

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents  
**French Gulch OR-035-015, 18 total pages**

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**Prepared by:**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**  
**Vale District Office**  
**100 Oregon Street**  
**Vale, Oregon 97918**



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

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

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

1) Document and review the existing BLM wilderness inventory findings on file, if available, regarding the presence or absence of individual wilderness characteristics, using Form 1, below.

2) Consider relevant information regarding current conditions available in the office to identify and describe any changes to the existing information (use interdisciplinary (ID) team knowledge, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc.), and document your findings on Form 2, below.

When Citizen Information has been submitted regarding wilderness characteristics, document the submitted materials including: date of Submission; Name of District(s) and Field Office(s) Affected; Type of material Submitted (e.g. narrative, map, photo). Evaluate any submitted citizen information regarding the validity of proposed boundaries of the unit(s), the existence of roads and other boundary features, the size of the unit(s), and the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics based on relevant information available in the office (prior BLM inventories, ID team knowledge, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc.)

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

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

**Year:** 2010      **Unit Number/Name:** OR-035-015 – French Gulch

**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?**

*(If yes, and if more than one unit is within the area, list the names of those units.):*

Yes      No   X  

**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**

- ( ) 1978 – BLM Wilderness Inventory
- ( ) 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)
- ( ) 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)**

N/A

**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                      Baker Field Office**

**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>
<b>TOTAL</b>					

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

**Unit Number/Name:** OR-035-015 -- French Gulch

**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 1 for its location. The unit is 5,891 acres of public land. Boundaries consist of public lands abutting private land parcels, USFS lands, and roads (Baker County #875 Burnt River road, Baker county road #767 Dark Canyon, BLM road #6647-0-0D0, #6650 0-00 and the Stump Springs Road create the south and west boundaries. The BLM road #6641-0-00 Windy Ridge, and #6647-0-0D0 Woods Gulch in conjunction with private and USFS ownerships create its east end boundary to form the perimeter of the unit. Five cherry stem roads (BLM Stumps Springs/Chicken Peak roads, French Gulch road, and #6647-0-D0) exist on the western sector of the unit. The boundary roads are mechanically maintained as needed to provide for relatively regular and continuous use.

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

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

**Description:** The unit includes the northern extent of the Burnt River Canyon and its associated steep slopes, rim rocks and outcrops. Steep to very steep terrain is common throughout the unit which has been eroded by seven major drainages that slope to the south and southwest. Elevations range from 3,228 feet at the Burnt River Canyon/Dark Canyon road junction, to 5,826 feet at the northern most edge of the unit. Gulch and canyon depth can range from 300 to 800 feet from ridge top to canyon bottom over a distance of 1/4 mile or less. Vegetation is predominately native and non-native grasses, shrubs, and sage brush on the southern and eastern portions of the unit, while coniferous components of pine and fir exist on the northern and western areas. Juniper exists and has encroached across most of the unit.

Refer to this unit's associated Map 1 for human imprints. The western third of the unit has been heavily impacted in the past by the works of man as motorized vehicle routes were created for resource management or transportation needs. A bisecting road in the bottom of French Gulch once kept the area from meeting size criteria for wilderness characteristic inventory. Activities indicating the works of man, which are still readily apparent, are focused in the western portion of the unit around and over Chicken Peak,

and directly affect approximately 38% of the inventory unit. The projects and activities include 3 motorized primitive trails (MPTs) totaling 2.5 miles, 7 spring developments and 4.8 miles of rangeland fence. Since the late 1970's, a large land movement in the middle section of the French Gulch MPT, which had kept the area from meeting size criteria, has become unusable for vehicular passage. Since that time the route has not been repaired and is now considered a "discontinued" route segment for approximately 1 mile of this MPT's total length. This segment of the French Gulch MPT which originated from the current cherry-stem road system on Chicken Peak and extended to the mouth of French Gulch has been naturally reclaimed by talus sloughing and vegetation encroachment and is primarily no longer visually apparent to the average visitor of the unit. The remaining two segments of this route have become MPTs. Over time, soil and talus sloughing, vegetation encroachment and minimal use and or maintenance has softened the impacts from the works of man in this unit. Visual contrast across the unit remains neutral to the average visitor. Continued motorized use of the 2.5 miles of MPT's has reduced or restricted the total reclamation of the works of man by natural processes. The MPT's of the unit exist on the ridge tops, side hills, and the drainage bottoms.

Due to the presence of ridgelines in the unit which provides some visual screening, and (individually and collectively) the wide distribution of and distances between the types and extent of the human developments present within the unit, the unit as a whole appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.

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

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

**Description:** With the number and spatial orientation of the cherry-stem roads and the MPTs systems in the unit in addition to the steepness of terrain that focuses motorized and non-motorized uses of the unit, it is not possible for a visitor to experience a sense of outstanding solitude. The rugged terrain offers some topographic screening between users, however it also limits and constricts the usable area and focuses use and users into specific portions of the unit. The low profile of vegetation in the southern and eastern portions of the unit is insufficient to provide adequate screening to support an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The northern and western portions of the unit that do contain vegetation components that would provide screening are heavily impacted by the amount of cherry-stem roads and MPT's that exist in this portion of the unit. Additionally, the size and shape of the unit, limits the distance to visually and audibly avoid motorized activities. The location of cherry-stem roads and MPTs along the ridge tops and bottom drainages of the unit relative to the configuration of the unit as well as the orientation of the canyons that funnel sounds throughout the unit makes it easy to see or hear people or human activities from most anywhere in the unit. In addition, the size and shape of the unit contributes to the inability of visitors from obtaining solitude. The unit is approximately 5.65 miles long, 3.2 miles wide at its widest points. The eastern section, which is the thinnest portion of the unit, averages just 1/3 of a mile in width in a "hook" shape. This "hook" represents 15% of the unit's total acreage and is located at the

junction of the county roads of Deer Creek and Burnt River. The activities in this area highly impact the specific solitude of this section of the unit where the sights and sounds of man from outside the area cannot be avoided. The types, density and distribution of vegetation do not provide sufficient screening between visitors to contribute to outstanding opportunities for solitude for most of the unit. In summary, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

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

**Description:** This unit provides hunting opportunities for common game species (primarily chukar, quail, deer, elk, and some bighorn) which is the primary form of recreational use within the unit. Although bighorn is a highly prized trophy game species in Oregon and does occasionally occupy this unit, this particular game species is not continually present within the unit boundaries. Additionally, human presence regardless of the amount of use causes this species to leave the area and this departure can occur in a short amount of time due to the small size and configuration of the unit. Therefore, due to the temporary and irregular presence of as well as the ease and speed in which the species can vacate the unit, bighorn are not considered to be outstanding for recreational opportunities or pursuits within the unit. The topographic features of the area provide for good day hiking, sightseeing, camping, photography, equestrian and backpacking activities, but the area is not recognized as being a destination for any of these activities, most of which are associated all or in part with motorized uses. The area does have some scenic view and topographic changes, but are not considered to be outstanding for recreational opportunities and pursuits. With the lack of any special or unique natural or cultural features to attract more visitors to this unit, the primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities are not of such quality, uniqueness or rarity to consider them outstanding either individually or in combination.

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

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

**Description:**



Summary of Findings and Conclusion

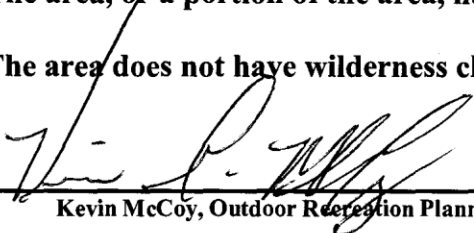
Unit Name and Number: OR-035-015 -- French Gulch

Summary Results of Analysis:


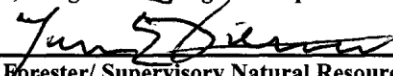



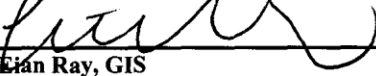
- 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements?  Yes  No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural?  Yes  No
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No  NA
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes  No  NA

Conclusion -- check one:


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

Prepared by:  10-3-11  
Kevin McCoy, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Team Members:

<u></u>	10/3/11
Gary Guymon, Rangeland Management Specialist	Date
<u></u>	10/03/11
Marc Pierce, Forester/ Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist	Date
<u></u>	10/5/2011
Katy Coddington, Archeologist	Date
<u></u>	10/3/11
John Quintela, Fisheries Biologist	Date
<u></u>	10/3/11
Melissa Yzquierdo, Wildlife Biologist/Botanist	Date
<u></u>	10-6-11
Eian Ray, GIS	Date

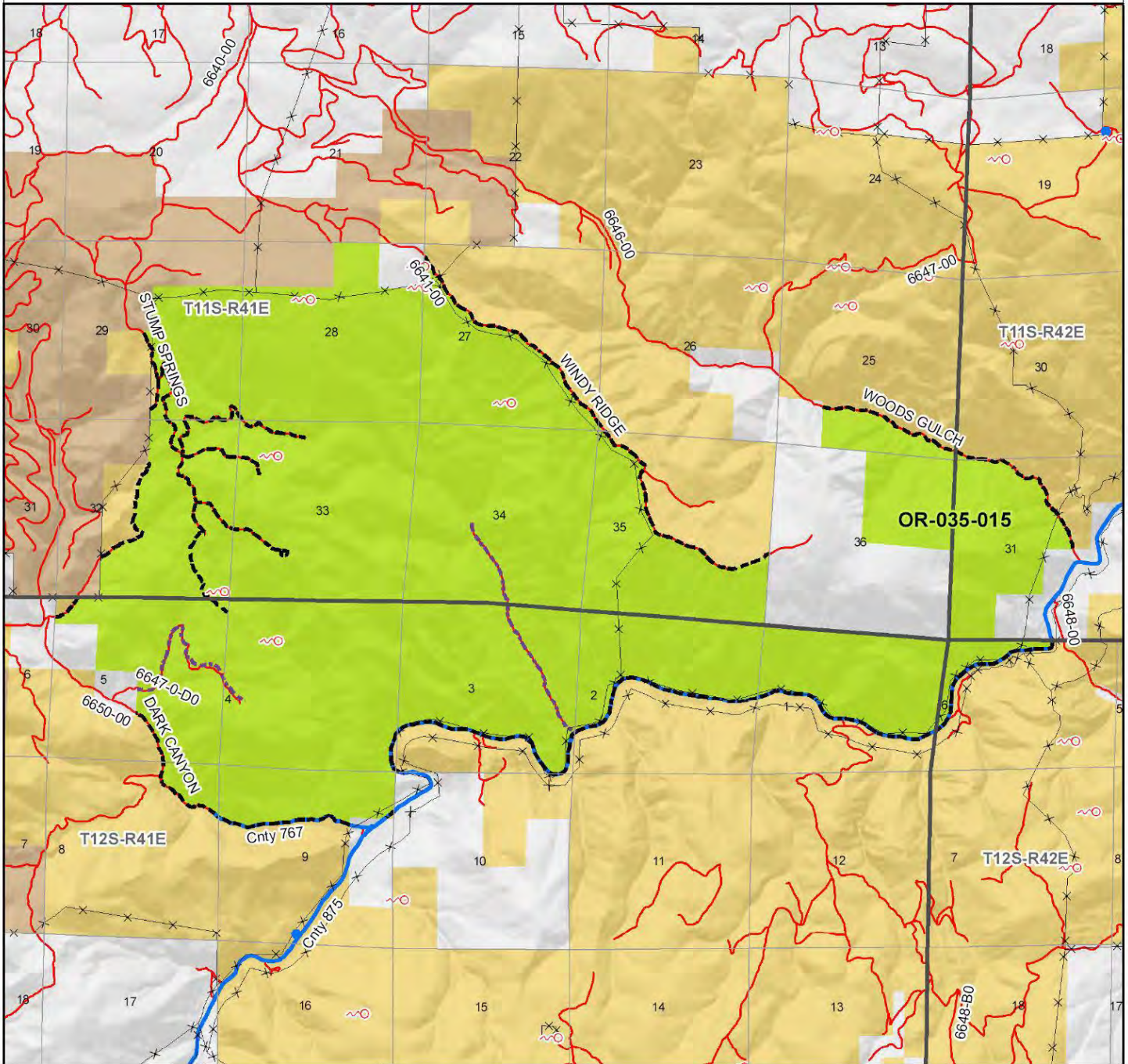
Approved by:

 10-11-11  
Ted Davis, Baker Field Office 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.*

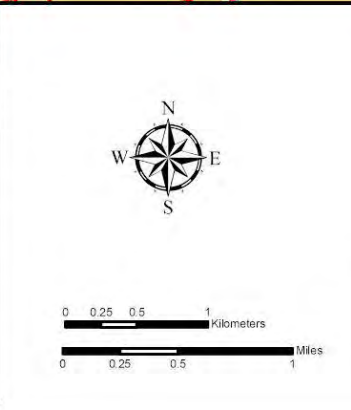
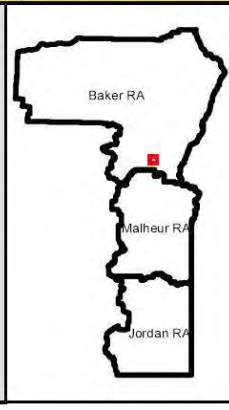
# Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

## French Gulch - OR-035-015 - Map 1 of 1



**Legend**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Developed Spring</li> <li> Wildlife Guzzler</li> <li> Earthen Reservoir</li> <li> Pipeline</li> <li> Trough</li> <li> Fence</li> <li> Storage Tank</li> <li> Surface Mining Disturbance</li> <li> Sage Grouse Lek</li> <li> Special Status Plant</li> <li> BLM Wild Char Inventory Unit</li> <li> Wilderness Study Area</li> <li> Mineral Material Site</li> <li> Road/Utility Right-of-Way</li> <li> Major Water Body</li> </ul>	<p><b>Route Types - BLM Determination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Boundary Road</li> <li> Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT)</li> <li> Discontinued Use</li> </ul> <p><b>Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> County</li> <li> Major Highway</li> <li> BLM Numbered &amp; Other Routes</li> </ul> <p><b>Land Ownership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Bureau of Land Management</li> <li> State</li> <li> Private</li> <li> Other Federal Land</li> </ul>
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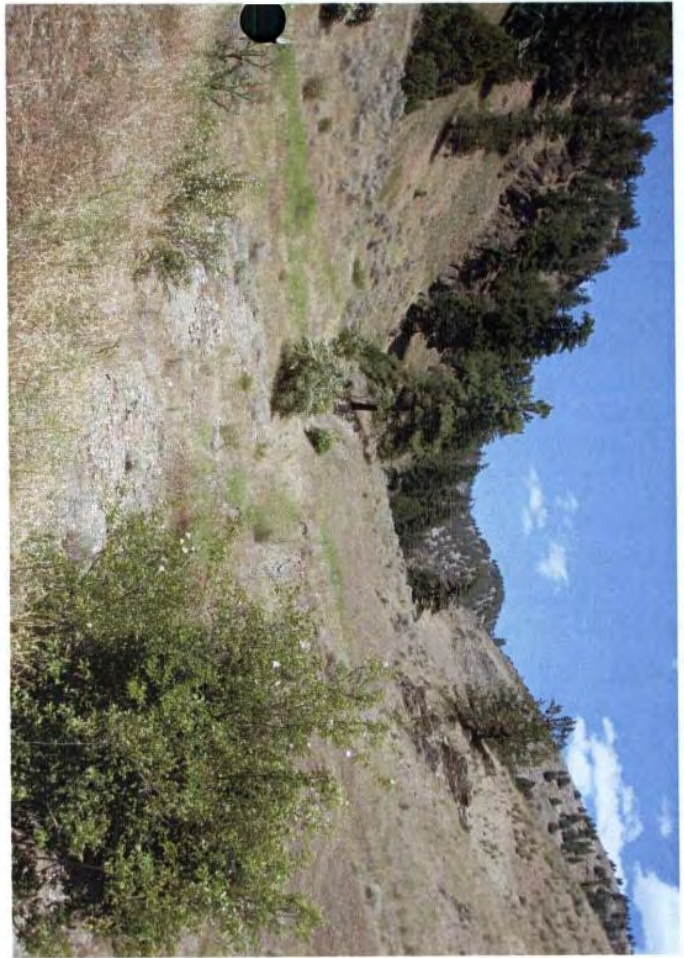
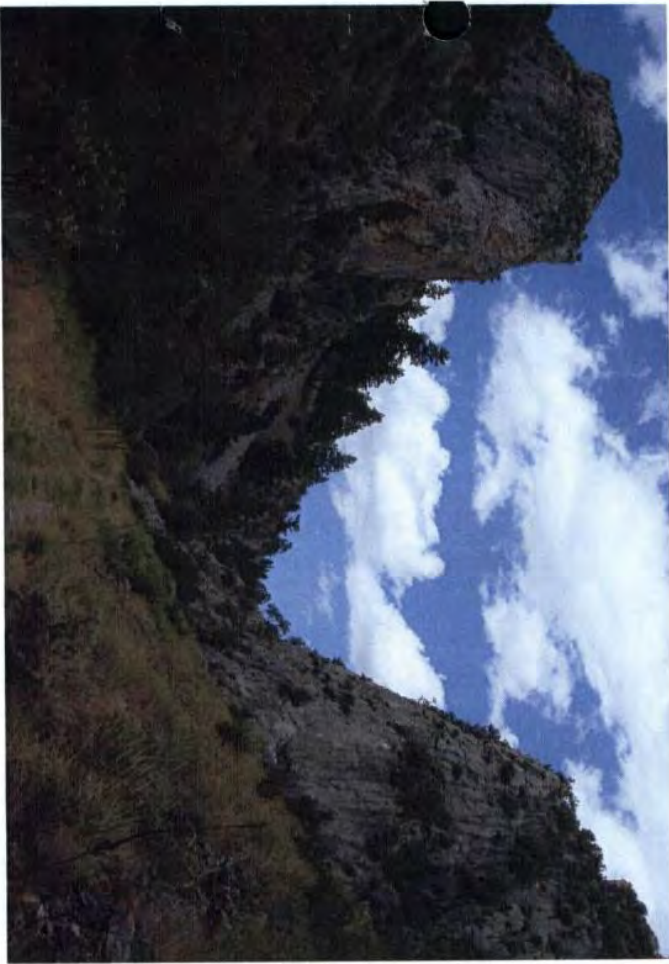


**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**VALE DISTRICT**  
September 28, 2011

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

--FINAL--











# Notice of Location of Placer Mining Claim

STATE OF OREGON  
County of Baker

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:  
That the undersigned locator(s), (each) a Citizen of the United States or one who has declared the intention to become such, has (have) discovered a placer deposit of minerals upon the unappropriated public domain of the United States within the above state and county, which minerals are subject to location under the mineral and mining laws of the United States, and under and in accordance with the laws of the State, and have located and posted and do hereby locate a placer claim thereon, named the

The Gold Dollar  
(Name or Name and No. of Claim)

Placer Mining Claim consisting of 60 acres, posted conspicuously at point of discovery.

Said claim is described by legal subdivision as follows:  
(Tract by Subdivision - Quarter-Section Etc.)

(Sec.) (Township) (Range)

The NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 (Sec.) S 13 S. (Township) 41 E. (Range)  
AND the W 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 Sec. 5, T. 12 S., R. 41 E.

OR in lieu of legal subdivision, is described as: \_\_\_\_\_ feet in length and \_\_\_\_\_ feet in width, more particularly OR \_\_\_\_\_ feet in surface boundaries, corners and angles, distinctly marked on the ground and with reference to a

WORK SAID CLAIM AS PROVIDED BY THE STATE OF OREGON AND PRIVILEGES GRANTED BY EXISTING LAWS AND CUSTOMS.

1998

1998  
(1) X Stepha Dennis  
Kelsey Dennis

(2) Kelsey Dennis  
Patricia Dennis

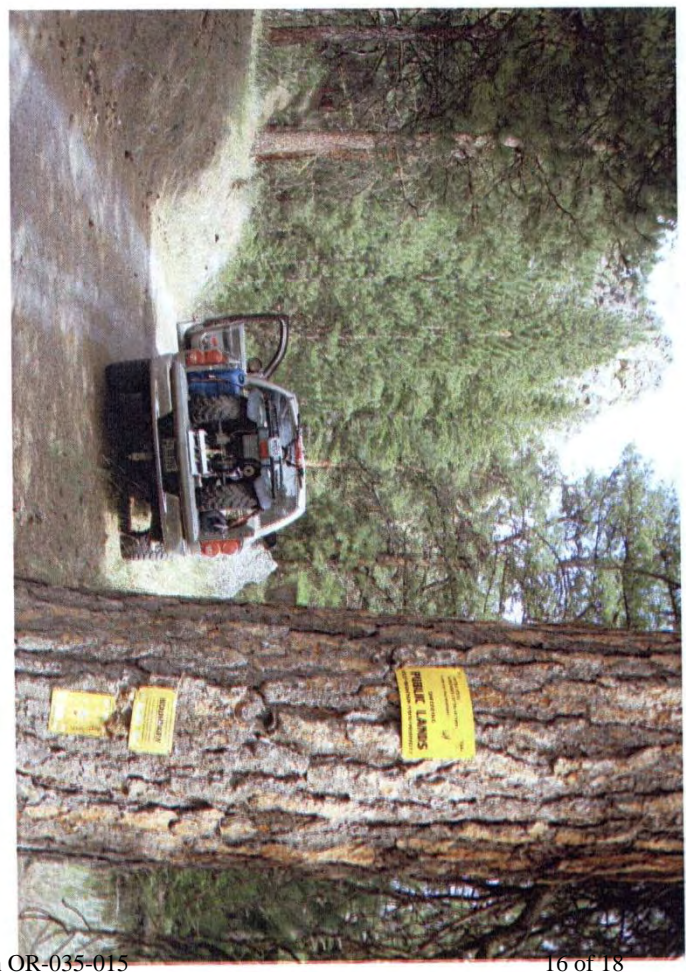
(3) Patricia Dennis  
P.O. Box 181

Durkee, OR 97905 Location(s)

Deputy.



Wilderness Inventory Unit



French Gulch OR-035-015



