

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents  
**Westfall Highlands OR-034-038, 24 total pages**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Year:** 2009      **Unit Number/Name:** OR-034-038 -- Westfall Highlands

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

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

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

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

**Wilderness Inventories**

- (X) 1978 – BLM Wilderness Inventory Units 3-8 of OR-03-02-08 Westfall Highlands (unpublished BLM documents in case files)
- ( ) April 1979 – *Wilderness -- Proposed Initial Inventory – Roadless Areas and Islands Which Clearly Do Not have Wilderness Characteristics, Oregon and Washington*

**Wilderness Decision Documents**

- (X) August 1979 – *Wilderness Review – Initial Inventory, Final Decision on Public Lands Obviously Lacking Wilderness Characteristics and Announcement of Public Lands to be Intensively Inventoried for Wilderness Characteristics, Oregon and Washington* (green document)
- ( ) October 1979 – *Wilderness Review – Intensive Inventory - Oregon, Proposed Decision on the Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas* (grey document).
- (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)
- (X) November 1980 - *Wilderness Inventory – Oregon and Washington, Final Intensive Inventory Decisions* (brown document)
- ( ) November 1981 *Stateline Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah* (tan document).

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

BLM 3-8 of OR-03-02-08 Westfall Highlands

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

- Final Decision – Initial Wilderness Inventory Map, August 1979, Oregon
- Proposed Decision -- Intensive Wilderness Inventory of Selected Areas Map, October 1979, Oregon
- Intensive Wilderness Inventory Map, March 1980, Oregon
- Intensive Wilderness Inventory --Final Decisions Map, November 1980, Oregon.
- November, 1981 *Stateline Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah* (tan document).

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

Vale District Office/ Malheur Field Office

**2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record**

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

**Inventory Source:** See above.

Unit#/ Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
3-8 of OR-03-02-08 Westfall Highlands	15,600	Y	N	N	Y
<b>TOTAL</b>	15,600				

## **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.*

## **FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS**

**Unit Number/Name:** **OR-034-038 – Westfall Highlands**

**NOTE:** In February, 2004, the Vale District received from Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) its evaluation of wilderness characteristics for what ONDA names its 45,053 acre “Little Black Canyon Proposed WSA”. For reference, a hard copy of ONDA’s proposal is retained in this unit’s file. Information provided by ONDA’s proposal was considered and incorporated as appropriate for this BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory maintenance. The outer boundaries of unit OR-034-038 represent only a portion of ONDA’s proposal. ONDA’s proposal consists predominately of this and two other present BLM inventory units – OR-034-036 and OR-034-037.

For BLM unit OR-034-038, the differences between BLM and ONDA regarding inventory unit boundary features are that, unlike ONDA’s proposal, BLM concludes that BLM route 7355-0-00 (ONDA route WF21a) is a road serving as OR-034-038’s southeast boundary, and that BLM route 7359-0-00 (ONDA’s route WF16g) is a road serving as OR-034-038’s north boundary; ONDA identifies both of these routes as motorized primitive trails (or which what ONDA terms a “way”). Refer to BLM’s associated two Road Analysis forms, Photo Point Maps/Logs and photographs and for additional documentation. An attachment to this Form 2 identifies any differences of motorized vehicle routes between ONDA’s and BLM’s findings with OR-034-038.

**Description of Current Conditions:** [Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities.]

### **1. Is the unit of sufficient size?**

Yes   X   No       

**Description:** Refer to this inventory unit’s Map 1 for its location. The boundary of the 21,906-acre unit extends further to the southwest than the original unit (3-8 of OR-03-02-08, Westfall Highlands) of BLM’s wilderness characteristics inventory of the late 1970’s. This is due to a portion of a route determined to be road in the 1970’s is presently a motorized primitive trail (MPT). The unit’s boundary consists of BLM roads 7355-0-00, 7356-0-00 and 7359-0-00, County Road 601, and six locations of abutting private land parcels. The BLM roads receive mechanical maintenance as needed to keep them passable for relatively regular and continuous use. One 80 acre private inholding is also a feature of the unit’s boundary. With the inclusion of more area in its southwest, a resultant extended west-east oriented tract of private lands along the unit’s central west boundary now substantially separates the unit’s northwest area from its southwest area. The unit is a contorted crescent shape with a varying length up to approximately 11.5 miles and widths of undisrupted stretches of public lands ranging between 2 and 4.5 miles.

**2. Is the unit in a natural condition?**Yes  No  N/A 

**Description:** The unit consists of varying drainages of West Cottonwood Creek, Cottonwood Creek and other cut canyons with separating ridges, hills and buttes. Westfall Butte is a dominate feature making up the unit's northwest sector. Elevations range from approximately 3,300 to 5,900 feet. Dominant vegetation type is sagebrush community with native and non-native rangeland grasses; concentrated patches of juniper and aspen are limited to within the unit's western reaches; it is here that the terrain is more diverse with more so steeper gradients associated with multiple upper drainages of the two primary creeks within the unit.

Refer to this unit's associated Maps 1 and 2 for human developments within the unit. They include 19.2 miles of rangeland fence, 4 earthen reservoirs (one within a fence enclosure), 7 developed springs, and 14.8 miles of 9 MPTs. There is remnant visual evidence of five abandoned motorized vehicle routes or route segments (3.6 miles, total) within the unit. Approximately 600 acres of a 1967 drilled seeding in the unit's northeast corner was substantially noticeable as a visual contrast at the time of the 1970's inventory; currently it is not substantially noticeable. In the unit's northwest sector, 3 separate vegetation treatment project sites remain visually evident. These projects included a temporary fenced vegetation restoration at Muir Spring, and juniper cutting and burning for an approximate total of 550 acres along or near the unit's west boundary road. Also in the northwest sector, separated about a mile from the other projects is a still visually evident 333 acre thinning cut of juniper which abuts the unit's north boundary road. In the unit's southwest sector, along the unit's boundary road, a 36 acre fuel thinning project remains visually evident. Given the size of the unit, and the orientation of these concentrated vegetation treatment projects relative to the unit's boundary roads, the unit does, overall, remain affected primarily by the forces of nature. Were the present visually apparent vegetation treatment areas excluded from the unit, the unit would still meet minimum size criteria and the natural conditions of the revised unit would be that more so enhanced by their exclusion.

**3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?**Yes  No  N/A 

**Description:** Vegetation within the unit is not of sufficient consistent density, or height (relative to sage brush), to provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude. Even with the increased size of the unit from the 1970's as a result of additional public lands in the unit's southwest area, due to the intruding large track of private land as a feature of the unit's central west boundary which notably dissects the unit's western third and the unit's characteristic dominance of less than 2.5 miles in width opportunities for solitude are hampered. In the west reaches of the unit some vegetative cover and topography provide

opportunities for solitude, although they are not outstanding in quality due to the impact of the area's narrow configuration as a result of the boundary, as described above. Overall, although the unit offers some opportunities for a sense of solitude, it is primarily due to its dominant substantially overall narrow configuration, and somewhat by its limited topographic (and more so vegetative) screening capabilities that precludes the unit from providing a sense of solitude that is outstanding in quality. This reflects the same conclusion of the 1970's inventory.

ONDA concludes that it's notably larger "Little Black Canyon proposed WSA" provides outstanding opportunity for solitude. BLM herein makes no determination of whether or not ONDA's described attributes of its larger proposed WSA equates to outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Description:** Primary primitive and unconfined outdoor recreation activities include dispersed hunting of common game species (chukar, deer, and some elk), hiking and horseback riding; general sightseeing, wildlife viewing and photography also occurs. The hunted game species or individual game animals are not unique or special. Westfall Butte, in the unit's northwest corner, is cited as a destination hiking area in Andy Kerr's publication, *Oregon Desert Guide 70 Hikes* (per ONDA, 2004). The butte is a visually prominent topographic feature, provides for expansive views of surrounding terrain, and is partially characterized by steep slopes with multiple sharply incised drainages stemming from it. However, while it does provide for noted hiking, equestrian and photography opportunities, the promontory does not possess unique or special features which would characterize these or other recreational activities as outstanding. While varied habitats provide differing wildlife niches, the resultant wildlife speciation is not considered outstanding, individually or in sum. The quality of the unit's natural attributes associated with recreation activities, or the activities themselves, are not of such quality to be outstanding as opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation pursuits – individually or collectively.

ONDA includes the above mentioned activities as well as snowshoeing and botany study as outstanding primitive recreation opportunities. BLM contends that while recreational opportunities, these two activities nominally occur (if at all for snowshoeing) within the unit, with neither of these activities within the unit being outstanding in quality or as a recreational opportunity. The Association states that its substantially larger "Little Black Canyon proposed WSA" -- with its geologic features, vegetation and wildlife -- provides outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation of photography, botany and "wildlife study" due to: (1) varied and interesting terrain (including steep buttes, rim rock, hills with both flat and rounded mesa tops, flatland with deep cut ravines, canyon cliffs, and multiple springs), (2) "spectacular" views particularly atop Westfall Buttes and "several hill tops further south", (3) a variety of habitats and vegetation (including a good variety



of native vegetation, willow, riparian vegetation, juniper, aspen, mountain mahogany groves, sage, native grasses and bare rock patches), and (4) “prolific” wildlife (the Association lists 20 observed bird species). ONDA makes reference to 14 photos. ONDA also states BLM indicated the 1970’s BLM units (which are included in its proposed WSA) “were not recommended for WSA designation based on the original determination that the individual units did not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation because of their small size and irregular shape” and “some unnatural developments in one unit.” In the 1970’s (and as presently for reasons stated in the above paragraph) BLM did not recognize any of its three inventory units presently affected by ONDA’s proposal as possessing outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. BLM herein makes no determination of whether or not ONDA’s described attributes of its larger proposed WSA equates to outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

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

Yes   X              No                   N/A       

**Description:** Sage Grouse, a BLM special status animal species, has been documented within the unit. Four sage grouse leks are located within this unit. Additional BLM records indicate sage grouse inhabit this unit during the winter.

ONDA states that it’s larger “Little Black Canyon proposed WSA” provides habitat for bighorn sheep and the golden eagle. In this area, the golden eagle is not identified as a BLM recognized special status species. The southernmost edge of the unit is identified as bighorn sheep habitat by BLM in its 2002 SEORMP Record of Decision; however, the species is not known to use this area as this time. (Note: The habitat barely extends into BLM’s OR-034-037 unit – located south and adjacent to this BLM unit – both units are affected by ONDA’s proposed Little Black Canyon WSA.)

ONDA states that their proposed Little Black Canyon WSA “provides habitat for Golden Eagle and may provide habitat for Mojave Black-Collared Lizard, Desert Horned Lizard, Ferruginous Hawk, Pygmy Rabbit, and White-tailed Antelope Squirrel,” which ONDA’s February 2004 submission to the Vale District declares are listed as “sensitive species” by the State of Oregon. As of 2009, Black-Collared Lizards, Desert Horned Lizards, Ground Snakes and White-tailed Antelope Squirrels were not considered sensitive by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, BLM, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. BLM acknowledges that habitat requirements may exist for the Mojave Black-collared Lizard, Desert Horned Lizard, Ground Snake, Golden Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, Pygmy Rabbit, and White-tailed Antelope Squirrel; however, neither ONDA nor any other entity has provided BLM official documentation confirming the presence of these species within this inventory unit.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusion**

**Unit Name and Number:** OR-034-038 – Westfall Highlands

**Summary Results of Analysis:**

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

**Team Members:**

<u>Mart M. Espil</u>	<u>1-29-10</u>
Martin Espil, Rangeland Management Specialist	Date
<u>Shaney Rockefeller</u>	<u>3/10/10</u>
Shaney Rockefeller, Soil Scientist	Date
<u>Diane H Pritchard</u>	<u>2/8/10</u>
Diane Pritchard, Archeologist	Date
<u>Eian Ray</u>	<u>02/09/10</u>
Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, contractor	Date
<u>Brent Grasty</u>	<u>2/9/10</u>
Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator	Date

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

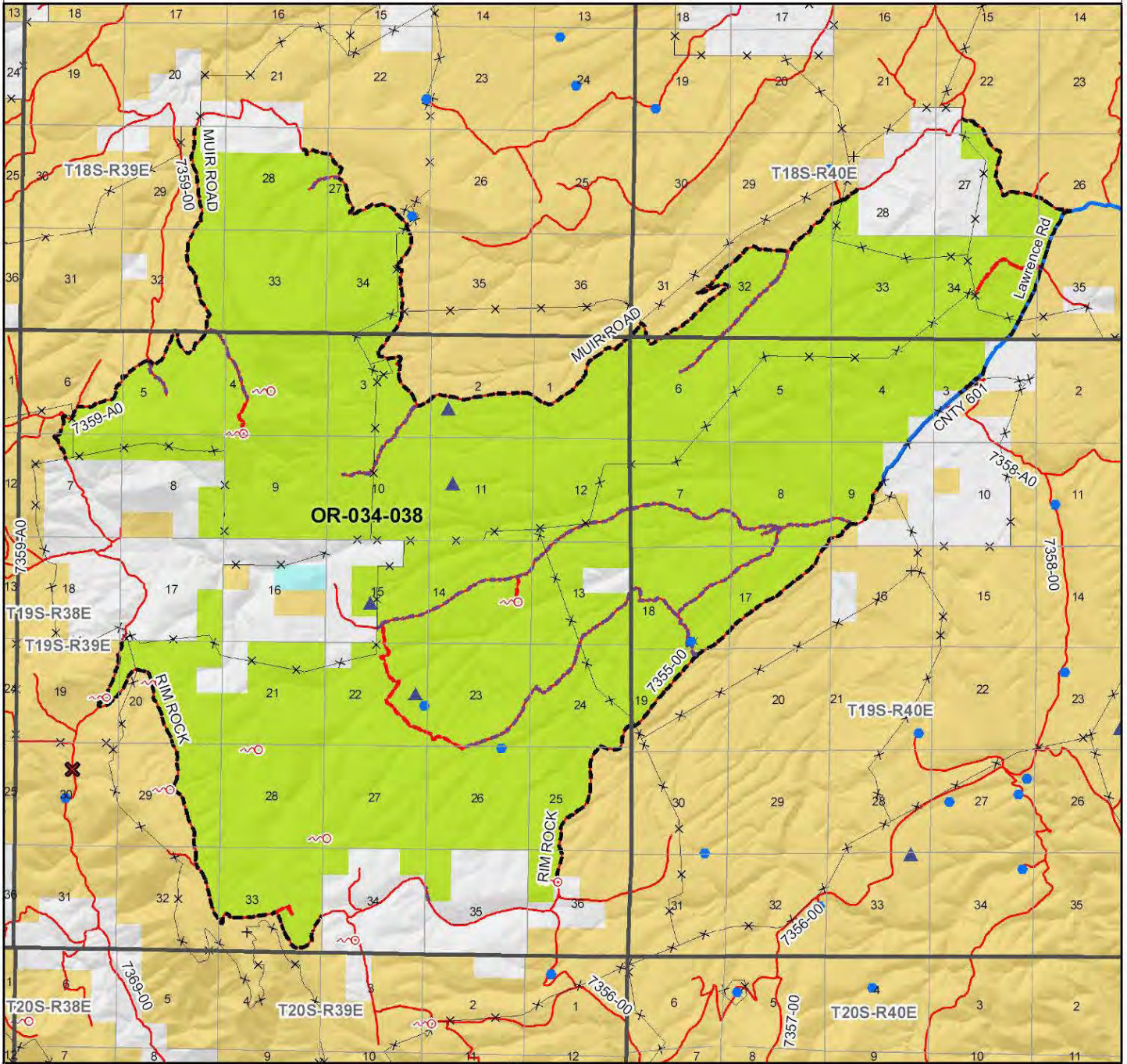
**Approved by:** Pat Ryan  
Pat Ryan, Malheur Resource Area Field Manager

3/30/2010  
Date

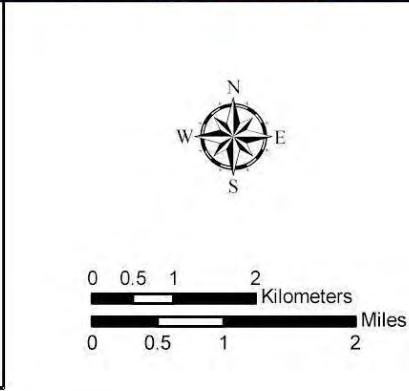
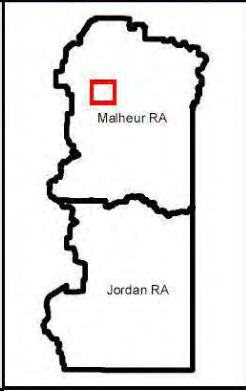
*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.*


# Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

## Westfall Highlands - OR-034-038 - 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

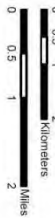
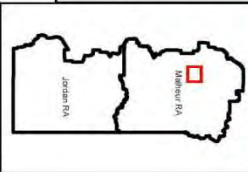
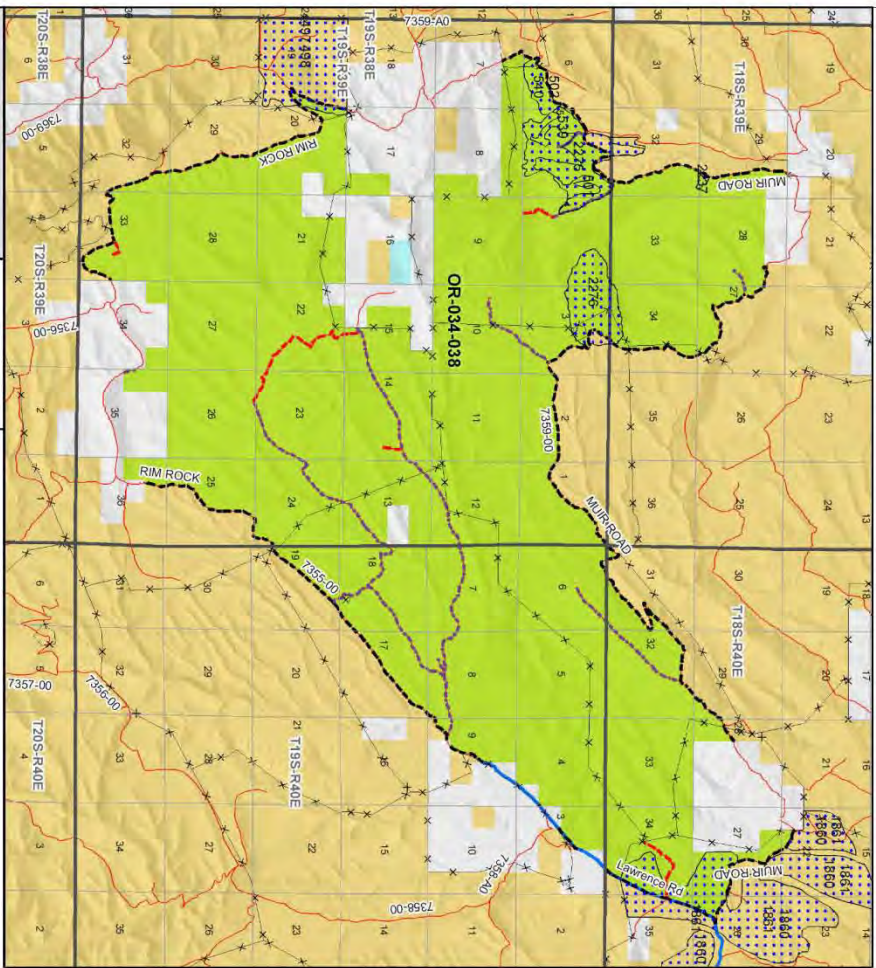


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 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
  
**VALE DISTRICT**  
 January 9, 2009

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**--FINAL--**

**Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments**  
**Westfall Highlands - OR-034-038 - Map 2 of 2**



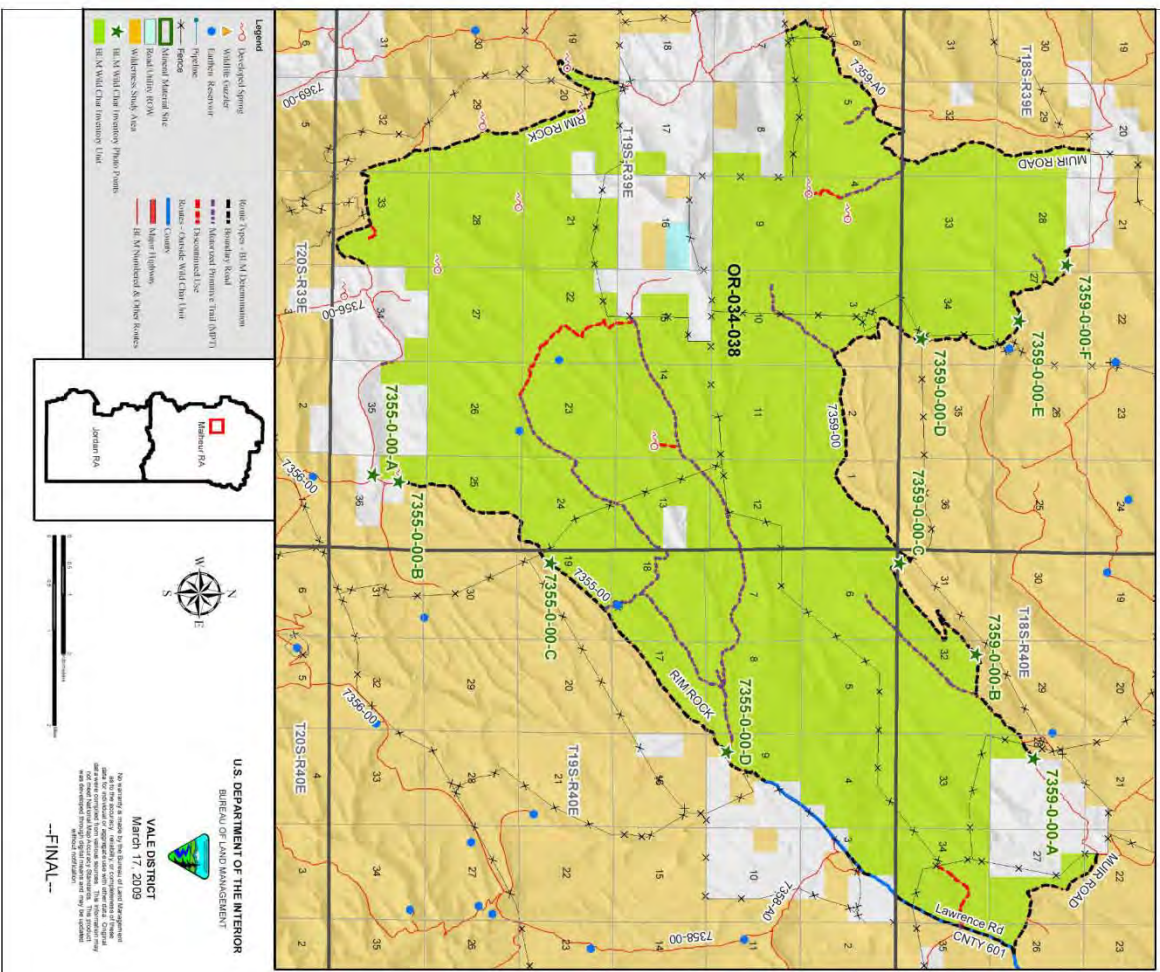
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
 VALE DISTRICT  
 January 9, 2003  
 This map was prepared by the Bureau of Land Management, Vale District, as part of the Westfall Highlands Management Plan. The map was prepared using the best available information and is not intended to be used for any other purpose. The information on this map was developed through the cooperation of the Bureau of Land Management and the Oregon Department of Forestry.  
 -FINAL-

**Wilderness Characteristics - Land Treatments**  
**Westfall Highlands - OR-034-038 - Map 2 of 2**

OBJECTID*	NAME	TREATMENT TYPE	SEED GROUP	DATE
497	KELSAY BUTTE	Juniper Cutting	Not Applicable	20050930
498	KELSAY BUTTE	Prescribed Burn	Not Applicable	20060901
501	MUR	Juniper Cutting	Not Applicable	20020501
502	MUR	Juniper Cutting	Not Applicable	20020501
539	MUR	Pile & Burning	Not Applicable	20040501
540	MUR	Pile & Burning	Not Applicable	20040501
1860	SWAMP CREEK SEEDING	Plow/Disc	Not Applicable	1967
1861	SWAMP CREEK SEEDING	Drill Seeding	Unknown	1967
2237	BUCK SPRING	Juniper Cutting	Not Applicable	20030601
2275	WESTFALL BUTTE RX	Prescribed Burn	Not Applicable	20030401
2276	HART SPRING	Juniper Cutting	Not Applicable	2003

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

**Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Points**  
**Westfall Highlands - OR-034-038**

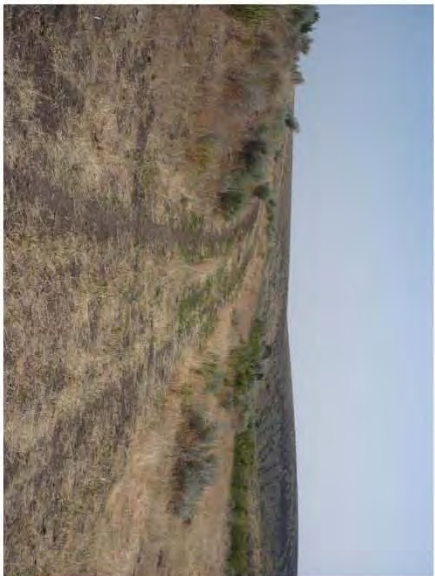


**Wilderness Characteristics - BLM Photo Log**  
**Westfall Highlands - OR-034-038**

PHOTO_LOCATION*	DIRECTION	PHOTO_TYPE	PHOTO_DATE	COMMENTS
7359-0-00-A	SW	Route	20080726	front. start of route
7359-0-00-A	NE	Route	20080726	back. start of route
7359-0-00-B	S	Route	20080726	trench in middle of road
7355-0-00-A	E	Route	20080726	start of route
7355-0-00-A	W	Route	20080726	start of route
7355-0-00-B	S	Project	20080726	OR-034-038-B-S. water trough
7355-0-00-B	N	Route	20080726	no evidence of maintenance.
7355-0-00-C	N	Project	20080726	OR-034-038-C-N. cattle gate
7355-0-00-C	S	Route	20080726	no evidence of maintenance.
7355-0-00-D	S	Route	20080726	end of route
7359-0-00-B	E	Route	20080726	trench in middle of road
7359-0-00-C	W	Route	20080726	signs of usage. no evidence of maintenance.
7359-0-00-C	E	Route	20080726	signs of usage. no evidence of maintenance.
7359-0-00-D	W	Route	20080726	gate
7359-0-00-D	W	Route	20080726	signs of regular usage.
7359-0-00-E	N	Project	20080726	OR-034-038-E-N. water trough
7359-0-00-E	W	Project	20080726	OR-034-038-E-W. water trough
7359-0-00-F	S	Project	20080726	OR-034-038-F-S. water trough
7359-0-00-F	E	Route	20080726	end of route

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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**VALE DISTRICT**  
 March 17, 2009  
**-FINAL-**



7355-0-00-A-E.JPG



7355-0-00-C-S.JPG



7359-0-00-A-NE.JPG



7355-0-00-A-W.JPG



7355-0-00-D-E.JPG



7359-0-00-A-SW.JPG



7355-0-00-B-N.JPG



7355-0-00-D-S.JPG



7359-0-00-B-N.JPG



7359-0-00-B-S.JPG



7359-0-00-D-E.JPG



OR-034-036-B-S.JPG



7359-0-00-C-E.JPG



7359-0-00-D-W.JPG



OR-034-036-C-N.JPG



7359-0-00-C-W.JPG



7359-0-00-F-E.JPG



OR-034-036-E-N.JPG



OR-034-036-E-W.JPG



OR-034-036-F-S.JPG



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

### APPENDIX C – ROAD\* ANALYSIS

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

**Wilderness Inventory Unit Name/Number: OR-34-038 –Westfall Highlands**

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

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

BLM route 7355-0-00.

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

**I. LOCATION:** Refer to attached map. Route is BLM inventory unit’s southeast boundary. Same boundary as for BLM OR- 034-037, South Cottonwood. **List photo point references (if applicable):** Refer to this BLM inventory unit’s associated hard copy of its BLM Photo Points map, and affiliated Photo Log and photos -- retained in this unit’s permanent hard copy file, and electronically retained under this unit’s subfolder Final Findings/GIS Products. Any applicable ONDA photos and affiliated Photo Log are electronically retained under Wilderness Characteristics/S/Citizen Proposals.

**II. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE:**

*(Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment).)*

**Describe:** This route is traveled for access consistently between private land holdings on both ends of the route; to access range improvement projects (3 reservoirs [one with fence enclosure], a developed spring, and 2 fences); to assist and monitor livestock operations; and, to avail vehicle –supported dispersed hunting of common game species between Gregory Creek and the headwaters of various drainages that flow south to Malheur River. From the northeast, the route is a southwest- oriented extension of the County 601 road.

**III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:****Is a road right-of-way associated with this route?**Yes \_\_\_ \_\_\_ No **X** Unknown \_\_\_**IV. CONSTRUCTION**Yes **X** No \_\_\_**Examples:** Paved \_\_\_ Bladed \_\_\_ Graveled \_\_\_ Roadside  
Berms \_\_\_ Cut/Fill \_\_\_ Other **X****Describe:** Date of construction is unknown; it was likely constructed at the time range improvements were initially installed. The route was present and served as a BLM wilderness characteristics inventory unit boundary road in the late 1970's. Presently, evidence of construction is not apparent. This is due to the nature of where and on what type of surface the route is located. The route is predominately associated with a ridgeline and/or with firm surface materials which required very little mechanical disturbance to establish the route.**V. IMPROVEMENTS**Yes \_\_\_ No **X****By Hand Tools** \_\_\_ **By Machine** \_\_\_**Examples:** Culverts \_\_\_ Stream Crossings \_\_\_ Bridges \_\_\_  
Drainage \_\_\_ Barriers \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_**Describe:****VI. MAINTENANCE:****A. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?** Yes \_\_\_ No **X****If yes:** Hand Tools (Y/N) \_\_\_ Machine (Y/N) \_\_\_**Explain:** Due to the nature of where and on what type of surface the route is located. The route is predominately associated with a ridgeline and/or with firm surface materials which required very little mechanical disturbance to establish the route, and has not

required mechanical maintenance to an extent which presently exhibits evidence of it. This is why it is not uncommon to observe short vegetation on the route’s travel width.  
**B. If the route is in good condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM in the event this route became impassable?**

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

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

**VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:**

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

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

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

**VIII. CONCLUSION:**

**To meet the definition of a road, items IV or V, and VI-A or B, and VII must be checked yes.**

**Road:** Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### APPENDIX C – ROAD\* ANALYSIS

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

**Wilderness Inventory Unit Name/Number: OR-34-038 –Westfall Highlands**

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

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

7359-0-00

(It is ONDA’s route WF16g, which it terms as vehicular “way” (i.e., motorized primitive trail.)

**IX. LOCATION:** Refer to attached map. Route is the BLM inventory unit’s north boundary. **List photo point references (if applicable):** Refer to this BLM inventory unit’s associated hard copy of its BLM Photo Points map, and affiliated Photo Log and photos -- retained in this unit’s permanent hard copy file, and electronically retained under this unit’s subfolder Final Findings/GIS Products. Any applicable ONDA photos and affiliated Photo Log are electronically retained under Wilderness Characteristics/S/Citizen Proposals.

**X. CURRENT PURPOSE OF ROUTE:**  
(Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment).)

**Describe:** This route is a significant connector between private properties on both ends of this segment of the route, and for between other significant routes in the area (e.g., the north-south segment of the Pole Creek Road [also part of the same 7359-0-00] to the west, and County Road 601 to the east). The route provides access to monitor and manage certain range improvements (e.g. reservoirs, fences and small enclosures) within this inventory unit and in a neighboring inventory unit (OR-034-036). It is also traveled by recreating publics, primarily hunters of common game species.

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

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

Yes  No  Unknown

**XII. CONSTRUCTION**Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_Examples: Paved \_\_\_\_\_ Bladed  Graveled \_\_\_\_\_ Roadside  
Berms  Cut/Fill  Other \_\_\_\_\_**Describe:** Date of construction is unknown. It served as a boundary road of two BLM wilderness inventory units identified in the late 1970's. Locations of embankment cuts and bladed berms remain evident.**XIII. IMPROVEMENTS**Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No 

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

Examples: Culverts \_\_\_\_\_ Stream Crossings \_\_\_\_\_ Bridges \_\_\_\_\_  
Drainage \_\_\_\_\_ Barriers \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_**Describe:****XIV. MAINTENANCE:****A. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?** Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_If yes: Hand Tools (Y/N)  Machine (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_**Explain:** BLM has historically maintained this road. The nature of the route requires minimal maintenance actions. Evidence of likely hand tool use periodically at certain channel crossings by travelers provides for continued passage on this route over time. Vegetation –where present in the middle of the route – does not require maintenance actions nor hinder reasonable travel along the route.**B. If the route is in good condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM in the event this route became impassable?**Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_**Comments:** The route is, overall, in good condition, being passable by a high clearance vehicle. This route is recognized by the BLM as a primary access route for a number of range improvement projects, for livestock operations (monitoring and administration, and

for the public’s use in support of dispersed recreation. Approval for what little maintenance actions required for this route would continue to be approved to keep it passable.

**XV. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:**

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

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

Annual use of this route occurs at varying times, depending on the purpose of the travel, and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis over time.

**XVI. CONCLUSION:**

**To meet the definition of a road, items IV or V, and VI-A or B, and VII must be checked yes.**

Road: Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

c. **“Relatively regular and continuous use”** – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for

equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities; or access roads to mining claims.

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

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

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

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

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