

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Jaca Reservoir OR-036-054, 33 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 12: Form 2 – Summary of Findings and Conclusion](#)

[Page 13: Wilderness Characteristics Overview–Jaca Reservoir OR-036-054 Map 1 of 2](#)

[Page 14: Wilderness Characteristics-Land Treatments-Jaca Reservoir OR-036-054 Map 2 of 2](#)

[Page 15: Wilderness Characteristics–BLM Photo Points–Jaca Reservoir Map & Log](#)

[Page 16: OR-036-054 Jaca Reservoir BLM Photos](#)

[Page 27: H-6300-1-Wilderness Inventory Maintenance in BLM Oregon/Washington
Appendix C – Road* Analysis: BLM 6368-00 & ONDA GH34a, 34b & 35](#)

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, 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-036-054—Jaca Reservoir

**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 – 1980 BLM Wilderness Inventory Units OR-03-10-24 Horse Hill and 3-138 of OR-03-10-25 Flat Creek and areas south of OR-03-10-25 that became Unit 3-130. Units 3-130- and 3-138 were combined into one Unit Whitehorse Butte 3-130 (unpublished BLM documents stored in Vale District 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

- (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).
- (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)
- (X) 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 Units 3-137 of OR-03-10-24 Horse Hill; 3-138 of OR-03-10-25 Flat Creek; and areas originally not inventoried that became Whitehorse Butte 3-130. Units 3-130 and 3-138 were combined in 1979 as Whitehorse Butte.

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 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
3-130 of OR-03-10-25** Whitehorse Butte	24,860	N	N	N	Y
3-137 of OR-03-10-24 Horse Hill	9,900	N	*	*	*
TOTAL	34,760				

*-- These criteria were not specifically addressed during the inventory of these units.

** BLM Unit 3-130 contains both Units 3-130 and 3-138 that were combined into Unit 3-130.

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-036-054—Jaca Reservoir

Note: In February, 2004, the Vale District received from Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) its evaluation of wilderness characteristics for the Association’s 47,567 acre proposed “Whitehorse Butte 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.

The boundaries of BLM Jaca Reservoir Unit OR-036-054 and ONDA’s proposed WSA addition are slightly different. Basically, ONDA’s proposal consists of BLM inventory Units OR-036-054 and 036-055 and the acres within the utility corridor right-of-ways associated with BLM Road 6366-00 and Malheur County Road 927 that BLM has excluded. Taking these slight boundary changes into account, BLM Unit OR-036-054 contains 35,948 acres for a difference of about 11,500 acres compared to ONDA’s proposed unit.

Within ONDA’s narrative BLM Road 6368-00 is referred to by ONDA as a “way” with information contained in their GIS and Road Logs for three sections of BLM Road 6368-00 as routes GH 34a, GH 34b, and GH 35. ONDA’s inventory claims that this BLM road is not a road, but is actually a way consisting of an overgrown, rutted two-track (see photos J112, J114, I1, I2). ONDA further states that this way had not been maintained recently and was rutted, rocky, and overgrown in various places. This presents a question of whether ONDA’s section of BLM Road 6368-00 is an actual road or a way. Please refer to BLM’s Road analysis for BLM Road 6368-00 where BLM has provided information about this section of road 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: Refer to this inventory unit’s associated Map 1 for BLM’s Unit OR-036-054 location. The boundary of the 35,938 acre unit includes original 1970’s inventory Unit 3-137 of OR-03-10-24, and Units 3-138 of OR-03-10-25 and 3-130 of an initial non inventoried area that were combined to form the larger Unit 3-130. Acreage for unit OR-036-054 in Form 2 is calculated from BLM GIS information.

BLM Unit OR-036-054 is bounded on its north and northeast sides by BLM Road 036-RT14 and private land parcels, on its west and south sides by a mineral material site right-of-way and a utility corridor right-of-way for BLM Road 6366-00, on its southeast side by a utility corridor right-of-way for Malheur County Road 927, and on its northeast side

by BLM Road 6368-00. 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 BLM's Unit OR-036-054 size relative to the evidence of man-made developments the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of human development and not nature. The north western half of the unit are dominated by a series of low ridgelines such as Horse Ridge that is the dominate feature within this area. The southeastern half of the unit consists of a relatively flat plateau except for Whitehorse Butte located near the eastern that rises about 150 to 200 feet above the remaining portion of the area. Most drainages located in the northwest half of the unit flow into Soldier Creek whereas drainages in the southeast half flow directly to the Owyhee River. Drainages within a very small area in the southeast half, located along the eastern boundary of the unit flow eastward into Cherry Creek a tributary to the North Fork of the Owyhee River. Elevation within the unit ranges from 4,409 feet to 5,051 feet, with the upper elevations located at Whitehorse Butte in the unit's southeast and in the northwest central area along Horse Ridge while the unit's lower elevations are located along the unit's southwestern boundary. Sparsely populated vegetation throughout the unit consists predominately of big and low sagebrush with both native and non-native grass species.

Refer to this inventory unit's associated Map 1 and Map 2 for its human developments in BLM's Unit OR-036-054. Developments within the unit include 50.4 miles of 23 MPTs, one cherry-stem road of 0.55 miles, two pipeline systems with 4.6 miles of pipelines and 8 troughs, 32 earthen reservoirs, one water well at the top of Whitehorse Butte, Jaca Reservoir one large and one small privately owned reservoir on public land with associated right-of-way with surface areas of 148 acres, 8.4 miles of irrigation canals, one corral, one vegetation exclosure, 4 reservoir exclosures, 45.9 miles of fence line, and 21 vegetation manipulation treatments conducted from 1960 through 1983. The 148 acre right-of-way surface area of the two privately owned earthen reservoirs that are located on public have been excluded from this BLM Unit. The vegetation treatments were conducted on approximately thirty-six percent of the unit over a twenty-three year period. Almost 13,000 acres of the sagebrush component in the unit has been reduced by non-native seedings, chemical vegetation treatments, and by prescribe fire.

To the average visitor, the vegetation treatments conducted in the unit presently appear as a whole, individually and collectively, mostly indistinguishable across the landscape. Because the numerous man-made-developments scattered throughout the unit and the location of MPTs that dissect the landscape and lead to or follow many of the developments to be substantially unnoticeable the unit appears affected primarily by human development and not the forces of nature.

ONDA states in their Whitehorse Butte proposed WSA: “The BLM referenced several unnatural features located throughout Unit 3-130, which collectively caused the unit to appear unnatural and be eliminated from further wilderness review. This inventory was unable to find many of the unnatural features noted in the BLM report and the area felt very natural, especially walking through tall, old growth sage.

Along way GH34a, the inventory found several water troughs (photos J107, J108, J111) an indication of cows feeding in the surrounding area. However, such man-made features are removable and do not continue to impact the land after their removal. They are also only noticeable from the immediate proximity. One water tank and three unused reservoirs were documented along the western border of Unit 3-130 (photos F9, F6, F11, F16, F20, respectively). The water tank is removable, while the reservoirs blend in with surroundings, are reverting to natural conditions, and will continue to deteriorate with time. None of these intrusions were substantially noticeable.

In addition, there were no signs of the 1962 brush control in the southern section of the unit and no signs of the impact of the 1964 Indian Canyon seeding. They have clearly deteriorated in their 40 years of existence. The diversion ditch and pipeline referenced by the BLM were not located either. Unit 3-130 is unaffected by past alterations to the land and is primarily affected by the forces of nature, not of man.

BLM noted that Unit 3-137 had 12 miles of fence, 7 reservoirs, 1 mile of pipeline, and 1000 acres of seeding. This inventory did not find the reservoirs, pipeline, or the seeding. If they are still located within this unit, they will appear substantially unnoticeable in the greater area of Whitehorse Butte proposed WSA”.

BLM does not dispute that the impact of most vegetation treatments within the unit have diminished over the decades since implemented but calls attention to the complete list of man-made projects addressed above in this section. ONDA calls attention to water troughs that can be removed from the landscape and unused reservoirs that are reverting back to natural vegetation in their above referenced paragraph. BLM’s current inventory of wilderness values within BLM Unit OR-036-054 is a reporting of existing conditions and projects found within the unit. The inventory finding for this BLM unit is not a decision document. Therefore man-made projects that may or may not affect wilderness values within the unit are assessed on how they affect the values when the inventory is conducted and not on what decisions may or may not be made in the future.

BLM calls attention to the three reservoirs that ONDA refers to as not used and are being reclaimed by native vegetation. If a reservoir does not contain water and vegetation is present within a portion of the reservoir’s bowl, it does not mean that reservoir utilization has ceased. First, the vegetation within the bowls of reservoirs found in ONDA’s pictures F011 and 021 are annual species and are not indicators of native perennial vegetation reclaiming the reservoir. Second, a dry reservoir does not indicate that a reservoir is not be used on a continuing basis. However it may indicate that there was not sufficient water that year to fill the reservoir or available water that was in the reservoir may or may not have been utilized at an earlier date by livestock and that any remaining

water may have evaporated or infiltrated into the soil. Third, ONDA photograph F016 is of natural vegetation in an occurring natural dry lake bed that BLM did not disturb except to construct an earthen dam at the extreme southeastern corner of the lake bed. ONDA's photograph F016 is taken near the northwest corner of the earthen dam, does not show the storage area of the reservoir that is utilized by livestock, and shows natural occurring vegetation upslope of the reservoir bowl that was not disturbed when the reservoir was constructed. ONDA photographs F014 and F015 in their proposed WSA report for Whitehorse Butte actually show the earthen dam face of the reservoir in the middle of each photo.

ONDA references seven reservoirs that BLM reported in its original 1970s inventory and stated that it did not find the seven reservoirs within the area of BLM's original inventory Unit 3-137. BLM's current inventory has found 12 reservoirs in BLM's 1970s inventory Unit 3-137, 33 reservoirs within BLM Unit OR-036-054, and 36 reservoirs within ONDA's entire Whitehorse Butte proposed WSA that includes BLM's Units OR-036-054 and 055. BLM also calls attention to the irrigation canal that ONDA stated it did not find in BLM's 1970s inventory Unit 3-130. Although much of this irrigation canal utilizes a natural stream channel there is a right-of-way for this canal to convey water northward for over 5 miles from Whitehorse Reservoir located in Section 2 of Township 34 South, Range 45 East to the privately owned Jaca Reservoir that is located on public land administered by BLM. Because the irrigation canal has as a right-of-way, the private citizen utilizing this canal can as needed enter any portion of the canal at any time to perform maintenance for the conveyance of water for and to their State of Oregon issued water-right. These two reservoirs and irrigation canal are part of the current inventory of man-made projects affecting natural condition values within BLM Unit OR-036-054.

ONDA also stated that they could walk through tall, old growth sage in BLM's 1970s inventory Unit 3-130 and there were no signs of the 1962 brush control in the southern section of the unit and no signs of the impact of the 1964 Indian Canyon seeding. They have clearly deteriorated in their 40 years of existence.

BLM does not dispute that one can walk through tall old-growth sagebrush in portions of the 1970s inventory unit 3-130 but calls attention to almost half of this original unit lacking a continuous over story of tall sagebrush. The lack of tall sagebrush coverage throughout this area is clearly defined on aerial photography provided by the National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP, 2005 and 2009) that BLM utilizes in its Geographic Information System (GIS) to supplement its current road and landscape information.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No N/A _____

Description: BLM concludes that BLM Unit OR-036-054 does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Unit OR-036-054 possesses an irregular shape narrowest at the western portion and expands eastward in the central portion of the area, then tapers but

expands to its greatest width from the central area to the eastern boundary. The area's western area is approximately 2.0 to 3.5 miles in width, with the central and east central area ranging from 4.5 to 6.0 miles in width. The unit has a length of about 11.0 to 14.0 miles. The eastern two-thirds of the unit consist of a relatively flat bench except for Whitehorse Butte that rises above the surrounding area by 150 to 200. The remaining western portion of the unit is dominated by a series of low ridgelines such as Horse Ridge that are dissected by drainage channels of Soldier Creek. The vast majority of the unit contains a diversity of pronounced small relief features and secluded sites, such as various drainages, low ridgelines, small hills, and the main feature within the Unit, Whitehorse Butte. Vegetation within the southern and east central portions of the unit is limited both in quantity and height. Any vegetation that would produce extensive vegetative screening and provide seclusion from others is limited throughout the unit because of the extensive low heights of natural vegetation occurring throughout the area mainly from past vegetation treatments performed in these areas that removed sagebrush and the relatively flatter terrain and landscape diversity throughout these areas. Limited seclusion throughout the Unit is also due to the number and location of MPTs dissecting the landscape thereby reducing potential areas that would be utilized for solitude. Even though the Unit consists of a large number of acres, because of the unit's size relative to its shape, the lack of diversity of relief over the landscape, and the area's limited quality of vegetative screening in selected areas, and the number and location of MPTs, the unit does not contain areas of 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-036-054 does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation even though the Unit possesses habitat and presence of California Bighorn sheep. Likely the most dominate dispersed recreation activities within the unit is hiking around the Whitehorse Butte area and the northwest rolling hills or the hunting of game species (primarily deer, chukar and antelope but also California Bighorn sheep). These are perhaps the main unique or special features associated with the unit that would attract a visitor who is seeking a primitive and unconfined recreational experience. Recreational pursuits within the area, individually or collectively, are not outstanding in character or nature for the unit. Existing Bighorn sheep habitat within the unit provides limited opportunities to hunt the species. Hunting opportunities are limited due to the Unit containing low quality bighorn sheep habitat. The Unit contains limited amounts of quality terrain that supports habitat that Bighorn sheep would normally occupy and utilize on a regular basis (e.g., rugged, rocky, cliffy or steep-sloped terrain). The Unit provides some level of opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation but because of the lower quality and marginal habitat for Bighorn sheep hunting opportunities for Bighorn sheep are limited and therefore would not be considered to be outstanding within the Unit.

ONDA states in their Whitehorse Butte proposed WSA: "Outstanding opportunities for hunting, birdwatching, and plant study are also available. The vegetation in the area includes willet, narrow-leafed phacelia, royal penstemon, thyme desert buckwheat,

buffalo plum locoweed, checkermallow, splendor cinquefoil, thrift goldenweed, wild rose, thistle, large headed clover, Great Basin rye, golden currant, phlox, wild onion (photo I5), Oregon sun, lupine, morning glory, desert cushion buckwheat, tansy-leaved evening primrose (photo F5), false dandelion, death camas, bitterbrush, rabbitbrush, lupine (photo I16), and sage.

Bird species identified in the area include western meadowlark, Brewer's sparrow, mallards, western kingbird, northern shoveler, loggerhead shrike, horned lark, bank swallow, barn swallow, sage sparrow, killdeer, red-winged blackbird, mourning dove. Other animals include badger (photo I17), coyote, cottontail, pronghorn, jackrabbits, blue racers, western fence lizard, caterpillars (photos F25-26), and grasshoppers".

Although BLM has identified two separate inventory units within ONDA's Whitehorse Butte Unit and BLM concurs that these plant and animal species may be observed and photographed within BLM's Jaca Reservoir Unit OR-036-054; these species in of themselves do not provide "outstanding" opportunities for primitive recreation because the plant and animal species listed above are common to the area.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes X No N/A

Description: BLM has documented three sage grouse leks within the unit. The bird is a BLM special status animal species.

ONDA states in its Whitehorse Butte proposed WSA: "A horned lark was sighted in this area, which is a sensitive species in Oregon. Other sensitive species in the area may include Ferruginous Hawk, Pygmy Rabbit, and White-tailed Antelope Squirrel. The SEORMP notes that Whitehorse Butte proposed WSA provides habitat for Bighorn Sheep and contains Sage Grouse leks. Both of these are federal species of concern".

BLM has previously addressed sage grouse leks and Bighorn sheep within BLM Unit OR-036-054 above. BLM recognizes – at this point in time -- the Pygmy Rabbit as a BLM special status animal species and acknowledges that habitat requirements may exist for the Ferruginous Hawk and the White-tailed Antelope Squirrel; however, neither ONDA nor any other entity has provided BLM official documentation of the presence of these mentioned species, or of the Pygmy Rabbit, in this inventory unit. ONDA also identified that a horned lark was sighted within the unit and referred to it as a sensitive species in Oregon. BLM agrees that horned lark are native to the area but upon further review has determined that the only horned lark listed by the state is the streaked horned lark that occurs mostly on private land in western Oregon and would not be found within the unit.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-036-054—Jaca Reservoir

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 11-16-11
 Jack Wenderoth, Planning Contractor

Team Members:

<u>Amee R. Huff</u> Amee Huff, Rangeland Management Specialist	<u>11/18/2011</u> Date
<u>Eian Ray</u> Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, Contractor	<u>11-15-11</u> Date
<u>Garth Ross</u> Garth Ross, Wildlife Biologist	<u>11/15/2011</u> Date
<u>Brent H. Grasty</u> Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator	<u>11/15/11</u> Date

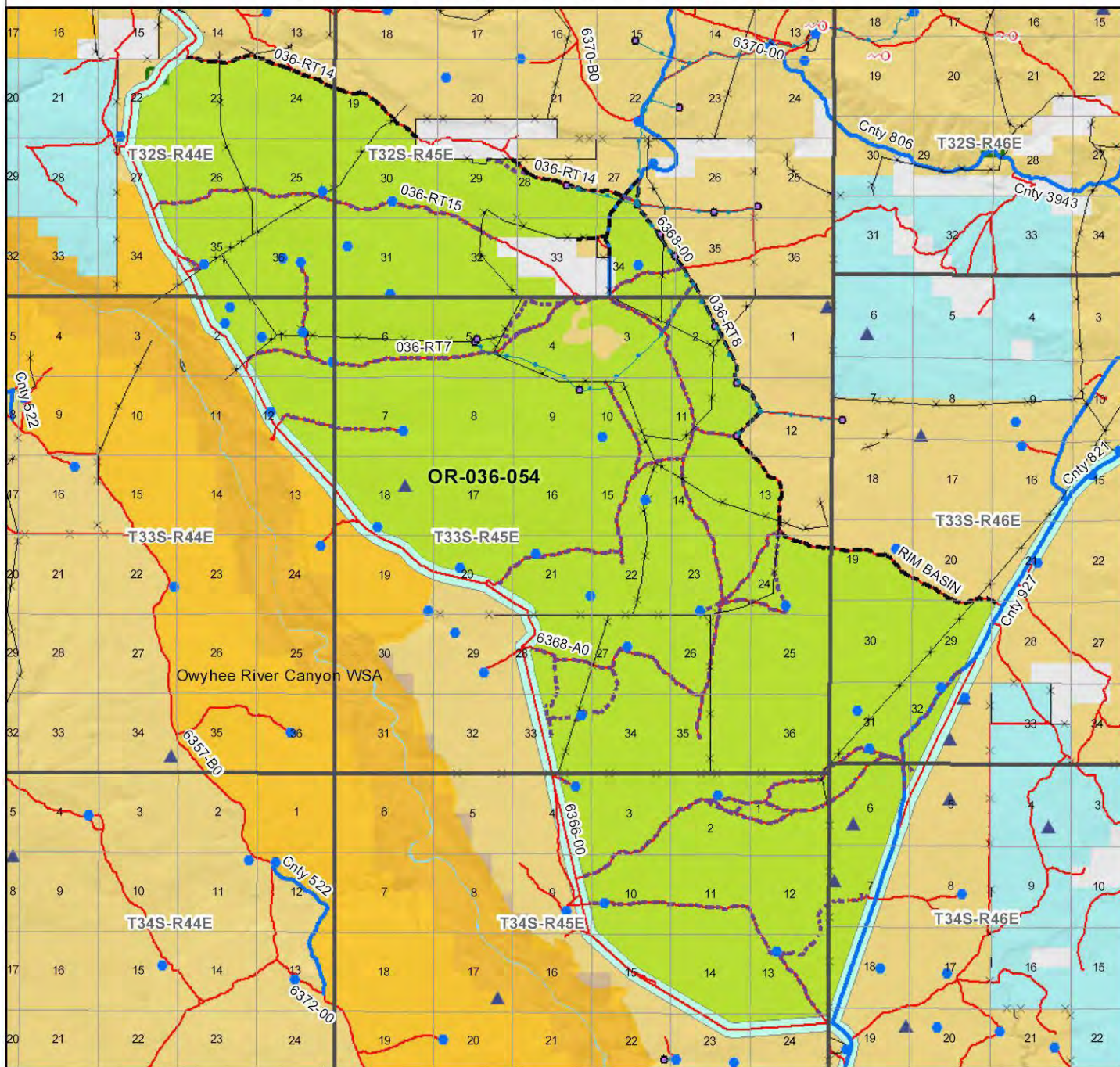
Approved by:

Carolyn R. Freeborn 11/30/2011
 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

Jaca Reservoir - OR-036-054 - 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

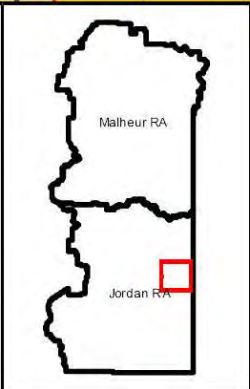
- Boundary Road
- Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT)
- Discontinued Use

Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit

- Major Highway
- BLM Numbered & Other Routes

Land Ownership

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



0 0.5 1 2 Kilometers

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

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

VALE DISTRICT
October 21, 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--



036-RT14-A-E.jpg



036-RT14-B-W.jpg



036-RT14-D-E.jpg



036-RT14-A-W.jpg



036-RT14-C-E.jpg



036-RT14-D-W.jpg



036-RT14-B-E.jpg



036-RT14-C-W.jpg



036-RT14-E-E.jpg



036-RT14-E-W.jpg



036-RT14-G-NW.jpg



036-RT14-H-W.jpg

OR-036-054 Jaca Reservoir Page 2



036-RT14-F-E.jpg



036-RT14-G-SE.jpg



036-RT15-A-E.jpg



036-RT14-F-W.jpg



036-RT14-H-E.jpg



036-RT15-A-W.jpg



036-RT15-B-E.jpg



036-RT15-C-W.jpg



036-RT15-E-NE.jpg



036-RT15-B-W.jpg



036-RT15-D-E.jpg



036-RT15-E-SW.jpg



036-RT15-C-E.jpg



036-RT15-D-W.jpg



036-RT15-F-E.jpg



036-RT15-F-W.jpg



036-RT15-H-E.jpg



036-RT7-A-W.JPG



036-RT15-G-E.jpg



036-RT15-H-W.jpg



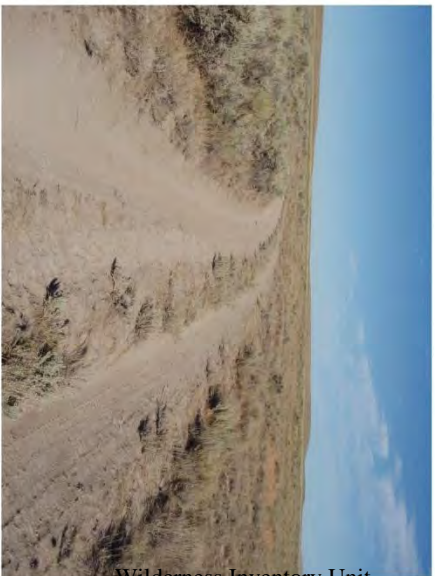
036-RT7-B-E.JPG



036-RT15-G-W.jpg



036-RT7-A-E.JPG



036-RT7-B-W.JPG



036-RT7-C-E.JPG



036-RT7-D-SW.JPG



036-RT7-F-E.JPG



036-RT7-C-W.JPG



036-RT7-E-E.JPG



036-RT7-F-W.JPG



036-RT7-D-E.JPG



036-RT7-E-W.JPG



036-RT7-G-NE.JPG



036-RT7-G-SW.JPG



036-RT8-A-S.JPG



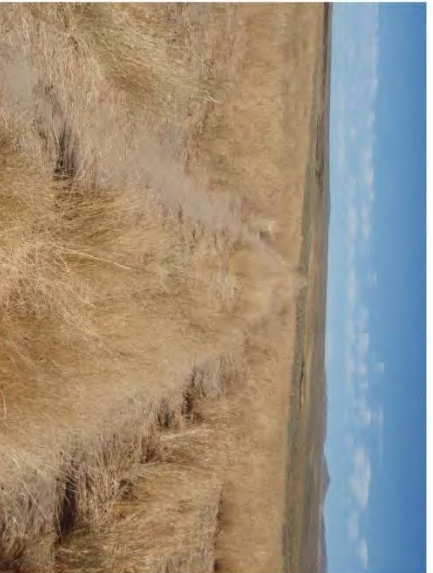
036-RT8-B-SE.JPG



036-RT7-H-E.JPG



036-RT8-A-W.JPG



036-RT8-C-N.JPG



036-RT7-H-W.JPG



036-RT8-B-NE.JPG



036-RT8-C-NW.JPG



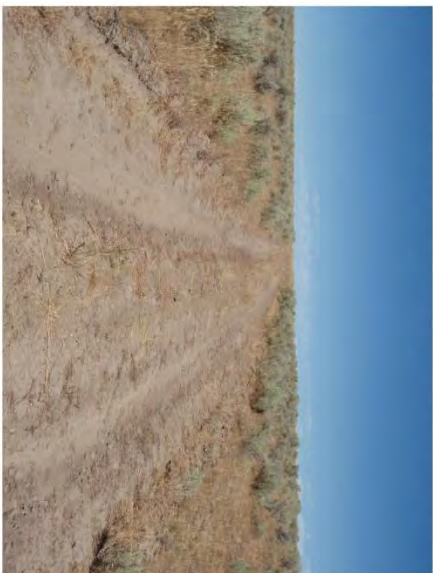
036-RT8-C-SE.JPG



036-RT8-E-NW.JPG



036-RT8-F-SE.JPG



036-RT8-D-NW.JPG



036-RT8-E-SE.JPG



036-RT8-G-NW.JPG



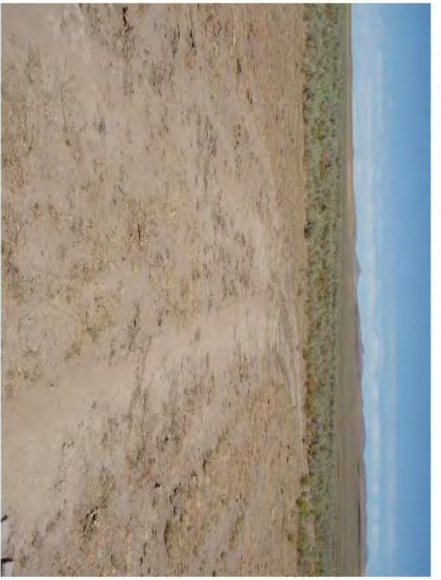
036-RT8-D-SE.JPG



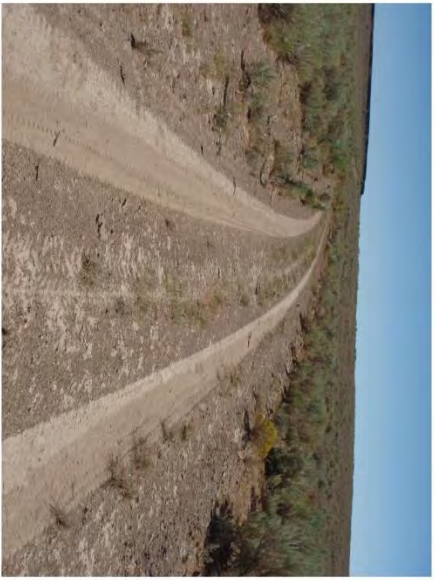
036-RT8-F-NW.JPG



036-RT8-G-SE.JPG



036-RT8-H-NE.JPG



036-RT8-I-SE.JPG



036-RT8-K-N.JPG



036-RT8-H-S.JPG



036-RT8-J-N.JPG



036-RT8-K-SE.JPG



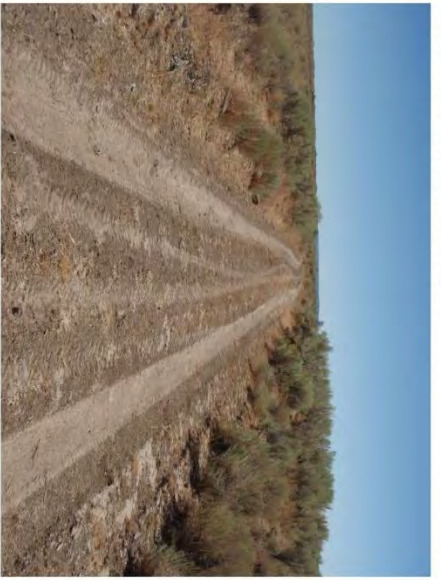
036-RT8-I-NW.JPG



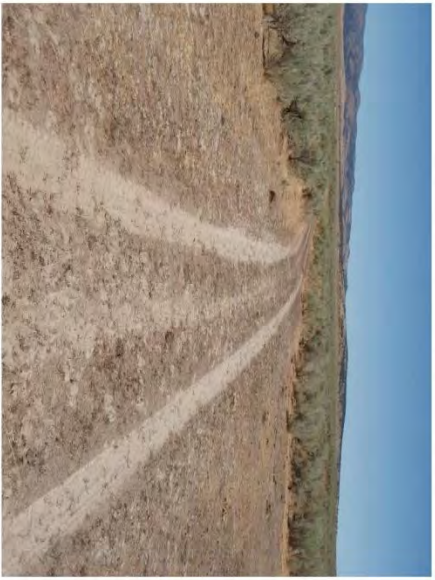
036-RT8-J-S.JPG



6368-0-00-A-NW.JPG



6368-0-00-A-SE.JPG



6368-0-00-C-E.JPG



6368-0-00-D-SE.JPG



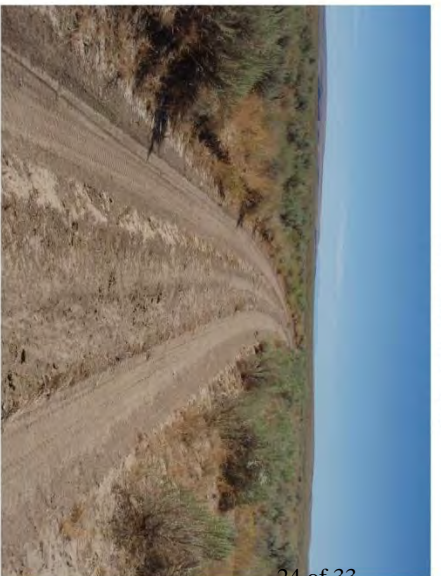
6368-0-00-B-E.JPG



6368-0-00-C-W.JPG



6368-0-00-E-E.JPG



6368-0-00-B-W.JPG



6368-0-00-D-NW.JPG



6368-0-00-E-W.JPG



6368-0-00-F-E.JPG



OR-036-054-C-E.JPG



OR-036-054-E-S.JPG



6368-0-00-F-W.JPG



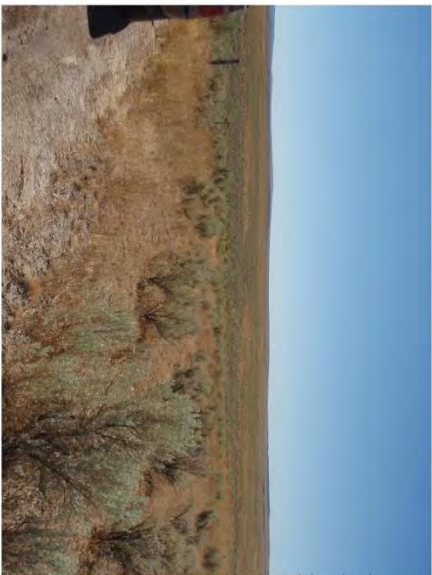
OR-036-054-C-N.JPG



OR-036-054-F-E.JPG



OR-036-054-A-E.JPG



OR-036-054-D-S.JPG



OR-036-054-F-NE.JPG



OR-036-054-F-SE.JPG



OR-036-054-G-E.JPG



OR-036-054-H-E.JPG



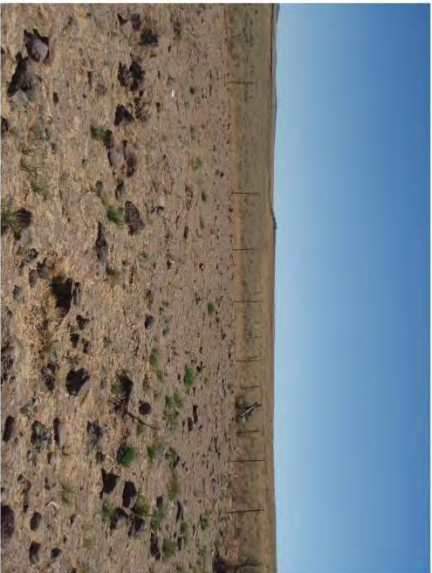
OR-036-054-J-E.JPG



OR-036-055-D-N.JPG



OR-036-055-F-W.JPG



OR-036-055-J-W.JPG

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSIS¹

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road² for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes.)

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area Unique Identifier: OR-036-054 Jaca Reservoir

Route or Route Segment³ Name and/or Identifier: BLM 6368-00 and Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) GH34a, 34b, and 35.

(Include Transportation Plan Identifier, if known, and include route number supplied by citizen information, when available.)

I. LOCATION:

Refer to attached map **Jaca Reservoir Photo Pts** and BLM corporate data (GIS). List photo point references (where applicable) or reference attached photo log:

Describe: BLM Road 6368-00 forms the eastern boundary of the BLM Jaca Reservoir Unit OR-036-054. BLM Road 6368-00 is a boundary between two BLM WC Units; Jaca Reservoir OR-036-054 and Grenke OR-036-055. ONDA’s corresponding Routes to BLM Road 6368-00 are GH34a, 34b, and 35. ONDA concluded that these three routes are “ways”, do not meet the definition of a road, and are not boundary roads but are an internal way within the Whitehorse Butte proposed WSA that ONDA submitted to BLM in 2004. BLM photo points for BLM Road 6368-00 are 036-RT8-A, D through K, and 6368-0-00-A through F (30 photos, 2 photos at each site). ONDA photo points for Routes GH34a are F035, I001, I002, and J114; for GH34b is J101; and for GH35 is J112.

II. ROUTE CONTEXT

- A. **Current Purpose⁴ (if any) of Route:** (Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Recreation, Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment)).

Describe: BLM Road 6368-00 is utilized mainly 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 allotments, and by recreationist to access the Owyhee Canyon WSA and Owyhee Canyon rim above the Owyhee River. The road is also used on a seasonal basis during the fall months by hunters. BLM Road 6368-00 photographs RT8-A, D through K (18 photos), and 6368-0-00-A through F (12 photos) indicate that BLM Road 6368-00 receives a level of use and most probable by those people described above.

ONDA describes BLM Road 6368-00 as three sections of “ways,” GH34a, GH34b, and GH35. ONDA states that these routes of their Whitehorse Butte proposed WSA “is not a road, but is actually a way consisting of an overgrown rutted two-track (see photos J112, J114, I1, and I2). This way had not been maintained recently and was rutted, rocky, and overgrown in various places”.

BLM disagrees with ONDA’s description of use for BLM Road 6368-00 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.

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

1. Is there a ROW associated with this route?
Yes ___ No X Unknown ___
2. If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW?
3. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?
Yes ___ No ___ Unknown or N/A ___

Explain:

III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA

A. Evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means:

Yes X (if either A.1 or A.2 is checked “yes” below)
No ___ (if both A.1 and A.2 are checked “no” below)

1. Construction:
(Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?)
Yes X No ___

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

Describe: BLM Road 6368-00 was constructed by BLM sometime during the 1960s-1970s, with heavy equipment, consists of natural on-site material, and is part of the BLM Vale District Transportation Plan. 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 and perennial plants since the original constructed 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. Small mounds of roadbed natural material can be observed in BLM photos 036-RT8-A-W, B-NE, H-NE, J-N, K-N, K-SEC, 6368-0-00-B-E, B-W, C-W, E-E, and F-W where the edge of the roadbed transitions into the original constructed berms that now support various quantities of vegetation.

Existing roadside berms are not particularly pronounced in some segments of BLM Road 6368-00, especially in areas where the roadway travels over small hill tops (BLM photos 036-RT8-D-NW, I-SE, J-S, and K-SE) or in relatively flat topography (BLM photos 036-RT8-D-SE, I-NW, J-N, 6368-0-00-C-E, and C-W) since these areas require little maintenance to remain passable by vehicles. In other areas along BLM Road 6368-00 some of the berms are covered with brush as well as sediment (BLM photos 036-RT8-F-NW and I-NW).

ONDA's information about roads in their 2004 document for the Whitehorse Butte proposed WSA referred to their routes GH34a, GH34b, and GH35 and photos F035, J101, J112, J114, I001, and I002 that cover sections of BLM Road 6368-00. Based on these photographs and field information, ONDA determined that BLM Road 6368-00 is not a road but a way. BLM does not support ONDA's conclusion based on BLM photographs and on field reconnaissance. ONDA's photographs and information for BLM Road 6368-00 only portray a limited amount of the entire road and do not show as many well-traveled sections along the road as BLM photos. ONDA's six photographs make it appear that BLM Road 6368-00 is not well used, has not received maintenance, and their narrative contains reference to areas along the road that are overgrown by plants that restrict travel to vehicles. BLM has observed that the vast majority of annual plants covering the roadbed die off by early summer and disappear once vehicle use increases (BLM photos sets 036-RT8 and 6368-0-00) by recreationist, ranchers, BLM staff, and then by hunters during the fall period of use.

2. Improvements:

(Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?)

Yes ___ No X If — “yes”: by Hand Tools ___ by Machine ___

Examples: Culverts ___ Hardened Stream Crossings ___ Bridges ___
 Drainage ___ Barriers ___ Other ___

Describe:

B. Maintenance:

(Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure *relatively* regular and continuous use?):

Yes (if either B.1 *or* B.2 is checked “yes” below)

No (if both B.1 *and* B.2 are checked “no” below)

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

Yes No If — “yes”: by Hand Tools by Machine

Explain: BLM has been unable to locate a written record of when maintenance was last performed on this section of BLM Road 6368-00. The roadway has received maintenance as needed throughout the past 10 years 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 6368-00 over time as needed to keep this route passable. Earthen berms on the edge of the road in photographs 036-RT8-A-W, B-NE, H-NE, J-N, K-N, K-SEC, 6368-0-00-B-E, B-W, C-W, E-E, and F-W show maintenance work that has been performed on BLM Road 6368-0-0 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 6368-00, it is evident from photographs BLM has taken, that little to no maintenance is needed to keep the roadbed in good operational condition.

2. If the route or route segment is in good⁵ condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable?

Yes No

Explain: Although there is no recent (1-3 years) evidence of maintenance on BLM Road 6368-00, 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 north-south route between and for accessing state and private lands, and roads to the Owyhee Canyon WSA, the Owyhee River Rim as well as access to ranchers and BLM staff for administration purposes for numerous allotments.

BLM Road 6368-00 receives annual use, as evidence by the lack of brush in majority of the roadway and by well-used bare ground where vehicles travel. It should be noted that various amounts of brush occur sporadically throughout the length of the road along berms and ditches. 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 all photos for BLM Road 6368-00). 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.

C. Relatively regular and continuous use: (Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?)

Yes No

Describe evidence (e.g., direct, vehicles or vehicle tracks observed, or indirect, evidence of use associated with purpose of the route such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a *relatively* regular basis (i.e., regular and continuous use relative to the purpose(s) of the route).⁶

BLM Road 6368-00 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 of three livestock grazing allotments, 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 any of the roadbed of BLM Road 6368-00. BLM Road 6368-00 is wide along most of its length, and is clearly defined on the landscape.

IV. CONCLUSION:

Does the route or route segment⁷ meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road (i.e., are items III.A and III.B and III.C all checked yes)?

Yes X (Wilderness Inventory Road for inventory purposes)

No (Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes)

Explanation⁸: BLM has determined that BLM Road 6368-00 meets the definition of a road as stated in Sections IV, V, VI-A, VI-B, and VII above. BLM Road 6368-00 was constructed by mechanical equipment, receives continuous seasonal use, and has been maintained since being constructed. BLM Road 6368-00 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: <u> 11-16-11 </u>
Jack Wenderoth, Planning Contractor	
	Date: <u> 11/30/2011 </u>
Aimee Huff, Rangeland Management Specialist	
	Date: <u> 11/16/11 </u>
Keri Fredrick, Outdoor Recreation Planner	
	Date: <u> 11-16-11 </u>
Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, Contractor	

¹ 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 1610.5-3.

² 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.

³ If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria.

⁴ The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does provide context for factors on which such a determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by BLM when the need arises.

⁵ Good condition would be a condition that ensures regular and continuous use relative to the purposes of the route. Consider whether the route can be clearly followed in the field over its entire course and whether all or any portion of the route contains any impediments to travel.

⁶ Include estimate of travel rates for the stated purposes, e.g., trips/day or week or month or season or year or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases.

⁷ If part of the route meets the wilderness inventory road definition and the remainder does not, describe the segment meeting the definition and any remaining portion not meeting the definition and why.

⁸ Describe and explain rationale for any discrepancies with citizen proposals.