

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents  
**The Tongue OR-034-054, 33 total pages**

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**Prepared by:**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**  
**Vale District Office**  
**100 Oregon Street**  
**Vale, Oregon 97918**



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

### **APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION**

#### **Evaluation of Current Conditions:**

- 1) Document and review the existing BLM wilderness inventory findings on file, if available, regarding the presence or absence of individual wilderness characteristics, using Form 1, below.
- 2) Consider relevant information regarding current conditions available in the office to identify and describe any changes to the existing information (use interdisciplinary (ID) team knowledge, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc.), and document your findings on Form 2, below.

When Citizen Information has been submitted regarding wilderness characteristics, document the submitted materials including: date of Submission; Name of District(s) and Field Office(s) Affected; Type of material Submitted (e.g. narrative, map, photo). Evaluate any submitted citizen information regarding the validity of proposed boundaries of the unit(s), the existence of roads and other boundary features, the size of the unit(s), and the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics based on relevant information available in the office (prior BLM inventories, ID team knowledge, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc.)

Conduct field reviews as necessary to verify information and to ascertain current conditions. Reach conclusions on current conditions including boundaries, size of areas and presence or absence of wilderness characteristics. Fully explain the basis for each conclusion on form 2, including any critical differences between BLM and citizen information.

Document your findings regarding current conditions for each inventoried area. Describe how the present conditions are similar to, or have changed from, the conditions documented in the original wilderness inventory. Document your findings on Form 2 for each inventory area. Cite to or attach data considered, including photographs, maps, GIS layers, field trip notes, project files, *etc.*

Year: 2009 Unit Number/Name: OR-034-054 – The Tongue

**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.**

**(NOTE:** BLM 1970's WC inventory maps indicate all of each of two inventory units (OR-03-05-028 Black Rock, and OR-03-05-029 Holdout) apply for the present WC maintenance update unit (OR-034-054), as well as additional public lands for which no 1970's WC inventory information could be found at this time. Written information for only one of these units can be found -- there is no written information found for the historic unit OR-03-05-28.)

**Wilderness Inventories**

- (X) 1978 – 1980 --- BLM Wilderness Inventory units OR-03-05-028 Black Rock, and OR-03-05-29 Holdout -- unpublished BLM documents.
- ( ) 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 unit OR-03-05-29 Holdout, and OR-03-05-028 Black Rock (see **NOTE**, above.)

**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/Malheur 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):

**Inventory Source:** See above.

<b>Unit#/ Name</b>	<b>Size (historic acres)</b>	<b>Natural Condition? Y/N</b>	<b>Outstanding Solitude? Y/N</b>	<b>Outstanding Primitive &amp; Unconfined Recreation? Y/N</b>	<b>Supplemental Values? Y/N</b>
OR-03-05-29 Holdout	1,560	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
OR-03-05-28 (no name)*	15,400**	**	**	**	**
<b>TOTAL</b>	16,960				

\* -- NA is not applicable; that is, these criteria were not determined since the unit did not meet size criteria.

\*\* -- Although identified by BLM on a BLM unit resource analysis (URA) wilderness inventory map which was in effect in the late 1970's, no written information/inventory folder can be found on this unit in the Vale District Office. A latter 1970's WC URA summary reference identifies this acreage with it. Refer to a copy of said map, located in the WC inventory maintenance folder for unit OR-034-054, The Tongue. It presently is unknown if any of the other WC characteristics were met at the time.

## **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.)

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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-034-054 -- The Tongue**

**NOTE:** In February, 2004, the Vale District received from Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) its evaluation of wilderness characteristics for what ONDA names its 25,944 acre “Gin Basin proposed WSA Addition”. For reference, a hard copy of ONDA’s proposal is retained in this unit’s file. Unit OR-034-054 represents portions of ONDA’s proposal, with some areas of ONDA’s proposal excluded while other additional public lands being included in this BLM current unit. Information provided by ONDA’s proposal was considered and incorporated as appropriate for this BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory maintenance. ONDA’s proposal includes two 1970’s BLM inventory units (OR-03-05-28 and OR-03-05-29). ONDA’s proposal includes a portion of this current inventory maintenance unit and a portion of a second current unit, OR-034-057.

For BLM unit OR-034-054, there are three differences between BLM and ONDA regarding inventory unit boundary features. Unlike ONDA’s proposal, BLM concludes that County route 3209 (ONDA’s route MMt8), is a road (not a motorized primitive trail –MPT-- or what ONDA terms a “way”), and thus is a component of OR-034-054’s southeast boundary. Thus, BLM’s OR-034-054 unit does not include the agency’s historic unit of 3-72 (8,360 acres), as does the ONDA proposal. Second, although in concurrence with ONDA that its described route “MMt6a” (“6a” on ONDA’s map) -- located on public land – is not a road but rather a MPT, BLM does not concur with ONDA’s proposal of identifying the MPT as a boundary element of its WSA Addition proposal. A MPT does not meet BLM criteria for its application as an element of a BLM WC inventory unit boundary. Thus, OR-034-054 includes more public lands west of this MPT. Lastly, ONDA states there is not a road or a vehicular way (MPT) separating its proposed WSA Addition from the existing Slocum Creek WSA (OR-3-75). In the late 1970’s, the public lands where the WSA abuts this current BLM OR-034-054 inventory unit was then and remains today separated by two roads which are associated with vehicular access to two private land parcels -- one approaching Spring Creek from the northeast (within sections 27, 34, and 35, T.26S., R.44E.) and the other located along Spring Creek between the two private land parcels (within sections 15 and 16, T.26S., R44E.). The road segment across public lands along Spring Creek between the two private parcels is identified by Malheur County as part of its County route 3151. The road segment on public lands approaching the larger private parcel on Spring Creek from the southeast has been present for over 32 years; BLM issued a ROW for this road in 1984. Mechanical maintenance (blading) of the County route 3151 segment between the two private land parcels along Spring Creek was performed within the past few years (since 2001) by other than BLM. As authorized by the BLM ROW, periodic mechanical maintenance occurs on the Dago Gulch Road; recent blading was performed, at minimum, in 2006. Respectively, ONDA’s WSA Addition proposal is not contiguous with Slocum Creek WSA due to the above described presence and maintenance of two roads affecting this location. Additional information about the relationship of County Route 3151 and the Dago Gulch Road is provided under the “natural condition” element of this document. Refer to each of three associated Road Analysis forms and their affiliated Photo Point Map and photos for additional documentation of routes which were further reviewed.

**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 unit’s associated Map 1 for its location. The boundaries of the 16,302 acre unit constitute a notably smaller area than ONDA’s Gin Basin proposal. The BLM unit is bounded on its north side by Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)--administered federal lands along Owyhee Reservoir. The unit’s east side boundary is a combination of private land parcels and boundary roads (County 3151, and Dago Gulch) associated with the Slocum Creek WSA (OR-3-75); its south boundary by private lands and County road 3209; and its west boundary by BLM road 7302-0-00 (separating it from Blue Canyon WSA [OR-3-73] ) and private land parcels. Two sites of historic hardrock mining surface disturbance and associated current mining expansion plans and their two cherry-stem roads associated with the Moonshine Project within sections 10, 15 and 16, T.27S., R.44E are features of the unit’s boundary, as are a 40 acre and a 2,840 acre private inholding associated with the unit’s northern sector. The roads receive BLM approved mechanical maintenance as needed to keep them passable on a relatively regular and continuous basis, albeit mechanical maintenance of 7302-0-00 of Blue Canyon WSA’s northeastern boundary has been minimal since BLM’s 1970’s wilderness inventory.

ONDA contends that its Gin Basin proposed WSA Addition is contiguous with Slocum Creek WSA. Refer to BLM’s explanation under “NOTE”, above, for why ONDA’s proposal is not contiguous with the WSA.

**2. Is the unit in a natural condition?**

Yes   X   No            N/A           

**Description:** The unit is characterized by a variety of terrain, notably flat table lands which break down slope toward the Owyhee Reservoir and also into canyons and elevated terrain to the unit’s east and northeast with a complex of multi-directional rugged draws, drainages and breaks of moderate to very steep slopes. A portion of the unit’s northern sector consists of part of the rugged Black Rocks lava outcrop before continuing onto BOR-administered federal land. Elevations in the unit range from approximately 2,740 feet near the Owyhee Reservoir to as high as 6,300 feet near Gunsight Pass. Dominant vegetation type is sagebrush community with native and non-native rangeland grasses; a few patches of widely scattered junipers extend along a short segment of the unit’s higher eastern boundary. The topographic breaks which approach the neighboring Owyhee Reservoir and the canyon country of the unit’s northeast area are within the BLM-designated Owyhee Views Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). One of the recognized important and relevant values of the ACEC is its high scenic values; the portion of the ACEC associated with this inventory unit does possess high scenic values.

Refer to this unit’s associated Map 1 and Map 2 for the locations of human imprints. The unit has 17.7 miles of 12 motorized primitive trails (MPTs), 22.8 miles of rangeland fence, 4 earthen reservoirs, and 4 developed springs, one developed wildlife guzzler, and 2 small sites of historic surface mining are within the unit. One MPT (approximately 6 miles in length) is a segment of County route 3151 that dissects this BLM inventory unit through its central area. It was bladed in 2002 to support the Mahogany Wildfire suppression efforts, but is a route which has not been maintained by the county for over 25 years and which the BLM presently has no intent of being involved with maintaining during the short or long term future. Since the wildfire, soil movement and erosion has resulted in precluding safe vehicle passage on a portion of the route to Spring Creek. For more than 30 years the road through Dago Gulch (branching from the Leslie Gulch Road ) to the Spring Creek area has served as the replacement route of County 3151 to access private property parcels located along Spring Creek, which abuts this unit in its northeastern sector (also see “NOTE” at the beginning of this Form 2). Within the unit, there remains no visual evidence to the average visitor of a 1961 or of several scattered 2002 disc-drilled grass seedings (100 acres). Overall, the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans being substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.

### 3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes   X   No        N/A       

**Description:** The unit’s vegetation provides insufficient screening to support an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The flatlands more so prevalent within the unit’s western portion provide insufficient topographic relief or features for screening to experience outstanding opportunities for solitude. The unit is up to about 7.5 miles long and 4.5 miles wide (east-west). However, much of the unit’s continuity of public lands in its north half is adversely affected by the large 2,840 acre private inholding. The affect of this inholding – the unit’ narrow configuration of public lands immediately surrounding three of the inholdings’ sides (one quarter to one mile wide) – do not provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude. The remaining approximate east half of the unit’s area, characterized by rugged topography with incised terrain, some rim rock, and a complex of multidirectional drainages with an elevation variance from 4,300 feet to nearly 6,300 feet, is a topographically diverse area large enough (over 5,000 acres) and of such configuration as to provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude, although being no greater than about 3 miles wide and approaching 6-7 miles long in a north-south orientation.



**4. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?**Yes   X   No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Description:** Hunting of California bighorn sheep as a prized trophy game species is a rare and special opportunity associated with a portion of the area. While no one recreational activity is considered outstanding in the unit, in varied combination hunting of the sheep and other big and upland game species (deer, antelope and chukar), day hiking, sightseeing, photography and less common horseback riding and backpacking opportunities within the unit results in providing outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, although more so limited to the topographically rugged and diverse terrain of the generally eastern half of the unit.

ONDA states backpacking opportunities are excellent within its Gin Basin proposed WSA. BLM considers the opportunity available as an activity though not excellent in quality within the more so rugged areas of this BLM unit, noting that the unit has no special or more so distinctive natural features, or attractions to specifically attract this activity. ONDA also states that streams and riparian areas (ONDA references its photo EA6) increases habitat for many animals allowing outstanding opportunities in wildlife viewing and hunting. Furthermore, ONDA contends that many wildflowers would also offer outstanding opportunities for botanical studies and viewing. BLM contends that wildlife viewing, hunting and wildflower study and viewing are of themselves not considered outstanding, but when considered in combination with other recreation opportunities identified in the above paragraph, contribute to collectively provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in this BLM unit.

**5. Does the unit have supplemental values?**Yes   X   No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Description:** As noted above, the high scenic values of the designated Owyhee Views ACEC is a supplemental value. The unit is within the habitat range for a herd of California bighorn sheep, which BLM identifies as a special status animal species in Oregon. Multiple sites of Ertter's ragwort and Owyhee clover have been documented by BLM within the unit. Both are BLM special status plant species. BLM records indicate Sage grouse use this unit during the winter season.

ONDA states that it's proposed Gin Basin WSA "may be home to 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, 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 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.

ONDA states that views of “Owyhee Canyon” from within its proposed Gin Basin WSA Addition “offer a great supplemental value”. ONDA does not describe what constitutes “Owyhee Canyon”, but BLM reasonably assumes ONDA is referring to the immediate landscape setting of the Owyhee Reservoir and landscapes generally north beyond it, the vast majority of both not being in its proposed WSA Addition or within OR-034-054. For any given BLM inventory unit, BLM wilderness characteristic (WC) inventory criteria does not allow for inclusion of resource values located beyond the bounds of an inventory unit. Thus, by example while views from within a BLM unit of landscape features located outside of the unit may draw a visitor’s interest or attention, such features cannot be an element of supplemental value or any other WC criteria when evaluating the unit for possession of wilderness character.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

Unit Name and Number: OR-034-054 -- The Tongue

**Summary Results of Analysis:**

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

**Conclusion -- check one:**

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

Prepared by: Robert Alward  
 Robert Alward, Wilderness Planner contractor

**Team Members:**

<u>Mitch Thomas</u>	<u>2/4/10</u>
Mitch Thomas, Rangeland Management Specialist	Date
<u>Gillian Wigglesworth</u>	<u>2/5/10</u>
Gillian Wigglesworth, Botanist	Date
<u>Shaney Rockefeller</u>	<u>3/10/10</u>
Shaney Rockefeller, Soil Scientist	Date
<u>Dave Drake</u>	<u>2/10/10</u>
Dave Drake, Outdoor Recreation Planner	Date
<u>Michelle Caviness</u>	<u>2/25/10</u>
Michelle Caviness, Wildlife Biologist	Date
<u>Jonathan Westfall</u>	<u>02/08/2010</u>
Jon Westfall, Geologist	Date
<u>Eian Ray</u>	<u>02/09/10</u>
Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, contractor	Date
<u>Brent Grasty</u>	<u>2/9/10</u>
Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator	Date

**Approved by:**

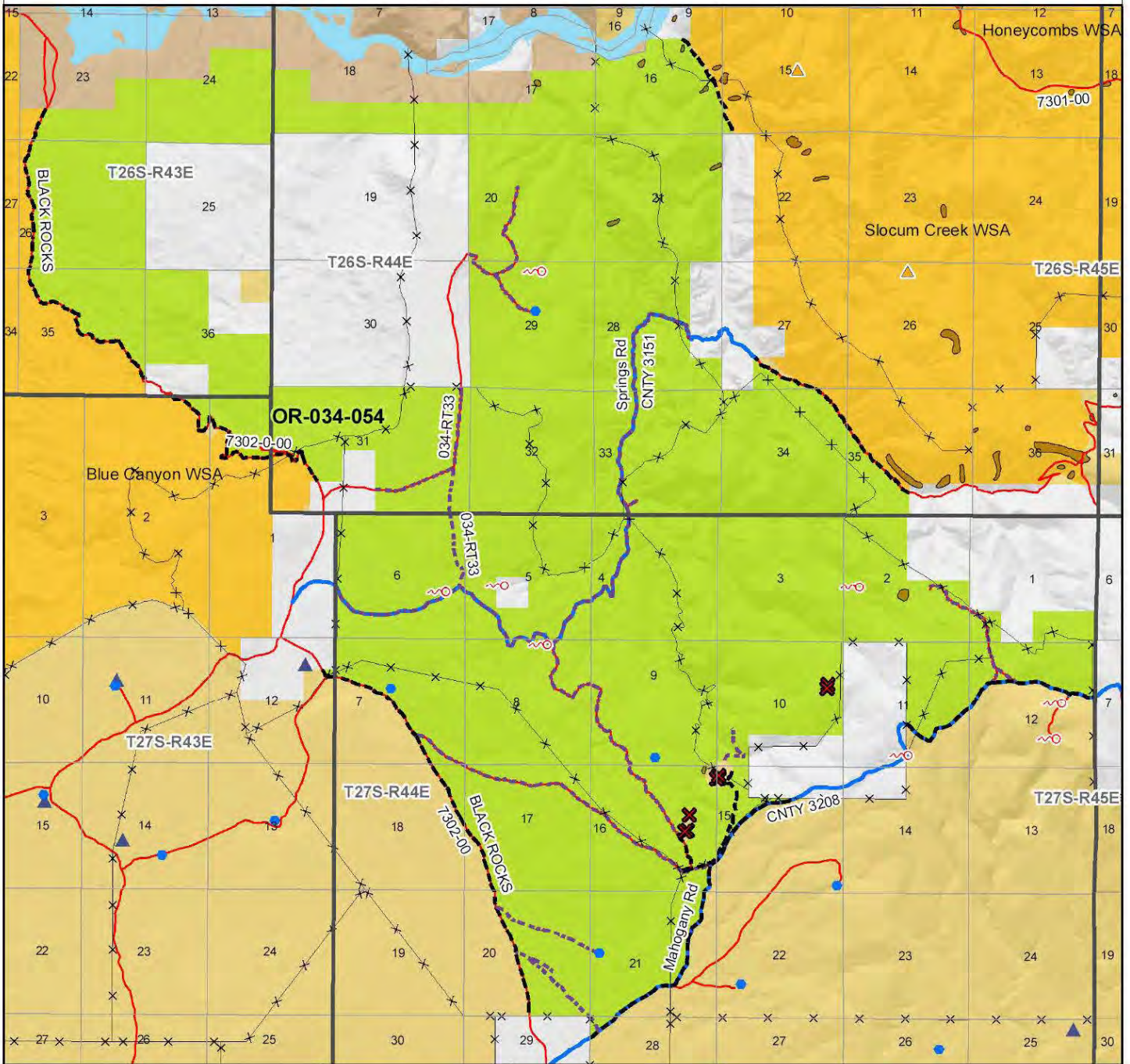
Pat Ryan 4/5/2010  
 Pat Ryan, Malheur Resource Area Field Manager Date

*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.*



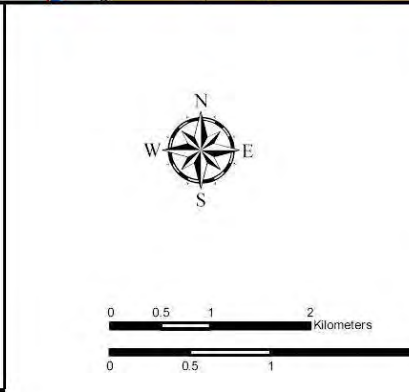
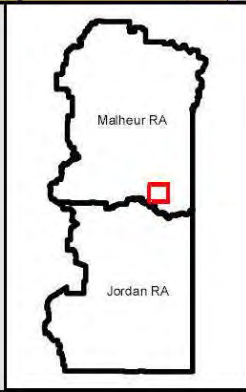
# Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

## The Tongue - OR-034-054 - Map 1 of 2



**Legend**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Developed Spring</li> <li> Wildlife Guzzler</li> <li> Earthen Reservoir</li> <li> Pipeline</li> <li> Trough</li> <li> Fence</li> <li> Storage Tank</li> <li> Surface Mining Disturbance</li> <li> Sage Grouse Lek</li> <li> Special Status Plant</li> <li> BLM Wild Char Inventory Unit</li> <li> Wilderness Study Area</li> <li> Mineral Material Site</li> <li> Road/Utility Right-of-Way</li> <li> Major Water Body</li> </ul>	<p><b>Route Types - BLM Determination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Boundary Road</li> <li> Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT)</li> <li> Discontinued Use</li> </ul> <p><b>Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> County</li> <li> Major Highway</li> <li> BLM Numbered &amp; Other Routes</li> </ul> <p><b>Land Ownership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Bureau of Land Management</li> <li> State</li> <li> Private</li> <li> Other Federal Land</li> </ul>
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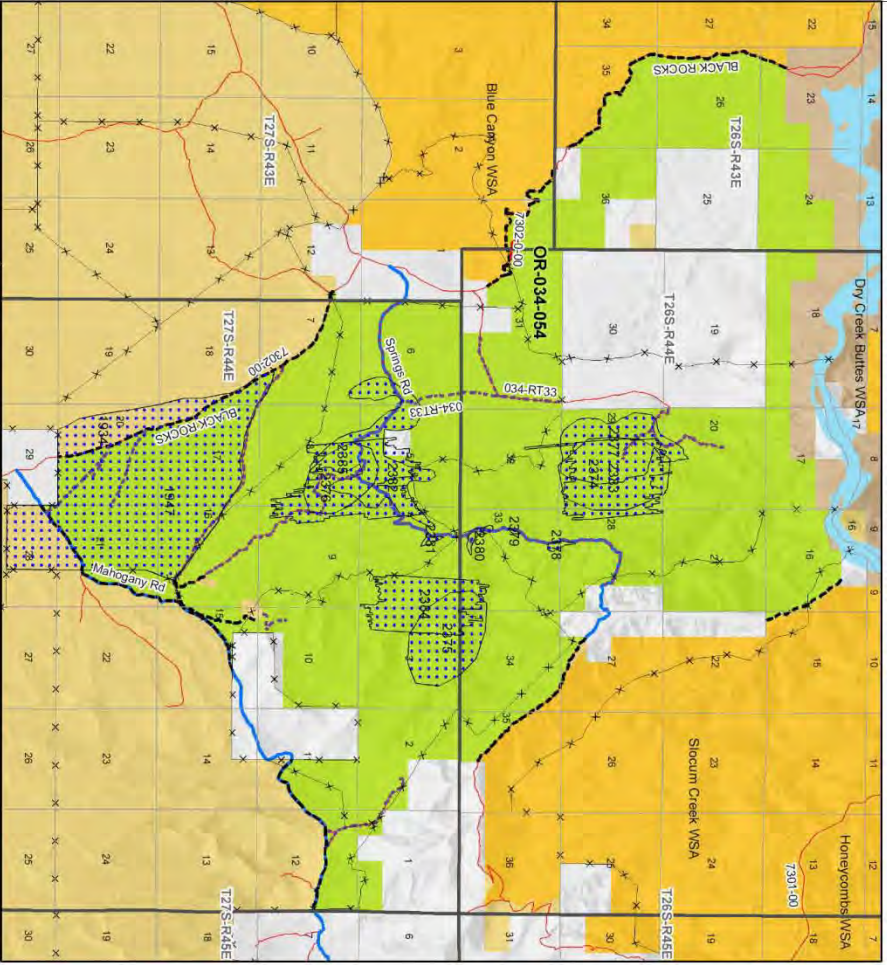
**VALE DISTRICT**  
July 8, 2009

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**--FINAL--**

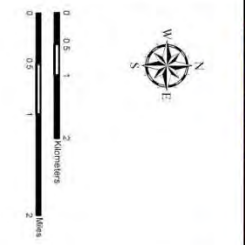
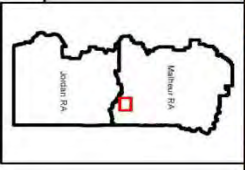


**Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments**  
**The Tongue - OR-034-054 - Map 2 of 2**



**Legend**

- Boundaries**
  - County Boundary
  - Section Boundary
  - Quarter Section Boundary
  - Water
  - Public
  - Checkered Land
- Land Ownership**
  - State
  - Private
  - Checkered Land
- Riparian Areas**
  - 100' Riparian Area
  - 200' Riparian Area
  - 300' Riparian Area
  - 400' Riparian Area
  - 500' Riparian Area
  - 600' Riparian Area
  - 750' Riparian Area
  - 1000' Riparian Area
- Other Features**
  - Water
  - Major Road
  - Minor Road
  - Checkered Land



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
 W.A.E. DISTRICT  
 JULY 8, 2009  
 This map is a derivative product of the Bureau of Land Management's National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) data. It is not intended to be used for any other purpose without the prior written consent of the Bureau of Land Management. The boundaries and other information shown on this map are for informational purposes only and should not be used as a legal document. If you have any questions regarding this map, please contact your local BLM office.

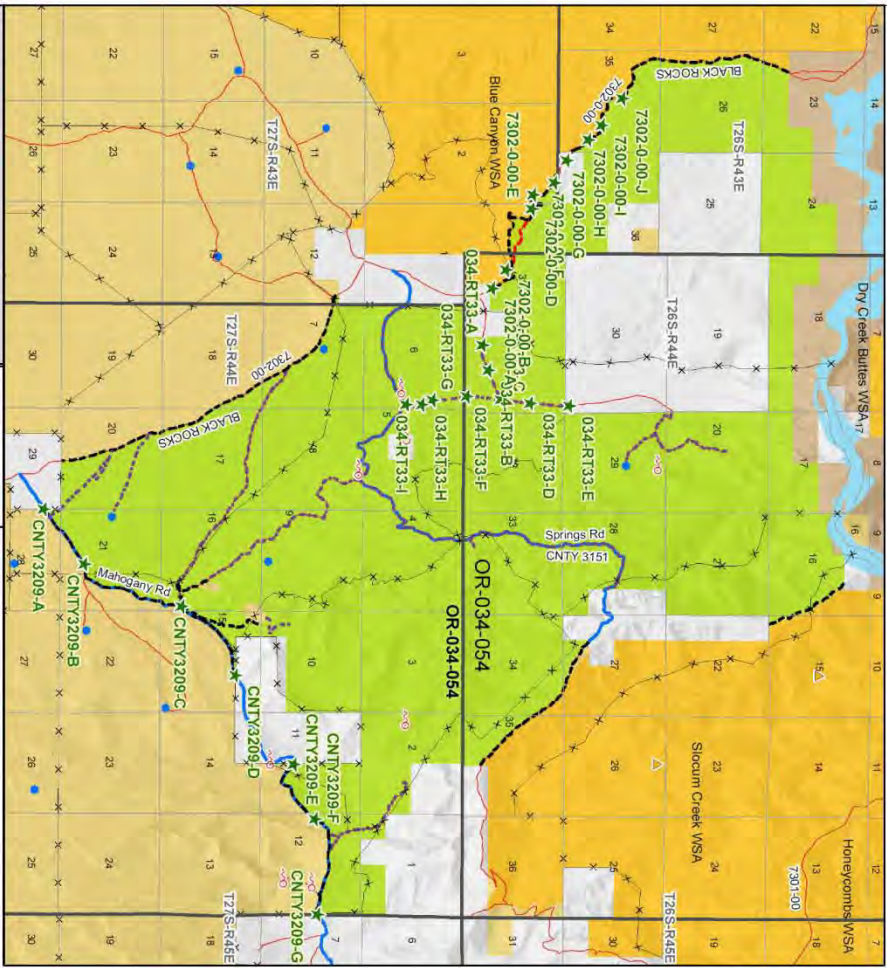
**Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments**  
**The Tongue - OR-034-054 - Map 2 of 2**

OBJECTID *	NAME	TREATMENT TYPE	SEED GROUP	DATE
1934	MCCAIN SPRINGS SEEDING	Prescribed Burn	Not Applicable	1961
1947	MCCAIN SPRINGS SEEDING	Drill Seeding	Unknown	1961
2374	MAHOGANY MT. FIRE REHAB	Drill Seeding	Shrubs	20020826
2375	MAHOGANY MT. FIRE REHAB	Drill Seeding	Shrubs	20020826
2376	MAHOGANY MT. FIRE REHAB	Drill Seeding	Shrubs	20020826
2377	MAHOGANY MT. FIRE REHAB	Drill Seeding	Native Grasses	20020828
2378	MAHOGANY MT. FIRE REHAB	Drill Seeding	Native Grasses	20020828
2379	MAHOGANY MT. FIRE REHAB	Drill Seeding	Native Grasses	20020828
2380	MAHOGANY MT. FIRE REHAB	Drill Seeding	Native Grasses	20020828
2381	MAHOGANY MT. FIRE REHAB	Drill Seeding	Native Grasses	20020828
2382	MAHOGANY MT. FIRE REHAB	Drill Seeding	Native Grasses	20020828
2383	MAHOGANY MT. FIRE REHAB	Aerial Seeding	Unknown	20030121
2384	MAHOGANY MT. FIRE REHAB	Aerial Seeding	Unknown	20030121
2385	MAHOGANY MT. FIRE REHAB	Aerial Seeding	Unknown	20030121

Note: The Land Treatments represented by navy blue dots on the map to the left are labeled with the treatments ObjectIDs listed in the first field of the Land Treatments table shown above. Multiple types of treatments may have been applied to the same area. For example, one treatment area may have been plowed and drill seeded - a record is shown in the table for each type of treatment.



## Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Points The Tongue - OR-034-054



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

VALE DISTRICT  
February 20, 2009

—FINAL—

This document is the result of a collaborative effort between the Bureau of Land Management and other agencies. It is intended for informational purposes only and does not constitute a contract. The information contained herein is subject to change without notice. The information was developed from the best available data and is not guaranteed to be accurate.

PHOTO LOCATION *	DIRECTION	PHOTO_TYPE	PHOTO_DATE	COMMENTS
CNTY3209-A	NE	Route	20080822	Start of route looking at route
CNTY3209-B	SW	Route	20080822	Looking at start of route. Good route.
CNTY3209-C	E	Route	20080822	no sign of maintenance, but easy to drive on.
CNTY3209-D	W	Route	20080822	no sign of maintenance, but easy to drive on.
CNTY3209-E	N	Project	20080822	OR-034-054-B-N, Drainage
CNTY3209-F	N	Route	20080822	Gravel added.
CNTY3209-G	S	Route	20080822	Gravel added.
CNTY3209-H	W	Route	20080822	Road off of route.
CNTY3209-I	SW	Route	20080822	End of route looking at route berms
CNTY3209-J	NE	Route	20080822	Looking at end of route.
CNTY3209-K	E	Route	20080822	Start of second route.
CNTY3209-L	W	Route	20080822	Easily passable.
CNTY3209-M	E	Route	20080822	Flat, easily passable, no sign of maintenance
CNTY3209-N	W	Route	20080822	End of second route looking at route
CNTY3209-O	S	Project	20081031	Front, beginning of 034-RT33, cattle guard
CNTY3209-P	S	Route	20081031	OR-034-054-A-S fence
CNTY3209-Q	W	Route	20081031	back, beginning of 034-RT33
CNTY3209-R	NE	Route	20081031	front
CNTY3209-S	SE	Route	20081031	back
CNTY3209-T	SW	Route	20081031	front
CNTY3209-U	N	Route	20081031	back - 3 way intersection
CNTY3209-V	S	Route	20081031	front
CNTY3209-W	SW	Route	20081031	back
CNTY3209-X	N	Route	20081031	front, end of 034-RT33 into private, cattle gate
CNTY3209-Y	E	Project	20081031	OR-034-054-E-W fence
CNTY3209-Z	W	Project	20081031	OR-034-054-E-W fence
CNTY3209-AA	S	Route	20081031	back, end of 034-RT33
CNTY3209-AB	S	Route	20081031	front
CNTY3209-AC	E	Route	20081031	back
CNTY3209-AD	E	Route	20081031	front
CNTY3209-AE	E	Route	20081031	back, end of 034-RT33
CNTY3209-AF	W	Route	20081031	front, beginning 7302-0-00
CNTY3209-AG	SE	Route	20081031	back, begin 7302-0-00, border private
CNTY3209-AH	E	Project	20081031	front, cattleguard
CNTY3209-AI	E	Project	20081031	OR-034-054-B-E fence
CNTY3209-AJ	S	Route	20081031	back
CNTY3209-AM	W	Route	20081031	front
CNTY3209-AN	W	Route	20081031	front
CNTY3209-AO	SE	Route	20081031	back
CNTY3209-AP	N	Route	20081031	back
CNTY3209-AQ	N	Route	20081031	front
CNTY3209-AR	N	Route	20081031	front
CNTY3209-AS	SW	Route	20081031	back
CNTY3209-AT	SW	Route	20081031	OR-034-054-A-N fence

Note: The BLM Photo Log labels are provided in the comments field. Multiple photos may be taken at each Photo Location. Scenery and Project Photo Type pictures have their photo names provided in the comments field.





034-CNTY3209-A-NE.JPG



034-CNTY3209-B-W.JPG



034-CNTY3209-C-W.JPG

# OR-034-054 The Tongue Page 1



034-CNTY3209-A-SW.JPG



034-CNTY3209-C-N.JPG



034-CNTY3209-D-NE.JPG



034-CNTY3209-B-E.JPG



034-CNTY3209-C-S.JPG



034-CNTY3209-D-SW.JPG





034-CNTY3209-E-E.JPG



034-CNTY3209-F-S.JPG



034-RT33-A-E.JPG

OR-034-054 The Tongue Page 2



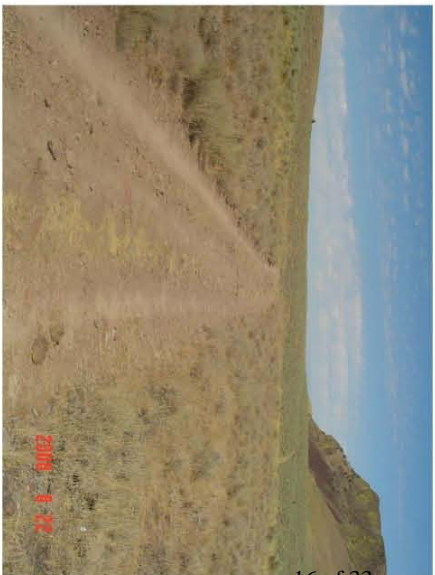
034-CNTY3209-E-W.JPG



034-CNTY3209-G-N.JPG



034-RT33-A-W.JPG



034-CNTY3209-F-N.JPG



034-CNTY3209-G-S.JPG



034-RT33-B-NE.JPG





034-RT33-B-SW.jpg



034-RT33-C-SW.jpg



034-RT33-D-S.jpg

**OR-034-054 The Tongue Page 3**



034-RT33-C-N.jpg



034-RT33-C-W.jpg



034-RT33-E-N.jpg



034-RT33-C-S.jpg



034-RT33-D-N.jpg



034-RT33-E-S.jpg





034-RT33-F-N.jpg



034-RT33-G-W.jpg



7302-0-00-A-NW.jpg

**OR-034-054 The Tongue Page 4**



034-RT33-F-S.jpg



034-RT33-I-E.jpg



7302-0-00-A-SE.jpg



034-RT33-G-E.jpg



034-RT33-I-W.jpg



7302-0-00-B-N.jpg





7302-0-00-B-S.jpg



7302-0-00-E-N.jpg



7302-0-00-F-SE.jpg

**OR-034-054 The Tongue Page 5**



7302-0-00-D-NW.jpg



7302-0-00-E-S.jpg



7302-0-00-G-NW.jpg



7302-0-00-D-SE.jpg



7302-0-00-F-NW.jpg



7302-0-00-G-SE.jpg





7302-0-00-H-NW.jpg



7302-0-00-H-SE.jpg



7302-0-00-I-E.jpg



7302-0-00-I-W.jpg



7302-0-00-J-N.jpg



7302-0-00-J-SW.jpg



OR-034-054-A-N.jpg



OR-034-054-A-S.jpg



OR-034-054-B-E.jpg





OR-034-054-E-E.jpg



OR-034-054-H-N.jpg

**OR-034-054 The Tongue Page 7**



OR-034-054-E-W.jpg



OR-034-054-H-W.jpg



OR-034-054-H-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 (UNIT\_ID): OR-034-054—The Tongue**

**NOTE:** This unit is affected by ONDA’s proposed Gin Basin WSA.

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

034-RT 33

(ONDA references the north portion of this BLM route as “MMT6a” and “MMt6c” and its southern branch as “MMT6b”, each as a vehicular way [i.e., motorized primitive trail - - MPT]. ONDA uses its “MMT6a” and “MMt6c” as boundary for its proposed Gin Basin WSA. BLM field checked these route segments to determine route type -- in support of establishing valid bounds for the BLM WC inventory unit.)

**I. LOCATION:** Refer to the attached map. The route leads to a large private land parcel affiliated with this BLM WC unit, and goes through and beyond the parcel to, in part, an earthen reservoir on public lands within this BLM WC unit. **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 map, photos and affiliated Photo Log are electronically retained under Wilderness Characteristics/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:** The route provides access to a large private parcel. The one development on the private is a rangeland livestock fence – a continuum of the fence located also on adjacent BLM, both north and south of the private parcel. The route on private is notably removed from the fence line, but with one tangent MPT going to and terminating at a point along the fence – possibly serving as access for fence maintenance. The route goes west of the private parcel to an earthen reservoir and a developed spring on public land of the BLM WC inventory unit.

**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 **X** Cut/Fill \_\_\_\_\_ Other **X**

**Describe:** Date of construction is unknown, but likely is associated with establishment of the reservoir and developed spring during the Vale District Rangeland Improvement Project of the 1960's. Evidence of some berm is noted, and some larger rocks are placed to the side of the route's traveled surface. One drainage crossing appears to have rock placed across the channel to aid vehicle passage (is associated with the southern branch of 034-RT 33, or ONDA's "MMt6b" [not part of ONDA's proposed WSA boundary routes of "MMt6a" or "MM6c"], and it is unknown whether this was done during route construction or as a maintenance action on the route at some later date).

#### V. IMPROVEMENTS

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

By Hand Tools \_\_\_\_\_ By Machine \_\_\_\_\_

**Examples:** Culverts \_\_\_\_\_ Stream Crossings \_\_\_\_\_ Bridges \_\_\_\_\_  
Drainage **X** Barriers \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe:** See description above, regarding rock placement in the drainage channel.

#### 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:** In light no other indications of mechanical maintenance for an extended period of time – if at all -- it is likely the rocks were placed to the side of the road and in the channel of the drainage during construction.

**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:** Access to the reservoir and spring has been adequate without any short or long term actions; however, maintenance actions would be approved if at some point required to provide reasonably safe passage to the private parcel.

**VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No   X  

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

While there is evidence of some vehicle passage, it is not associated with maintenance of rangeland improvements, and the nature of the route and where it terminates or leads to on public land is no cause to provide for regular and continuous use. Though used, the route’s use is not considered regular, but rather sporadic, probably by visitors occasionally hunting on public lands.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ No   X  

**Explanation:** Does not meet the criteria for a road, as described and explained above. This results in BLM WC inventory unit OR-034-054 extending further to the west and north than does ONDA’s proposed WSA (thus, encircling the large private parcel -- and causing it to be an inholding affiliated with the BLM unit).

**Evaluator(s):**  Mitch Thomas  **Date:**  2/10/09   
Mitch Thomas, Rangeland Management Specialist

Dave Draheim  **Date:**  4/06/09   
Dave Draheim, Outdoor Recreation Planner

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\* **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.

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*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-034-054—The Tongue**

**NOTE:** This unit is affected by ONDA’s proposed Gin Basin WSA.

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

County 3209, plus two affiliated short cherry-stem routes to a hard-rock mining operation.

(ONDA references County 3209 as “MMt8”, a vehicular way [i.e., motorized primitive trail]. ONDA does not document the presence of the mining site’s access route.)

**VIII. LOCATION:** Refer to the attached map—is the south boundary of this BLM WC unit. **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 map, photos and affiliated Photo Log are electronically retained under Wilderness Characteristics/Citizen Proposals.

**IX. 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:** Is a primary access route to large tracks of private lands on Mahogany Mountain; is the sole access route to two adjoining routes to an existing hard rock mining site on public lands (in sections 15 and 16; has a 2008 submitted Plan of Operations [POO] for BLM review); and, provides access for recreating public land visitors and for three small earthen reservoirs and three developed springs on adjacent public lands.

**X. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:**

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

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

**XI. CONSTRUCTION**Yes   X   No \_\_\_\_\_Examples: Paved \_\_\_\_\_ Bladed   X   Graveled   X   Roadside  
Berms   X   Cut/Fill \_\_\_\_\_ Other   X  

**Describe:** Original dates of construction is unknown for both the County 3209 route and the two tangent routes to the active mining site. The nature of the terrain requires minimal construction to maintain County 3209, particularly the first 1/3 of the route from the south. Certain segments of the county route has a dated appearance of possibly been graveled. Evidence of berms is sporadically present (whether created during route construction or during mechanical maintenance of the route is not known). The short tangent routes to the active mining area are the sole access to this operation. These two routes are identified in the submitted POO.

**XII. IMPROVEMENTS**Yes   X   No \_\_\_\_\_By Hand Tools \_\_\_\_\_ By Machine   X  Examples: Culverts \_\_\_\_\_ Stream Crossings \_\_\_\_\_ Bridges \_\_\_\_\_  
Drainage   X   Barriers \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe:** Evidence is present of some mechanically developed drainage ditches associated with County 3209.

**XIII. 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:** On public lands, County 3209 traverse largely gentle terrain, thus not requiring maintenance actions for extended timeframes.

**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:** While not needed at this point in time, maintenance would be performed as needed on County 3209 -- as well as on the two tangent access routes to the mining site -- to provide for continued regular (mostly seasonal) travel on these routes. Access to the substantial blocks of private lands associated with County 3209 would continue to be provided.

**XIV. 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:**

Evidence of vehicle tracks is present consistently, year to year. In 2008, with increased activity at the mining site, its two access routes and the associated western portion of County 3209 has had an increased degree of continued use.

**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:** The County 3209 and the two affiliated mining site’s access routes meet the criteria for road, as described and explained, above.

**Evaluator(s):**  Mitch Thomas  **Date:**  2/17/09   
Mitch Thomas, Rangeland Management Specialist

Jonathan Westfall  **Date:**  04/06/09   
Jon Westfall, Geologist

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\* **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.

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*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-034-054 — The Tongue**

**NOTE:** This unit is affected by ONDA’s proposed Gin Basin WSA.

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

7302-0-00

(ONDA’s WSA proposal does not extent as far west as the segment of 7302-0-00; thus, this route segment is not addressed and not associated with this route segment being reviewed, herein. Also, additional information is in the Road Analysis form for BLM route 034-RT33 of this BLM WC inventory unit.)

**XV. LOCATION:** Refer to attached map—is this BLM WC inventory unit’s route which abuts Blue Canyon WSA. **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 map, photos and affiliated Photo Log are electronically retained under Wilderness Characteristics/Citizen Proposals.

**XVI. 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 primarily for the same reasons as when Blue Canyon WSA was designated in 1980. That said, the travel – particularly along certain segments located basically beyond (northwest) of the middle of section 35 -- has somewhat changed. The reason for change in travel is, in part, due to the nature of the route beyond this general locale. This route continues to be used primarily by the recreating public who want to get to general areas associates with the historic Watson area with its cemetery site and to the Island Ranch site on the Owyhee National Wild and Scenic River. Both of these sites are located on BOR-administered federal lands, and this route is a designated access route in BOR’s Owyhee Reservoir Resource Management Plan, 1993). Pursuits are predominately hunting, hiking, photography and sightseeing. What has changed is the increased passage by ATVs due to a segment of the route being more so physically challenging than when the Blue Canyon WSA was designated.

**XVII. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:**

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

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

**XVIII. CONSTRUCTION**

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

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

**Describe:** Date of construction is unknown. Slope gradient in certain locations required cutting, and evidence of berm remain along various segments of the route.

**XIX. IMPROVEMENTS**

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

By Hand Tools \_\_\_\_\_ By Machine \_\_\_\_\_

Examples: Culverts \_\_\_\_\_ Stream Crossings \_\_\_\_\_ Bridges \_\_\_\_\_  
Drainage \_\_\_\_\_ Barriers \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe:**

**XX. 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) Y

**Explain:** This route does not receive any routine or scheduled maintenance. In 2008, a segment of the route was bladed in support of wildfire suppression activities, which is in keeping with BLM's multi-resource objective to keep this route accessible for a level of public travel.

**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:** In the lower elevations (more so northwest sector) of the route, where there presently is no evidence of maintenance, BLM would allow for needed actions to provide continuous passage over time of vehicles like ATV’s, although the extent of maintenance provided would not necessarily be to accommodate passage of larger vehicles.

**XXI. 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:**

This route is used on a seasonally regular basis, primarily in pursuit of above mentioned recreation activities when soils are not water saturated. This route is, in relative terms, far removed from more so traveled roads in the area at large, and, being an out-and-back type of route, does not connect to another route for through access. Certain portions of this route require sharpened concentration on driving skills to negotiate. These factors make it a notably less traveled route than certain others in the area (e.g. the Cow Creek/Birch Creek Road to the south).

**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 does meet the criteria of road, as described and explained above, while recognizing that -- as a more so remote and dead-ended route in combination with the ruggedness of some of the terrain it traverses -- certain segments of are less developed and are maintained to a lesser degree of soil, surface and vegetation alteration/disturbance.

**Evaluator(s):**  Mitch Thomas  **Date:**  2/17/09   
 Mitch Thomas, Rangeland Management Specialist

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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\* **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.

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*Following is the definition from Glossary of OSO 7-3-2007 Draft H-6300-1:*

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“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”.