

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Deadhorse OR-036-029, 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, photos). Evaluate any submitted citizen information regarding the validity of proposed boundaries of the unit(s), the existence of roads and other boundary features, the size of the unit(s), and the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics based on relevant information available in the office (prior BLM inventories, ID team knowledge, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc.)

Conduct field reviews as necessary to verify information and to ascertain current conditions. Reach conclusions on current conditions including boundaries, size of areas and presence or absence of wilderness characteristics. Fully explain the basis for each conclusion on form 2, including any critical differences between BLM and citizen information.

Document your findings regarding current conditions for each inventoried area. Describe how the present conditions are similar to, or have changed from, the conditions documented in the original wilderness inventory. Document your findings on Form 2 for each inventory area. Cite to or attach data considered, including photographs, maps, GIS layers, field trip notes, project files, *etc.*

Year: 2010 **Unit Number/Name:** OR-036-029 -- Deadhorse

**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 BLM Wilderness Inventory Units OR-02-12-38 Harper 3-168; OR-03-13-22 Red Rocks 3-182; OR-03-13-23 Deadhorse 3-183; OR-03-13-24 Battle Creek 3-184; OR-03-13-25 Black Rocks 3-185; OR-03-OR-03-12-42 Mules Ear; OR-03-13-26 Dawson (unpublished BLM documents stored in Vale District case files)
- (X) April 1979 – *Wilderness -- Proposed Initial Inventory – Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not have Wilderness Characteristics, Oregon and Washington*

Wilderness Decision Documents

- (X) August 1979 – *Wilderness Review – Initial Inventory, Final Decision on Public Lands Obviously Lacking Wilderness Characteristics and Announcement of Public Lands to be Intensively Inventoried for Wilderness Characteristics, Oregon and Washington* (green document)
- (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-02-12-38 Harper 3-168; OR-03-13-22 Red Rocks 3-182; OR-03-13-23 Deadhorse 3-183; OR-03-13-24 Battle Creek 3-184; OR-03-13-25 Black Rocks 3-185; OR-03-12-42 Mules Ear; OR-03-13-26 Dawson

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)

District Office
Vale 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 acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
3-168 Harper OR- 03-12-28	7,900	N	*	*	*
3-183 Deadhorse OR-03-13- 23	15,900	N	N	N	N
3-184 Battle Creek OR- 03-12-24	14,360	*	N	N	*
3-182 A Red Rocks OR-03-13- 22	10,200**	N	N	N	N
3-182 B Red Rock OR-03-13- 22	12,200**	Y	N	N	N
3-185 Black Rocks OR- 03-13-25	8,960	*	N	N	*
Dawson OR-03-13- 26	1,740	*	*	*	*
Mules Ear OR-03-13- 42	4,580	*	*	*	*
TOTAL	67,000**				

* Determinations for these criteria were not described for the inventory unit.

** Boundaries and acres within 3-182 and 3-184 were adjusted in Oregon's Intensive Wilderness Inventory --Final Decisions Map, November 1980. Approximately 5,520 acres within 3-184 were excluded from further review while the remaining acres of this unit were included into 3-182. Total acres in 3-182 A & B account for 8,840 acres that were originally within 3-184. Adjustments were made to these units because a number of the original interior boundary roads within or between these two units were found to be motorized primitive trails (MPTs) during the 1979-1980 inventories. Current wilderness characteristic inventory further identified interior boundary roads within or between these units as MPTs. Final acres for units 182 and 184 account for only 27,920 acres and not 36,760 acres.

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

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FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-036-029 – Deadhorse

Note: In February, 2004, the Vale District received from Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) its evaluation of wilderness characteristics for what ONDA names its 62,479 acre “Battle Mountain Proposed WSA”. 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 Characteristic Inventory maintenance. ONDA’s proposal includes basically four 1970’s inventory units (03-182, 03-183, 03-184, and 03-185). Unit OR-036-029 basically includes the four 1970’s inventory units referenced above with an additional inventory unit (03-168) included.

For BLM unit OR-036-029, the difference between BLM and ONDA regarding inventory unit boundary features is, unlike ONDA’s proposal, BLM concludes 036-RT24 is a motorized primitive trail (MPT) and not a road (which ONDA labels as Battle Creek Ranch Road). Refer to the Road Analysis form, the BLM Photo Points Map/Log, and the photos associated with this BLM inventory unit for additional documentation. Information in this inventory unit’s file identifies any differences of motorized vehicle routes between ONDA’s and BLM’s findings.

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 1a for its location. The 70,125 acre unit includes whole or part of five original BLM units (3-168 of OR-03-12-38, Harper; 3-182 of OR-03-22, Red Rocks; 3-183 of OR-03-13-23, Deadhorse; 3-184 of OR-03-13-24, Battle Creek; 3-185 of OR-03-13-25, Black Rocks) meeting the size criteria. The unit boundary consists of BLM roads – 6362-00 on its west side; 6360-00 and 6361-00 on its north side; 6357-0-00 and a road/utility right of way (ROW) on its south and east sides. These BLM roads receive mechanical maintenance as needed to keep them passable on a regular and continuous (seasonal) basis. Two private parcels are part of the unit’s north boundary and one 40 acre private inholding is also a feature of the unit’s boundary.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?Yes X No X N/A

Description: The unit is comprised of rolling landscapes, canyons, and a dominant central ridgeline. Several drainages including the larger Battle Creek and Isaac Canyon are located in the northwest area of the unit. Rattlesnake Creek and Little Rattlesnake Creek are the main drainage features located in the east portion of the unit. The remaining central and southern portion of the unit contains the unit's most prominent feature the central north-south ridgeline, which includes Battle Mountain. Elevation in the unit ranges from 4,180 at its northern point to 6,493 feet near its southern boundary. Vegetation within the unit mainly consists of big and low sagebrush and both native and nonnative grasses.

See this unit's associated Maps 1a and 2 for human imprints. There are 28 earthen reservoirs, 11.6 miles of buried pipeline with 7 troughs (4 pipeline systems), 7 fenced enclosures, 9 developed springs (4 in enclosed areas), 9 vegetative manipulation treatments (implemented 1965-2006), and 51.2 miles of rangeland fence. Over half of the unit contains a designated common use area for the collection of decorative flat rock. This common use area encompasses all public land within the entire townships of T37S-R43E and T38S-R43E. The unit has 82.8 miles along 21 motorized primitive trails (MPTs). The unit also contains remnant visual evidence of 11 (13.3 miles) abandoned vehicle routes. At present, to the average visitor, the various vegetation treatments affecting the unit between 1965 and 2006 appear mostly to be – individually and collectively – indistinguishable. The unit's central ridgeline and associated drainages and canyons, the rolling topography in the unit's eastern portion, and the vast expanse of its length and width provide visual screening from the types/nature of the human developments within the unit relative to the unit's size. When considered individually and collectively, the development's presence results in the unit appearing to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of human activity substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.

Note: See this unit's associated Map 1b for areas not meeting natural condition criteria. One vegetation treatment in the extreme northern area of the unit still contains visual evidence of human influence that can be readily distinguishable from surrounding vegetation. This area covers approximately 2000 acres and is bounded by BLM road 6361-0-00 on the north and occurs in portions of section 35 T35S-R41E and in sections 15, 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, 32, and 33 of T36S-R42E. Another area approximately 4,800 acres in size at the extreme southwestern portion of the unit located near the base of the Battle Mountain ridgeline and bounded by BLM road 6362-00, BLM MPT 6362-0-0A0 (1978 inventory unit OR-03-12-42, Mules Ear), and an utility corridor along BLM road 6357-0-00 exhibits the distribution of man's alterations and structures within existing vegetation types and does not provide sufficient screening to mask these human influences. These two areas do not meet the naturalness criteria and will not be inventoried for the remaining wilderness characteristics (outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and/or solitude).

Note: BLM documents the presence of 9 MPTs within this BLM unit for which ONDA did not acknowledge or provide supporting inventory information for these given routes. ONDA's proposal also did not quantify or indicate locations of many known and existing man-made features within its Battle Mountain Proposed WSA. Although ONDA did not include these fore mentioned features, it concluded that its unit appears primarily affected by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. For comparative reference, refer to this BLM unit's associated Maps 1 and 2 and to ONDA's proposal map, all located in this unit's inventory file folder.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes No N/A

Description: The width of the unit varies from about 6 miles wide in the southern portion of the unit, to approximately 12 miles wide in the center, and tapers to a 4 mile width in the northern part of unit. The unit is nearly 18 miles in length along its central axis, 15 miles in length throughout its central and western area, and varies from 3 to 8 miles in the eastern area of the unit.

The north-central portion of the unit surrounds private inholdings and connects with a finger-shaped extension (long and narrow) that protrudes about 4 miles to the north. Because this area consists of a narrow profile, consists of relatively flat terrain in the about half of its area, a number of roads and MPTs, pipelines with troughs, and exhibits the distribution of man's alterations and treatments within vegetation types it does not provide sufficient screening for or between visitors to contribute to outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Topographic features within the southern portion of the unit are provided by steeply-sloped stream channels along the entire Battle Mountain ridgeline, and by numerous canyons that eventually drain into Rattlesnake or Jackson creeks.

Topographic features in the northern portion of the unit are steeply-sloped Barn, Box, Isaac, and Road canyons that drain into private inholdings along Battle Creek/Canyon a major tributary to Rattlesnake Creek. The head water drainages of Rattlesnake and Little Rattlesnake creeks are the main topographic feature that can be found in the eastern portion of the unit. The two drainages, listed previously, travel through broad open sagebrush flats characterized by fairly uniform gentle stream gradients with an absence of canyons, deep depressions, or vegetative species that are usually associated with the possibility of providing vegetative screening for solitude.

The relatively large size and configuration of the unit that contains relatively uniform natural sagebrush vegetation communities contribute to the ability to find seclusion from other visitors within the unit except for the two areas previously mentioned. The diverse topography in combination with the increased size of the unit from the 1970's (6 original

units combined into 1) does allow for outstanding opportunities of solitude. BLM concludes that the remaining large area of unit OR-036-029 that is in a natural condition does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Yes No N/A

Description: There are opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, photography, and general sightseeing and hunting of common game species (primarily deer, chukar and antelope). These opportunities are not considered, individually or collectively, to be outstanding. However, the individual opportunity to hunt for bighorn sheep is considered to be outstanding. In recognition of the individual outstanding opportunity for a quality hunt for bighorn sheep within this unit, primitive and unconfined recreation activity opportunities within the unit do lend themselves to being outstanding. BLM also acknowledges that the unit provides outstanding opportunities for birding in locales, identified by the Intermountain West Joint Venture, within the West Little Owyhee Bird Habitat Conservation Area that contain sagebrush ecosystems, include mountain mahogany shrubs, and exhibit relatively high ecological integrity. BLM concludes that the remaining large area of unit OR-036-029 that is in a natural condition does provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Note: Unlike ONDA, BLM did not consider this unit’s relatively large size as an individual characteristic constituting an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation. While opportunities for “hiking through sagebrush terrain” and “general appreciation of open space” are present, these are not considered to be outstanding as the unit lacks challenging terrain, unique sights, and features which would attract the visitor to pursue these opportunities.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes No N/A

Description: With exceptions, the ecological integrity of rangeland in the majority of 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. Observed rangeland conditions within this unit can be expected to contribute towards the existence of healthy sagebrush-dependent wildlife populations over a large area and in 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 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 central and eastern portion of 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 remaining west of the Continental Divide.

A large amount of the unit is within a very large bighorn sheep habitat use area. Bighorn sheep are a BLM special status species in Oregon. BLM has documented 5 sage grouse leks within the unit. The bird is a BLM special status animal species.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-036-029 -- Deadhorse

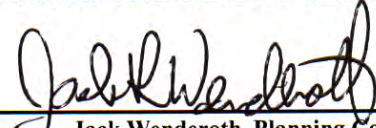
Summary Results of Analysis:

- 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

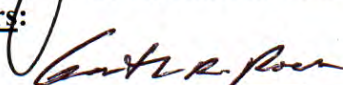
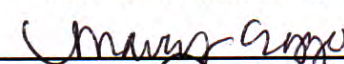
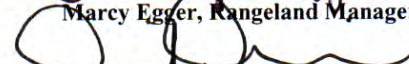
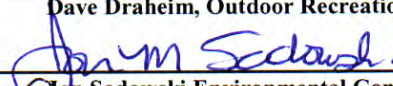
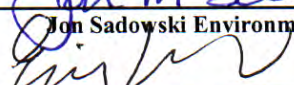
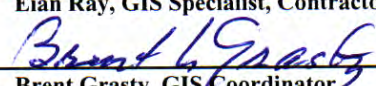
Conclusion -- check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness character.

The area does not have wilderness character.

Prepared by:  3/3/10
Jack Wenderoth, Planning Contractor

Team Members:

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

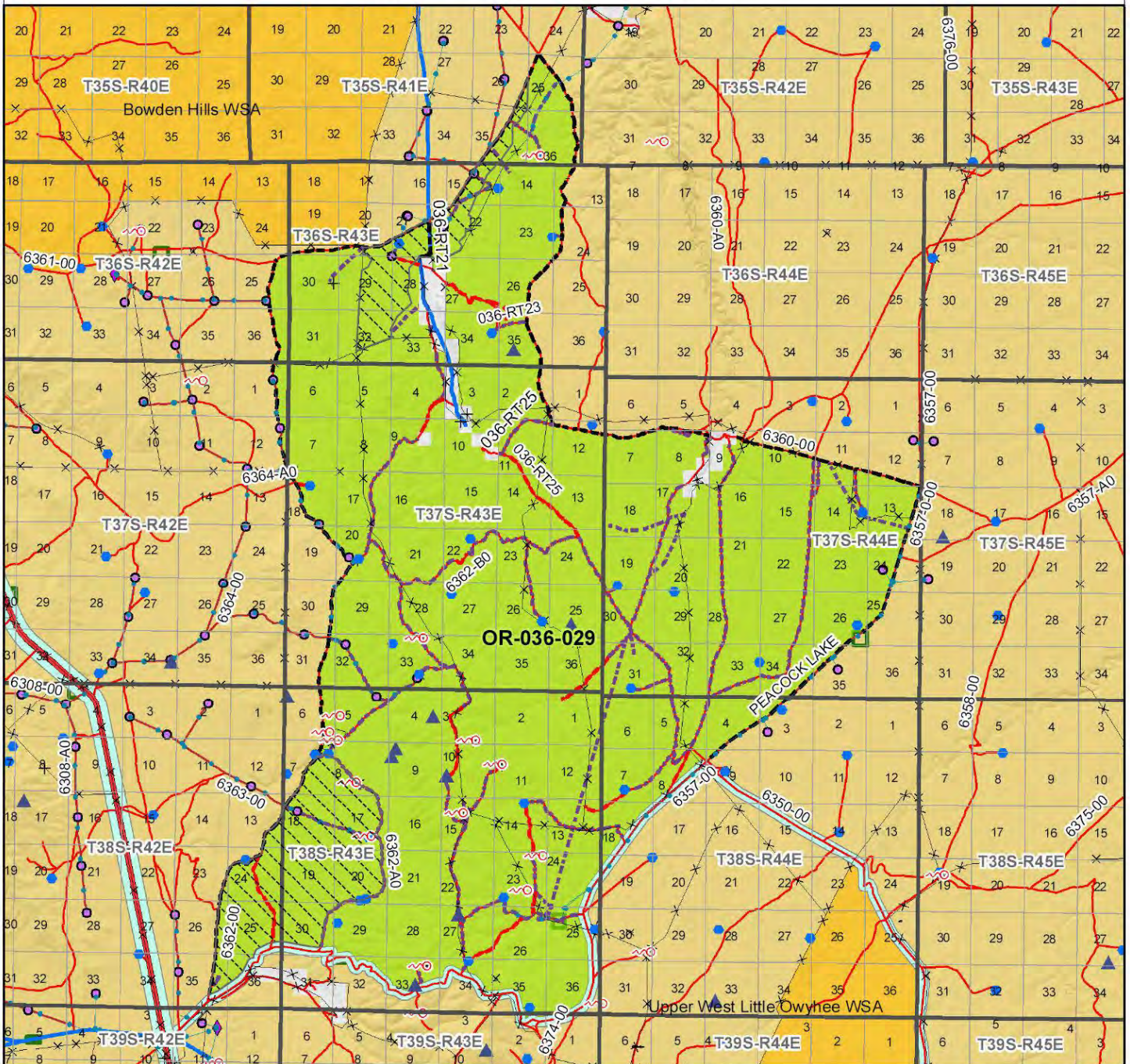
Approved by:

 4/6/10
Carolyn Freeborn, Jordan Resource Area Field Manager Date

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

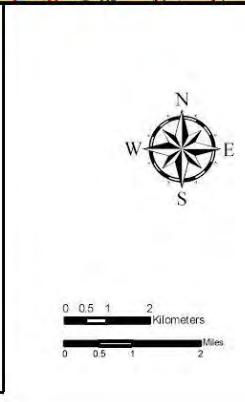
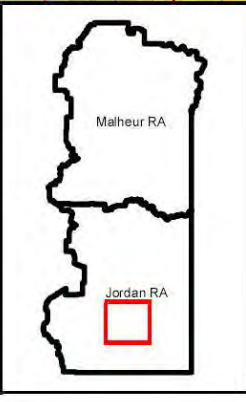
Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Deadhorse - OR-036-029 - Map 1A of 2



Legend

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



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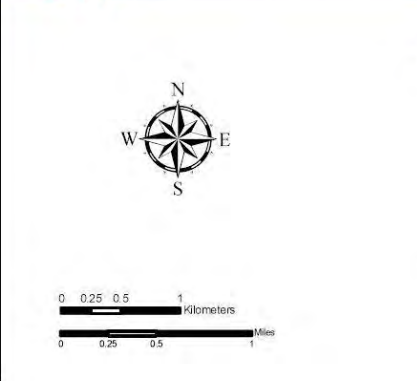
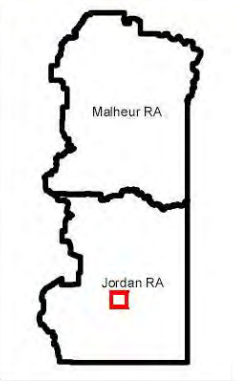
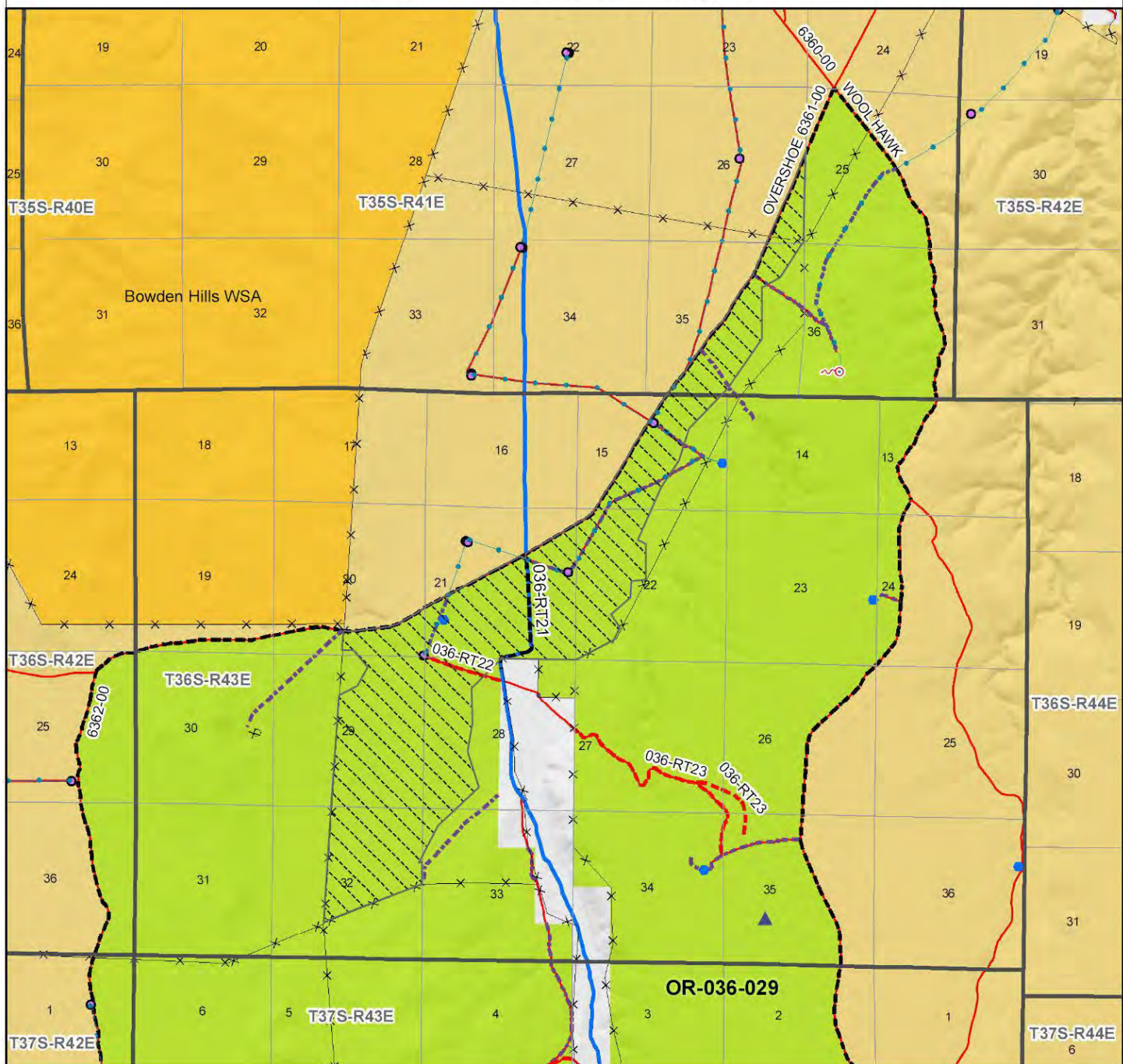
VALE DISTRICT
February 15, 2010


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-FINAL-

Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Deadhorse - OR-036-029 - Map 1B of 2



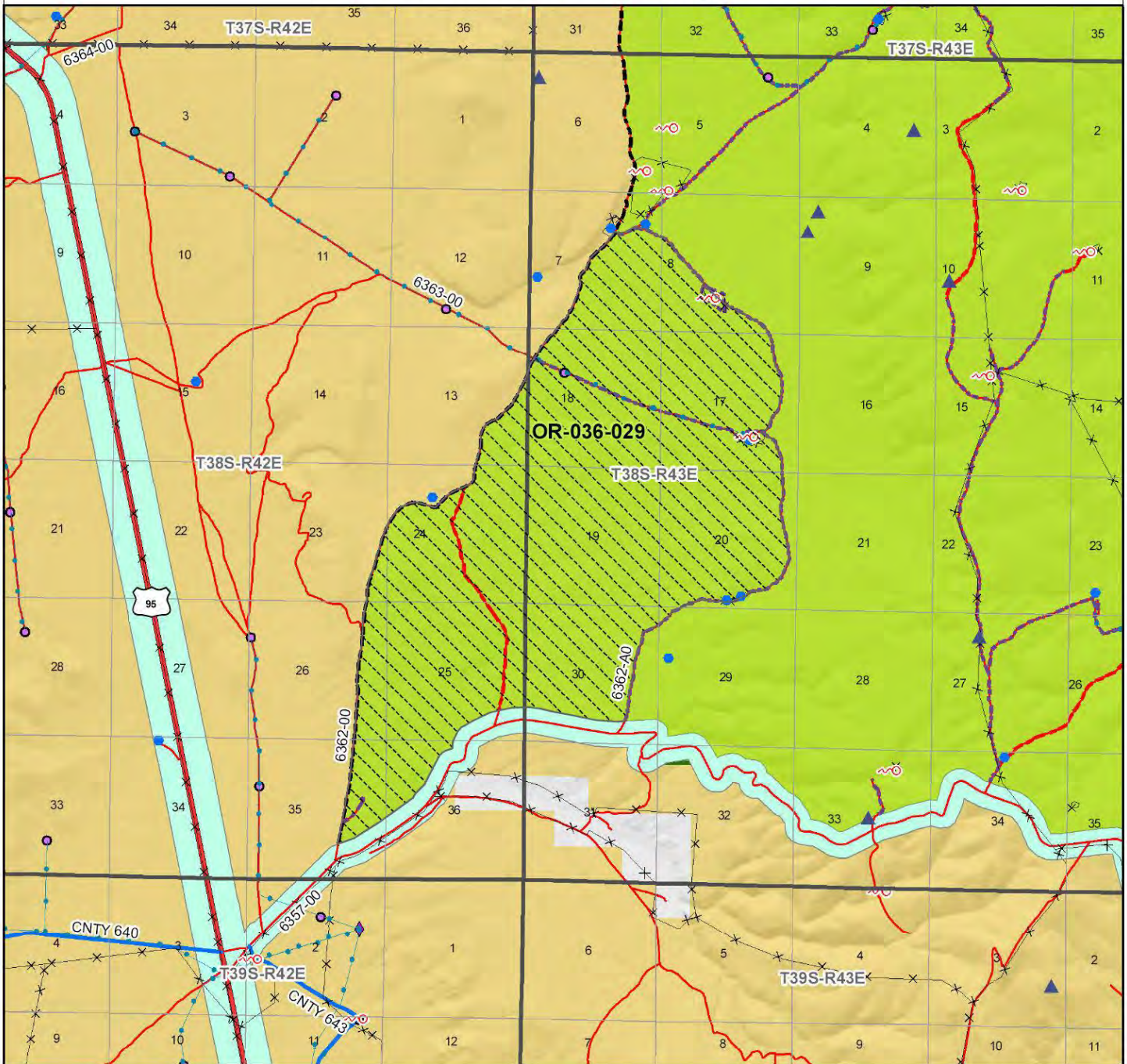
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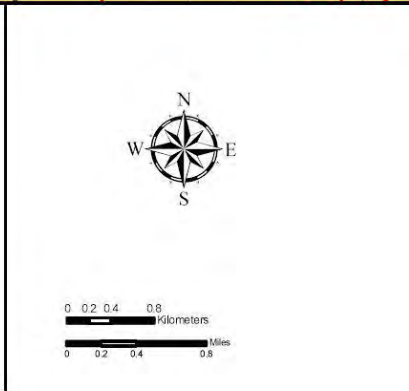
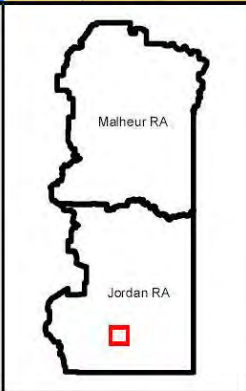
Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Deadhorse - OR-036-029 - Map 1C of 2



Legend

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed Spring Wildlife Guzzler Earthen Reservoir Pipeline Trough Fence Storage Tank Surface Mining Disturbance Sage Grouse Lek Special Status Plant BLM Wild Char Inventory Unit Wilderness Study Area Mineral Material Site Road/Utility Right-of-Way Major Water Body 	<p>Route Types - BLM Determination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boundary Road Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT) Discontinued Use Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit 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 Unnatural condition within WC unit
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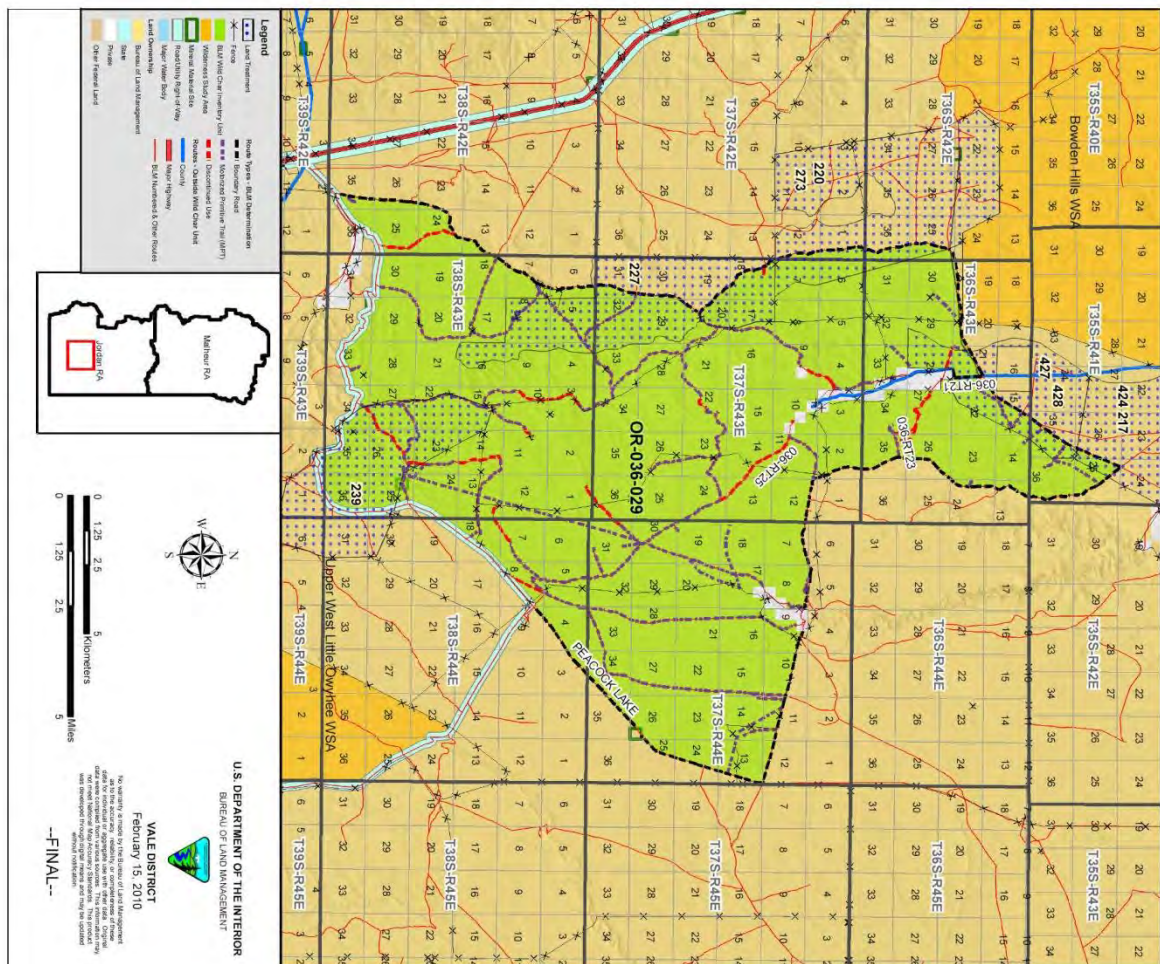
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--FINAL--

Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments

Deadhorse - OR-036-029 - Map 2 of 2



Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments

Deadhorse - OR-036-029 - Map 2 of 2

OBJECTID*	NAME	TREATMENT TYPE	SEED GROUP	DATE
107	ROME WJU	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable	2006/07/1
217	BEER SDG	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable	1965
220	OVERSHOE SDG	Chemical Treatment	Non-native Grasses	1966
227	JACKSON CR B.C.	Chemical Treatment	Not Applicable	1970
239	ANTELOPE MULES EAR CONTROL	Chemical Treatment	Not Applicable	1970
273	OVERSHOE SDG	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses	1966
424	BEER SDG	Drill Seeding	Mix of non-native gr	1965
427	BATTLE CR SDG	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable	1965
428	BATTLE CR SDG	Drill Seeding	Mix of non-native gr	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.



036-RT21-A-N.JPG



036-RT21-A-S.JPG



036-RT21-B-N.JPG



036-RT21-B-S.JPG



036-RT21-C-N.JPG



036-RT21-C-S.JPG



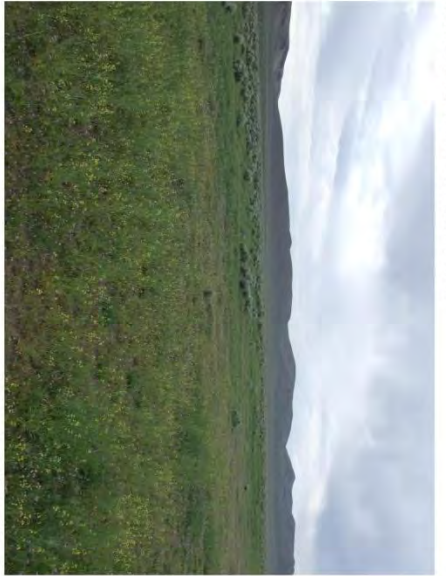
036-RT22-A-N.JPG



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036-RT22-B-NW.JPG



036-RT22-B-SE.JPG



036-RT23-B-NE.JPG



036-RT23-C-SW.JPG

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036-RT23-A-E.JPG



036-RT23-B-SW.JPG



036-RT23-D-E.JPG



036-RT23-A-W.JPG



036-RT23-C-NE.JPG



036-RT23-D-W.JPG



036-RT24-A-NE.JPG



036-RT24-B-S.JPG



036-RT24-D-N.JPG

OR-036-029 Deadhorse Page 3



036-RT24-A-SW.JPG



036-RT24-C-NE.JPG



036-RT24-D-S.JPG



036-RT24-B-N.JPG



036-RT24-C-SW.JPG



036-RT24-E-N.JPG



036-RT24-E-S.JPG



036-RT25-A-W.JPG



036-RT25-C-E.JPG

OR-036-029 Deadhorse Page 4



036-RT24-F-N.JPG



036-RT25-B-NE.JPG



036-RT25-C-W.JPG



036-RT25-A-E.JPG



036-RT25-B-SW.JPG

**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 (UNIT_ID): OR-036-029 -- Deadhorse

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

036-RT24.

NOTE: This route is identified by ONDA as the “Battle Creek Ranch Road” on the west boundary of ONDAs proposed “Battle Mountain Proposed WSA” which encompasses a smaller area than this BLM inventory unit.

I. LOCATION: Refer to attached map. A north-south route connecting Battle Creek Ranch private property (north terminus) to a private inholding and the 6362-00 Road at its southern terminus. **List photo point references (if applicable):** -- See attached BLM Photo Points Map/Log and photos for this road segment 036-RT24.

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: This route is currently provides access to a reservoir at its south end. Initially is provided access to private inholding, at this time the route is washed out.

III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:

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

Yes _____ No X Unknown _____

IV. CONSTRUCTIONYes No _____Examples: Paved _____ Bladed _____ Graveled _____
Roadside Berms Cut/Fill Other _____

Describe: In 1979, BLM identified this route as a “road” between other BLM wilderness inventory units. ONDA also identifies this route as a “road”. Original date of route construction is unknown, but its construction did occur prior to the District’s late 1970’s wilderness characteristics inventory. Any blading scars presently are not specifically distinguishable from blading that may have occurred during original construction, and may more so be evidence of periodic maintenance since the route’s construction.

V. IMPROVEMENTSYes _____ No

By Hand Tools _____ By Machine _____

Examples: Culverts _____ Stream Crossings _____ Bridges _____
Drainage _____ Barriers _____ Other _____**Describe:** No evidence**VI. MAINTENANCE:****A. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?**Yes _____ No

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

Explain: No evidence**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:** This route is the primary vehicular access to a private inholding with no alternate access routes.

VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:

Yes _____ No X

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

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 X

Explanation: Meets criteria of a primitive motorized trail (MPT), as explained above.

Evaluator(s):  **Date:** 3/29/10
 David Draheim, Outdoor Recreation Planner

 **Date:** 3/3/10
 Jack Wenderoth, Planning Contractor

 **Date:** 3/22/10
 Marcella Egger, Range Management Specialist

* **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.

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”.