Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
McNulty OR-034-053, 21 total pages

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Appendix C – Road* Analysis: County Road 3627

Prepared by:
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Vale District Office
100 Oregon Street
Vale, Oregon 97918
APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION

Evaluation of Current Conditions:

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

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

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

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

Document your findings regarding current conditions for each inventoried area. Describe how the present conditions are similar to, or have changed from, the conditions documented in the original wilderness inventory. Document your findings on Form 2 for each inventory area. Cite to or attach data considered, including photographs, maps, GIS layers, field trip notes, project files, etc.
Year: 2009  Unit Number/Name: OR-034-053 – McNulty

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

NOTE: A substantial portion of this parcel of public land was reviewed during the 1970’s as part of OR-3-47, Cedar Mountain BLM inventory unit. In November 1970, the final decision document which established certain WSA’s depicts the area to be designated as part of OR-3-47, Cedar Mountain WSA. However, at some point thereafter there was a change which deleted part of 3-47 as a WSA. No tracking record of this change in 3-47 WSA’s boundary was located at the time of the 2009 WC inventory maintenance. So currently, the deleted 3-47 “to-be” WSA lands are a part of the 2009 WC inventory unit (OR-034-053, McNulty).

(X) 1978 – 1980 --- BLM Wilderness Inventory Unit partially of OR 3-47 Cedar Mountain of OR-03-03-24 (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

NOTE: A substantial portion of this parcel of public land was reviewed during the 1970’s as part of OR-3-47, Cedar Mountain BLM inventory unit. In November 1970, the final decision document which established certain WSA’s depicts an abrupt change (from all prior BLM WSA recommendation/decision documents) in the boundary of OR-3-47 as a designated WSA. This change was the deletion of certain public lands as part of the designated OR-3-47 WSA, thus are the same public lands being reviewed now under this wilderness characteristics maintenance update.

(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)

B.) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s)
   Partially of 3-47 Cedar Mountain of OR -03-03-24

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.

D.) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s)
   Vale District Office/ Malheur Field Office

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

   **Inventory Source:** See above.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit#/ Name</th>
<th>Size (historic acres)</th>
<th>Natural Condition? Y/N</th>
<th>Outstanding Solitude? Y/N</th>
<th>Outstanding Primitive &amp; Unconfined Recreation? Y/N</th>
<th>Supplemental Values? Y/N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partially of 3-47 Cedar Mtn of OR-03-03-24 *</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>*</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* -- See “NOTE” under “1. A.”, above.
Evaluation of Current Conditions:

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

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

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

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

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

Unit Number/Name: OR-034-053 – McNulty

Note: In February, 2004, the Vale District received from Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) its evaluation of wilderness characteristics for what ONDA names its 19,678 acre “Cedar Mountain NE Proposed WSA Addition”. 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.

OR-034-053 represents nearly the same area as ONDA’s proposal. For BLM unit OR-034-053, a difference between BLM and ONDA regarding inventory unit boundary features is that, unlike ONDA’s proposal, BLM includes public lands bordering east of ONDA’s vehicle route CM16 (alias County route 3627), located in the southeast sector of the BLM unit. Both ONDA and BLM recognize ONDA’s route CM16 as a motorized primitive trail, or MPT (and which ONDA references as a motorized “way”), but ONDA has used this route as a boundary for its proposal. BLM concurs with ONDA that presently the route which ONDA references as CM14 (alias BLM’s 034-RT 34 route) is also a MPT (which presently is the northeast boundary feature of Cedar Mountain WSA). Refer to the two associated BLM Road Analysis forms, BLM Photo Point Map/Photo log and affiliated photos for additional documentation regarding these routes. This BLM inventory unit’s file contains information which expresses the difference in findings between ONDA and BLM regarding its boundaries.

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 the inventory unit’s location. The 19,634 acre unit extends slightly further east of County route 3627 in the unit’s southeast sector than did the 1970’s original proposed boundary of BLM’s unit OR-3-47. This is due to a change in the route’s status since 1970’s from a road to a MPT. In the 1970’s the abutting designated Cedar Mountain WSA’s north boundary (which also currently serves as OR-034-053’s south boundary feature) was a rangeland fence line. Inventory maintenance does not recognize a fence, itself, as a boundary feature. Additionally, the WSA’s northeast boundary (which currently abuts this inventory unit OR-034-053) was a vehicle route which in the 1970’s was determined by BLM to be a road. Currently, this northeast WSA boundary vehicle route (BLM’s 034-RT 34) no longer meets the definition of road and has changed to a MPT route status. The rest of OR-034-053 is bounded on its east by non-BLM lands and County road 3627, its north by County Road 588, and its west boundary by a combination of the right-of-way of County Road 585 and non-BLM lands. The road segments constituting those portions of this unit’s boundary receive mechanical maintenance as needed to keep them passable on a regular and continuous basis.
2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes____X____No_______ N/A_______

**Description:** The OR-034-053 unit, itself, consists largely of generally south to north receding elevations (approximately 5,190 to 4,260 feet), away from the physical feature of Cedar Mountain, and possesses a complex of slight to moderate sloped multi-directional drainages separated by ridges and hill tops. The vegetation is sagebrush, some scattered junipers, and both native and nonnative desert grasses.

See this inventory unit’s associated Map 1 for locations of human developments. There are 8 earthen reservoirs, with one (McNulty Reservoir) within a fenced enclosure, McKay Well with an affiliated corral and parked water haul trailer on the unit’s north boundary, 15.4 miles of rangeland fence, and 16.2 miles of 8 MPTs. There is also remnant visual evidence of 2 abandoned vehicle routes (3.5 miles, total). Due to the nature of the developments and their wide distribution and as associated with the unit’s varied terrain, the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor. Additionally, with the contiguous nature between this unit and the abutting Cedar Mountain WSA, the natural condition of the WSA supplements and enhances the state of naturalness of this unit.

BLM documents the presence of 3 MPTs within this unit for which no ONDA documentation is provided, and two other routes are mentioned by ONDA but without map reference information. Except for 6 MPTs and McKay Well with its corral and trailer, ONDA’s proposal does not quantify or indicate location of other known man-made features of its proposed WSA while concluding that it appears primarily affected by the forces of nature with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor. For comparative reference, also refer to Map 1 of this BLM unit and to ONDA’s proposal, both located in this unit’s inventory file folder.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes____X____No_______ N/A_______

**Description:** The unit, itself, ranges from approximately 2 to 5 miles in width and 4 to 5.5 miles in length. It’s generally rolling terrain coupled with its shape and size, as well as insufficient densities of vegetation (including western juniper) to provide for screening between visitors of the area, results in no outstanding opportunities for solitude. However, now with no road or other feature being a separating boundary between the unit and the abutting Cedar Mountain WSA – thus, the unit being contiguous with the WSA and its outstanding opportunities for solitude -- the outstanding opportunities for solitude within this unit in combination with the abutting WSA do exist.
4. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ___X___ No _______ N/A _______

**Description:** Within the unit, itself, primary primitive and unconfined outdoor recreation activities include dispersed hunting of chukar and big game (deer and antelope, predominately), day hiking, horseback riding and general sightseeing. Backpacking and photography may occur, but there is a lack of special or unique recreation-associated features within the unit, itself, to draw visitors. Thus, none of these activities -- individually or in combination -- are outstanding primitive and confined recreation opportunities within the unit. However, with no road now between the unit and the abutting WSA -- thus, the unit being contiguous with the WSA and its associated combination of outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities -- the combined opportunities associated with the WSA are now affiliated also with this inventory unit, thus enhancing such outstanding opportunities within the larger area which includes this inventory unit OR-034-053.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes ___X____ No _____ N/A _______

**Description:** One lek of sage grouse, a BLM special status animal species, has been documented within the unit. Additionally, BLM records indicate sage grouse commonly inhabit this unit during the summer.

ONDA states its proposed Cedar Mountain NE WSA “may also be home to 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, Ground Snakes and White-tailed Antelope Squirrels were not considered sensitive by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, BLM, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. BLM observation records confirm Ferruginous Hawks inhabits this unit. BLM acknowledges that habitat requirements may exist for the Ground Snake 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:  OR-034-053 – McNulty

Summary Results of Analysis:
1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements?  __X__ Yes  _____ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural?  __X__ Yes  _____ No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  __X__ Yes  _____ No   _____ NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values?  __X__ Yes  _____ No   _____ NA

Conclusion -- check one:
_____ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness character.
__X__ The area does not have wilderness character.

Prepared by:  __________________________
               Robert Alward, Wilderness Planner contractor

Team Members:

- Steve Christensen, Rangeland Management Specialist  Date  2-25-2010
- Shaney Rockefeller, Earth Scientist  Date  3/10/11
- Dave Draheim, Outdoor Recreation Planner  Date  2/10/11
- Michelle Caviness, Wildlife Biologist  Date  2/25/11
- Jon Westfall, Geologist  Date  02/08/2010
- Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, contractor  Date  02/09/10
- Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator  Date  4/5/2010

Approved by:  __________________________
               Pat Ryan, Malheur Resource Area Field Manager  Date  4/5/2010

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
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-034-053 -- McNulty

NOTE: This BLM inventory unit is affected by ONDA’s proposed “Cedar Mountain NE proposed WSA Addition”.

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

034-RT34

(Is what ONDA terms its “CM14a” route (a vehicular “way” [i.e. motorized primitive trail] and “CM14b” (a “not”, which BLM doesn’t know its meaning).

I. LOCATION: See attached map. It is this BLM inventory unit’s south boundary with Cedar Mountain WSA. List photo point references (if applicable): Refer to this BLM inventory unit’s associated hard copy of its BLM Photo Points map, and affiliated Photo Log and photos -- retained in this unit’s permanent hard copy file, and electronically retained under this unit’s subfolder Final Findings/GIS Products. Any applicable ONDA photos and affiliated Photo Log are electronically retained under Wilderness Characteristics/S/Citizen Proposals.

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: Provides access for three earthen reservoirs (one within Cedar Mountain WSA, and two within this inventory unit). This is presently a through route between County roads 3627 and 588. It is traveled in support of some dispersed hunting of common game species, noting that stretches of the route are very rough, jarring and slow to negotiate due to its rocky nature.

III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:

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

Yes ______ No _____ Unknown _____
IV. CONSTRUCTION

Yes ___X___ No ______

Examples: Paved _________ Bladed ___X___ Graveled _____ Roadside
Berms ___X___ Cut/Fill ___X___ Other ______

Describe: Date of construction is unknown. The route was present during BLM’s wilderness characteristics inventory in the late 1970’s, with a segment of it identified as the boundary of the 1980 designated Cedar Mountain WSA. Presently, the most apparent construction feature is berms of rock at some scattered locations.

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: Since 2004, it visually appears -- by the nature of the site -- that an earth-moving type of equipment (e.g., a backhoe or bulldozer) was used to repair a washout at one noted location along the route. Otherwise, the route displays no actions of mechanical maintenance since at least the late 1980’s, if at all since it was constructed.

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 ___X____

Comments: The route is not in good condition. Segments of it are in only fair to poor condition, with stretches of very rough terrain. It is passable by a four wheel drive high clearance vehicle. This route is typically avoided by BLM field-going personnel due to its very rough nature. Certain incidents of early season travel by BLM which has occurred since approximately 1990 has noted it being difficult to distinguish certain
stretches of the route due to so much vegetation (often of early growing season grasses) virtually covering and visually obliterating the route. Maintenance of the reservoirs would be conducted using heavy equipment, which would travel this route for access and with the route not requiring mechanical maintenance actions to access the reservoirs. BLM would not approve mechanical maintenance of this route so to provide access for dispersed hunting, which is the only other travel the route is typically subject to.

VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:

Yes ______ No ___X____

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

As noted above, this route receives infrequent public or BLM administrative use. It does not receive regular and/or continuous use on a relatively regular basis.

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 ___X____

Explanation: The route does not meet road criteria, as described and explained above. Presently, the route is a motorized primitive trail. A segment of this route was an identified boundary when the Cedar Mountain WSA was designated in 1980. Thus, where this route is adjacent to the WSA, this inventory unit OR-034-053 is now contiguous to the WSA.

Evaluator(s):  
Steve Christensen, Range Management Specialist  
Date: 3-6-2003

* road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

  a. “Improved and maintained” – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

  b. “Mechanical means” – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.
c. “Relatively regular and continuous use” – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims.

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

**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”.

Wilderness Inventory Unit
McNulty OR-034-053

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APPENDIX C – ROAD* ANALYSIS
(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road for wilderness inventory purposes.)

Wilderness Inventory Unit Name/Number: OR-034-053 -- McNulty

NOTE: This BLM inventory unit is affected by ONDA’s proposed “Cedar Mountain NE proposed WSA Addition”.

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

County 3627
(Is what ONDA identifies as its “CM16 Turner Rd”, a road.)

VIII. LOCATION: See attached map. Is this BLM inventory unit’s southeast boundary route.
List photo point references (if applicable): Refer to this BLM inventory unit’s associated hard copy of its BLM Photo Points map, and affiliated Photo Log and photos - - retained in this unit’s permanent hard copy file, and electronically retained under this unit’s subfolder Final Findings/GIS Products. Any applicable ONDA photos and affiliated Photo Log are electronically retained under Wilderness Characteristics/S/Citizen Proposals.

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: Provides access between the Mud Flat Ranch and Ben O’Dell Reservoir area.

X. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:

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

Yes _____ No _____ Unknown ____X____
XI. CONSTRUCTION

Yes __X____ No _______

Examples: Paved __________ Bladed ___X____ Graveled _____ Roadside
Berms __X__ Cut/Fill __X__ Other _____

Describe: Date of construction is unknown. The route was present during the late 1970’s BLM wilderness characteristics inventory.

XII. IMPROVEMENTS

Yes __X___ No _______

By Hand Tools _______ By Machine __X__

Examples: Culverts ______ Stream Crossings _____ Bridges ______
Drainage __X____ Barriers _______ Other ________

Describe: There are some drainage channels associated with the route.

XIII. 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: This route was recently bladed.

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: Is a county road, in good condition, and with maintenance actions occurring as needed (unknown by whom) to keep the route passable.
XIV. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:

Yes ___X____ No ______

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

Tracks of vehicles are evident. Based on the evidence of relatively recent mechanical maintenance performed on the route (date is unknown), there is no reason why this segment of this route would not be used annually on a relatively regular basis.

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 ___X____ No ______

Explanation: The route meets road criteria, as described and explained, above. (NOTE: South of the Ben O’Dell reservoir area, this county route does not display apparent actions of mechanical maintenance.)

Evaluator(s): __________________________ Date: 3-6-2009

Steve Christensen, Range Management Specialist

* road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

a. “Improved and maintained” – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. “Mechanical means” – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. “Relatively regular and continuous use” – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims
Following is the definition from Glossary of OSO 7-3-2007 Draft H-6300-1:

**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.”