

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents

***Updated** – **Buckskin Mountain OR-036-085, 38 total pages**

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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: 2012 **Unit Number/Name:** OR-036-085 -- Buckskin Mountain

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

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

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

NOTE: Although this unit contains OR-03-08-26 within the unit, there was no old inventory folder found within the Vale District for this late 1970's inventory.

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 Units OR-2-74M, OR-2-074O and OR-2-74P Alvord Desert, all within OR-03-08-26 (BLM documents in case file)
- () April 1979 – *Wilderness -- Proposed Initial Inventory – Road less Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not have Wilderness Characteristics, Oregon and Washington*
(X) 2003 Burns District Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Maintenance --- *Black Point: subunits OR-02-74M (Alvord Desert), OR-02-74O & OR-02-74P of OR-03-08-26*
- (X) 2003 Burns District Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Maintenance --- *Black Point: subunits OR-02-74M (Alvord Desert), OR-02-74O & OR-02-74P of OR-03-08-26*
- (X) 2007-2011 Vale District Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Maintenance – OR-036-085, Buckskin Mountain (2010)

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)
- (X) October 1979 – *Wilderness Review – Intensive Inventory - Oregon, Proposed Decision on the Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas* (grey document)
- (X) 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)

- (X) 2003 Burns District Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Maintenance --- Black Point: subunits OR-02-74M (Alvord Desert), OR-02-074O; & OR-02-74P of OR-03-08-26.
- (X) 2007-2011 Vale District Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Maintenance – OR-036-085, Buckskin Mountain (7/19/2010)

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

BLM Wilderness Inventory Units BLM Wilderness Inventory Units OR-02-74M Alvord Desert, OR-02-074O; and OR-2-74P of OR-03-08-26 (Burns’ 1970’s/portion of Black Point (Burns, 2003); OR-036-085, Buckskin Mountain (Vale, 2010)

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

- () Final Decision – Initial Wilderness Inventory Map, August 1979, Oregon
- (X) Proposed Decision -- Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas Map, October 1979, Oregon
- (X) 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)
- (X) 2003 Burns District Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Maintenance --- Black Point: subunits OR-02-74M Alvord Desert, OR-02-074O; and OR-2-74P of OR-03-08-26.
- (X) 2010 Vale District Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Maintenance – OR-036-085 Buckskin Mountain

D.) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s)

Vale District Office/	<u>Jordan</u>	Field Office
Burns District Office		Andrews Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

(Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory unit is associated with the area, list each unit and answer each question individually for each inventory unit):

Inventory Source: See above.

Unit#/ Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
OR-02-74M , OR-02-74O, and OR-2-74P *	27,370 1,000 5,680	N *** N	Y *** N	Y *** N	N *** N
of OR-03-08- 26** (of Black Pt.) (Burns, 1980)					
TOTAL	34,050				
OR-02-74M * , OR-02-74O, and OR-2-74P* of OR-03-08-26** (of Black Pt.****) (Burns, 2003)	27,370 1,000 5,680	N *** N	N *** N	N *** N	N *** N
TOTAL	34,050				
OR-036-085 Buckskin Mountain (Vale, 2010*****)	Vale = 12,628 Burns = 14,682	N N	N *****	N *****	Y Y
TOTAL	27,310				

* -- Official original documents retained in Burns BLM District Office. In the 2003 Burns District WC Inventory Maintenance, the OR-03-08-26 portion of the unit within Burns District is known as Alvord Desert.

**-- No records of OR-03-08-26 found within the Vale District; size not determined.

*** -- Unknown; no information found.

**** -- WC finding made only for that portion of the unit within Burns District (27,690 acres).

***** -- At the time conducted by Vale District, a WC criteria finding for only that portion of the inventory unit within Vale District was established. (Vale District acknowledged the Burns District 2003 finding made for that portion of the unit located within that district.) Also see "NOTE 1" of current (2012) Form 2 for the 2012 WC Inventory Maintenance for 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-036-085 — Buckskin Mountain**

NOTE 1: This wilderness characteristics (WC) inventory unit OR-036-085 includes public lands located within both the Vale and Burns BLM districts. This current WC inventory maintenance for this unit is the result of BLM national guidance being re-issued for conducting WC inventory since this inventory unit had inventory maintenance completed on it with a BLM Vale District finding dated July 19, 2010, and a Burns District finding dated August 8, 2003.

NOTE 2: In September, 2002, the Burns District received from the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) its evaluation of wilderness characteristics for what ONDA names its 81,454 acre “Black Point Roadless Area” (alias “Proposed Black Point WSA”). This proposal covers lands within both Burns and Vale BLM districts. For reference, a hard copy of ONDA’s evaluation is retained in this unit’s file. Information provided by ONDA’s evaluation was considered and incorporated as appropriate for this BLM Wilderness Characteristics (WC) Inventory maintenance.

This Form 2 is supported by current BLM information provided by the Vale and Burns BLM District offices (including but not limited to Vale District’s 2010 WC inventory maintenance documents; Burns District’s 2003 WC inventory maintenance evaluation document and associated map for Black Point; and Burns District’s late 1970’s WC inventory maintenance evaluation documents and associated maps of OR-2-74M, -74N, -74O and -74P inventory units), and by ONDA’s 2002 “Proposed Black Point WSA” documents and map submitted to the Burns District.

Unit OR-036-085’s boundaries are not the same as ONDA’s proposed 81,454 acre Black Point WSA. A primary difference between BLM and ONDA regarding a feature of the unit’s boundary is that, unlike ONDA’s proposal, BLM in its Burns District August 2003 WC inventory maintenance determined that the entire length of BLM’s 7285-C0 is a road. Burns District documented the same finding of this route segment during the agency’s late 1970’s wilderness characteristics inventory. ONDA states that two of its own northern route segments (BP18a and BP29) -- which, together, make up the northern extension of BLM’s road 7285-C0 -- are not a road but rather a vehicular “way” (or, for this specific BLM WC inventory maintenance, what Vale and Burns Districts terms as a motorized primitive trail [MPT] or not a road). ONDA’s WSA proposal thus results in a southern segment of BLM’s 7285-0-C0 road (what ONDA labels its two continuous road segments BP31 and BP36) to be a cherry stem road associated with its WSA proposal.

For wilderness characteristics inventory, ONDA -- like BLM -- identifies any determined road to be outside of a roadless area, and, thus, is a boundary feature of its proposed Black Point WSA. Respectively, for OR-036-085 (and for Burns District’s 2003 subunit OR-2-74M of its Black Point unit) BLM does not include public lands located west of 7285-C0 (that is, what public lands that BLM Burns District identified in its late 1970’s wilderness inventory as subunits OR-2-75C, -75B, -75D, -75E, -75F, and -75A relative to ONDA’s Proposed Black Point WSA). The

2785-C0 road provides for ongoing connectivity with BLM road 7283-00 which continues north from where it ties with 2785-0-C0. These two BLM road segments – although with two different BLM identifiers (labels) -- provide for uninterrupted, continuous north-south vehicle travel on what is, physically and practically, a same single vehicle route of similar nature. It is significant to note that ONDA – like BLM – identifies the same continuing 7283-00 (going north from where it ties with 2785-C0) as a road and serves as the same west boundary of its adjacent 2002 proposed Tule Springs WSA as does BLM identify it as the west boundary of its present wilderness inventory unit OR-036-049 (alias Burns District’s 2003 OR-2-74E Tule Springs unit). However, although of the same nature, ONDA does not recognize the tied 7285-C0 that continues south (alias a combination of ONDA SP18a and BP29) as road, but rather as a MPT. As with all other boundary roads associated with OR-036-085 (alias BLM’s late 1970’s contiguous OR-2-74M Alvord Desert, -74O, -74P; Burns District’s 2003 OR-2-74M Black Point), to provide for continued motorized vehicle travel on this overall north-south route on a regular and continuous (seasonal) basis, BLM would conduct or authorize mechanical maintenance as needed of both 2785-C0 and 7283-00 to provide for relatively regular and continuous (seasonal) use.

A third difference is ONDA’s described BP36 road continues north (from where it junctions with BP31) as BP33b, also labeled as a road on its map for its proposed WSA. Respectively, BP33b is a cherry-stem road in ONDA’s proposed WSA, and ONDA identifies that this BP33b then changes from road status to a number of vehicular ways (alias, MPTs) within section 36 NENE, T. 38S., R 36E. Although ONDA states that its BP33b displays evidence of being bladed (see ONDA road log -- ONDA did not provide BLM a copy of its associated photo , # A88), the route is not associated with any specific destination-type of development where it changes from road to MPT which otherwise may aid rationalizing why it would be retained as road status. BLM has determined that ONDA’s BP33b “road” is a MPT because it does not service any development or project at its terminus which would require mechanical maintenance to retain the route as a road for relatively regular and continuous use. That said, BLM notes that ONDA’s BP31, BP 36 and BP33b are associated with an existing pipeline system, and that only ONDA’s BP31 and BP36 routes are of road status and which are part of the boundary of OR-036-085. Regarding ONDA’s BP33b “road”, mechanical maintenance would not be required to maintain the pipeline or for any other reason due to the nature of the surface and topography of its route, thus would not be approved by BLM for mechanical maintenance to provide for relatively regular and continuous use.

A last difference of boundary with ONDA is that BLM includes 160 acres of section 16, T39S. R. 37E, but which ONDA does not include with its proposed Black Point WSA. This may be because ONDA’s GIS data associated with its 2002 submission to BLM may have some of section 16 as non-BLM land, whereas current BLM ownership records indicate that the 160 acre N1/2N1/2 of the section at issue is administered by BLM.

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. Reference maps of BLM Burns District's late 1970's inventory subunits OR-2-74M, -74O and -74P -74 and of that district's August 2003 inventory maintenance for OR-2-74M Black Point are retained in BLM districts files of OR-036-085.

This 27,305 acre OR-036-085 unit is composed of public lands in both Vale (12,625 acres) and Burns (14,680 acres) BLM districts. It includes a combination of Burn's late 1970's subunits: 2003 OR-2-74M Alvord Desert (27,370 acres), OR-2-74O (about 1,000 acres) and OR-2-74P (about 5,680 acres) (these are late 1970's determined acreage figures, thus, summed, not the same as the current 27,310 acres of OR-036-085), with all of OR-2-74O, most of OR-2-74P and about a third of the late 1970's OR-2-74M subunit located within Vale District. The difference in BLM documented acreage by BLM between the late 1970's and presently is due to the increased accuracy of measuring tools available to the agency since the late 1970's.

Burns District's 2003 wilderness characteristics (WC) inventory maintenance for development of its 2005 Andrews/Steens RMP indicates that all boundary roads of its 2003 OR-02-074M Black Point unit within Burns District are the same as the boundary roads in the late 1970's inventory. However, note that Burns District's current OR-2-74M Black Point unit – unlike with that district's late 1970's unit of the OR-2-74M Alvord Desert -- extends west only to the Burns/Vale Districts' administrative boundary.

With this WC inventory maintenance, BLM has determined that routes 6317-00 and 036-RT30 -- as associated with the historic units OR-2-74O (fully within Vale District) and OR-2-74P (about 90% within Vale District) -- have changed status from road (as identified in the late 1970's) to MPT as a result of no mechanical maintenance conducted and no intent by BLM to perform such maintenance on these routes to provide for relatively regular and continuous use. The result is that the historic OR-2-74O and -74P units are contiguous with each other as well as – in combination – contiguous with the 2003 Burns District unit OR-2-74M Black Point, with these three areas collectively constituting the present BLM OR-036-085 located in the two districts. BLM confirms that the route presently identified as the combination of 036-RT28 and 6317-AO (see Map 1 of OR-036-085), which terminates at an existing communications facility on Buckskin Mountain in section 19, T.38S., R.37E., is a cherry-stem road, thus serving as a boundary feature of the unit.

For additional information regarding the present status of 036-RT28 and of the described segments of 6317-00, 6317-A0, and 036-RT30, refer to their respective BLM Road Analysis form, BLM Photo Point Map/Log, and affiliated photographs. The OR-036-

085 inventory unit's boundary roads receive mechanical maintenance as needed to keep them passable on a relatively regular and continuous (seasonal) basis.

OR-036-085's north boundary consists of a transmission line right-of-way (ROW); its east boundary of BLM road 6316-00, the ROW of county road 203, and private land; its south boundary of county road 203 ROW (fully within Burns District); its west boundary of BLM road 7285-0-CO; and, its southwest corner of other connective roads crossing public lands. A 320 acre private inholding is a feature of the unit's boundary, as is an established communication site and its associated 5.3 mile cherry-stem road (routes 036-RT28 and 6317-AO, combined).

See the "NOTE2", above, for an explanation of variances between the descriptive bounds of OR-036-085 and ONDA's proposed Black Point WSA.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes _____ No N/A _____

Description: The vegetation of OR-036-085 is predominately sagebrush and native and non-native grasses. That portion of OR-036-085 consisting of Burns District's 2003 subunit OR-2-74M of its Black Point unit features two ridgelines and three large buttes, including Flagstaff Butte on the south and Lookout Butte and Buckskin Mountain on the east. A ridgeline along the western side of the unit within Burns District is the only relief on the desert floor between the west boundary road and the major ridge which runs through the middle of the unit. This ridge has three general topographic steps, or benches. The uppermost step flattens to a high plateau approximately 600 feet above the desert floor to the west. On the top of the plateau the land is relatively flat with gently rolling hills providing the only topographic relief. Elevations range from approximately 4,200 to 6,075 feet.

The remainder of OR-036-085 is predominately of multi-directional undulating terrain sloping from various higher - and at times steep-sloped - features. Elevations range from approximately 4,320 to 5,630 feet. Eastern sectors of the unit are more so of shallower topography, at places approaching near flat terrain. A portion of this type of terrain branches away from the base of a butte-like feature of moderate to very steep slopes which tops out at 5,628 feet. The same area is within the Coyote Lake Wild Horse Herd Management Area.

Refer to OR-036-085's associated Map 1 and Map 2 for human imprints within the unit. There are 27.1 miles of rangeland fence (11.6 miles in Vale District, 5.5 miles in Burns District); a developed spring; two small earthen reservoirs; 4.2 miles of buried water pipeline and associated 4 troughs; 4 wildlife guzzlers; and, 39.2 miles of 26 MPTs (25 miles of 11 in Vale, 14.2 miles of 15 in Burns). The MPTs are present throughout the inventory unit. Notable are two circumstances: (A) seven MPTs in some manner cross the inventory unit from one boundary point to another; and (B) the comprised far eastern

and southeastern approximate third of the inventory unit is affected by a substantial density and number of MPTs, with their orientation resulting in a mile or less between any two (or more) of them.

There remains no visually apparent linear contrast within the inventory unit of a 1967 approximate 5,600 acre crested wheatgrass drill seeding, nor of an approximate 960 acre crested wheatgrass drill seeding which occurred sometime before the late 1970's on the plateau north of Lookout Butte. Recognized within an approved Allotment Management Plan (AMP), the seedings may need to be maintained from time to time to continue to produce the productivity necessary to meet management objectives of the AMP. Future seeding maintenance may include brush beating, burning, spraying, drilling seed or broadcasting seed or any combination of treatments. There remains no unnatural appearing contrast from a 600 acre vegetative spray treatment project which occurred sometime before the late 1970's (project not depicted on Map 2).

Two temporary (total 3 years) wind energy testing towers presently remain erected within the unit; one is adjacent to a MPT, the other away from any vehicle route. Regarding the second tower, 2 cross-country round trips by motorized vehicle were authorized to install the approximate 200 foot tall tower with guide wires, and one round trip to remove it (see Vale District's Categorical Exclusion DOI-BLM-V060-2009-036).

In summary, the location and degree of spatially dense imprints in combination with the location and extent of the other imprints within the inventory unit results in the area, overall, not being affected primarily by the forces of nature with the influences of mankind substantially noticeable to the average visitor. This conclusion is consistent with BLM's WC inventories of the late 1970's/1980, 2003 and 2010 that affect the area, whereby each drew this same conclusion regarding natural condition.

ONDA states that its substantially larger proposed Black Point WSA (81,454 acres) is in a natural condition. ONDA references many of its photographs and affiliated photo points on a map and photo log. In part, ONDA's stated conclusion regarding natural condition is based on ONDA's determined size of its proposed WSA, where "man's imprints are not substantially noticeable, and overall there is an appearance of naturalness". ONDA also states that certain human imprints which BLM identified as being within a late 1970's inventory unit (OR-2-74A -- and which ONDA includes in its proposed WSA) rather are not within that historic BLM unit and are located outside of its proposed WSA. ONDA's finding of natural condition is premised, in part, on the Association's finding that a number of the late 1970's BLM wilderness characteristics inventory units located west but abutting the west boundary of the present OR-036-085 are -- in combination -- contiguous to the current OR-036-085; that is, without roads any longer between these historic BLM inventory units and/or OR-036-085. ONDA states the once BLM-identified roads do not meet road criteria. For OR-036-085, where BLM differs from ONDA about a route type, BLM references associated Road Analysis forms and affiliated maps, photos and photo logs. Unlike BLM, ONDA does not quantify any of the human imprints it states are present, nor indicate their locations (excepting its identified MPTs and a few photographs that depict certain range improvement

developments). Specific to the area of OR-036-085, ONDA identifies about 15 MPTs (some which have segments with affiliated sub-identifiers (e.g., BP39b, BP39c, BP39d, etc.); BLM identifies 26 MPTs in its OR-036-085 inventory unit. BLM does not draw any conclusions on ONDA's final finding of natural condition as associated with its proposed WSA, given that it is not the same size or share all of the same boundaries and configuration as OR-036-085.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: The type and low-profiled nature of the vegetation within OR-036-085 provides insufficient screening between visitors to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. While the terrain is varied, the placement and extent of developments precludes sufficient area with topographic screening to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. While some opportunities to experience a sense of being isolated are somewhat more available within the inventory unit's northwest sector, they are not outstanding for reasons herein stated relative to the nature of the area's low vegetation and nominal topographic variances.

ONDA states the size and configuration of its 81,454 acre proposed Black Point WSA ensures outstanding opportunities for solitude. BLM does not draw any conclusions on ONDA's final finding of outstanding opportunities for solitude as associated with its substantially larger proposed WSA. OR-036-085 is substantially smaller than -- and not of the same configuration as -- ONDA's proposed WSA.

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

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: The primary primitive and unconfined recreation activity is hunting for common game species (predominately deer, antelope and chukar). Although a part of the area does have some suitable bighorn sheep habitat, it is on the outer reaches of a much larger habitat area. Bighorn sheep -- a highly prized trophy game species in Oregon -- are not known to frequent this area of the unit at this time; thus, hunting of the species is not an outstanding opportunity. Other primitive and unconfined types of recreation activities available include hiking, horseback riding, sightseeing, and photography. While an opportunity, the area is not a significant draw for backpacking. There are no unique or special features or attractions which would specifically draw visitors to the area to participate in these or other activities. Individually or in combinations, there are no outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation within the inventory unit.

There is opportunity to view wild horses of the Alvord–Tule Springs-Coyote Lakes Wild Horse Management Area. Although a less common and interesting experience, viewing wild horses is not an outstanding opportunity for a primitive and unconfined recreation activity. The presence of wild horses is a feature of the natural condition of the unit and is also described as a supplemental value associated with the inventory unit.

ONDA states it's substantially larger proposed Black Point WSA possesses outstanding opportunities for various primitive recreation activities, including all of the above mentioned activities within OR-036-085. For reasons stated above, those activity opportunities within OR-036-085 are not outstanding. ONDA states additional outstanding opportunities within its proposed WSA include wildlife viewing, herpetology, geology, camping and scenery. BLM recognizes that these values (e.g. reptiles, geology and scenery) and recreation opportunities (e.g. wildlife viewing and camping) are available within OR-036-085. However, BLM does not find any of them – individually, or in any combination of them or with the stated activities/opportunities identified by BLM – to be of outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. None of the primitive and unconfined recreation activities/opportunities are in some manner –individually, in combinations or collectively -- more so unique, challenging or otherwise higher or elevated in quality of experience to be determined outstanding.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes X No N/A

Description: All of the Vale District portion and most of the Burns District portion is within the Alvord – Tule Springs - Coyote Lakes Wild Horse Herd Management Area. Within the Burns District portion of the unit, there is one documented lek of sage grouse (a BLM special status animal species) and 3 documented sites/areas of Alvord milkvetch, 3 of four-winged milkvetch, 2 of solitary milkvetch, and 2 of snowball cactus -- each either a BLM special status plant species or species of interest.

ONDA states that within its substantially larger proposed Black Rocks WSA there are cliffs that provide for nesting for golden eagles, and habitat amenable to sage sparrows and black-throated sparrows, although ONDA does not indicate the presence of these species.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-036-085 -- Buckskin Mountain

Summary Results of Analysis:

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

Conclusion -- check one:

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

Prepared by: Robert Alward.
Robert Alward, Wilderness Planner, contractor, Vale District

Eric Haakenson 4/17/2012
Eric Haakenson, Outdoor Recreation Specialist (Steens Wilderness Manager), Burns District

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Matt Obradovich, Wildlife Biologist, Burns District Date

Daryl Bingham 17 APR 2012
Daryl Bingham, Natural Resource Specialist Fisheries Biologist, Burns District Date

Approved by:

Joan Suther 4/23/12
Joan Suther, Andrews Resource Area Field Manager, Burns District Date

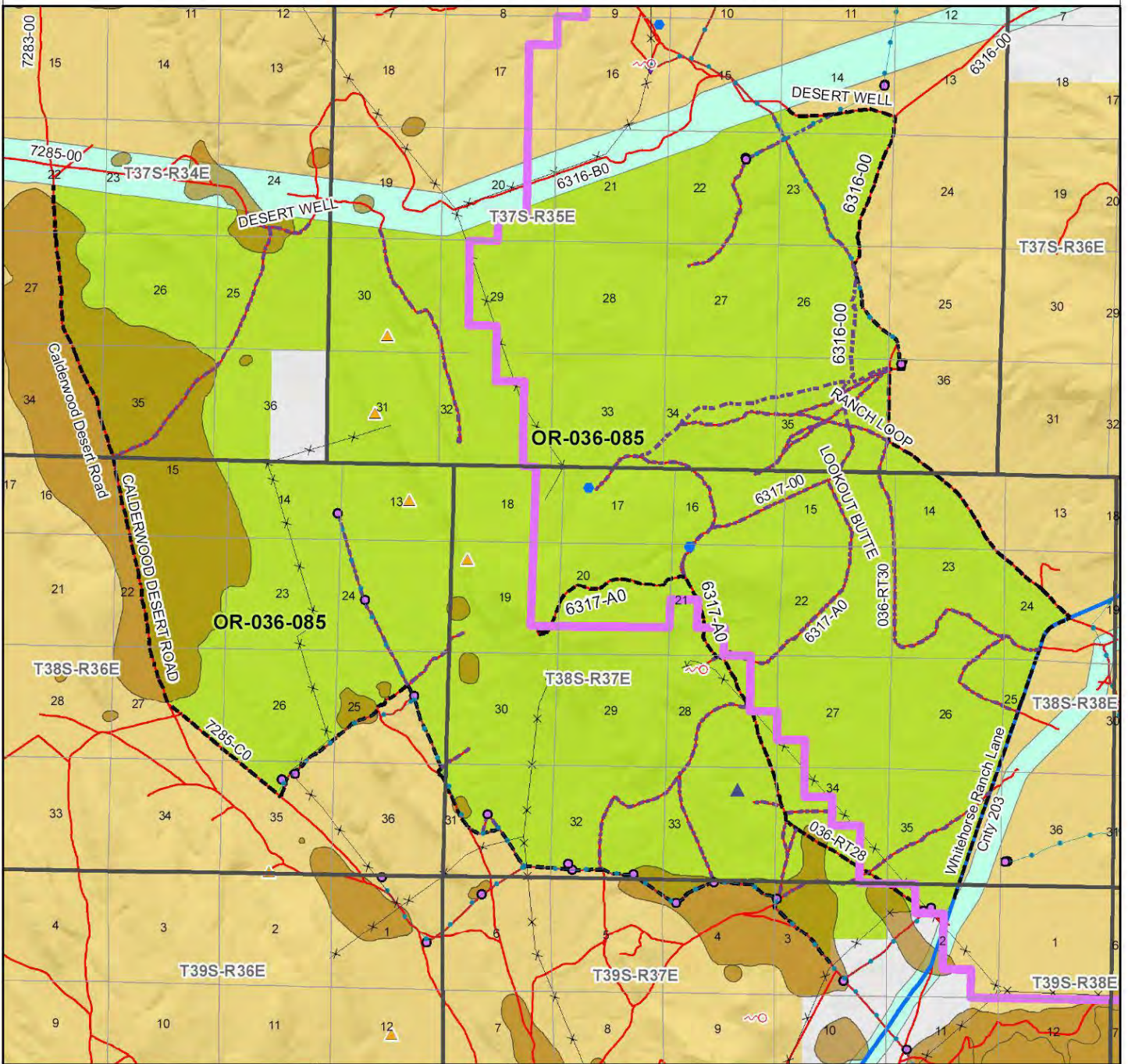
I approve the current OR-036-085 criteria findings, and as supported by the approved Form 2 findings of Vale District for this inventory unit dated July 19, 2010. (A copy included herein of the Form 2's Summary of Findings and Conclusion; the entire 2010 Form 2 is retained in Vale District wilderness characteristics inventory files.)

Tracy Skerjanec 4/20/12
Tracy Skerjanec, Acting Jordan Resource Area Field Manager, Vale District Date

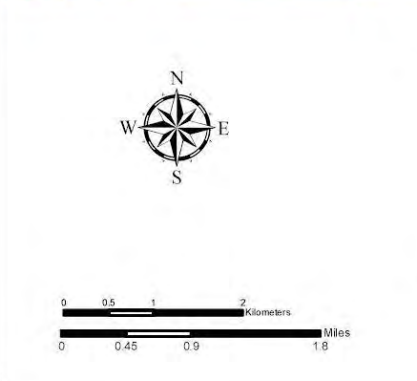
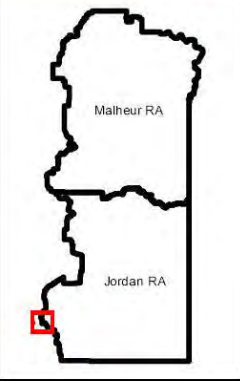
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.

Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Buckskin Mountain - OR-036-085 - Map 1 of 2



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



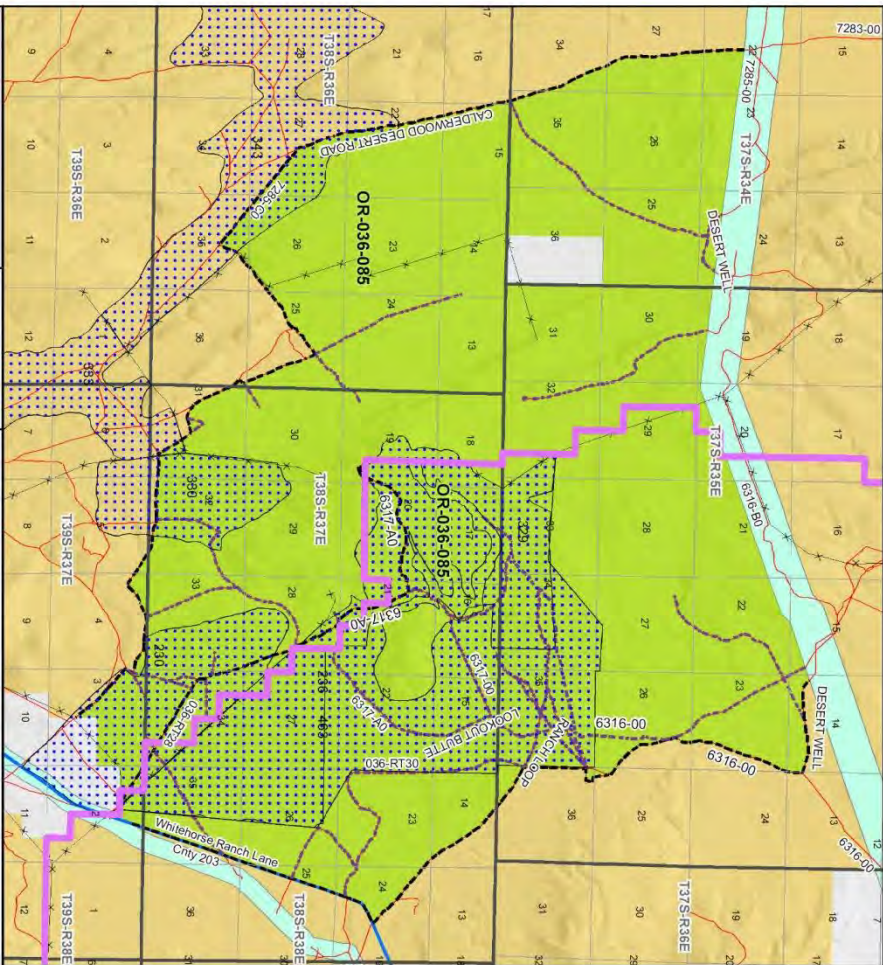
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VALE DISTRICT
February 24, 2012

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
Buckskin Mountain - OR-036-085 - Map 2 of 2**



Legend

- Land Treatment:
 - 230 Buckskin Seeding
 - 329 ESI
 - 330 Buckskin Seeding
 - 333 Flagstaff Seeding
 - 343 Adrian Seeding
- Other Features:
 - Boundary Road
 - Section Boundary
 - Water
 - Desert Well
 - Other Feature Line

Scale: 0 0.5 1 2 Kilometers / 0 0.45 0.9 1.8 Miles

VALE DISTRICT
MARCH 03, 2012

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

Wilderness Inventory Unit

**Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments
Buckskin Mountain - OR-036-085 - Map 2 of 2**

OBJECTID*	NAME	TREATMENT TYPE	SEED GROUP	DATE	NEPA_NAME
230	BUCKSKIN SDG	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable	1967	<Null>
463	BUCKSKIN SDG	Drill Seeding	Non-native Grasses	1967	<Null>
OBJECTID*	TRT_NAME	REV/EG_TYPE			
230	Buckskin Seeding	Range Seeding			
329	ESI	Range Seeding			
330	Buckskin Seeding	Range Seeding			
333	Flagstaff Seeding	Range Seeding			
343	Adrian Seeding	Range Seeding			

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.



036-RT28-A-NW.JPG



036-RT28-B-W.JPG



036-RT30-A-E.JPG

OR-036-085 - Buckskin Mountain Page 1



036-RT28-A-SE.JPG



036-RT28-C-NW.JPG



036-RT30-A-W.JPG



036-RT28-B-E.JPG



036-RT28-C-SE.JPG



036-RT30-B-E.JPG



036-RT30-B-W.JPG



6317-00-A-N.JPG



6317-00-B-SW.JPG



036-RT30-C-NE.JPG



6317-00-A-S.JPG



6317-00-C-NE.JPG



036-RT30-C-SW.JPG



6317-00-B-NE.JPG



6317-00-C-SW.JPG



6317-00-D-NE.JPG



6317-00-E-S.JPG



6317-A0-A-E.JPG



6317-00-D-SW.JPG



6317-00-F-E.JPG



6317-A0-A-SE.JPG



6317-00-E-N.JPG



6317-00-F-W.JPG



6317-A0-A-W.JPG



6317-A0-B-NW.JPG



6317-A0-C-SE.JPG



6317-A0-E-NE.JPG



6317-A0-B-SE.JPG



6317-A0-D-E.JPG



6317-A0-E-SW.JPG



6317-A0-C-NW.JPG



6317-A0-D-W.JPG



6317-A0-F-N.JPG



6317-A0-F-S.JPG



6317-A0-H-NW.JPG

OR-036-085 - Buckskin Mountain Page 5



6317-A0-G-N.JPG



6317-A0-H-SE.JPG



6317-A0-G-S.JPG



6317-A0-I-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 Inv Unit Name/Number: OR-036-085 – Buckskin Mountain

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

O36-RT28 / 6317-AO (combined)

(Note: ONDA identifies this as a combination of its BP39e, BP39d and BP44 segments as a cherry-stem road of its proposed Black Point WSA.)

I. LOCATION: Route to active communication site in section 19, T38S, R37E. . **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 in the Vale BLM office.

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: Provide ongoing access to an active communication site on public land. Also is route for a connecting route to a developed spring.

III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:

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

Yes X No Unknown

(Is recorded on BLM master title plat; date of issuance not researched).

IV. CONSTRUCTION

Yes X No

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

Describe: Date of original construction is unknown. Overall, visual signs of construction are light.

V. IMPROVEMENTS

Yes _____ No X

By Hand Tools _____ By Machine _____

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

Describe:

VI. MAINTENANCE:

A. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes _____ No X

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

Explain:

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: Mechanical maintenance would be conducted as needed to insure continued access to the active communications site.

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:

Although vegetation is evident on the route’s travel surface, travel on the route would remain continuous as long as the communication site is active.

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 Inv Unit Name/Number: OR-036-085 – Buckskin Mountain

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

O36-RT30

(Note: ONDA may be identifying this route as its BP46, a vehicular way [or what Vale District terms a motorized primitive trail, MPT] of its proposed Black Point WSA.)

VIII. LOCATION: Route used to junction with the unit’s east boundary road; does junction with its southeast boundary road..From the southeast boundary road, the route becomes little used beyond BLM photo point 036-RT30-C. **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 in the Vale BLM office.

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: This route provides access to and along a rangeland fence, but is hardly used beyond about 1.25 miles from County road 203. In the late 1970’s, the Burns BLM District identified a portion of this route as a cherry-stem road. Presently, the route is likely traveled infrequently by recreationists – hunters, most likely.

X. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:

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

Yes ___ No X Unknown ___

XI. CONSTRUCTION

Yes X No _____

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

Describe: Date of original construction is unknown. Overall, visual signs of construction are light.

XII. IMPROVEMENTS

Yes _____ No X

By Hand Tools _____ By Machine _____

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

Describe:

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:

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 X

Comments: Route does not serve as a significant connective route to anything.

XIV. 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:

There is no evidence of relatively regular and continuous use. The route is pretty nondescript beyond approximately 1.25 miles from its junction with County road 203.

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: Route does not meet road criteria, as described and explained above.

Evaluator(s): Richard White Date: 4/21/10
Richard White, Range Management Specialist

* **road:** An access route which has been **improved and maintained** by **mechanical means** to insure **relatively regular and continuous use**. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

a. **“Improved and maintained”** – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. **“Mechanical means”** – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. **“Relatively regular and continuous use”** – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims.

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

road: The BLM will continue to base the definition of what constitutes a “road” from the FLPMA’s legislative history. The language below is from the House of Representatives Committee Report 94-1163, page 17, dated May 15, 1976, on what became the FLPMA. It is the only statement regarding the definition of a road in the law or legislative history.

“The word ‘roadless’ refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.”

The BLM previously adopted and will continue to use the following sub-definitions of certain words and phrases in the BLM road definition stated above:

a. **“Improved and maintained”** – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. **“Mechanical means”** – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. **“Relatively regular and continuous use”** – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims.

A road that was established or has been maintained solely by the passage of vehicles would not be considered a road, even if it is used on a relatively regular and continuous basis. Vehicle roads constructed by mechanical means but that are no longer being maintained by mechanical methods are not roads. Sole use of hands and feet to move rocks or dirt without the use of tools or machinery does not meet the definition of “mechanical means.” Roads need not be “maintained” on a regular basis but rather “maintained” when road conditions warrant actions to keep it in a usable condition. A dead-end (cherry-stem) road can form the boundary of an inventory area and does not by itself disqualify an area from being considered “roadless”.

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

APPENDIX C – ROAD* ANALYSIS

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road for wilderness inventory purposes.)

Wilderness Inv Unit Name/Number: OR-036-085 – Buckskin Mountain

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

BLM 6317-00

(Note: ONDA identifies this route as its BP39c, a vehicular way [or what Vale District terms a motorized primitive trail, MPT] of its proposed Black Point WSA.)

XV. LOCATION: BLM labeled the Buckskin Reservoir route, it is the northwest boundary route of BLM’s late 1970’s OR-2-740 inventory unit. Is located in the Vale District portion of OR-036-085. **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 in the Vale BLM office.

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 provides alternative access from the north and east to the BLM 036-RT28 / 6317-AO cherry-stem road which is the primary ROW-issued route for access to the active communication site on Buckskin Mountain. There is one earthen reservoir affiliated with a tanget route branching from it; otherwise, it does not appear to serve any administrative function. It is traveled by the public, primarily hunters.

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 X Graveled _____ Roadside
Berms X Cut/Fill _____ Other X

Describe: Date of original construction is unknown. There is evidence of drainage ditching and, overall, visual signs of construction are light.

XIX. IMPROVEMENTS

Yes _____ No X

By Hand Tools _____ By Machine _____

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

Describe: There is a channel crossing, but no improvement beyond cut/fill to its approach as an element of its construction.

XX. 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:

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 X

Comments: Route no longer serves as a needed connective route to anything.

XXI. 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:

There is no evidence of relatively regular and continuous use. The route has vegetative growth between a predominately two-track type of appearance. It appears to be occasionally nominally traveled.

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: Route does not meet road criteria, as described and explained above.

Evaluator(s): Richard White Date: 4/21/10
 Richard White, Range Management Specialist

* **road:** An access route which has been **improved and maintained** by **mechanical means** to insure **relatively regular and continuous use**. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

a. **“Improved and maintained”** – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. **“Mechanical means”** – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. **“Relatively regular and continuous use”** – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims.

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

road: The BLM will continue to base the definition of what constitutes a “road” from the FLPMA’s legislative history. The language below is from the House of Representatives

Committee Report 94-1163, page 17, dated May 15, 1976, on what became the FLPMA. It is the only statement regarding the definition of a road in the law or legislative history.

“The word ‘roadless’ refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.”

The BLM previously adopted and will continue to use the following sub-definitions of certain words and phrases in the BLM road definition stated above:

a. **“Improved and maintained”** – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. **“Mechanical means”** – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. **“Relatively regular and continuous use”** – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims.

A road that was established or has been maintained solely by the passage of vehicles would not be considered a road, even if it is used on a relatively regular and continuous basis. Vehicle roads constructed by mechanical means but that are no longer being maintained by mechanical methods are not roads. Sole use of hands and feet to move rocks or dirt without the use of tools or machinery does not meet the definition of “mechanical means.” Roads need not be “maintained” on a regular basis but rather “maintained” when road conditions warrant actions to keep it in a usable condition. A dead-end (cherry-stem) road can form the boundary of an inventory area and does not by itself disqualify an area from being considered “roadless”.

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

APPENDIX C – ROAD* ANALYSIS

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road for wilderness inventory purposes.)

Wilderness Inv Unit Name/Number: OR-036-085 – Buckskin Mountain

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

BLM 6317-AO

(Note: ONDA may be identifying this route as its BP46, a vehicular way [or what Vale District terms a motorized primitive trail, MPT] of its proposed Black Point WSA.)

XXII. LOCATION: BLM labeled the Lookout Butte route, it is the south and east boundary route of BLM’s late 1970’s OR-2-74O inventory unit. Is located in the Vale District portion of OR-036-085. **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 in the Vale BLM office.

XXIII. 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 provides alternative access from the north and east to the BLM 036-RT28 / 6317-AO cherry-stem road which is the primary ROW-issued route for access to the active communication site on Buckskin Mountain. The route does not appear to serve any other practical administrative junction. It is traveled by the public, primarily hunters.

XXIV. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:

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

Yes No Unknown

XXV. CONSTRUCTION

Yes X No _____

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

Describe: Date of original construction is unknown. Overall, visual signs of construction are light.

XXVI. IMPROVEMENTS

Yes _____ No X

By Hand Tools _____ By Machine _____

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

Describe: There is a channel crossing, but no improvement beyond cut/fill to its approach as an element of its construction.

XXVII. 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:

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 X

Comments: Route no longer serves as a needed connective route to anything.

XXVIII. 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:

There is no evidence of relatively regular and continuous use. The route is rutted; only a two-track and with substantial vegetative growth along much of its traveled surface.

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: Route does not meet road criteria, as described and explained above.

Evaluator(s): Richard White Date: 4/21/10
Richard White, Range Management Specialist

* **road:** An access route which has been **improved and maintained** by **mechanical means** to insure **relatively regular and continuous use**. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

a. **“Improved and maintained”** – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. **“Mechanical means”** – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. **“Relatively regular and continuous use”** – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims.

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

road: The BLM will continue to base the definition of what constitutes a “road” from the FLPMA’s legislative history. The language below is from the House of Representatives Committee Report 94-1163, page 17, dated May 15, 1976, on what became the FLPMA. It is the only statement regarding the definition of a road in the law or legislative history.

“The word ‘roadless’ refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.”

The BLM previously adopted and will continue to use the following sub-definitions of certain words and phrases in the BLM road definition stated above:

a. **“Improved and maintained”** – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

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A road that was established or has been maintained solely by the passage of vehicles would not be considered a road, even if it is used on a relatively regular and continuous basis. Vehicle roads constructed by mechanical means but that are no longer being maintained by mechanical methods are not roads. Sole use of hands and feet to move rocks or dirt without the use of tools or machinery does not meet the definition of “mechanical means.” Roads need not be “maintained” on a regular basis but rather “maintained” when road conditions warrant actions to keep it in a usable condition. A dead-end (cherry-stem) road can form the boundary of an inventory area and does not by itself disqualify an area from being considered “roadless”.