

MEMO

December 16, 2022

To: Thomas Patrick "Pat" Ryan, Malheur Field Office, Vale District *PR 12/30/22*
From: Kari Points, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Malheur Field Office, Vale District
Subject: West Fork Bendire Wilderness Characteristics Inventory unit (OR-034-007).

This memo serves as amended documentation regarding Vale District's wilderness characteristics inventory maintenance findings. This memo updates the acreage of land that possesses wilderness characteristics in the West fork Bendire Wilderness Characteristics Inventory unit (OR-034-007). Approximately six acres of the 10,519-acre unit are being removed. The six acres is located at T.18 S., R.37 E., Sec.35 SW1/4NE1/4 and NW1/4SE1/4. It is approximately one mile north of Beulah Reservoir and adjacent to private property (see map). The six acres are being removed from unit OR-034-007 because the area contains substantially noticeable human-caused imprints. The substantially noticeable human-caused imprints were present at the time of the 2012 wilderness characteristics inventory maintenance, however, the wilderness characteristics inventory team assumed that the existing human-caused imprints were on private property, and not within the unit. In 2019, the BLM conducted a cadastral survey, and it found that the substantially noticeable human-caused imprints were on public land managed by the BLM (within unit OR-034-007), and not on private property as the 2012 wilderness characteristics inventory team had thought. For lands to meet wilderness criteria the area must appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, and any work of human beings must be substantially unnoticeable. As noted above, the six acres does not meet this criterion, thus is being removed from the unit. The amended size West Fork Bendire wilderness Characteristics unit (OR-034-007) is 10,513 acres.