

Wilderness Inventory Unit Index of Documents
Wilson Creek OR-034-097, 10 total pages

Page 1: Index Cover Sheet

[Page 2: Form 1 – Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory: Findings on Record](#)

[Page 5: Form 2 – Documentation of Current Wilderness Inventory Conditions](#)

[Page 8: Form 2 – Summary of Findings and Conclusion](#)

[Page 9: Wilderness Characteristics Overview – Wilson Creek OR-034-097 Map 1 of 2](#)

[Page 10: Wilderness Characteristics-Land Treatments-Wilson Creek OR-034-097 Map 2 of 2](#)

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-034-097 — Wilson Creek

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

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

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

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

Wilderness Inventories

- (X) 1978-1980 – BLM Wilderness Inventory Unit partially of 3-70A of OR-03-05-18 Spring Mountain (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 partially of 3-70A of OR-03-05-18 Spring Mountain

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
- (X) Intensive Wilderness Inventory Map, March 1980, Oregon
- (X) Intensive Wilderness Inventory --Final Decisions Map, November 1980, Oregon
- () November, 1981 *Stateline Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah* (tan document)

D.) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s)
 Vale District/Malheur Resource Area

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

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

Inventory Source: See above.

| Unit#/ Name | Size (historic acres) | Natural Condition? Y/N | Outstanding Solitude? Y/N | Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N | Supplemental Values? Y/N |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Partially of 3-70A of OR-03-05- 18 Spring Mountain | 23,620 * | N | N | N | N |
| TOTAL | 23,620 | | | | |

* -- Only a portion of this acreage constitutes OR-034-097.

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FORM 2 -- DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY CONDITIONS

Unit Number/Name: OR-034-097 — Wilson Creek

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 unit has 5,323 acres of public lands. It is what was identified by BLM in the late 1970's the eastern strip portion of the larger 23,620 acre 3-70A unit. The entire west boundary of this present OR-034-097 unit is a vehicle route (that was a motorized primitive trail ([MPT] in the late 1970's) that has been mechanically maintained for relatively regular and continuous use since the late 1970's, thus changing the status of the route to a road. In the late 1970's, a portion of the same route was identified as a cherry-stem road; the remainder of it as a MPT. The rest of the unit's boundary consists of 3 private land parcels and the right-of-way width of US Highway 95. A 640 acre private land inholding is also a feature of the unit's boundary. The roads receive mechanical maintenance as needed to ensure their ability to provide for relatively regular and seasonally continuous use.

2. Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Description: The north end of the unit contains primarily two main stems of the shallow Whiskey Creek drainage. Progressing south, portions of O'Keefe and the larger Wilson Creek drainages flow to the unit's east boundary. Both drainages traverse the centrally oriented private inholding. The west boundary road of the unit's southwest corner is atop Thomas Creek Ridge, with northeast-oriented drainages originating from the western steep slopes of the Ridge. Elevations range from 4,305 to 5,070 feet (of the Ridge). Vegetation is dominated by sagebrush and native and nonnative range grasses.

Refer to the unit's associated Map 1 and Map 2 for human imprints within the unit. There is 5.6 miles of rangeland fence, 15.1 miles of 7 MPTs, 5 developed springs and one earthen reservoir. A rangeland fence encompasses much of the private inholding, with certain segments of it traversing public land. To the average visitor of the unit, there remains no visual contrast evidence of a 1971 disc-drilled seeding of unknown species. Overall, given the wide distribution and small extent of the few developments within the unit, the unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of humans being substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.

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

Description: The unit is about 6.5 miles long and no greater than 2 miles in width, with the vast majority of width being less than one mile – in part due the central location and configuration of the private inholding. There is virtually no vegetative cover or topographic features sufficient for screening for an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The noise generated by highway traffic of US 95 along much of the unit’s far eastern length is an overpowering adverse outside influence to visitors of the unit. Although there are certain landscape settings where a visitor could experience a sense of being isolated, the combination of the unit’s terrain and vegetation types coupled with its long but narrow configuration that is substantially broken up by the centrally located private land inholding and the outside noises of abutting highway traffic precludes outstanding opportunities for solitude.

4. Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description: There are opportunities for hiking, hunting of common game species (primarily deer and chukar, some antelope), horseback riding, photography, and some sightseeing within the unit. Restriction to the unit’s narrow width of public lands does not provide an outstanding opportunity for an unconfined type of recreation. The activities – individually or collectively -- are limited due to the lack of unique or unusual features to draw visitors to the unit. Hunting is considered good, but not outstanding in quality. Due to the lack of unique or unusual features, the poor to moderate topographic and vegetative screening, and the substantially dissected nature of the unit in its middle, the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

5. Does the unit have supplemental values?Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Description: Two leks of sage grouse, a BLM special status animal species, have been documented.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: OR-034-097 — Wilson Creek

Summary Results of Analysis:

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

Conclusion -- check one:

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

Prepared by: Robert Alward
Robert Alward, Wilderness Planner contractor

Team Members:

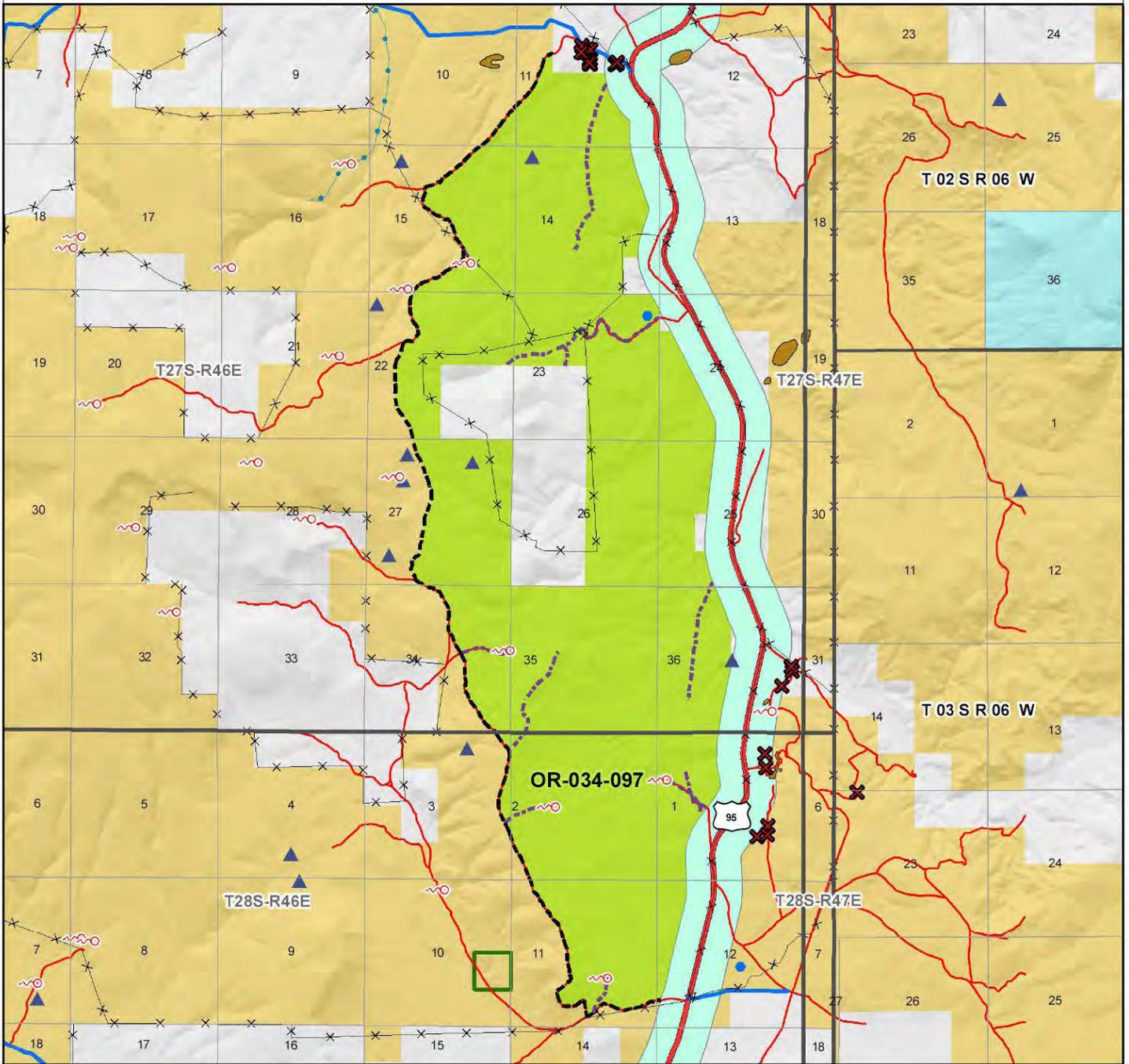
| | |
|---|-----------------|
| <u>Mitch Thomas</u> | <u>2/14/10</u> |
| Mitch Thomas, Rangeland Management Specialist | Date |
| <u>Gillian Wigglesworth</u> | <u>2/5/10</u> |
| Gillian Wigglesworth, Botanist | Date |
| <u>Shaney Rockfeller</u> | <u>3/10/10</u> |
| Shaney Rockfeller, Soil Scientist | Date |
| <u>Dave Draheim</u> | <u>2/10/10</u> |
| Dave Draheim, Outdoor Recreation Planner | Date |
| <u>Michelle Caviness</u> | <u>2/25/10</u> |
| Michelle Caviness, Wildlife Biologist | Date |
| <u>Ejan Ray</u> | <u>02/09/10</u> |
| Ejan Ray, GIS Specialist, contractor | Date |
| <u>Brent Grasty</u> | <u>2/9/10</u> |
| Brent Grasty, GIS Coordinator | Date |

Approved by: Pat Ryan 12/13/10
Pat Ryan, Malheur 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.

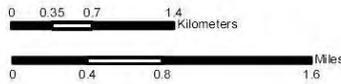
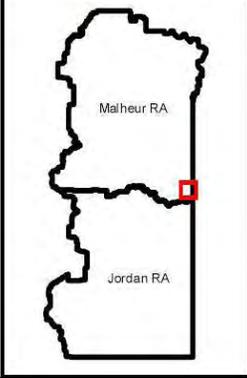
Wilderness Characteristics - Overview

Wilson Creek - OR-034-097 - Map 1 of 2



Legend

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 |
|---|--|



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



VALE DISTRICT
July 14, 2009

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