

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Hanson Canyon OR-036-016, 25 total pages

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**Prepared by:
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Vale District Office
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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: Hanson Canyon OR-036-016****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-03-11-12* (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).
- (X) 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-03-11-01, OR-03-11-12 (1978); Owyhee River 3-143, Hanson Canyon 3-149 (*August 1979 - Wilderness Review – Initial Inventory, Final Decisions on Public Lands Obviously Lacking Characteristics, Oregon and Washington* [green book]);

Owyhee River 3-143A, Hanson Canyon 3-149 (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]); Owyhee River Canyon 3-195 (November 1981 *Stateline Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah* [tan pamphlet]).

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
- (X) 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
Owyhee River 3-143	424*	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hanson Canyon 3-149	15,960	Y	N	N	N
Total acres>>	15,960				

* This area was originally part of Unit 3-143, then Unit 3-143A, and finally Unit 3-195. It was dropped from Unit 3-195 in the November 1981 *Stateline Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah* (tan pamphlet).

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

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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:****Inventory Unit Name/Number: Hanson Canyon OR-036-016**

For this exercise BLM refers to the unit as 2007 Hanson Canyon OR-036-016. A citizen wilderness proposal provided by Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) received February 2004 identified BLM unit OR-036-016 as a portion of their proposal known as the “Mouse Trap Butte proposed WSA Addition.” ONDA feels that the citizen proposal presents new information that documents wilderness criteria and therefore qualifies the area for interim protection as a Wilderness Study Area. The Mouse Trap Butte proposed WSA Addition also includes BLM unit Coyote Wells OR-036-015.

1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes X No ___

Unit OR-036-016 is comprised of 16,476 acres, meeting the size criteria. The 16,476 total acres that comprise the OR-036-016 unit as shown in Form 2 differ slightly from the 15,960 total acres listed for this unit in Form 1. Acreage for unit OR-036-016 in Form 2 is calculated from BLM GIS information and includes a 424-acre area that was part of the Owyhee River Canyon unit OR-3-195 (1981). The 424-acre area was dropped from unit OR-3-195 in the 1981 Stateline Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision. The remaining 192-acre difference from Form 1 was either not calculated properly or resulted from a rounding error from methods and maps used in the initial 1978 inventory. The citizen wilderness proposal identified 23,565 acres in their Mouse Trap Butte proposed WSA Addition that includes BLM unit Hanson Canyon OR-036-016 and Coyote Wells OR-036-015 within its boundary.

Description:

The boundaries of unit OR-036-016 are identified as BLM road 6357-0-C0 on the southwest, BLM road 6357-0-00 on the west, and BLM road 6357-0-B0 on the northwest. BLM has determined that the eastern and southern route boundaries for the Hanson Canyon unit OR-036-016 now consist of a shared boundary with the Owyhee Canyon WSA. BLM route 6372-0-00 and two segments of County Road 522 along the WSA boundary are no longer classified as roads (as they were in the 1979 inventory) but as motorized primitive trails (refer to BLM route 6372-0-00 and County Road 522 analysis forms). Because these routes have been reclassified, the Hanson Canyon OR-036-016 unit is no longer isolated from the Owyhee Canyon WSA by a series of road as boundaries, but rather is now contiguous with the WSA. The eastern side of the unit is comprised of a portion of BLM route 6372-0-00 (motorized primitive trail) and two segments of County Road 522 (motorized primitive trails), one north of BLM route 6372-2-00 and the other located west of BLM route 6372-0-00 along the southern boundary. Periodic maintenance of 13.3 miles of boundary roads has occurred in the past (no confirmed dates available) and they are used regularly by ranchers (as observed by current BLM staff) and BLM employees for livestock management. Refer to map 2007_Hanson_Canyon_OR_036_016.pdf for the unit boundary.

The citizen wilderness proposal boundaries for the Mouse Trap Butte proposed WSA Addition unit differ from BLM’s unit OR-036-016 boundaries because ONDA claims that the southwest boundary BLM road 6357-0-C0 of BLM unit OR-036-016 does not meet the road definition and therefore BLM unit Coyote Wells OR-036-015 is part of their proposed unit. BLM does not agree with their road determination and has explained in BLM road 6357-0-C0 analysis form why BLM road 6357-0-C0 meets the definition of a road and separates the two BLM units.

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

Human imprints within the Hanson Canyon OR-036-016 unit include four earthen reservoirs, one 5.3 mile fence along the southern boundary and 19.7 miles of motorized primitive trail (11.4 miles are shared boundary with the Owyhee Canyon WSA). The reservoirs, fenceline, and interior motorized primitive trails are substantially unnoticeable because of the vegetative screening provided by sagebrush on the relatively flat terrain. 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_Hanson_Canyon_OR_036_016A.pdf for human imprints.

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

Hanson Canyon unit OR-036-016 is an irregular diamond shape approximately 6 miles in length and 6 miles in width at the central axis of the unit. The unit tapers to about 2 miles in width at all four corners of the diamond. The majority of the unit consists of a flat to rolling open sagebrush plateau. Mouse Trap Butte provides the only variation in topographic relief in the unit. The butte rises about 200-250 feet above its surrounding area in the northern portion of the unit, and there is little change in elevation in the remainder of the unit. Topographic relief is minimal within the unit with elevations ranging from about 4,780 feet mean sea level (msl) along the north corner and rising to 5,038 feet msl at the top of Mouse Trap Butte. Elevation changes in most of the unit traversing from north to south or from east to west are very gradual, averaging about 20-30 feet per mile and about 30-50 feet lower than the top of Mouse Trap Butte. The headwaters of Hanson Canyon provide the only other topographic relief in the unit, although this area covers less than one-half mile before crossing the southeastern boundary of the unit. Hanson Canyon drains to the southeast through an open sagebrush flat with a uniform gentle gradient containing no deep depressions or vegetation which would provide locations for solitude. The unit provides limited vegetative screening, consisting of broad expanses of low and big sagebrush with little opportunity for solitude.

Although the unit provides limited opportunity for solitude because BLM road 6372-0-00 and County Road 522 have been reclassified as motorized primitive trails, BLM unit Hanson Canyon OR-036-016 is no longer isolated from the Owyhee Canyon WSA. Because the Hanson Canyon unit is contiguous with the WSA it is considered a continuation of those outstanding opportunities for solitude wilderness characteristics identified for the Owyhee Canyon WSA. Because of the existing 11.4 miles of motorized primitive trails is contiguous with the Owyhee Canyon WSA, BLM unit OR-036-008 provides outstanding opportunities for solitude.

A citizen's wilderness proposal (ONDA, February 2004) includes unit OR-036-016 as a contiguous area with other previously BLM-identified inventory units (Coyote Wells - BLM unit OR-036-015, and the Owyhee Canyon WSA) for their proposed wilderness area. The Mouse Trap Butte proposal's larger size, configuration, and diversity of natural features led ONDA to conclude that the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude.

BLM has concluded that unit OR-036-015 has limited vegetative and topographic screening, is bounded by roads on all sides, does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive

and unconfined recreation wilderness characteristics, and is not contiguous with BLM unit Hanson Canyon OR-036-016. BLM has also concluded that because the boundary consisting of an existing network of motorized primitive trails along the eastern and southern boundaries of BLM unit OR-036-016 is contiguous with the Owyhee Canyon WSA, and the unit therefore takes on the wilderness characteristics of the WSA, that the Hanson Canyon unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Yes X No ___

Description:

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are available in the unit. However, opportunities for activities within the unit 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. Mouse Trap Butte is the only topographic feature in the unit that alters 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. 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.

The BLM inventory team identified that unit OR-036-016 unit provided only limited opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Because BLM road 6372-0-00 and County Road 522 are now reclassified as motorized primitive trails, this unit is no longer isolated from the Owyhee Canyon WSA. The Hanson Canyon unit now is contiguous with the WSA and is therefore considered to possess a continuation of those outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation wilderness characteristics identified for the Owyhee Canyon WSA. BLM unit OR-036-016 provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of the now contiguous nature between the unit and the WSA.

5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes X 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: Hanson Canyon OR-036-016

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:

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


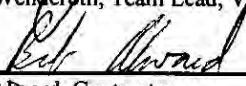
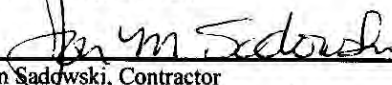
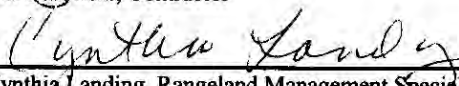
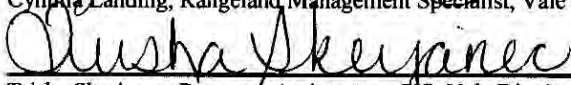
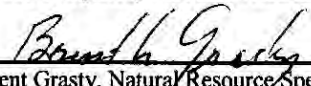
The ID team has reviewed the findings summarized in the original Statewide Wilderness Inventory as well as in the published decision documents and maps identified on Form 1. Current conditions relative to the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics have been considered including citizen wilderness proposals. Based on all the best available information and staff field visits to the area since 2000, the ID team has found compelling reasons, described in sections above, to change the existing BLM inventory decisions for solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation, and supplemental values wilderness characteristics. BLM finds that the naturalness of the area is primarily affected by the forces of nature, outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are present in the unit, and there are supplemental values present.

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:

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

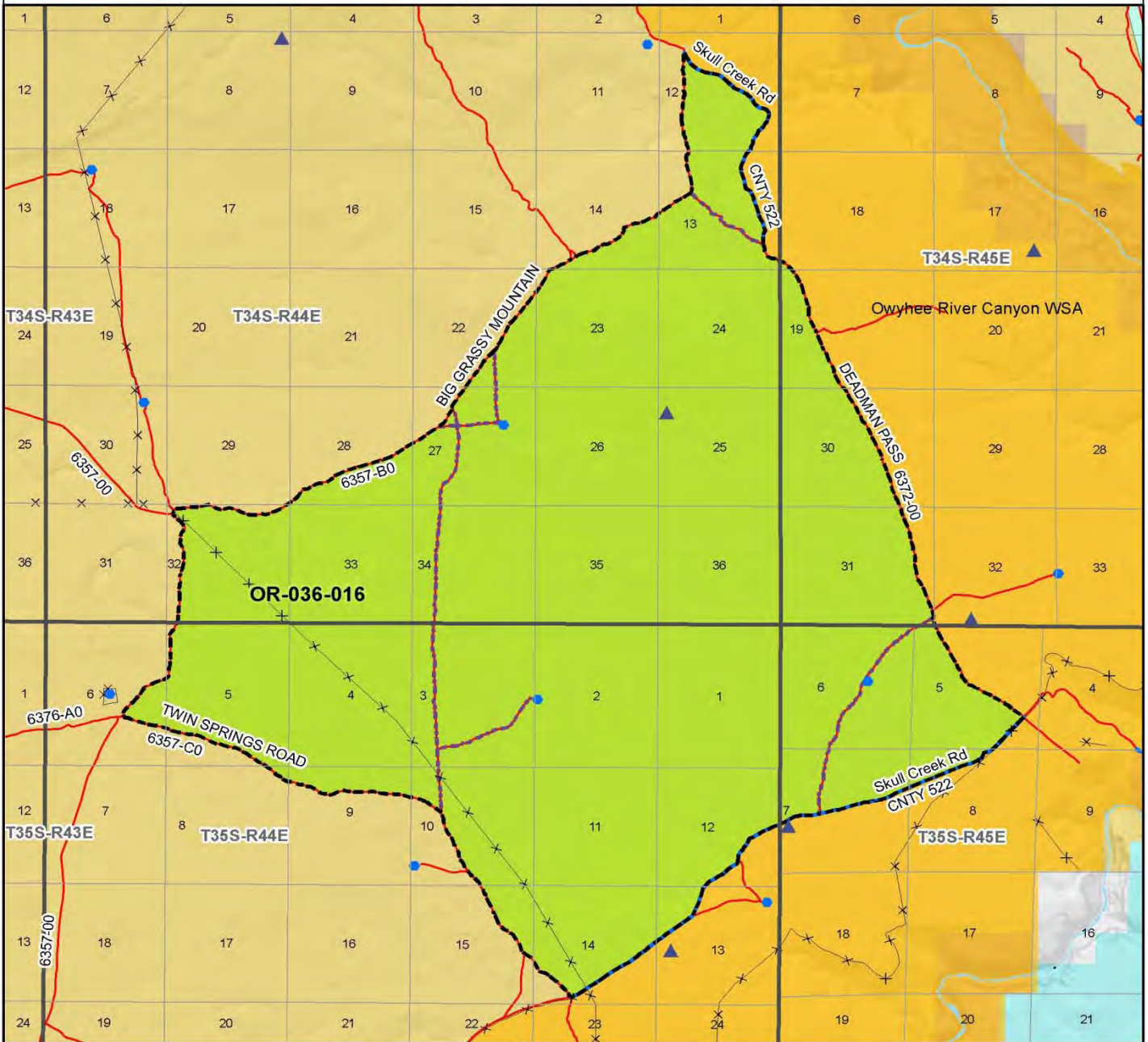
Concurrence:

	
Carolyn R. Freeborn	Date 10/26/07
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.

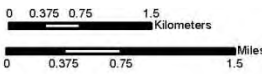
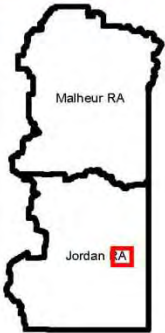
Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Hanson Canyon - OR-036-016 - Map 1 of 1



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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Route Types - BLM Determination Boundary Road Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT) Discontinued Use Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit County Major Highway BLM Numbered & Other Routes Land Ownership Bureau of Land Management State Private Other Federal Land |
|---|--|



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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

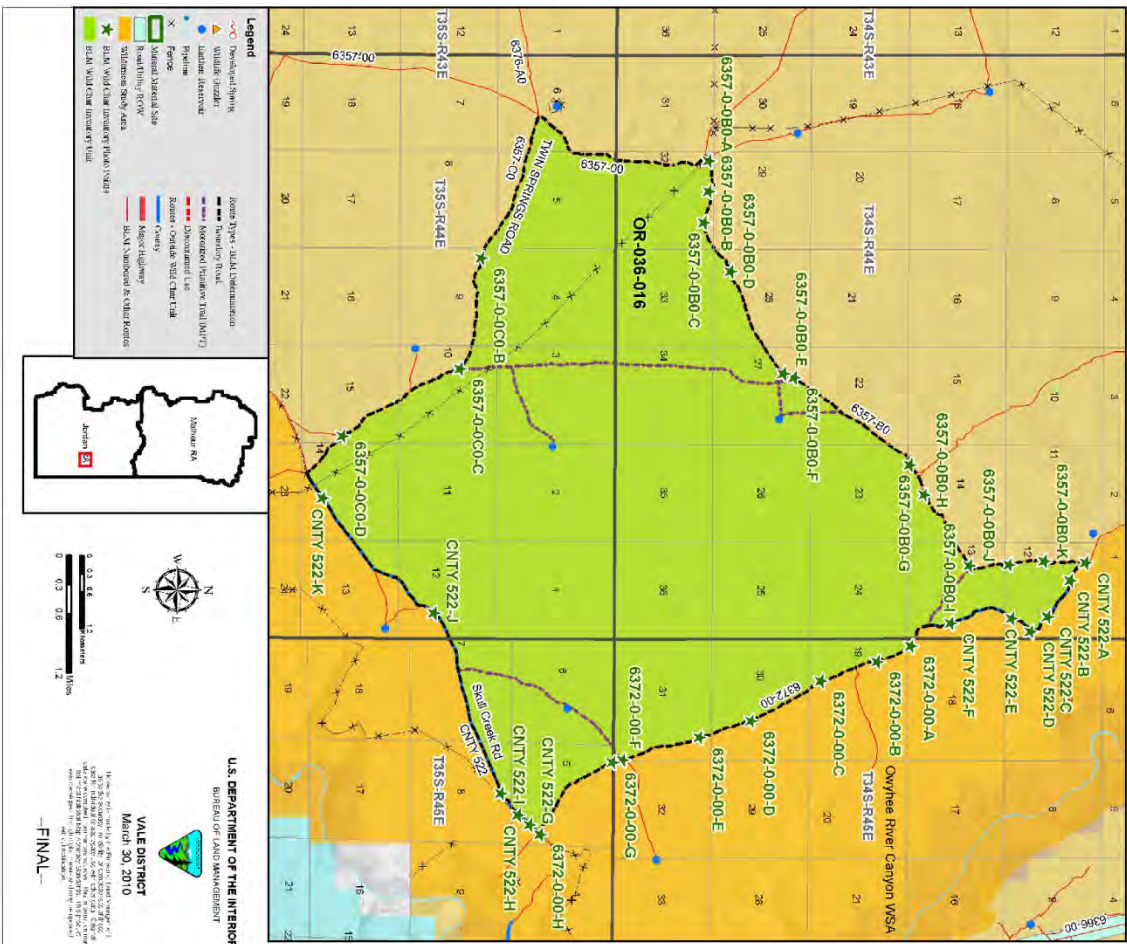


VALE DISTRICT
March 30, 2010

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--

Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Points Hanson Canyon - OR-036-016



Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Points Hanson Canyon - OR-036-016

PHOTO_LOCATION*	DIRECTION	PHOTO_TYPE	PHOTO_DATE	COMMENTS
6372-0-0B0-A	E	Route	20070620	Into Jackie's Butte Allotment-Cattleguard
6357-0-0B0-F	NE	Route	20070620	Blade Marks
6357-0-0C0-D	W	Route	20070621	Blade Marks
6357-0-0C0-C	W	Route	20070621	Blade Marks
6357-0-0C0-B	W	Route	20070726	Bladed Road
6357-0-0B0-B	W	Route	20070726	Good Road
CNTY 522-B	S	Route	20070726	Good Road
CNTY 522-C	S	Route	20070726	Bladed Road
CNTY 522-D	S	Route	20070726	Good Road
CNTY 522-E	N	Route	20070726	Good Road
CNTY 522-F	N	Route	20070726	Good Road
6372-0-00-A	S	Route	20070726	Good Road
6372-0-00-B	S	Route	20070726	Good Road
6372-0-00-C	S	Route	20070726	Good Road
6372-0-00-D	S	Route	20070726	Good Road
6372-0-00-E	S	Route	20070726	Good Road
6372-0-00-F	W	Route	20070726	Good Road
6372-0-00-G	W	Route	20070726	Good Road
6372-0-00-H	SE	Route	20070726	Gate To Ambrose Mainer
6372-0-00-I	W	Route	20070726	Old Military Road
CNTY 522-H	W	Route	20070726	Road Continues
CNTY 522-I	W	Route	20070726	Road Continues
CNTY 522-J	W	Route	20070726	Road Continues
CNTY 522-K	W	Route	20070726	Gate To Twin Springs Pasture
6357-0-0B0-C	E	Route	20070726	Bladed Road
6357-0-0B0-D	E	Route	20070726	Bladed Road
6357-0-0B0-E	E	Route	20070726	Bladed Road
6357-0-0B0-F	E	Route	20070726	Bladed Road
6357-0-0B0-G	N	Route	20070726	Bladed Road
6357-0-0B0-H	N	Route	20070726	Loveland Horse Camp Road
6357-0-0B0-I	N	Route	20070726	Loveland Horse Camp Road
6357-0-0B0-J	N	Route	20070726	Loveland Horse Camp Road
6357-0-0B0-K	N	Route	20070726	OR-036-009-K/L Loveland Horse Camp
CNTY 522-A	E	Route	20070726	Up Out Of Horse Camp

Note: The BLM Wild Char PhotoPoints displayed on the map are labeled with their Photo Locations. The BLM Photo Log table shown above lists the photos taken at their respective Photo Locations. Multiple photos may be taken at each Photo Location. Scenery and Project Photo Type pictures have their photo names provided in the Comments field.



6357-0-0B0-A-E.JPG



6357-0-0B0-B-E.JPG



6357-0-0B0-C-E.JPG



6357-0-0B0-D-E.JPG



6357-0-0B0-E-E.JPG



6357-0-0B0-F-NE.JPG



6357-0-0B0-G-E.JPG



6357-0-0B0-H-S.JPG



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6372-0-00-C-S.JPG



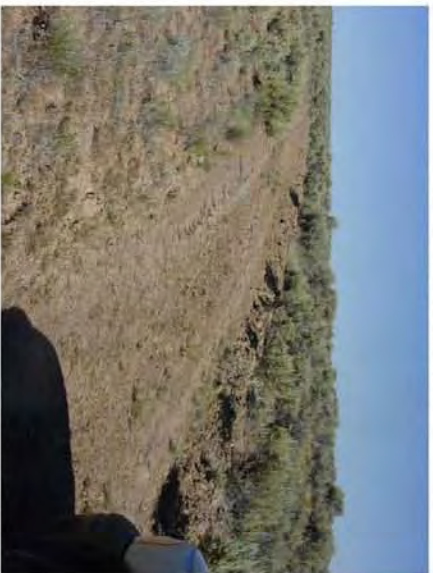
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6372-0-00-B-S.JPG



6372-0-00-E-S.JPG



6372-0-00-F-W.JPG



CNTY 522-A-E.JPG



CNTY 522-D-S.JPG



6372-0-00-G-S.JPG



CNTY 522-B-W.JPG



CNTY 522-E-N.JPG



6372-0-00-H-SE.JPG



CNTY 522-C-S.JPG



CNTY 522-F-N.JPG



CNTY 522-G-W.JPG



CNTY 522-I-W.JPG



CNTY 522-H-W.JPG



CNTY 522-K-W.JPG



CNTY 522-I-W.JPG



OR-036-069-K-N.JPG

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

APPENDIX C – ROAD¹ ANALYSIS

Wilderness Inventory Area Name and Number (Unit ID): Hanson Canyon OR-036-016

Route Name and/or Identifier: BLM, Deadman Pass/6372-0-00; Mouse Trap Butte proposed WSA Addition TF17 d

I. LOCATION

Refer to attached map: 2007_Hanson_Canyon_OR_036_016.pdf and BLM corporate data (GIS).

List photo point references (if applicable): BLM, DSC02447, DSC02456-DSC02463; Mouse Trap Butte proposed WSA Addition DB020-DB021, DB56-DB058

II. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE

Describe: BLM road 6372-0-00 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 and recreation enthusiasts.

III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY

Is a road right-of-way associated with this route? Yes ___ No X Unknown ___

IV. CONSTRUCTION

Yes X No ___

Examples: Paved _____ Bladed X Graveled _____
Roadside Berms _____ Cut/Fill _____ Other _____

Describe: Local information about the Louse Canyon area points to the origin of BLM route 6372-0-00 as a military wagon road in the late 1800s and along with later off-road vehicle use, as the source of a two-track trail. Sometime in the late 1960s to early 1970s the road surface was bladed without creating ditches and

leaving a few berms, using a road-grader. Route 6372-0-00 surface material consists mainly of sandy soils with an occasional rocky area, and it is one of the BLM routes in the Vale District Transportation Plan. In the original 1978-1981 inventory and decision process for wilderness characteristics, route 6372-0-00 was the eastern boundary road between the Hanson Canyon unit and the Owyhee Canyon WSA.

The boundary along the eastern side of the Hanson Canyon unit is comprised of a portion of BLM route 6372-0-00 (motorized primitive trail) and two segments of County Road 522 (motorized primitive trails), one north of BLM route 6372-2-00 and the other located west of BLM route 6372-0-00 along the southern boundary of the unit.

V. IMPROVEMENTS

Yes No

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 No

By hand tools By machine

Explain: During field reconnaissance in July 2007 and review of available information, the current wilderness inventory team found no evidence that maintenance has been performed on BLM route 6372-0-00 since the road was developed. Because the route occurs on relatively flat terrain the route has remained passable without maintenance.

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: Although BLM route 6372-0-00 would be approved to be maintained by management as needed, if the road base became impassable, it would remain a low priority to be repaired because of its limited annual use. BLM would maintain this motorized primitive trail as needed to allow unrestricted passage. To reduce the potential for erosion and establishment of invasive plant and weed species, BLM emphasizes minimal ground disturbance for road construction and maintenance through Best Management Practices (BMPs) as 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

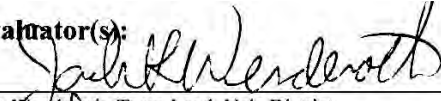
BLM road 6372-0-00 has annual use as evidenced by the lack of brush in the road and by well-used bare ground where vehicle tires track (photo DSC02461). This route is used mainly for maintenance of a fenceline and access to two livestock grazing allotments. This route does not receive continual use because it is only an isolated loop road and other routes are available as main travel routes.

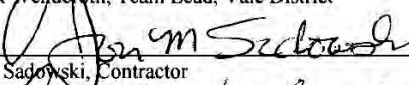
VIII. CONCLUSION


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 route 6372-0-00 does not meet the definition of a road, as stated in sections IV, VI-A and VI-B, and VII above. BLM road 6372-0-00 was minimally constructed by mechanical equipment, has not been maintained since being constructed, would be approved as a low priority to be maintained by management as needed, if the road base became impassable, and has only limited annual use.

Evaluator(s):

 Jack Wendepoth, Team Lead, Vale District
 Date 10-26-2007


 Jon Sadowski, Contractor
 Date 10-26-2007


 Cynthia Landig, Rangeland Management Specialist, Vale District
 Date 10-26-2007

¹ 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.”

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

APPENDIX C – ROAD¹ ANALYSIS

Wilderness Inventory Area Name and Number (Unit ID): Hanson Canyon OR-036-016

Route Name and/or Identifier: BLM, Skull Creek Road/County Road 522 ; Mouse Trap Butte proposed WSA Addition TF17a & TF17b

IX. LOCATION

Refer to attached map: 2007_Hanson_Canyon_OR_036_016.pdf and BLM corporate data (GIS).

List photo point references (if applicable): BLM, DSC02464-DSC02468; Mouse Trap Butte proposed WSA Addition DB052-DB058: (DSC02450-DSC02455; DB15-DB16)

X. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE

Describe: County Road 522 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.

XI. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY

Is a road right-of-way associated with this route? Yes ___ No X Unknown ___

XII. CONSTRUCTION

Yes X No ___

Examples: Paved _____ Bladed X Graveled _____
Roadside Berms _____ Cut/Fill _____ Other _____

Describe: County Road 522 was originally a military wagon road developed in the late 1800s. It was bladed without the addition of ditches and berms sometime in the late 1960s to early 1970s. This road consists of natural material, is Malheur

County's maintenance responsibility, and is not listed as one of the BLM routes in the Vale District Transportation Plan.

In the original 1978-1981 inventory and decision process for wilderness characteristics, County Road 522 is the southern boundary road between the Hanson Canyon unit and the Owyhee Canyon WSA. A small section of County Road 522 is also located to the north of BLM route 6372-0-00 near the Loveland Horse Camp. County 522 is a small loop road that was originally part of the Owyhee River Canyon unit OR-3-195 (1981). A 424-acre area that was bounded to the east by this section of County Road 522 was dropped from unit OR-3-195 in the 1981 Stateline Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision, and County Road 522 then became a boundary of the Owyhee Canyon WSA.

XIII. 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: _____

XIV. MAINTENANCE

A. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes ___ No X

By hand tools _____ By machine _____

Explain: During field reconnaissance in July 2007 and review of available information, the current wilderness inventory team found no evidence that maintenance has been performed on County Road 522 since the road was developed. Because the route occurs on relatively flat terrain, the route has remained passable without maintenance.

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: County Road 522 connects BLM roads 6372-0-00 and 6357-0-C0 and is approximately 4.5 miles in length. County Road 522 would be approved to be maintained by management as needed if the road base became impassable, although it would remain a low priority to be repaired because of its limited annual use and county maintenance responsibility. BLM would maintain this section of road as necessary to provide access to livestock improvements and rangeland administration.

XV. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE

Yes No

County Road 522 has annual use as evidenced by the lack of brush in the road and by bare ground where vehicle tires track (DSC02466). This route is used mainly for maintenance of a fenceline, a reservoir, and access to two livestock grazing allotments. This route does not receive continual use because it is only an isolated loop road and other routes are available as main travel routes.

XVI. 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 County Road 522 does not meet the definition of a road as stated in sections IV, VI-A and VI-B, and VII above. County Road 522 was minimally constructed by mechanical equipment, has not been maintained since being constructed, would be approved to be maintained by management as needed if the road base became impassable at a low priority, and has only limited annual use.

Evaluator(s):

Jack Werderoth, Team Lead, Vale District

Date 10-26-2007

Jon Sadowski, Contractor

Date 10-26-2007

Cynthia Linding, Rangeland Management Specialist, Vale District

Date 10-26-2007

¹ 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.”

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- 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.

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