

## Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents **Indian Camp OR-036-075, 20 total pages**

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**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, and photos). Evaluate any submitted citizen information regarding the validity of proposed boundaries of the unit(s), the existence of roads and other boundary features, the size of the unit(s), and the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics based on relevant information available in the office (prior BLM inventories, ID team knowledge, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc.)

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

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

**Year:** 2011      **Unit Number/Name:** OR-036-075—Indian Camp

**FORM 1 -- DOCUMENTATION OF BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY  
FINDINGS ON RECORD**

**1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?**

Yes  No  *(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**

- (X) 1978 – BLM Wilderness Inventory Units 3-123 of OR-03-09-04 Indian Camp (unpublished BLM documents stored in Vale District case files)
- (X) 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)
- ( ) 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 3-123 of OR-03-09-04 Indian Camp

**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 Office

Jordan 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
3-123 of OR-03-09-04 Indian Camp	10,600	N	*	*	*
<b>TOTAL</b>	10,600				

\*-These criteria were not addressed during the inventory of this unit.

## **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, and photos). 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-036-075 – Indian Camp

**Note:** In February, 2004, the Vale District received from Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) its evaluation of wilderness characteristics. Within ONDA's GIS information of the 2004 document ONDA characterized a boundary road of the Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA as a "way" (ONDA route OR8b). ONDA did not propose any WSA or WSA addition for the area adjacent to or including their route information for OR8b. ONDA's route OR8b corresponds to a section of BLM Road 036-RT20 that forms a boundary for BLM Unit OR-036-075. This presents a problem of whether ONDA is correct in calling this section of BLM Road 036-RT20 an actual road or a way. Please refer to BLM's Road analysis for Road 036-RT20 where BLM has provided information about ONDA's route OR8b section and has determined that it meets the definition of a road for inventory purposes.

**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:** BLM Unit OR-036-075 is comprised of 10,332 acres, meeting the size criterion. Refer to this inventory unit's associated Map 1 for its location. BLM Unit OR-036-075 was the original BLM Unit 3-123 of OR-03-09-04 Indian Camp of the 1978 -1980 wilderness inventory. Acreage for Unit OR-036-075 in Form 2 is calculated from BLM GIS information. The unit boundary consists of BLM Road 7303-00 on its east side, BLM Road 7305-00 on its north side, and BLM Road 036-RT20 on its northwest, west, and south sides. The natural-surfaced boundary roads receive mechanical maintenance as needed to keep them passable on a regular and continuous (seasonal) basis.

### **2. Is the unit in a natural condition?**

Yes        No   X   N/A       

**Description:** Given its size relative to the evidence of man-made developments, the unit appears to be affected not primarily by the forces of nature but with the imprint of humans that is substantially noticeable to the average visitor. BLM Unit OR-036-075 consists mainly of flat to nearly flat terrain that slopes gently to the west toward the Owyhee River. The eastern terrain made up of small hills rise approximate 100 to 200

feet above the remaining portion of the unit. Elevation ranges from 4,251 feet in the northeastern corner of the unit to a low of 3,905 feet along the southwest near Dry Creek Reservoir above the Bogus Rim. The unit is dissected by numerous small drainages that radiate outwardly in all directions from the center of the unit. Drainages from the east, south, and a portion of the west within the unit flow into Bogus Creek. The northern flowing channels flow into Mud Creek, while the remaining few channels in the west drain directly to the Owyhee River. Vegetation within the unit consists primarily of either big or low sagebrush that contain native and non-native grass species.

Refer to this inventory unit's associated Map 1 and Map 2 for its human developments. Human imprints within the unit include 8.3 miles of 8 motorized primitive trails, 5.9 miles of fence line, one pipeline system consisting of 3.2 miles of pipeline and 4 troughs, 4 earthen reservoirs, 2 fenced reservoir exclosures, and 11 vegetation manipulation treatments from 1956 through 1999. Because the numerous vegetation treatments were conducted in 100 percent of the acreage within the unit over a five decade period presently, to the average visitor, the various vegetation treatments affecting the unit appear as a whole, individually and collectively, mostly distinguishable. Throughout the unit these acres contain contrasting evidence of drill rows from past vegetation treatments. Overall, given the units size relative to the evidence of man-made developments, the unit appears to be affected primarily not by the forces of nature but with the imprint of humans substantially noticeable to the average visitor.

### 3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Description:** BLM concludes that unit OR-036-059 does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The character of this inventory unit has not changed since the 1970's. The unit possesses an irregular shape narrowest along the western boundary and expands to its widest area in the west central portion, then maintains a more uniform width through its middle to the eastern boundary. The unit western boundary is approximately 1.5 miles in width, widens to about 4 miles then narrows to about 3.5 miles in width for the remaining portion. The unit has an overall length of 4.5 to 5.0 miles except for the extreme northwest area that is about 1.5 miles. The 350 feet of elevation change from the eastern boundary to the western boundary is almost uniform or about 70 to 80 feet less per mile sloping to the west. There is no topographic or vegetative screening to restrict the view across the unit from the boundaries because of the relative flatness of the entire unit. The vast majority of the unit lacks pronounced features, secluded sites, and virtually does not contain any extensive vegetative screening for seclusion from others because of the numerous brush removable vegetation treatments and the natural wild fires that have occurred throughout 100 percent of the unit. As a result of the area's size relative to its shape, the absence of vegetative screening, and the lack of diversity in relief over most of the unit, there is no outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

**Description:** BLM concludes that BLM Unit OR-036-075 does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are available in the unit, but the opportunities are not outstanding. Recreational opportunities within the unit include hiking, camping, horseback riding, photography, bird watching, geological study, general sightseeing, and hunting of common game species (chukar, antelope, and deer). The opportunities for these activities are not outstanding because, relative to others of its kind, the unit as a whole lacks scenic quality, diversity of landforms, and challenging terrain.

Although the opportunity to hunt Bighorn sheep within this inventory parcel may exist, BLM does not find it to be outstanding due to the limited terrain within the parcel that Bighorn sheep occupy and utilize on a regular basis (e.g., rugged, rocky, cliffy or steep-sloped terrain). Moreover, while this parcel is included within the identified potential habitat for Bighorn sheep, no local sheep herd is known to inhabit or move through the area within the parcel.

**5. Does the unit have supplemental values?**Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No   X   NA \_\_\_\_\_**Description:**



**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

**Unit Name and Number:** OR-036-059 — Bogus Rim

**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:** Jack Wenderoth 4-5-11  
Jack Wenderoth, Planning Contractor

**Team Members:**

<u>Aimee Huff</u> Aimee Huff, Rangeland Management Specialist	<u>4/5/2011</u> Date
<u>Eian Ray</u> Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, Contractor	<u>4-5-11</u> Date
<u>Garth R. Ross</u> Garth Ross, Wildlife Biologist	<u>4/5/2011</u> Date
<u>Brent Grasty</u> Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator	<u>4/5/11</u> Date

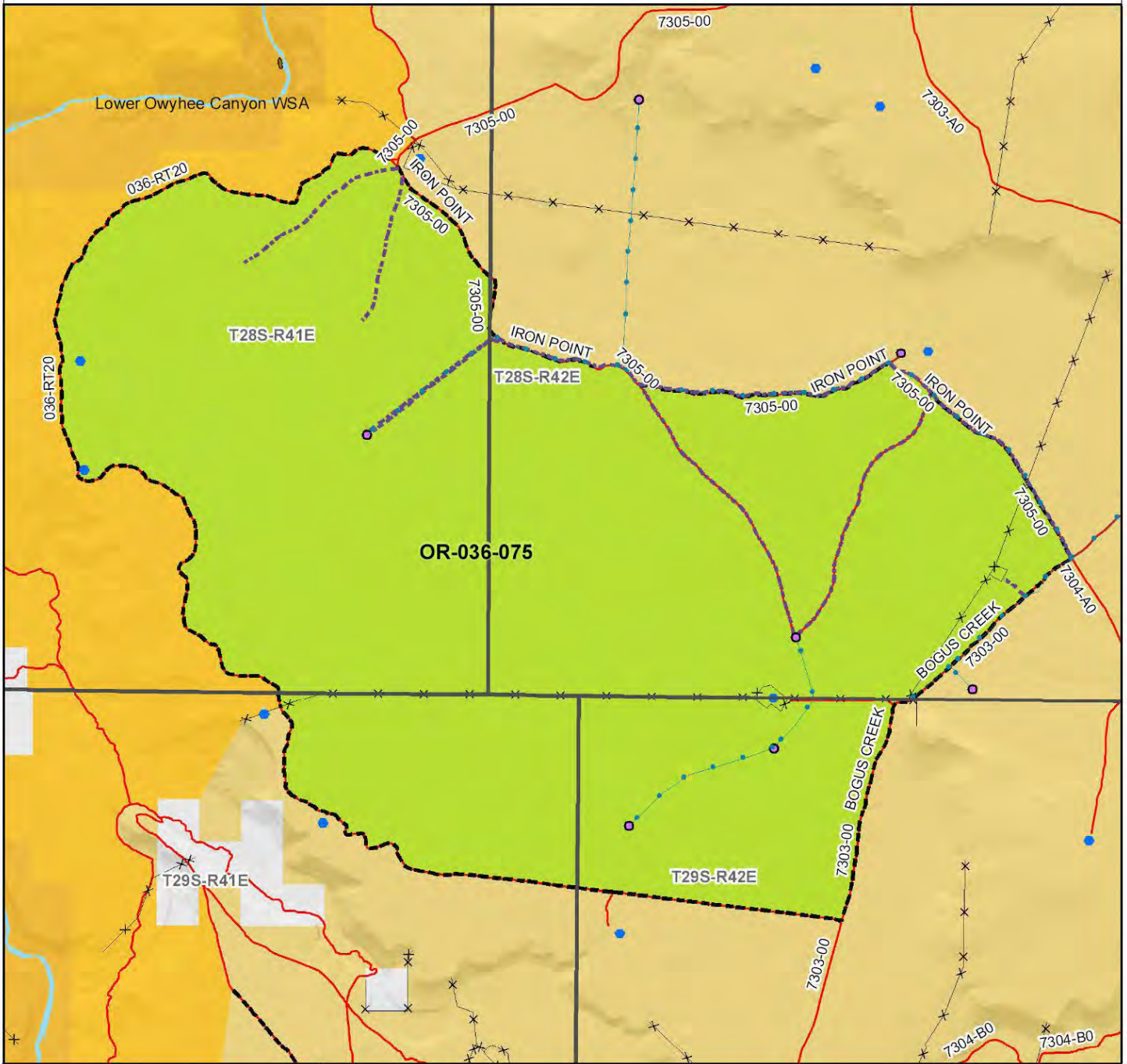
**Approved by:**

Carolyn R. Freeborn 4/5/2011  
Carolyn Freeborn, Jordan Resource Area Field 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.*

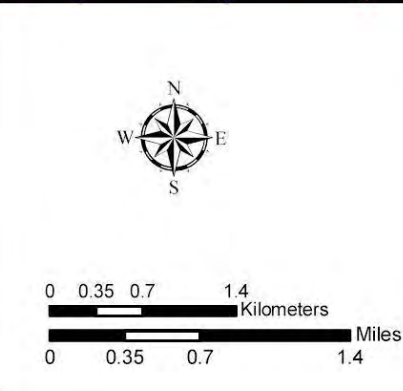
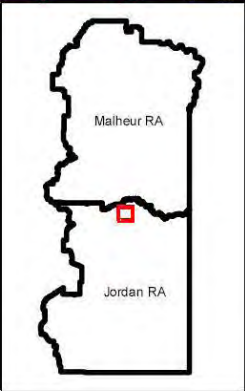
# Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

## Indian Camp - OR-036-075 - Map 1 of 2



**Legend**

Developed Spring	<b>Route Types - BLM Determination</b>
Wildlife Guzzler	Boundary Road
Earthen Reservoir	Motonized Primitive Trail (MPT)
Pipeline	Discontinued Use
Trough	<b>Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit</b>
Fence	County
Storage Tank	Major Highway
Surface Mining Disturbance	BLM Numbered & Other Routes
Sage Grouse Lek	<b>Land Ownership</b>
Special Status Plant	Bureau of Land Management
BLM Wild Char Inventory Unit	State
Wilderness Study Area	Private
Mineral Material Site	Other Federal Land
Road/Utility Right-of-Way	Non-WSA, BLM Recommended Wilderness - 1991
Major Water Body	Unnatural condition within WC unit



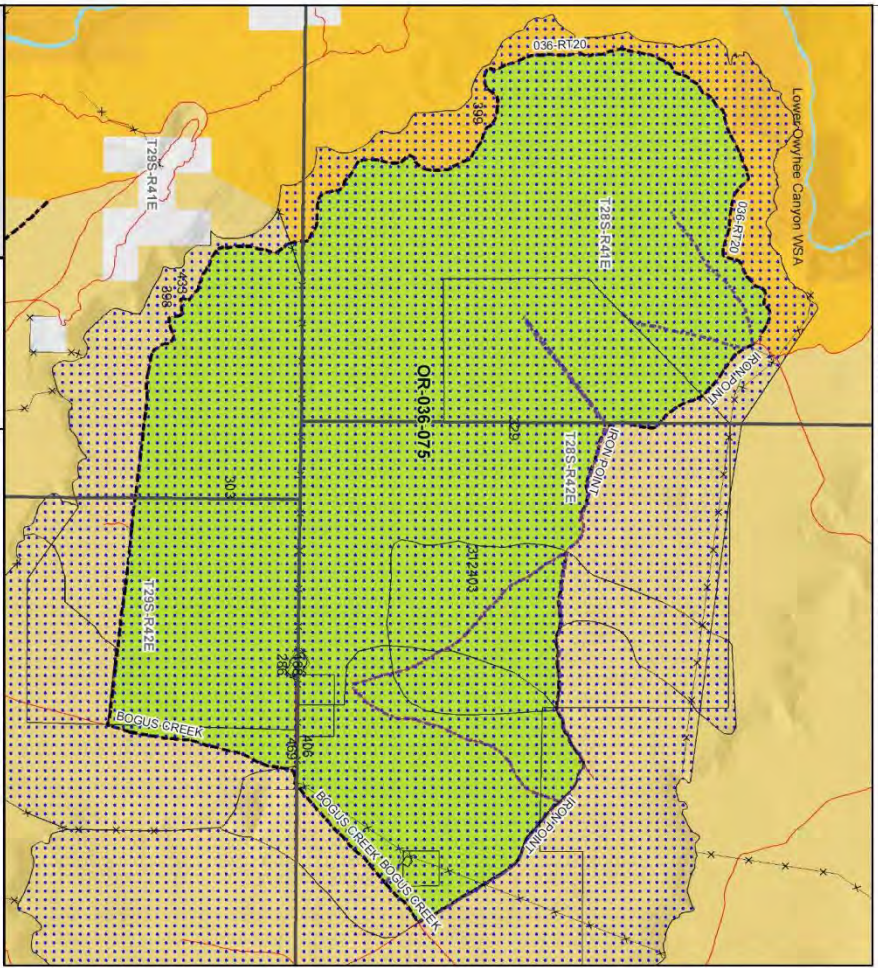
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**VALE DISTRICT**  
January 6, 2011

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 - Land Treatments**  
**Indian Camp - OR-036-075 - Map 2 of 2**



**Legend**

- Land Treatment:
  - Blue Dotted: 188 Indian Camp Test Plot
  - Green Grid: 286 Indian Camp Test Plot
  - Yellow Grid: 303 Mud Flat B.C.
  - Blue Grid: 312 Riley Horn ESR
  - Orange Grid: 329 Mud Cr B.C.
  - Light Blue Grid: 398 Bogus Cr B.C. & SDG
  - Dark Blue Grid: 399 Mud Flat Brush Spray
  - Light Green Grid: 403 Riley Horn ESR
  - Light Orange Grid: 406 Bogus Cr ESR & Addendum
  - Light Blue Grid: 433 Bogus Cr B.C. & SDG
  - Light Yellow Grid: 469 Bogus Cr ESR & Addendum
- Other:
  - Black Dotted: 036-RT20
  - Black Dotted: 1728S-R41E
  - Black Dotted: 1728S-R42E
  - Black Dotted: 1728S-R43E
  - Black Dotted: 1728S-R44E
  - Black Dotted: 1728S-R45E
  - Black Dotted: 1728S-R46E
  - Black Dotted: 1728S-R47E
  - Black Dotted: 1728S-R48E
  - Black Dotted: 1728S-R49E
  - Black Dotted: 1728S-R50E
  - Black Dotted: 1728S-R51E
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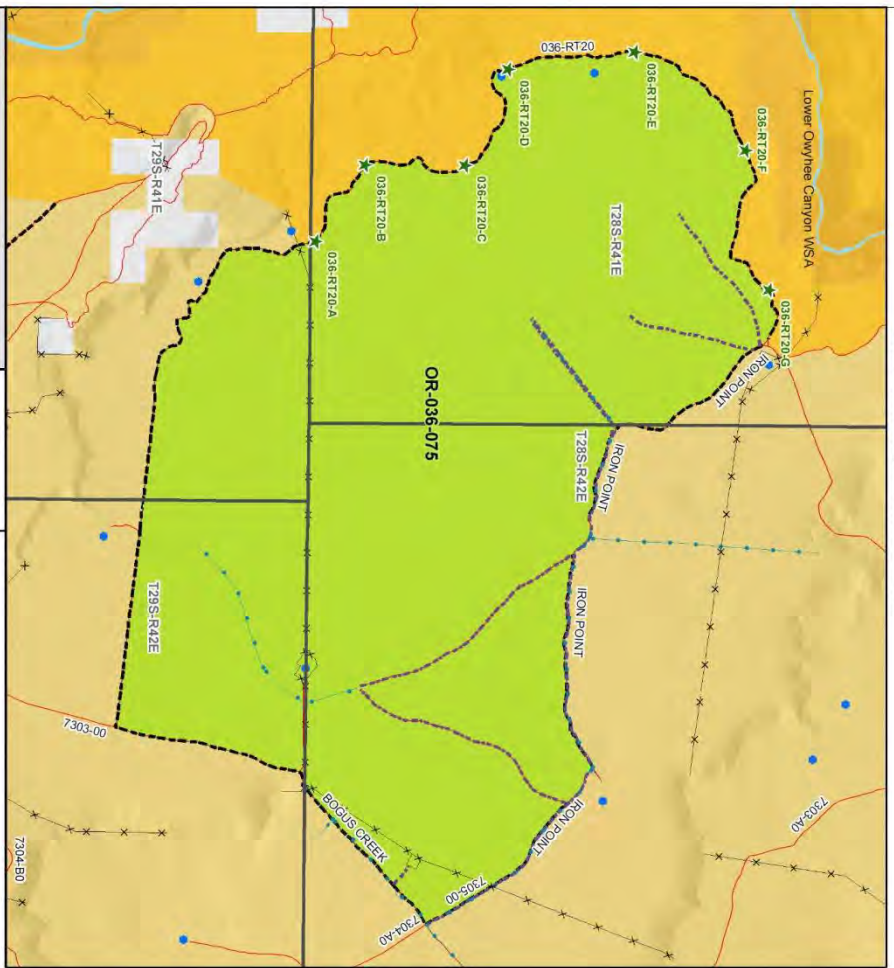
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 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
 VALE DISTRICT  
 January 5, 2011  
 -FINAL-

**Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments**  
**Indian Camp - OR-036-075 - Map 2 of 2**

OBJECTID*	NAME	TREATMENT TYPE	SEED GROUP	DATE
188	INDIAN CAMP TEST PLOT	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable	1962
286	INDIAN CAMP TEST PLOT	Drill Seeding	Unknown	1962
303	MUD FLAT B.C.	Chemical Treatment	Not Applicable	1958
312	RILEY HORN ESR	Drill Seeding	Mix of native grasses	1999
329	MUD CR B.C.	Chemical Treatment	Not Applicable	1973
398	BOGUS CR B.C. & SDG	Chemical Treatment	Not Applicable	1966
399	MUD FLAT BRUSH SPRAY	Chemical Treatment	Not Applicable	1956
403	RILEY HORN ESR	Aerial Seeding	Mix of native grasses	1999
406	BOGUS CR ESR & ADDENDUM	Drill Seeding	Mix of non-native grasses	1996
433	BOGUS CR B.C. & SDG	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses	1966
469	BOGUS CR ESR & ADDENDUM	Aerial Seeding	Mix of non-native grasses	1996

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.

**Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Points**  
**Indian Camp - OR-036-075**



**Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Points**  
**Indian Camp - OR-036-075**

PHOTO_LOCATION*	DIRECTION	PHOTO_TYPE	PHOTO_DATE	COMMENTS
036-RT20-A	NW	Route	20090415	Berms.
036-RT20-A	SE	Route	20090415	Berms.
036-RT20-B	NW	Route	20090415	Berms.
036-RT20-B	SE	Route	20090415	Berms.
036-RT20-C	N	Route	20090415	Berms.
036-RT20-C	S	Route	20090415	Berms.
036-RT20-D	N	Route	20090415	Berms.
036-RT20-D	S	Route	20090415	Berms.
036-RT20-E	S	Route	20090415	Berms.
036-RT20-E	S	Route	20090415	Berms.
036-RT20-F	E	Route	20090415	Front
036-RT20-F	W	Route	20090415	Back
036-RT20-G	NE	Route	20090415	Front
036-RT20-G	SW	Route	20090415	Back

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.

**Legend**

- Developed Spring
- Wildlife Grazing
- Fishery Reservoir
- Perennial
- Fence
- Natural Material Site
- Soak/Tally RWV
- Wilderness Study Area
- BLM Wild Char Inventory Photo Point
- BLM Wild Char Inventory Photo Point

**Route Type - BLM Determination**

- Secondary Road
- Abandoned Primitive Trail (APT)
- Discontinued Use
- Seasonal - Outside Wild Char Trail
- County
- Major Highway
- BLM Numbered & Other Routes

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

**VALE DISTRICT**  
 January 6, 2011

**FINAL**



036-RT20-A-NW.jpg



036-RT20-B-SE.jpg



036-RT20-D-N.jpg



036-RT20-A-SE.jpg



036-RT20-C-N.jpg



036-RT20-D-S.jpg



036-RT20-B-NW.jpg



036-RT20-C-S.jpg



036-RT20-E-N.jpg



036-RT20-E-S.jpg



036-RT20-G-NE.jpg



036-RT20-F-E.jpg



036-RT20-G-SW.jpg



036-RT20-F-W.jpg

**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 Inventory Unit Name/Number (UNIT\_ID): OR-036-075 – Indian Camp**

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

West and South Boundary Road 036-RT20 of BLM Unit Indian Camp 036-075  
ONDA partial of designated BLM Road 036-RT20 as route (way) OR8b

- I. LOCATION:** See attached map. BLM Unit OR-036-075 contains BLM Road 036-RT20 as the west and south boundary of the unit.

**List photo point references:**

BLM Road 036-RT20 photos 7305-0-00-A – 7305-0-00-E (10 photos); photos 7305-0-00-E1 through 7305-0-00-H1 (6 photos)

ONDA route (way) OR8b photos BB 053, 056, and 057; ONDA route (way) OR North Boundary photos BB 040, 050, 051, 052, 054, and 055

**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:** BLM Road 036-RT20 is utilized mainly by recreationist to access numerous WSAs in the surrounding area, by ranchers (as observed by current BLM staff) and BLM staff for the administration of rangeland resources, livestock grazing, and the maintenance of livestock improvements (fences, springs, pipelines, and reservoirs) in two allotments. The road is also used on a seasonal basis during the fall months by hunters. BLM Road 036-RT20 photographs RT20-A – RT20-G (14 photos) indicate that BLM Road 036-RT20 receives a level of use and most probable by those people described above.

ONDA has labeled BLM Road 036-RT20 as a “way” for their route OR8b. ONDA photographs AC020, AC023, and AC024 are associated with ONDA route OR8b within their GIS information submitted in the WSA proposal document of 2004. Although ONDA photographs AC023 and AC024 are listed within ONDA’s GIS information no actual photographs were submitted in their 2004 proposal.

BLM disagrees with ONDA’s road inventory for BLM Road 036-RT20 because of the information BLM has presented above stating who and why the road is traveled in addition to the photographs indicating that the road is traveled on a regular and continuous basis.

### 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  X  Cut/Fill \_\_\_\_\_ Other  X

**Describe:** BLM Road 036-RT20 was constructed by BLM sometime during the 1960s-1970s, with heavy equipment and consists of natural on-site material. No exact date for road construction can be found.

The existing road contains berms along the majority of both sides of the bladed roadbed. The majority of the berms along the roadbed are now covered mostly by annual vegetation along with varying amounts of perennial plants since the berms have not been bladed for many years. Currently in an effort to reduce weed establishment along roads on public land the BLM blades only the roadbed when performing maintenance and not the entire width of the road that included berms and ditches when the road was originally constructed.

Existing roadside berms are not particularly pronounced in some segments of BLM Road 036-RT20, especially in areas where the roadway travels over relatively flat topography (BLM photos 036-RT20-C-S, D-N, and E-N) since these areas require little maintenance to remain passable by vehicles. In other areas along BLM Road 036-RT20 some of the berms are covered with brush as well as sediment (BLM photos 036-RT20-B-NW, and F-W).

ONDA’s information about roads in the GIS layer of their 2004 document labels their route OR8b as a “way” with associated photos AC020, 023, and 024 for a section of BLM Road 036-RT20. Only ONDA photograph AC020 is available within their 2004 document. Based on these photographs and field information, ONDA determined that BLM Road 036-RT20 was not a road but a “way.” BLM does not support ONDA’s conclusion based on BLM photographs and on field reconnaissance. ONDA’s one photograph and information for BLM Road 7305-0-00 was recorded during the spring



months of 2004 when roads are not as well traveled as they are in the summer and fall. ONDA's photographs (AC020) records large amounts of annual plants that cover the roadway and make it appear that BLM Road 036-RT20 is not well used and contains plants that restrict travel by vehicles. BLM has observed that the vast majority of annual plants covering the roadbed die off by early summer and disappear (BLM photo 036-RT20-D-S) once vehicle use increases by recreationist, ranchers, BLM staff, and then by hunters during the fall period of use.

## 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 X No \_\_\_\_\_

**If yes: Hand Tools (Y/N)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Machine (Y/N)** Y

**Explain:** Up until now BLM has been unable to locate a written record of when maintenance was last performed on this section of BLM Road 036-RT20. The roadway has received maintenance as needed throughout the past as evident by BLM photographs of the road width and the vast majority of the roadbed and berms being void of perennial vegetation.

BLM has conducted maintenance to BLM Road 036-RT20 over time as needed to keep this route passable. Earthen berms on the edge of the road in photographs 036-RT20-A-SE and D-S show maintenance work that has been performed on

BLM Road 036-RT20 in the past since the road was constructed. Although it has been many years since maintenance has been performed on the entire length of BLM Road 036-RT20, it is evident from photographs BLM has taken, that little to no maintenance is needed to keep the roadbed in good operational condition.

**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 there is no recent (1-3 years) evidence of maintenance on BLM Road 036-RT20, BLM will approve maintenance with hand tools or machine as needed when road conditions warrant actions to keep it in a usable condition. Maintenance will be conducted in this road because it is a well-used loop route between and for accessing Lower Owyhee WSA and the Owyhee River Rim as well as access for ranchers and BLM staff for administration purposes.

BLM Road 036-RT20 receives annual use, as evidence by the lack of brush in the roadway and by well-used bare ground where vehicles travel. It should be noted that small amounts of brush occur sporadically throughout the length of the road along berms. Vale District has reduced road maintenance needs on roads to only the roadbed and does not blade originally constructed berms unless vegetation encroachment on berms tend to restrict vehicular travel or blade ditches unless drainage from roadways is impeded (as evident in photos 036-RT20-A-SE and D-S).

To reduce the potential for erosion and the 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 proposes 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

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

BLM Road 036-RT20 has received regular use each year and will continue to receive use by ranchers (as observed by current BLM staff) for the administration and project maintenance for livestock grazing projects, by BLM staff for administration of allotments and WSA monitoring, by hunters during the fall months and by recreationist to access

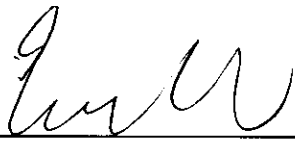
WSAs as evident from the roadway and tire disturbance indicating continual use. This road is well traveled as indicted by all the photographs listed above and the minimal quantity of perennial plants that inhabit the roadbed of BLM Road 036-RT20. BLM Road 036-RT20 is wide along most of its length, and is clearly defined on the landscape.

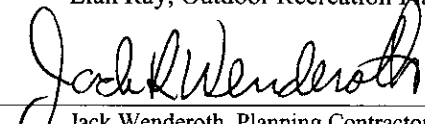
**VIII. CONCLUSION:**

**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 BLM Road 036-RT20 meets the definition of a road as stated in Sections IV, V, VI-A, VI-B, and VII above. BLM Road 036-RT20 was constructed by mechanical equipment, receives continuous seasonal use, and has been maintained since being constructed. BLM Road 036-RT20 would be approved by management for maintenance as needed if the road base became impassable to allow for future and continuous use on a regular basis.

**Evaluator(s):**  **Date:** 4-5-11  
Eian Ray, Outdoor Recreation Planner

 **Date:** 4-5-11  
Jack Wenderoth, Planning Contractor

 **Date:** 4/5/2011  
Aimee Huff, Range Management Specialist

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

**\*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.

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”.