

Year 2009 Inventory Unit Number/Name: Horse Heaven Hills, OR135-02

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?

No X (Go to Form 2) Yes _____ (if more than one unit is within the area, list the names/numbers of those units.):

a) Inventory Source: _____

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): _____

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): _____

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): _____

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):

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics¹:

Inventory Source: _____

| Unit#/Name | Size (historic acres) | Natural Condition? Y/N | Outstanding Solitude? Y/N | Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N | Supplemental Values? Y/N |
|------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | | | | | |
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FORM 2

Use additional pages as necessary

**DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS INVENTORY
CONDITIONS**

a. Unit Number/Name: Horse Heaven Hills, OR135-02

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes _____ No X

The lands are approximately 6,557 acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District, Border Field Office. The lands are located in Benton County, Washington and are approximately 1 mile south of the community of Benton City. The public lands are adjacent to several small parcels of lands owned by the State of Washington. The remainder of the boundary is private land parcels. There are no private lands in-holdings.

The lands are broken in smaller subunits by the roads and the powerline. This fragmentation results in no subunit being 5,000 acres in size.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS:

The following information is provided for informational purposes only.

The public lands consist of a long, narrow ridgeline running east to west, with the north facing slope being much higher and steep than the southern slope. To the north lies the Yakima River corridor, with Interstate Highway 82, agricultural fields, and residential developments. To the south, east and west lay agricultural fields.

The lands are Columbia Basin grasslands, with scattered low sage. The predominant vegetation is wheat grass and cheat grass.

There are a number of man-made intrusions present, including the following:

Case File OR 6418 W R/W, a Wind Energy Site in T. 9 N., R 26 E., Sections 19, 20, 21.

Road Right of Way (ROW) Case Files OR 3983 W, OR 18316 W, OR 26180 W, a BR ROW OR 5314 W, OR 8110 W, a Road ROW (Weber Canyon Road) and OR 17495 W.

There is a communication site atop the highest point on the ridge, OR 40393 W, an easement to the US in T 9 N., R 26 E., Section 21. This currently has six towers on it.

There is a Land Use Permit, (LUP), Case File OR 37639 in T. 9 N., R 26 E., Section 30.

The lands are managed for their visual resources as Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class II and III. These classes have management objectives to retain the natural landscape character and projects should repeat the basic forms, lines, color, and texture found in the landscape. The Class III lands include the existing power line corridor.

Vehicle use is restricted to designated roads and trails. The area is used as an open space for local hikers, target shooters, and bike and horse riders and is one of the few publicly owned areas in the county. There is no apparent overnight use. The BLM has not issued any commercial, competitive, or organized group events.

There are no known archeological or historical sites of concern.

The lands are grazed under commercial permit issued by BLM under Range Allotment 00540 and 00544, with associated infrastructure consisting of fences.

The entire land parcel has been previously leased for potential oil and gas development, although no development has occurred.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X _____

Description:

The lands are broken in smaller subunits by the roads and the Power line. This fragmentation results in no subunit being 5,000 acres in size.

The target shooting area is apparently the remnant of a gravel extraction site used in the construction of the communication site. The communication site and its facilities are not in a natural condition.

(3) Does the unit (or the remainder of the unit if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description:

Due to its topographical configuration, being narrow and a ridgeline, with no vegetation screening present, most places are readily visible from most other locations within the unit. Any activity occurring in the unit is affected by the sights or sounds of any other individual or group activity elsewhere in the unit.

(4) Does the unit (or the remainder of the unit if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A X

Description:

The BLM has constructed a number of non-motorized trails and small staging sites, which offer primitive recreational opportunities and experiences for sightseeing and exercise.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Description:

No Supplemental values were identified

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: Horse Heaven Hills, OR 135-02

Summary

Results of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes X 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 ___No XNA

4. Does the area have supplemental values? ___Yes XNo ___NA

Conclusion

The area functions primarily as an open space for local residents to recreate in for short time periods. Other activities (the roads and Powerline) have fragmented the area to the extent that there is no one area which is larger than 5,000 acres in size with any other of the wilderness character.

Check One:

___ The area—or a portion of the area—has wilderness character.

X The area does not have wilderness character.

Prepared by:

Team Members:

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Rich Bailey – Archeology

Mike Fallon - GIS

Barb Benner – Botany

Anne Boyd – Archeology

Scott Boyd – Fire

Kely Courtright – Minerals

Jason Lowe – Wildlife

Sandra Mosconi – Safety

Glen Paulson – Range

Chris Shafer – Range

Mike Shanahan – Law Enforcement

Steve Smith – Recreation, Visual, ACEC, Wild and Scenic River, OHV

Tim Finger - Wilderness

Robert Beamer – Forestry

Mike Sweeney – Minerals

Al Gardner - Forestry

Mark Hatchel - Lands

Heidi Honner - Fuels

Alex Kwan - Engineering

Sean McDougall – Weeds

Richard Parrish – Fuels

Scott Pavey – Planning and NEPA

Jerry Magee – OR/WA NLCS Lead

Debbie Plummer – Fire

Approved by:



Field Manager

10/6/11

Date

REFERENCES:

1. Realty References:

Master Title Plats

T. 9 N., R. 25 E.

T. 9 N., R. 26 E.

T. 9 N., R. 27 E.

T. 8 N., R. 27 E.

Realty Case Files:

1181933 D/C OG FPA

OR 26640 W

OR 37639 LUP in T. 9 N., R 26 E., Section 30

OR 6418 W R/W Wind Energy Site in T. 9 N., R 26 E., Sections 19, 20, 21

OR 40393 W, an easement to the US in T 9 N., R 26 E., Section 21

OR 3983 W, a Road ROW

OR 18316 W, a Road ROW

OR 26180 W, a BR ROW

OR 5314 W, a Road ROW

OR 8110 W, a Road ROW (Weber Canyon Road)

OR 17495 W, a Road ROW

2. Recreation/Wilderness Program Reference:

BLM Horse Heaven Hills Recreation Opportunities Site Map

3. Engineering program Reference:

a. BLM Spokane District Route Inventory (FAMS).

b. BLM Spokane District Route Inventory, 2007

4. Range Program Reference:

Range Allotment Files

5. GIS Program reference:

BLM Resource Data-Wildlife, vegetation, fuels, watershed, visual

1. Aerial Photos, FY 2009 Google Earth

6. Mineral Program Reference:

OR 60618 W OG lease

OR 61139 W OG lease

OR 65547 W OG Lease

OR 65548 W, OG lease
OR 12565 W

BLM geographic report for case recordation and mining claim status in LR 2000.

7. Planning and NEPA references:

- a. Southeast Management Plan, 1981
- b. Spokane Resource Management Plan, 1987, amended, 1992

Horse Heaven Hills

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Results

Boundary Feature

- Powerline
- Road

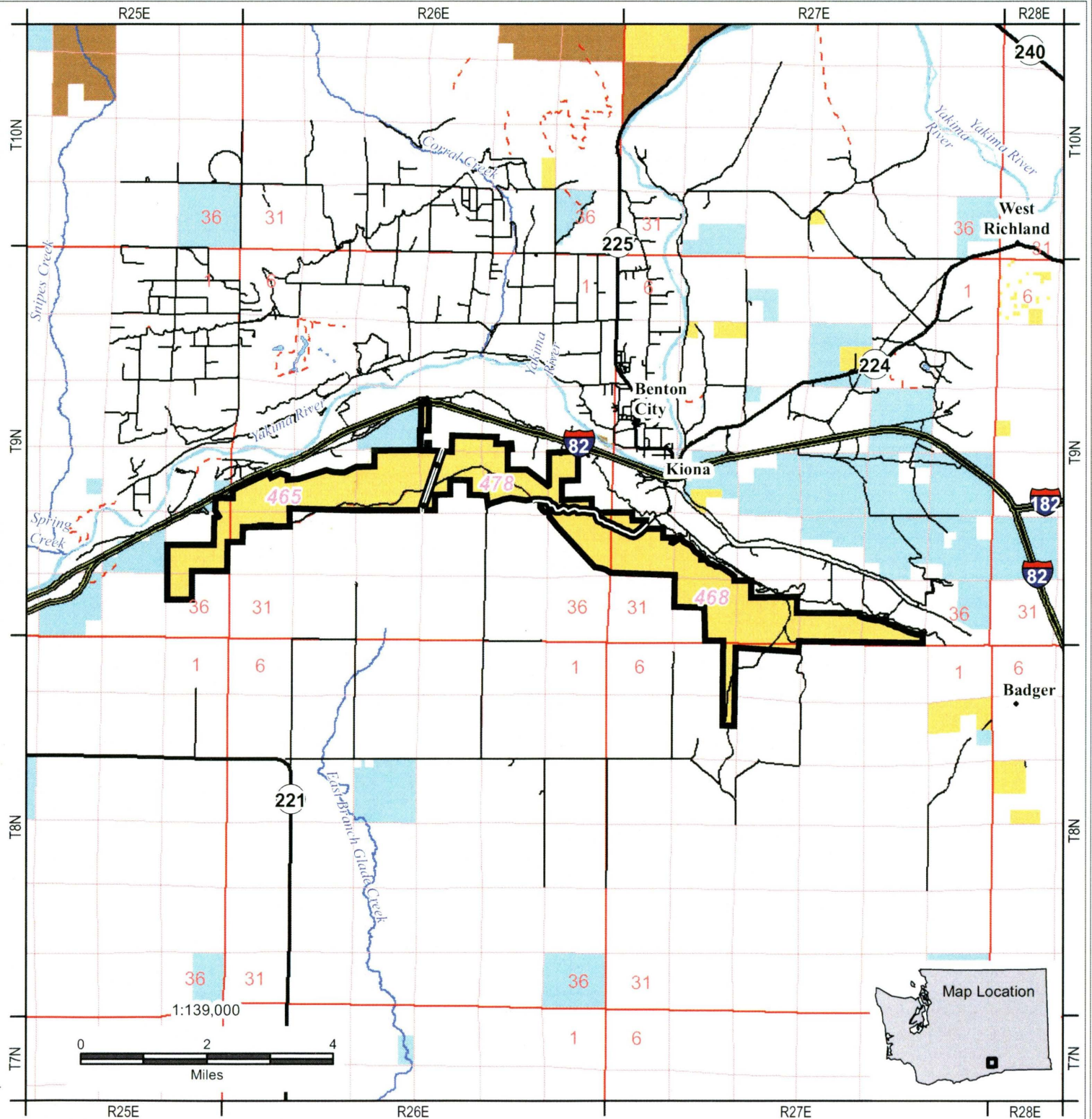
Unit Evaluation

- No - Wilderness Characteristics

Surface Jurisdiction

- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- WA Dept. of Natural Resources
- WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- WA State Parks

| Unique ID | Unit Evaluation | Acres |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 465 | N | 2303 |
| 468 | N | 2931 |
| 478 | N | 1322 |
| Total | | 6556 |



United States Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management
 Spokane District Office
 1103 N. Fancher
 Spokane, WA 99212



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Final - Oct 24, 2011

Horse Heaven Hills

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Results

Utilities

- - - Pipeline
- - Power Transmission

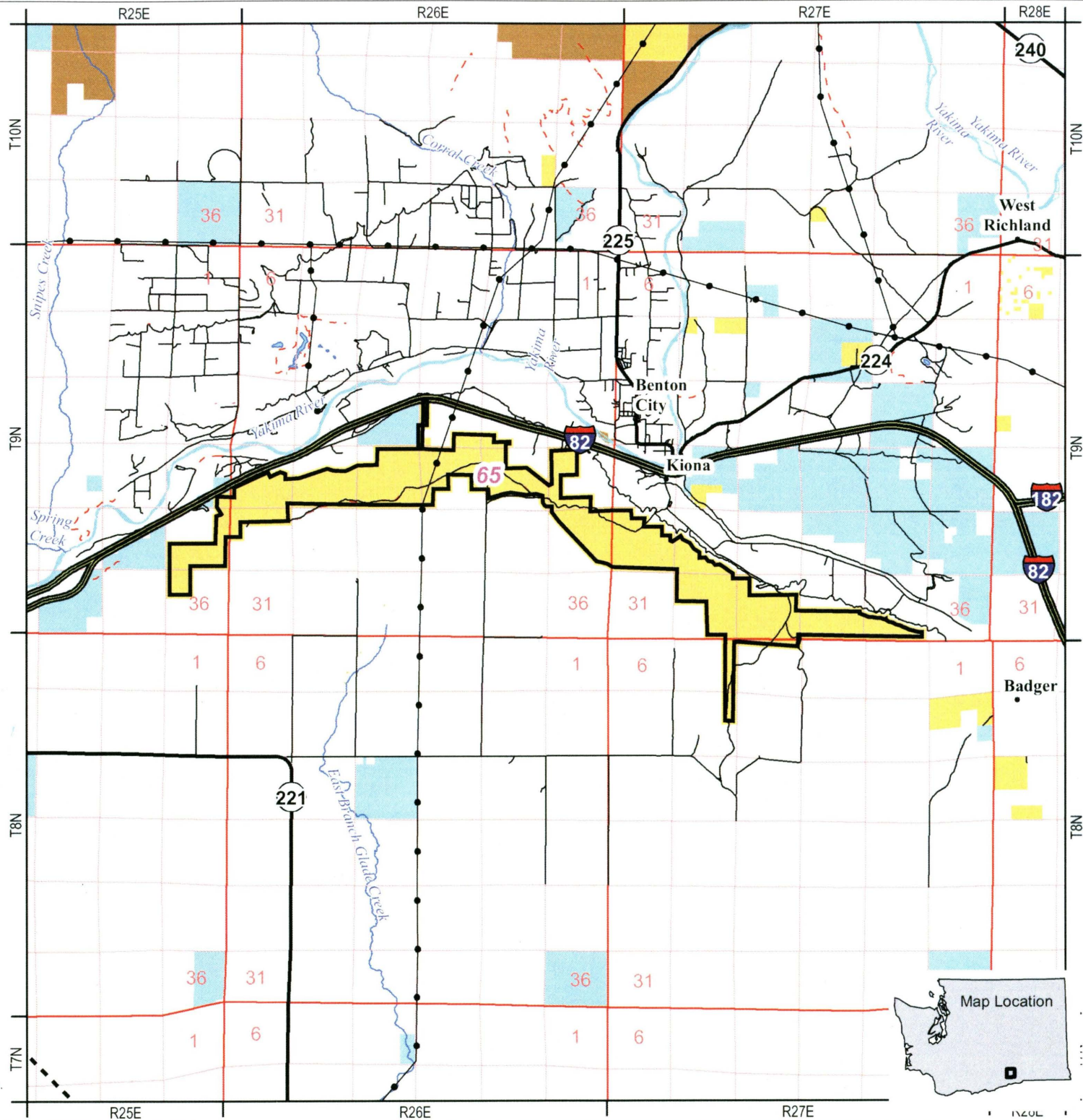
Unit Evaluation

- ▭ No - Wilderness Characteristics

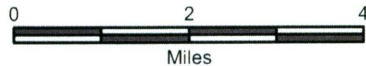
Surface Jurisdiction

- ▭ U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- ▭ WA Dept. of Natural Resources
- ▭ WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- ▭ WA State Parks

| Unique ID | Evaluation | Acres |
|--------------|------------|--------------|
| 65 | N | 6557 |
| Total | | 6,557 |



1:139,000



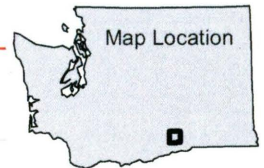
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Final - Sep 29, 2011



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.

**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 Area Name and Number (UNIT_ID): Horse Heaven Hills
OR 135-02

Route Name and/or Identifier: McBee Grade Road

(Include Transportation Plan Identifier, if known, include route number supplied by citizen information when available)

- I. LOCATION:** refer to attached Field map, BLM Minerals Management Status Map, 1/100,000 Scale and BLM corporate data (GIS). List photo point references (where applicable): T 9 N., R. 27 E., Section 30 to T 9 N., R. 26 E., Section 23; see photo #4

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 is a graded, graveled, well-maintained county road used by the general public for local residential access, recreational access, and by utility company to communication towers, as well as by BLM for administrative access.

III. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY:

Is a road right-of-way associated with this route? Yes No Unknown

- IV. CONSTRUCTION** (Is there evidence that the route was originally constructed using mechanical means?)

Yes No _____

Examples:

Paved _____ Bladed Graveled Roadside Berms

Cut/Fill Other _____

Describe: _____

V. IMPROVEMENTS (Is there evidence of improvements to facilitate access?)

Yes No _____

By Hand Tools _____ By Machine

Examples:

Culverts Stream Crossings _____ Bridges _____ Drainage

_____ Barriers _____ Other _____

Describe: Road is regularly maintained_____

VI. MAINTENANCE (Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure continued use?):

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

Yes No _____

Hand Tools (Y/N) N Machine (Y/N) N

Explain: graveled, cleaned culverts, signing_____

B. If the route is in passable condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable?

Yes No _____

Comments: _____

VII. REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS USE:

Yes No _____

Highly traveled public access, maintained route.

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

Explanation:

Evaluator(s): Smith Date: 7/30/09

* **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.

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

APPENDIX D – PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s): Finger/Smith

Inventory Area Name & No.: Horse Heaven Hills OR 135-02

| Date | Frame # | Camera Direction | Description | GPS/UTM Location | Township | Range | Sec. |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| 7/30/09 | 1 | south | Shooting site in old gravel area | | T 9 N. | R 26 E | 23 |
| 7/30/09 | 2 | west | Communication site, Powerline, Road | | T 9 N | R 26 E | 22 |
| 7/30/09 | 3 | northwest | Closed vehicle route | | T 9 N | R 27 E | 29 |
| 10/11/11 | 4 | southwest | Vehicle Road | | T 9 N | R 27 E | 30 |
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7/3/2007









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

HORSE HEAVEN HILLS

Border Resource Area

Spokane District

NO DUMPING
ALLOWED

Horse Heaven Hills

Recreation Opportunities:



Hiking



Watchable Wildflowers



Horseback Riding

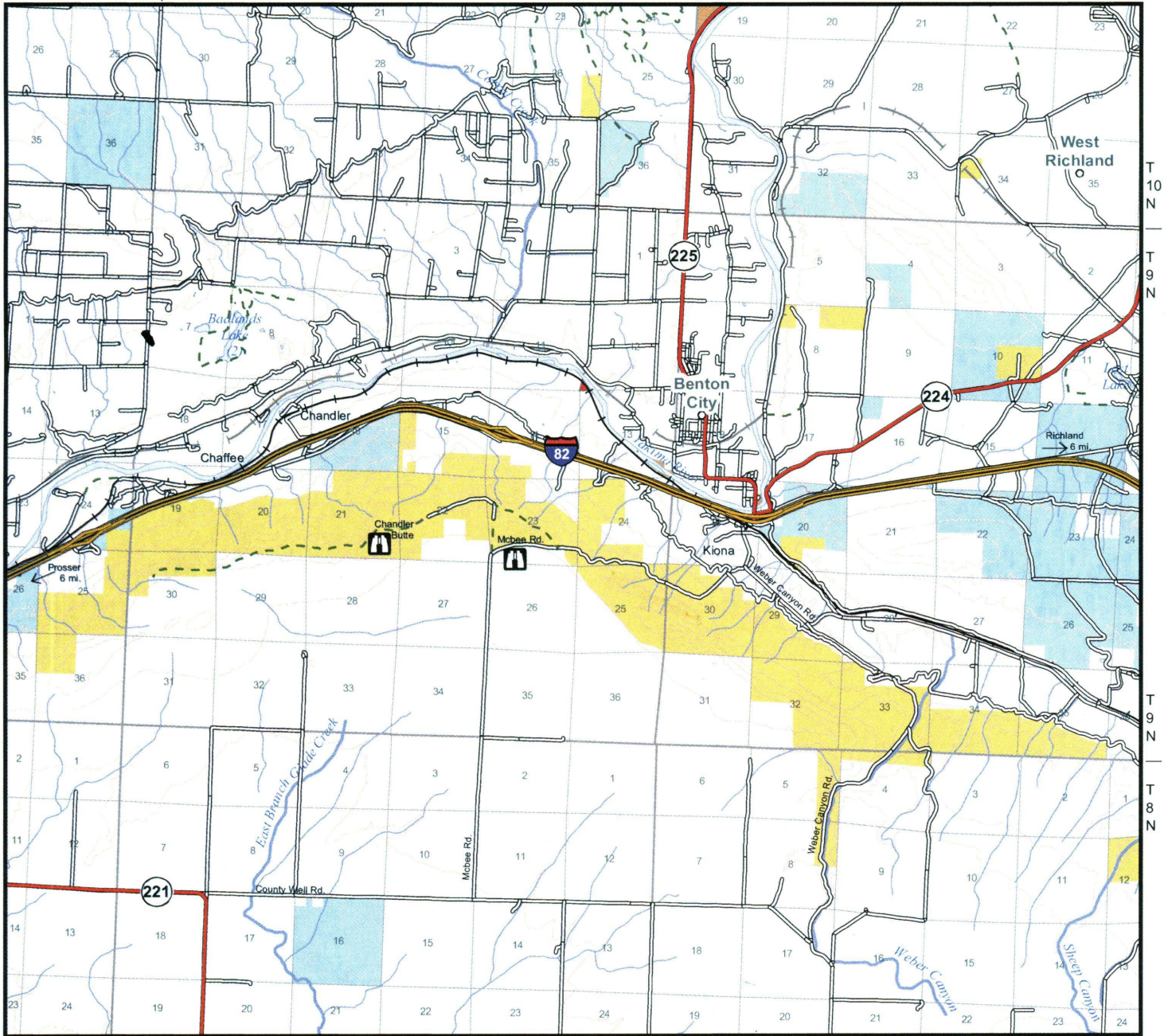


Dispersed Camping



R25E | R26E

R26E | R27E



U.S. Dept. of the Interior -- Bureau of Land Management

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mwright, 11/2006

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LEGEND

- BLM Administered Lands
- WA Dept. of Natural Resources
- WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- Private Land
- County Boundary
- 100 foot Contour Intervals
- Area of Critical Environmental Concern
- Highway
- Improved Road
- Trail
- Railroad



It is unlawful to trespass on private lands. State hunting and fishing regulations apply to private lands. Landowners are not required to post or fence their lands. Check with private landowners before entering their property.