

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
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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: 2011 Unit Number/Name: OR-035-029 — Grande Ronde

**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 **X** (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

- () 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.

Unit# / Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
TOTAL					

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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-035-029 — Grande Ronde

NOTE: This inventory unit OR-035-029 is identified herein because an adjacent contiguous federal US Forest Service roadless area (Grande Ronde “potential wilderness area”) is presently being studied by the federal US Forest Service (USFS) in support of that agency’s forthcoming Blue Mountains Forest Plan. The Record of Decision (ROD) of the final Forest Plan will include whether or not all or part of the USFS’s “potential wilderness area” will be a designated “proposed wilderness area”. Respectively, given the present status of the USFS’s identity of its “potential wilderness area”, the information herein of OR-035-029 is provided to meet current BLM direction regarding interagency coordination when conducting wilderness inventory. This BLM inventory information would be available – and OR-035-029 subject to further coordinated BLM-USFS wilderness review -- should the USFS’s ROD of the final Blue Mountains Forest Plan designate any of its federal land contiguous to OR-035-029 as a “proposed wilderness area”.

Only Congress can designate federal lands as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System. When making its decision, Congress can consider federal agencies’ wilderness recommendations (e.g., USFS “proposed wilderness areas” and affiliated qualifying contiguous BLM public lands).

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 inventory unit is composed of three parcels of public land abutting and contiguous to the USFS’s current Grande Ronde “potential wilderness area”. The combined parcels area 3,156 acres in size (1,812 acres north parcel, 38 acres south parcel and 1,307 acres southwest parcel). Size criterion is met because the unit is contiguous to USFS lands presently being evaluated for possible wilderness. Individually, these parcels do not meet the size criterion of being greater than 5,000 acres. However, by being contiguous to a USFS “potential wilderness area” (Grande Ronde); for purposes of BLM wilderness characteristics inventory maintenance, size criteria is met and the BLM unit is addressed under this single BLM inventory unit, OR-035-029.

The boundary features for the southern parcels are the portion that abuts the USFS administrative boundary to the north, the railroad ROW to the south and the Rondowa/Smith Mountain road to the east. The northern parcel boundary features are

the USFS administrative boundary to the west, State and private lands to the north, and private lands to the south. 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 _____ N/A _____

Description: Both the north and south parcels include moderate to major sloped upper terrain that drops significantly to the Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers. The irregularly shaped parcels include segments of the Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers for the southern parcel, and segments of the Grande Ronde River for the northern parcel and its steep to very steep canyon slopes, and upper elevations of steep to moderate terrain. Vegetation is a varied mix of coniferous and some deciduous trees existing within the canyon mixed with sage, native shrubs and both native and non-native grasses which are associated more in more open areas and slightly to moderately sloped terrain.

The parcels are included in the Grande Ronde River Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Important and relevant values of the ACEC are to protect natural, scenic, cultural and recreational values of the river’s canyon, as well as special status fish species (Steelhead, Chinook salmon, and Bull trout) and their habitat.

The rivers within these parcels are part of a congressional designated Wallowa and Grande Ronde “Wild and Scenic river” under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The segment on the southern parcels -- from the USFS/BLM boundary upstream to ROW boundary feature and Rondowa townsite – is classified as “recreational” while the river segment that flows through the northern parcel is classified as “wild”. Only Congress can designate a free-flowing waterway as a component of the NWSRS. The outstandingly remarkable values of the study river are scenery, recreational, fish and wildlife. Each of these values are found within the river segments associated with the parcels of this unit OR-035-029. For additional information, see BLM’s December, 1993 “Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers Final Management Plan/EA for the National Wild Scenic Rivers System”.

Refer to this inventory unit’s associated Map 1 for human imprints. The southern parcels have 1.2 miles of MPTs and 1.9 miles of a cherry-stem road. The northern parcel has no impacts evident from the works of man, but does have remnants still evident from the Ward Canyon and Troy fires which occurred in the late 1980s. Each of the parcels appear 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 _____ N/A X

Description: At this time, no finding is made for outstanding opportunities for solitude. This criterion would be evaluated for this OR-035-029 unit in conjunction with the contiguous USFS lands, should that agency’s Blue Mountains Forest Plan ROD include designation of a Grande Ronde “proposed wilderness area” which abuts contiguous BLM parcels of this OR-035-029 inventory unit.

Note: Procedures of both the BLM land use planning process (e.g., Resource Management Plan) and of associated environmental review (e.g., Environmental Impact Statement) would be applied for deciding how, in the interim, this OR-035-029 and other BLM wilderness characteristics inventory units contiguous to USFS-designated “potential wilderness areas” and “proposed wilderness areas” would be managed. For USFS “proposed wilderness areas” and their contiguous BLM public lands, coordinated cohesive management direction within both federal agencies would be an objective, so to maintain the contiguous federal lands’ wilderness eligibility until such time Congress either designates the federal lands as a Wilderness Area component of the National Wilderness System or releases the federal lands from further wilderness consideration.

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

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

Description: At this time, no finding is made for outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. This criterion would be evaluated for this OR-035-029 unit in conjunction with the contiguous USFS lands, should that agency’s Blue Mountains Forest Plan ROD include designation of a Grande Ronde “proposed wilderness area” which abut contiguous BLM parcels of this OR-035-029 inventory unit.

Note: Procedures of both the BLM land use planning process (e.g., Resource Management Plan) and of associated environmental review (e.g., Environmental Impact Statement) would be applied for deciding how, in the interim, this OR-035-029 and other BLM wilderness characteristics inventory units contiguous to USFS-designated “potential wilderness areas” and “proposed wilderness areas” would be managed. For USFS “proposed wilderness areas” and their contiguous BLM public lands, coordinated cohesive management direction within both federal agencies would be an objective, so to maintain the contiguous federal lands’ wilderness eligibility until such time Congress either designates the federal lands as a Wilderness Area component of the National Wilderness System or releases the federal lands from further wilderness consideration.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Description: BLM lands contain the Nez Perce Mariposa Lily and habitat for Chinook salmon, Steelhead and Bull Trout.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-035-029 — Grande Ronde


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


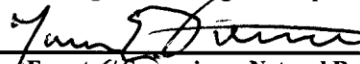
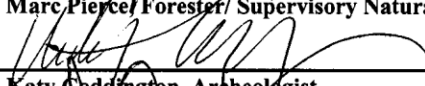
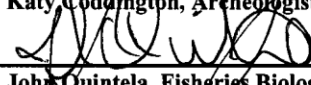
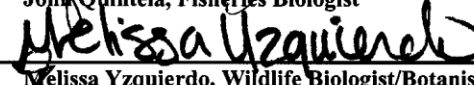
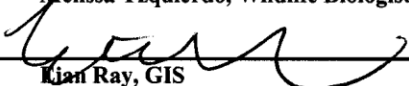
Conclusion * -- check one:

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


* -- No conclusion can be determined at this time. See the discussion under the criterion for outstanding opportunities for solitude and for outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in this Form 2 of this OR-035-029 inventory unit.

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

Team Members:

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<u></u>	10/3/11
Melissa Yzquierdo, Wildlife Biologist/Botanist	Date
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Brian 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.



