

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Howluk Butte East OR-036-049, 21 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: 2010 Unit Number/Name: OR-036-049 -- Howluk Butte East

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

NOTE: Although this unit contains OR-03-08-26 within the unit, there was no old inventory folder found within the Vale District for this old inventory.

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) 1978-1980 – BLM Wilderness Inventory Units OR-02-74E Tule Springs & OR-02-074K, both within OR-03-08-26 (unpublished BLM documents in case files)

(NOTE: Only a map which displays OR-03-08-26 has been located in Vale District; no associated inventory narrative.)

() April 1979 – *Wilderness -- Proposed Initial Inventory – Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not have Wilderness Characteristics, Oregon and Washington*

Wilderness Decision Documents

- (X) 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)
- (X) October 1979 – *Wilderness Review – Intensive Inventory - Oregon, Proposed Decision on the Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas* (grey document)
- (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 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)

OR-02-74E Tule Springs & OR-02-074K, both within OR-03-08-26

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

- () Final Decision – Initial Wilderness Inventory Map, August 1979, Oregon

- (X) Proposed Decision -- Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas Map, October 1979, Oregon
- (X) 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/Jordan Resource Area

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
OR-02-74E Tule Springs* and OR-02-74K ** of OR-03-08-26 ***	23,140	Y	N	N	Y
	5,690	Y	N	N	N
TOTAL	28,830				

* -- Most of this area is within Burns District. Official late 1979's and 2003 WC inventory maintenance documents are retained in Burns BLM District Office.

** -- Most of this unit is within Vale District.

*** -- No records of OR-03-08-26 found within the Vale District office.

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

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FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-036-049 -- Howluk Butte East

NOTE: In September, 2002, the Burns District received from Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) its evaluation of wilderness characteristics for what ONDA names its 22,975 acre Tule Springs Roadless Area” (alias “Proposed Tule Springs WSA”). This proposal covers lands within both Burns and Vale BLM Districts. For reference, a hard copy of ONDA’s evaluation is retained in this unit’s file. Information provided by ONDA’s evaluation was considered and incorporated as appropriate for this Vale District BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory maintenance.

Information in this Form 2 is supported by reference to Map 1 of BLM’s OR-036-049 unit, to ONDA’s “Tule Springs WSA” map, to Burns District’s late 1970’s OR-2-74D/ -74E/-74K-74L map, and to Burns District’s recent (2003) WC inventory maintenance map for 2-74E Tule Springs map (a copy of each retained in BLM’s hard copy file of OR-036-049).

Within Burns District, ONDA identifies a route segment (A29f) in the northwest sector of its proposed Tule Springs WSA) as not a road, and references photos (assumably B38 and B39), and states that the route should remain for the continued access of private property along the northwest boundary of its proposed WSA, thus keeping its proposed WSA separate from the adjacent Alvord Desert WSA. Burns District identifies the same route segment as a road, thus as a boundary feature of Burns District current Tule Springs WC inventory unit. Therefore, Burns District’s Tule Springs unit is not contiguous with the existing Alvord Desert WSA.

The boundaries of Vale District’s unit OR-036-049 (Howluk Butte East) are not the same as ONDA’s proposal. At approximately the middle of its east boundary for its OR-036-049 inventory unit – and fully within Vale District -- Vale District identifies ONDA’s “A32” route as a motorized primitive trail (MPT), thus not a boundary feature. ONDA depicts it “A32” route as a road, and respectively as a boundary feature of its proposed WSA.

The second difference between BLM and ONDA regarding a feature of the inventory unit boundary is that, unlike ONDA’s proposal, BLM concludes that a segment of ONDA’s route “A29g” (what BLM Vale District identifies as route 036-RT27; alias, a segment of the 6316-00 “Ranch Loop” route) does not meet criteria as a road but rather is a MPT; furthermore, Vale District concludes that a portion (segment) of this delineated ONDA route is no longer visually evidenced. ONDA depicts it entire “A29g” route as a road, thus as part of its (north)east boundary for its proposed WSA. So, in conclusion, unlike ONDA’s proposal, Vale District’s OR-036-049 inventory unit extends further east than this route, resulting in this unit being of larger area than ONDA’s WSA proposal. Refer to Vale District’s OR-036-049 inventory unit’s associated Road Analysis form, BLM Photo Point Map/Log, and affiliated photographs for additional documentation of 036-RT27.

Note --- As with ONDA’s proposal, the Burns District’s wilderness characteristics map affiliated with its 2003 2-74E Tule Springs inventory unit depicts this same ONDA route --

“A29g” -- as a boundary road for its BLM inventory unit [of which a certain stretch of it is of the same location as Vale District’s 034-RT27 MPT]. Thus, in summary regarding this particular route, Vale District has a different finding for this route than either ONDA or Burns District when applying BLM’s definition of “road” for wilderness characteristics inventory maintenance. In fact, Vale District finds that the northern portion of ONDA’s and /Burns District’s depicted route is actually a drainage bottom which has no apparent evidence of having served as a vehicle route; and, furthermore, that the northern portion of 034-RT27’s orientation [linear location] has been abandoned [i.e., no longer displays visual evidence of repeated travel] – since some point in time following its original [unknown date] of establishment.)

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 unit’s associated Map 1 for its location. Reference maps of BLM Burns District’s late 1970’s inventory units OR-2-74E and OR-2-74K and of that district’s August 2003 inventory maintenance for OR-2-74E, named Tule Springs, are retained in the hard copy file of OR-036-049.

This 28,683 acre OR-036-049 unit is composed of public lands in both Burns BLM District (22,519 acres) Vale District (a total of 6,164 acres composed of 2 separated sectors due to the orientation of the BLM district boundary with boundaries of another wilderness characteristics unit in the area -- approximately 5,134 acres in the north sector and 970 acres in the south sector). It includes a combination of Burns’ subunits OR-2-74E Tule Springs (23,140 acres) and OR-2-74K (5,690 acres) of BLM’s late 1970’s inventory, with most of OR-2-74K located within Vale District. The difference in BLM documented acreage by BLM between the late 1970’s and presently is due to the increased accuracy of measuring tools available to the agency since the late 1970’s. Burns District’s wilderness characteristics (WC) inventory maintenance for development of its 2005 Andrews/Steens RMP states that all boundary roads of its current OR-02-074E Tule Springs unit within Burns District are the same as in the late 1970’s inventory. Since then, Vale District has determined that a segment of BLM route 036-RT27 (alias, a segment of the 6316-00 “Ranch Loop” route) is not a road (which in the late 1970’s separated Burn’s District’s OR-2-74E and OR-2-74K), thus combining these two subunits as the present Vale District’s OR-036-049 unit which is shared by the two districts. For additional information regarding the present status of the 036-RT27 segment, refer to its BLM Road Analysis form, BLM Photo Point Map/Log, and affiliated photographs. The boundary roads of OR-036-049 receive mechanical maintenance as needed to keep them passable on a relatively regular and seasonally continuous basis.

OR-036-049's north boundary consists of a north segment of BLM road 6316-00 and 7283-0-A0; its east side of non-BLM land and a combination of a southern road segment of BLM 6316-00 and another road traversing public lands; an electric transmission line's right-of-way on its south side; and a combination of non-BLM lands, a segment of BLM road 7238-0-00 and another road segment crossing public lands along the inventory unit's west side. The unit's boundary roads receive mechanical maintenance as needed to keep them passable on a relatively regular and continuous (seasonal) basis. There is 1.6 miles of no or nearly no visual evidence of a vehicle route (that which at one time, in part, distinguished the late 1970's subunit OR-2-74E from OR-2-74K). A total of 800 acres of four 4 non-BLM inholdings (3 in Burns District, 640 acres; one in Vale District, 160 acres) are also features of OR-036-049's boundary.

See the "NOTE", above, for an explanation of variances between the descriptive bounds of OR-036-049 and ONDA's proposed Tule Springs WSA.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No N/A

Description: Elevations within the OR-036-049 inventory unit range from 4,040 to 5,232 feet. The Tule Springs Rims complex in Burns District rises about 400 feet abruptly along most of the western side of OR-036-049. From this ridge the terrain slopes gently to the east and north. Most of the unit's small drainages drain generally to the north; while some, like the terrain associated within Vale District's northern sector of this unit (4,580 to 4,200 feet in elevation) which drops predominately northeast with moderate to gentle slopes from Howluk Butte along the Burns/Vale districts' administrative boundary. Within Vale District's southern sector of this inventory unit, the terrain (5,150 to 4,800 feet in elevation) is predominately moderately sloped south-to-north oriented slopes from the unit's south boundary. Other than the Rims complex, the majority of the unit is dominated by gently rolling hills. The major vegetative type is sagebrush. A portion of the Alvord – Tule Springs - Coyote Lakes Wild Horse Management Area is within the inventory unit.

Refer to OR-036-049's associated Map 1 for a partial depiction of human imprints within the unit. (To date, Vale District has not received – for map display -- location or extent of certain imprints mentioned herein. (On Map 1 of OR-036-049, within that part of the Burns District's present OR-2-74E Tule Springs unit, only MPTs and certain rangeland fences are displayed.) Burns District 2003 WC maintenance states new developments within the unit since the late 1970's inventory include 2 water wells, 20 miles of rangeland fence, a wildlife guzzler, and motorized vehicle routes associated with mining claims that are not of road status.) Burns District's late 1970's narrative inventory documents human developments within that district's late 1970's OR-2-74E subunit to be hard rock (locatable minerals) surface mining scars in its northwestern corner, a water well in the southwestern corner, and "many miles of ways" (now referenced as MPTs in Vale District) located mostly through the southern end of the area. Burn's district found that the same entire late 1970's subunit was in a natural condition with all developments

dispersed throughout the subunit or located along the boundary, and are not substantially noticeable.

Burns District's August 2003 WC maintenance found its present OR-2-74E Tule Springs unit (with the same boundary features as during the late 1970's – thus excluding Vale District's north sector of OR-036-049) to be in a natural condition in its "western portion" but not in its "eastern portion" because of mining activities. To date, Burns District has not clarified for Vale District what bounds the eastern from the western portion of its OR-2-74E inventory unit (both which, also, are fully within OR-036-049).

In the late 1970's WC inventory, there were no human developments identified within the then OR-2-74K subunit (that is, that portion of OR-036-049, most which is located within Vale District). Within Vale District, in its north sector of this current OR-036-049 unit, there is 3 miles of a rangeland fence and 2.3 miles of two MPTs (including the 036-RT27 MPT, alias a specific segment of the 6316-00 route). Within Vale District's south sector of the inventory unit, there is 2.3 miles of 4 MPTs, 1.0 mile of rangeland fence, and a developed spring with its associated surface storage tank, trough and 0.3 mile of buried pipeline --- all of these imprints are very close to the OR-036-049 unit's east boundary and extreme southeast corner (i.e., that portion of 6316-00 in this area determined to be a road by both Burns and Vale districts). Thus, regarding MPTs and rangeland fences, within Vale District of OR-036-049 there is a sum of 4 miles of rangeland fences and 4.5 miles of 6 MPTs; within the Burns District's portion of the inventory unit, there are 14.1 miles of rangeland fence and 14.4 miles of 11 MPTs.

Vale District acknowledges Burns District's finding that its "western portion" of its OR-2-74E unit is in a natural condition, and that its "eastern portion" is not in a natural condition. Burns District has not provided Vale District a definitive boundary between its west and east portions. Within Vale District, the district finds both its north sector and south sector within OR-036-049 to be in a natural condition. The overall affect is OR-036-049 has three locations (Burns' "western portion" and Vale District's two sectors that are located along the unit's east boundary – and which are physically separated from each other) which appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of mankind being substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor. This is due to the type, nature, locations, extent, and overall spatial separation of human imprints -- relative to the areas' individual size and natural attributes at large. Burns district has determined that the remainder of OR-036-049 (i.e., the same area as the Burns District "east portion" of its OR-2-74E unit) is not in a natural condition due to the collective visual impact of the sum total of those associated developments which are located within it.

The end result is OR-036-049 has three areas separated from each other by the unnatural "east portion" within Burns District, with each of the three separated areas determined by BLM to appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of mankind being substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor. They are the 2 Vale District sectors, both which are contiguous with the Burns District's area of the inventory unit -- 5,134 acres in the north sector and 970 acres in the south sector -- and the Burns District's "western portion" of an unknown size (to Vale District at this time).

ONDA states that its entire proposed Tule Springs WSA is in a natural condition. Burns District's August 2003 completed WC inventory maintenance for that portion of OR-036-049 within Burns District that abuts the district boundary with Vale District found that it is not in a natural condition in its "eastern portion". Vale District's finding for the 2 sectors of OR-036-049 within Vale District (of which all is contiguous to the Burns District's "eastern portion") is in a natural condition for reasons stated above.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: Vale District acknowledges Burns District's 2003 finding that its OR-2-74E unit does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude. That Burns District unit does include -- within the Vale District -- the above described south sector of OR-036-049 (970 acres). The remaining area of OR-036-049 -- the north sector (5,134 acres), which is located fully within Vale District -- is subject to a finding regarding outstanding opportunities for solitude. The types and nature of the sector's vegetation does not provide sufficient screening to aid outstanding opportunities for solitude. This north sector ranges from less than a mile to 3 miles wide by about 2.5 - 3 miles long. However, the location of the private 160 acre inholding in this sector's southeast area -- as it relates to the close proximity of the inventory unit's outer boundary features (roads) in this area -- adversely affects continuity for solitude of about 500 acres of public land in the sector's southeast corner area. Within this north sector, the steady expansion and extent of predominately gentle to then approaching nearly flat terrain provides little topographic relief to aid in providing outstanding opportunities for solitude. This last point, combined with most all of the terrain of this north sector being sloped in a same (generally northeasterly) orientation and with shallow drainages stemming from the ridgeline of the higher Howluk Butte, does not lend sufficient terrain features relative to the size of the sector to provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude.

ONDA states that its proposed Tule Springs WSA contains outstanding opportunities for solitude due to its "considerable size", "expansive area". ONDA notes that BLM has stated that one should not assume that simply because an area or portion of an area is flat and/or unvegetated, it automatically lacks an outstanding feeling of solitude. Regarding OR-036-049, Burns District has already conducted its WC inventory maintenance for that portion of OR-036-049 located within Burns District. For that north sector of OR-036-049 within Vale District, BLM explains above that the nature of the vegetation and topography of the Vale District portion of OR-036-049 inventoried for solitude are not the only factors considered, noting that BLM has also taken into account the area's configuration, dimensions, the affect of an inholding, and the orientation of the sector's topography -- in combination with the nature of its other features -- when establishing its finding.

4. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: Vale District acknowledges Burns District’s 2003 finding that its OR-2-74E unit does not have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. That Burns District unit does include -- within the Vale District -- the above described south sector of OR-036-049 (970 acres). The remaining area of OR-036-049 – the north sector (5,134 acres), which is located fully within Vale District – is subject to a finding regarding outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The common primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities within the unit – including within this north sector of within Vale District -- are the same as identified by BLM for the area in the late 1970’s and/or have long been available. They include hunting of certain common game species (primarily deer, some antelope and chukar), hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding. Rock climbing opportunities do exist within the inventory unit, but the north sector area within Vale District is not noted for this recreational pursuit. Camping associated with backpacking may occur within the unit at large, and sightseeing and nature photography opportunities are available in the unit, although none of these activities are as common as hunting. There are no unique or special features or attractions which would specifically draw visitors to the area – including within the north sector within Vale District -- to participate in these or other activities. While bighorn sheep use habitat exists within the western and northeastern sectors of OR-036-049, these locations are at the outer edge of the species’ habitat use range and possess less preferred habitat values for the animals; respectively, hunting opportunities of the species in these locations is not of outstanding character. In summary, these various activities – individually, in combination or collectively -- are not of such quality, availability and/or uniqueness as to provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

There is opportunity to view wild horses of the Alvord – Tule Springs - Coyote Lakes Wild Horse Management Area. Although a less common and interesting experience, viewing wild horses is not an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined recreation activity. The presence of wild horses is a feature of the natural condition of the unit and is also described as a supplemental value associated with the inventory unit.

Along with what activities BLM includes above, ONDA states that those activities and also rockhounding, bouldering (what BLM includes in rock climbing, above), and viewing of wildflowers, wildlife and geology (what BLM terms sightseeing, above) are outstanding opportunities of primitive and unconfined recreation within its proposed Tule Springs WSA. BLM concurs that while all of these activities are available within OR-036-049, none of them -- or in any combination of them or with the other described opportunities in the above first paragraph of this criteria -- are outstanding opportunities for the reasons stated in the above paragraphs.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes X No N/A

Description: The whole unit is associated with a portion of the Alvord –Tule Springs - Coyote Lakes Wild Horse Management Area. The western edge of the unit is included in bighorn sheep habitat; bighorn sheep is a BLM special status animal species in Oregon. An area in the unit’s southwest corner and near its south boundary within Burns District has Alvord milkvetch and solitary milkvetch -- both are BLM special status plant species.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-036-049 -- Howluk Butte East

Summary Results of Analysis:

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

Conclusion -- check one:

- The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness character.
- X The area does not have wilderness character. The sectors of the unit within Vale District do not have wilderness character.

Prepared by: Robert Alward
 Robert Alward, Wilderness Planner contractor, Vale District

Team Members:

<u>Richard White</u>	<u>4/29/10</u>
Richard White, Range Management Specialist, Vale District	Date
<u>Dave Draheim</u>	<u>7/13/10</u>
Dave Draheim, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Vale District	Date
<u>Jack Wenderoth</u>	<u>5/17/10</u>
Jack Wenderoth, Planning Contractor, Vale District	Date
<u>Eian Ray</u>	<u>5-14-10</u>
Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, contractor, Vale District	Date
<u>Brent Grasty</u>	<u>5/18/10</u>
Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator, Vale District	Date

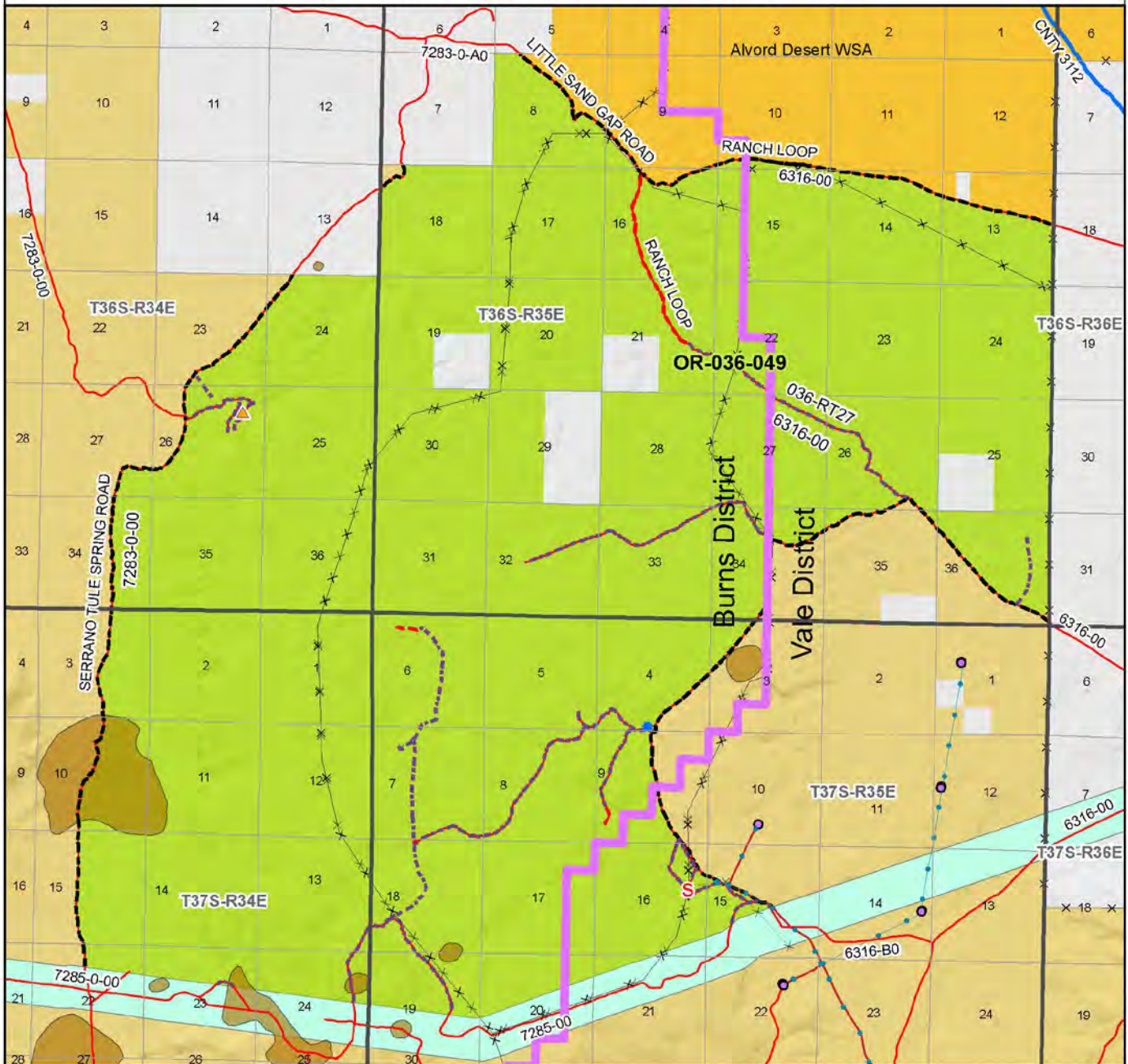
Approved by:

Carolyn R. Freeborn 7/19/2010
 Carolyn Freeborn, Jordan Resource Area Field Manager, Vale District 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.

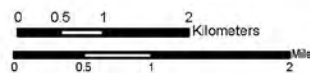
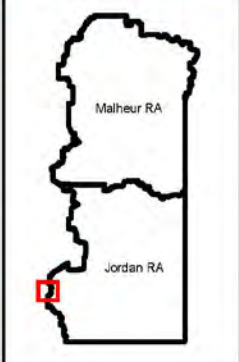
Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Howluk Butte East - OR-036-049 - Map 1 of 1



Legend

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S Developed Spring ▲ Wildlife Guzzler ● Earthen Reservoir — Pipeline ○ Trough X 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"> — Boundary Road — Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT) — Discontinued Use — County — Major Highway — BLM Numbered & Other Routes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bureau of Land Management ■ State ■ Private ■ Other Federal Land — District Boundary |
|--|--|---|



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

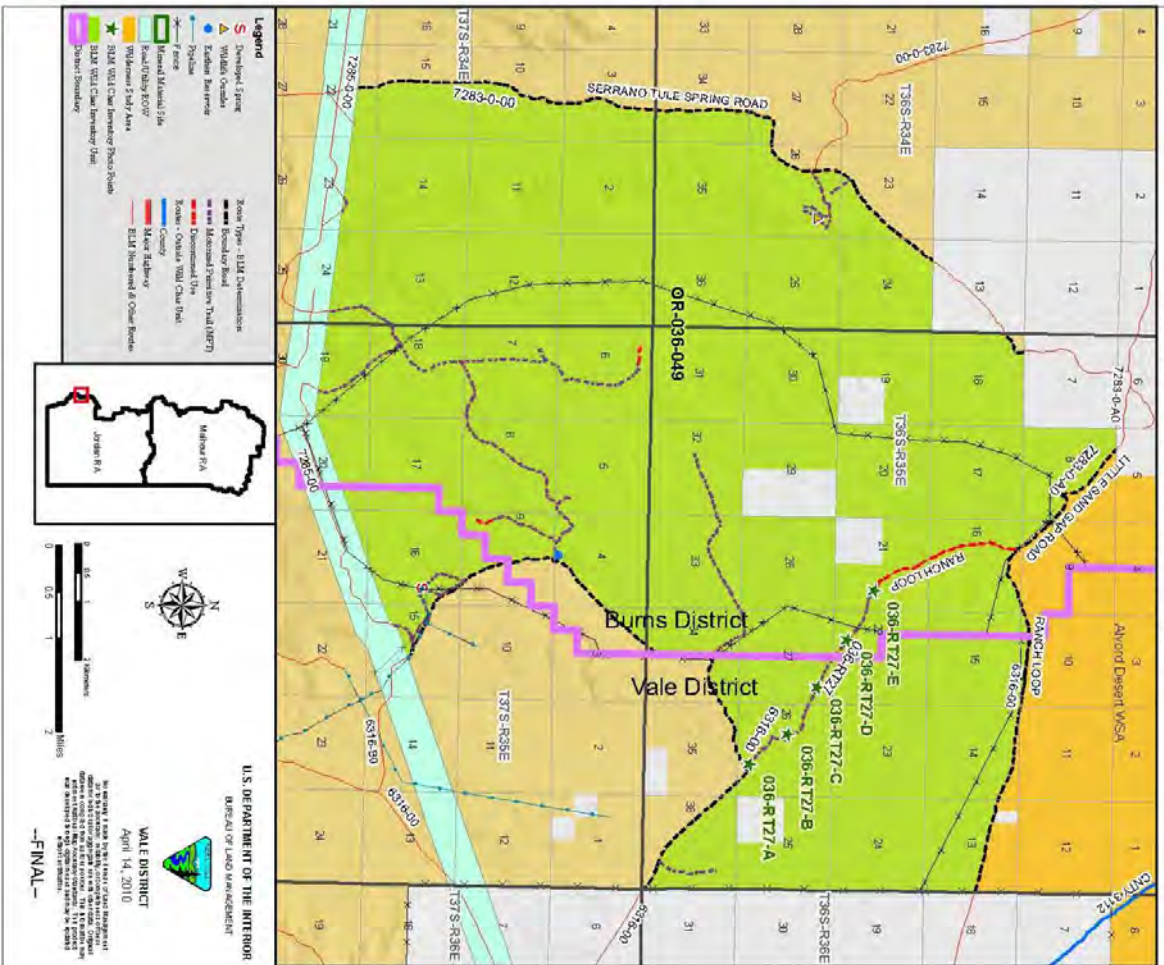


VALE DISTRICT
April 14, 2010

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
Howluk Butte East - OR-036-049



Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Points
Howluk Butte East - OR-036-049

PHOTO_LOCATION	DIRECTION	PHOTO_TYPE	PHOTO_DATE	COMMENTS
036-R1Z7-A	W	Route	7/1/2009	No evidence of construction or maintenance.
036-R1Z7-A	E	Route	7/1/2009	No evidence of construction or maintenance.
036-R1Z7-B	NW	Route	7/1/2009	No evidence of construction or maintenance.
036-R1Z7-B	SE	Route	7/1/2009	No evidence of construction or maintenance.
036-R1Z7-C	W	Route	7/1/2009	No evidence of construction or maintenance.
036-R1Z7-C	E	Route	7/1/2009	No evidence of construction or maintenance.
036-R1Z7-D	NW	Route	7/1/2009	Fence, gate.
036-R1Z7-D	SE	Route	7/1/2009	No evidence of construction or maintenance.
036-R1Z7-E	NW	Route	7/1/2009	No evidence of construction or maintenance.
036-R1Z7-E	SE	Route	7/1/2009	No evidence of construction or maintenance.

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.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 VALE DISTRICT
 April 14, 2010
 --FINAL--



036-RT27-A-E.JPG



036-RT27-B-SE.JPG



036-RT27-D-NW.JPG



036-RT27-A-W.JPG



036-RT27-C-E.JPG



036-RT27-D-SE.JPG



036-RT27-B-NW.JPG



036-RT27-C-W.JPG



036-RT27-E-NW.JPG



036-RT27-E-SE.JPG

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

APPENDIX C – ROAD* ANALYSIS

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road for wilderness inventory purposes.)

Wilderness Inv Unit Name/Number: OR-036-049 – Howluk Butte East

Route Name and/or Identifier *(Include Transportation Plan Identifier, if known; include route number supplied by citizen information when available):*

O36-RT27 (alias, BLM 6316-00) – within Vale District, only.

(Note 1: ONDA identifies a portion of this route as a given segment of its A29a route combined with its 29g route. Individually and in combination, ONDA identifies these routes as a boundary road of its proposed Tule Springs WSA.)

(Note 2: Burns District, in 2003, identifies a portion of this route as a boundary road of its OR-2-74E inventory unit, including that segment of the route located within Vale District. At the time, no inter-district wilderness characteristic inventory maintenance communications occurred the Burns District unit.)

I. LOCATION: Within the inventory unit’s northeast area (alias, within the southwest sector of the portion of the unit located within Vale District). **List photo point references (if applicable):** Refer to this BLM inventory unit’s associated hard copy of its BLM Photo Points map, and affiliated Photo Log and photos -- retained in this unit’s permanent hard copy file, and electronically retained under this unit’s subfolder Final Findings/GIS Products. Any applicable ONDA map, photos and affiliated Photo Log are electronically retained in the Vale BLM office.

II. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE:

(Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment).)

Describe: This route provides access to a rangeland fence, and about 0.5 miles beyond (northwest) the fence – and fully within Burns District -- the route has the appearance of being abandoned and no longer traveled northwest to the junction with 6316-00 / 7283-O-A. Route does not serve as a significant connective route to anything. Recreationists – most likely primarily hunters -- may occasionally use the route.

III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:

Is a road right-of-way associated with this route?

Yes ___ No X Unknown ___

IV. CONSTRUCTIONYes _____ No X_____Examples: Paved _____ Bladed _____ Graveled _____ Roadside
Berms _____ Cut/Fill _____ Other _____**Describe:** Where existing, including all within Vale District, there presently is no apparent evidence of construction of the route. If it was constructed, its date is unknown. BLM has labeled it -- sometime in the past -- as a segment of the “Ranch Loop” route.**V. IMPROVEMENTS**Yes _____ No X_____

By Hand Tools _____ By Machine _____

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 X_____

If yes: Hand Tools (Y/N) _____ Machine (Y/N) _____

Explain:**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 X_____**Comments:** The route – where existing (i.e., to BLM photo point 036-RT27-E) -- is not in good condition. It appears to remain in existence due only to occasional passage by a vehicle.**VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:**Yes _____ No X_____

Describe evidence (vehicle tracks observed) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis:

There is no evidence of relatively regular and continuous use. The route is virtually non-existent northwest of BLM photo point 036-RT27-E.

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 X

Explanation: Within Vale District, the route does not meet road criteria, as described and explained above. As a result, the OR-036-049 inventory unit extends further to the west than does ONDA’s proposed WSA or Burns District’s 2003 inventory unit OR-2-74E (Tule Springs).

(Note: This finding differs from that of ONDA and of Burns District, both which a portion of this route each found it to be a road – both within Vale and Burns Districts. The remaining [north] segment of the displayed road by ONDA and Burns District [i.e., branching to the north from 036-RT27 just northwest of BLM photo point 036-RT27-E to then junction with BLM road 6316-OO] appears to be the same as a drainage channel [this segment is not depicted on the accompanying Vale District Photo Point Map for the OR-036-049 inventory unit]).

Evaluator(s):  Date: 4/21/10
Richard White, Range Management Specialist

* **road:** An access route which has 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.

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.

Following is the definition from Glossary of OSO 7-3-2007 Draft H-6300-1:

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”.