Land Management
Special Status Plant	State
BLM Wild Char Inventory Unit	Private
Wilderness Study Area	Other Federal Land
Mineral Material Site	District Boundary
Road/Utility Right-of-Way	
Major Water Body	



Kilometers

Miles

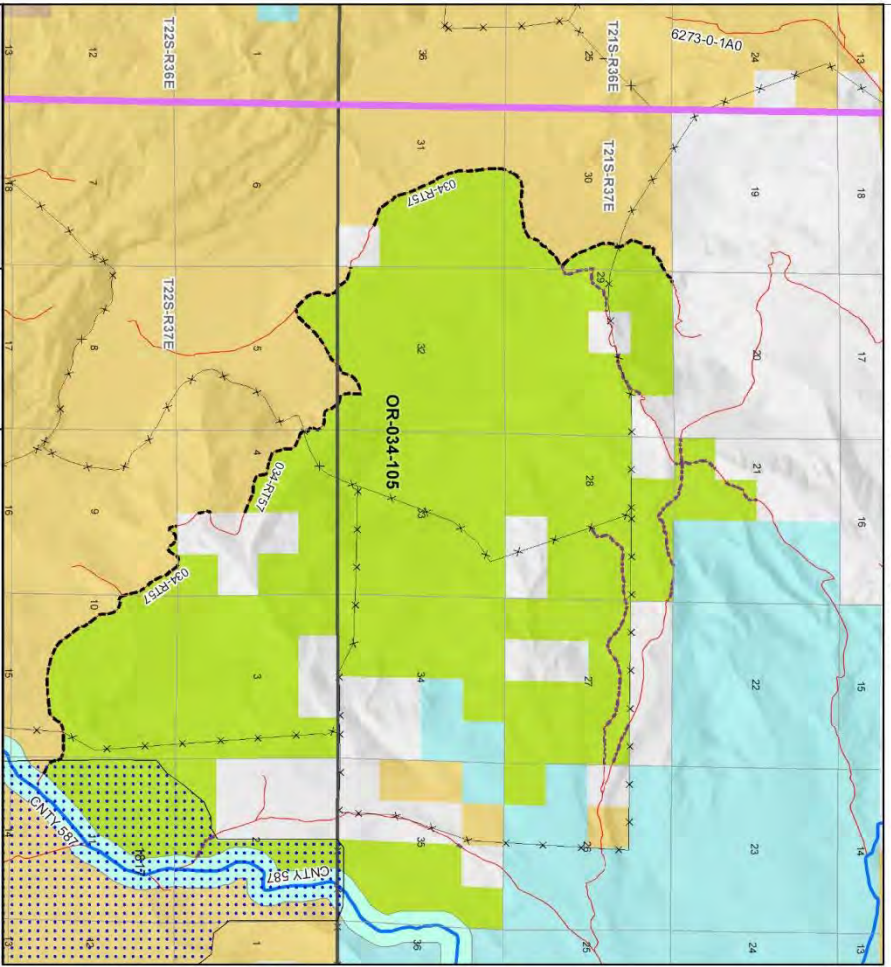
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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**VALE DISTRICT**  
September 21, 2010

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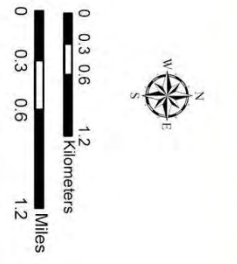
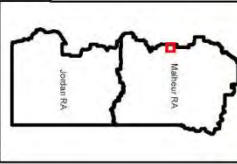
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**Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments**  
**Black Butte - OR-034-105 - Map 2 of 2**



**Legend**

Land Treatment	Public Type, But Determination
State Land Ownership (US)	Advanced Private Title (APTY)
Wilderness Study Area	Revised - Quads with Civil List
Wilderness National State	County
Proprietary Right of Way	Water Right
Major Water Body	Other Features
Land Ownership of Land Management	Private Boundary
State	Other Private Land



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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**Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments**  
**Black Butte - OR-034-105 - Map 2 of 2**

OBJECTID*	NAME	TREATMENT TYPE	SEED GROUP	DATE	NEPA NAME
1817	MIEBEN FLAT BRUSH CONTROL	Chemical Treatment	Not Applicable	1989	Vale Project

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  
Black Butte - OR-034-105**

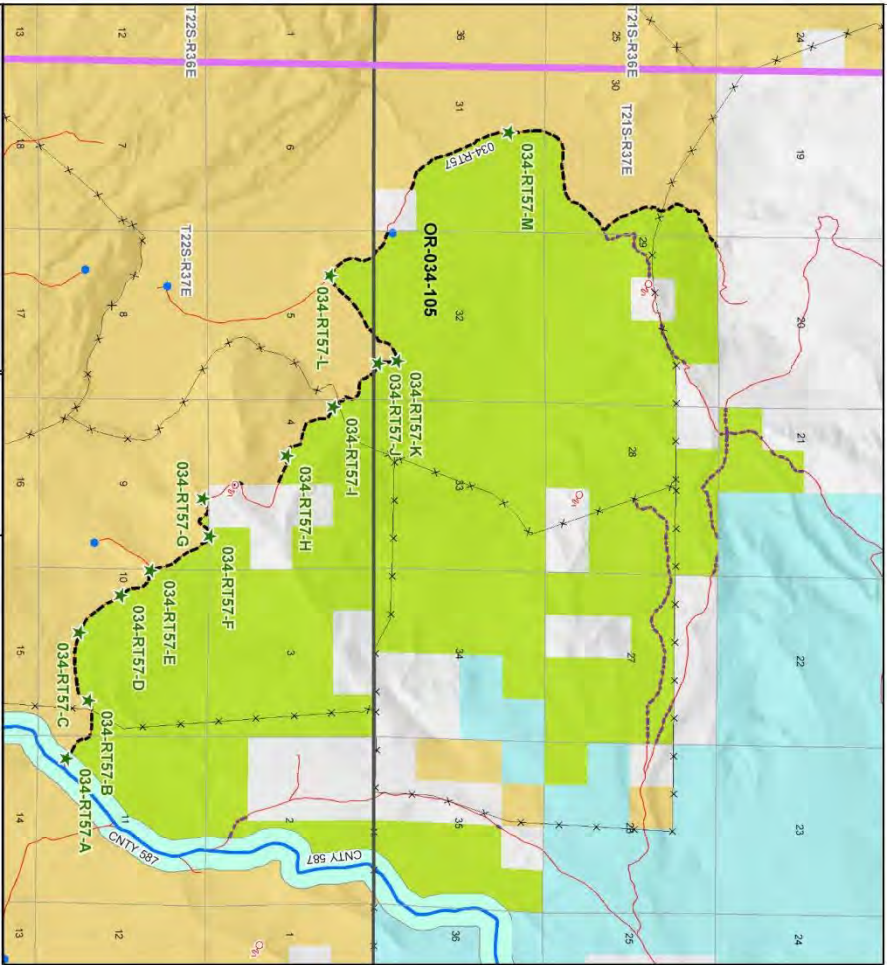


PHOTO LOCATION *	DIRECTION	PHOTO_TYPE	PHOTO DATE	COMMENTS
034-RT57-A	W	Route	20090407	Recent activity; berm, back.
034-RT57-B	E	Route	20090407	Recent activity; berm, front.
034-RT57-C	N	Route	20090407	Small berm, front.
034-RT57-D	S	Route	20090407	back
034-RT57-E	E	Route	20090407	back
034-RT57-F	E	Route	20090407	front
034-RT57-G	SE	Route	20090407	Berm, back
034-RT57-H	NW	Route	20090407	front
034-RT57-I	E	Route	20090407	back
034-RT57-J	W	Route	20090407	front
034-RT57-K	W	Route	20090407	front
034-RT57-L	E	Route	20090407	front
034-RT57-M	SE	Route	20090407	front

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.

**Legend**

- Developed Spine
- Wildlife Habitat
- Eastern Reservoir
- Pyroline
- Mineral Material Site
- Road (Lain) ROW
- Wilderness Study Area
- BLM Wild Char Inventory Photo Points
- BLM Wild Char Inventory Trail
- Route Types - BLM Determination
- Boundary Road
- Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT)
- Discontinued Use
- Revised - Outside Wild Char Line
- County
- Major Highway
- BLM Numbered & Other Routes
- District Boundary

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VALE DISTRICT  
September 21, 2010

Map scale: 0 to 1.2 Miles

---FINAL---



034-RT57-A-E.JPG



034-RT57-B-S.JPG



034-RT57-D-NW.JPG

OR-034-105 Black Butte Page 1



034-RT57-A-W.JPG



034-RT57-C-E.JPG



034-RT57-D-SE.JPG



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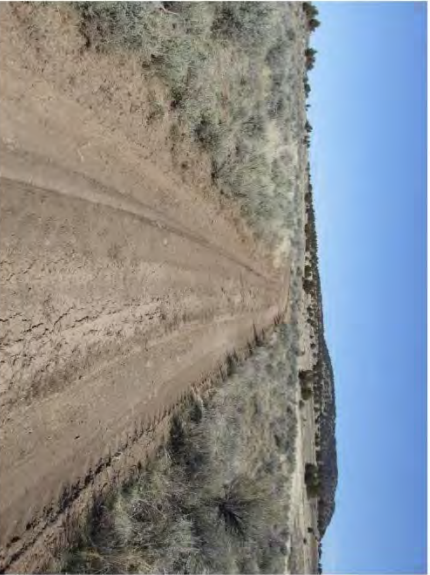
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**H-6300-1-WILDERNESS INVENTORY MAINTENANCE  
IN BLM OREGON/WASHINGTON**

**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-034-105 — Black Butte**

**NOTE: This unit is affected by ONDA’s proposed Middle River WSA.**

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

**BLM 034-RT57 (Vale District)**

**NOTE: This route is also identified by Burns BLM District as “Unknown 14 (UK 14)” for its adjacent “Middle River” wilderness characteristics inventory unit – a unit shared by both districts and identified by Vale District as OR-034-106 Wheeler Flat.**

**ONDA identifies the majority of this route as “M9a”, a vehicular “way” (i.e., what BLM terms a motorized primitive trail ([MPT] )); the remainder of this BLM route (the northern-most segment to the communication site) ONDA does not depict or describe.**

**I. LOCATION:** Refer to the attached map. The route is the unit’s west and southwest boundary. It also is the boundary of Vale District’ adjacent OR-034-106 Wheeler Flat inventory unit (and see NOTE, above). **List photo point references (if applicable):** Refer to Vale District’s associated Photo Points map and affiliated Photo Log and photos – retained both in hard copy and electronically by Vale District. Also, reference a Vale-retained copy of Burns District’s Road Analysis form and Photo Log for its “Unknown 14 (UK 14)” route. Masters of UK 14 documents and associated photos are retained in Burns District.

**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:** The route provides access to two private parcels which constitute part of this unit’s boundary, and also serves as the primary access route to a communications site facility located on private land in section 20, T.21S., R37E. .



**III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:**

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

Yes   X   No        Unknown       

**Nov. 9, 1988** -- Is associated with the above stated communication facility site.

**IV. CONSTRUCTION**

Yes   X   No       

**Examples:** Paved        Bladed   X   Graveled        Roadside  
Berms   X   Cut/Fill   X   Other       

**Describe:** Date of original construction is not confirmed; date of right-of-way issuance for the communication facility site is Nov 9, 1988. The above actions have occurred, and rocks removed from the traveled surface of the route is evidenced.

**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   X   No       

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

**Explain:** Repeated blading has occurred (more than one berm on either side of the route is evidenced), and repeated ditch maintenance has been performed to manage surface water runoff and diversion.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

**VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:**

Yes   X   No \_\_\_\_\_

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

Visual evidence of numerous apparently recent vehicle passes observed. Also, visual evidence of recent tracks remain of heavy equipment (likely a grader) likely due mechanical maintenance performed on the route.

**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   X   No \_\_\_\_\_**

**Explanation:** Route meets the criteria for a road, as described and explained above.

**Evaluator(s):** Steve Christensen **Date:** 5-13-2010  
 Steve Christensen, Rangeland Management Specialist

Eian Ray **Date:** 5-12-10  
 Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, contractor

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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.

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*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”.