

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Hooker Gulch OR-035-014, 22 total pages

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**Prepared by:
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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: 2009 **Unit Number/Name:** OR-035-014 – Hooker 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 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

- 1978 – BLM Wilderness Inventory Unit 6-40 Hooker Gulch (unpublished BLM documents stored in 6-way case files)
- 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)

BLM Hooker Gulch 6-40. (Original case file for unit 6-40 is missing, ongoing efforts to locate)

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
(6-40) OR-035 Hooker Gulch	6,100 /4,000*	Y/N*	N	Y	Y
TOTAL	6,100				

*--Size of the unit was decreased in the final rationale decision due to heavy human impacts on the western 2,100 acres leaving the remaining acreage of 4,000 not meeting any size criteria but did appear to be natural.

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FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: **OR-035-014 -- Hooker 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 6,125 acres of public land. The boundaries of the unit are the same as the final decision for the BLM unit OR-06-40 of the late 1970’s. Boundaries consist of public lands abutting private land parcels, and roads (Baker County #118 Burnt River road including existing power line ROW #ORE 01507) on its south end, BLM road #6647-0-0D0 Deer Creek Road on its west side, BLM road #6647-0-00 on its east and north side) which create the perimeter of the unit. Two cherry stem roads (BLM road #6647-B0 and #6647-C0) exist on the central and eastern sectors of the unit. The boundary roads are mechanically maintained as needed to provide for 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 terrain is common throughout the unit which has been eroded by nine major drainages that slope to the south. Elevations range from 2,724 feet at the Burnt River Canyon road, to 5,688 feet at the northern edge of the unit. Gulch and canyon depth can range from 500 to 1000 feet from ridge top to canyon bottom over a distance of ½ mile or less. Vegetation is predominately native and non-native grasses, and sage brush. Juniper is scattered throughout most of the unit with isolated pockets of Aspen trees. Douglas fir, western Larch, Grand Fir and Ponderosa Pine trees exist along the Northern portion of the unit in the higher elevations.

Refer to this unit’s associated Map 1 and Map 2 for human imprints. The western third of the unit has been heavily impacted in the past by the works of man as described in the late 1970’s inventory. In this area of the inventory unit, since the late 1970’s, some of the projects and activities which remain visually apparent to the average visitor are 15 MPT’s totaling 26.7 miles, 2 earthen reservoir water impoundments, 11.4 miles of rangeland fence with 3 gates, and some very site-specific surface scaring from one locatable mineral extraction site. Since the 1970’s inventory, some of these impacts have been “softened” over time through talus sloughing, settling and vegetation encroachment. There remains no visual

contrast to the average visitor of the unit other than those impacts noticed by the juniper thinning projects in the form of cut stumps and large amounts of downed trees. Other developments and imprints elsewhere in the unit include 8 spring developments, a small timber trespass (approx. 10 acres), and 255 acres of a planned 512 acre juniper thinning. Continued motorized use of the 26.7 miles of MPT's has restricted natural reclamation of the works of man and remain visually apparent to the average visitor of the unit. Most of the MPT's are located on ridge tops, side hills, and the drainage bottoms. Approximately ½ mile of an abandoned route which extends from the Kirby Reservoir towards the mouth of Hooker Gulch, has been naturally reclaimed by talus sloughing and vegetation encroachment thus no longer apparent to the average visitor of the unit.

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, extent and spatial orientation to each other of motorized primitive trails (MPT's) penetrating the unit, it is not possible for a visitor to experience a sense of outstanding solitude. The rugged terrain offers some topographic screening, but the amount of MPT's throughout the area in conjunction with the size/shape of the unit, limit the distance to visually and audibly avoid motorized activities. Most of the MPTs in the unit are located along ridge tops and down drainages throughout the unit. Consequently, it is easy to see or hear people from most anywhere in the unit. In addition, the irregular, thin shape of the unit contributes to the inability of visitors from obtaining solitude. The unit is approximately 6.6 miles long, 2.64 miles wide at its widest point, and averages approximately 1.2 miles in width across the unit. The eastern sector, which is the thinnest portion of the unit, averages 1/3 of a mile in width for 1.5 miles of the unit total. The types, density and distribution of vegetation types do not provide sufficient screening between visitors to contribute to outstanding opportunities for solitude. 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: The 1980 inventory states, "*the area provides for excellent habitat for and number of, Hungarian partridge, blue grouse, mourning dove, chukar, deer and elk. Because the unit has access roads on nearly every ridge, outstanding cumulative opportunities exist for hunting. Outstanding opportunities exist for horseback riding and day hikes. The scenery is spectacular*".

Review of the unit in the spring of 2009 reflects a variance from the determination made in 1980. Currently, recreational activities in the unit occur and are associated primarily with motorized uses. Hunting of common upland bird and big game species (chukar, quail, grouse, deer, elk, Bighorn) is the primary form of recreational use within the unit. Other activities including hiking, horseback riding, camping, and wildlife viewing/photography occur within the unit, however it is not noted for these types of recreational pursuits. The game species hunted are not recognized by the State as being unique or rare to the area, thus hunting of game species is not considered to be outstanding and does not independently or cumulatively contain game species or activities that provide for outstanding recreational opportunities. The area does have some dramatic views and topographic changes, but are not determined to be outstanding for recreational opportunities and pursuits.

Thus, this present finding concludes that, overall, the 1980 determination was in error, or has changed with the passage of time.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: The supplemental features from the 1970's inventory have been determined to be outside of the unit boundary, or are not identified on any special status list of today.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-035-014 -- Hooker Gulch

Summary Results of Analysis:

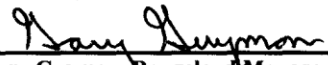
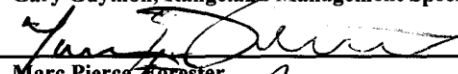

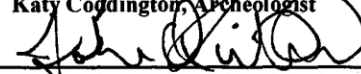

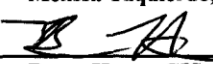

- 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No NA
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No NA

Conclusion -- check one:

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

Prepared by:  8-13-09
Kevin McCoy, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Team Members:

<u></u>	<u>8/13/09</u>
Gary Guymon, Rangeland Management Specialist	Date
<u></u>	<u>08/13/09</u>
Marc Pierce, Forester	Date
<u></u>	<u>8/13/09</u>
Katy Coddington, Archeologist	Date
<u></u>	<u>8/14/09</u>
John Quintela, Fisheries Biologist	Date
<u></u>	<u>8/13/09</u>
Melissa Yzquierdo, Wildlife Biologist/Botanist	Date
<u></u>	<u>8/13/09</u>
Bruce Haase, GIS	Date
<u></u>	<u>8-13-09</u>
Todd Kuck, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist	Date

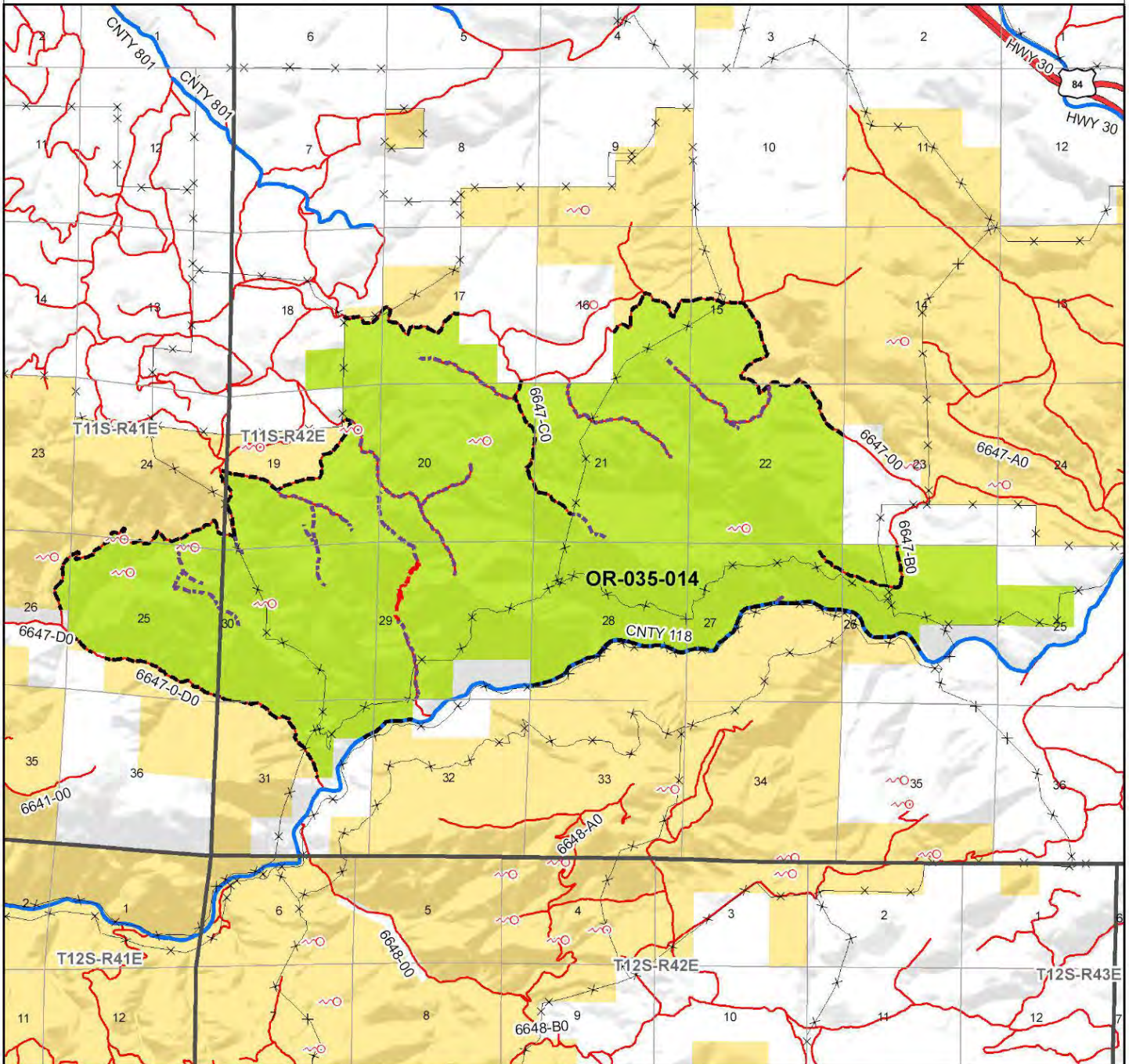
Approved by:

 8/14/09
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

Hooker Gulch - OR-035-014 - Map 1 of 2



Legend

- 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

Route Types - BLM Determination

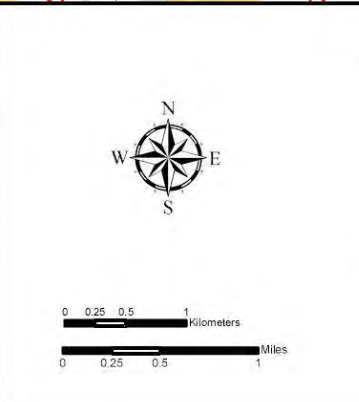
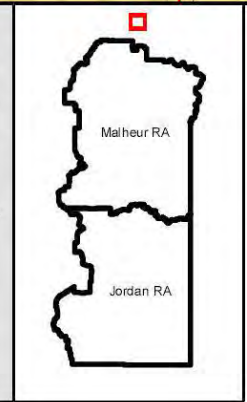
- Boundary Road
- Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT)
- Discontinued Use

Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit

- County
- Major Highway
- BLM Numbered & Other Routes

Land Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Private
- Other Federal Land



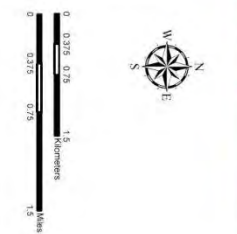
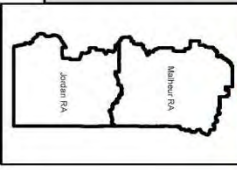
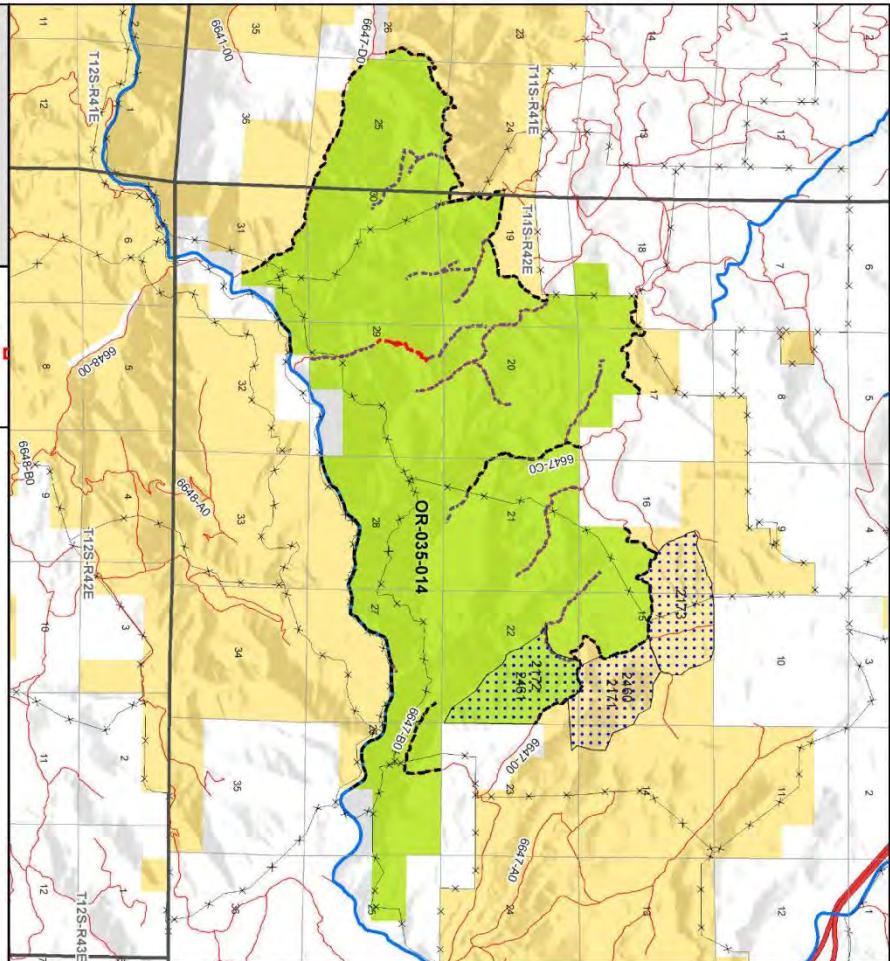
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VALE DISTRICT
August 14, 2009

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--FINAL--

Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments
Hooker Gulch - OR-035-014 - Map 2 of 2



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 JULY 14, 2009
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--FINAL--

Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments
Hooker Gulch - OR-035-014 - Map 2 of 2

OBJECTID*	NAME	TREATMENT TYPE	SEED GROUP	DATE
2171	WOODS GULCH	Juniper Cutting	Not Applicable	2006
2172	WOODS GULCH	Juniper Cutting	Not Applicable	2005
2173	WOODS GULCH	Juniper Cutting	Not Applicable	2007
2460	WOODS GULCH	Prescribed Burn	Not Applicable	2006
2461	WOODS GULCH	Prescribed Burn	Not Applicable	2006

Note: The Land Treatments represented by navy blue dots on the map to the left are labeled with the treatments ObjectIDs listed in the first field of the Land Treatments table shown above. Multiple types of treatments may have been applied to the same area. For example, one treatment area may have been plowed and drill seeded - a record is shown in the table for each type of treatment.

















