

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Hunter Creek OR-034-044, 9 total pages

Page 1: Index Cover Sheet

[Page 2: Form 1 – Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory: Findings on Record](#)

[Page 5: Form 2 – Documentation of Current Wilderness Inventory Conditions](#)

[Page 8: Form 2 – Summary of Findings and Conclusion](#)

[Page 9: Wilderness Characteristics Overview – Hunter Creek OR-034-044 Map 1 of 1](#)

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



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

APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION

Evaluation of Current Conditions:

- 1) Document and review the existing BLM wilderness inventory findings on file, if available, regarding the presence or absence of individual wilderness characteristics, using Form 1, below.
- 2) Consider relevant information regarding current conditions available in the office to identify and describe any changes to the existing information (use interdisciplinary (ID) team knowledge, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc.), and document your findings on Form 2, below.

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

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

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

Year: 2009 **Unit Number/Name:** OR-034-044 --Hunter Creek

**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?

(NOTE: See “*” footnote statement under section “2.”, below)

Yes No *(If yes, and if more than one unit is within the area, list the names of those units.):*

A.) Inventory Source(s) -- (X) Denotes all applicable BLM Inventory files, printed maps, or published BLM Decision documents with information pertaining to this unit.

Wilderness Inventories

- () 1978 – BLM Wilderness Inventory Units OR-03 (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)
(not applicable)

C.) Map Name(s)/Number(s) -- (not applicable)

- () 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 Office/ Malheur 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: (No historic found)

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

* -- The area for the 2009 WC inventory maintenance is historically identified only as what was part of “3-35” (per the August 1979 WC inventory decision map) and depicted on that map as “Previously Inventoried BLM Unit Found Not to Have Wilderness Characteristics”. The final “3-35” is what today is known as OR-3-35, Sperry Creek WSA, which is smaller in area than the original “3-35” inventory unit. No records can be located within Vale District to either track the original acreage of “3-35”, or statement(s) of rationale for the eventual decreased size of the unit (but which then eventually became the WSA). Any record of determination of the WC criteria for the original “3-35” cannot be located.

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.*

FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-034-044 – Hunter Creek

Note: In February, 2004, the Vale District received from Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) its evaluation of wilderness characteristics for what ONDA names its 27,522 acre “Hunter Peak proposed WSA”. For reference, a hard copy of ONDA’s proposal is retained in this unit’s file. Information provided by ONDA’s proposal was considered and incorporated as appropriate for this BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory maintenance.

ONDA recommends its proposed area to be a “stand-alone WSA”, although stating that its proposed WSA is separated by the adjacent existing BLM Sperry Creek WSA (OR-3-35) by vehicular “ways” (CWb and CWc), or what BLM terms for this inventory maintenance a motorized primitive trail (MPT).

Unit OR-034-044 represents nearly the same area as ONDA’s proposal. The only difference from ONDA’s proposal relative to boundaries is that BLM concludes that OR-034-044 excludes a small 147 acre area of ONDA’s proposed WSA associated with a segment of its east boundary CWb and CWc routes. Unlike ONDA’s proposal, BLM concludes that ONDA’s CWb and CWc routes are segments of an existing road (7331-0-00). This road, in part, separates the 147 acre area from ONDA’s proposed WSA. However, BLM has determined that this small parcel is contiguous with BLM’s existing Sperry Creek WSA (OR-3-35). Refer to BLM’s present inventory unit OR-034-119, Sperry Creek Contiguous, for how BLM addresses these 147 acres.

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 the associated Map 1 of this inventory unit for its location. The 28,161 acre unit is bounded largely by extensive blocks of private lands along its northwest, north and east sides, two short segments of BLM Road 7331-0-00 along its east side (both which separate the unit from Sperry Creek WSA (OR 3-35), and more of 7331-0-00 on its south side until it junctions with Malheur County Road 514 which constitutes the unit’s west boundary. On the unit’s north boundary, several segments of it are the ROW associated with U.S. Highway 20. There are two private inholdings totaling approximately 270 acres which are also features of the unit’s boundary. BLM route 7331-0-0B0, which branches from within private property on the unit’s east boundary and dead-ends on public land, has deteriorated to a point of being recognized not as a road but as a motorized primitive trail (MPT).

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No N/A

Description: The unit includes entire or nearly entire watersheds associated with a complex of drainages, including Hunter Creek, Pine Creek, Saddlehorse Creek, Canyon Creek, Clark Canyon, Conroy Canyon and Dinner Creek; segments of other smaller, separate drainages and canyons are also within the unit, many which are closer to the unit's north boundary (draining into Malheur River canyon with its paralleling U.S. Highway 20 – both fully outside of the unit). This drainage complex has a highly diverse system of multi-directional slopes of moderate to very steep gradients, ridgelines, rock outcroppings, mesas, and hill tops. Elevations range from 2,820 to 5,540 feet. The vegetation consists of the typical high desert shrub and native grass species with non-native cheat grass throughout the unit which appears natural to the average visitor.

Refer to this unit's associated Map 1 for locations of human imprints. There are 29 earthen reservoirs, 1 developed spring, 6 fenced enclosures ((of which 2 sites each have 2 abutting fenced enclosures) 37 miles of rangeland fence, and 20.4 miles of 17 motorized primitive trails (MPTs). There are also 2 abandoned vehicular route segments which are substantially obscured by reclaimed vegetation. Due to the unit's large size and highly diverse and complex topography, the types, extent and distribution of human-made developments present allows the unit to remain affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans being substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes No N/A

Description: The unit ranges from 4 to over 6 miles in width and from less than a mile to 9 miles in length. The area provides no vegetative screening. However, the area's varied and complex topography combined with the unit's size and configuration provides outstanding opportunities for solitude, be it in a canyon setting or atop numerous elevated features. The location and orientation of many of the MPTs does not preclude a high quality sense of isolation within vast reaches of the area's drainages and amongst other topographic settings. Due to the proximity of U.S. Highway 20 along certain segments of the unit's north boundary, the immediate highway setting associated with those segments of the unit do not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

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

Yes No N/A

Description: Hunting of common game species (primarily deer and chukar, some antelope) is the primary primitive and unconfined recreation activity within the unit. Hiking and horseback riding which may occur are primarily associated with hunting within the unit. There are no unique or special recreation-related features associated with the unit. The nature of these activities within the unit – individually or collectively – does not provide outstanding opportunities of primitive and unconfined recreation.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes No N/A

Description: Three leks of sage grouse, a BLM special status animal species, is within the unit. The unit is within a much larger potential bighorn sheep habitat area.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-034-044 – Hunter Creek

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 No
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? X Yes No NA
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? X 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.

Prepared by: Robert Alward
Robert Alward, Wilderness Planner contractor

Team Members:

<u>Shaney Rockefeller</u> Shaney Rockefeller, Soil Scientist	<u>4/13/09</u> Date
<u>Diane H Pritchard</u> Diane Pritchard, Archeologist	<u>4/21/09</u> Date
<u>Steve Christensen</u> Steve Christensen, Rangeland Management Specialist	<u>4-13-2009</u> Date
<u>Brent Grasty</u> Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator	<u>4/13/09</u> Date

(NOTE: Prior to her July, 2008 retirement, Botanist Jean Finley had reviewed an earlier draft of this unit.)

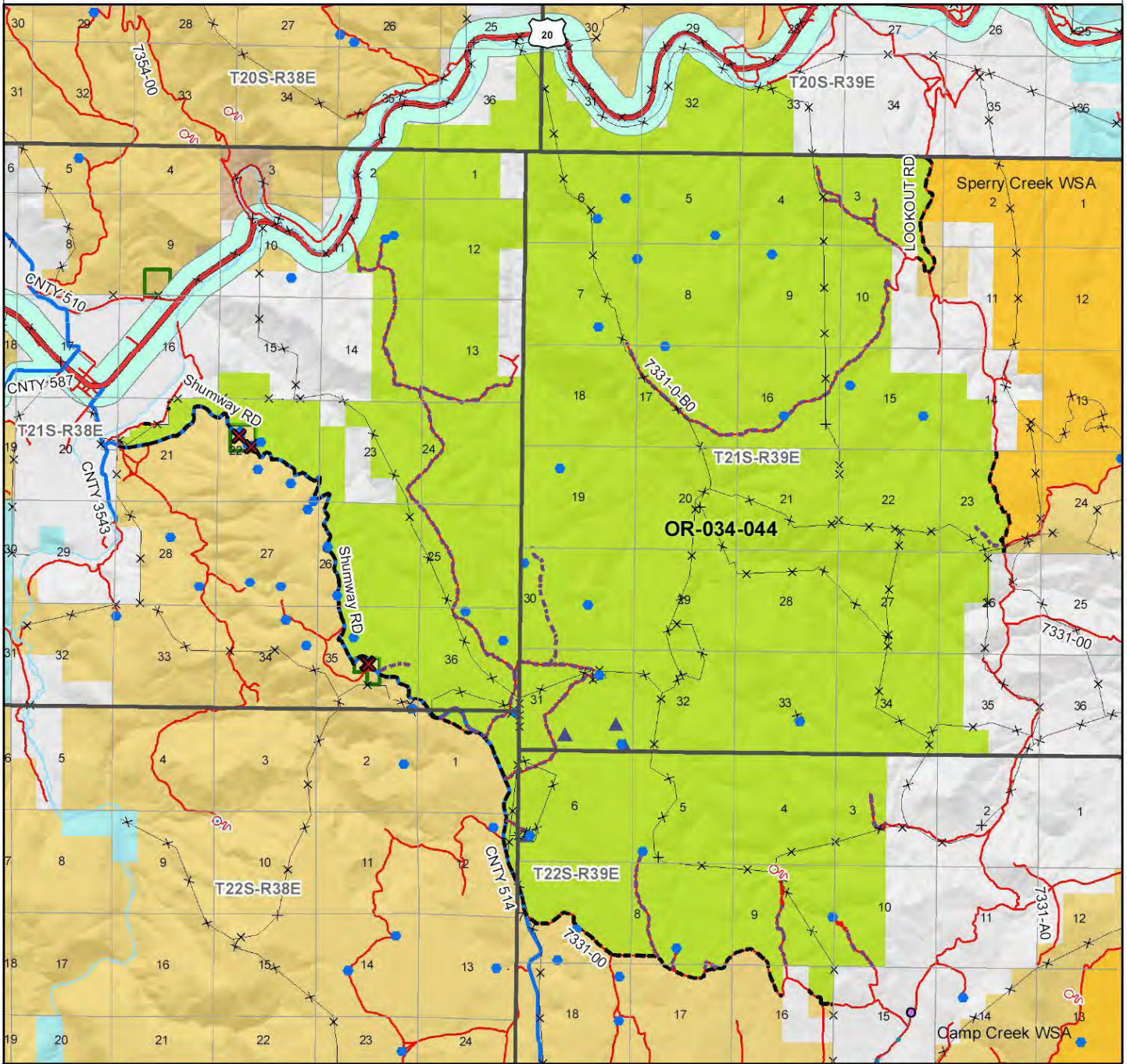
Approved by:

Pat Ryan
Pat Ryan, Malheur Resource Area Field Manager 10/15/10
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.

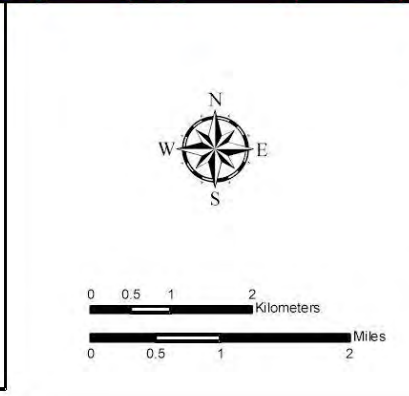
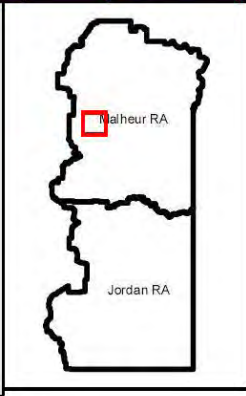
Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Hunter Creek - OR-034-044 - Map 1 of 1



Legend

Developed Spring	Boundary Road
Wildlife Guzzler	Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT)
Earthen Reservoir	Discontinued Use
Pipeline	Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit
Trough	Major Highway
Fence	BLM Numbered & Other Routes
Storage Tank	Land Ownership
Surface Mining Disturbance	Bureau of Land Management
Sage Grouse Lek	State
Special Status Plant	Private
BLM Wild Char Inventory Unit	Other Federal Land
Wilderness Study Area	
Mineral Material Site	
Road/Utility Right-of-Way	
Major Water Body	



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

VALE DISTRICT
January 9, 2009

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. The product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

--FINAL--