

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Whitehorse Butte OR-036-045, 11 total pages

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



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

APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION

Evaluation of Current Conditions:

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

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

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

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

Year: 2009 **Unit Number/Name:** OR-036-045 -- Whitehorse Butte

**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 Unit 3-151 Whitehorse Butte of OR-03-12-01 (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)
- () 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 3-151 Whitehorse Butte of OR-03-12-01

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 Jordan 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
3-151A Whitehorse Butte of OR- 03-12-01	8,720	Y	N	N	Y
TOTAL	8,720				

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FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-036-045 -- Whitehorse Butte

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 associated Map 1 for its location. The 9,490 acre unit includes the late 1970's BLM unit 3-151A (Whitehorse Butte), plus some adjacent public lands along its southeast boundary which abuts Fifteenmile Creek WSA (OR-3-156). The unit is separated from the WSA by a rangeland fence, which is not a qualifying boundary feature for this wilderness characteristics inventory maintenance. Thus, the OR-036-045 unit is contiguous with the Fifteenmile Creek WSA. The unit's boundary features are private lands on its north and east sides, segments of BLM roads 6319-0-00, and 6315-00 on its west side, with the remainder of the unit's east side being contiguous to the abutting Fifteenmile Creek WSA. The boundary roads receive mechanical maintenance as needed to keep them passable on a relatively regular and seasonally continuous basis.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No N/A

Description: The inventory unit's lands contiguous to the eastern boundary of the WSA down-slope from the WSA boundary. The rangeland fence separating the unit from the WSA along a portion of the unit's west side is on the upper brink of a very steep canyon slope associated with the main stem of Whitehorse Creek (which is within a fenced enclosure); otherwise, along the WSA's boundary the unit is characterized by slight to steep slopes separating numerous minor drainages. In the northern half of the unit is the prominent Whitehorse Butte with its multi-directional but fairly shallow drainages flowing multidirectional toward the unit's boundary or (southeast) to Little Whitehorse Creek that crosses the unit east-west at its mid-section (and which –like the creek's main stem – is also enclosed by rangeland fences). The unit's northern-most reaches is a narrow sliver of mostly near flat land. Elevations range from near 5,000 to 6,076 feet atop Whitehorse Butte. The unit's dominate vegetation is sagebrush and both native and nonnative grasses.

See this unit's associated Map 1 and Map 2 for locations of human developments. There are 11.1 miles of 7 motorized primitive trails (MPTs), an earthen reservoir, 7.3 miles of

rangeland fence (including those fences along the WSA/inventory unit's interface), one small fenced enclosure (in section and 31) and two larger narrow fence enclosures of the inner canyon associated with the Little Whitehorse Creek centrally traversing the unit. There remains minimal visual evidence of an abandoned vehicle route segment (0.6 miles), and no visual evidence of a 1968 chemical treatment of vegetation and drilled seeding of non-native grasses that covered the south half of the unit. The types, extent and distribution of human imprints results in the unit, itself, appearing to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans being substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor. With the substantially natural appearance of the contiguous WSA, the two areas combined remain affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans being substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.

3. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Description: This finding differs from the late 1970's inventory, primarily due to the now contiguous nature of the inventory unit with the WSA. Regarding the unit, itself, the very narrow configuration and associated nearly flat terrain of its northern-most neck provides no vegetative or topographic screening to support outstanding opportunities for solitude. Topography within the rest of the unit, itself, provides varying terrain for a visitor to experience a sense of being alone, although the limited diversity and variances in terrain does not provide an outstanding opportunity. The unit, itself, does not possess sufficient vegetative screening – except for the density of the larger woody species along the Little Whitehorse Creek through the central portion of the unit – to provide for outstanding opportunities for solitude. However, with the inventory unit now contiguous with the WSA (and its known outstanding opportunities for solitude), the combined increased area size (of the WSA plus the inventory unit), does, overall, result in continued outstanding opportunities for solitude.

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

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Description: Sightseeing would be more popular, but primarily for viewing locations beyond the inventory unit such as the Alvord Desert, the Steens, Trout Creek and Pueblo mountains, Antelope and Whitehorse canyons, Flagstaff Butte and Red Mountain. The only major attraction in the unit, itself, is Whitehorse Butte. None of the activities, individually or in combination, offers outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation within the unit, itself. However, with the unit contiguous with the WSA, the unit's recreation opportunities combined with the known outstanding recreation opportunities of the WSA results in an overall extension -- and for some an enhancement of -- outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities within the increased area as a whole, including sightseeing, hunting, hiking, photography and backpacking. The quality of the outstanding opportunities within the WSA is not

noticeably decreased with the added area and nature of the inventory unit, albeit there are some locations within the unit -- as within the WSA – where the quality is comparatively less than in certain other settings.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes X No N/A

Description: The unit includes the northern reaches of bighorn sheep habitat associated predominately with the proximate Trout Creek Mountains area. The sheep are a BLM special status animal species in Oregon. The Little Whitehorse Creek has Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, a BLM special status animal species.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-036-045 -- Whitehorse Butte

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? X Yes No NA
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? X Yes No NA

Conclusion -- check one:

 X The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness character.

 The area does not have wilderness character.

Prepared by: Robert Alward
Robert Alward, Wilderness Planner contractor

Team Members:

<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>4/29/10</u>
Richard White, Range Management Specialist	Date
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>5/11/10</u>
Marcy Egger, Range Management Specialist	Date
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>2/10/10</u>
Dave Draheim, Outdoor Recreation Planner	Date
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>5/17/10</u>
Jack Wenderoth, Planning Contractor	Date
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>4-28-2010</u>
Jon Sadowski, Environmental Contractor	Date
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>5-14-10</u>
Eian Ray, GIS Specialist, contractor	Date
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>5/18/10</u>
Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator	Date

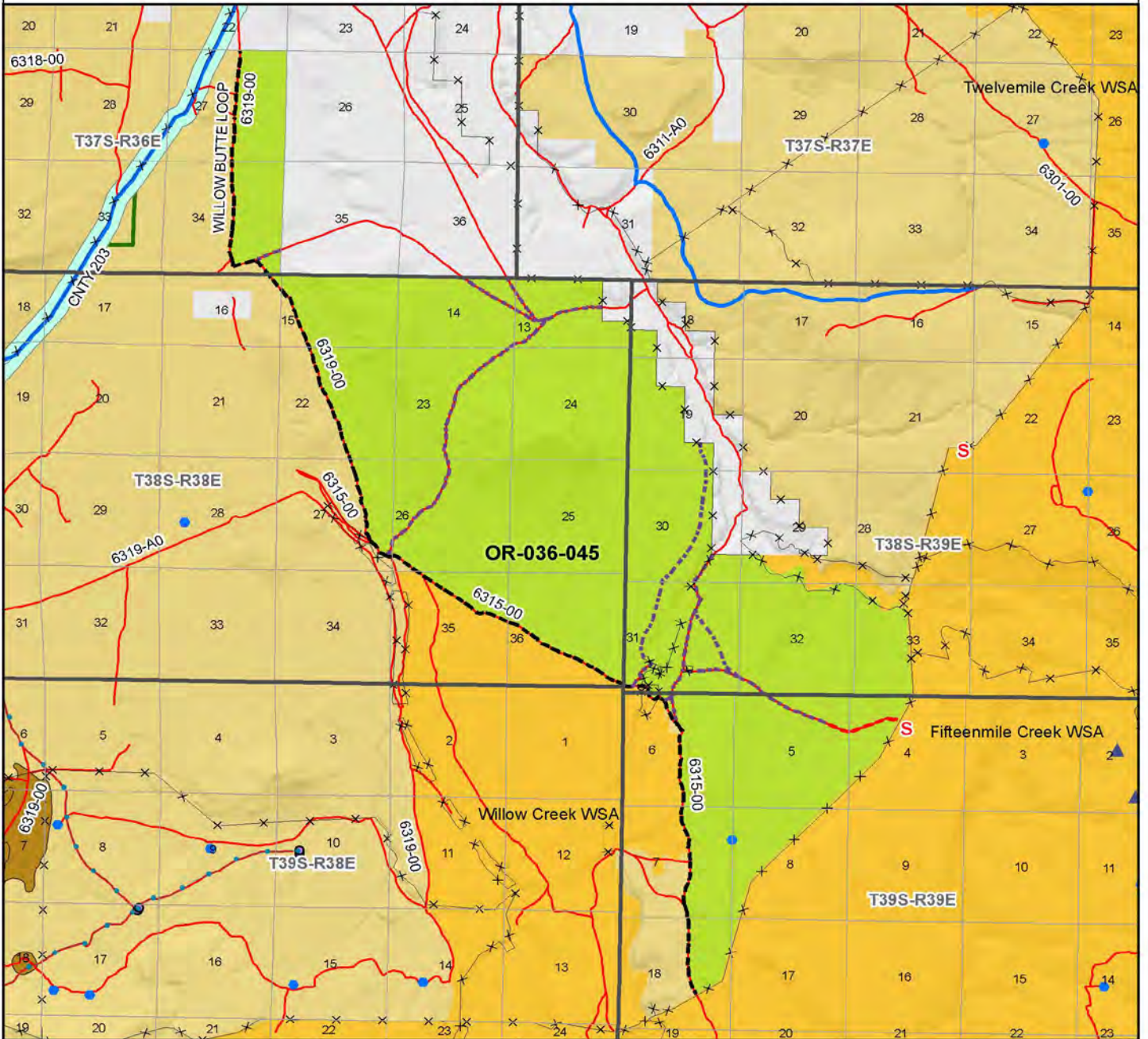
Approved by:

Carolyn R. Freeborn 7/19/2010
Carolyn Freeborn, Jordan Resource Area Field Manager Date

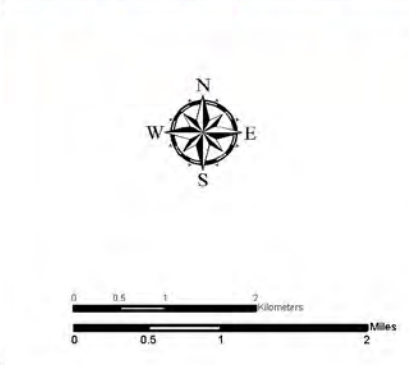
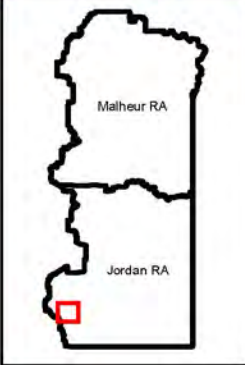
This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.

Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Whitehorse Butte - OR-036-045 - Map 1 of 2



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



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

VALE DISTRICT
January 4, 2010
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