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

APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION

Evaluation of Current Conditions:

1) Document and review the existing BLM wilderness inventory findings on file, if available, regarding the presence or absence of individual wilderness characteristics, using Form 1, below.

2) Consider relevant information regarding current conditions available in the office to identify and describe any changes to the existing information (use interdisciplinary (ID) team knowledge, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc.), and document your findings on Form 2, below.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 Unit 3-68 of OR-03-05-05 McIntyre Ridge (unpublished BLM documents in 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 3-68 of OR-03-05-05 McIntyre Ridge

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

- (X) Final Decision Initial Wilderness Inventory Map, August 1979, Oregon
- () Proposed Decision -- Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas Map, October 1979, Oregon
- (X) Intensive Wilderness Inventory Map, March 1980, Oregon
- (X) 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/Malheur Resource Area

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

(Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory unit is associated with the area, list each unit and answer each question individually for each inventory unit):

Inventory Source: See above.

Unit#/ Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
3-68 of OR- 03-05-05 McIntyre Ridge	14,540	N	N	Y	Y
TOTAL	14,540				

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FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: <u>OR-034-014 -- McIntyre Ridge</u>

Note: In February, 2004, the Vale District received from Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) its evaluation of wilderness characteristics for what ONDA names its 14,557 acre "McIntyre Ridge proposed WSA". For reference, a hard copy of ONDA's proposal is retained in this unit's file. Information provided by ONDA's proposal was considered and incorporated as appropriate for this BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory maintenance. BLM's inventory unit OR-034-014 represents the same area and boundaries of ONDA's proposal.

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 its location. The boundary is the same as identified in BLM's original wilderness characteristics inventory of the late 1970's. The 14,646 acre unit is bounded on its west north sides by BLM road 7307-0-00, a segment of another road across public lands, a private land parcel, and county road 3819. Its east side is bounded by the county's Succor Creek Road and the state lands associated with Succor Creek Natural Area. The unit's boundary roads receive mechanical maintenance as needed to keep them passable on a relatively regular and seasonally continuous basis.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No N/A ____

Description: The unit contains steep, rocky, narrow basaltic McIntyre Ridge west of Succor Creek, with the unit's highest elevation of 4,668 feet. West and extending north of this main ridge is a shorter, secondary rim rock ridge. The center of the unit is cut by Board Corral Gulch and Sage Creek. Some south side drainages of Sage Creek, with interesting displays of color and erosion, lie between these two ridgelines. The lowest part of the unit is at its north end, near 2,640 feet. Vegetation is predominately of a sagebrush community with both native and non-native grasses.

Refer to this unit's associated Map 1 and Map 2 for human imprints. They include 21.8 miles of rangeland fence, 2 earthen reservoirs, 3 developed springs, one active small, locatable mineral mining site (its 0.1 mile vehicle route in sections 23 and 26 is partially reclaimed by claimant after periodic mining activity), scaring of two abandoned small

locatable mineral mining sites (one each in the NW and NE corners of the unit), a dated cabin site (not depicted on maps), one fenced enclosure associated with a special status plant species (not depicted on maps), and about 19.4 miles of 26 motorized primitive trails (MPTs). The greater concentration of MPTs is associated with the unit's east boundary or near it (Succor Creek Road or Succor Creek Natural Area). There is also remnant visual evidence of 9 short abandoned vehicle routes (3.4 miles, total). The unit has many "casual use dig" sites for the State's designated mineral rock, the thunderegg, which is the cause of many of the more so concentrated MPTs within the unit. Respectively, a linear area along a portion of the unit's eastern edge (located predominately within the unit's northern third – north from and including section 6, T. 24S., R. 47E. -- associated with the dispersed diggings and their associated MPTs appear more so substantially unnatural. Approximately 300 acres of the 1968 Sheepshead crested wheatgrass seeding is within the unit, abutting its west boundary road. During the late 1970's wilderness characteristics inventory, this disc-drilled seeding was determined to be substantially noticeable to the average visitor. At the time, the seeding notably adversely affected the area's natural condition and appearance. Presently, some visual evidence of the seeding's range drill furrows remain evident, detracting from the appearance of naturalness in this area of the unit. Additionally, visual evidence of a combination of activities (e.g., repetitive single tracking of recreational off-road cross country vehicle use, past mining site disturbances, and some unauthorized dumping of refuse) within the northern-most extent of the unit – sections 19-21, 28-32 T. 23S., R47 E. -- detracts from the appearance of naturalness within this portion of the unit. Within these sectors of the inventory unit, approximately 16 of its 26 MPT's are associated with noticeable scarring of mineral rock digs and off-road driving. Work maps within this inventory unit's hard copy file identify the grouped locations of these more so concentrated activities (the unit's eastern edge thunderegg diggings and their associated MPTs; and the combined surface disturbances in the unit's northern sector).

Recognizing that each of these surface disturbing impacts butts against the inventory unit's boundaries, by excluding these locations the remaining contiguous majority of the inventory unit's acreage (and which meets size criteria for wilderness character) with its affiliated human imprints appears to be substantially natural and affected primarily by the forces of nature to the average visitor.

ONDA concludes its proposed WSA "appears generally natural" and "primarily affected by the forces of nature" by stating the presence of one reservoir and that 5 "ways" (MPT's) (ONDA routes SC32, SC33, SC47, SC100, and SC102) are "unmaintained, overgrown, rutted", and references their respective photos MD13, 8, MC42, NE13 and NE39. ONDA does not indicate the presence or extent of the other human imprints which BLM documents in the above two paragraphs.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No __X N/A ____

Description: Only that portion of the unit which is in a natural condition is reviewed for outstanding opportunities for solitude. That area of the unit ranges between about 5.5 and 10 miles long; its width is mostly less than 2 miles (and not exceeding 2.5 miles). There are two main ridgelines with the small Sage Creek drainage between them. The vegetation is insufficient in size or density to provide visual screening. While branches of the Sage Creek Canyon between the two ridges and Board Corral Gulch offer opportunities for a sense of being somewhat secluded, the combination of the unit's narrow configuration, lack of vegetative screening and extent of open slopes do not provide adequate settings to experience outstanding opportunities for solitude.

ONDA states its proposed WSA "contains many outstanding opportunities for solitude throughout the amazing canyons in the area" and references its photos NE59, a vista of Upper Board Corral Gulch. As stated above, BLM recognizes that some of the canyon settings within the inventory unit provide for a sense of solitude, but due to reasons stated, the settings – individually or collectively -- are not outstanding in character.

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

Yes X No N/A ____

Description: Only that portion of the unit which is in a natural condition is reviewed for outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. As well as hunting of common game species (primarily deer, antelope and chukar) and of the trophy game species California bighorn sheep (although the unit is located within the outer range of the animal's identified use habitat), outdoor recreation activities include the same as identified in the BLM original wilderness characteristics inventory of the late 1970's: hiking, rock climbing, photography and general sightseeing.

Additionally, a very popular use is the digging for the state mineral rock, the thunderegg, which occurs extensively, though sporadically, in the unit. Bighorn sheep hunting associated with the unit is considered an outstanding primitive and unconfined recreational activity; hunting of the common game species present is not considered to be outstanding. The unit offers very challenging hiking and some marginal rock climbing opportunities due to the sheer walls of the ridges, but these, of themselves, are not considered outstanding recreational opportunities within the unit. The properties of basaltic rock associated with this inventory unit are largely inadequate for pursuing reasoned rope-assisted climbing opportunities. With challenging access to some locations of the inventory unit, resultant views of McIntyre Ridge within the unit offer outstanding sightseeing and photography opportunities (also of Succor Creek Canyon, but it is outside of the unit, thus not included as an element of this inventory). In conclusion, the combination of the variety, quality and challenge of certain recreation activities provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation within the unit.

ONDA states its proposed WSA offers outstanding hiking, rock climbing, photography, hunting and bird watching. Refer to the above paragraph for BLM's determinations and

rationale on most of these activities. ONDA listed 11 bird species observed. While a variety of bird species may use habitat niches within the inventory unit, the individual species nor the sum total of species present constitute outstanding opportunities for bird watching.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes <u>X</u> No N/A

Description: The uncommon basaltic ridges offer opportunities for scientific and educational study. The basalt ridges provide vast contrast, offering some striking scenic landscapes. The unit has four BLM special status plant species: Soft Blazing Star with its associated fenced enclosure, Barren Milkvetch, Cusick's Pincushion, and Owyhee Clover. This unit also contains suitable habitat for bighorn sheep; the animal is a BLM special status species in Oregon.

ONDA states that it's proposed "McIntyre Ridge WSA" may provide habitat for the Woodhouse's Toad, Mojave Black-collared Lizard, Desert Horned Lizard, Ground Snake, Ferruginous Hawk, Pygmy Rabbit, and White-tailed Antelope Squirrel," which ONDA's February 2004 submission to the Vale District declares are listed as "sensitive species" by the State of Oregon. As of 2009, the Woodhouse's Toad, Mohave Black-collard Lizard, Desert Horned Lizard, Ground Snake and the White-tailed Antelope Squirrel were not considered sensitive by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, BLM, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Mojave Black-collared Lizards, Desert Horned Lizards and White-tailed Antelope Squirrels are known to inhabit this unit. BLM acknowledges that habitat requirements may exist for the Woodhouse's Toad, Ground Snake, Ferruginous Hawk and Pygmy Rabbit; however, neither ONDA nor any other entity has provided BLM official documentation confirming the presence of these species within this inventory unit.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: <u>OR-034-014 McIntyre Ridge</u>	
Summary Results of Analysis: 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? <u>X</u> Yes	No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? <u>X</u> Yes	No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a pri and unconfined type of recreation? <u>X</u> Yes <u>No</u>	
4. Does the area have supplemental values? <u>X</u> Yes <u>No</u>	NA
Conclusion check one: <u>X</u> The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness character.	
<u>Prepared by:</u> Robert Alward, Wilderness Planner contractor	
Team Members:	,
Mitch Stomas 2/4	10
Mitch Thomas, Rangeland Management Specialist Date	
Mr Wice 2/5/10	
Gillian Wigglesworth, Botanist Date	
Shaney Rockefeller, Soil Scientist Date	
Michelle Caviness, Wildlife Biologist Date	
Dave Draheim, Outdoor Recreation Planner Date	
Jonathan Westfall 02/08, Jon Westfall, Geologist Date	12010
Jon Westfall, Geologist Date	
turk calog	10
Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, contractor Date	T
Blanth Joash 2/9/	1
Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator Date	
Approved by:	
Tat King . 3/12/2	010
Pat Ryan, Malheur Resource Area Field Manager Date 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.





	McIntyre Rid	McIntyre Ridge - OR-034-014 - Map 2 of 2	- Map 2 of 2	
OBJECTID*	NAME	TREATMENT TYPE	SEED GROUP	DATE
561	SADDLE BUTTE ESR	Drill Seeding	Native Grasses	20071125
1916	MCINTYRE BRUSH CONTROL	Chemical Treatment	Not Applicable	1970
1917	SHEEPHEADS SEEDING	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable	1970
1918	SHEEPHEADS SEEDING	Drill Seeding	Unknown	1970
2047	BOARD CORRALS FIRE REHAB	Drill Seeding	A mix of non-native gr 1974	1974
2049	ALKALI PASTURE	Drill Seeding	Unknown	1973
2412	MUD DUCK FIRE REHAB	Aerial Seeding	Unknown	20020301
2416	MUD DUCK FIRE REHAB	Drill Seeding	Shrubs	20020826
2417	MUD DUCK FIRE REHAB	Drill Seeding	Native Grasses	20020828
2462	SUCCOR CRK RESTORATION SDG	Prescribed Burn	Not Applicable	200509
2463	SUCCOR CRK RESTORATION SDG	Chemical Treatment	Not Applicable	2006
9464	2464 SUCCOR CRK RESTORATION SDG	Drill Seeding	Native Grasses	2006

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.