

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
South Cottonwood OR-034-037, 28 total pages

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Prepared by:
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Bureau of Land Management
Vale District Office
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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.*

Year: 2009 **Unit Number/Name:** OR-034-037 -- South Cottonwood

**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 (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 Units 3-10 of OR-03-02-10 South Cottonwood (unpublished BLM documents in 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)
- () 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 3-10 of OR-03-02-10 South Cottonwood

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 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.

Unit #/ Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
3-10 of OR-03-02- 10 South Cottonwood	8,690	Y	N	N	*
TOTAL	8,690				

*-This criteria was not addressed during the inventory of this unit.

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

APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION

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- 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.*

FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-034-037 -- South Cottonwood

NOTE: In February, 2004, the Vale District received from Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) its evaluation of wilderness characteristics for the Association's 45,053 acre "Little Black Canyon Proposed WSA". 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. The outer boundaries of unit OR-034-037 represent only a portion of ONDA's proposal. ONDA's proposal consists predominately of this and two other present BLM inventory units – OR-034-036 and OR-034-038.

For BLM unit OR-034-037, the differences between BLM and ONDA regarding inventory unit boundary features are that, unlike ONDA's proposal, BLM concludes that (1) BLM route 7355-0-00 (ONDA route WF21a) is a road serving as OR-034-037's north-northwest boundary -- it is not what ONDA determines to be a "way" (or which BLM terms a motorized primitive trail); and (2) BLM route 7356-0-00 is a road through the unit's entire southern boundary rather than how ONDA depicts only a segment of this route (ONDA's WF15e) as a road and the remainder of its WF15e as a "subunit boundary" without defining what type of route it is. Refer to this BLM unit's associated two Road Analysis forms, Photo Point Map/Log, and affiliated photographs for additional documentation.

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 Map 1 for its location. The outer boundary of the 9,057-acre unit is identical to the original unit (3-10 of OR-03-02-10, South Cottonwood) of BLM's wilderness characteristics inventory of the late 1970's. The unit's boundary consists of the BLM roads 7355-0-00, 7356-0-00, 7358-0-00, 7358-0-0A0, County Road 601, and two private land parcels. The BLM roads receive mechanical maintenance as needed to keep them passable for relatively regular and continuous use. One 80 acre private inholding is also a feature of the unit's boundary.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No N/A

Description: The unit consists predominately of a multiple series of gentle sloping drainages and their dividing ridges and scattered tabletops and flat mesas associated with South Fork Cottonwood Creek. The unit’s east boundary runs along Little Black Canyon and its affiliated side drainages and elevated ridges and tabletops. Elevations range from approximately 3,480 to 4,980 feet. Dominant vegetation type is sagebrush community with native and non-native rangeland grasses.

Refer to this unit’s associated Map 1 for human developments within it. They include 14.6 miles of fence, 3 earthen reservoirs, one fence enclosure associated with a reservoir, and 1.3 miles of one motorized primitive trail (MPT). There is also remnant evidence of two abandoned vehicle routes within the unit (1.6 miles, total). The BLM’s 1970’s inventory indicated two (cherry-stem) roads associated with the historic inventory unit; presently, there are no cherry-stem roads to affect the boundaries of OR-034-037. The unit has not been subject to vegetative or other land treatments. With the type, location and extent of development within the unit collectively, the result is the unit is affected primarily by the forces of nature, with human imprints substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.

BLM documents the presence of 1 MPT within this unit for which no ONDA documentation is provided. ONDA’s proposal does not quantify or indicate location of the 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. For comparative reference, refer to the BLM Map 1 and ONDA’s proposal, both located in this unit’s inventory file folder.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No N/A _____

Description: The unit is somewhat rectangular in shape, being approximately 4.5 miles long and up to 2.5 miles in width. There is no significant screening provided by vegetation within the unit. The unit’s narrow, somewhat rectangular shape relative to its size and a lack of notable diversity in relief does not provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude.

ONDA avails outstanding opportunities for solitude for its proposed WSA in recognition of the proposal’s much larger size, its configuration, and its diverse topographic and vegetative properties to assist in screening and providing a sense of solitude between visitors. ONDA references a number of its photos related to solitude for its WSA proposal, of which QA33 and QA 43 are associated with this BLM unit OR-034-037. These two photos, respectively, depict a portion of Cottonwood Canyon and a vista. Based on the current results of BLM’s wilderness characteristics inventory maintenance, BLM does not have an inventory unit that approaches that of ONDA’s in this general area. While drawing no conclusion regarding solitude within ONDA’s proposal, BLM recognizes that a unit of the general size, configuration and topography as ONDA’s

proposal may possibly possess attributes which may result in providing for outstanding opportunities of solitude.

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

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: Hunting of the common game species (primarily deer and chukar) and affiliated day hiking are the primary primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities within the unit. The hunted game species or individual game animals are not unique or special. Some horseback riding may occur, but the unit does not possess unique or outstanding features which would notably encourage this activity nor backpacking, photography, or nature study of specific features. A southern portion of the unit is identified as bighorn sheep habitat; however, the species is not known to use this area as this time. The recreation opportunities present -- individually or in combination -- do not provide for outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

ONDA includes the above mentioned activities as well as snowshoeing and botany study as outstanding primitive recreation opportunities. BLM contends that while recreational opportunities, these two activities occur nominally (if at all for snowshoeing) within the unit, and in any case are not outstanding in quality since there are no plant species of notoriety or special status within the unit, and motorized vehicle inaccessibility during snowfall periods virtually precludes snowshoeing activity within the unit. The Association states that its substantially larger “Little Black Canyon proposed WSA” -- with its geologic features, vegetation and wildlife -- provides outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation of photography, botany and “wildlife study” due to: (1) varied and interesting terrain (including steep buttes, rim rock, hills with both flat and rounded mesa tops, flatland with deep cut ravines, canyon cliffs, and multiple springs), (2) “spectacular” views particularly atop Westfall Buttes and “several hill tops further south”, (3) a variety of habitats and vegetation (including a good variety of native vegetation, willow, riparian vegetation, juniper, aspen, mountain mahogany groves, sage, native grasses and bare rock patches), and (4) “prolific” wildlife (the Association lists 20 observed bird species). ONDA makes reference to 14 photos, of which QA29, 32 - 35 and QA 43 are associated with this BLM unit OR-034-037. BLM does not find any of the recreation opportunities-- individually or collectively -- to possess associated unique values or other distinctive features which would enhance or provide an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation. ONDA also states BLM indicated the 1970’s BLM units (which are included in its proposed WSA) “were not recommended for WSA designation based on the original determination that the individual units did not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation because of their small size and irregular shape” and “some unnatural developments in one unit.” In the 1970’s (and as presently for reasons stated in the above paragraph) BLM did not recognize any of its three inventory units presently affected by ONDA’s proposal as possessing outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. BLM herein makes no determination of whether or not ONDA’s described

attributes of its larger proposed WSA equates to outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: ONDA states that it's larger "Little Black Canyon proposed WSA" provides habitat for Bighorn Sheep and the Golden Eagle. In this area, the Golden Eagle is not identified as a BLM recognized special status species. The southern portion of the unit is identified as bighorn sheep habitat by BLM in its 2002 SEORMP Record of Decision; however, the species is not known to use this area as this time.

ONDA states that their proposed Little Black Canyon WSA "provides habitat for Golden Eagle and may provide habitat for Mojave Black-Collared Lizard, Desert Horned Lizard, 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, Black-Collared Lizards, Desert Horned Lizards, 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 acknowledges that habitat requirements may exist for the Mojave Black-collared Lizard, Desert Horned Lizard, Ground Snake, Golden Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, Pygmy Rabbit, and White-tailed Antelope Squirrel; 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-034-037 -- South Cottonwood

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? Yes X 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
Robert Alward, Wilderness Planner contractor

Team Members:

<u>Martin M. Espil</u>	<u>1-29-10</u>
Martin Espil, Rangeland Management Specialist	Date
<u>Shaney Rockefeller</u>	<u>3/10/10</u>
Shaney Rockefeller, Soil Scientist	Date
<u>Diane H Pritchard</u>	<u>2/8/10</u>
Diane Pritchard, Archeologist	Date
<u>Ejan Ray</u>	<u>3/11/10</u>
Ejan Ray, GIS Specialist, contractor	Date
<u>Brent Grasty</u>	<u>2/9/10</u>
Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator	Date

(NOTE: Previous team member Botanist Jean Finley (retired 7/2008), also reviewed this unit.)

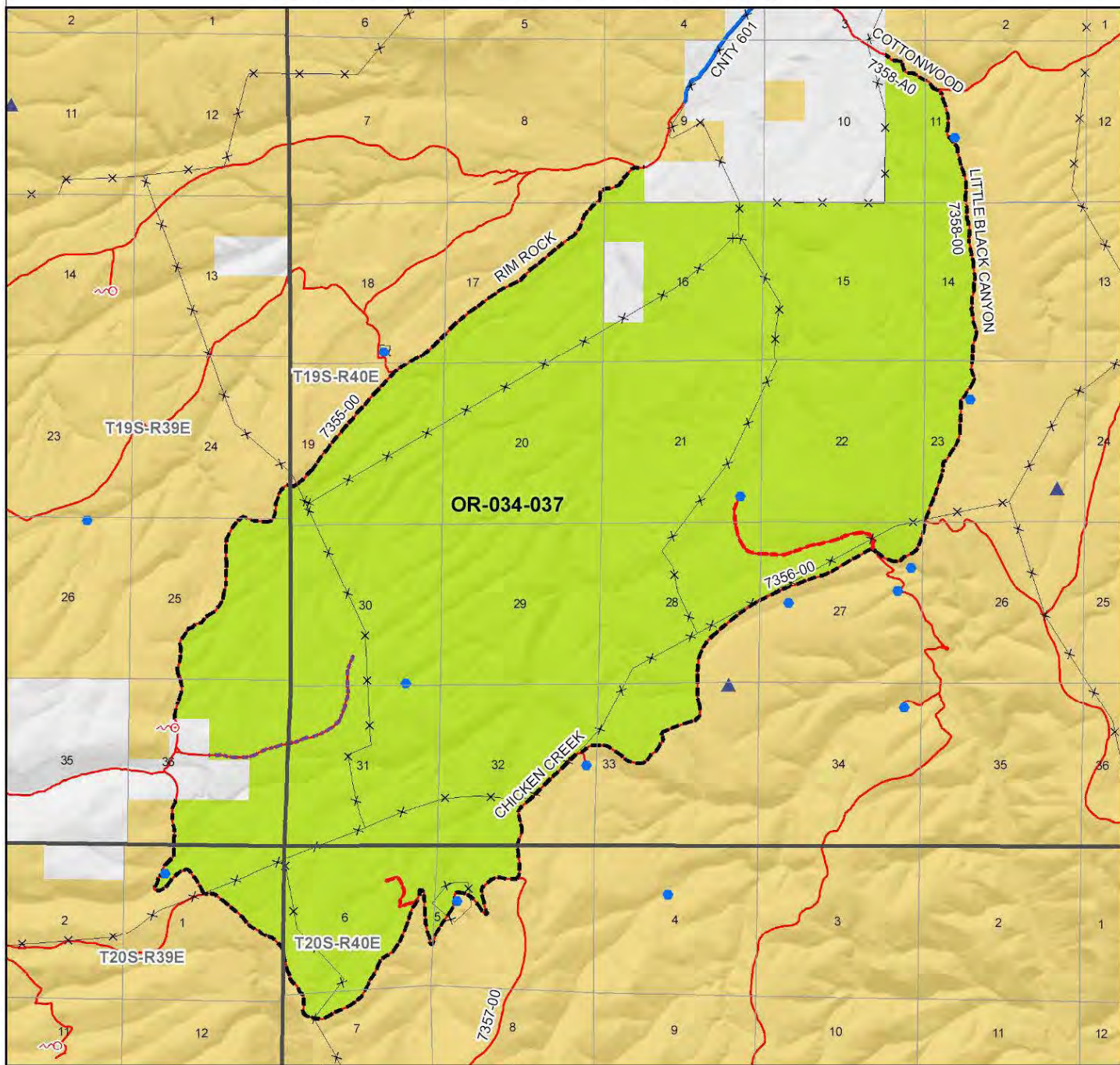
Approved by: Pat Ryan
Pat Ryan, Malheur Resource Area Field Manager

3/30/2010
Date

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

South Cottonwood - OR-034-037 - Map 1 of 1



Legend

- Developed Spring
- Wildlife Guzzler
- Earthen Reservoir
- Pipeline
- Trough
- Fence
- Storage Tank
- Surface Mining Disturbance
- Sage Grouse Lek
- Special Status Plant
- BLM Wild Char Inventory Unit
- Wilderness Study Area
- Mineral Material Site
- Road/Utility Right-of-Way
- Major Water Body

Route Types - BLM Determination

- Boundary Road
- Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT)
- Discontinued Use
- Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit
- County
- Major Highway
- BLM Numbered & Other Routes

Land Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Private
- Other Federal Land

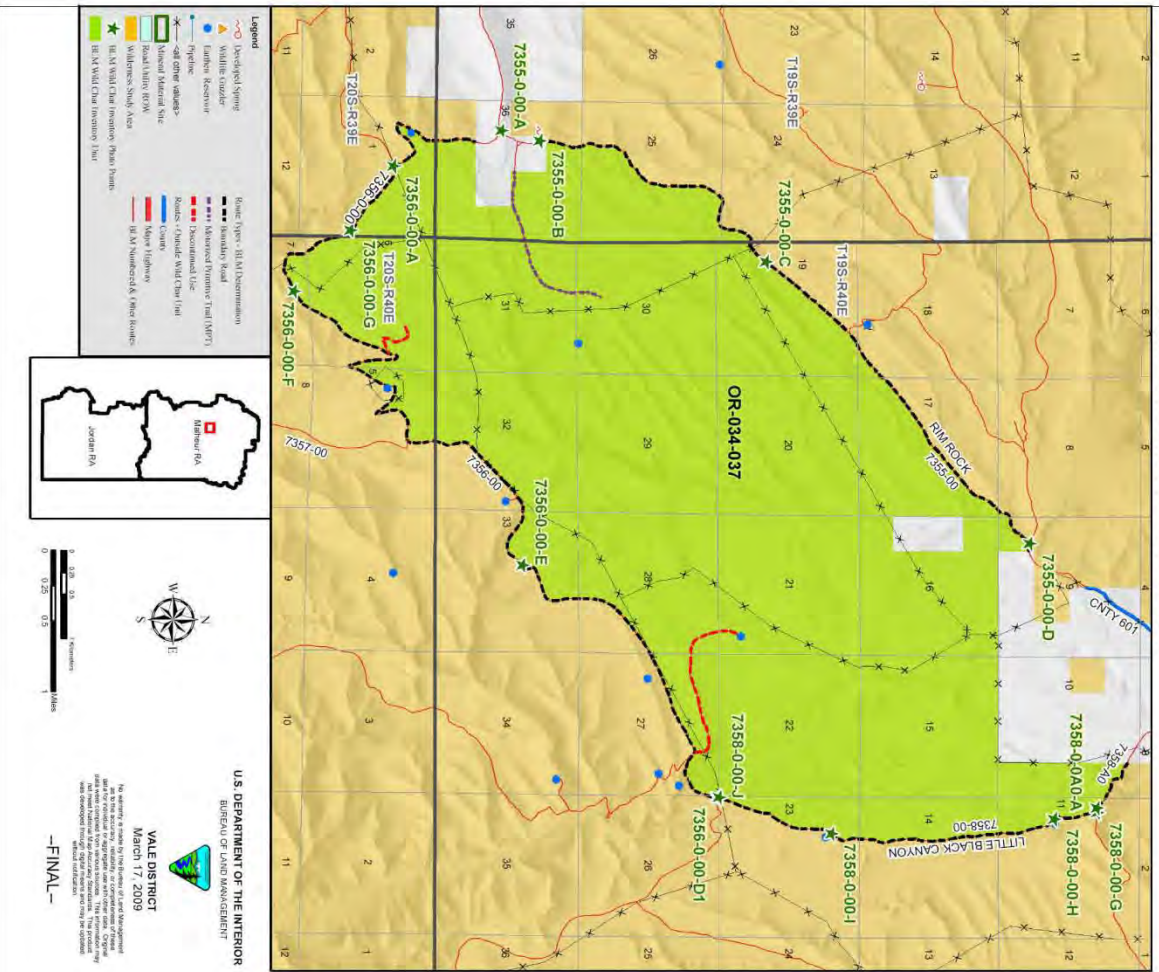
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VALE DISTRICT
December 29, 2008

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these 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.

--FINAL--

Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Points
South Cottonwood - OR-034-037



Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Points
South Cottonwood - OR-034-037

PHOTO LOCATION*	DIRECTION	PHOTO TYPE	DATE	COMMENTS
7355-0-00-A	E	Route	20080726	start of route
7355-0-00-A	W	Route	20080726	start of route
7355-0-00-B	S	Project	20080726	OR-034-036-B-S water trough
7355-0-00-B	N	Route	20080726	no evidence of maintenance.
7355-0-00-C	N	Project	20080726	OR-034-036-C-N cattle gate
7355-0-00-C	S	Route	20080726	no evidence of maintenance.
7355-0-00-D	S	Route	20080726	end of route
7355-0-00-D	E	Route	20080726	end of route
7356-0-00-A	W	Route	20080726	start of route
7356-0-00-A	E	Route	20080726	start of route
7356-0-00-A	N	Route	20080825	looking at route 7356-0-00
7356-0-00-D1	E	Route	20080825	back up 7358-0-00
7356-0-00-D1	E	Route	20080825	middle route toe at "y" - left from 7358-0-00
7356-0-00-D1	E	Route	20080825	middle route toe at "y" - left from 7358-0-00
7356-0-00-D1	NE	Route	20080825	route surface change - bladed
7356-0-00-E	SW	Route	20080825	route surface change - bladed
7356-0-00-F	E	Route	20080825	route surface change - bladed
7356-0-00-G	E	Route	20080825	cattleguard
7356-0-00-G	W	Route	20080825	cattleguard
7356-0-00-G	E	Route	20080825	at "y"
7358-0-00-G	S	Route	20080825	intersection - "y"
7358-0-00-H	E	Project	20080825	OR-034-054-H-E Lower Black Canyon Reservoir
7358-0-00-H	N	Route	20080825	maintenance-blade marks
7358-0-00-H	S	Route	20080825	maintenance-blade marks
7358-0-00-H	S	Route	20080825	maintenance-blade marks
7358-0-00-I	S	Route	20080825	maintenance-blade marks
7358-0-00-I	E	Project	20080825	OR-034-054-I-E Black Canyon Reservoir & salt trough
7358-0-00-J	N	Route	20080825	"y" intersection at end of 7358-0-00 & cattleguard
7358-0-00-A	E	Route	20080924	start of 7358-0-00A toward intersection
7358-0-00-A	W	Route	20080924	start of 7358-0-00A forward from intersection

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.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 VALE DISTRICT
 March 17, 2009
 -FINAL-



7355-0-00-A-E.JPG



7355-0-00-C-S.JPG



7356-0-00-A-E.JPG



7355-0-00-A-W.JPG



7355-0-00-D-E.JPG



7356-0-00-A-W.JPG



7355-0-00-B-N.JPG



7355-0-00-D-S.JPG



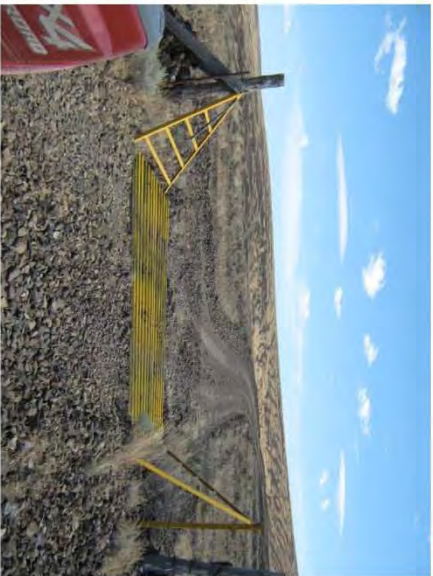
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7356-0-00-E-NE.JPG



7356-0-00-G-E.JPG



7356-0-00-D1-N.JPG



7356-0-00-E-SW.JPG



7356-0-00-G-W.JPG



7356-0-00-D1-S.JPG



7356-0-00-F-SW.JPG



7358-0-00-G-E.JPG



7358-0-00-G-S.JPG



7358-0-00-H-S1.JPG



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7358-0-00-H-S2.JPG



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7358-0-00-H-S.JPG



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OR-034-036-C-N.JPG

OR-034-037 South Cottonwood Page 4



OR-034-064-H-E.JPG



OR-034-064-I-E.JPG

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: OR-34-037 – South Cottonwood

NOTE: This unit is affected by ONDA’s proposed Little Black Canyon WSA.

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

BLM route 7355-0-00

(It is ONDA’s route WF21a, which it terms as a vehicular “way” (i.e., motorized primitive trail.)

I. LOCATION: Refer to attached map. Route is BLM inventory unit’s northwest boundary. Same boundary as for BLM OR- 034-038, Westfall Highlands. **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: This route is traveled for access consistently between private land holdings on both ends of the route; to access range improvement projects (3 reservoirs [one with fence enclosure], a developed spring, and 2 fences); to assist and monitor livestock operations; and, to avail vehicle –supported dispersed hunting of common game species between Gregory Creek and the headwaters of various drainages that flow south to Malheur River. From the northeast, the route is a southwest- oriented extension of the County 601 road.

III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:

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

Yes ___ ___ No **X** Unknown ___ ___

IV. CONSTRUCTION

Yes **X** No ___ ___

Examples: Paved ___ ___ Bladed ___ ___ Graveled ___ ___ Roadside
Berms ___ ___ Cut/Fill ___ ___ Other **X** ___ ___

Describe: Date of construction is unknown; it was likely constructed at the time range improvements were initially installed. The route was present and served as a BLM wilderness characteristics inventory unit boundary road in the late 1970's. Presently, evidence of construction is not apparent. This is due to the nature of where and on what type of surface the route is located. The route is predominately associated with a ridgeline and/or with firm surface materials which required very little mechanical disturbance to establish the route.

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 ___ ___ No **X** ___ ___

If yes: Hand Tools (Y/N) ___ ___ Machine (Y/N) ___ ___

Explain: Due to the nature of where and on what type of surface the route is located. The route is predominately associated with a ridgeline and/or with firm surface materials which required very little mechanical disturbance to establish the route, and has not

required mechanical maintenance to an extent which presently exhibits evidence of it. This is why it is not uncommon to observe short vegetation on the route’s travel width.

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: The route is in good condition; passable by a high clearance vehicle. Should mechanical maintenance be needed, BLM would authorize it so to provide access to private land on either end of this route segment. Historically, it appears the route has required little if any mechanical maintenance to keep it passable.

VII. 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:

Typically, evidence of travel tracks are observable, primarily other than during the winter months.

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: This route meets road criteria, as described and explained, above.

Evaluator(s): Martin A. Espil Date: 4/6/09
Martin Espil, Range Management Specialist

Shaney Rockefeller Date: 4/6/09
Shaney Rockefeller, Soil Scientist

*** 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”.

**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: OR-34-037 – South Cottonwood

NOTE: This unit is affected by ONDA’s proposed Little Black Canyon WSA.

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

7356-0-00

(It is ONDA’s combination of its route WF15a, which it terms a road [BLM’s southeastern section of this route], and of a vehicular “way”-- (i.e., motorized primitive trail.) for which ONDA provides no associated identifier on its map for the proposed WSA.)

IX. LOCATION: Refer to attached map. Route is BLM inventory unit’s south and southeastern boundary. Same boundary as for BLM OR- 034-031 (Trail Creek), and OR-034-063 (Hog Creek). **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 /S/Wilderness Characteristics/Citizen Proposals.

X. 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: This route is traveled consistently as a primary east-west through-connector between other primary routes (7358-0-00 to the east, and 7369-0-00 to the west). It also serves as access for several range improvement projects (a fence and 8 earthen reservoirs [3 associated with this BLM inventory unit, 5 located in the unit abutting south of it – OR-034-063]). It provides for livestock permittee and administrative monitoring and management of livestock, and is traveled by the dispersed hunting and camping public.

XI. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:

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

Yes _____ No X Unknown _____

XII. CONSTRUCTION

Yes X No _____

Examples: Paved _____ Bladed X Graveled _____ Roadside
Berms X Cut/Fill _____ Other _____

Describe: Date of construction is unknown. The route was present and served as a BLM wilderness characteristics inventory unit boundary road in the late 1970's. Given the terrain and surface materials, little more than blading was required for much of this route's construction. Evidence of berm is located in various locations along this route. The location of some berms relative to the route's overall mechanically-affected wider surface width indicates they being made as a result of more so recent maintenance conducted along the route.

XIII. IMPROVEMENTS

Yes _____ No X

By Hand Tools _____ By Machine _____

Examples: Culverts _____ Stream Crossings _____ Bridges _____
Drainage _____ Barriers _____ Other _____

Describe:

XIV. 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) X

Explain: Much of the route is associated with a ridgeline and has required nominal mechanical maintenance. There is evidence of berms established within an earlier established wider width along certain segments of the route. Much of the route is of firm, often natural gravel-like surface materials, thus maintenance is performed only as needed

to keep the route passable. Respectively, it is not uncommon to observe short vegetation on the route's travel width in various locations.

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: The route is in good condition; passable by a high clearance vehicle. Should mechanical maintenance be needed, BLM would authorize it so to meet the purposes of the route.

XV. 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:

During the drier periods of a year there are tracks denoting apparent regular and continuous use of this route.

XVI. 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: This route meets road criteria, as described and explained, above.

Evaluator(s): Martín M. Espil **Date:** 4/6/09
Martin Espil, Range Management Specialist

Shaney Rockefeller **Date:** 4/6/09
Shaney Rockefeller, Soil Scientist

* **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.

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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”.

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: OR-34-037 – South Cottonwood

NOTE: This unit is affected by ONDA’s proposed Little Black Canyon WSA.

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

7358-0-00 and 7358-0A0, combined

(It is a combination of ONDA’s route WF15f [which is BLM’s 7358-0-00] and a short route segment which ONDA labels “not inventoried” [which is BLM’s 7358-0A0]).

XVII. LOCATION: Refer to attached map. The two are a continuous segment serving as the BLM inventory unit’s east boundary route. This segment of 7358-0-00 is also a common boundary route for BLM inventory unit OR- 034-064 (Corbett Creek), as is 7358-0-0A0 for inventory unit OR-034-065 (Willow Spring). **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 /S/Wilderness Characteristics/Citizen Proposals.

XVIII. 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: These two routes together serve to inter-connect certain other primary routes within a larger area, including County 601 and 7356-0-00, and other branches of 7358-0-00. Together they provide connective access to a private land parcel, assist in permittee and administrative livestock monitoring and management, and avail the hunting and camping public access in and through the greater area.

XIX. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:

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

Yes _____ No X Unknown _____

XX. CONSTRUCTION

Yes X No _____

Examples: Paved _____ Bladed X Graveled _____ Roadside
Berms X Cut/Fill X Other _____

Describe: Date of construction is unknown. The routes were present and served as boundary roads for a BLM wilderness characteristics inventory unit (3-10, South Cottonwood) in the late 1970's. Given the terrain and surface materials, little more than blading was required for much of the construction; there is evidence of dispersed hill cuts and bermed sections associated with the route's construction.

XXI. IMPROVEMENTS

Yes _____ No X

By Hand Tools _____ By Machine _____

Examples: Culverts _____ Stream Crossings _____ Bridges _____
Drainage _____ Barriers _____ Other _____

Describe:

XXII. MAINTENANCE:

A. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery? Yes _____ No X

If yes: Hand Tools (Y/N) _____ Machine (Y/N) _____

Explain: Visual evidence of maintenance is not apparent. Noting the nature of the terrain and the predominately firm surface materials of the routes, little if any maintenance would be required to keep them passable. Respectively, it is not uncommon to observe short vegetation on the route's travel width in various locations.

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: Both routes are in good condition; passable by a high clearance vehicle. Should mechanical maintenance be needed, BLM would authorize it to support the recognized purposes of the combined two routes.

XXIII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:

Yes No

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


During the drier periods of a year there are tracks denoting apparent regular and continuous use of these routes.


XXIV. 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

Explanation: Each of these two routes, fundamentally serving as the same route, meets road criteria, as described and explained, above.

Evaluator(s):  Date: 4/6/09
 Martin Espil, Range Management Specialist

 Date: 4/6/09
 Shaney Rockefeller, Soil Scientist

* **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.

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