

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents  
**2018 Revised - Sacramento Hill OR-036-014\*, 13 total pages**

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\*The inventory of this unit was updated in 2010. However, due to a State Office sponsored wilderness consistency evaluation and subsequent guidance, the 2010 inventory analysis and findings are being replaced by this current 2018 inventory review. Documentation of the 2010 inventory can be found in the wilderness inventory project record. No changes were made to the road analysis for BLM 8300-6-03. See the 2010 documentation.

**Prepared by:**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**  
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**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, 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.*

Attachment 1

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

**APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION**

**Year: 2018****Inventory Unit Name/Number: Sacramento Hill OR-036-014****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  \_\_\_

**A.) Inventory Source(s)**

(X) Denotes all applicable BLM inventory files, printed maps, or published BLM Decision documents with information pertaining to this unit.

**Wilderness Inventories**

- (X) 1978 - *BLM Wilderness Inventory Units OR-03-13-11* (unpublished BLM documents stored in 6-way case files).
- (X) April 1979 - *Proposed Initial Inventory: Roadless Areas and Islands Which Do Not Have Wilderness Characteristics* (yellow book).

**Wilderness Decision Documents**

- (X) August 1979 - *Wilderness Review – Initial Inventory: Final Decision on Public Lands Obviously Lacking Wilderness Characteristics, Oregon and Washington* (green book).
- ( ) October 1979 - *Wilderness Review – Intensive Inventory: Oregon, Proposed Decision on the Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas* (grey book).
- ( ) 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 book).
- ( ) November 1980 - *Wilderness Inventory – Oregon and Washington, Final Intensive Inventory Decisions* (brown book).
- ( ) November 1981 - *Stateline Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah* (tan pamphlet).

**B.) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s)**

- BLM unpublished file OR-03-13-11 (1978); Sacramento Hill 3-175 (August 1979 - *Wilderness Review – Initial Inventory, Final Decisions on Public Lands Obviously Lacking Characteristics, Oregon and Washington* [green book]).

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

- Final Decision – Initial Wilderness Inventory Map August 1979
- Proposed Decision Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas Map October 1979
- Intensive Wilderness Inventory Map March 1980
- Intensive Wilderness Inventory, Final Decisions Map November 1980
- November 1981 *Stateline Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah* (tan pamphlet)

**D.) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s)**

- Vale District/Malheur Field Office (formerly Jordan Resource Area)

**2) BLM Inventory Findings on Record:**

<b>Unit#/Name</b>	<b>Size (acres)</b>	<b>Natural Condition</b>	<b>Outstanding Solitude</b>	<b>Outstanding Primitive &amp; Unconfined Recreation</b>	<b>Supplemental Values</b>
Sacramento Hill 3-175	8,160	N	N	N	N
Total acres	8,160				

The inventory of this unit was updated in 2010. However, due to a State Office sponsored wilderness consistency evaluation and subsequent guidance, the 2010 inventory analysis and findings are being replaced by this current 2018 inventory review. Documentation of the 2010 inventory can be found in the wilderness inventory project record.

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**FORM 2****DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS:****Inventory Unit Name/Number: Sacramento Hill OR-036-014**

For this exercise BLM refers to the unit as 2007 Sacramento Hill OR-036-014.

**1) Is the unit of sufficient size?**Yes  X  No     

The unit is comprised of 9,567 acres, meeting the size criteria.

**Description:**

The boundaries of this unit are identified as BLM road 6355-0-00 on the south and east, BLM road 6355-0-A0 on the west, and BLM road 8300-6-03<sup>1</sup> on the west and north. Unpublished BLM reports dated 1978 indicate that the boundary roads were maintained by a road grader. Periodic maintenance of these 19.65 miles of boundary roads has continued (no confirmed dates available) and they are used regularly by ranchers (as observed by current BLM staff) and by the BLM for livestock management. Refer to map 2007\_Sacramento\_Hill\_OR\_036\_014.pdf for the unit boundary.

**2) Is the unit in a natural condition?**Yes  X  No     **Description:**

Human imprints within the unit include one earthen reservoir, 7.5 miles of fence from the original inventory plus 2.1 miles of new fence constructed in 2006, and 1.05 miles of motorized primitive trails. Overall, the area appears to be primarily affected by the forces of nature with the imprint of human activity substantially unnoticeable. Refer to map 2007\_Sacramento\_Hill\_OR\_036\_014A.pdf for human imprints.

**3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?**Yes  X  No     **Description:**

Unit OR-036-014 is approximately 8 miles in length and 2.5 miles in width at the central portion then tapers to about 1.5 miles wide at the northern and southern boundaries. The majority of the unit consists of a flat to rolling, open sagebrush plateau. Sacramento Butte and Pole Creek provide variation in topographic relief in the unit. Pole Creek drainage flows to the northwest through a 40-foot depression, through the southwest corner of the unit, adjacent to a BLM road. This entrenched drainage channel has a uniform, gentle gradient that is rimmed 40 feet above by broad, open sagebrush flats. Topographic relief is minimal within the unit with elevations ranging from about 4,900 feet mean sea level (msl) along the northeastern corner and eastern boundary, rising to the west and southwest to about 5,375 feet (msl) at the top of Sacramento Butte. Elevation changes in most of the unit, traversing from north to south or from east to west, are gradual (averaging about 30-50 feet per mile) and are about 300 feet lower than the top of

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<sup>1</sup> No changes were made to the road analysis for BLM 8300-6-03. See the 2010 documentation.

Sacramento Butte. The unit has limited vegetative screening, consisting of broad expanses of low and big sagebrush with opportunity for solitude in areas screened by the rise of Sacramento Butte. Although topographic and vegetative screening is minimal within the unit, what screening that does exist when combined with size and the lack of internal primitive routes provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude. BLM unit OR-036-014 has outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Yes  No

**Description:**

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are available in the unit. However, opportunities for activities such as hiking, backpacking, hunting, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, and photography are not outstanding because the unit lacks scenic quality, diversity of landforms, and challenging terrain. Sacramento Butte and a short expanse of Pole Creek are the only topographic features in the unit that alter the flatness of the terrain. The present inventory agrees with the 1978 inventory that determined the unit lacks exceptional scenery and the diversity of landforms that would result in a strong attraction to the unit for any type of primitive recreation activity. Backpacking across the unit could be a monotonous experience with little change in hiking conditions or scenery except for Sacramento Butte. There are no unique photographic opportunities in the unit. Despite the unit's size, the lack of scenic quality and lack of diverse landforms render the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation less than outstanding. Although wildlife viewing opportunities have been identified as a recreational value within this unit, they are not considered to be outstanding by the inventory team.

**5) Does the unit have supplemental values?**

Yes  No

**Description:**

With some minor exceptions, the ecological integrity of rangeland in this unit has been largely unaffected by the combined impacts of wildfire and invasive, non-native plants such as cheatgrass. This means the area possesses wildlife habitat supplemental values for sagebrush-dependent species of BLM management importance including pygmy rabbit, sagebrush vole, greater sage-grouse, Brewer's sparrow, black-throated sparrow, sage sparrow, loggerhead shrike, and sage thrasher. Observed rangeland conditions within this unit can be expected to contribute towards the existence of healthy sagebrush-dependent wildlife populations for a large area and over the long term because: (1) native plant functional and structural groups are well represented within the unit, and (2) wildlife forage, cover, and structure is available for use by species of management importance.

In contrast to conditions described above, rangeland at similar elevations and in similar ecological sites within Malheur County, Oregon has been highly disturbed due to the combined effects of improper historical grazing use, loss of biological crust integrity, invasive plant establishment, and catastrophic wildfire impacts over the last few decades. Cheatgrass presence is known to accelerate and aggravate wildfire spread because it is a highly flammable fine fuel, and wildfire often reduces or completely eliminates critical shrub-based forage, cover, and habitat structure values for many species of wildlife. Literally millions of acres of Wyoming big sagebrush habitat types, similar to those within this unit, have been burned over the last few decades and recovery of these losses will take multiple decades if not centuries to occur.

Finally, the land considered within this unit is also recognized as part of the Owyhee Uplands Physiographic Province, a region incorporating rangeland in Oregon, Idaho, and Nevada which supports some of the largest contiguous blocks of intact sagebrush steppe remaining west of the Continental Divide.



**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION:**

**Inventory Unit Name/Number:** Sacramento Hill OR-036-014

**Summary**

**Results of Analysis:**

- 1) Does the area meet any of the size requirements? **[Yes]** No
  - 2) Does the area appear to be natural? **[Yes]** No
  - 3) Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? **[Yes]** NA
  - 4) Does the area have supplemental values? **[Yes]** No
- NA

**Conclusion**

**Check One:**

- ( X ) The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness character.
- ( ) The area does not have wilderness character.

**Sources of Reference for Evaluation:**

- All BLM documents listed in Form 1; existing BLM wilderness inventory information.
- Wilderness Inventory Recommendations: Vale District, Submitted by Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA), February 6, 2004.
- Current geographic information system (GIS) data on existing projects, vehicle routes/roads, land ownership, etc.
- BLM Job Documentation Record (JDR) files.
- National Agriculture Imagery Project digital images (2005).
- Official BLM Transportation Plan Map.
- BLM staff has obtained first-hand field knowledge about this unit’s plant communities, road conditions, and other attributes as a result of rangeland health investigations conducted between July and October of the year 2000. BLM gathered quantitative rangeland data from trend plots in support of the assessment and evaluation process for Louse Canyon Geographic Management Area, but most other data collected for rangeland health evaluation purposes were either estimated or qualitative in nature. BLM staff has also visited this and adjoining units annually and on multiple occasions after 2000 in the process of establishing and reading riparian monitoring locations, performing layout and design work for rangeland development projects, conducting rangeland supervision duties, collecting livestock utilization data, and documenting current road conditions. Field observations were made during Rangeland Standards and Guides assessment work in 2000.
- A field observations for solitude were conducted in July of 2017. The observations resulted in revisions to the text which described that the area had more topographic relief than originally presumed.

**Wilderness Characteristics Interdisciplinary Team:**

Prepared By: Kari Points 9/11/18  
Kari Points, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Vale District Date

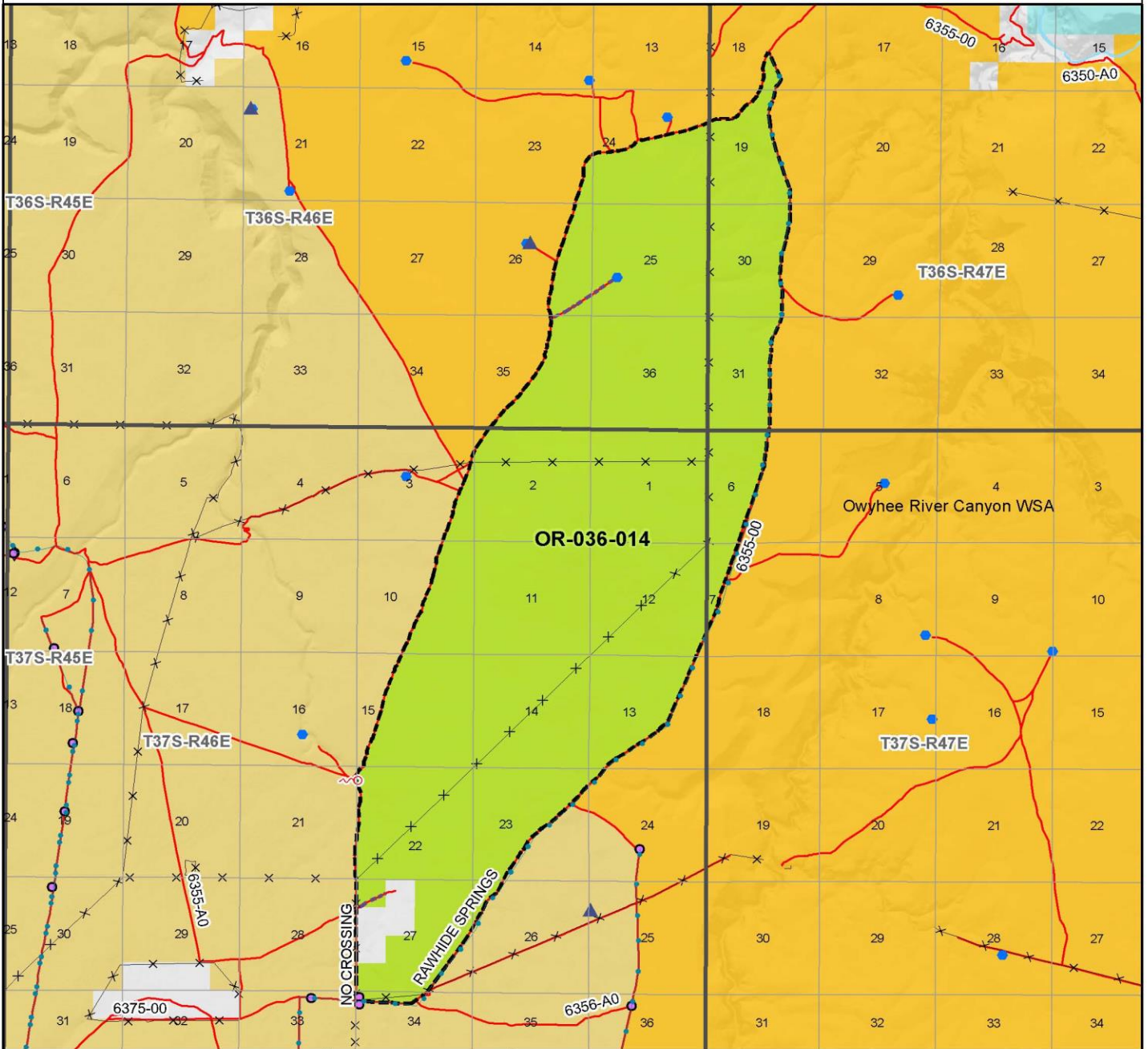
Reviewed By: Renee Straub 9/10/18  
Renee Straub, Assistant Field Manager, Vale Date

Approved By: [Signature] 9/10/18  
Thomas Patrick (Pat) Ryan Date  
Field Manager, Malheur FO

*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.*

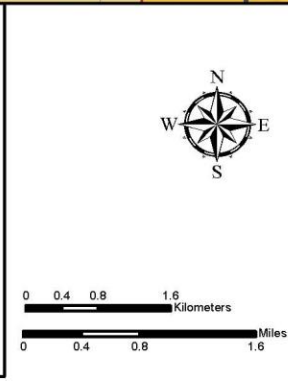
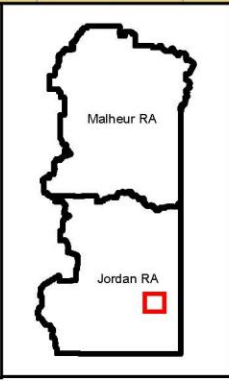
# Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

## Sacramento Hill - OR-036-014 - Map 1 of 1



**Legend**

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



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

**VALE DISTRICT**  
March 30, 2010

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**--FINAL--**







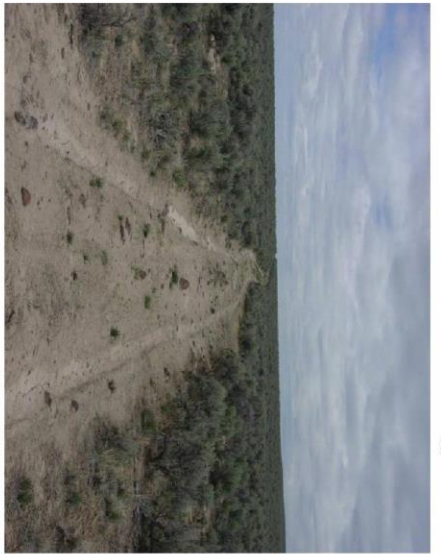
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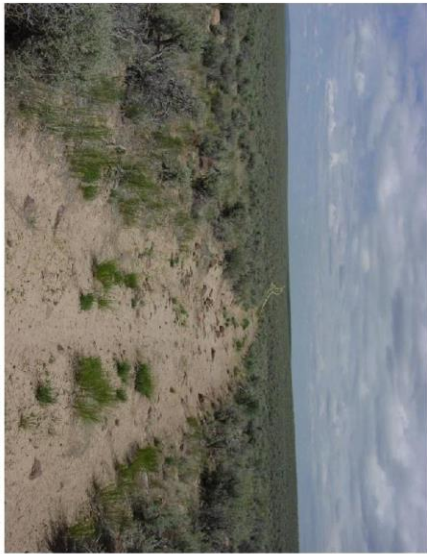
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