

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents  
**Sacramento Hill OR-036-014, 16 total pages**

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**Prepared by:**  
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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.*

Attachment 1

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

**APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION**

**Year: 2007****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  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/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				

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

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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 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      No X**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, 3.65 miles of pipeline for livestock watering, and 1.05 miles of motorized primitive trails. Due to the number of intrusions, users moving through the unit would not be able to avoid the works of man. Overall, the area appears to be primarily affected by the influences of man. Refer to map 2007\_Sacramento\_Hill\_OR\_036\_014A.pdf for human imprints.

**3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?**Yes      No X**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 the only 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 which would not provide solitude. 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 Sacramento Butte. The unit has limited vegetative screening, consisting of broad expanses of low and big sagebrush with little opportunity for solitude except for areas

screened by the rise of Sacramento Butte. Because of the absence of vegetative screening, and limited topographic screening, BLM unit OR-036-014 does not provide 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?   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> | No  |
| 2) Does the area appear to be natural?  | Yes  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> |
| 3) Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?<br>NA | Yes  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> |
| 4) Does the area have supplemental values?<br>NA  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> | No  |

### Conclusion

#### Check One:

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

The ID team has reviewed the findings summarized in the original Statewide Wilderness Inventory as well as in the published decision documents and maps identified on Form 1. Current conditions relative to the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics have been considered including citizen wilderness proposals (no citizen proposal covering this unit). Based on all the best available information and staff field visits to the area since 2000, the ID team has found no compelling reasons to change existing BLM decisions about wilderness characteristics. While BLM finds that the naturalness of the area is primarily affected by the influences of man, there are supplemental values present, and the opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation are limited for reasons already described.

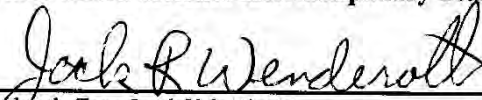
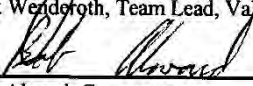
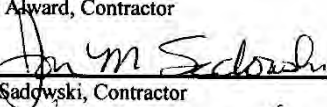
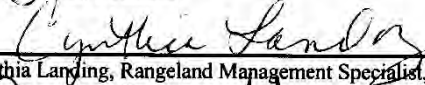


#### Sources of Reference for Evaluation:

- 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.

**Wilderness Characteristics Interdisciplinary Team:**

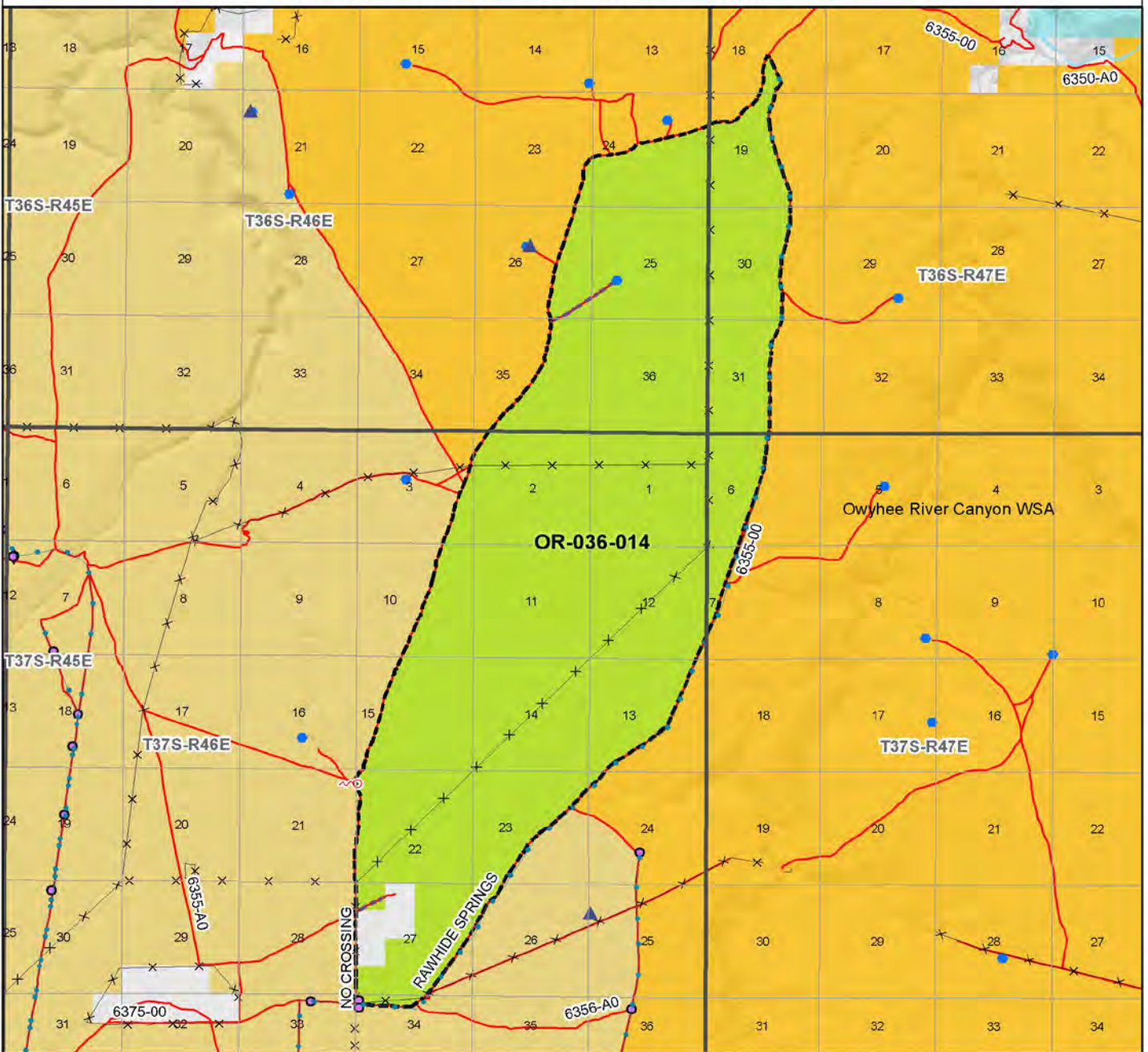
	10/26/07
Jack Wenderoth, Team Lead, Vale District	Date
	10/26/07
Bob Alward, Contractor	Date
	10/26/07
Jon Sadowski, Contractor	Date
	10-26-07
Cynthia Landing, Rangeland Management Specialist, Vale District	Date
	10/26/07
Trisha Skerjanec, Resource Assistant — GIS, Vale District	Date
	10/26/07
Brent Grasty, Natural Resource Specialist — GIS, Vale District	Date

**Concurrence:**

	10/26/07
Carolyn R. Freeborn	Date
Field Manager, Jordan R. A.	

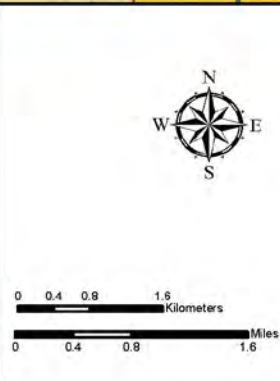
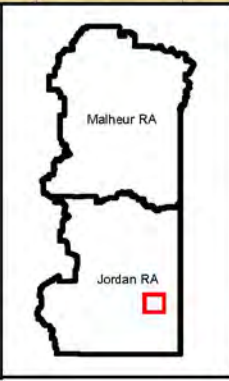
*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.*

# Wilderness Characteristics - Overview Sacramento Hill - OR-036-014 - Map 1 of 1



**Legend**

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



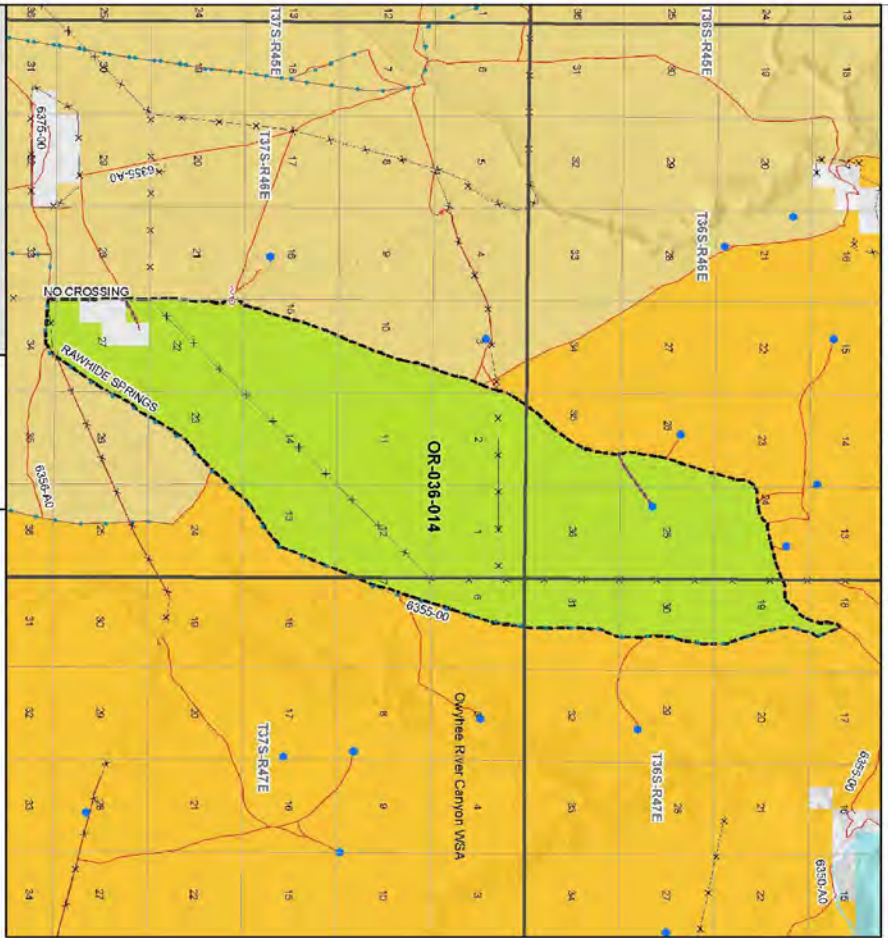
**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**VALE DISTRICT**  
**March 30, 2010**

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of those data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

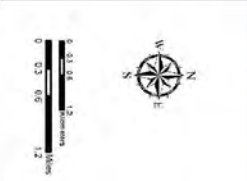
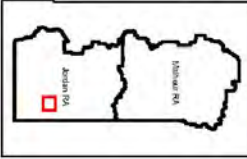
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**Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Points  
Sacramento Hill - OR-036-014**



**Legend**

- Photo
- Photo Location
- Wilderness Study Area
- BLM Wild-Care Area of Peak Interest
- BLM Wild-Care Area of Use
- BLM Wild-Care Area of Use
- BLM Wild-Care Area of Use



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
VALE DISTRICT  
March 20, 2010  
--FINAL--

**Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Points  
Sacramento Hill - OR-036-014**

PHOTO_LOCATION	DIRECTION	PHOTO_TYPE	PHOTO_DATE	COMMENTS
6375-0-00-A	W	Route	2007/05/15	Road Junction

Note: The BLM Wild Char PhotoPoints displayed on the map are labeled with their Photo Locations. The BLM Photo Log table shown above lists the photos taken at their respective Photo Locations. Multiple photos may be taken at each Photo Location. Scenery and Project Photo Type pictures have their photo names provided in the Comments field.





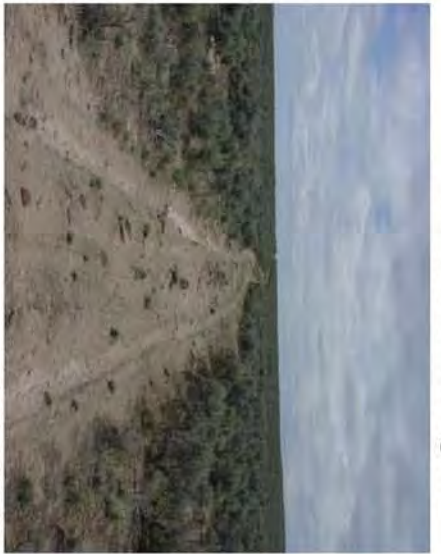
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8300-6-03-B-N.JPG



8300-6-03-F-N.JPG



8300-6-03-C-N.JPG



8300-6-03-G-N.JPG

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

### APPENDIX C – ROAD<sup>1</sup> ANALYSIS

**Wilderness Inventory Area Name and Number (Unit ID):** Sacramento Hill OR-036-014

**Route Name and/or Identifier:** BLM Road 8300-6-03

#### I. LOCATION

Refer to attached map: 2007\_Sacramento\_Hill\_OR\_036\_014.pdf and BLM corporate data (GIS).

List photo point references (if applicable): DSC02402-DSC02409

#### II. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE

Describe: BLM road 8300-6-03 is utilized mainly by ranchers (as observed by current BLM staff) and by BLM staff for the administration of rangeland resources, livestock grazing, and the maintenance of livestock improvements (fences, springs, and reservoirs) in two allotments. The road is also used on a seasonal basis by hunters, recreation enthusiasts, and as access to private inholdings for livestock management.

#### III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY

Is a road right-of-way associated with this route? Yes  No  Unknown

#### IV. CONSTRUCTION

Yes  No

Examples: Paved \_\_\_\_\_ Bladed  Graveled \_\_\_\_\_  
Roadside Berms \_\_\_\_\_ Cut/Fill \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe: BLM road 8300-6-03 was developed in the middle 1900s, by blading. Whether a road-grader and/or bulldozer were utilized to construct this road is not known. Best local information points to early wagon use and later off-road vehicle use as the sources of a two-track trail, then some time later a road-grader was used to perform maintenance on this route and to improve the roadbed. Sometime in the late 1960s to early 1970s the road surface was bladed and ditches and berms added on the roadsides by a road-grader. Currently berms are not evident along some of

the road. Most of the ditches and berms are covered with brush, with sediment filling in the ditches. This road consists of natural material and was to the BLM Vale District Transportation Plan in 2007.

## V. IMPROVEMENTS

Yes \_\_\_ No X

Yes or No for each: By hand tools No By machine No

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 \_\_\_ No X

By hand tools \_\_\_\_\_ By machine \_\_\_\_\_

Explain:

\_\_\_\_\_

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: BLM road 8300-6-03 receives annual use as evidence by the lack of brush in the road and by well-used bare ground where vehicles travel. To reduce the potential for erosion and invasive plant and weed species BLM emphasizes minimal ground disturbance for road construction and maintenance, following Best Management Practices (BMPs) as described in the SEORMP, Appendix O. BMPs are designed to assist in achieving land use objectives for maintaining or improving water quality, soil productivity, and the protection of watershed resources from ground disturbing activities. Therefore, BLM does not grade many roads unless obstruction to vehicle passage is evident. To further reduce ground disturbance and to minimize disruption of natural drainage patterns, roads are kept to the minimal width necessary. Additional precautions are taken to reduce

vegetation removal by retention of vegetation on cut slopes unless, it poses a safety hazard or restricts maintenance activities, and by conducting roadside brushing of vegetation in a way that prevents disturbance to plant root systems and that does not create visual intrusions.

**VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE**

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

BLM road 8300-6-03 has annual use, evidenced by the lack of brush in the road and by well-used bare ground where vehicle tires track (DSC02402-09). The road is well traveled, is wide along most of its length, has had maintenance performed on the roadbed in the past, and is clearly defined on the landscape.

**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:

BLM route 8300-6-03 meets the definition of a road as stated in Sections IV, VI-B, and VII on this form. BLM road 8300-6-03 was constructed by mechanical equipment, has been maintained since being constructed, would be approved to be maintained by management as needed if the road base became impassable, and has regular and continuous use.

**Evaluator(s):**

Jack R Wenderoth Date 10-26-2007  
Jack Wenderoth, Team Lead, Vale District

Jon M Sadowski Date 10-26-2007  
Jon Sadowski, Contractor

Cynthia Larding Date 10-26-2007  
Cynthia Larding, Rangeland Management Specialist, Vale District

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<sup>1</sup>Note: The following definition of road is quoted from OSO Draft (4/19/07) H-6300-1, Wilderness Inventory Maintenance in BLM Oregon/Washington:

**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.”