

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Black Butte OR-036-008, 25 total pages

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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: 2007**Unit Name/Number:****Black Butte OR-036-008**

**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-03-14-03* (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).
- (X) 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-03-14-03 (1978); Coffee Pot 3-189 (August 1979 – *Wilderness Review – Initial Inventory, Final Decision on Public Lands Obviously Lacking Wilderness Characteristics, Oregon and Washington* [green book]); Subunit F Owyhee River Canyon WSA 3-195F (November 1981 *Stateline*

Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah [tan pamphlet]).

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

- Final Decision – Initial Wilderness Inventory Map August 1979
- Proposed Decision Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas Map October 1979
- Intensive Wilderness Inventory Map March 1980
- 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
Subunit F Owyhee River Canyon WSA 3-159	12,000	Y	N	N	N
Total acres >>	12,000				

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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:**

Inventory Unit Name/Number: Black Butte OR-036-008

For this exercise BLM refers to the unit as 2007 Black Butte OR-036-008. A citizen wilderness proposal provided by Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) received February 2004 identified BLM unit OR-036-008 as a portion of their proposal known as the “Black Butte proposed WSA Addition.” ONDA feels that the citizen proposal presents new information that documents wilderness criteria and therefore qualifies the area for interim protection as a Wilderness Study Area.

1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes X No

Unit OR-036-008 is comprised of 12,324 acres, meeting the size criteria. The 12,324 total acres that are shown to comprise the OR-036-008 unit in Form 2 are slightly different from the 12,000 total acres listed in Form 1. Acreage for unit OR-036-008 in Form 2 is calculated from BLM GIS information and includes an area around a reservoir that was not included in the 1978 inventory. The 12,000 acres in Form 1 was either not calculated properly or resulted from a rounding error from methods and maps used in the initial 1978 inventory. The citizen wilderness proposal identified 12,328 acres in their Black Butte proposed WSA Addition. A four acre difference occurs between BLM GIS calculations and the citizen’s proposal GIS calculations for this unit.

Description: The boundaries of unit OR-036-008 are identified as BLM route 6350-0-B0 on the west, BLM route 6350-0-B0 including a 6-acre area around Little Louse Canyon Reservoir (motorized primitive trail that is a shared boundary of the Owyhee Canyon WSA) that abuts route 6350-0-B0 on the northwest and north, BLM road 6350-0-A0 on the east side, and BLM road 6350-0-00 on the south side. BLM has determined that the northwestern and northern portion of BLM road 6350-0-B0 should no longer be classified as a road but as a motorized primitive trail (refer to BLM road 6350-0-B0 analysis form). Because of this route reclassification the Black Butte OR-036-008 unit is no longer isolated from the Owyhee Canyon WSA by road boundaries and is contiguous with the Owyhee Canyon WSA. The Black Butte unit however is still isolated from the Lookout Butte WSA to the east by BLM road 6350-0-A0. Periodic maintenance of the 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_Black_Butte_OR_036_008.pdf for the unit boundary.

The citizen wilderness proposal boundaries for the Black Butte proposed WSA Addition unit differs from the new boundaries of BLM’s unit OR-036-008 because ONDA claims that BLM road 6350-0-A0 does not meet the road definition. BLM does not agree with their road determination and has explained why this route meets the definition of a road, in BLM road analysis form 6350-0-A0 (attached).

2) Is the unit in a natural condition?Yes X No

Description: Human imprints within the Black Butte OR-036-008 unit include five earthen reservoirs (initial inventory identified only three), 19.75 miles of motorized primitive trails (5.65 miles are contiguous with the Owyhee Canyon WSA), and 3.55 miles of fenceline (constructed in 1985- JDR#726097). Unlike the fence constructed in 1985, the reservoirs and motorized primitive trails are substantially unnoticeable because of vegetative screening provided by the sagebrush on the relatively flat terrain. Overall the area appears to be primarily affected by the forces of nature with the imprint of human activity substantially unnoticeable. Refer to map 2007_Black_Butte_OR_036_008A.pdf for human imprints.

3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?Yes X No

Description: Unit OR-036-008 is rectangular in shape, approximately 6.5 miles in length, and 3 miles in width from its northern boundary to near the southern boundary where it widens to about 4 miles. The majority of the unit consists of a flat to rolling open sagebrush plateau. Black Butte provides the only variation in topographic relief in the unit. Toppin Creek drainage flows northeast through the southeast corner of the unit adjacent to a motorized primitive trail and through broad open sagebrush flats and has 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 5,490 feet mean sea level (msl) along the northeastern corner and rising to the west to about 5,878 feet (msl) at the top of Black Butte. Elevation changes in the unit are gradual. Traversing from north to south or from east to west elevation changes within the unit average about 30-50 feet per mile and are about 100 feet lower than the top of Black Butte. The unit provides limited vegetative screening, consisting of broad expanses of low and big sagebrush with little opportunity for solitude. However, the unit is now considered to provide opportunity for solitude since 5.65 miles of BLM road 6350-0-B0 was reclassified as a motorized primitive trail and BLM unit Black Butte OR-036-008 is no longer isolated from the Owyhee Canyon WSA. Because the Black Butte unit is contiguous with the WSA it is considered a continuation of those outstanding opportunities for solitude wilderness characteristics identified for the Owyhee Canyon WSA.

A citizen wilderness proposal (ONDA, February 2004) includes the BLM Black Butte unit OR-036-008 as an area contiguous with Lookout Butte WSA and Owyhee Canyon WSA for their proposed wilderness area. Because of BLM road 6350-0-B0 reclassification, BLM acknowledges that it is contiguous with the Owyhee Canyon WSA

but has determined that the eastern boundary of the Black Butte unit continues to be isolated from the Lookout Butte WSA by BLM road 6350-0-A0 (refer to BLM road 6350-0-A0 analysis form).

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

Yes X No

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 considered outstanding by the inventory team because the unit lacks scenic quality, diversity of landforms, and challenging terrain. Black Butte is the only topographic feature in the unit that alters the flatness of the terrain. The present inventory agrees with the 1978 inventory that determined the unit lacks exceptional scenery and the diversity of landforms that would result in a strong attraction to the unit for persons seeking 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. 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. Wildlife viewing opportunities have been identified as a recreational value within this unit, but they are not considered to be outstanding by the inventory team.

The BLM inventory team identified that unit OR-036-008 provided only limited opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Because BLM road 6350-0-B0 is now reclassified as a motorized primitive trail, this unit is no longer isolated from the Owyhee Canyon WSA. The Black Butte unit now is contiguous with the WSA and is therefore considered to possess a continuation of those outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation wilderness characteristics identified for the Owyhee Canyon WSA. BLM unit OR-036-008 provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of the existing 5.65 miles of motorized vehicular trails that are now contiguous with the Owyhee Canyon WSA.

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. Rangeland conditions observed 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

Unit Name/Number: Black Butte OR-036-008

Summary Results of Analysis:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----|----|
| 1) Does the area meet any of the size requirements? | <input type="checkbox"/> [Yes] | No | |
| 2) Does the area appear to be natural? | <input type="checkbox"/> [Yes] | No | |
| 3) Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? | <input type="checkbox"/> [Yes] | No | NA |
| 4) Does the area have supplemental values? | <input type="checkbox"/> [Yes] | No | NA |

Conclusion

Check One:

(X) The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.

() The area does not have wilderness character.

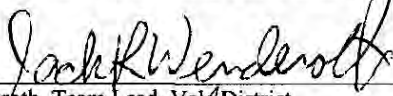
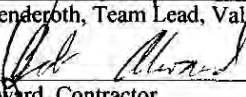

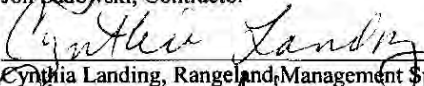
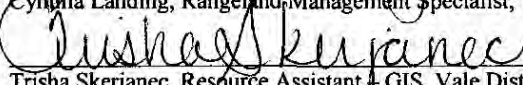
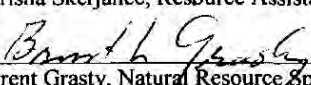
The ID team has reviewed the findings summarized in the original Statewide Wilderness Inventory as well as in the published decision documents and maps identified on Form 1. Current conditions relative to the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics have been considered including citizen wilderness proposals. Based on all the best available information and staff field visits to the area since 2000, the ID team has found compelling reasons, described in sections above, to change existing BLM inventory decisions for solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation and supplemental values wilderness characteristics. BLM finds that the naturalness of the area is primarily affected by the forces of nature and there are supplemental values present. Because the unit is now contiguous with the Owyhee Canyon WSA it is therefore considered to possess a continuation of those outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation wilderness characteristics identified for the Owyhee Canyon WSA.

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 unit 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 Alward, 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

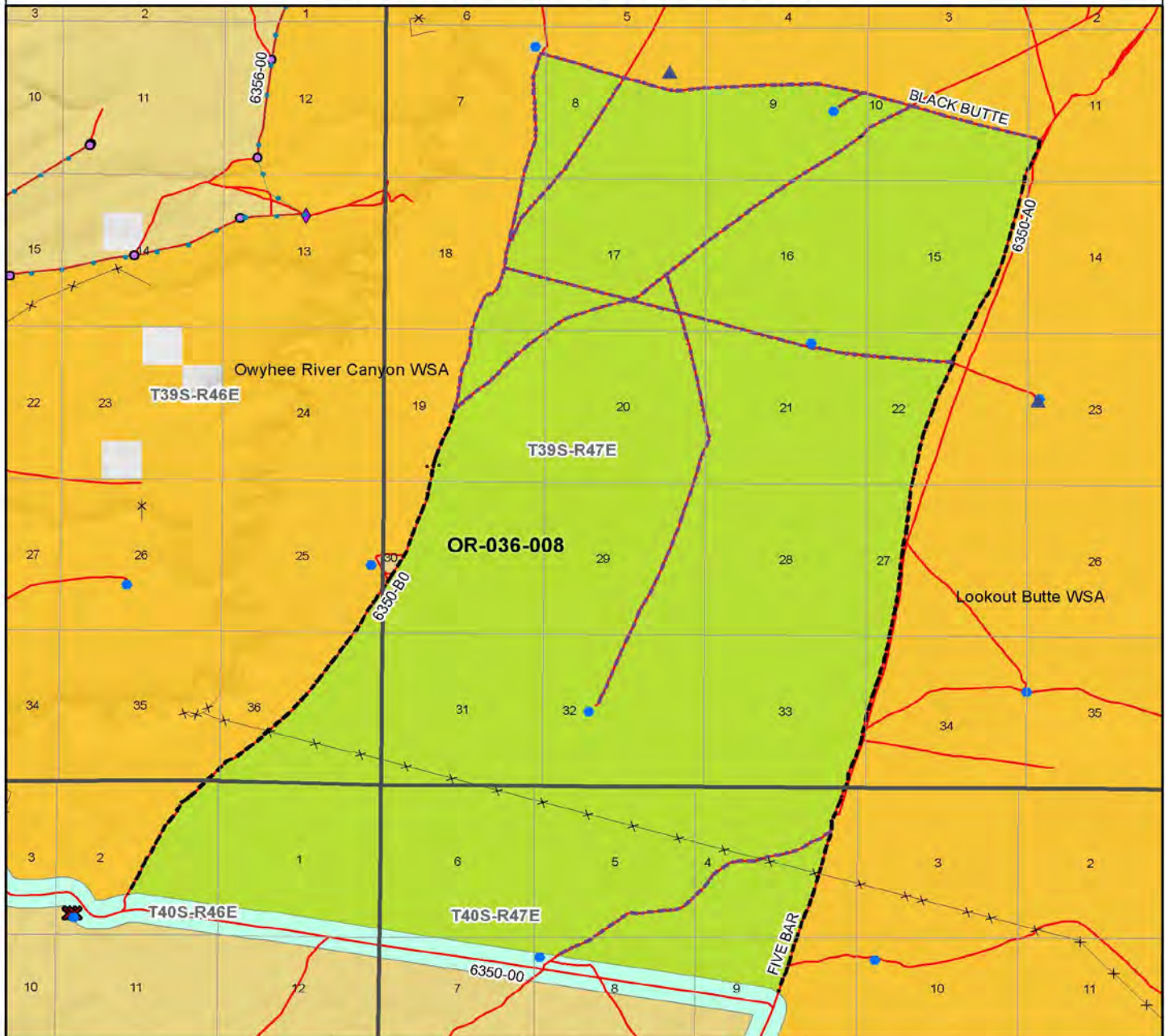
Concurrence:

	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.

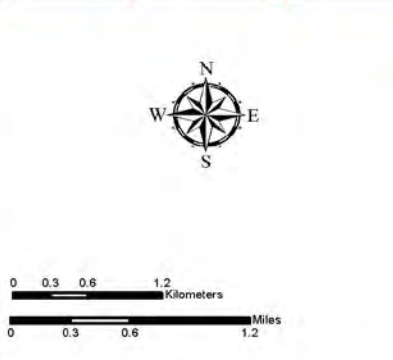
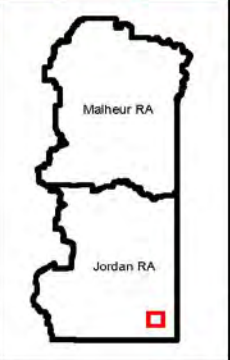
Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Black Butte - OR-036-008 - Map 1 of 1



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

VALE DISTRICT
March 30, 2010

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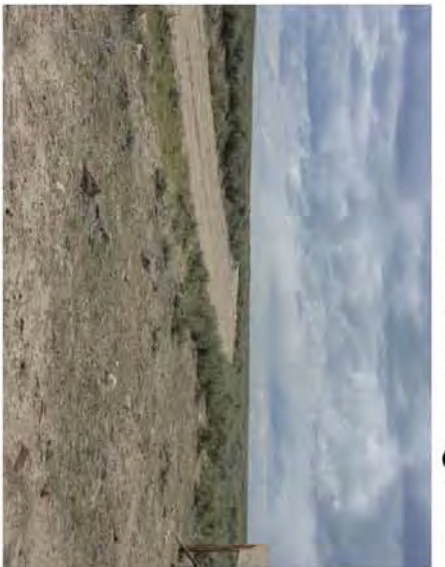
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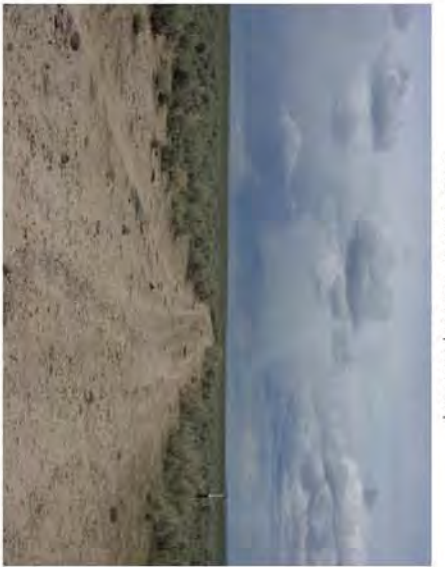
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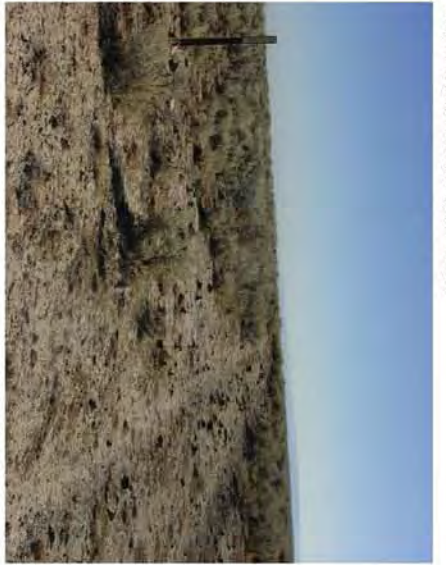
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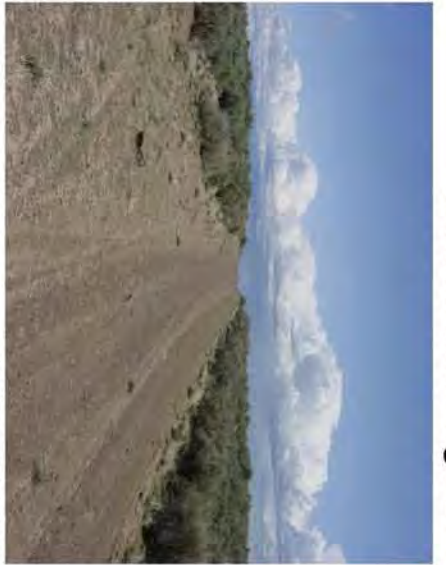
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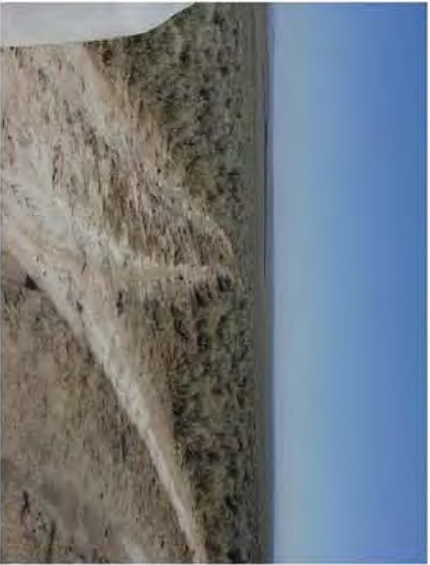
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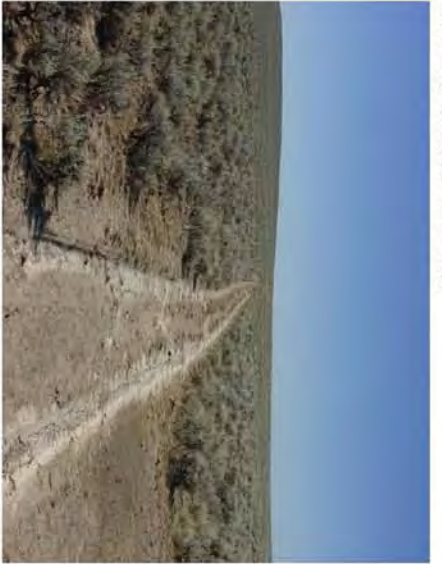
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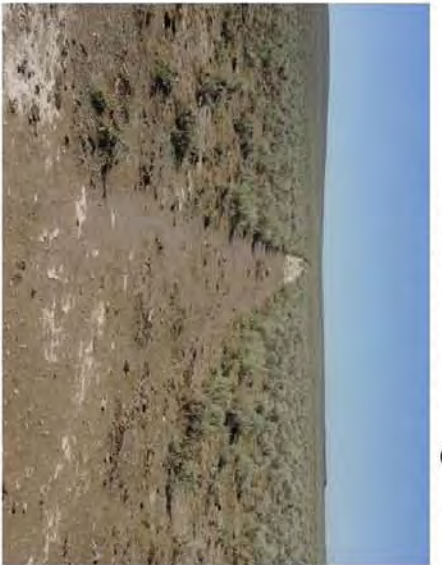
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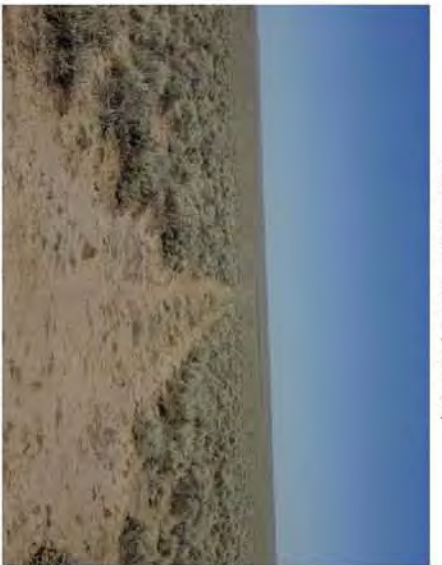
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H-6300-1-WILDERNESS INVENTORY MAINTENANCE IN BLM OREGON/WASHINGTON

APPENDIX C – ROAD¹ ANALYSIS

Wilderness Inventory Area Name and Number (Unit ID): Black Butte OR-036-008

Route Name and/or Identifier: BLM, Five Bar/6350-0-A0; Black Butte proposed WSA Addition, TF76

I. LOCATION

Refer to attached map: 2007-Black_Butte_OR_036_008.pdf and BLM corporate data (GIS).

List photo point references (if applicable): BLM, DSC02345-DSC002352, DSC02469- DSC02472; Black Butte proposed WSA Addition, WA080-WA085

II. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE

Describe: BLM road 6354 is utilized mainly by ranchers (as observed by current BLM staff) and by BLM staff for the administration of rangeland resources, livestock grazing, and the maintenance of livestock improvements (fences, springs, and reservoirs) in two allotments. The road is also used on a seasonal basis by hunters, recreation enthusiasts, and as access to private inholdings for livestock management.

III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY

Is a road right-of-way associated with this route? Yes ___ No X Unknown ___

IV. CONSTRUCTION

Yes X No ___

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

Describe: BLM road 6350-0-A0 was developed sometime in the late 1960s to early 1970s by blading and with ditches and berms, but currently only remnants of berms are evident. Most of the berms are covered with brush and sediment is filling in any ditches that previously existed. This road consists of natural material and is currently one of the BLM routes in the Vale District Transportation Plan.

ONDA's information for roads in their 2004 document "Black Butte proposed WSA Addition" referred only to the southern one-third of Road 6350-0A0 (ONDA photos WA080-WA085; BLM photos of entire road DSC02344-DSC02352, and DSC02469-DSC02472). Based on their photographs and field information ONDA determined that BLM road 6350-0A0 was not a road, but a way. Comparing photo DSC02472 with any other picture of road 6350-0A0 clearly shows the difference in the roadbase of each road section and that maintenance has been conducted on road 6350-A0 south of the northeast corner of the WSA boundary, within the Black Butte unit. BLM does not support ONDA's conclusion, and based on photographs and field reconnaissance has determined that BLM road 6350-0-A0 does meet the definition of a road.

V. IMPROVEMENTS

Yes ___ No X

Yes or No for each: By hand tools ___No___ By machine ___No___

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 ___

By hand tools ___ By machine X

Explain: Comparing BLM photo DSC02472 taken at the northeast boundary of the Black Butte unit with any other BLM picture of road 6350-0-A0 clearly shows the difference in the roadbase of each section. Within the Black Butte unit, road 6350-0-A0 has a defined width and contains minimal vegetation within the road. Photograph DSC02472 shows road 6350-0-A0 leaving the Black Butte unit traveling northward between the Owyhee Canyon and Lookout Butte WSAs. This section of road 6350-0-A0 has not been maintained by a blade for a considerable time and much longer than any portion of the road within the Black Butte unit.

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: BLM road 6350-0-A0 receives annual use as evidenced by the lack of brush in the road and by well-used bare ground where vehicles travel. To reduce the potential for erosion and the establishment of invasive plant and weed species, BLM emphasizes minimal ground disturbance for road construction and maintenance through Best Management Practices (BMPs) as defined in the SEORMP, Appendix O. BMPs are designed to assist in achieving land use objectives for maintaining or improving water quality, soil productivity, and the protection of watershed resources from ground disturbing activities. Therefore, BLM does not grade many roads unless obstruction to vehicle passage is evident. To further reduce ground disturbance and to minimize disruption of natural drainage patterns, roads are kept to the minimal width necessary. Additional precautions are taken to reduce vegetation removal by retention of vegetation on cut slopes unless it poses a safety hazard or restricts maintenance activities, and by conducting roadside brushing of vegetation in a way that prevents disturbance to plant root systems and does not create visual intrusions.

VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE

Yes No

BLM road 6350-0-A0 has annual use as evidenced by the lack of brush in the road and by well-used bare ground where vehicle tires track (DSC02344-DSC02352, DSC02469-DSC02472). The road is well traveled, wide along much of its length, maintenance has been performed on the roadbed periodically, and it is clearly defined on the landscape.


VIII. CONCLUSION

To meet the definition of a road, items IV or V, *and* VI-A or B, *and* VII must be checked yes.

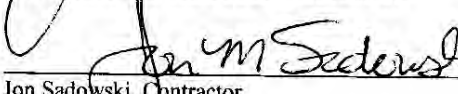
Road: Yes No

Explanation: BLM has determined that road 6350-0-A0 meets the definition of a road as stated in sections IV, VI-A and VI-B, and VII above. BLM road 6352-0-00 was constructed by mechanical equipment, has been maintained since being constructed, would be approved to be maintained by management as needed if the road base became impassable, and has regular and continuous use.

Evaluator(s):


 Jack Wenderoth, Team Lead, Vale District

Date 10-26-2007


 Jon Sadowski, Contractor

Date 10-26-2007


 Cynthia Landing, Rangeland Management Specialist, Vale District

Date 10-26-2007

¹ Note: The following definition of road is quoted from OSO Draft (4/19/07) H-6300-1, Wilderness Inventory Maintenance in BLM Oregon/Washington:

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.”

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

APPENDIX C – ROAD¹ ANALYSIS

Wilderness Inventory Area Name and Number (Unit ID): Black Butte OR-036-008

Route Name and/or Identifier: Black Butte/6350-0-B0; Black Butte proposed WSA Addition, TF73a, TF68

IX. LOCATION

Refer to attached map: 2007-Black_Butte_OR_036-008.pdf and BLM corporate data (GIS).

List photo point references (if applicable): DSC02336, DSC02338-DSC002341, DSC02473-DSC02481; Black Butte proposed WSA Addition, WA058-WA064 and WA072

X. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE

Describe: BLM road 6350-0-B0 is utilized mainly by ranchers (as observed by current BLM staff) and by BLM staff for the administration of rangeland resources, livestock grazing, and the maintenance of livestock improvements (fences, springs, and reservoirs) in two allotments. The road is also used on a seasonal basis by hunters, recreation enthusiasts, and as access to private inholdings for livestock management.

XI. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY

Is a road right-of-way associated with this route? Yes No Unknown

XII. CONSTRUCTION

Yes No

Examples: Paved Bladed Graveled
Roadside Berms Cut/Fill Other

Describe: BLM road 6350-0-B0 was developed sometime in the late 1960s to early 1970s by blading and with ditches and berms, but currently only remnants of berms are evident. Most of the berms are covered with brush and sediment is filling in any ditches that previously existed. This road consists of natural material and is currently one of the BLM routes in the Vale District Transportation Plan.

ONDA’s information for roads in their 2004 document “Black Butte proposed WSA Addition” referred only to the southern two-thirds of the western leg and one point on the northern leg of road 6350-0-B0 (ONDA WA058-WA064; BLM pictures of entire road DSC02336, DSC02338-DSC02341, and DSC02473-DSC02481). Based on their photographs and field information, ONDA determined that BLM road 6350-0-B0 was not a road but a way. BLM does not support ONDA’s conclusion, and based on BLM photographs and field reconnaissance has determined that a portion of BLM road 6350-0-B0 does meet the definition of a road.

XIII. IMPROVEMENTS

Yes ___ No X

Yes or No for each: By hand tools No By machine No

Examples: Culverts _____ Stream Crossings _____ Bridges _____ Drainage
_____ Barriers _____ Other _____

Describe: _____

XIV. MAINTENANCE

A. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes X No _____

By hand tools _____ By machine X

Explain: Recent maintenance to BLM road 6350-0-B0 is not evident. Earthen berms and ditches left on the edge of the road shown in photos DSC02336, DSC02338-DSC02341, and DSC02473-81 presently contain brush encroaching from the undisturbed areas outside of the roadbed. As well, some of the pictures show brush in the center of the roadbed between wheel tracks. Although it has been many years since maintenance has been performed on this road it is evident that little to no maintenance is needed to keep the roadbed in good operational condition. This is consistent with Best Management Practices BLM has incorporated into the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan for Vale District.

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 X No _____

Comments: The southwest 3.5 miles of road 6350-0-B0 receives annual use as evidenced by the lack of brush in long sections of the road and by well-used bare ground where vehicles travel. The remaining length of road 6350-0-B0 has become an isolated loop that is no longer utilized as a main access route into the surrounding area, and has been reclassified by the current inventory team as a motorized primitive trail. Although this reclassified route 6350-0-B0 would be approved to be maintained by management as needed if the road base became impassable, it would remain a low priority to be repaired because of its limited annual use. To reduce the potential for erosion and the establishment of invasive plant and weed species, BLM emphasizes minimal ground disturbance for road construction and maintenance through Best Management Practices (BMPs) as defined in the SEORMP, Appendix O. BMPs are designed to assist in achieving land use objectives for maintaining or improving water quality, soil productivity, and the protection of watershed resources from ground disturbing activities. Therefore, BLM does not grade many roads unless obstruction to vehicle passage is evident. To further reduce ground disturbance and to minimize disruption of natural drainage patterns, roads are kept to the minimal width necessary. Additional precautions are taken to reduce vegetation removal by retention of vegetation on cut slopes unless it poses a safety hazard or restricts maintenance activities, and by conducting roadside brushing of vegetation in a way that prevents disturbance to plant root systems and does not create visual intrusions.

XV. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE

Yes No

A 3.5-mile section of road 6350-0-B0 located in the southwest portion of the unit has annual use as evidenced by the lack of brush in the road and by well-used bare ground where vehicle tires track (DSC02336, DSC02338-DSC02341). Because the remaining northwestern and northern sections of road 6350-0-B0 do not show regular and continuous use, this length of road has been reclassified as a motorized primitive trail (DSC02473-DSC02481).

XVI. CONCLUSION


To meet the definition of a road, items IV or V, *and* VI-A or B, *and* VII must be checked yes.

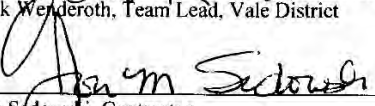
Road: Yes No


Explanation: BLM has determined that the southwestern approximate 3.5 miles of road 6350-0-B0 does meet the definition of a road as stated in sections IV, VI-A and VI-B, and VII above. BLM road 6350-0-B0 was constructed by mechanical equipment, has been maintained since being constructed, would be approved to be

maintained by management as needed if the road base became impassable, and has regular and continuous use.

Evaluator(s):


 Jack Wenderoth, Team Lead, Vale District Date 10-26-2007


 Jon Sadowski, Contractor Date 10-26-2007


 Cynthia Landing, Rangeland Management Specialist, Vale District Date 10-26-2007

¹Note: The following definition of road is quoted from OSO Draft (4/19/07) H-6300-1, Wilderness Inventory Maintenance in BLM Oregon/Washington:

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:

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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.”