Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Red Hills OR-036-026, 10 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 9: Form 2 – Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Page 10: Wilderness Characteristics Overview–Red Hills OR-036-026 Map 1 of 1

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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-03-026 -- Red Hills

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**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 – BLM Wilderness Inventory Unit partial of OR-03-08-16 Crooked Creek and OR-03-08-17 Echave Well and BLM Wilderness Inventory Unit 3-117 of OR-03-08-18 Lone Stud (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)


   ( ) 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)


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

   BLM partial of OR-03-08-16 Crooked Creek and OR-03-08-17 Echave Well; and BLM 3-117 of OR-03-08-18 Lone Stud
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

( ) Intensive Wilderness Inventory Map, March 1980, Oregon

( ) Intensive Wilderness Inventory --Final Decisions Map, November 1980, Oregon.


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.

<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>Partial of OR-03-08-16 Crooked Creek</td>
<td>2,780</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partial of OR-03-08-17 Echave Well</td>
<td>4,140</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-117 of OR-03-08-18 Lone Stud</td>
<td>6,300</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>13,220</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Determinations for these criteria were not described for these inventory units.
APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION

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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  OR-036-026 -- Red Hills

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 14,161 acre unit was included as part of the original BLM unit 3-117 of OR-03-08-18 Lone Stud and partial units of OR-03-08-16 Crooked Creek; and OR-03-08-17 Echave Well of the latter 1970’s meeting the size criteria. Acreage for unit OR-036-026 in Form 2 is calculated from BLM GIS information. The acreage includes 490 acres of state land inventoried for wilderness characteristics that was in the process of being transferred into BLM ownership during the initial inventory of 1978. The transfer was completed and the acreage is now under BLM management. The remaining 461 acre difference from Form 1 was either not calculated properly or resulted from a rounding error from methods and maps used in the initial 1978 inventory. The unit boundary consists of a utility corridor right-of-way on its west side, County Road 608 on its south side, a BLM non-numbered road and private property on its east and northeast side, and private property on its north side. The natural-surfaced boundary roads 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 ______ N/A ______

   Description: The unit consists of a rolling nearly flat terrain that gently slopes to the north and east from the Reds Hills, the predominate feature within the unit. The unit’s small drainages flow mainly toward Rattlesnake Creek while one small drainage area near the western boundary flows into Crooked Creek. The main channel of Rattlesnake Creek is located just outside of the unit’s east and northeast boundary roads. Vegetation within the unit consists primarily of either big or low sagebrush that contain native grass species. Some of the more alkali prone acreages of this parcel also contain small patches or isolated islands of salt-desert shrub species.

   Elevation levels within the unit range from a low of 3,870 feet above mean sea level (msl) along its northeast boundary near Rattlesnake Creek to a high of 4,281 feet (msl) in the Red Hills located throughout the central northeast portion of the unit.
Refer to this inventory unit’s associated Map 1 and Map 2 for its human developments. Human imprints within the unit include 11.8 miles of 5 motorized primitive trails, 0.7 miles of fenceline, and an exclosure encompassed by about 0.25 miles of fenceline. There is remnant visual evidence of one (0.5 miles) discontinued vehicle route and one vegetation manipulation (implemented 2006) project located along the boundary roads. Presently, to the average visitor, the various vegetation treatments affecting the unit appear, individually and collectively, indistinguishable. Given its size relative to the minimal evidence of man-made developments, the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ______ No ______ X ______ N/A ______

Description: The character of this inventory unit has not changed since the 1970’s. The unit is an irregular narrow linear shape. The unit is narrow near its western boundary, slightly over one mile, then widens to the east until it extends up to width of 4.0 miles and has an overall length of 9.0 miles. The unit’s relatively narrow shape combined with the lack of both vegetative screening and sufficient topographic diversity, precludes outstanding opportunities for solitude. The sights and sounds emanating from traffic on U.S. Highway 95 also detract from opportunities for solitude along much of the western edge of unit. BLM concludes that unit OR-036-026 does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Yes ______ No ______ X ______ N/A ______

Description: The dominate dispersed recreation activity is hunting of upland and big game species (deer and chukar); associated horseback riding and hiking occurs. Dispersed rockhounding for snake agate occasionally occurs near its northern boundary. Individually or collectively the opportunity to participate in and experience these activities within the unit is not outstanding. There are no unique or special features associated with the unit which would more so attract a visitor who is seeking a primitive and unconfined recreational experience. Despite the units size BLM concludes that unit OR-036-026 does not possess outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.
5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes    X    No  _______N/A_______

Description: The BLM’s 1970s inventory indicated that surrounding acreage near Unit 3-118 (adjacent to and including a portion of unit OR-036-026) is one of the few areas where black sagebrush and sand dropseed grass occur in southeastern Oregon, and it is the most northerly distribution of these species. Unit OR-036-026 contains an area of the black sagebrush plant community. These vegetation types are dependent upon unusual combinations of soils and exposure, and are of interest to soil scientist, botanists, and ecologist.

The 1970s inventory also indicated that Unit 3-118 and surrounding acreage (adjacent to and including a portion of unit OR-036-026) is within the range of the kit fox, which is on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (ODFW) list of threatened species. This areas vegetation is partially a salt desert shrub type, a dryer zone than sagebrush, which kit fox inhabit.

BLM has documented 2 sage grouse leks within the unit. The bird is a BLM special status animal species.
Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-036-026 -- Red Hills

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?            _____Yes  __X__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.

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Approved by:  Carolyn Frechboro, Jordan Resource Area Field Manager  4/6/10

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.