

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents

***Updated** – Howluk Butte East OR-036-049, 20 total pages

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



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

APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION

Evaluation of Current Conditions:

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

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

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

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

Year: 2012 Unit Number/Name: OR-036-049 -- Howluk Butte East

**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.):

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 old 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-02-74E Tule Springs & OR-02-074K, both within OR-03-08-26 (unpublished BLM documents in case files)

(NOTE: Only a map which displays OR-03-08-26 has been located in Vale District; no associated inventory narrative.)

() April 1979 – *Wilderness -- Proposed Initial Inventory – Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not have Wilderness Characteristics, Oregon and Washington*

(X) August 2003 -- Burns District Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Maintenance --- 2-74E Tule Springs

(X) 2007-2011 Vale District Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Maintenance – OR-036-049, Howluk Butte East (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)
- () November 1981 *Stateline Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah* (tan document)
- (X) 2003 Burns District Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Maintenance
- (X) 2007-2011 Vale District Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Maintenance

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

OR-02-74E Tule Springs & OR-02-074K, both within OR-03-08-26; 2-74E Tule Springs (Burns, 2003); OR-036-049 Howluk Butte East (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 -- 2-74E Tule Springs
- (X) 2 010 Vale District Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Maintenance – OR-036-046 Howluk Butte East

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

Vale District/Jordan Resource Area
Burns District/Andrews 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.

Unit#/ Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
OR-02-74E Tule Springs* and OR-02-74K **	23,140	Y	N	N	Y
of OR-03-08-26 ***	5,690	Y	N	N	N
TOTAL	28,830				
2-74E Tule Springs (Burns, 2003)	23,780*	Y (partially)	N	N	(not addressed)
TOTAL	23,780				
OR-036-049 Howluk Butte East (Vale, 2010 ****)	Vale = 6,164 Burns = 22,519	Y Y (partially)	N ****	N ****	Y Y
TOTAL	28,683				

* -- Most of this area is within Burns District. WC criteria findings include acreage within Vale District (970 acres). Official late 1979's and 2003 WC inventory maintenance documents are retained in Burns BLM District Office

** -- Most of this unit is within Vale District.

*** -- No records of OR-03-08-26 found within the Vale District office.

**** -- 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

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FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-036-049 -- Howluk Butte East

NOTE 1: This wilderness characteristics (WC) inventory maintenance for unit OR-036-049 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 Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) its evaluation of wilderness characteristics for what ONDA names its 22,975 acre Tule Springs Roadless Area” (alias “Proposed Tule Springs 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 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 2-74E Tule Springs; and Burns District’s late 1970’s WC inventory maintenance evaluation documents and associated maps of OR-2-74D/ -74E/-74K-74L inventory units), and by ONDA’s 2002 proposed “Tule Springs WSA” documents and map submitted to the Burns District.

Within Burns District, ONDA identifies a route segment (A29f) in the northwest sector of its proposed Tule Springs WSA as not a road, and references photos (assumably B38 and B39), and states that the route should remain for the continued access of private property along the northwest boundary of its proposed WSA, thus keeping its proposed WSA separate from the adjacent Alvord Desert WSA. Burns District identifies the same route segment as a road, thus as a boundary feature of Burns District current Tule Springs WC inventory unit. Therefore, Burns District’s Tule Springs unit is not contiguous with the existing Alvord Desert WSA.

The boundaries of OR-036-049 are not the same as ONDA’s proposal. At approximately the middle of its east boundary for its OR-036-049 inventory unit – and fully within Vale District -- Vale District identifies ONDA’s “A32” route as a motorized primitive trail (MPT; that is, not a road), thus not a boundary feature. ONDA depicts its “A32” route as a road, and respectively as a boundary feature of its proposed WSA.

The second difference between BLM and ONDA regarding a feature of the inventory unit boundary is that, unlike ONDA’s proposal, BLM concludes that a segment of ONDA’s road “A29g” (what BLM identifies as route 036-RT27; alias, the 6316-00 “Ranch Loop” route) does not meet criteria as a road but rather is partially a MPT and partially is a perceived very dated

vehicle route which is no longer visually apparent. (See the BLM Photo Point Map/Photo Log and affiliated photos for its 036-RT27 route for this OR-036-049 WC inventory unit.) Additionally, BLM notes that part of ONDA's "A29g" route is not a vehicle route, but rather the natural channel of a drainage which flows north and eventually traverses the Little Sand Gap Road. A natural feature is not a qualifying boundary feature for a BLM WC inventory unit.

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. This 28,691 acre OR-036-049 unit is composed of public lands in both Burns BLM District (22,527 acres) and Vale District (6,164 acres). Refer to the table in the current (2012) Form 1 for OR-036-049 for what constituted this WC inventory unit by BLM in the past.

OR-036-049's north boundary consists of a north segment of BLM road 6316-00 and 7283-0-A0; its east side of non-BLM land and a combination of a southern road segment of BLM 6316-00 and another road traversing public lands; an electric transmission line's right-of-way on its south side; and a combination of non-BLM lands, a segment of BLM road 7238-0-00 and another road segment crossing public lands along the inventory unit's west side. The unit's boundary roads receive mechanical maintenance as needed to keep them passable on a relatively regular and continuous (seasonal) basis. There is 1.6 miles of no or nearly no visual evidence of a vehicle route (that which at one time, in part, distinguished the late 1970's subunit OR-2-74E from OR-2-74K). A total of 800 acres of four 4 non-BLM inholdings (3 in Burns District, 640 acres; one in Vale District, 160 acres) are also features of OR-036-049's boundary. The boundary roads of OR-036-049 receive mechanical maintenance as needed to keep them passable on a relatively regular and seasonally continuous basis.

See the "NOTE 2", above, for an explanation of variances between the descriptive bounds of OR-036-049 and ONDA's proposed Tule Springs WSA.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No N/A

Description: Elevations within the OR-036-049 inventory unit range from 4,040 to 5,232 feet. The Tule Springs Rims complex in Burns District rises about 400 feet abruptly along most of the western side of OR-036-049. From this ridge the terrain slopes gently to the east and north. Most of the unit's small drainages drain generally to the north; while some, like the terrain associated within the northeastern sector of this unit (4,580 to 4,200 feet in elevation) which drops predominately northeast with

moderate to gentle slopes from Howluk Butte along the Burns/Vale districts' administrative boundary. The southern sector of this inventory unit is characterized by predominately slight sloped south-to-north oriented slopes from the unit's south boundary (5,150 to 4,800 feet in elevation). Other than the Rims complex, the majority of the unit is dominated by gently rolling hills. The major vegetative type is sagebrush. A portion of the Alvord – Tule Springs - Coyote Lakes Wild Horse Management Area is within the inventory unit.

Refer to OR-036-049's associated Map 1 for human imprints within the unit. There are 2 water well developments; 16.8 miles of MPTs (14.5 miles of 11 MPTs in Burns District, 2.3 miles of 2 in Vale District); 20.3 miles of rangeland fence (16.1 miles in Burns, 4.2 miles in Vale); one wildlife guzzle; one small earthen reservoir; one developed spring with its associated storage tank, trough and 0.3 mile of buried pipeline (sections 15 and 16, T37S, R35E); and, surface disturbance sites associated with locatable minerals exploration in section 26, T36S, R34E (not depicted on Map 1).

Burns District's August 2003 WC maintenance found its OR-2-74E Tule Springs inventory unit (with the same boundary features as during the late 1970's – thus excluding Vale District's north sector of OR-036-049) to be in a natural condition in its "western portion" but not in its "eastern portion" because of mining activities.

This current OR-036-049 unit -- with its additional 6,164 acres from that of the Burns District 2003 OR-2-74E Tule Springs unit – results in it, at large, appearing to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of mankind being substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor. This is due – in sum -- to the types, nature, locations, extent, and overall spatial separation of human imprints relative to the unit's size and its natural attributes, at large.

ONDA states that its proposed Tule Springs WSA is in a natural condition. BLM does not make a finding regarding the natural condition of ONDA's smaller proposed WSA.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: The overall size of the inventory unit provides for settings to experience a general sense of being isolated. However, the types and nature of the inventory unit's vegetation does not provide sufficient screening to allow for providing outstanding opportunities for solitude. Additionally, with the majority of the unit being of substantially low profiled elevations of mostly slight undulating terrain—and the elevations' general orientation relative to the unit's boundaries -- the unit's topography is insufficiently diverse to provide settings that offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Further, and significantly, in combination with these natural features of the unit, the generally central location and orientation of the private inholdings -- relative to the inventory unit's outer boundaries of its approximate northern portion-- affectively

narrows and disrupts the configuration of the unit to an extent which precludes providing outstanding opportunities for solitude within the inventory unit.

ONDA states that its proposed Tule Springs WSA contains outstanding opportunities for solitude due to its “considerable size”, “expansive area”. ONDA notes that BLM has stated that one should not assume that simply because an area or portion of an area is flat and/or not vegetated, it automatically lacks an outstanding feeling of solitude. Regarding OR-036-049, BLM explains above that the nature of the vegetation and topography are not the only factors considered, noting that BLM has also taken into account the effect of area’s configuration relative to the location, number, size and distribution of inholdings, and the orientation of the area’s topography – in combination with the nature of its other features -- when establishing its finding.

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

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: The more common primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities within the unit are hunting of certain common game species (primarily deer, some antelope and chukar), hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding. Some rock climbing opportunities do exist within the inventory unit. Camping associated with backpacking may occur within the unit, and sightseeing and nature photography opportunities are available, although none of these activities are as common as hunting. There are no unique or special features or attractions which would specifically draw visitors to the unit. While bighorn sheep use habitat exists within the western and northeastern sectors of OR-036-049, these locations are at the outer edge of the species’ habitat use range and possess less preferred habitat values for the animals; respectively, hunting opportunities of the species in these locations is not of outstanding character. In summary, these various activities – individually, in combination, or collectively -- are not of such quality, availability and/or uniqueness as to provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

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.

Along with what activities BLM includes above, ONDA states that those activities and also rockhounding, bouldering (what BLM includes in rock climbing, above), and viewing of wildflowers, wildlife and geology (what BLM terms sightseeing, above) are outstanding opportunities of primitive and unconfined recreation within its proposed Tule Springs WSA. BLM concurs that while all of these as activities are available within OR-036-049, none of them -- or in any combination of them or with the other described

opportunities in the above paragraph of this criteria -- are outstanding opportunities for the reasons provided.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes X No N/A

Description: The whole unit is associated with a portion of the Alvord –Tule Springs - Coyote Lakes Wild Horse Management Area. An area in the unit’s southwest corner and near its south boundary within Burns District has Alvord milkvetch and solitary milkvetch -- both are BLM special status plant species.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-036-049 -- Howluk Butte East

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, Vale District

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

Team Members:

Dave Ward 23 APR 12
 Dave Ward, Rangeland Management Specialist, Burns District Date

Matt Obradovich 04/17/2012
 Matt Obradovich, Wildlife Biologist, Burns District Date

Daryl Bingham 17 APRIL 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

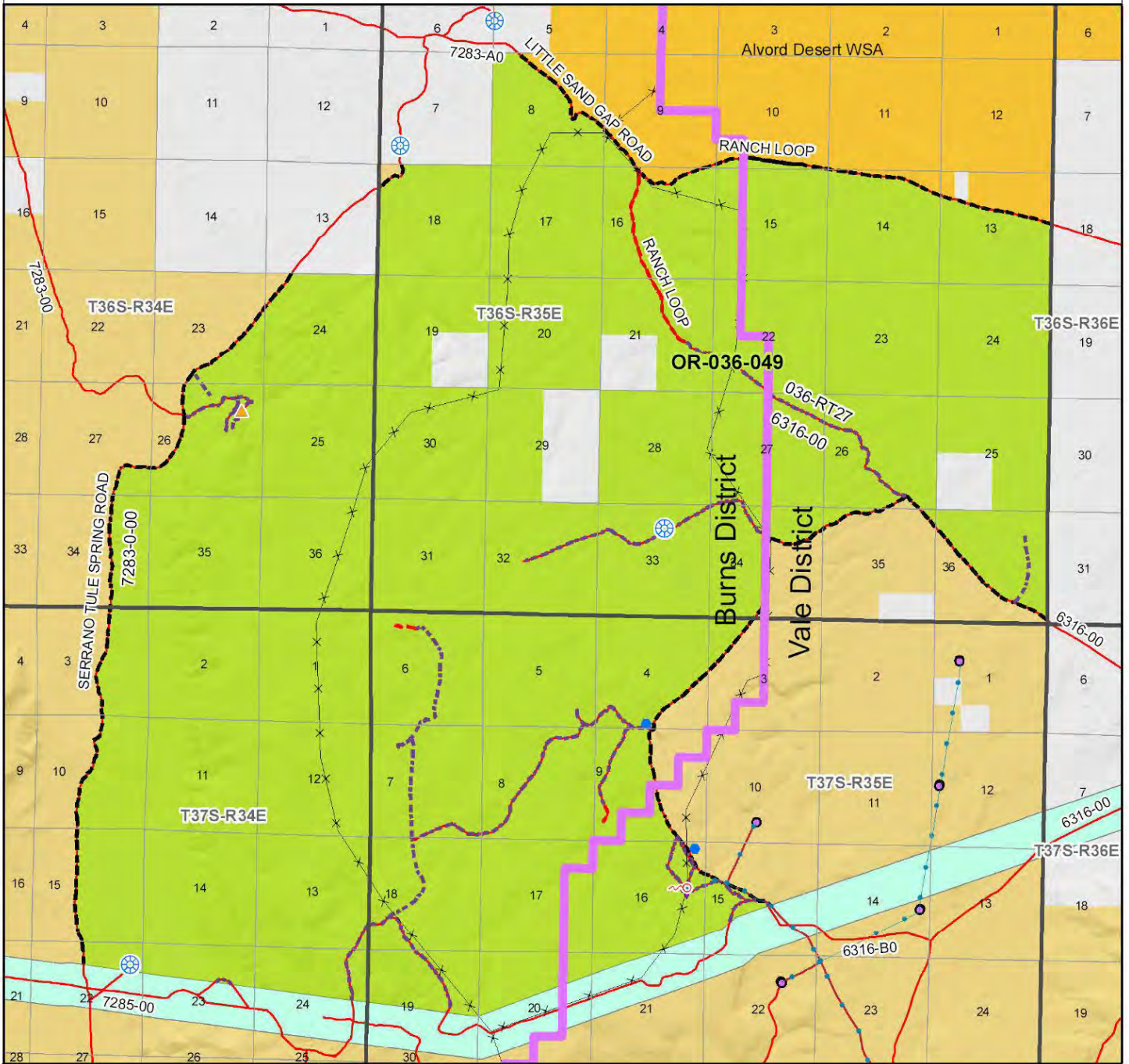
I approve the current OR-036-049 criteria findings, and as supported by the approved Form 2 findings of Vale District for this inventory unit dated July 19, 2010. (A copy included herein of the Form 2's Summary of Findings and Conclusion; the entire 2010 Form 2 is retained in Vale District wilderness 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.

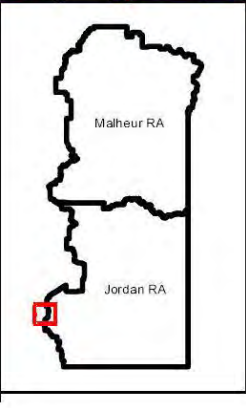
Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Howluk Butte East - OR-036-049 - Map 1 of 1



Legend

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✕ Fence ▲ GUZZLER ● RESERVOIR ○ SPRING (spring development) ◇ TANK ○ TROUGH ⊙ WELL ⊗ 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 	<p>Route Types - BLM Determination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Boundary Road — Motorized Primitive Trail (MPT) — Discontinued Use <p>Routes - Outside Wild Char Unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — County — Major Highway — BLM Numbered & Other Routes <p>Land Ownership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bureau of Land Management ■ State ■ Private ■ Other Federal Land — District Boundary
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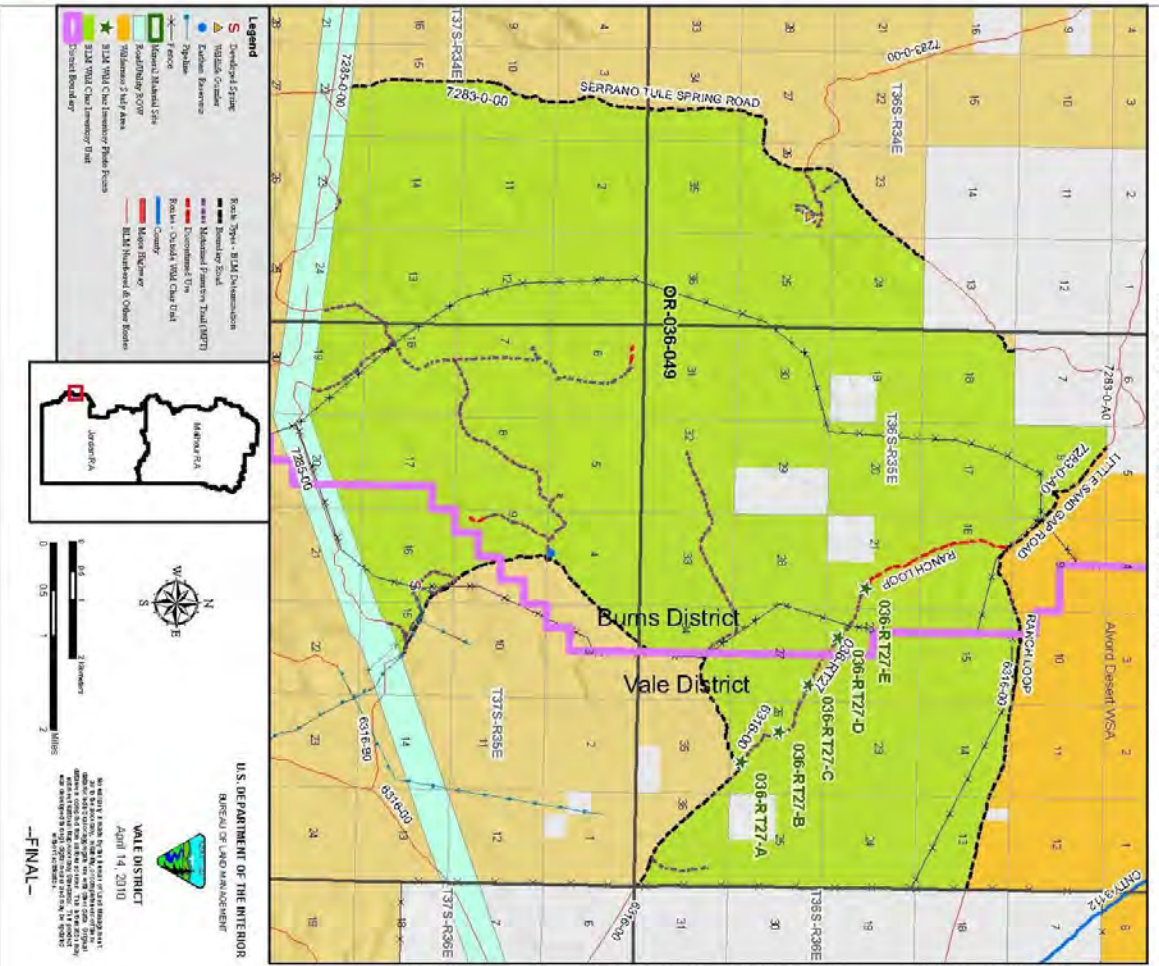
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VALE DISTRICT
February 21, 2012

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--FINAL--

**Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Points
Howluk Butte East - OR-036-049**



**Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Points
Howluk Butte East - OR-036-049**

PHOTO_LOCATION	DIRECTION	PHOTO_TYPE	PHOTO_DATE	COMMENTS
036-RTZ7-A	W	Route	7/12/09	No evidence of construction or maintenance.
036-RTZ7-A	E	Route	7/12/09	No evidence of construction or maintenance.
036-RTZ7-B	NW	Route	7/12/09	No evidence of construction or maintenance.
036-RTZ7-B	SE	Route	7/12/09	No evidence of construction or maintenance.
036-RTZ7-C	W	Route	7/12/09	No evidence of construction or maintenance.
036-RTZ7-C	E	Route	7/12/09	No evidence of construction or maintenance.
036-RTZ7-D	NW	Route	7/12/09	Fence, gate.
036-RTZ7-D	SE	Route	7/12/09	No evidence of construction or maintenance.
036-RTZ7-E	NW	Route	7/12/09	No evidence of construction or maintenance.
036-RTZ7-E	SE	Route	7/12/09	No evidence of construction or maintenance.

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

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
VALE DISTRICT
April 14, 2010
--FINAL--



036-RT27-A-E.JPG



036-RT27-B-SE.JPG



036-RT27-D-NW.JPG



036-RT27-A-W.JPG



036-RT27-C-E.JPG



036-RT27-D-SE.JPG



036-RT27-B-NW.JPG



036-RT27-C-W.JPG



036-RT27-E-NW.JPG



036-RT27-E-SE.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-036-049 – Howluk Butte East

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

O36-RT27 (alias, BLM 6316-00) – within Vale District, only.

(Note 1: ONDA identifies a portion of this route as a given segment of its A29a route combined with its 29g route. Individually and in combination, ONDA identifies these routes as a boundary road of its proposed Tule Springs WSA.)

(Note 2: Burns District, in 2003, identifies a portion of this route as a boundary road of its OR-2-74E inventory unit, including that segment of the route located within Vale District. At the time, no inter-district wilderness characteristic inventory maintenance communications occurred the Burns District unit.)

I. LOCATION: Within the inventory unit’s northeast area (alias, within the southwest sector of the portion of the unit located within Vale District). **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: This route provides access to a rangeland fence, and about 0.5 miles beyond (northwest) the fence – and fully within Burns District -- the route has the appearance of being abandoned and no longer traveled northwest to the junction with 6316-00 / 7283-O-A. Route does not serve as a significant connective route to anything. Recreationists – most likely primarily hunters -- may occasionally use the route.

III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:

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

Yes ___ No X Unknown ___

IV. CONSTRUCTION

Yes ___ No X ___

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

Describe: Where existing, including all within Vale District, there presently is no apparent evidence of construction of the route. If it was constructed, its date is unknown. BLM has labeled it -- sometime in the past -- as a segment of the “Ranch Loop” route.

V. IMPROVEMENTS

Yes ___ No X ___

By Hand Tools ___ By Machine ___

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

Describe:

VI. MAINTENANCE:

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

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

Explain:

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: The route – where existing (i.e., to BLM photo point 036-RT27-E) -- is not in good condition. It appears to remain in existence due only to occasional passage by a vehicle.

VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:

Yes _____ No X

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

There is no evidence of relatively regular and continuous use. The route is virtually non-existent northwest of BLM photo point 036-RT27-E.

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: Within Vale District, the route does not meet road criteria, as described and explained above. As a result, the OR-036-049 inventory unit extends further to the west than does ONDA’s proposed WSA or Burns District’s 2003 inventory unit OR-2-74E (Tule Springs).

(Note: This finding differs from that of ONDA and of Burns District, both which a portion of this route each found it to be a road – both within Vale and Burns Districts. The remaining [north] segment of the displayed road by ONDA and Burns District [i.e., branching to the north from 036-RT27 just northwest of BLM photo point 036-RT27-E to then junction with BLM road 6316-OO] appears to be the same as a drainage channel [this segment is not depicted on the accompanying Vale District Photo Point Map for the OR-036-049 inventory unit]).

Evaluator(s):  **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”.