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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*.

Year: 2010 Unit Number/Name: OR-036-035 -- Oregon Canyon (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 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 OR-03-13-04 Mine Creek; OR-03-12-05 Payne Creek (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

- () 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)
- () 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)
- () 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 OR-03-13-04 Mine Creek; OR-03-12-05 Payne Creek.

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

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

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

Vale District/Jordan 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):

Unit#/ Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
OR-03-12- 04 Mine Creek	2,900	*	*	*	*
OR-03-12- 05 Payne Creek	4,800	*	*	*	*
TOTAL	7,700				

Inventory Source: See above.

* -- These criteria were not addressed during the inventory of these units since neither meet size criteria.

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

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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: <u>OR-036-035 -- Oregon Canyon (Contiguous)</u>

NOTE: On July 26, 2010 -- during the scoping period for the BLM Vale District's Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan Amendment -- the Vale District received a letter from Tree Top Ranches, L.P. (henceforth herein as Tree Top). Tree Top is a grazing allotment permittee of several allotments administered by Vale District. Tree Tops' submission provides, in part, information about all or a portion of several BLM WC inventory units, including this unit, OR-034-035. For reference, a hard copy of the applicable elements of Tree Top's letter is retained in this unit's file. Information provided by Tree Top was considered and incorporated as appropriate for this BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory maintenance.

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 <u>X</u> No _____

Description: Refer to this inventory unit's associated Map 1A, Map 1B and Map 1C for its location. The 40,355 acre unit includes all of the historic units OR-03-12-05 (Payne Creek) and OR-03-12-04 (Mine Creek), plus additional public lands contiguous with the existing Oregon Canyon WSA (OR-3-157). The unit consists of six parcels, each of them contiguous with the WSA. For this inventory maintenance, the parcels are referenced as the north parcel (5,647 acres), the 4 east boundary parcels (north-to-south being 15 acres, 202 acres, 4 acres, and 9 acres), and the south parcel (34,488 acres). The boundaries with the WSA are contiguous predominately due to a WSA's prior boundary being either (a) a contour elevation, (b) a rangeland fence, or (c) a motorized vehicle route which in the late 1970's BLM described as a road but since then has changed status to a motorized primitive trail (MPT) due to no mechanical maintenance performed since then and BLM not intending to conduct such maintenance. For this wilderness characteristic inventory maintenance, none of those three features constitute a qualifying boundary feature for an inventory unit. Thus -- being contiguous to the WSA -- each parcel of this inventory unit, regardless of size, meets size criteria.

Boundaries of the unit's parcels also include the power transmission line right-of-way (ROW) for the north, south and two (northern) of the 4 east boundary units; some private lands for all 6 parcels; and, for the south parcel also the ROWs of county roads 581 and 572 and BLM road 6305-0-00, and a combination of BLM road 6301-0-00 and another road on public lands (abutting the adjacent WSA). Additionally, for the north parcel it is bounded on its north side by a road traversing public lands, and on its west side by a ridgeline abutting non-designated WSA public land which was recommended and submitted by BLM in 1991 as suitable for Wilderness designation (and presently is in

Congress for action as part of the agency's Wilderness recommendations in association with both the 3-156 Fifteen Mile Creek WSA and the 3-162 Twelve Mile Creek WSA).

Finally, the following are also boundary features: a 140 acre private inholding associated with the north parcel and with the south parcel 6 private inholdings totaling approximately 1,600 acres, one 3.4-mile cherry-stem road, and a surface-mined area of approximately 1,675 acres of public land (Bretz Mine). Boundary roads of the unit 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 X N/A _____

Description: The inventory unit's north parcel and 4 east boundary parcels are eastward-facing moderate gradient slopes, cut by multiple drainages flowing toward the unit's east boundary. The unit's south parcel along it more so eastern side has steep sloping terrain radiating from the elevated Flattop ridge within the contiguous WSA, and become moderate and slight topographic gradients as they approach the parcel's east boundary. Along the WSA's south boundary, this contiguous OR-036-035 inventory unit's south parcel is dominated by steep south-sloping terrain with many draws and drainages extending to its south boundary features. The south parcel's southwestern area has a mix of very steep to slightly sloped, drainage-cut terrain, most which is associated with Oregon Canyon Mountain. Together, the 6 parcels of the unit range in elevation from 4,450 to 7,276 feet. The dominate vegetation in each parcel of the unit is sagebrush and both native and nonnative grasses.

See this unit's associated Map 1A, Map 1B, Map 1C and Map 2 for locations of human imprints associated with the 6 parcels of this inventory unit.

The north parcel (5,647 acres) has 5.3 miles of rangeland fence, 10.3 miles of 15 motorized primitive trails (MPT), one developed spring, one earthen reservoir, and 5 miles of 2 systems of water pipeline with 2 storage tanks and 5 troughs. There is also nominal to no visual evidence of a total of 1 mile of 3 abandoned vehicle routes. There remains no visual contrast from a 1968 disc plowed seeding of non-native grasses which affected the southeast portion of this north parcel.

Within this north parcel – due to the concentration of developments in two locations within the parcel -- two locations are not in a natural condition. The first non-natural condition sector of the parcel is in the parcel's northeast area (699 acres). Its west boundary separating it from the portion of this north parcel which is in a natural condition consists of the north-south pipeline/MPT within section 23 south to the east-west fence (separating sections 23 and 26), following the fence east to the NW corner of the private tract in section 25, then south along the fence line (and private tract) to cross public land to where the fence abuts the north boundary of a private tract within section 25. The

second non-natural condition sector of this north parcel of OR-036-035 is the parcel's southern-most area (586 acres). The north boundary of this unnatural south sector of the north parcel is the combined MPT/pipeline traversing southwest-northeast within sections 5 and 6; south of this MPT/pipeline is the south sector which is not in a natural condition to the average visitor. The remainder of this north parcel of OR-036-035 (4,362 acres) -- when considered with the 1991 BLM-recommended Wilderness public lands contiguous to it -- appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.

With the 4 east boundary parcels: (A) the north 15 acre parcel has 0.4 mile of rangeland fence and no remaining visual evidence of a 1969 chemical treatment of vegetation; (B) the central north 202 acre parcel has 1.6 miles of a buried pipeline with a storage tank, 0.5 mile of 2 MPTs, and nearly no remaining visual contrast of two abandoned vehicle routes; (C) the central south 4 acre parcel has 0.2 mile of rangeland fence; and (D) the south 9 acre parcel has 0.4 mile of rangeland fence and a 0.15 mile segment of a MPT. Given the type, extent and location of developments, each of these four parcels of OR-036-035 – when considered with the contiguous WSA to each of them -- appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.

Within the entire south parcel (34,488 acres) of OR-036-035, there remains no visual evidence to the average visitor of chemical treatments of vegetation, or of disc-drilled and aerial seedings of both non-native grasses and undocumented species between 1967 and 2007.

Within this 34,488 acre south parcel, only its western sector (11,252 acres) is in a natural condition to the average visitor. From generally east to west, the boundary separating this western sector from the rest of this south parcel (which is not in a natural condition to the average visitor) consists of the MPT within sections 29 and 32 (of T. 40S., R.40E.) to the private parcel in section 32, then south to the first fence which traverses southwest on public land to the cherry-stem road (6307-00), northwest on 6307-00 to the section 36 private land parcel (of T.40S., R. R0E.), and, lastly, the southwest trending MPT (6307-AO) between this private parcel to the unit's boundary road (6301-00).

The western sector of this south parcel of OR-036-035 has 12.8 miles of 8 MPTs, 12 miles of rangeland fence, 13 earthen reservoirs, 3 developed springs, and 1.1 miles of a buried pipeline with one associated trough. There remains no to minimal visual evidence to the average visitor of 0.9 miles of two abandoned vehicle routes in this western sector. The extent, location and types of these developments within this western sector – relative to its size and topography – results in this western sector appearing to be in a natural condition to the average visitor.

The remainder of the south parcel (23,236 acres, which is not in a natural condition) has 36.6 miles of 37 MPTs, 19.8 miles of rangeland fence, 11 earthen reservoirs, 3 developed springs, 4.1 miles of buried pipeline with 12 associated troughs, and several sites of dug or bermed surface materials from past exploration for locatable minerals. Remnant visual

contrast of a 2006 mechanical brush beating conducted in the southeast area of the remainder of is OR-036-035's south parcel is not substantial. In this remainder of the south parcel, there is no to minimal visual evidence to the average visitor of about 7.2 miles of 7 abandoned vehicle routes. The extent and close proximity to each other of the numerous types of developments relative to the topography and general shape of the area results in this part of the south parcel of OR-036-035 to not appear to be in a natural condition to the average visitor.

Respectively, at least a portion (except in certain sectors as described above within the north and south parcels) if not all of each of the 6 parcels of OR-036-035 appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor. For each of these natural appearing areas, their natural state is further enhanced by the congruous natural condition of the contiguous WSA or non-WSA public lands which BLM recommended as Wilderness in 1991.

In summary for unit OR-036-035, to the average visitor for reasons described above, when considered with the contiguous WSA and with non-WSA public land already recommended by BLM in 1991 to be designated as wilderness: (A) the western sector of the south parcel of the unit is in a natural condition; (B) the remainder of the south parcel of the unit is not in a natural condition; (C) two sectors (northeast and south) of the north parcel are not in a natural condition; (D) the remainder of the north parcel is in a natural condition; and (E) each of the other 4 parcels of the unit are in a natural condition.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?



Description: Only those portions of the inventory unit determined to be in a natural condition are subject to a determination regarding outstanding opportunities for solitude. The western sector of the south parcel and the area of natural condition in each of the other 5 parcels of the inventory unit do not, by themselves, provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude. However, due to each of these areas of the unit being contiguous to the Oregon Canyon WSA (which does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude) each of the 6 areas is an extension of an overall area (that is, with the WSA) for providing outstanding opportunities for solitude. This is somewhat qualified by (A) along the unit's transmission line boundary along its east side, where the overbearing visual presence of the large power line just outside of the unit somewhat diminishes the solitude experience as a visitor gets closer to it while within an associated parcel of this unit; and (B) the very contorted shape and narrowness of the north parcel caused by (1) the extensive intruded private land parcel as part of the boundary of this north parcel, (2) the location of the 160 acre private inholding relative to the configuration of the parcel, and (3) the excluded two sectors of the parcel which are not in a natural condition.

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

Yes X No N/A

Description: Only those portions of the inventory unit determined to be in a natural condition are subject to a determination regarding outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. There are opportunities for hiking, camping, hunting, sightseeing, photography, and -- in certain creeks -- fishing. Individually or in combination, these opportunities are not outstanding within the parcels of unit, itself. There are no unique sights or attractions within the 6 parcels of the unit to draw visitors to them specifically for pursuing recreation. While each of the 6 parcels of the unit is within a bighorn sheep habitat area, hunting of this prized big game species in Oregon occurs largely within the abutting and other regionally located WSAs. The described opportunities are enhanced and increased due to its association with the contiguous WSA. By example, hiking opportunities are enhanced by the unit's association with the WSA, which possesses outstanding hiking opportunities. Too, some good hiking opportunities exist within the multiple drainages of the western sector of the south parcel of this inventory unit.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes X No N/A

Description: A significant amount of intact native rangeland, and associated sagebrush obligate species (e.g., sage grouse and pygmy rabbit) exists notably in the above described western sector of the south parcel of this inventory unit. Eleven leks of sage grouse -- a BLM special status animal species -- have been documented within the unit. The majority of the southern component area of the unit is within a bighorn sheep habitat area.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Summary Results of Analysis: 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? X Yes
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 No 4. Does the area have supplemental values? X_Yes No NA 4. Does the area have supplemental values? X_Yes No NA 6. Does the area have supplemental values? X_Yes No NA 6. Does the area have supplemental values? X_Yes No NA 7. Does the area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness character. NA 7. The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness character. The area does not have wilderness character. Prepared by:
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? X YesNoNA 4. Does the area have supplemental values? X YesNoNA 4. Does the area have supplemental values? X YesNoNA 6. Does the area have supplemental values? X YesNoNA 6. Does the area have supplemental values? X YesNoNA 6. Does the area have supplemental values? X YesNoNA Conclusion - check one:
and unconfined type of recreation? <u>X</u> Yes <u>No</u> <u>NA</u> 4. Does the area have supplemental values? <u>X</u> Yes <u>No</u> <u>NA</u> Conclusion check one: <u>X</u> The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness character. <u>The area does not have wilderness character</u> . <u>Prepared by</u> <u><i>Mod Mod</i> Robert Alward, Wilderness Planner contractor <u>Team Members</u>: <u>1//1///6</u> <u>Richard White, Rangeland Management Specialist</u> <u>Marcy Ender, Range Management Specialist</u> <u>Dave Draheim, Outdoor Recreation Planner</u> <u>Date</u></u>
Conclusion check one:
X The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness character. The area does not have wilderness character. Prepared by: Isolat Mward Robert Alward, Wilderness Planner contractor Team Members: 1/1/1/10 Richard White, Rangeland Management Specialist Date Marcy Exper, Range Management Specialist Date Dave Draheim, Outdoor Recreation Planner Date
The area does not have wilderness character. Prepared by: Robert Alward, Wilderness Planner contractor Team Members: Richard White, Rangeland Management Specialist Richard White, Range Management Specialist Date N/16/10 Date Date Date Date Date Date Date Date
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Garth Ross Wildlife Biologist
Trele Rubideroth 11-10-10
Jack Wenderoth, Planning Contractor Date
11-18-70
Jon Sadovski, Environmental Contractor Date
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Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, contractor Date
Brach 1/19/10
Brent Grasty, GAS Coordinator Bate

Approved by:

Carolyn Freeborn, Jordan Resource Area Field Manager

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.







