Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents Cherry Well OR-036-032, 14 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, 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-036-032 --- Cherry Well

<u>FORM 1</u> -- DOCUMENTATION OF BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY FINDINGS ON RECORD

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?

NOTE: In the early 1980's, this inventory unit was intensively inventoried (OR-03-178 Rattlesnake Creek; unpublished BLM documents stored in District Wilderness Study Area case files).

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) 1978-1980 BLM Wilderness Inventory Units OR-03-13-17 Cherry Well; and partial of OR-03-13-16 Berber (unpublished BLM documents stored in Vale District case files); Bowden Hills 3-118 (August, 1979); Bowdon Hills 3-118A (March, 1980)
- (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)
- (X) October 1979 Wilderness Review Intensive Inventory Oregon, Proposed Decision on the Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas (grey document).
- (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 document)
- (X) 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)

BLM OR-03-13-17 Cherry Well; and partial of OR-03-13-16 Berber; Bowden Hills 3-118 (August, 1979); Bowdon Hills 3-118A (March, 1980)

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

- (X) Final Decision Initial Wilderness Inventory Map, August 1979, Oregon
- (X) Proposed Decision -- Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas Map, October 1979, Oregon
- (X) Intensive Wilderness Inventory Map, March 1980, Oregon
- (X) 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)

District OfficeVale District

Field Office Jordan 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.

Unit# / Name	Size (historic	Natural Condition?	Outstanding Solitude?	Outstanding Primitive &	Supplemental Values?
	acres)	Y/N	Y/N	Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Y/N
3-118 Bowden Hills OR-03- 13-15 Excluded 4,100 acres OR 03-13-15, OR 03-13-16	59,900	Y	Y	N	*
TOTAL	59,000				

^{*}The original inventory reported that no supplemental valves were known to exist for the 3-118A unit.

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

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<u>FORM 2</u> -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-036-032 --- Cherry Well

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	\mathbf{X}	No	

Description: Refer to Cherry Well inventory unit's associated Map 1a for its location. Unit OR-036-032 is comprised of three parcels totaling 13,519 acres of public land which are contiguous with Bowden Hills WSA. The Southeast parcel is comprised of 8,513 acres, the Northwest parcel contains 4,818 acres, and the North parcel contains 188 acres. Acreage for unit OR-036-032 is calculated from BLM GIS information. The 59,000 acreage in Form 1 reflects the final extent of the Bowdon Hills 3-118A unit (currently the Bowden Hills WSA) as described in Oregon's November, 1980 Intensive Wilderness Inventory -- Final Decisions Map document. Present inventory acreage is a function of improved technology and the difference between methods and maps used in the initial inventories.

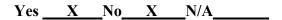
Of OR-036-032, the majority of the acreage within the Southeast parcel and all of the North parcel of Cherry Well unit were previously excluded from the WSA when the WSA was designated by BLM in 1980, whereas the entire acreage of the Northwest parcel -- although not described with an inventory identifier or name at the time -- did not meet wilderness characteristic's size criteria, thus was not further inventoried for other wilderness criteria by BLM in the late 1970's. The common boundary of each of these three parcels with the WSA are presently contiguous with the WSA because they are either a rangeland fence or a vehicle route that, in the late 1970's BLM described as a boundary roads but which since has changed status to a motorized primitive trail (MPT). This change in route status is due to no mechanical maintenance performed and no further need to conduct mechanical maintenance on them so to provide for regular and continuous use. The late 1970's shared boundary with the WSA for both the Northeast and North parcels was a route then determined to be a road; for the Southeast parcel a combination of a road and a rangeland fence. For this wilderness characteristic inventory maintenance, neither a MPT or rangeland fence is a valid boundary feature for an inventory unit. Thus -- being contiguous to the WSA -- regardless of its size -- each of the three contiguous parcels meet size criteria.

The remaining boundaries of the Southeast parcel of OR-036-032 are BLM roads 6360-00 on its northeast side; and 6361-00 on its southeast and southern sides. The Southeast parcel's southern boundary also includes a saleable mineral right-or-way. Remaining boundaries of the Northwest parcel of OR-036-032 are County Road 608 on its north boundary and a utility corridor right-of-way on its western boundary. The Northwest parcel's western boundary also includes a saleable mineral right-or-way and a withdrawal issued to the Federal Aviation Administration. The other boundaries of the North parcel

are BLM road 6365-00, County Road 608 and a short section of a loop road from County Road 608. Country Road 608 and BLM roads 6360-00, 6361-00, and 6365-00 receive mechanical maintenance as needed to provide for on a regular and continuous (seasonal) use.

Note: All three parcels of this inventory unit are associated with Bowden Hills WSA which BLM has identified as not being suitable and/or manageable for designation as Wilderness by Congress. However, matters of suitability and manageability are not factors of consideration for wilderness characteristic inventory.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?



Description: Topography in the Southeast parcel of the Cherry Well unit is mostly flat and northward sloping for the majority of its eastern portion with low rolling south and west sloping hills in the southern portion. Topography in the Northwest parcel of this unit consists of a series of low rolling hills that slope to the west and are dissected by numerous dry drainages. Topography in the North parcel of this unit consists of flat terrain that is dissected by three dry stream channels that drain to the north. The three parcels that comprise the Cherry Well unit do not contain any features that would provide a sense of exceptional topographic relief to the average visitor.

Elevation levels within the Southeast parcel of the unit range from a low of 4,040 feet above mean sea level (msl) along the northern boundary in the eastern portion to a high of 4,500 feet (msl) along the southern boundary. The southern end of this unit extends westward along the southern boundary to an elevation of 4740 feet at Overshoe Pass. Overshoe Pass splits the drainage patterns of the Southeast unit into either northern flowing or western flowing channels. Elevations within the southern portion of the Southeast parcel range from a high of 4,900 feet msl above Overshoe Pass and slope to the west to a low of 4,590 feet msl where drainages enter the Bowden Hills WSA. Vegetation within the Southeast parcel of the Cherry Well unit consists primarily of either big or low sagebrush that contain 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.

Elevation levels within the Northwest parcel of the unit range from a low of 4,140 feet above mean sea level (msl) along its northern boundary to a high of 4,335 feet (msl) near its most southern point. Vegetation within the Northwest parcel of the Cherry Well unit consists primarily of either big or low sagebrush that contain both native and non-native grass species.

Elevation levels within the North parcel of the unit range from a low of 4,224 feet above mean sea level (msl) along its northern boundary to a high of 4,301 feet (msl) near its most southern point. Vegetation within the North parcel of the Cherry Well unit consists primarily of either big or low sagebrush that contain both native and non-native grass species.

Refer to this inventory unit's associated Map 1a and Map 2 for the location of human imprints. They include 8.8 miles of MPTs in the Northwest parcel; 1.6 miles of MPTs, 0.6 mile cherry stem of BLM road 6365-00 in the North parcel; and the Southeast parcel contains 12.1 miles of MPTs, 6.4 mile cherry stem road to water well, 15.0 miles of fence line, 8.4 miles of pipeline serving two systems with 15 associated livestock water troughs, one developed spring, 2 water wells with troughs, one earthen reservoir, and drill row surface disturbance from the 8 vegetation treatments that have occurred between 1965 to 2006.

Note: See this unit's associated Map 1b for areas not meeting natural condition criteria. Presently, to the average visitor, approximately 4000 acres of the various vegetation treatments conducted in the Southeast parcel between 1965 and 2006 appear – individually and collectively – remain visually distinguishable from native vegetation that have not been altered by any treatment. At the time of the August 1980 wilderness inventory, the existing vegetation treatments in the Southeast parcel were substantially noticeable to the average visitor and approximately one-half of these treatment acres still exhibit man's influence to the native landscape. The fence lines, pipelines with troughs, water wells, earthen reservoir, drill rows in the vegetative manipulation treatments, and the extent of MPTs within the Southeast parcel are substantially noticeable because existing vegetation or topography does not provide adequate screening across the relatively flat terrain. Overall, in of itself, approximately half of the Southeast parcel appears not to be primarily affected by the forces of mankind with the imprint of human activity substantially noticeable. This area does not meet the naturalness criteria and will not be inventoried for the remaining wilderness characteristics (outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and/or solitude).

Two separate areas located in the south and west portions of the Southeast parcel comprise the more natural half of the parcel that is not affected by the forces of mankind and are contiguous with the Bowden Hills WSA. The south portion of the Southeast parcel is bounded on the south by BLM road 6361-00 and on the east, west, and north by the fence line boundary of the Bowden Hills WSA. The west portion of the parcel is bounded on the north and south by BLM road 6361-00, on the west by the Bowden Hills WSA boundary along a fence line and a cherry-stem road, and on the east by the substantially noticeable imprint of human activity in the form of vegetation removal and drill rows from rangeland equipment remaining form vegetation and soil manipulation in the remaining area of this parcel.

Combined with the natural condition of the contiguous WSA, the portion of this southeast parcel which presently appears natural is enhanced by the contiguous natural condition of the WSA. For these reasons, the 2 parcels that are in a natural condition and that portion of the Southeast parcel that is in a natural condition in combination with the natural condition of the contiguous WSA is an increased area which appears, overall, to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of mankind being substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.

The Northwest and North parcels of the Cherry Well unit are largely unaffected by man's influences and appear natural to the average visitor. The North and Northwest parcels do

not contain any man-made developments and the vegetation across the landscape is continuous, intact, and reflects the landscape found within the Bowden Hills WSA that the parcels are now contiguous with. Overall, the Northwest and North parcels appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of mankind being substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes	\mathbf{X}	No	N/A	

Description: Unit OR-036-032 consists of three parcels of various shapes and acreages. All three parcels are contiguous with the Bowden Hills WSA. For the Bowden Hills WSA, BLM previously determined that outstanding opportunities for solitude exists within the WSA while noting vegetative screening along its northwest edge provides little screening where lower profiled vegetation is present, and that sounds form motorized vehicle traffic on Highway 95 detract from opportunities for solitude along much of the WSA's western edge. The WSA's outstanding opportunities for solitude are provided primarily by its rolling terrain sufficient to provide screening between visitors.

That portion of the inventory unit which is in a natural condition is subject to determination regarding outstanding opportunities for solitude. The Northwest and North parcels of the unit consist of small rolling hills dissected by numerous dry stream channels that drain mostly into Crooked Creek to the west, with the remaining channels of the North parcel that drain into Rattlesnake Creek to the east. The small dry-drainages within these parcels travel through broad open sagebrush flats characterized by fairly uniform gentle stream gradients with an absence of canyons, deep depressions, or vegetative species that usually are associated with the possibility of providing solitude.

The majority of the Southeast parcel on the eastern boundary of the Bowden Hills WSA consists of dissected alluvial fan remnants and flat dry stream channel basins sloping to the east and north into Battle Creek. The remaining western portion of this parcel contains small south and west sloping knolls dissected by dry stream channels that join together in the northwest corner of this section of the Southeast parcel and enter the Bowden Hills WSA to the north. The absence of relief, in the majority of the Southeast parcel, in of itself, does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The Southeast parcel is characterized by fragmented vegetative screening that provides only limited opportunities for visitor's seclusion from others. Limited opportunities for solitude exist in the parcel because the majority of the topographic relief is flat and the vast extent of vegetation has been altered by historic manipulation treatments and wildfires. Opportunities for solitude are limited in this parcel also because of the large acreage of sparsely scattered vegetation along the dissected dry channels in the valley bottoms of Battle Creek drainage.

Although each of the three parcels where natural condition is present in unit OR-036-032 they do not individually possess outstanding opportunities for solitude, but are a contiguous extension in area for those opportunities for solitude identified with the Bowden Hills WSA. BLM concludes that these identified parcels in a natural condition do provide a very slight enhancement of the outstanding opportunities for solitude with the

contiguous WSA, although primarily associated with the natural condition portion of the Southeast parcel of OR-036-032. BLM concludes that unit OR-036-032 does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

4.	Does the unit l	have outstanding	opportunities:	for pri	mitive and	unconfined	recreation?
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Yes	No	\mathbf{X}	N/A	

Description: That portion of the inventory unit which is in a natural condition is subject to determination regarding outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are the same as those previously determined by BLM to be present in the contiguous Bowden Hills WSA. They include hiking, horseback riding, photography, general sightseeing, and hunting of common game species (chukar, antelope, and deer). These recreation opportunities -- individually or in combination -- are not considered to be outstanding. There are no unique or specific features associated with the 3 parcels that would draw a visitor to a given parcel. BLM concludes that unit OR-036-032 does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes	\mathbf{X}	No	N/A	
		_ 1 1 0		_

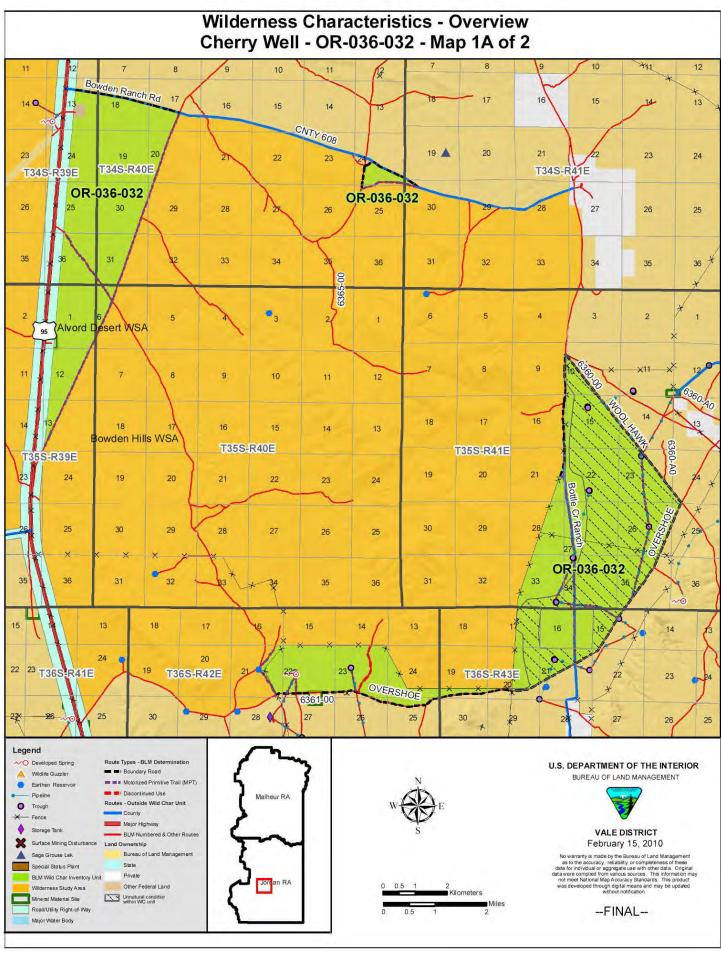
Description: The BLM's 1970s inventory indicated that Unit 3-118 and surrounding acreage is one of the few areas where black sagebrush and sand dropseed grass occur in southeastern Oregon, and it is the most northerly distribution of these species. These vegetation types are dependent upon unusual combinations of soils and exposure, and are of interest to soil scientist, botanists, and ecologist.

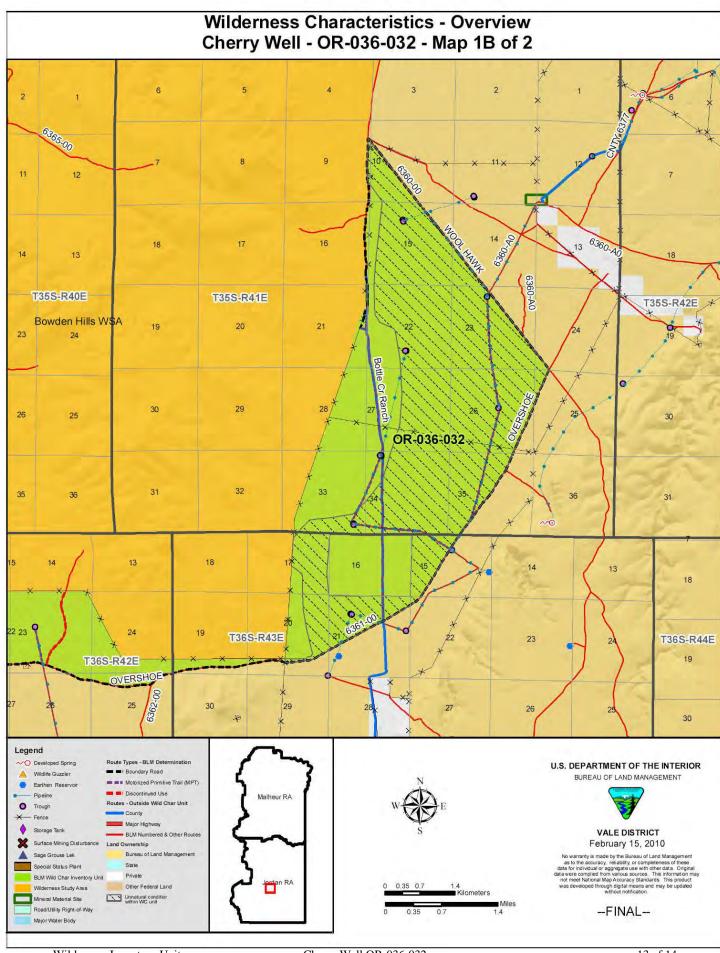
The 1970s inventory also indicated that Unit 3-118 and surrounding acreage is within the range of the kit fox, which is on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) list of threatened species. This areas vegetation is partially a salt desert shrub type, a dryer zone than sagebrush, which kit fox inhabit.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: <u>OR-036-032 – Cherry Well</u>			
Summary Results of Analysis:			
1. Does the area meet any of the size requiremen	s? <u>X</u> Y	es]	No
2. Does the area appear to be natural?	<u>X</u> Y	es X	_No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities and unconfined type of recreation? X		_	
4. Does the area have supplemental values?	Yes	_No	NA
Conclusion — check one: The area, or a portion of the area, has wild The area does not have wilderness charact Prepared by: Jack Wenderoth, Planning Contractor Jack Wenderoth, Planning Contractor		ncter.	
Team Members Chyper		2170	<u> </u>
Marcy Egger, Rangeland Management Specialist		Date	10
Marcy Egger Kangerand Nyanagement Specialist		3/29/2	2010
Dave Draheim, Outdoor Recreation Planner		Date	,
Cottle Rom		3/2	3/2010
Garth Ross, Wildlife Biologist		Date	
Dry M Idoush		-	2010
Sadowski/Environmental Contractor		Date 3/3/	10
Ejan Ray, GIS, Specialist, Contractor		Date	
Brust & Fruit		3/19/	O
Brent Grasty, QIS Coordinator		Date	
Approved by:			
Contain R Frontonon-		4/6/	b
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 - Land Treatments Cherry Well - OR-036-032 - Map 2 of 2

OBJECTID* 87 BO	* NAME 87 BOWDEN ESR SDG	WE TREATMENT TYPE SEED GROUP Drill Seeding Native Grasses	SED GROUP
107 ROM	ROME WUI	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable
108 ROI	ROMEWUI	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable
117 ROI	ROME WUI	Brushbeat	Not Applicable
217 BEE	BEBER SDG	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable
220 OVI	220 OVERSHOE SDG	Chemical Treatme	Chemical Treatmen Non-native Grasses
273 OVI	273 OVERSHOE SDG	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses
424 BEE	424 BEBER SDG	Drill Seeding	A mix of non-native grasse 1965
427 BAT	427 BATTLE CR SDG	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable
428 BAT	428 BATTLECR SDG	Drill Seeding	A mix of non-native grasse 1965

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.