

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents  
**Field Creek OR-036-010, 17 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.*

Attachment 1

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

**APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION**

**Year: 2007****Inventory Unit Name/Number: Field Creek OR-036-010****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-03-13-27* (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).
- ( ) 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-03-13-27 (1978); Field Creek 3-186 (November 1980 - *Wilderness Inventory –Oregon and Washington, Final Intensive Inventory Decisions* [brown book]).

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

- (X) Final Decision – Initial Wilderness Inventory Map August 1979
- ( ) Proposed Decision Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas Map October 1979
- (X) Intensive Wilderness Inventory Map March 1980
- (X) 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
Field Creek 3-159	11,580	Y	N	N	N
Total acres >>	11,580				

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**FORM 2****DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS:****Inventory Unit Name/Number: Field Creek OR-036-010**

For this exercise BLM refers to the area as 2007 Field Creek OR-036-010.

**1) Is the unit of sufficient size?**Yes X No \_\_\_

The unit is comprised of 12,250 acres, meeting the size criteria.

**Description:**

The unit is bounded by BLM road 6350-0-00 on the south and west side, BLM road 6355-1-00 on the south half of the east side, BLM road 6358-0-00 on the west third of the north side, BLM road 6375-0-00 on the middle third of the north side, and BLM road 8300-6-02 on the east third of the north side and the north half of the east side. The original northern boundary of this unit and the Starvation Springs unit has been changed. BLM road 6358-0-00 has been altered. The original route of the road crossed Antelope Creek to the Lucky 7 Cow Camp and extended northward on the eastern boundary of the Starvation Springs unit. The new route extends from BLM road 6350-0-00 northeast to the Lucky 7 Cow Camp. Periodic maintenance of the boundary roads has occurred in the recent past (no confirmed dates available) and they used regularly by ranchers (as observed by current BLM staff) and by the BLM for livestock management. Refer to map 2007\_Field\_Creek\_OR\_036\_010.pdf for the unit boundary.

**2) Is the unit in a natural condition?**Yes X No \_\_\_**Description:**

Human imprints within the unit include one earthen reservoir, 2 miles of motorized primitive trails, an abandoned airstrip, 9 miles of fenceline constructed in 2006 along BLM road 6350-0-00, and two developed springs that were abandoned in 2004. All plumbing and troughs were removed from the two developed spring sites in 2004. 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\_Field\_Creek\_OR\_036\_010A.pdf for human imprints.

**3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?**Yes \_\_\_ No X**Description:**

Unit OR-036-010 is approximately 6.5 miles in length and 4 miles in width in the northern portion of the unit then tapers to about 1.5 miles wide near the southern boundary. The majority of the unit consists of a flat to rolling open sagebrush plateau that slopes to the northeast following the Field Creek drainages. The only variation in topographic relief within the unit is the drainage depressions and a series of low rolling hills. The main channel of Field Creek within the unit contains many small areas of perennial water that are fed by springs and subsurface flow. Headwater and tributary drainages to Field Creek flow through broad open sagebrush flats and have uniform gentle gradients that provide little opportunity for solitude. As the channel flows northward Field Creek is rimmed by 40-60 foot slopes with discontinuous canyon walls.

Topographic relief within the unit consists of elevations ranging from about 5,530 feet mean sea level (msl) along the northwestern corner where Starvation Spring is located at the Lucky 7 Cow Camp and rises to the south to about 6,230 feet (msl) near the southern boundary. Elevation differences in most of the unit traversing from north to south are gradual and average about 80-100 feet per mile. The unit provides limited vegetative screening with little opportunity for solitude, consisting of broad expanses of low and big sagebrush, and sparse pockets of willows scattered throughout the Field Creek drainage. Because of the narrow shape of the unit and absence of vegetative or topographic screening, BLM unit OR-036-010 does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Yes  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 outstanding because the unit lacks scenic quality, diversity of landforms, and challenging terrain. Field Creek and associated drainages are the only topographic features in the unit that alter the flatness of the terrain. The present inventory agrees with the 1978 inventory that determined the unit lacks exceptional scenery and a diversity of landforms that would result in a strong attraction to the unit for 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 because of the vast acres of homogeneous topography and vegetation, which lack significant points of interest or attractive sites. 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. Although wildlife viewing opportunities have been identified as a recreational value within this unit, they are not considered to be outstanding by the inventory team.

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

Yes  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. Observed rangeland conditions 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:

**Inventory Unit Name/Number:** Field Creek OR-036-010

### 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?<br>NA | Yes                            | <input type="checkbox"/> [No] |
| 4) Does the area have supplemental values?<br>NA  | <input type="checkbox"/> [Yes] | No                            |

### Conclusion

#### Check One:

- ( ) The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness character.
- (X) The area does not have wilderness character.

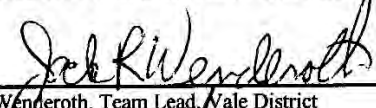
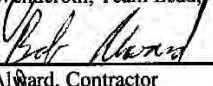
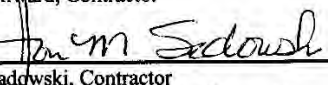
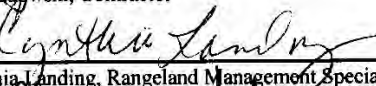

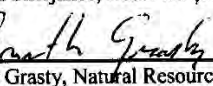
The ID team has reviewed the findings summarized in the original Statewide Wilderness Inventory as well as in the published decision documents and maps identified on Form 1. Current conditions relative to the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics have been considered including citizen wilderness proposals (no citizen proposal covering this unit). Based on the best available information and staff field visits to the area since 2000, the ID team has found no compelling reasons to change existing BLM decisions about wilderness characteristics. While BLM finds that the naturalness of the area is primarily affected by the forces of nature and there are supplemental values present, the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are limited for reasons already described.

#### Sources of Reference for Evaluation:

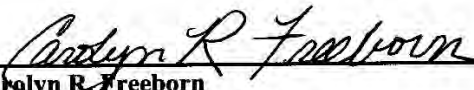
- All BLM documents listed in Form 1; existing BLM wilderness inventory information.
- Wilderness Inventory Recommendations: Vale District, Submitted by Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA), February 6, 2004.
- Current geographic information system (GIS) data on existing projects, vehicle routes/roads, 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 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:**

	<u>10/26/07</u>
Jack Wenderoth, Team Lead, Vale District	Date
	<u>10/26/07</u>
Bob Alward, Contractor	Date
	<u>10/26/2007</u>
Jon Sadowski, Contractor	Date
	<u>10-26-2007</u>
Cynthia Landing, Rangeland Management Specialist, Vale District	Date
	<u>10/26/07</u>
Trisha Skerjanec, Resource Assistant – GIS, Vale District	Date
	<u>10/26/07</u>
Brent Grasty, Natural Resource Specialist – GIS, Vale District	Date

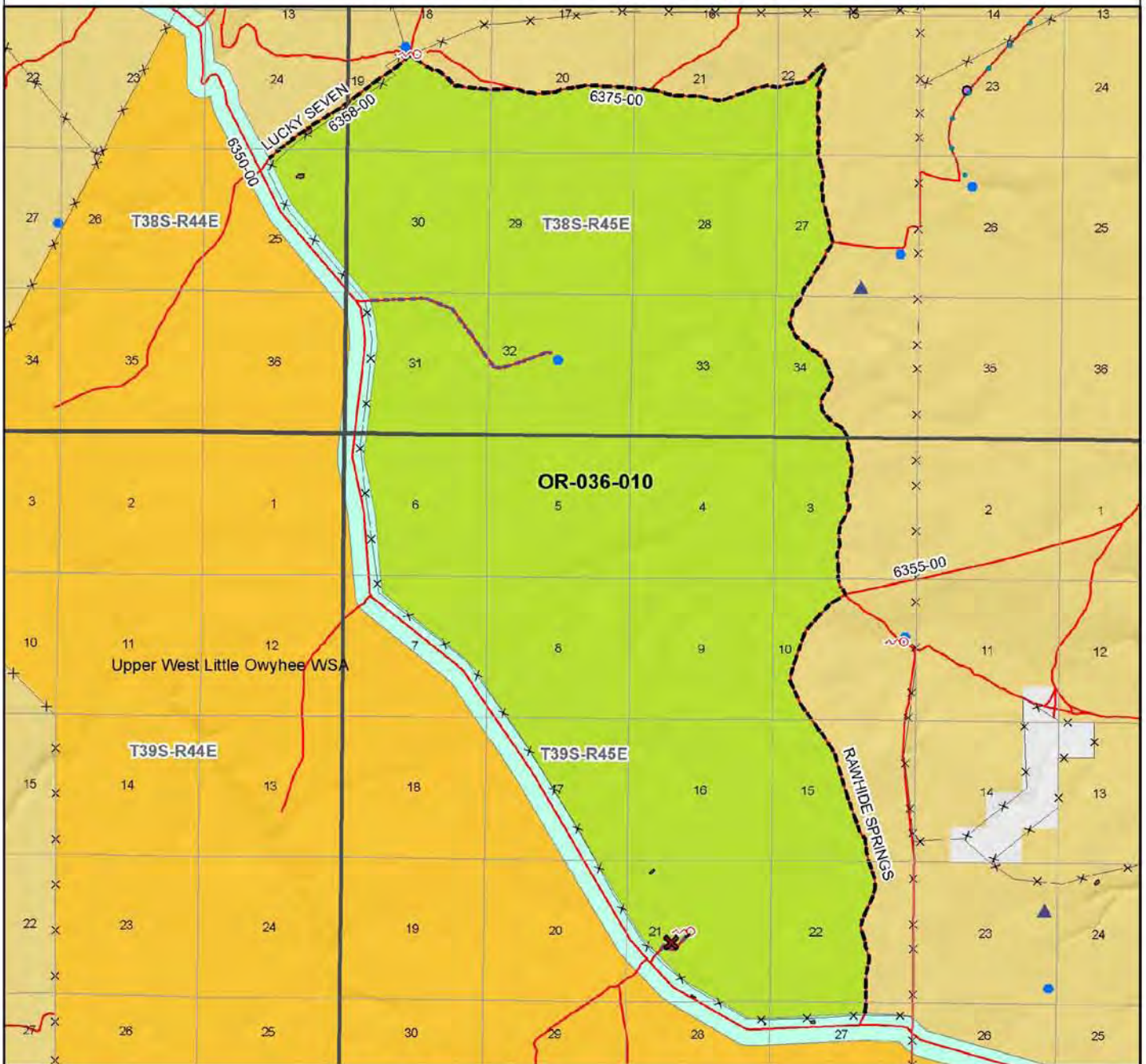
**Concurrence:**

	<u>10/26/07</u>
Carolyn R. Freeborn	Date
Field Manager, Jordan R. A.	

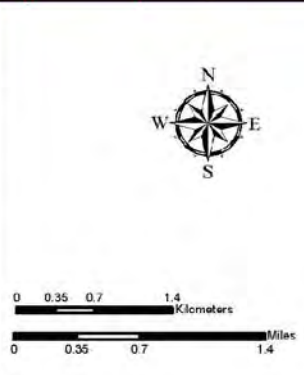
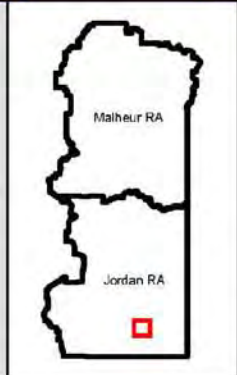
*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.*

# Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

## Field Creek - OR-036-011 - Map 1 of 1



Legend	
	Developed Spring
	Wildlife Gutter
	Earth Reservoir
	Pipeline
	Frough
	Fence
	Storage Tank
	Surface Mining Disturbance
	Eggs Grouse Lek
	Special Status Plant
	BLM Wild Char Inventory Unit
	Wilderness Study Area
	Mineral Material Site
	Road/Utility Right-of-Way
	Major Water Body
	Boundary Road
	Maintained Primitive Trail (MPT)
	Discontinued Trail
	County
	Major Hwy Imp
	BLM Numbered & Other Routes
	Bureau of Land Management
	State
	Private
	Other Federal Land



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

**VALE DISTRICT**  
March 30, 2010

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**--FINAL--**





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OR-036-013-D-N.JPG



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8300-6-02-B-N.JPG



8300-6-02-F-N.JPG

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

### APPENDIX C – ROAD<sup>1</sup> ANALYSIS

**Wilderness Inventory Area Name and Number (Unit ID):** Field Creek OR-036-010

**Route Name and/or Identifier:** BLM Road 8300-6-02

#### I. LOCATION

Refer to attached map: 2007\_Field\_Creek\_OR\_036\_010.pdf and BLM corporate data (GIS).

List photo point references (if applicable): BLM DSC2383-DSC02390

#### II. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE

Describe: BLM road 8300-6-02 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  Unknown

#### IV. CONSTRUCTION

Yes  No

Examples: Paved  Bladed  Graveled   
Roadside Berms  Cut/Fill  Other

Describe: BLM road 8300-6-02 was developed in the 1960s or early 1970s by blading. The road may have once been ditched and bermed but currently, minimal remnants of these actions exist. Most of the berms are now covered with brush. Gravel was deposited in selected low areas of a section of the road by the U.S. Air

Force in the late spring of 1999. The purpose of graveling the road was to aid the U.S. Air Force in the recovery of a downed F16 jet that crashed and killed two pilots. This road consists of natural material and is not currently one of the BLM routes in the Vale District Transportation Plan.

## 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: Although BLM road 8300-6-02 has not been bladed in the recent past, gravel was placed on low-lying areas by the U.S. Air Force in the late spring of 1999. The purpose of graveling the road was to aid the U.S. Air Force in the recovery of a downed F16 jet that crashed and killed two pilots.

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: BLM road 8300-6-02 receives annual use as evidence by the lack of brush in the road and by well-used bare ground where vehicles travel. Pictures of the road (DSC02383-DSC02390) taken May 15, 2007 indicate that the roadbase has a green hue across most of the width of the road and in most pictures. This hue is an annual weed (burr buttercup) that grows to a height of about 2-3 inches early in the year then dries up in early summer. Most pictures also show small amounts of grass and fewer small shrubs in the middle of the road. To reduce the potential for erosion and establishment of invasive plant and weed species BLM

emphasizes minimal ground disturbance for road construction and maintenance following Best Management Practices (BMPs) described 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 8300-6-02 has evidence of annual use by the lack of brush in the road and the well-used bare ground where vehicle tires track (DSC02383-90).


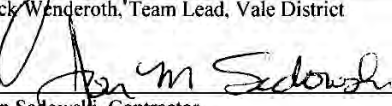
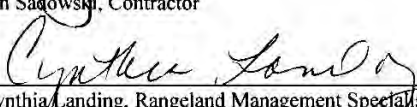
## VIII. CONCLUSION

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 8300-6-02 meets the definition of a road as stated in sections IV, VI-A and VI-B, and VII above. BLM road 8300-6-02 was constructed using 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):

	Date <u>10-26-2007</u>
Jack Wenderoth, Team Lead, Vale District	
	Date <u>10-26-2007</u>
Jon Sadowski, Contractor	
	Date <u>10-26-2007</u>
Cynthia Landing, Rangeland Management Specialist, Vale District	



<sup>1</sup> 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.”