

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents  
**Three Fingers Rock North OR-034-056, 20 total pages**

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**Prepared by:**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**  
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**100 Oregon Street**  
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## **H-6300-1-WILDERNESS INVENTORY MAINTENANCE IN BLM OREGON/WASHINGTON**

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

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

1) Document and review the existing BLM wilderness inventory findings on file, if available, regarding the presence or absence of individual wilderness characteristics, using Form 1, below.

2) Consider relevant information regarding current conditions available in the office to identify and describe any changes to the existing information (use interdisciplinary (ID) team knowledge, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc.), and document your findings on Form 2, below.

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

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

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

Year: 2009 Unit Number/Name: OR-034-056 — Three Fingers Rock North

**FORM 1 -- DOCUMENTATION OF BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY  
FINDINGS ON RECORD**

**1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?**

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ (If yes, and if more than one unit is within the area, list the names of those units.):

**A.) Inventory Source(s) -- (X)** Denotes all applicable BLM Inventory files, printed maps, or published BLM Decision documents with information pertaining to this unit.

**Wilderness Inventories**

- (X) 1978-1980 – BLM Wilderness Inventory Unit 3-69 of OR-03-05-06 Three Fingers Rock North (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 3-69 of OR-03-05-06 Three Fingers Rock North.

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

- (X) Final Decision – Initial Wilderness Inventory Map, August 1979, Oregon
- ( ) Proposed Decision -- Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas Map, October 1979, Oregon
- ( ) Intensive Wilderness Inventory Map, March 1980, Oregon
- ( ) Intensive Wilderness Inventory --Final Decisions Map, November 1980, Oregon
- ( ) 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>
3-69 of OR- 03-05-06 Three Fingers Rock North	10,000	N	*	*	*
<b>TOTAL</b>	10,000				

\* -- These criteria were 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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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-034-056 — Three Fingers Rock North**

**Note:** In February, 2004, the Vale District received from Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) its evaluation of wilderness characteristics for what ONDA names its 18,426 acre “Three Fingers Rock 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. OR-034-056 represents only a portion of ONDA’s proposal. ONDA’s proposal includes basically two late 1970’s BLM inventory units (3-69 -- Three Fingers Rock North, and 3-78 -- Three Fingers Rock South), which, respectively, are currently associated with this OR-034-056 BLM unit and the OR-034-055 BLM unit.

For BLM unit OR-034-056, differences between BLM and ONDA regarding inventory unit boundary features are that, unlike ONDA’s proposal, BLM concludes that BLM route 034-RT26 is a road (what ONDA identifies as its SC43 “way” – i.e. a motorized primitive trail [MPT] ), and that ONDA’s SC45 “way” is also a road even though ONDA uses its SC45 “way” as a boundary feature of its proposed WSA. Refer to BLM’s associated Road Analysis form and associated BLM Photo Points Map/Log and photos for 034-RT26 of this BLM inventory unit 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 BLM inventory unit’s associated Map 1 for its location. The unit has 13,177 acres of public land. The unit’s boundaries are nearly the same as the BLM’s late 1970’s wilderness characteristics inventory, except that OR-034-56 extends a bit further to the north. This north extension is due to what BLM identified as a road at that time has since changed status to a motorized primitive trail (MPT) due to no mechanical maintenance performed on the route and BLM presently having no intent to maintain the route in the future to provide for relatively regular and continuous use. Thus, the route is presently included within OR-034-056 as a MPT. Boundaries of this unit consist of roads traversing public lands, including 7306-0-00, 7307-0-00 and 034-RT26, and a private parcel in the unit’s northeast corner. A private 40 acre inholding is also a boundary feature. The 7306-0-00 road also serves as part of the boundary of the neighboring BLM Honeycombs WSA. The roads receive mechanical maintenance as needed to ensure their ability to provide for relatively regular and seasonally continuous use.

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

Yes   X                        No                                           N/A                     

**Description:** The unit includes the regionally prominent landmark, Three Fingers Rock, located in its central east sector. Three Fingers Gulch is a substantial watershed which takes in approximately 70% of the unit’s area. In the northern sector of the unit, a notably smaller Sage Creek watershed drains to the northeast. Also in this sector, and opposite the ridgeline separating it from Sage Creek, is the uppermost reach of Carlton Canyon, draining west. Topography within the unit of these two drainages is dominated by low profiled rolling terrain. Whereas, in contrast, that part of the Three Fingers Gulch watershed within the unit is dominated by multidirectional, highly diverse, rugged and mostly steep sloped drainages. Elevations range from 3,700 to 4,828 feet. The vegetation is sagebrush and both native and non-native grasses.

Refer to this unit’s associated Map 1 and Map 2 for human imprints. They include 8 miles of rangeland fence, 14.3 miles of 11 motorized primitive trails (MPTs) which penetrate various areas of the unit, 6 earthen reservoirs, 3 developed springs, a 1.1 mile buried water pipeline with 2 livestock troughs, and a total of 4 small sites of surface scaring from past extraction of locatable mineral (picture jasper). One of the MPTs extends to a standing cabin. There remains no distracting visual evidence of a 0.7 mile abandoned vehicle route. There remains no apparent contrast of a 1970 chemical brush control project, or of any of the 2002 shrub and native grass disc drilled seedings. Some visual evidence remains of two 2007 disc drilled seedings: the 213 acre native grass strip (which hugs the east boundary road of the unit) and the approximate 80 acre non-native grass plot that abuts a MPT which traverses the northernmost sector of the unit. Individually and collectively, due to the types, nominal number and generally wide distribution of the human imprints – relative to the unit’s size -- the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans being substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor. The Malheur Resource Area interdisciplinary team concludes that the late 1970’s naturalness determination was in error.

BLM does not concur with ONDA regarding the route type of ONDA’s SC43 “way” which it noted, in part, was fenced off near SC43’s east end as it approaches ONDA’s SC44b cherry-stem “road”. The fence ONDA photographed (ONDA photo NB7) at the time (sometime before August 2003) was a temporary (2-year) installation by BLM as part of a 2002 wild fire reclamation project. That fence has been removed since ONDA took its photograph, and the western segment of the route (along and near Three Fingers Gulch) was mechanically maintained in 2007 to ensure relatively regular and continuous use of this road. BLM identifies ONDA’s SC43 (and SC44b) as the south boundary road (034-RT26) of OR-034-056.

Associated with its proposed WSA, ONDA identifies fewer vehicular “ways” (i.e., what BLM terms MPTs) and less associated total mileage of MPTs than does BLM for those public lands associated with OR-034-056. Whereas BLM identifies 11 MPTs, ONDA identifies 8 dead-end MPTs plus two others (including its SC43) which traverse the width

of the BLM unit. ONDA does not account for the pipeline/troughs or standing cabin within the unit.

ONDA's 18,426 acre Three Fingers Rock proposed WSA is about 40% larger than OR-034-056. BLM herein makes no determination of whether or not ONDA's described natural characteristics and human developments of its proposed WSA results in it appearing 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 irregularly shaped unit ranges from approximately 3 to 7 miles in length and 2 to 4 miles wide. There is inadequate vegetation height and/or density to provide for visual screening. Elevations within the unit range from 3,700 to 4,828 feet of Three Fingers Rock. While in some of the northern reaches of the unit a visitor may experience a sense of solitude, the opportunity is not outstanding due to this portion of the inventory unit being of more so low-profiled and rolling terrain relative to its associated size. The Three Fingers Gulch watershed portion of the unit (which includes approximately 70% of the unit's area) is partially penetrated by 4 MPTs. However, within the watershed's area (within the unit) of approximately 3 to 4.5 miles by 4 miles, the placement, spatial distribution and extent of the MPTs -- relative to the area's complex and varied rugged and steep topographic features and highly dissected and multidirectional drainages -- provides secluded settings for a visitor to experience outstanding solitude.

BLM herein draws no conclusion of whether or not ONDA's larger proposed WSA provides outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Yes   X              No                       N/A           

**Description:** The area provides good hunting opportunities for common game species (predominately deer and chukar, some antelope). The unit is within a larger occupied habitat area of bighorn sheep, and is within an Oregon State hunting unit where a very limited number of hunting permits are issued annually for this prized trophy big game species. The higher elevations of the regionally renown and visually striking Three Fingers Rock volcanic plug prominence is for those hikers and photographers up for the physical challenge, and the unit's diverse drainages and associated ridges of the Three Fingers Gulch watershed offers diverse and inviting natural settings for visitors. While the unit provides the visitor a variety of terrain and natural features for sightseeing, it is experienced predominately by day hikers; backpacking and associated camping are the exception as activities occurring or available within the unit. Although not individually outstanding, combinations of available dispersed quality hiking, geologic sightseeing and



hunting of bighorn sheep provide for outstanding opportunities of primitive and unconfined recreation within OR-034-056.

ONDA states that its larger proposed WSA provides outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation in the form of hiking, backpacking, climbing, camping, wildlife watching, and geological study. BLM concurs that most of these activities are available within this smaller BLM OR-034-056 unit, while noting that climbing is regarded as unassisted (i.e., without use of technical gear) types of rock scrambling. Additionally, BLM does not recognize any given one of the primitive and unconfined recreation activities to be outstanding, although participation in combinations of them can, overall, result in an outstanding experience within OR-034-056. BLM herein draws no conclusion of whether or not ONDA's larger proposed WSA provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

#### 5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes   X              No                       N/A           

**Description:** BLM has recorded 6 sites of Owyhee clover and one site of barren milkvetch; both are BLM special status plant species. Bighorn sheep, a BLM special status animal species in Oregon, has been periodically observed within the unit. Sage grouse, a BLM special status animal species, also occur within the unit.

ONDA states that its proposed Three Fingers Rock WSA “may also provide habitat for Woodhouse’s Toad, 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, the Woodhouse’s Toad, Mohave Black-collard Lizard, Desert Horned Lizard, and the White-tailed Antelope Squirrel were not considered sensitive by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, BLM, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. BLM observation records confirm that White-tailed Antelope Squirrels inhabit this unit. BLM acknowledges that habitat requirements may exist for Woodhouse’s Toad, Mojave Black-collared Lizard, Desert Horned Lizard, Ferruginous Hawk, and Pygmy Rabbit; 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-034-056 – Three Fingers Rock North**

**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>Dave Draheim</u>	<u>2/10/10</u>
Dave Draheim, Outdoor Recreation Planner	Date
<u>Shaney Rockefeller</u>	<u>3/10/10</u>
Shaney Rockefeller, Soil Scientist	Date
<u>Michelle Caviness</u>	<u>2/25/10</u>
Michelle Caviness, Wildlife Biologist	Date
<u>Gillian Wigglesworth</u>	<u>2/5/10</u>
Gillian Wigglesworth, Botanist	Date
<u>Jon 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:**

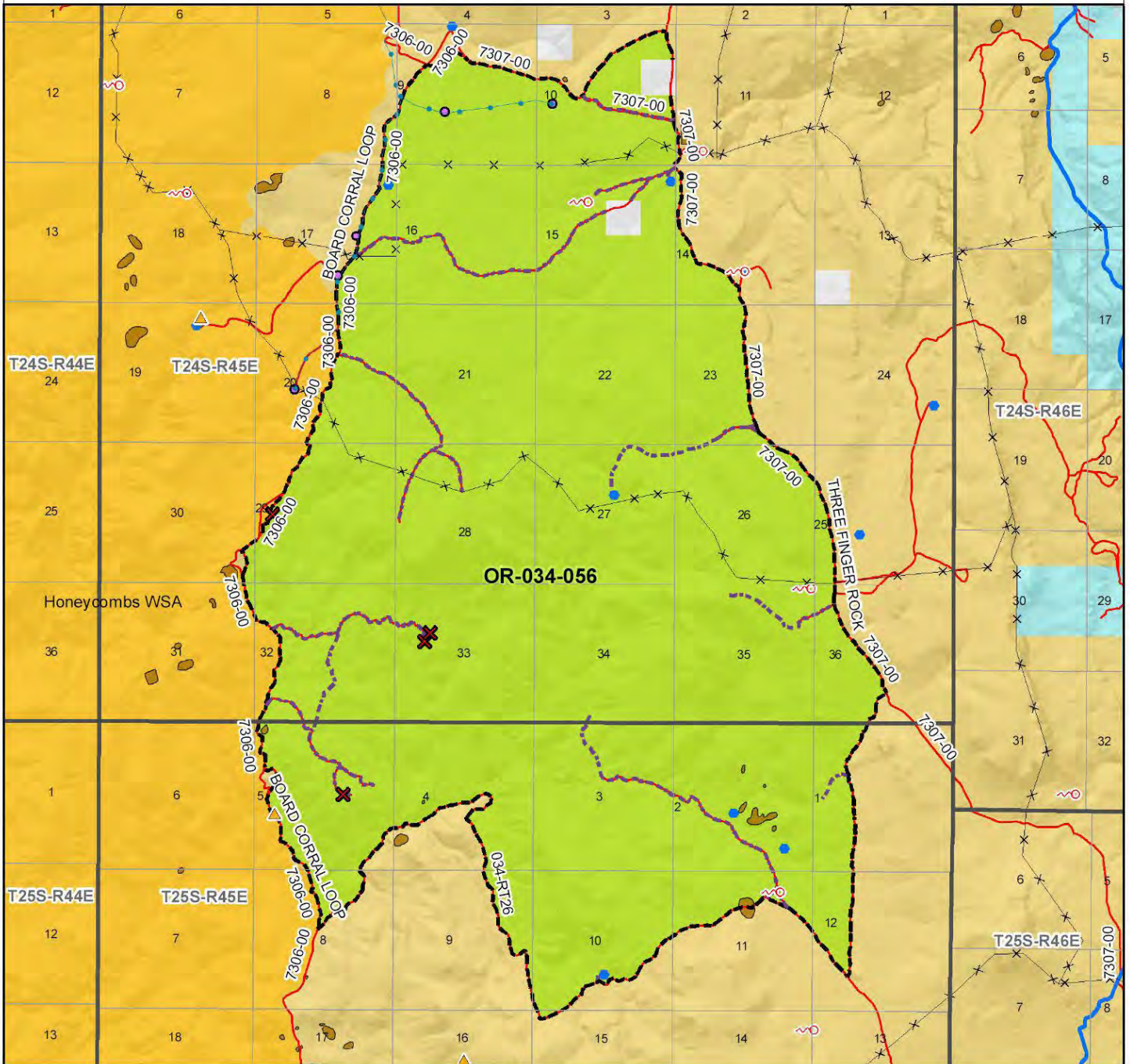
Pat Ryan  
Pat Ryan, Malheur Resource Area Field Manager

7/11/10  
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.*

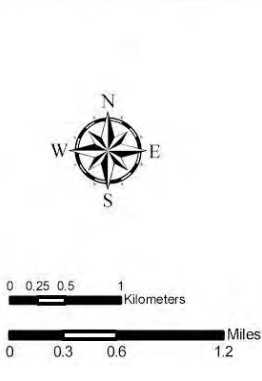
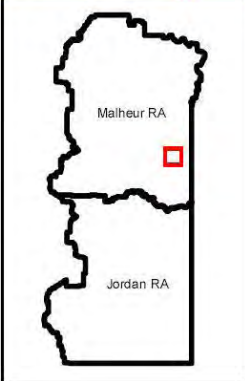
# Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

## Three Fingers Rock North - OR-034-056 - Map 1 of 2



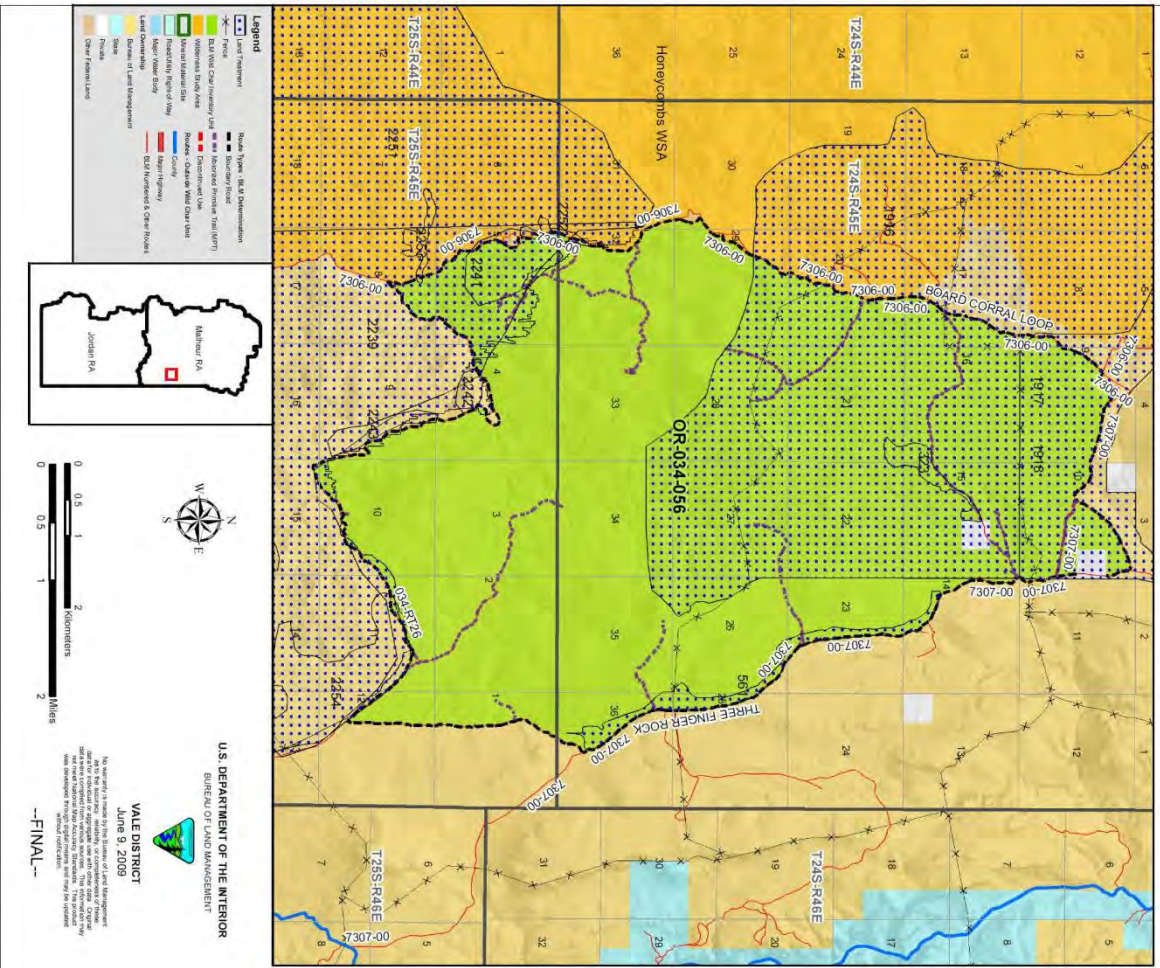
**Legend**

<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Route Types - BLM Determination</li> <li> Boundary Road</li> <li> Molonized Primitive Trail (MPT)</li> <li> Discontinued Use</li> <li> Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit</li> <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>	



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
  
**VALE DISTRICT**  
 June 9, 2009  
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 - Land Treatments  
 Three Fingers Rock North - OR-034-056 - Map 2 of 2

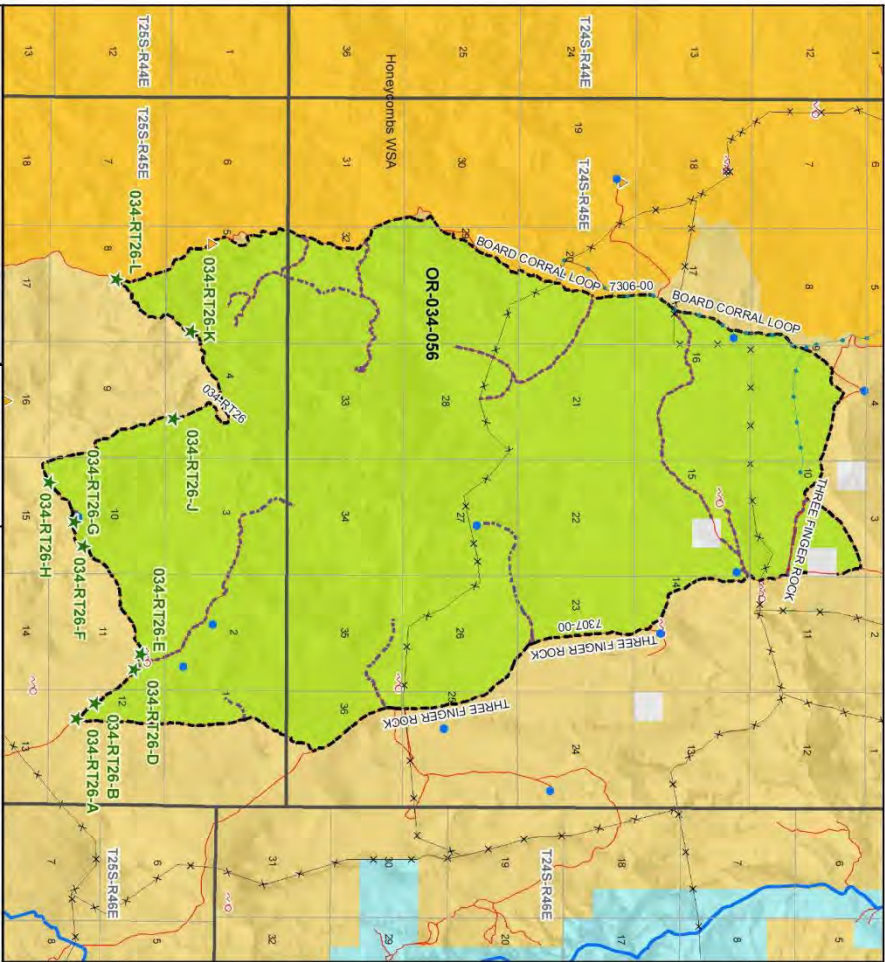


Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments  
 Three Fingers Rock North - OR-034-056 - Map 2 of 2

OBJECTID*	NAME	TREATMENT TYPE	SEED GROUP	DATE
323	SADDLE BUTTE ESR	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses	2007/11/21
561	SADDLE BUTTE ESR	Drill Seeding	Native Grasses	2007/11/25
1916	MCCINTIRE BRUSH CONTROL	Chemical Treatment	Not Applicable	1970
1917	SHEEPHEADS SEEDING	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable	1970
1918	SHEEPHEADS SEEDING	Drill Seeding	Unknown	1970
2239	ATKINS ARSEED	Aerial Seeding	Unknown	2003/02/01
2241	ATKINS BITTERBUSH PLANTI	Planting	Shrubs	2002/12/01
2242	ATKINS BITTERBUSH PLANTI	Planting	Shrubs	2002/12/01
2243	ATKINS BITTERBUSH PLANTI	Planting	Shrubs	2002/12/01
2251	ATKINS SAGE SDG	Drill Seeding	Shrubs	2002/08/26
2252	ATKINS HARROW MIX	Drill Seeding	Shrubs	2002/08/26
2253	ATKINS HARROW MIX	Drill Seeding	Shrubs	2002/08/26
2254	ATKINS SDG	Drill Seeding	Native Grasses	2002/08/28

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**  
**Three Fingers North - OR-034-056**



**Legend**

- Developed Spring
- Wildlife
- Endless Reserve
- Electric
- Fence
- Mineral Material Site
- Road Utility ROW
- Wilderness Study Area
- BLM Wild Char Inventory Photo Point
- BLM Wild Char Inventory Trail

Route Types:
 

- BLM Administration
- Boundary Road
- BLM Maintained Primitive Trail (MPT)
- Discontinued Use
- Route - Classed Wild/Cha Trail
- Camp
- Major Highway
- BLM Numbered & Other Routes

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

VALE DISTRICT  
 June 9, 2009  
 FINAL

**Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Points**  
**Three Fingers North - OR-034-056**

PHOTO_LOCATION + DIRECTION	PHOTO_TYPE	PHOTO_DATE	COMMENTS
034-RT26-A SE	Route	20080611	No berm, evidence of maintenance, no hard veg.
034-RT26-A NW	Route	20080611	No berm, evidence of maintenance, no hard veg.
034-RT26-A N	Route	20080611	Veg in center of route, no evidence of maintenance.
034-RT26-B NW	Route	20080611	Berm, evidence of maintenance.
034-RT26-B SE	Route	20080611	Berm, evidence of maintenance.
034-RT26-D SE	Route	20080611	Berm present, some evidence of maintenance.
034-RT26-D NW	Route	20080611	Berm present, some evidence of maintenance.
034-RT26-D W	Route	20080611	Berm present, some evidence of maintenance.
034-RT26-F NE	Route	20080611	Berm with some vegetation present.
034-RT26-F SW	Route	20080611	Berm with some vegetation present.
034-RT26-H NE	Route	20080611	Berm, light vegetation, evidence of blading.
034-RT26-H SW	Route	20080611	Berm, some vegetation present.
034-RT26-J SE	Route	20080611	Evidence of blading, some vegetation present.
034-RT26-J NW	Route	20080611	Evidence of blading, some vegetation present.
034-RT26-K N	Route	20080611	Berm, evidence of blading, light vegetation.
034-RT26-K SE	Route	20080611	Berm, evidence of blading, light vegetation.
034-RT26-L NE	Route	20080611	Light vegetation present.
034-RT26-L W	Route	20080611	Evidence of blading.
034-RT26-L S	Route	20080611	Evidence of blading.

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.

OR-034-056 Three Fingers Rock North Page 1



034-RT26-A-N.JPG



034-RT26-A-NW.JPG



034-RT26-A-SE.JPG



034-RT26-B-NW.JPG



034-RT26-B-SE.JPG



034-RT26-D-NW.JPG



034-RT26-D-SE.JPG



034-RT26-D-W.JPG



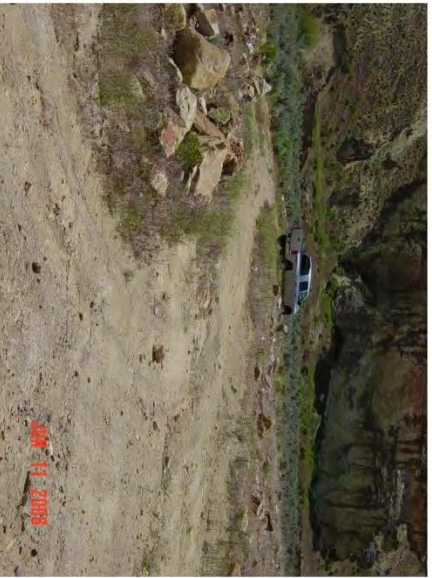
034-RT26-F-NE.JPG



034-RT26-F-SW.JPG



034-RT26-J-NW.JPG



034-RT26-K-SE.JPG

OR-034-056 Three Fingers Rock North Page 2



034-RT26-H-NE.JPG



034-RT26-J-SE.JPG



034-RT26-L-NE.JPG



034-RT26-H-SW.JPG



034-RT26-K-N.JPG



034-RT26-L-S.JPG

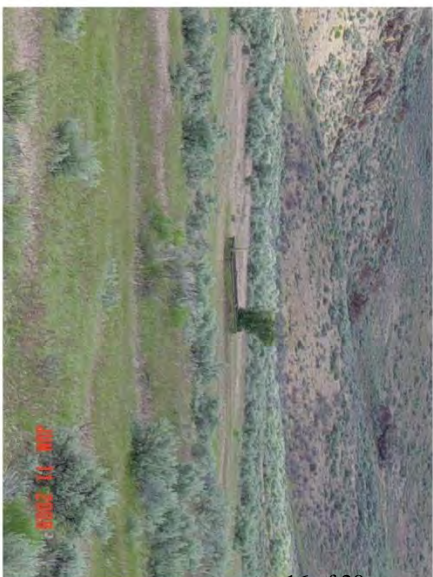
OR-034-056 Three Fingers Rock North Page 3



034-RT26-L-W.JPG



OR-034-056-B-NW.JPG



OR-034-056-E-NE.JPG



OR-034-056-G-N.JPG



OR-034-056-G-W.JPG



OR-034-056-H-NW.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: 034-056 – Three Fingers Rock North**

**NOTE:** This unit is affected by ONDA’s proposed Three Fingers Rock WSA.

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

BLM 034-RT 26

(ONDA references this route as a combination of “SC44b” [a road] and “SC43” [a vehicular way --- i.e., a motorized primitive trail]. BLM agrees that ‘SC44b’ is a road).

**I. LOCATION.** See 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.

**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 one of three significant east-west connector routes between the Succor Creek county road and BLM road 7306-0-00, and for access into adjacent public lands for outdoor recreation pursuits (e.g., hunting, hiking, sightseeing), to rangeland improvements (3 reservoirs, a wildlife guzzler and a developed spring), and for access to a cabin in section 15.

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

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

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

**IV. CONSTRUCTION**Yes  No Examples: Paved \_\_\_\_\_ Bladed \_\_\_\_\_ Graveled \_\_\_\_\_ Roadside  
Berms  Cut/Fill  Other \_\_\_\_\_**Describe:** Date of construction is unknown. The cut/fill likely occurred during the route's construction; current visual evidence of berms may be from mechanical maintenance performed since the route's construction.**V. IMPROVEMENTS**Yes  No 

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 If yes: Hand Tools (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_ Machine (Y/N) **Explain:** Over its length, this route has not received scheduled maintenance, since it is not a BLM numbered route on the Vale District transportation map. While specific dates are not documented, the western-most portion (for access to and through the Three Fingers canyon area, itself, was mechanically maintained at least once in the 1990's -- in response to accelerated erosion from spring runoff. In 2002 and 2007, in support of wildfire suppression activities, the route was bladed along various segments.**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  No **Comments:** At minimum, to provide for continued through access and to assist access to range improvements.

**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:**

This route has received relatively regular use on an annual and at minimum a seasonal, basis and is expected to continue to occur into the future. During the drier periods of the year, once can observe use, evidenced by tracks of vehicles traveling the route. The frequency of use is the least on this of the three above-mentioned east-west travel routes.

**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:** Meets the criteria of road, as described and explained above.

**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”.