

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Lower Owyhee Contiguous OR-036-077, 36 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 15: Form 2 – Summary of Findings and Conclusion](#)

[Page 16: Wilderness Characteristics Overview–Lower Owyhee Contiguous OR-036-077 Map 1 of 2](#)

[Page 17: Wilderness Characteristics Overview–Lower Owyhee Contiguous OR-036-077 Map 1A of 2](#)

[Page 18: Wilderness Characteristics Overview–Lower Owyhee Contiguous OR-036-077 Map 1B of 2](#)

[Page 19: Wilderness Characteristics Overview–Lower Owyhee Contiguous OR-036-077 Map 1C of 2](#)

[Page 20: Wilderness Characteristics-Land Treatments-Lower Owyhee Contiguous OR-036-077 Map 2A of 2](#)

[Page 21: Wilderness Characteristics-Land Treatments-Lower Owyhee Contiguous OR-036-077 Map 2B of 2](#)

[Page 22: Wilderness Characteristics – BLM Photo Points – Lower Owyhee Contiguous Map & Log](#)

[Page 23: OR-036-077 Lower Owyhee Contiguous BLM Photos](#)

[Page 25: H-6300-1-Wilderness Inventory Maintenance in BLM Oregon/Washington
Appendix C – Road* Analysis: 036-RT 20](#)

[Page 31: H-6300-1-Wilderness Inventory Maintenance in BLM Oregon/Washington
Appendix C – Road* Analysis: 7305-0-00](#)

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-036-077 – Lower Owyhee Contiguous

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, Partially of 3-110 of OR-03-08-02 Lower Owyhee Canyon; Partially of OR-03-09-07 Wind Creek. (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).
- (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 3-110 of OR-03-08-02 Lower Owyhee Canyon; 3-123 of OR-03-09-04 Indian Camp; OR-03-09-07

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
Partially of 3-110 of OR-03-08-02 Lower Owyhee Canyon	86,100	N	Y	Y	Y
Partially of OR-03-09-07 Wind Creek	10, 190 No old inventory folder found	*	*	*	*
TOTAL	96,290				

*- 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, 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-036-077 – Lower Owyhee Contiguous

Note: In February, 2004, the Vale District received from Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) its evaluation of wilderness characteristics for the Association’s 11,578 acre “Lower Owyhee Canyon proposed WSA Addition”. The boundaries of the association’s proposal and of BLM unit OR-036-077 are quite different. BLM has included three separate areas that form the Lower Owyhee Contiguous unit for a total of 16,960 acres. For reference, a hard copy of ONDA’s proposal is retained in this unit’s file.

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-036-077 is comprised of three areas totaling 16,960 acres of public land that are contiguous with the Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA. The northern most Area A consists of 1898 acres; the middle and largest Area B consist of 14,439 acres; and the southern and smallest Area C consists of 623 acres. Although Areas A and C do not meet the size requirement, each area is contiguous with the Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA. Thus -- being contiguous to the WSA -- regardless of its size -- each of the two contiguous areas meet size criteria. Refer to this inventory unit’s associated Map 1 for its location. BLM Unit OR-036-077 was partially the original BLM Units 3-110 of OR-03-08-02 Lower Owyhee Canyon and OR-03-09-07 Wind Creek of the 1978 -1980 wilderness inventory. Acreage for Unit OR-036-077 in Form 2 is calculated from BLM GIS information. The unit boundary for the northern Area A consists of BLM Road 7305-0-00 on its southeast side and is contiguous with the Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA on the area’s north and west sides because BLM Route 036-RT6 that was once classified as a road and currently serves as the boundary of the Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA with Area A was reclassified by the ID Team as a motorized primitive trail. The road was reclassified because it has not received maintenance or continual use. Refer to Area A’s road analysis on BLM Route 036-RT6 for additional information on the IDTs reclassification. The unit boundary for the middle Area B is BLM Road 7303-0-00 on its east side, BLM Road 036-RT20 on its north side, private land parcels on its south side, and is contiguous with the Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA along its western boundary. The unit boundary for the southern Area C consists of private land parcels on all sides of the area except for the northwest corner of the area that is contiguous with the Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA. BLM Roads 7303-0-00, 7305-0-00, and 036-RT20 are natural-surfaced boundary roads that 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 X No X N/A

Description: Given each Areas size relative to the evidence of man-made developments, the northern Area A appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor; the middle Area B appears to be affected primarily not by the forces of nature but with the imprint of humans substantially noticeable to the average visitor; and the southern Area C appears to be affected primarily not by the forces of nature but with the imprint of humans substantially noticeable to the average visitor.

BLM Unit OR-036-077 Area A consists mainly of an elevated bench, in the east/northeast portion of the area, nearly 400 to 500 feet above a predominate rim of the surrounding west/northwest terrain in the northwest section of the area. Elevation levels within Area A range from a low of 3,810 feet above mean sea level (msl) at the northwestern boundary of the area to a high of 4,410 feet (msl) at the extreme northeast tip of the area. Area A is dissected by numerous small drainages that flow to the north and northwest into Fort Creek. All drainages flow into Fort Creek except for one channel that drains to the southwest into Mud Creek. Vegetation within the unit consists primarily of either big or low sagebrush that contain mostly native and a very small amount of non-native grass species located in the extreme southeast corner of the area.

BLM Unit OR-036-077 Area B consists mainly of an elevated bench of nearly flat terrain that slopes gently to the west toward the Owyhee River except for the extreme northern portion of Area B that is made up of a flat bench approximately 350 feet above and surrounding the Bogus Rim, lava fields and the westward flowing Bogus Creek. Elevation ranges from 4,050 feet in the northeastern corner of the unit to a low of 3,550 feet along Bogus Creek in the northwest corner of the area. Area B is dissected by numerous small drainages that mostly flow directly to the Owyhee River with the remaining channels in the northern portion that flow into Bogus Creek. Vegetation within Area B consists primarily of either big or low sagebrush that contain some native but predominately non-native grass species.

BLM Unit OR-036-077 Area C consists mainly of a highly dissected elevated bench that startles Crooked Creek. Elevation within the area ranges from a high of 3,630 feet at the south central eastern boundary to a low of 3,380 feet along Crooked Creek at the north central east boundary of the area. Area C is dissected by numerous small drainages formed in highly erodible volcanic sediments that flow directly to Crooked Creek. Vegetation within Area C consists primarily of either big or low sagebrush that contain native grass species.

Refer to BLM Unit OR-036-077 inventory associated Map 1, 1A, 1B, 1C, and Map 2A, 2B for its human developments. Human imprints within Area A include 0.2 miles of 2 motorized primitive trails, 5 earthen reservoirs, and 2 vegetation manipulation treatments performed in 1996. Overall, given Area A's size relative to the evidence of man-made developments, Area A appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.

Human imprints within Area B include 24.2 miles of 17 motorized primitive trails, one road that is 2.8 miles in length, 7 earthen reservoirs, 14.3 miles of fence, one fenced reservoir enclosure, one fenced vegetation enclosure, one corral, two pipeline systems consisting of 8.9 miles of pipeline and 17 troughs, and 30 vegetation manipulation treatments from 1957 through 1996. Because the numerous vegetation treatments were conducted in 100 percent of the acreage within Area B over a four 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 and vegetation specie contrast from past vegetation treatments. The numerous MPTs and one road, with many of these routes associated with a number of pipe and fence lines located throughout area B, dissect the entire area from north to south into 16 cells that range from about one-half to one and one-half miles in width. Although these routes are somewhat obscure throughout the landscape because of the amount of use each receives annually, the orientation of the routes, in relation to the boundary of the Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA, leaves no landmass in the entire area that possesses any intact large acreage that has not been intruded upon by the imprint of humans substantially unnoticeable. Overall, given Area B's size relative to the evidence of man-made developments, Area B appears to be affected primarily not by the forces of nature but with the imprint of humans substantially noticeable to the average visitor.

Human imprints within Area C include 2.0 miles of 6 motorized primitive trails and 0.70 miles of fence. The location of fences and MPTs dissect area C leaving approximately 200 acres intact that do not contain human disturbance. Overall, given Area C's small size relative to the evidence of man-made developments, Area C 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 N/A

Description: BLM concludes that Area A in BLM Unit OR-036-077 provides outstanding opportunities for solitude whereas Areas B and C do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Area A possesses an irregular shape narrowest at the northeast boundary tip and expands westward to its greatest width in the west central portion of the area, then maintains a more uniform width to the western boundary. The area's western boundary is approximately 1.5 miles in width with the remaining portion narrowing eastward. Area A has an overall length of about 3.0 miles. The eastern third of Area A consists of a relatively flat bench with its western edge ending at a steep rim 250 - 350 feet above the remaining portion of the area. The meandering rim face is very steep for the first 800 feet to the west then slopes gradually to the west/northwest over the remaining half of the area. The winding rim contains numerous small stream channel ravines cutting through the rim face that vary in depth and length over the entire length of the rim. The vast majority of the unit contains a diversity of pronounced relief features and secluded sites. Extensive vegetative screening for seclusion from others is limited because of the natural

vegetation type heights occurring throughout the area 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, in spite of the area's limited quality of vegetative screening, the diversity in relief over the entire terrain allows Area A outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Area B is a long narrow irregular slightly curved north-south rectangle with an extended section to the east in the extreme northern portion of the area that surrounds parcels of private land. The entire western boundary of the area is contiguous with the Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA. Terrain throughout Area B is relatively flat except in the northern portion along Bogus Creek. The relatively flat terrain is only interrupted by three 100 foot elevated benches that extend westward from the eastern boundary and occur in the north central, central, and south central portions of Area B. The northern most portion of Area B contains the Bogus Creek drainage where a section of an exposed lava flow covers the landscape and is surrounded by the 150-300 foot Bogus Rim on the north edge of the drainage channel and a 20-150 foot rim on the south edge of the drainage channel. There are no fewer than 40 small drainage channels besides Bogus Creek that dissect Area B across the length of its landscape. The main channel of Bogus Creek in the northern portion of the area is an interrupted perennial system whereas all other channels that drain through Area B are ephemeral and do not contain any perennial springs. Because of the lack of perennial water throughout Area B for livestock, human constructed projects have littered the landscape consisting of 7 earthen reservoirs and 7 spur sections of pipelines that service 17 water troughs. The length of all pipeline spurs are MPTs that serve as access routes for pipeline and reservoir maintenance with many of the MPTs connecting to form loop routes or additional routes to the rim of the Owyhee River and Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA for a total of 17 separate MPTs and one access road to private land scattered throughout the length of Area B.

These human constructed intrusions within Area B range in visibility to visitors and many are substantially noticeable at far distances dependent upon one's location within the area. As described within the Natural Condition section above, the road and 17 MPTs within the area produce a mosaic of narrow mostly east-to-west orientated landscape cells bordered by MPTs. Most of the cells are about one-half to one and one-half miles in width. The maze of routes and rangeland projects does not lend itself to visitors gaining a sense of solitude when traversing any portion of Area B with its limited diversity of terrain even if entire lengths of the routes at some time throughout the year are not clearly visible because of vegetation screening. Because Area B does not contain a diversity of terrain or extensive vegetative screening, but contains numerous human intrusions that are dissected by the numerous MPTs and one road, BLM has determined that Area B does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and concludes that Area B of unit OR-036-077 would impair the quality of solitude to the contiguous Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA. Therefore, Area B is not an extension of the WSA values.

Area C of BLM Unit OR-036-077 consists of one section of land that is completely surrounded by private land parcels on all sides of the area except on its northwest corner where it is contiguous with the Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA. Because Area C is contiguous with the Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA, opportunities for solitude are usually the same as those previously determined by BLM to be present in the contiguous Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA. Although, opportunities for solitude are available in small

secluded sites in Area C of BLM Unit OR-036-077 due to some diversity of terrain any of these sites are no more than one-half mile from private land. The area is also dissected by 2.0 miles of 6 motorized primitive trails and contains no extensive vegetative screening within its boundaries. Therefore, Area C does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Yes No N/A

Description: BLM concludes that Area A in BLM Unit OR-036-077 provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation whereas Areas B and C do not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

BLM Unit OR-036-077 consists of three areas that are contiguous with the Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA. For the Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA, BLM previously determined that outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation exists within the WSA. The WSA offers exceptional diversity of land forms and soils that have resulted in a wide variety of ecological sites. On the plateaus above the Owyhee Canyon the major plant community is Wyoming big sagebrush bluebunch wheatgrass. Chalk Basin contains unique ecological sites with barren soils and sparse vegetative communities. Where soils have developed or collected on the steep walls of the Owyhee River Canyon, the potential natural community is Wyoming big sagebrush bluebunch wheatgrass, which is in pristine condition due to its inaccessibility to livestock.

The Owyhee River Canyon provides the best whitewater rafting in southeastern Oregon and some of the best in the northwestern United States. Special features would be protected including complex geologic formations; California bighorn sheep and northern bald eagle; a diverse variety of raptors and rare plants; and over 100 archeological sites that provide a 9,000-year record of cultural adaptation to an arid environment.

The area offers outstanding opportunities for primitive types of recreation, including whitewater boating, day hiking, camping, watersports, fishing, sightseeing, hunting, photography and birdwatching. Whitewater boating on the Owyhee River is considered to be the best in eastern Oregon and ranks with the best in the northwest United States. Float boating on the portion of the Owyhee River within the WSA is possible during the spring. The steep, rugged topography of the Owyhee Canon and its short tributaries restricts most foot travel to the canyon bottoms. Hiking the main canyon is possible for short distances but longer treks are blocked by many deep pools and sheer cliffs. Attractive campsites are numerous and fairly well spaced along the river, but few can be found elsewhere in the WSA. Sightseeing and photographic opportunities are outstanding for enthusiasts willing to confront the difficulties of reaching and traveling through the isolated canyon of the WSA. Attractions include abundant and diverse wildlife, spectacular geologic formations and dramatic stretches of whitewater.

Bird watching opportunities are also excellent. More than 150 passerine (song bird) species have been observed and waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors and upland game birds are

also common. Mule deer, geese, ducks, chukar and valley quail provide good to excellent hunting opportunities, especially along the river. Poor access is the biggest deterrent to hunting, however this condition is considered to be an attribute by those hunters desiring a quality hunting experience in a wilderness setting. The Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA is characterized by contrasting topography between the Owyhee River, associated canyons and breaks, and the sagebrush plateaus overlooking the canyons. Complex geologic formations have been strata exposed and readily observable for scientific study. Riparian vegetation is concentrated in narrow bands and isolated pockets along the river. Hackberry, an unusual tree species for a desert ecosystem, occurs in groves. The Owyhee River Canyon contrasts with the surrounding arid environment and offers outstanding opportunities to study aquatic and riparian habitats in a desert area. Chalk Basin contains unique ecological sites with barren soils and sparse vegetative communities. One rare species, *Asffagalus sterilis* or sterile milkvetch, which is a Candidate species for Federal listing as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is known to occur in the area. Some of the oldest pack rat middens (nests) yet discovered in the Intermountain Sagebrush Province was found in the Owyhee River Canyon. Preserved organic material from pack rat middens has provided a record of vegetation changes over the past **30,000** years. The canyon and breaks provide habitat for California bighorn sheep and several species of raptors, including the northern bald eagle, golden eagle and prairie falcons.

There is good evidence that a large number of archeological sites are concentrated along the river. A 1976 inventory in the Owyhee River Canyon from Crooked Creek to the upper end of the Owyhee Reservoir, plus earlier studies, indicate that the Owyhee Canyon and the adjacent plateaus have been used by humans for the past 12,000 years. The inventories identified 102 prehistoric and historic sites representing a wide diversity of types and time periods (e.g. prehistoric seasonal camps, shelters, petro glyphs, manufacturing and single activity areas, and historic homesteads, ranches, town sites and water wheels). Dirty Shame Rock shelter on Antelope Creek was excavated by a team from the University of Oregon in 1973 and provided a 9,000-year record of previously unknown cultural adaptation.

Because Area A is contiguous with the Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA, opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are the same as those previously determined by BLM to be present in the contiguous Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA. Recreational opportunities within the unit include hiking, camping, horseback riding, photography, bird watching, general sightseeing, and hunting of common game species (chukar, antelope, and deer). Area A is also included within the identified potential habitat for Bighorn sheep, although no local sheep herd is known to inhabit or move through the area. Although the opportunity to hunt the species within this inventory area may exist, it is not considered 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). These recreation opportunities -- individually or in combination -- are not considered to be outstanding when compared to those primitive and unconfined recreation characteristics described for the Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA. But because Area A is contiguous with the WSA and affected primarily by the forces of nature, BLM concludes that area A of unit OR-036-077 is an extension of the WSA and does provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Because Area B is contiguous with the Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA, opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are usually the same as those previously determined by BLM to be present in the contiguous Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are available in Area B of BLM Unit OR-036-077, but the opportunities are not outstanding as a whole. Recreational opportunities within the unit include hiking, camping, horseback riding, photography, bird watching, general sightseeing, and hunting of common game species (chukar, antelope, and deer). Although the opportunity to hunt Bighorn sheep within inventory Area A may exist, BLM does not find it to be outstanding due to the limited terrain within the area that Bighorn sheep occupy and utilize on a regular basis (e.g., rugged, rocky, cliffy or steep-sloped terrain). Moreover, while this area 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.

These recreation opportunities -- individually or in combination -- are not considered, in themselves to be outstanding because, relative to others of its kind as a whole and lacks the scenic quality, diversity of landforms, and challenging terrain as to be outstanding when compared to those primitive and unconfined recreation characteristics identified for the Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA. BLM concludes that even though Area B of unit OR-036-077 is contiguous with the WSA, it is not affected primarily by the forces of nature but with the imprint of humans substantially noticeable to the average visitor and does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Therefore, Area B is not an extension of the WSA values.

BLM also calls attention to ONDA's reference in their 2004 document that BLM noted that the unit offers outstanding scenery. BLM agrees that the Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA does provide outstanding scenery but BLM is inventorying area B for its scenery and not that portion of the 1978-1980s inventory units that became the WSA. ONDA goes on the state that views off the rim of the canyon are spectacular (ONDA photos CA 011, 012), and the views of the area in general are gorgeous (ONDA photo, CA20). BLM does not dispute ONDA's information about outstanding scenery and views of areas of the Owyhee Canyon rim form and within the Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA, but the scenery and views that ONDA refer to in their 2004 document lie outside of the current inventory Area B of BLM Unit OR-036-077. BLM brings attention to the fact that the inventory area is evaluated upon those values that occur within the boundaries of each unit and not of those values lying beyond even when the area is contiguous with the Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA.

ONDA also states in their 2004 document that "The Lower Owyhee Canyon proposed WSA Addition would enhance previously noted outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in the Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA. In much of the area, the existing WSA boundary sits right along the rim of the Owyhee Canyon. The proposed addition would enhance the opportunities for solitude along the rim and within the canyon by keeping motorized vehicles and other mechanical intrusions out of visible and audible range of the rim. It would allow visitors to be more dispersed throughout the area, and provide more hiking opportunities. A view of the Saddle Butte hills and snow-covered mountains further to the west is visible in much of the proposed addition,

providing spectacular views and a sense of wildness (ONDA photos CA 003, 009, 016, 019, 020, and 025).”

BLM recognizes that the statement that ONDA makes about their Lower Owyhee Canyon proposed WSA Addition is if the unit would become a designated WSA. BLM is only conducting an updated inventory of existing wilderness characteristics within area B of BLM Unit OR-036-077 and does not support ONDA's statement that vehicles and other mechanical intrusions would cease within BLM's Area B in and along the existing road and 17 MPTs. Presently these roads and routes provide access to numerous water projects that currently exist within Area B and the possibility of route closure is not determined within this inventory update.

ONDA also states that “Birding also would be an outstanding primitive recreation opportunity as horned larks, Brewer’s sparrows, sage sparrows, prairie falcons, canyon wrens, lark sparrows, vesper sparrows, and phoebes were found.” BLM does not dispute ONDA’s statement that these species exist within Area B of BLM Unit OR-036-077 however, these species are common to area B and the surrounding units that BLM has inventoried and are not in itself an outstanding primitive recreation opportunity. In addition Area B does not provide similar habitat for 150 or so species of birds identified within the wilderness values for the contiguous Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA.

Area C consists of one section of land and is completely surrounded by private land parcels on all sides of the area except on its northwest corner where it is contiguous with the Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA. Because Area C is contiguous with the Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA, opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are usually the same as those previously determined by BLM to be present in the contiguous Lower Owyhee Canyon WSA. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are available in Area C of BLM Unit OR-036-077, but the opportunities are not outstanding as a whole. Recreational opportunities within Area C include hiking, camping, horseback riding, photography, bird watching, general sightseeing, and hunting of common game species (chukar, antelope, and deer). BLM concludes that even though area C of BLM Unit OR-036-077 is contiguous with the WSA, it is not affected primarily by the forces of nature but with the imprint of humans substantially noticeable to the average visitor and does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Therefore, Area C is not an extension of the WSA values.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: BLM does not identify any supplemental values in Areas A, B, or C. ONDA has identified area B as containing supplemental values and states that “its Lower Owyhee Canyon proposed WSA Addition may provide habitat for the Ground Snake, Ferruginous Hawk, Townsend’s Big-eared Bat, Pygmy Rabbit, and the White-tailed Antelope Squirrel, all of which are designated “sensitive species” by the State of Oregon. Also ONDA stated that the Townsend’s Big-eared Bat and Pygmy Rabbit are Federal Species of Concern.” BLM recognizes – at this point in time-- the Pygmy Rabbit and Townsend’s Big-eared Bat as a BLM special status animal species and acknowledges that

habitat requirements may exist for the Ground Snake, Ferruginous Hawk, and the White-tailed Antelope Squirrel. However, neither ONDA nor any other entity has provided BLM with official documentation of the presence of these mentioned species, or of the Pygmy Rabbit and Townsend's Big-eared Bat in the inventory unit. BLM's own documentation does not contain evidence of the presence of these species either.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-036-077—Lower Owyhee Contiguous

Summary Results of Analysis:

- 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? X Yes No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural? X Yes X No
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? X Yes X No NA
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes X 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: Jack R Wenderoth 4/5/2011
Jack Wenderoth, Planning Contractor

Team Members:

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

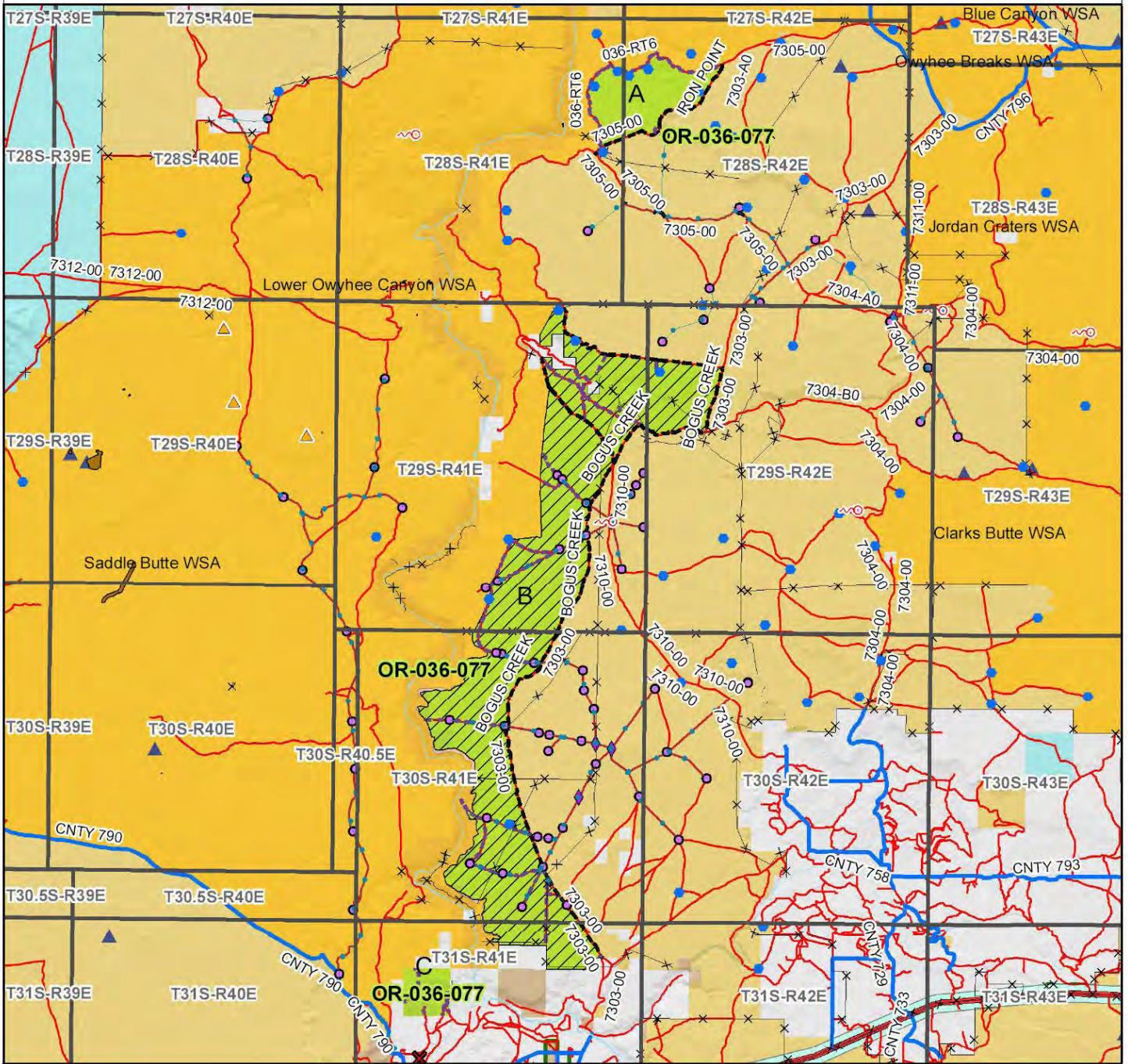
Approved by:

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.

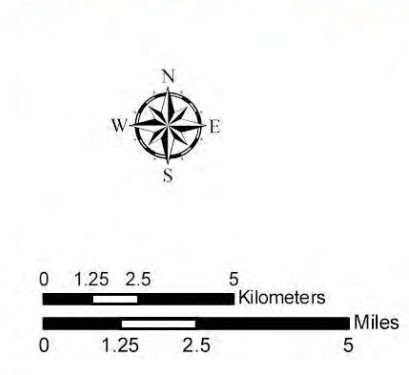
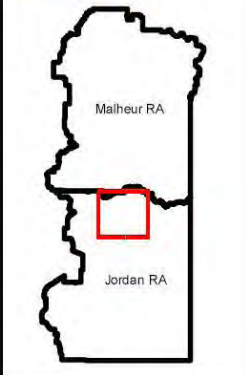
Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Lower Owyhee Contiguous - OR-036-077 - Map 1 of 2



Legend

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Route Types - BLM Determination Boundary Road Mobized Primitive Trail (MPT) Discontinued Use Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit County Major Highway BLM Numbered & Other Routes Land Ownership Bureau of Land Management State Private Other Federal Land Unnatural Areas Non-WSA, BLM Recommended Wilderness - 1991
---	---



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

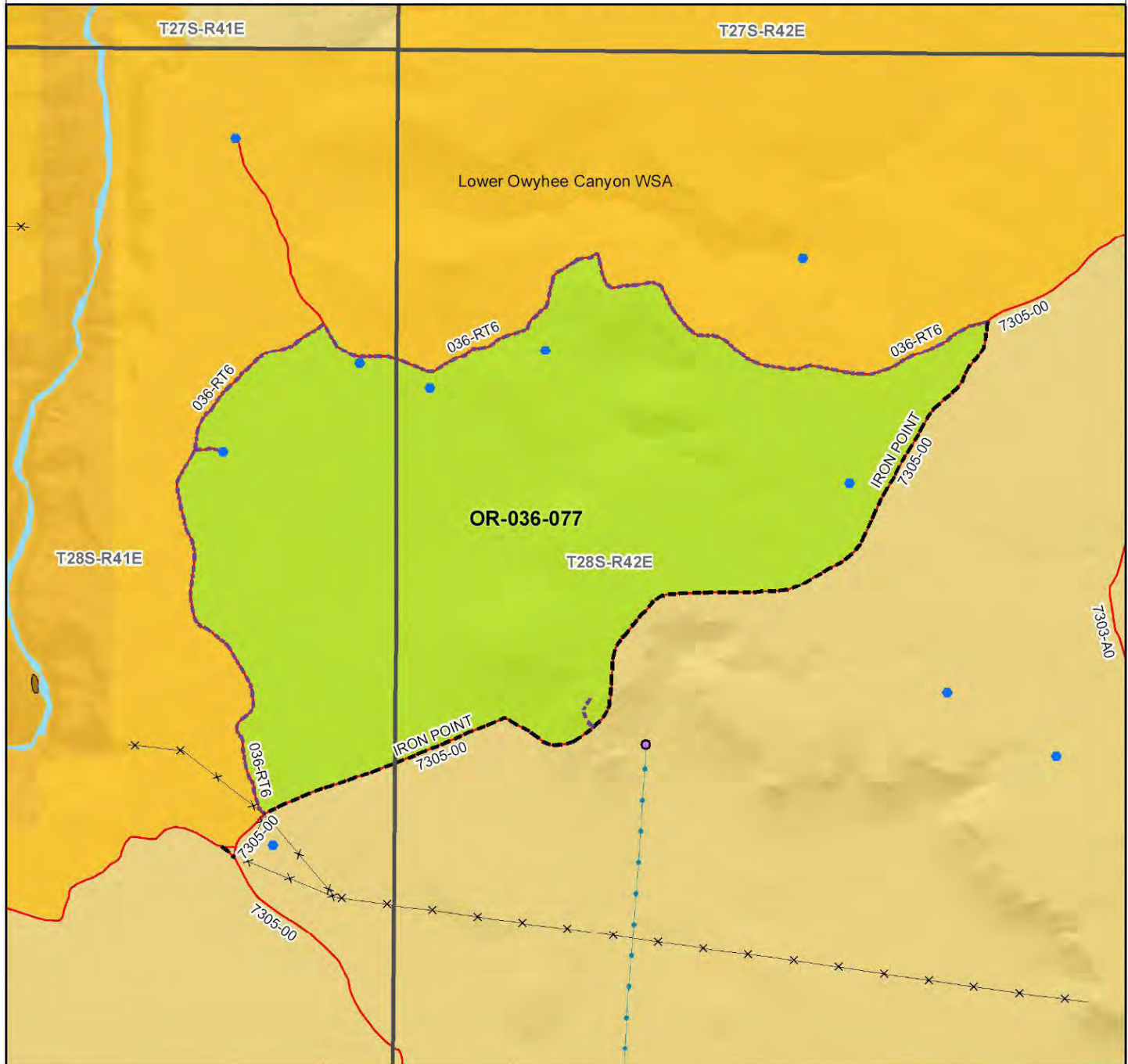
VALE DISTRICT
March 17, 2011

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 - Overview

Lower Owyhee Contiguous - OR-036-077 - Map 1A of 2



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

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

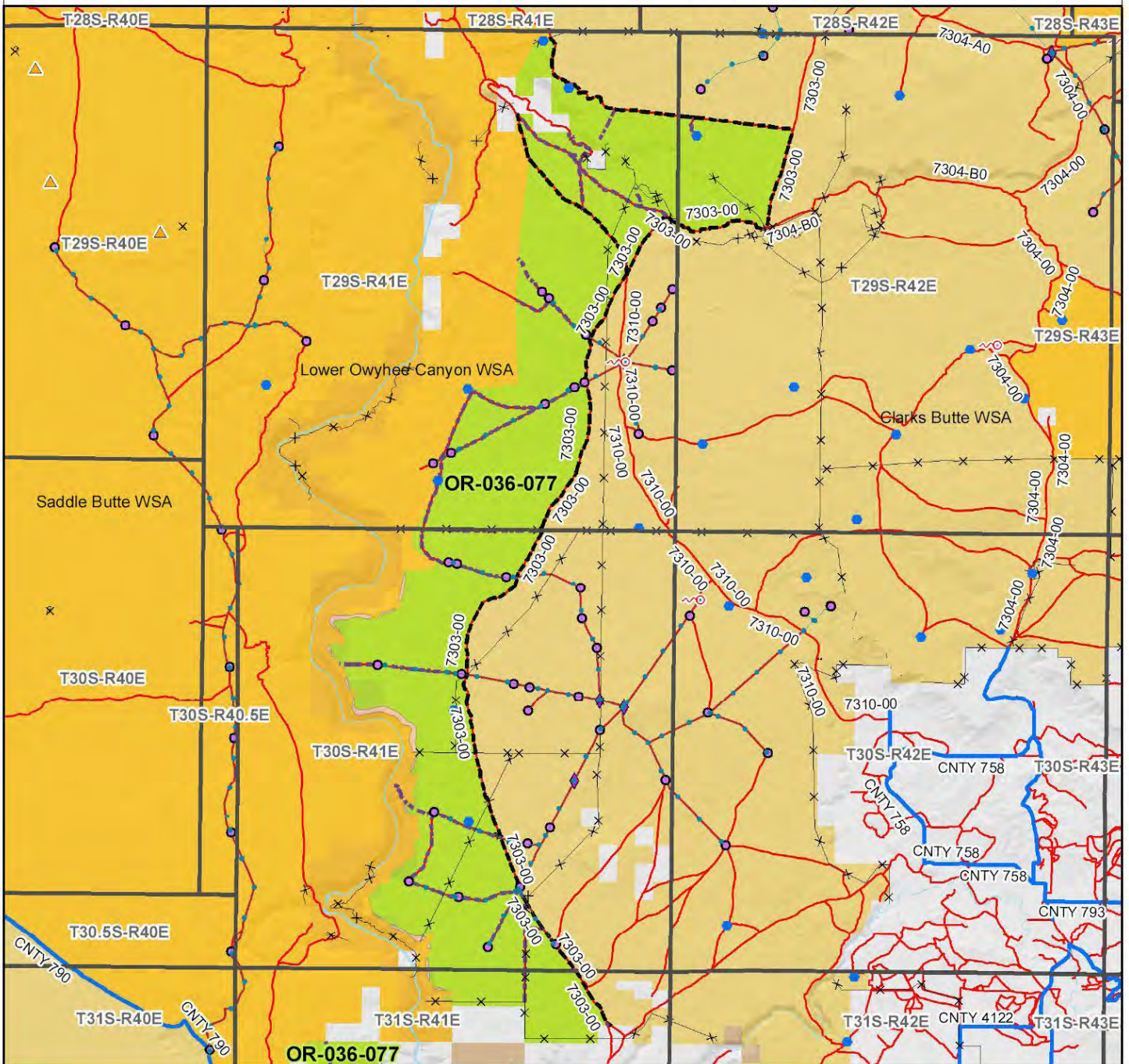
VALE DISTRICT
March 17, 2011

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--

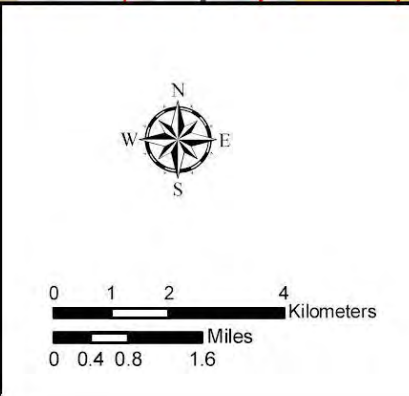
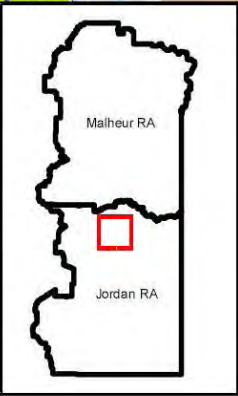
Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Lower Owyhee Contiguous - OR-036-077 - Map 1B of 2



Legend

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Roads/Utility Right-of-Way Major Water Body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Route Types - BLM Determination Boundary Road Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT) Discontinued Use Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit County Major Highway BLM Numbered & Other Routes Land Ownership Bureau of Land Management State Private Other Federal Land Unnatural Areas Non-WISA, BLM Rec. Wild. - 1991
--	--



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

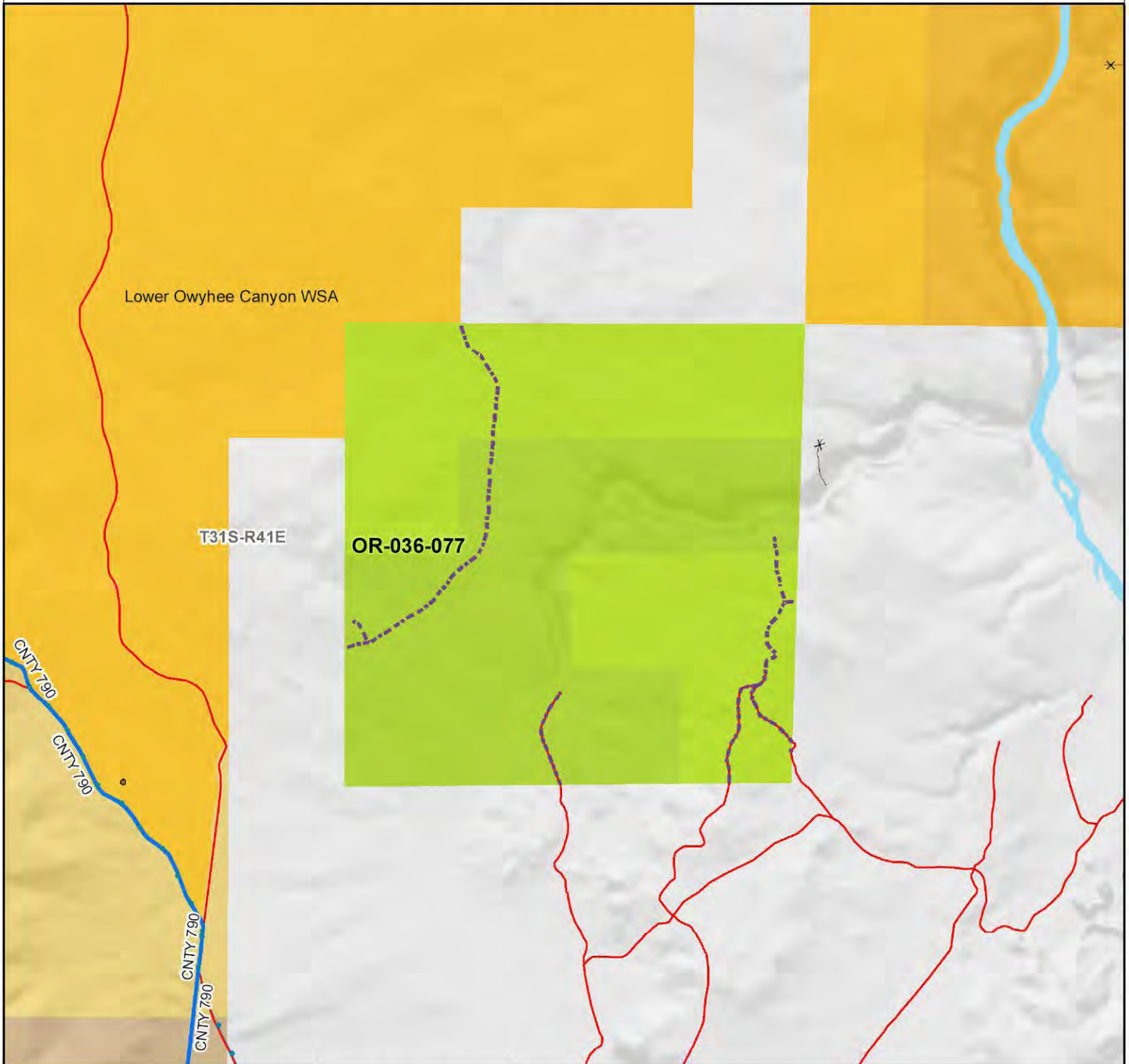
VALE DISTRICT
March 17, 2011

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.

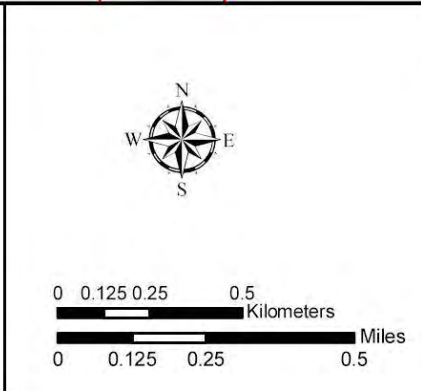
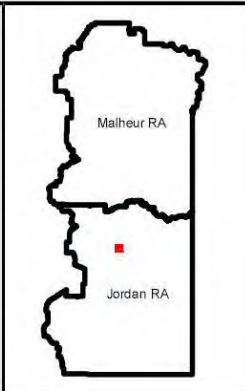
--FINAL--

Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Lower Owyhee Contiguous - OR-036-077 - Map 1C 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
	Roads/Utility Right-of-Way
	Major Water Body
	Route Types - BLM Determination
	Boundary Road
	Moblized 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



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

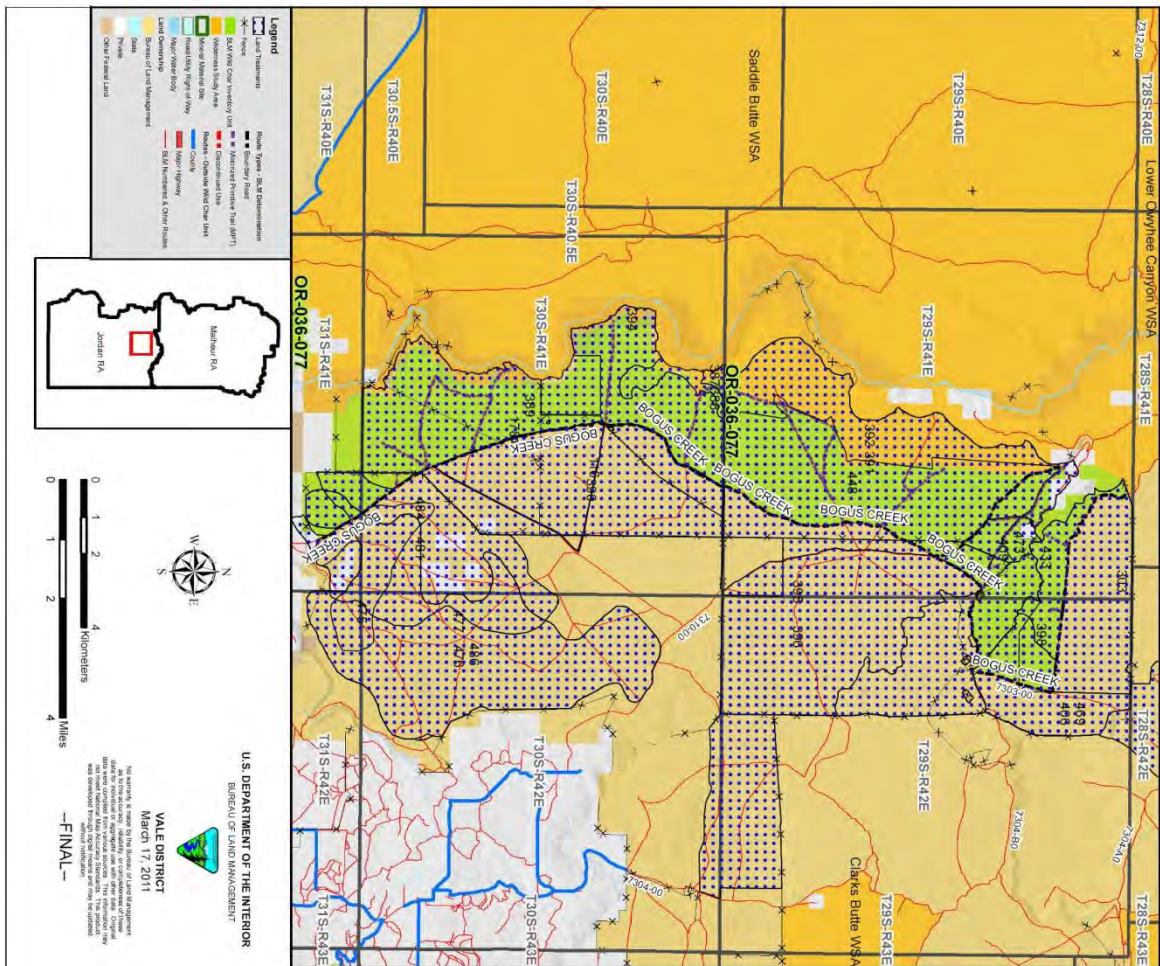


VALE DISTRICT
March 17, 2011

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 Lower Owyhee Contiguous - OR-036-077 - Map 2B of 2

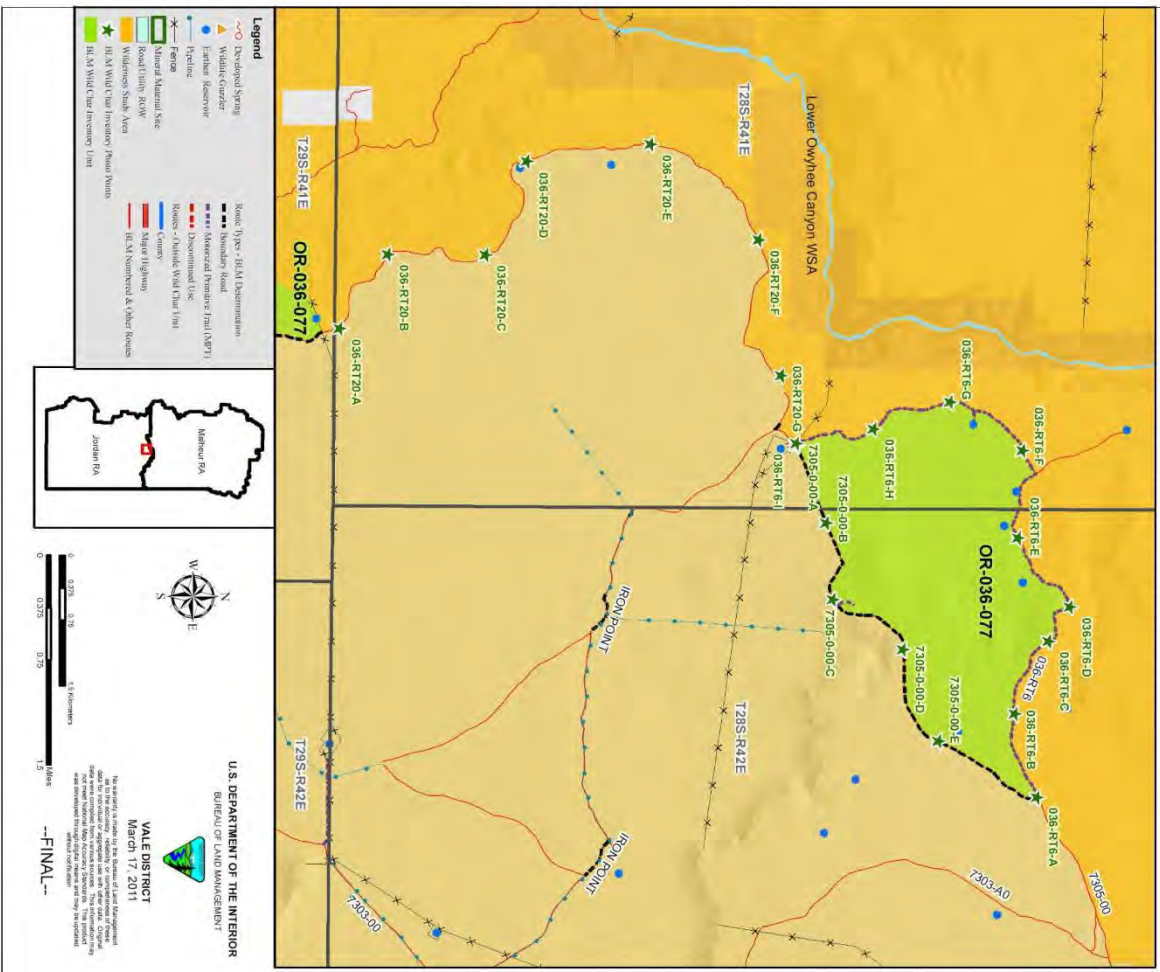


Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments Lower Owyhee Contiguous - OR-036-077 - Map 2B of 2

OBJECTID*	NAME	TREATMENT TYPE	SEED GROUP	DATE
116	ROME WUI	Brushbeat	Not Applicable	2006/07/1
178	OWYHEE BUTTE TEST PLOT	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable	1962
287	OWYHEE BUTTE TEST PLOT	Drill Seeding	Unknown	1962
303	MUD FLAT B.C.	Chemical Treatment	Not Applicable	1958
387	OWYHEE BUTTE SDG	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable	1963
388	OWYHEE BUTTE SDG	Drill Seeding	Unknown	1963
389	OWYHEE BUTTE SDG	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable	1963
390	OWYHEE BUTTE SDG	Drill Seeding	Unknown	1963
391	OWYHEE CANYON B.C.	Chemical Treatment	Not Applicable	1966
392	OWYHEE CANYON B.C.	Drill Seeding	Unknown	1966
394	OWYHEE RESDGS	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses	1957
396	BOGUS CR REHAB	Drill Seeding	Unknown	1973
396	BOGUS CR REHAB	Aerial Seeding	Unknown	1966
398	BOGUS CR B.C. & SDG	Chemical Treatment	Not Applicable	1973
406	BOGUS CR ESR & ADDENDUM	Drill Seeding	A mix of non-native grasses	1996
409	BOGUS CR ESR & ADDENDUM	Drill Seeding	A mix of non-native grasses	1996
433	BOGUS CR B.C. & SDG	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses	1966
448	OWYHEE CANYON SDG	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses	1968
469	BOGUS CR ESR & ADDENDUM	Aerial Seeding	A mix of non-native grasses	1996
473	BOGUS CR ESR & ADDENDUM	Aerial Seeding	A mix of non-native grasses	1996
475	A ROCK SDG	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses	1992
476	TANKER ESR	Drill Seeding	Combination	1985
477	BONEY ESR	Drill Seeding	Combination	1985
481	W.L.O-CHINA G-BOGUS L-WIRE CRL ES	Drill Seeding	Combination	1996
484	W.L.O-CHINA G-BOGUS L-WIRE CRL ES	Aerial Seeding	Combination	1996
486	BONEY ESR	Aerial Seeding	Combination	1985

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
Lower Owyhee Contiguous - OR-036-077**



**Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Points
Lower Owyhee Contiguous - OR-036-077**

PHOTO LOCATION	DIRECTION	PHOTO_TYPE	PHOTO DATE	COMMENTS
7305-0-00-A	NE	Route	20080823	Front, beginning of RT 7305-0-00
7305-0-00-A	SW	Route	20080823	Back, beg of RT 7305-0-00, cattle gate, fence
7305-0-00-A	SE	Project	20080823	OR-036-053-A-SE Fence
7305-0-00-B	NE	Route	20080823	Front
7305-0-00-B	SW	Route	20080823	Back
7305-0-00-C	NE	Route	20080823	Front
7305-0-00-C	SW	Route	20080823	Back
7305-0-00-D	E	Route	20080823	Front
7305-0-00-D	W	Route	20080823	Back
7305-0-00-E	NE	Route	20080823	Front
7305-0-00-E	SW	Route	20080823	Back
036-RT6-A	W	Route	20080823	Front, beginning of 036-RT6
036-RT6-A	E	Route	20080823	Back, beginning of 036-RT6, intersection
036-RT6-B	W	Route	20080823	Front
036-RT6-B	E	Route	20080823	Back
036-RT6-C	NW	Route	20080823	Front
036-RT6-C	SE	Route	20080823	Back
036-RT6-D	S	Route	20080823	Front
036-RT6-D	SW	Route	20080823	Back
036-RT6-E	SW	Route	20080823	Front
036-RT6-E	NE	Route	20080823	Back
036-RT6-F	SW	Route	20080823	Front
036-RT6-F	NE	Route	20080823	Back
036-RT6-G	S	Route	20080823	Front
036-RT6-G	NE	Route	20080823	Back
036-RT6-H	SE	Route	20080823	Front
036-RT6-H	NW	Route	20080823	Back
036-RT6-I	S	Route	20080823	Front, end of 036-RT6, fence, gate & intersection
036-RT6-I	N	Route	20080823	Back, end of 036-RT6
036-RT6-A	N	Route	20080823	end of route 7305-0-00
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	N	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.



036-RT20-A-NW.jpg



036-RT20-A-SE.jpg



036-RT20-B-NW.jpg



036-RT20-B-SE.jpg



036-RT20-C-N.jpg



036-RT20-C-S.jpg



036-RT20-D-N.jpg



036-RT20-D-S.jpg



036-RT20-E-N.jpg



036-RT20-E-S.jpg



036-RT20-F-E.jpg



036-RT20-F-W.jpg



036-RT20-G-NE.jpg



036-RT20-G-SW.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-036-077 – Lower Owyhee Contiguous (Area B)

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

North Boundary Road 036-RT20 of BLM Unit Lower Owyhee Contiguous (Area B) 036-077

ONDA partial of designated BLM Road 036-RT20 as route (way) OR8b

- I. LOCATION:** See attached map. BLM Unit OR-036-077 (Area B) contains BLM Road 036-RT20 as the north 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 X 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.

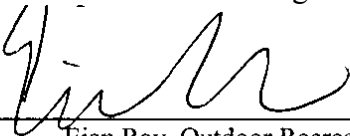
VIII. CONCLUSION:

To meet the definition of a road, items IV or V, and VI-A or B, and VII must be checked yes.

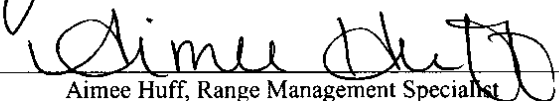
Road: Yes No

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”.

**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-036-077 – Lower Owyhee Contiguous (Area A)

NOTE: This unit is affected by ONDA’s proposed Deer Butte WSA.

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

Southeast section of BLM Road 7305-0-00
ONDA partial of designated BLM Road 7305-0-00 as route (way) OR1 and as route (way) North Boundary Road

VIII. LOCATION: See attached map. BLM Unit OR-036-077 (Area A) contains BLM Road 7305-0-00 as the southeast boundary of the unit.

List photo point references:

BLM Road 7305-0-00 photos 7305-0-00-A – 7305-0-00-E (10 photos); photos 7305-0-00-E1 -- 7305-0-00-H1 (6 photos)
ONDA route (way) OR1 photos BB 053, 056, and 057; ONDA route (way) OR North Boundary photos BB 040, 050, 051, 052, 054, and 055

IX. 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 7305-0-00 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 7305-0-00 photographs 7305-0-00-A – 7305-0-00-E (10 photos) and photographs 7305-0-00-E1 -- 7305-0-00-H1 (6 photos) indicate that BLM Road 7305-0-00 receives a level of use and most probable by those people described above.

ONDA describes BLM Road 7305-0-00 as two sections of “ways,” the OR North Boundary route and OR1. ONDA states that the northern boundary of Deer Butte proposed WSA (referred to as OR North Boundary) is a deteriorating, overgrown, little used way (see photos BB40, 50, 51, 54, 55) and OR1 as an overgrown way with little to no sign of use (photos BB53, 56, 57).

BLM disagrees with ONDA’s description of use for BLM Road 7305-0-00 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.

X. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:

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

Yes _____ No X Unknown _____

XI. CONSTRUCTION

Yes X No _____

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

Describe: BLM Road 7305-0-00 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. Also this section of BLM Road 7305-0-00 in many areas still contains ditches to drain water from the road along one side of the roadbed. The majority of the berms along the roadbed are now covered mostly by annual vegetation along with minor 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 7305-0-00, especially in areas where the roadway travels over small hill tops (BLM photos 7305-0-00-C-SW and 7305-0-00-G1-W) or in relatively flat topography (BLM photos 7305-0-00-B-NE&SW) since these areas require little maintenance to remain passable by vehicles. In other areas along BLM Road 7305-0-00 some of the ditches and berms are covered with brush as well as sediment filling in the some of the remaining depth of ditches (BLM photos 7305-0-00-F1-E&W).

ONDA's information about roads in their 2004 document for the Deer Butte proposed WSA referred to their routes OR1 and North Boundary and photos BB 053, 056, and 057 and photos BB 040, 050, 051, 052, 054, and 055 respectively that cover sections of BLM Road 7305-0-00. Based on these photographs and field information, ONDA determined that BLM Road 7305-0-00 was 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 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 (BB 053-057) record large amounts of annual plants that cover the roadway and make it appear that BLM Road 7305-0-00 is not well used, has not received maintenance, 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 once vehicle use increases (BLM photos sets 7305-0-00 B,D, and E) by recreationist, ranchers, BLM staff, and then by hunters during the fall period of use.

XII. IMPROVEMENTS

Yes No

By Hand Tools By Machine

Examples: Culverts Stream Crossings Bridges
 Drainage Barriers Other

Describe: Many sections of BLM Road 7305-0-00 contain ditches along the roadbed to drain water from the road and are usually part of the original construction. Therefore, the drainage ditches are considered an improvement even through many roads throughout the Vale District do not contain this feature.

XIII. MAINTENANCE:

A. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery? Yes No

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

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 7305-0-00. 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 7305-0-00 over time as needed to keep this route passable. Earthen berms and drainage ditches on the edge of the road in photographs 7305-0-00-B-SW and H1-E&W show maintenance work that has been performed on BLM Road 7305-0-00 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 7305-0-00, 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 7305-0-00, 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 east-west route between and for accessing Jordan Craters WSA, Lower Owyhee WSA, Owyhee Breaks WSA, and the Owyhee River Rim as well as access to ranchers and BLM staff for administration purposes.

BLM Road 7305-0-00 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 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 Road7305-0-00).

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.

XIV. 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:

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”.