

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents  
**Coal Mine Basin OR-034-112, 10 total pages**

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

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

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

- 1) Document and review the existing BLM wilderness inventory findings on file, if available, regarding the presence or absence of individual wilderness characteristics, using Form 1, below.
- 2) Consider relevant information regarding current conditions available in the office to identify and describe any changes to the existing information (use interdisciplinary (ID) team knowledge, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc.), and document your findings on Form 2, below.

When Citizen Information has been submitted regarding wilderness characteristics, document the submitted materials including: date of Submission; Name of District(s) and Field Office(s) Affected; Type of material Submitted (e.g. narrative, map, 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: 2009 Unit Number/Name: OR-034-112 — Coal Mine Basin

**FORM 1 -- DOCUMENTATION OF BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY  
FINDINGS ON RECORD**

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

Yes  No  (If yes, and if more than one unit is within the area, list the names of those units.):

**A.) Inventory Source(s) -- (X)** Denotes all applicable BLM Inventory files, printed maps, or published BLM Decision documents with information pertaining to this unit.

**Wilderness Inventories**

- **(X)** 1978-1980 – **In Oregon:** BLM Vale District Wilderness Inventory Unit partially of OR-03-05-16 Coal Mine; **In Idaho:** ID-16-14.(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)
- **(X)** August 1979 – *Idaho Initial Wilderness Inventory State Director's Final Decision*
- **( )** 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)**

**In Oregon:** BLM Vale District's partially of OR-03-05-16 Coal Mine Basin; **In Idaho:** ID-16-14.

**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>
Partially of OR-03-05-16 Coal Mine Basin	1,420*	**	**	**	**
ID-16-14	19,043	***	***	***	***
<b>TOTAL</b>	20,463				

\* -- This acreage was only within Vale District.

\*\* -- These criteria were not addressed during the inventory of this Vale District unit.

\*\*\* -- To date, Vale District has not been provided any specific findings regarding these criteria from the Boise, Idaho BLM District.

## **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.*

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

**Unit Number/Name – OR-034-112 — Coal Mine Basin**

**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   X  

**Description:** Refer to this unit's associated Map 1 for its location. Reference work maps from Boise District regarding results of BLM Boise District's late 1970's inventory unit ID-16-14 and present bounds for OR034-112 within Boise District are retained in the hard copy file of OR-034-112.

This 19,329 acre OR-034-112 unit is composed of public lands in both Vale (1,496 acres) and Boise (17,887 acres) BLM districts. It includes a combination of Boise's late 1970's inventory unit ID-16-14, and a portion of Vale District's late 1970's unit OR-03-05-16 Coal Mine Basin. In the late 1970's, both districts conducted independent wilderness characteristics inventories which included public lands only within their respective states. With this WC inventory maintenance, the OR-034-112 unit includes contiguous roadless BLM public lands within both districts. However, the unit's area within Vale District does not – of itself -- meet any size criteria of wilderness characteristics.

OR-034-112's boundary components within Vale District consists of private land parcels and the right-of-way for US Highway 95; in Boise District private and state land parcels interspersed with 3 separated road segments traversing public lands. A 1.3 mile cherry-stem road to the dam of Succor Creek Reservoir, the dam structure, and the high water storage pool elevation of those portions of the large reservoir itself located on BLM land are also boundary features in Boise District.

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

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

**Description:** To date, Vale District has received no data from the Boise District about human imprints present within the unit in Idaho. Respectively, no determination on natural condition can be established in this document for that portion of the unit located in Boise District.

Vegetation within the unit as a whole is predominately a mix of non-native and native grasses and sagebrush. Within Boise District, the terrain is highly dissected with

moderate to very steep slopes with multiple ridges, hilltops and buttes separating multi-directional drainages; elevations range from 4,175 to 6,132 feet. The topography in Vale District is somewhat similar to that of Boise district – largely dissected with steep to very steep slopes -- but very broken up by its very narrow width (three-quarters to one mile) compared to its approximately 4 mile length, and, of lower elevations of between 4,260 and 4,688 feet.

Within Vale District is the 755-acre Coal Mine Basin Area of Critical Concern/Research Natural Area (ACEC/RNA); it is generally centrally located relative to the length of the unit in the Vale District. In the adjacent Boise District area of the unit -- and abutting the Vale District's ACEC/RNA -- is an ACEC designated by that district. The Vale District's ACEC/RNA's relevant and important values include excellent representation of typical Succor Creek ash habitat for two BLM special status plant species (smooth mentzelia and Cusick's chaenactis), ash vegetative communities and paleontological resources.

Although the unit's area within Vale District (1,496 acres) does not meet any size criteria for wilderness characteristics, the following is provided regarding natural conditions within Vale District.

Refer to this unit's associated Map 1 for human imprints in Vale District. There is 4 miles of a State line rangeland fence in the unit. In Vale District, there are 1.8 miles of 4 motorized primitive trails (MPTs). The southern approximate two-thirds of the unit within Vale District appear to be in a natural condition to the average visitor due to no developments present. The close proximity to each other of the 4 MPTs in the northern third precludes this area from appearing to be in a natural condition to the average visitor. In summary, a portion of the unit's area within Vale District appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans being substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.

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

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

**Description:** To date, Vale District has received no data from the Boise District about opportunities for solitude within the unit in Idaho. Respectively, no determination on solitude can be established in this document for that portion of the unit located in Boise District.

Although the unit's area within Vale District (1,496 acres) does not meet any size criteria for wilderness characteristics, the following is provided regarding solitude within Vale District. The unit's area within Vale District is one mile or less from U.S. Highway 95. The noise of frequent passing highway traffic is an unavoidable outside adverse influence to any sense of isolation. This, coupled with the area's topography sloping toward the

highway and insufficient vegetative height or density to aid screening visitors, results in Vale District's area of the unit not possessing outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

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

**Description:** To date, Vale District has received no data from the Boise District about opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation within the unit in Idaho. Respectively, no determination on recreation can be established in this document for that portion of the unit located in Boise District.

Although the unit's area within Vale District (1,496 acres) does not meet any size criteria for wilderness characteristics, the following is provided regarding primitive and unconfined recreation within Vale District. Hunting of common game species (primarily deer and chukar) is available within the area. Day hiking is mostly associated with hunting activities. There are no recreation-oriented features so unique or special as to specifically draw such visitors to the area. The unit's area within Vale District does not have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

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

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

**Description:** Within Vale District's area (at minimum) of the unit is excellent representation of typical Succor Creek ash habitat for two BLM special status plant species (smooth mentzelia and Cusick's chaenactis), ash vegetative communities and paleontological resources. This area of the unit also possesses interesting geologic properties -- towering ash cliffs, colorful ash formations, and unique rock outcrops.



**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

**Unit Name and Number: OR-034 – Coal Mine Basin (within Vale District)**

**Summary Results of Analysis:**

- 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements?  X\*  Yes   No  
 \* -- within Vale and Boise Districts combined. However, the unit does not meet any size criteria independently within the Vale District portion of the unit.
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural?  X  Yes   No
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?   Yes  X  No   NA
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values?  X  Yes   No   NA

**Conclusion -- check one:**

- The area, or a portion of the area – within Vale District -- has wilderness character.
- X  The area – within Vale District -- does not have wilderness character.

**Prepared by:** Robert Alward  
Robert Alward, Wilderness Planner contractor, Vale District

**Team Members:**

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| <u>Mitch Thomas</u>  | <u>2/4/10</u>   |
| Mitch Thomas, Rangeland Management Specialist, Vale District | Date            |
| <u>Gillian Wigglesworth</u>                                  | <u>2/5/10</u>   |
| Gillian Wigglesworth, Botanist, Vale District                | Date            |
| <u>Shaney Rockefeller</u>                                    | <u>3/10/10</u>  |
| Shaney Rockefeller, Soil Scientist, Vale District            | Date            |
| <u>Michelle Caviness</u>                                     | <u>2/25/10</u>  |
| Michelle Caviness, Wildlife Biologist, Vale District         | Date            |
| <u>Eian Ray</u>  | <u>02/09/10</u> |
| Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, contractor, Vale District          | Date            |
| <u>Brent Grasty</u>  | <u>2/9/10</u>   |
| Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator, Vale District                 | Date            |

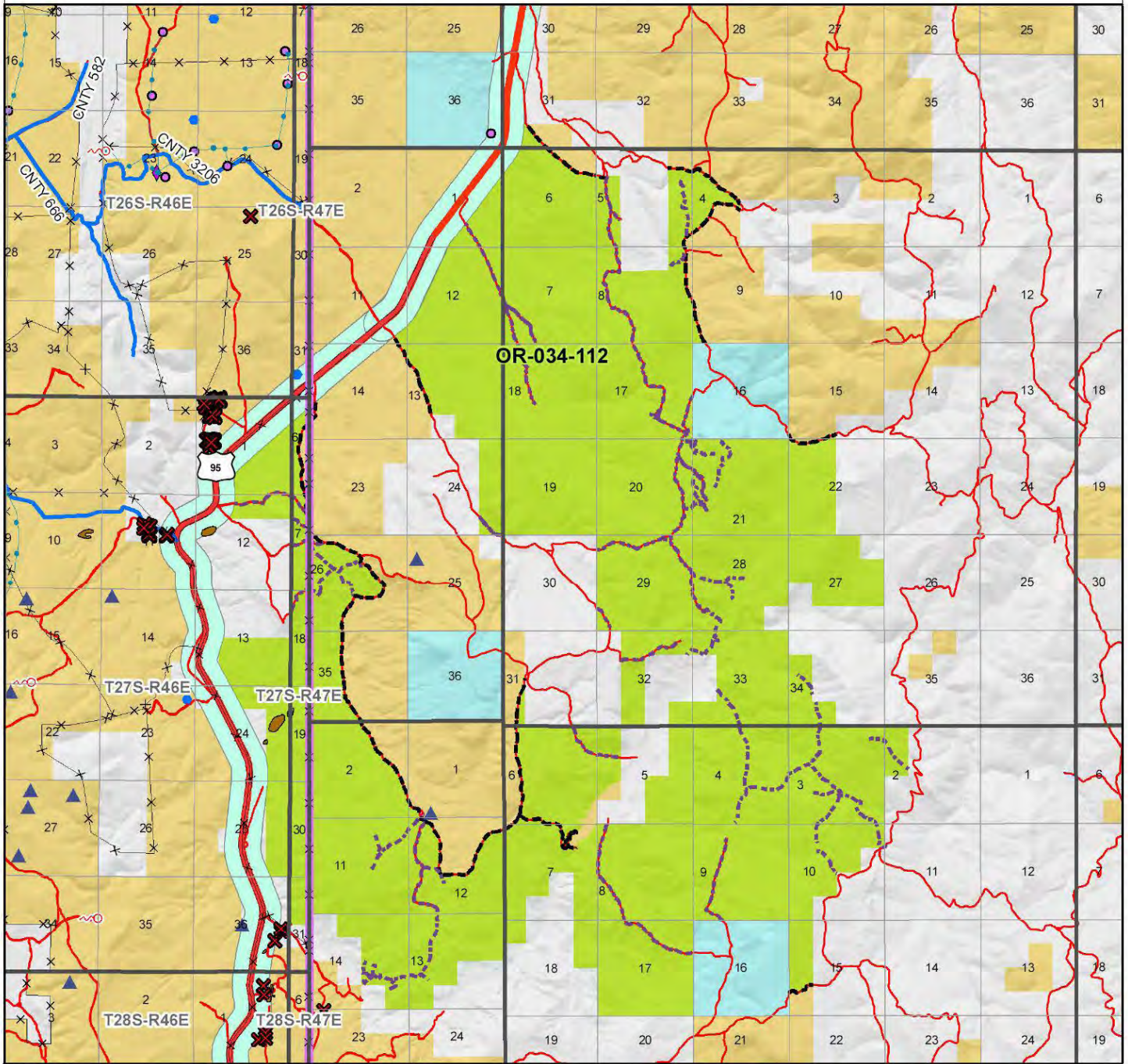
**Approved by:**

Pat Ryan 7/11/10  
Pat Ryan, Malheur Resource Area Field Manager, Vale District Date

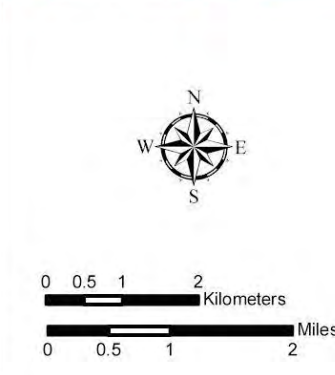
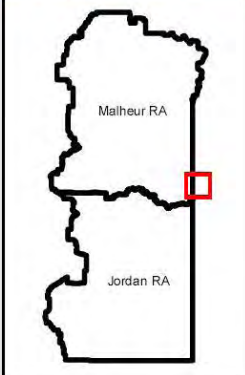
*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.*

# Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

## Coal Mine Basin - OR-034-112 - Map 1 of 1



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



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



**VALE DISTRICT**  
December 21, 2009

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