



United States Department of the Interior

8500

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Idaho Falls District
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

November 20, 1980

Dear Reader:

On November 14, 1980, Robert Buffington, BLM State Director, announced a wilderness inventory decision for the public lands in Idaho. The decision is explained in a report about the statewide inventory. I am enclosing the Idaho Falls District portion of this report and a State map for your information and use.

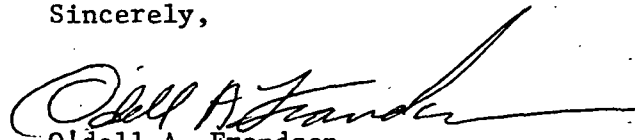
The inventory, the first of three steps in the wilderness review, simply identifies roadless areas for study that meet the definition of wilderness. This year we will begin the second step or study phase. In this phase, we will use the BLM's land use planning system to decide if an area is best suited for wilderness or should be managed for other multiple uses. We will examine all resource values, uses and economic needs, and compare them with wilderness. In the third step, we will report our study decisions to the President and Congress. Congress will then decide which areas will become wilderness.

Until Congress makes decisions for these areas, they have instructed us to manage them so they remain suitable for wilderness. The BLM's *Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review* states what can and cannot take place in wilderness study areas. If you want a copy, ask at any BLM office. We will keep you informed of the status of the study areas. If you have questions about how they are being managed, please contact us. We want to know your concerns.

We will develop a wilderness study schedule in the near future. Mailings and media announcements will let you know when and how to most effectively participate in the studies.

I extend my thanks to each of you who have helped with the wilderness inventory and look forward to your continued interest.

Sincerely,


O'dell A. Frandsen
District Manager

Enclosures:

Idaho Intensive Wilderness Inventory - Final Decision and Map



United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER TO

8500 (932)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Idaho State Office
Federal Building
550 W. Fort Street
Box 042
Boise, Idaho 83724

November 13, 1980

I am pleased to announce that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has completed the inventory phase of the wilderness review of the public lands in Idaho. The release of this report marks the completion of the intensive inventory.

During the intensive wilderness inventory, inventory units containing over 1,938,000 acres of roadless public lands in Idaho were examined in detail to determine the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics. As a result of the intensive inventory field work and evaluation of public comments, I have determined that 36 inventory units totaling 818,206 acres do contain wilderness characteristics, and that 74 inventory units and 1,120,049 acres do not.

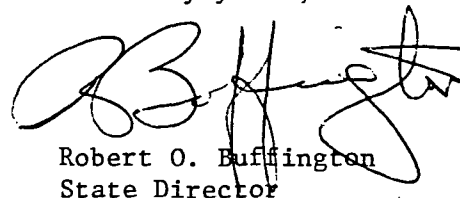
I have been pleased with the public interest in the wilderness inventory. We received over 3,200 responses from individuals and a wide variety of organizations. The information provided on wilderness characteristics of these areas, especially the presence or absence of naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, was of great help in formulating my final decision.

After analyzing and evaluating the comments received, I have formulated this final decision on which areas do or do not contain wilderness characteristics. Those which do are identified as Wilderness Study Areas to be studied through the BLM planning system with a recommendation reported to Congress as to whether or not they are suitable for designation as Wilderness Areas.

Also included in this report is my final decision on the protests to the accelerated wilderness inventory decision in the Owyhee Planning Area.

I extend my sincere appreciation to those individuals and organizations who have participated in this endeavor and request your continued help.

Sincerely yours,

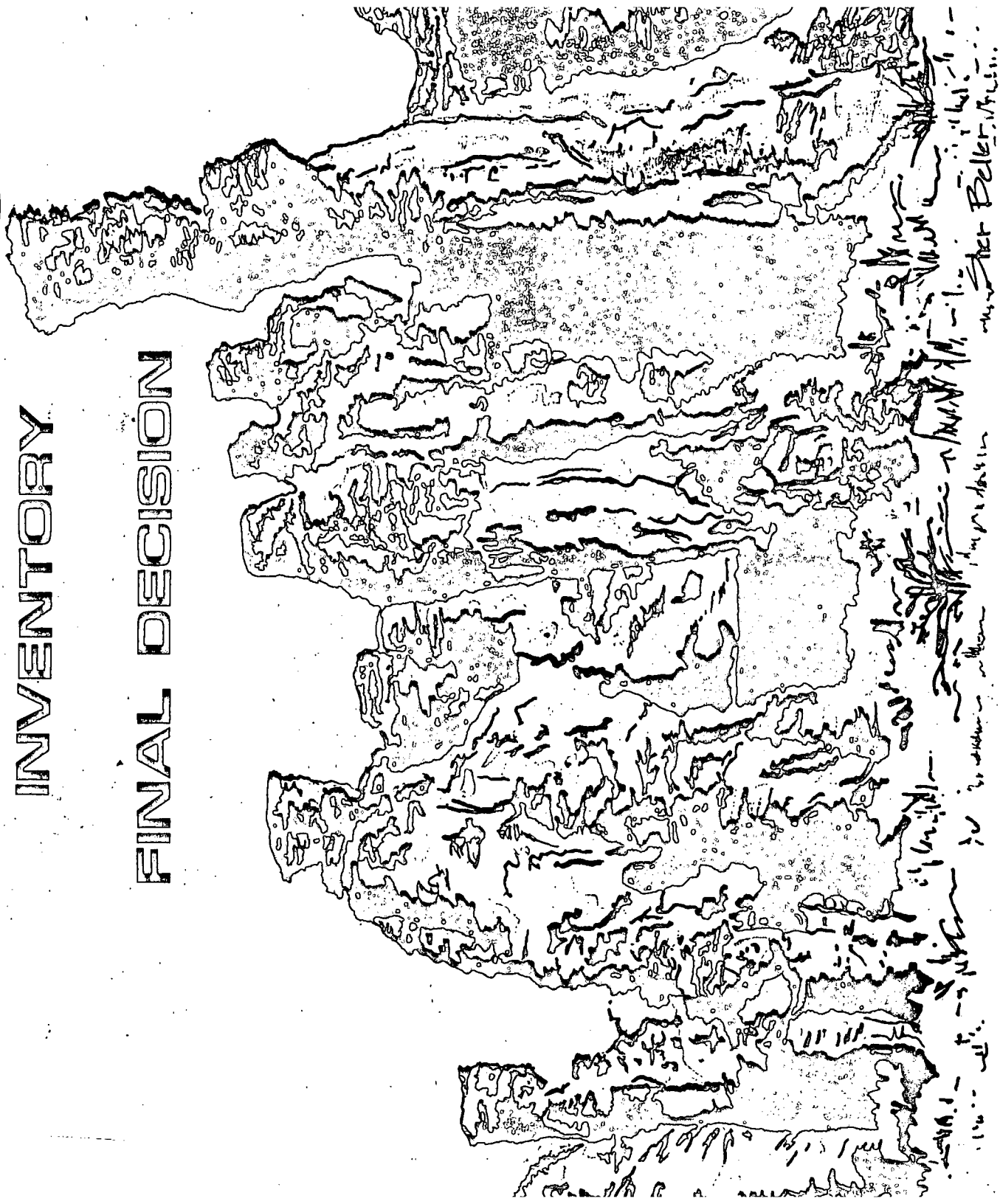


Robert O. Buffington
State Director

IDAHO

INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY

FINAL DECISION



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
IDAHO STATE OFFICE
NOVEMBER 1980

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Salmon District	
Shoshone District	
Coeur d'Alene District	

SUMMARY
IDAHO BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY
 THROUGH NOVEMBER 14, 1980

<u>Total Acres Inventories</u>	11,949,386
Acres Dropped During Initial Inventory Phase	8,289,215
Acres Considered Under Intensive Inventory Phase	3,660,171
<u>Intensive Inventory Decision</u>	
<u>Previous Decisions</u>	
Acres Dropped	695,775
Acres Identified as Wilderness Study Areas	773,999
<u>Current Decisions</u>	
Acres Dropped	1,120,049
Acres Identified as Wilderness Study Areas	818,206
Acres - Decision Deferred due to Appeals	252,414

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

Inventory Name	Wilderness Study Areas		Units Under Appeal	
	Units	Acres	Units	Acres
Sun Valley	2	14,158		
Black Butte	1	4,002		
Donkey Hills	1	3,290		
Ag ES	1	23,815		
Challis	4	117,073	4	117,073
Owyhee	10	236,101		<u>1/</u>
Overthrust	5	1,160		
Great Rift	<u>1</u>	<u>374,400</u>		
TOTAL	25	773,999		

1/ The Owyhee protest decision is announced as part of this report and is now subject to appeal.

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

IDENTIFIED THROUGH ACCELERATED INVENTORIES

<u>INVENTORY NUMBER</u>	<u>UNIT NAME</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>
<u>Boise District</u>		
16-40	North Fork Owyhee River	55,147
16-41	Horsehead Spring	6,211
16-42	Squaw Creek Canyon	11,379
16-44	Deep Creek - Nickel Creek	11,510
16-45	Middle Fork Owyhee River	13,336
16-47	West Fork Red Canyon	12,882
16-49a	Deep Creek - Owyhee River	72,083
16-49d	Yatahoney Creek	9,331
16-49e	Battle Creek	31,540
16-52	Upper Owyhee River	12,682
19-2	King Hill Creek <u>1/</u>	23,815
<u>Idaho Falls District</u>		
33-1	Great Rift <u>1/ 2/</u>	374,400
34-2	Table Rock Islands <u>3/</u>	380
34-3	Pine Creek Islands <u>3/</u>	155
34-4	Conant Valley Islands <u>3/</u>	235
35-77	Henry's Lake <u>4/</u>	350
37-77	Worm Creek <u>4/</u>	40
<u>Salmon District</u>		
45-1	Goldburg <u>4/</u>	3,290
46-11	Corral Horse Basin	51,500
46-13	Boulder Creek <u>4/</u>	2,573
46-14	Jerry Peak	48,000
46-14a	Jerry Peak West	15,000
<u>Shoshone District</u>		
53-4	Little Wood River <u>4/</u>	4,385
53-5	Friedman Creek	9,773
54-2	Black Butte	4,002

1/ A portion of this unit is in the Shoshone District.

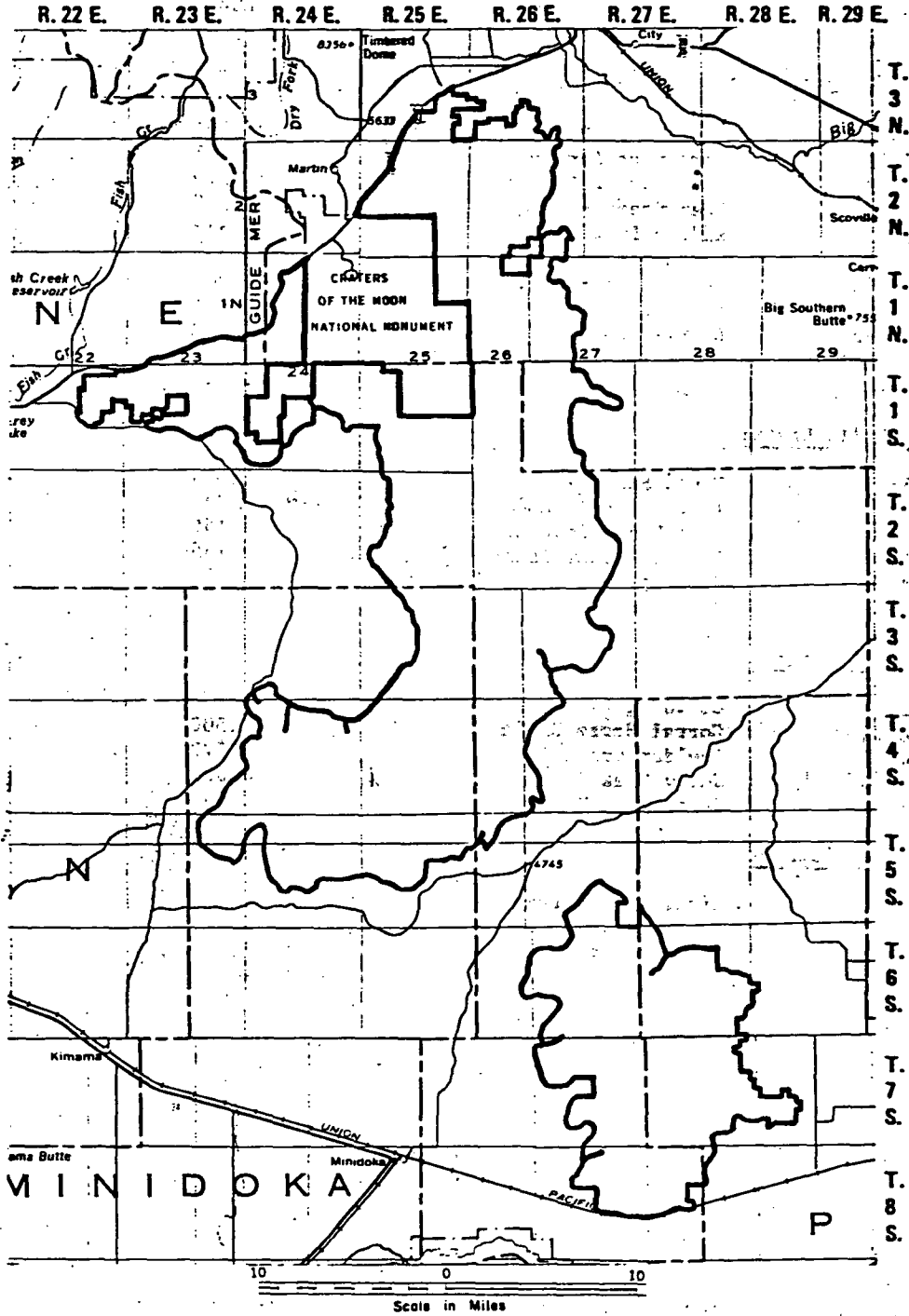
2/ Instant Study Area.

3/ These units were previously combined as one unit.



4/ Unit dependent upon a contiguous Rare II area to meet the criteria.

NOTE: WSA maps follow this page except for the Owyhee Area, where maps appear later in the report.

33-1
GREAT RIFT

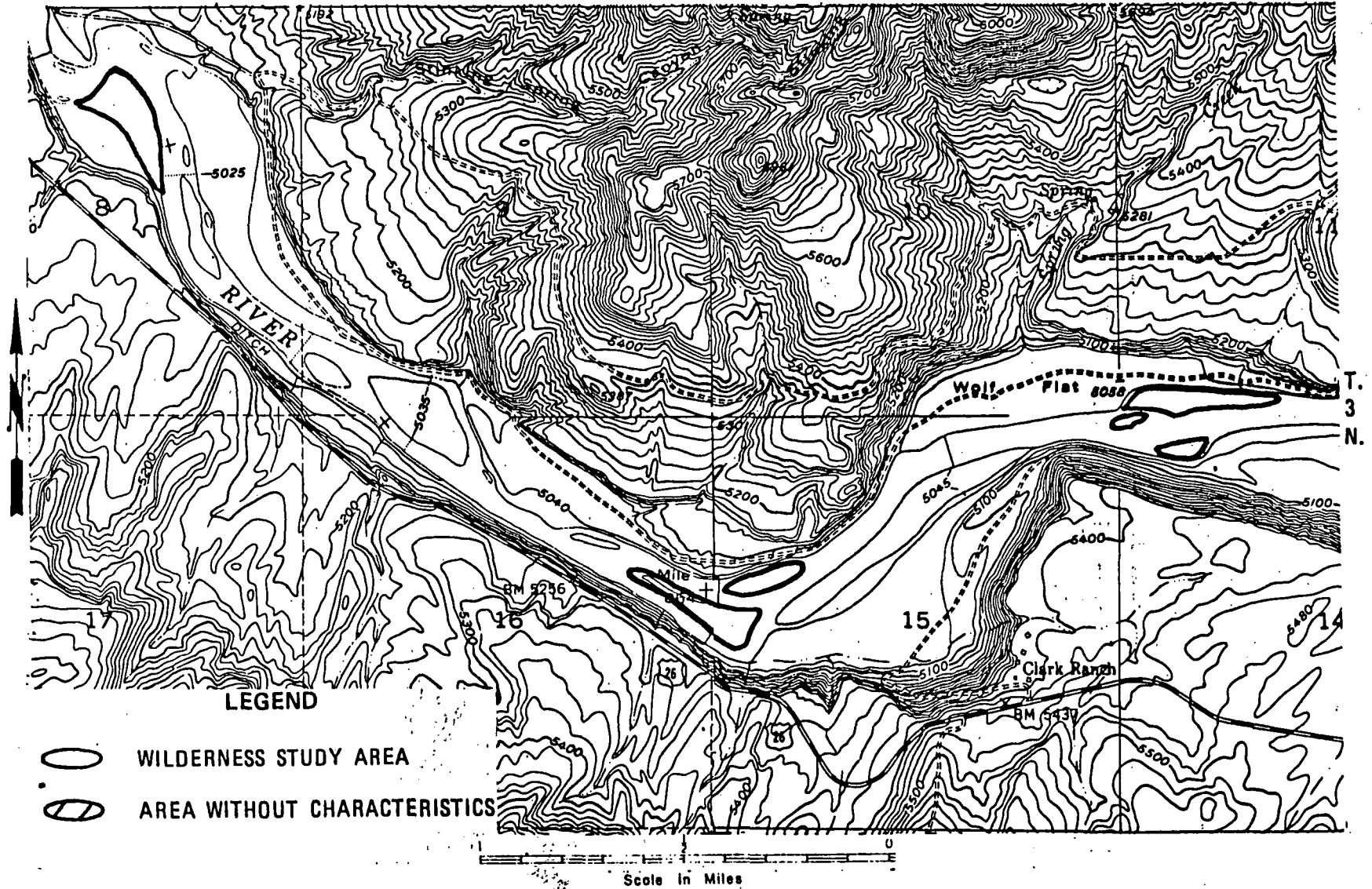


LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

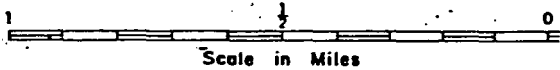
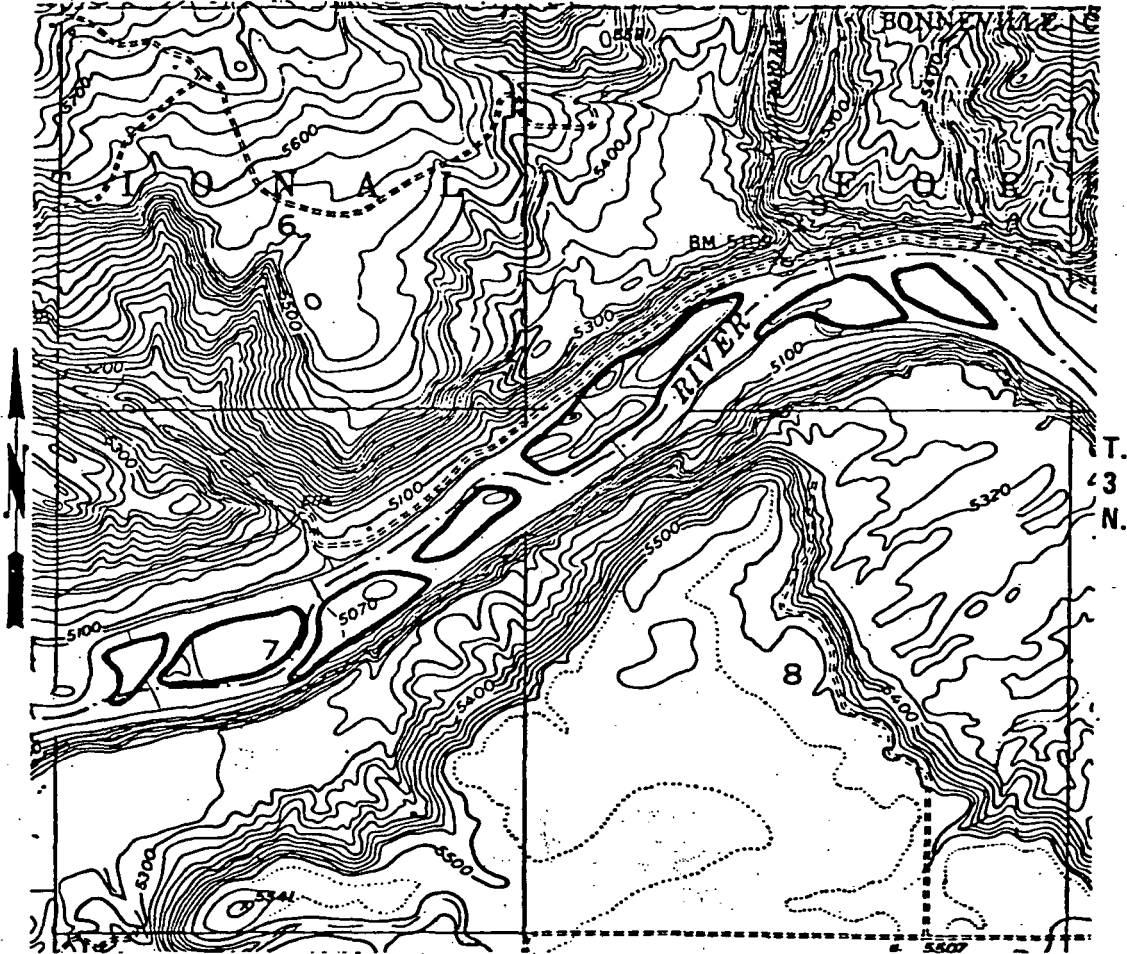
34-2
TABLE ROCK ISLANDS

R. 41 E.





34-2
TABLE ROCK ISLANDS

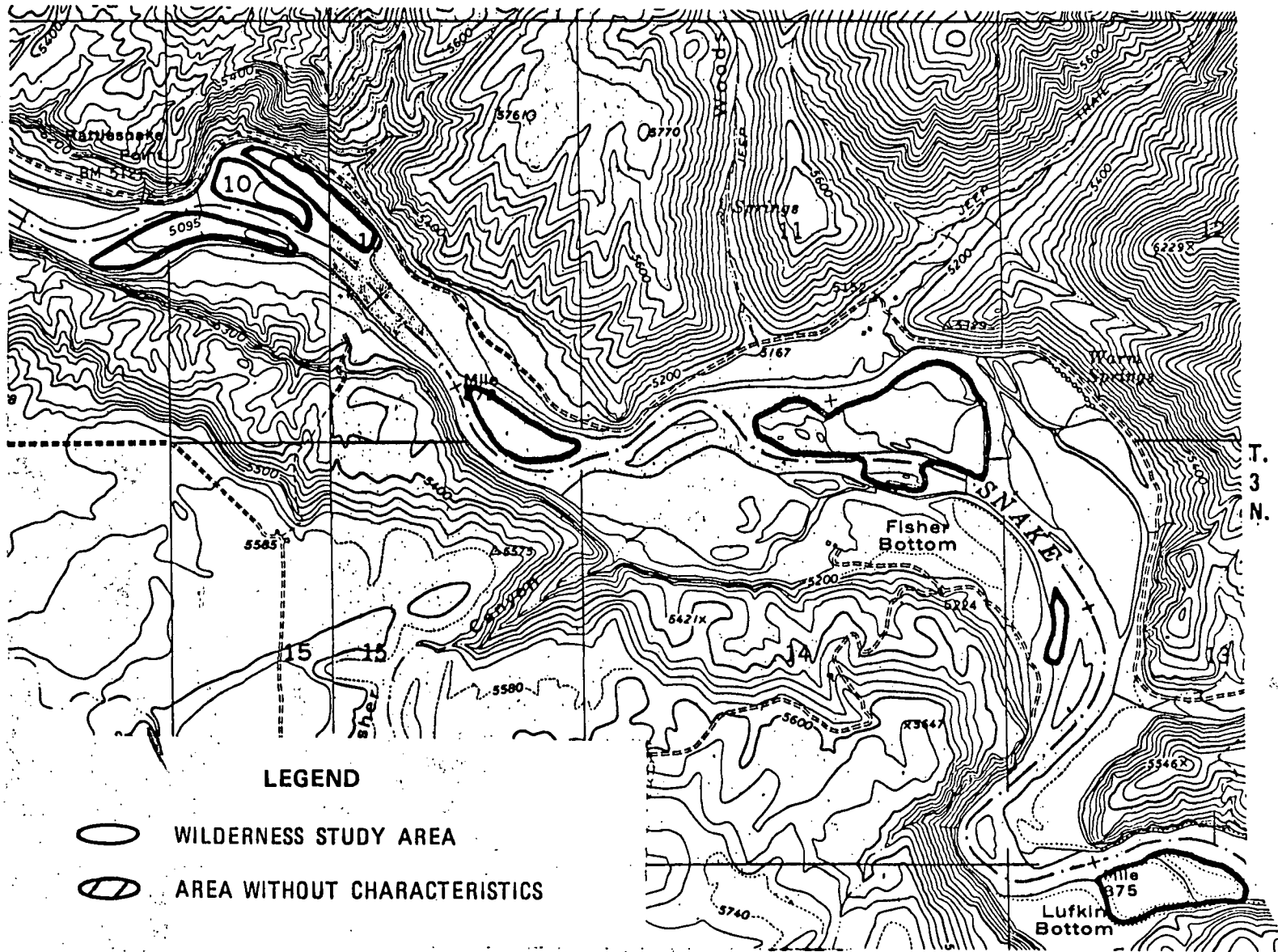
R. 42 E.





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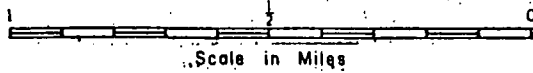
-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

34-2
TABLE ROCK ISLANDS
R. 42 E.



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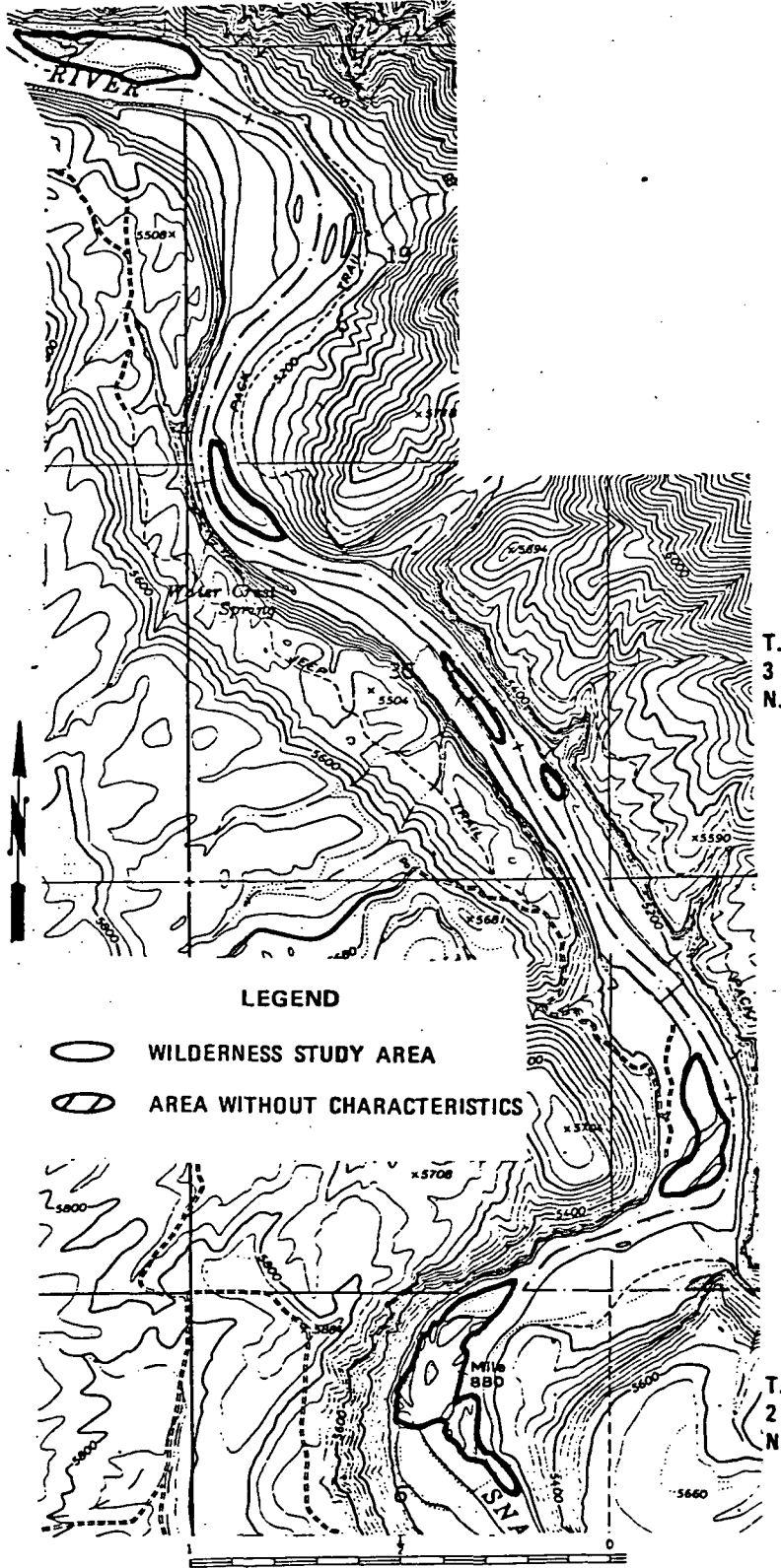
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-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



34-3
PINE CREEK ISLANDS

R. 42 E.

R. 43 E.



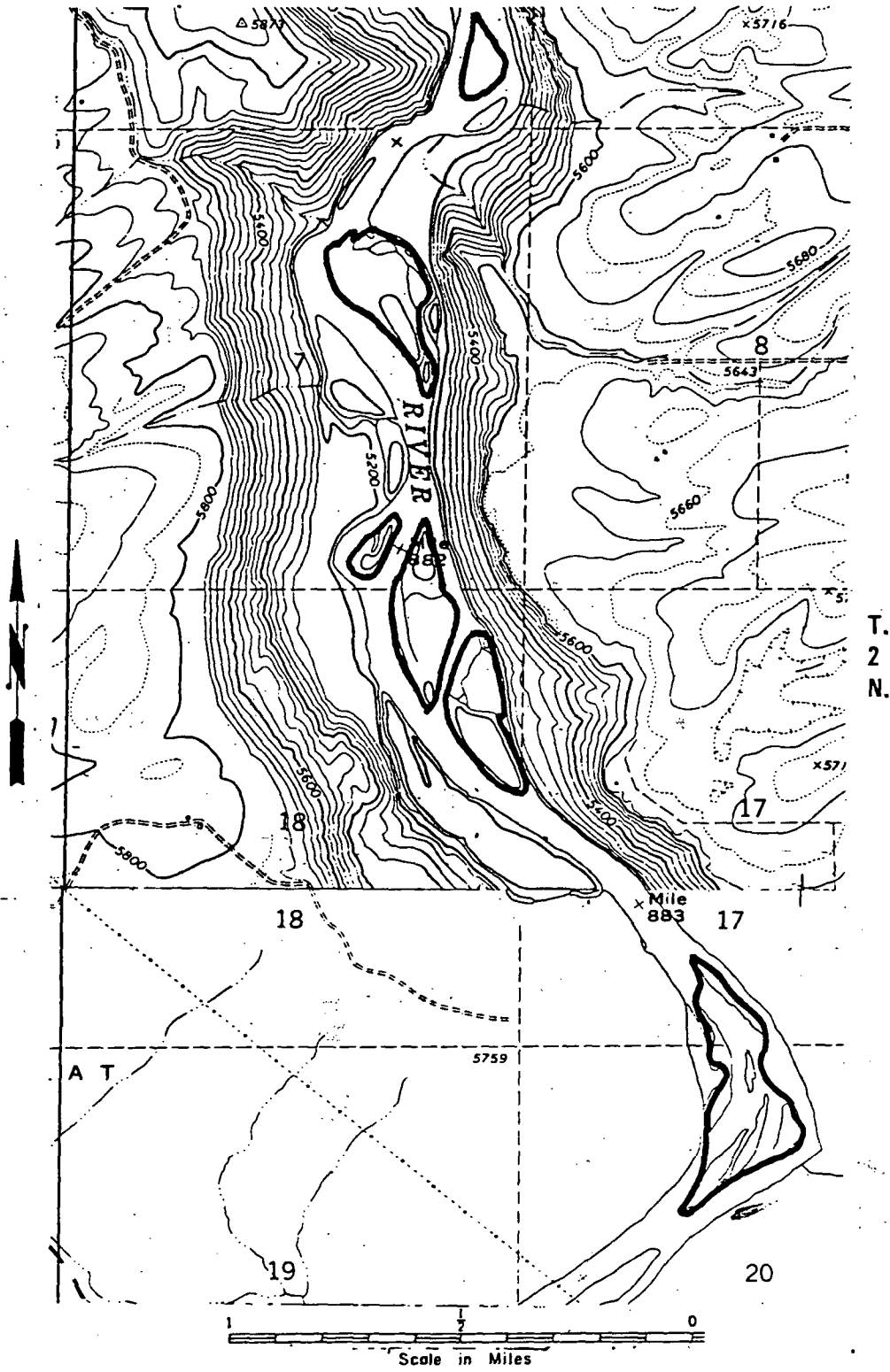
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- WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
- ▨ AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



Scale in Miles

34-3
PINE CREEK ISLANDS

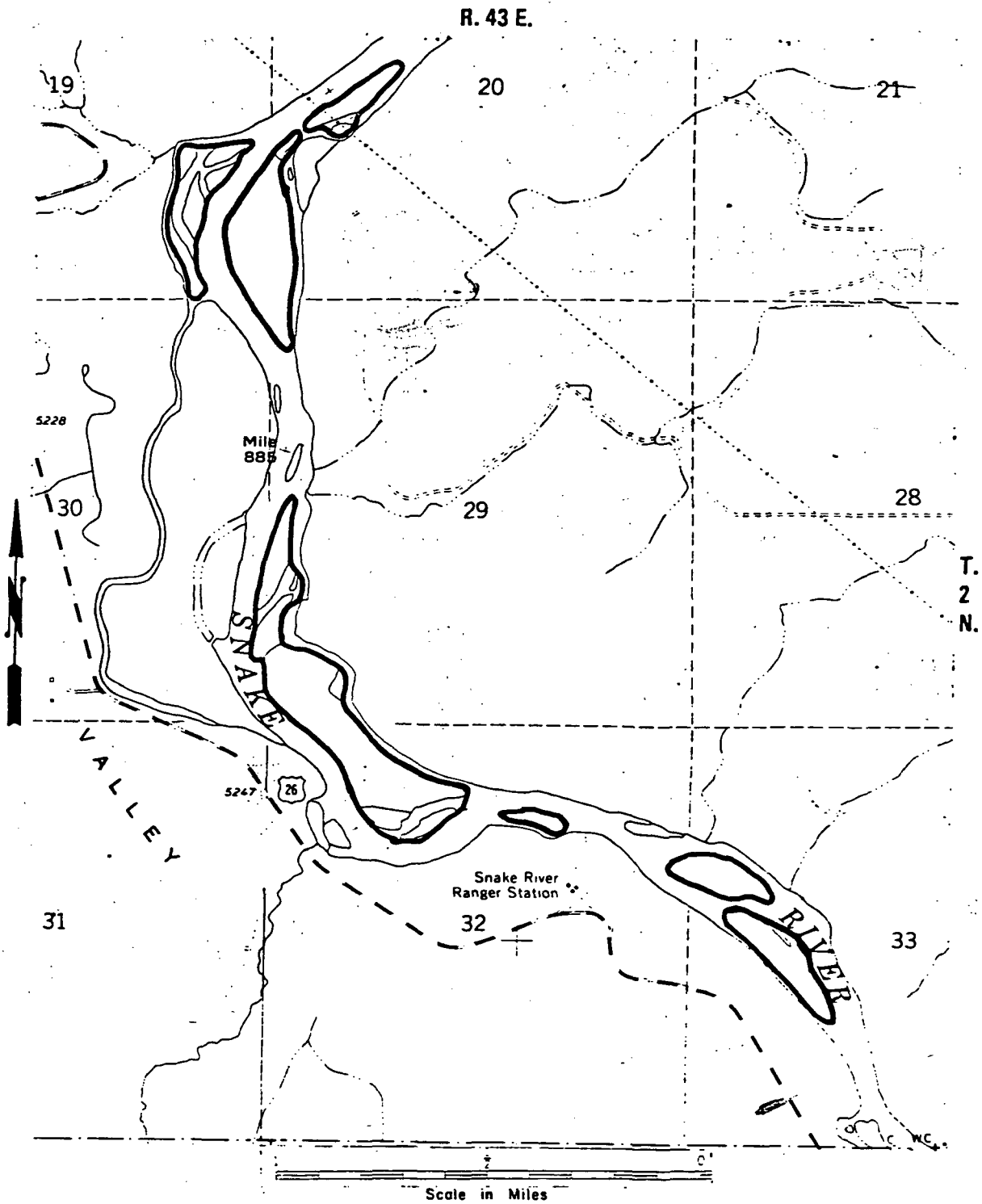
R. 43 E.





LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

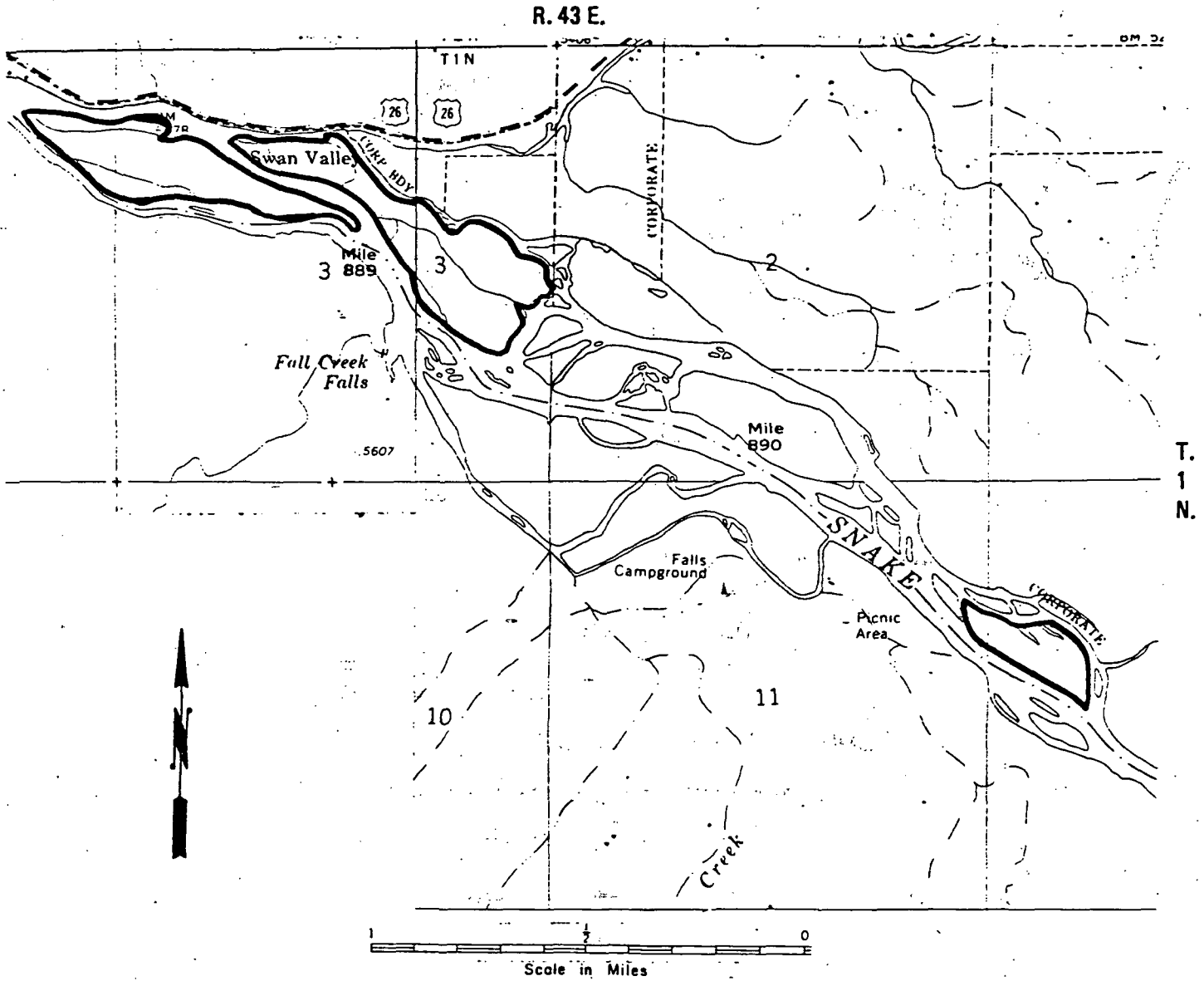
34-4
CONANT VALLEY ISLANDS





LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

34-4
CONANT VALLEY ISLANDS

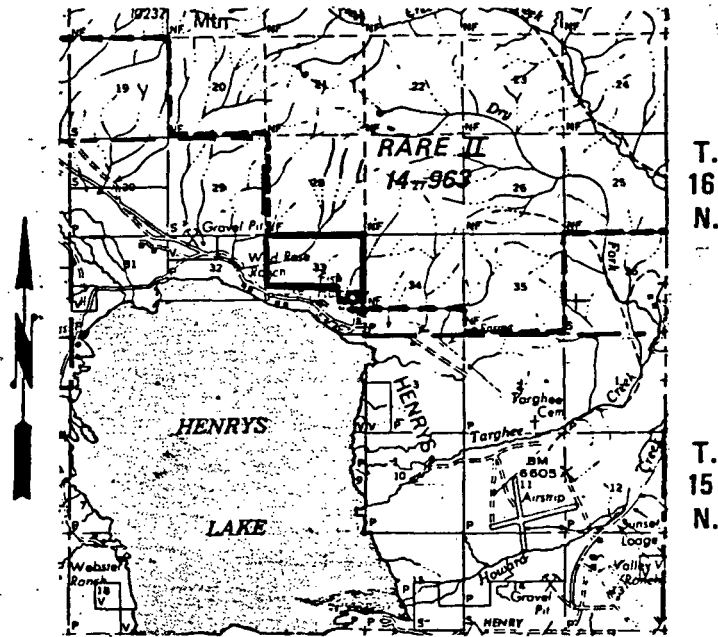


LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

35-77
HENRY'S LAKE



R. 43 E.

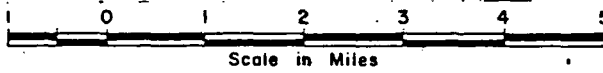


T.
16
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T.
15
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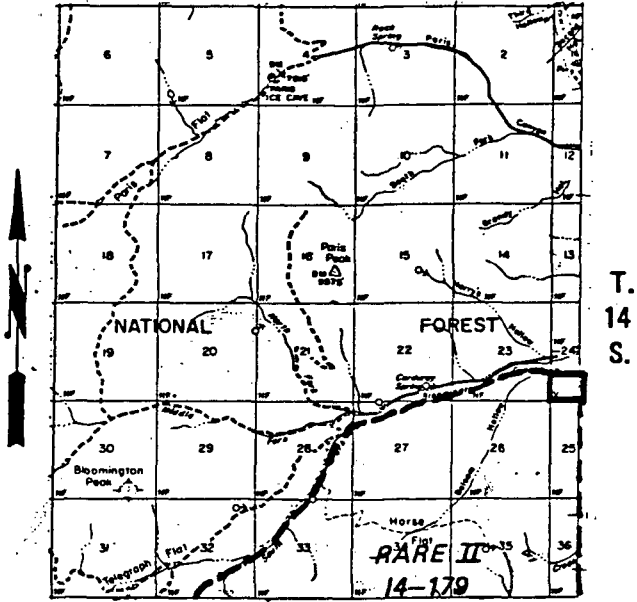
LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS





37-77
WORM CREEK

R. 42 E.



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



SUMMARY

IDAHO INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY

FINAL DECISION

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>IDENTIFIED AS WSA</u>		<u>NOT IDENTIFIED AS WSA</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>	
	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>ACRES</u>
Boise	8	335,350	23	467,894	31	803,244
Burley	1	11,298	6	59,144	7	70,442
Idaho Falls	6	157,630	18	227,027	24	384,657
Salmon	3	53,002	7	86,499	10	139,501
Shoshone	12	222,458	16	264,501	28	486,959
Coeur d'Alene	6	38,468	4	14,984	10	53,452
TOTAL	36	818,206	74	1,120,049	110	1,938,255

INTENSIVE INVENTORY FINAL DECISIONS

		Acres Identified as WSA	Acres Not Identified as WSA	Page
Idaho Falls District				
31-10	Illinois		11,150	3-2
31-11	Deadman Canyon		23,000	3-4
31-13	Timbered Dome		10,240	3-6
31-14	Appendicitis Hill	24,870	630	3-50
31-15	Dry Hollow		17,800	3-8
31-17	White Knob Mountains	9,950		3-53
32-2	Sands Canyon		8,010	3-11
32-3	Hawley Mountain	15,510	640	3-56
32-4	Taylor Mountain		11,134	3-14
32-9	Black Canyon	5,400		3-59
32-16	Pass Creek		1,220	3-17
33-4	Cedar Butte	35,700	3,120	3-62
33-5	Skull		8,650	3-19
33-6	Rye Grass		8,000	3-22
33-7	Cottontail		9,300	3-25
33-12	Split Top		18,080	3-28
33-13	Bear Point		20,650	3-31
33-14	Mosby Butte		35,720	3-34
33-15	Hell's Half Acre	66,200	2,720	3-65
33-16	Morgan		9,420	3-37
33-22	Cox's Place		12,790	3-40
33-23	Bear Trap		13,860	3-42
33-24	Firth Quad Islands		86	3-45
33-25	Moreland Quad Islands		807	3-47

Idaho Falls District Total 157,630 227,027

INTRODUCTION

Contained within this report are the Bureau of Land Management's final decisions on those BLM-administered lands in Idaho which qualify as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) and those which do not. Note that BLM is not at this time recommending that these areas should or should not be designated wilderness by Congress. BLM has determined that some inventory units contain wilderness characteristics as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964 and that some do not. The areas that meet these characteristics are identified as WSA's and will be studied to determine whether or not they are suitable for wilderness. These studies will take place at a later date. Every WSA will be reviewed and acted upon by Congress after the studies are complete, whether the BLM deems them suitable for designation as wilderness or not.

These decisions are the result of intensive inventory field work conducted during the summer and fall, 1979. Procedures for evaluating wilderness criteria are noted in the BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook, September 1978, and in Organic Act Directive 78-61, including changes 1, 2, and 3, and Instruction Memo No. 80-236.

The narratives included here are summaries of more detailed intensive inventory reports available in the BLM Idaho district offices. These summaries present a brief, overall picture of Idaho's intensive inventory decisions. For more detailed, site specific information, refer to the district files. More detailed maps and photographs are also contained in these files.

This report was prepared following a 90-day period for public comment on the intensive inventory, which ran from April 4, 1980, to July 3, 1980. Comments received by the offices of the BLM after July 3, 1980, were also utilized in the State Director's final decision, as the decision announcement date was extended from September to November 14, 1980.

I. BACKGROUND

A. Overview of BLM's Wilderness Review Process

The BLM's wilderness review process will be completed in three phases: Inventory, Study, and Reporting.

Phase I - Inventory: The inventory phase has two parts, initial and intensive. Its overall purpose is to identify those public lands having wilderness characteristics as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Initial Inventory - In this stage, public lands administered by the BLM which clearly and obviously did not have wilderness characteristics were identified. Existing information, such as maps and aerial photos, along with input received from the public, were utilized to make this decision. Three criteria had to be met for an area to be recommended for intensive inventory. Each area must be: (1) at least 5,000 acres in size or contiguous to a proposed or existing wilderness area, (2) roadless, and (3) substantially free of man's imprints.

The proposed initial inventory decision was released by the Idaho State Director March 15, 1979. A 90-day public comment period followed, ending June 15, 1979. The final decision was released August 10, 1979.

Intensive Inventory - In this stage, as reflected in this report, field surveys were conducted. Each area was examined to determine the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics listed in the Wilderness Act: size, naturalness, the presence of outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation, and the presence of supplemental values. For an area to qualify as a Wilderness Study Area, it must meet the size criteria, must be substantially natural and have either outstanding opportunities for solitude or outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Inventory units totalling 1,938,255 acres of BLM land that were intensively inventoried, are discussed in this report.

Field work for the intensive inventory was conducted during the summer and fall, 1979. The public comment period for this decision ran from April 4, 1980, and ended July 3, 1980. The final decision on which areas are Wilderness Study Areas, originally scheduled for release in September, is contained in this report. A 30-day protest period is now initiated.

Protest and Appeal Procedures

The final intensive inventory decision for each inventory unit is considered individually and separately from the decision for every other inventory unit. These decisions will become effective on December 15, 1980, unless timely protests are received by the Idaho State Director of the BLM.

Persons wishing to protest any of the decisions announced herein must file a written protest with BLM Idaho State Director, Box 042, Federal Building, 550 W. Fort Street, Boise, Idaho 83724, on or before 4:15 PM, December 15, 1980. Only those protests received by the Idaho State Director by the time and date specified will be accepted.

The protest must specify the inventory unit(s) to which it is directed. It must include a clear and concise statement of the reasons for the protest, as well as data to support the reasons stated.

At the conclusion of the protest period, the State Director will publish in the Federal Register a notice of those decisions that were not protested and therefore have become final, and those decisions which are under formal protest. The notice will identify those inventory units under protest and will announce that the decision on the units will not become final pending a decision on the protest and any resulting appeal.

The State Director will issue a written decision on any protest which is filed according to the above requirements and will publish a notice in the Federal Register of the action taken in response to the protest.

Any person adversely affected by the State Director's decision on a written protest, may appeal such decision under the provisions of 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 4.

Phase II - Study: The study phase of the wilderness review will be completed as a part of the regional comprehensive land-use plans. During each planning effort, the public will have several opportunities to comment on all of the resource values within a Wilderness Study Area. These comments will be considered in making land use decisions prior to recommendations to the President and Congress on an area's suitability or nonsuitability as wilderness. This phase will begin soon after the announcement of this Wilderness Study Area decision.

Phase III - Reporting: Recommendations on an area's suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation will be reported to Congress through the Secretary of the Interior and the President. Reports on all WSA's must be submitted to the President by September 21, 1991.

B. Instant Study Areas (ISA's)

Congress directed that all natural areas identified prior to November 1, 1975, would automatically become Instant Wilderness Study Areas. Congress directed that these areas be inventoried and evaluated on an accelerated schedule to determine their suitability for wilderness designation (Section 603, FLPMA).

Three of these areas are located in Idaho:

<u>Natural Area</u>	<u>District</u>
Birds of Prey	Boise
China Cup Butte	Idaho Falls
Grassland Kipuka (Great Rift)	Idaho Falls, Shoshone

Inventories and reports have been completed for the China Cup Butte and Birds of Prey areas with the recommendation that these areas do not have wilderness characteristics. Public reviews were held in 1979, and the reports which will be submitted to Congress can be examined at the appropriate district office or in the State Office in Boise.

The Great Rift ISA was determined to have wilderness characteristics in the intensive inventory which was conducted in 1979. A suitability report and an environmental statement on the Great Rift are now undergoing administrative review in Washington.

Idaho Instant Study Areas

<u>Area Name</u>	<u>Identified as Lacking Wilderness Characteristics</u>		<u>Identified as Containing Wilderness Characteristics</u>	
	<u>Units</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Great Rift			1	374,400
Birds of Prey	12	161,736		
China Cup Butte	2	16,110		

C. Definitions

Terminology specific to the BLM Wilderness Review has evolved throughout the inventory process. To facilitate better communication, the following terms elaborate on definitions already given in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook and other guidance.

Cherrystemming: An unofficial term used to describe the way an inventory unit boundary is drawn to exclude a road that appears to enter the unit; the resulting boundary resembles a cherry stem.

Contiguous Lands: Lands or legal subdivisions having a common boundary. Lands having only a common corner are not contiguous.

FLPMA: Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, which mandated the BLM Wilderness Review. Often referred to and pronounced "FLIPMA."

Instant Study Areas: Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act mandated that all primitive or natural areas formally identified prior to November 1, 1975, be studied for wilderness suitability and recommended to the President by July 1, 1980. These existing primitive and natural areas are called Instant Study Areas, or ISA's.

Inventory Unit: An area of public land indexed for easy reference at the start of the wilderness inventory. All BLM lands in Idaho are within an inventory unit; these units may or may not be roadless. An official file for each unit is maintained at the BLM district office and is available for public review.

Non-Public Land Inholdings: All non-federal lands, including state or private land located within the inventory units. These lands are not calculated in the acreage being evaluated for wilderness nor are they being inventoried for wilderness characteristics.

Public Lands: Any land and interest in land owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, except:

- lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf.
- lands held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos
- lands in which the United States retains the minerals, but the surface is private.

Only public land is being inventoried for wilderness purposes.

RARE II: The wilderness inventory on lands administered by the Secretary of Agriculture through the United States Forest Service. The acronym stands for Roadless Area Review and Evaluation and the "II" signifies that it is the second time the Forest Service has inventoried and evaluated the lands it administers for wilderness values.

Road: For the purposes of the BLM's wilderness inventory, the following definition applies: "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."

To clarify this definition, the following sub-definitions also apply:

"Improved and maintained" - Actions taken physically by man to keep the road open to vehicular traffic.
'Improved' does not necessarily mean formal construction.
'Maintained' does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

"Mechanical means" - Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

"Relatively regular and continuous use" - Vehicular use which 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.

Roadless: Refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use.

Roadless Area: A roadless area is defined as any contiguous unit of land (irregardless of size or configuration) which lies between two or more roads and/or non-BLM lands. The key word in this definition is "contiguous." The word contiguous means being of the same boundary. Unless an inventory unit is completely dissected by the discovery of additional roads that result in the identification of two or more new roadless units under 5,000 acres, the original inventory unit still meets the definition of a contiguous roadless area. Cherrystem roads or deadend roads penetrating into a unit do not completely break the contiguous acreage of a unit. Therefore, they are part of the boundary of the unit and cannot be used to declare the land within the remainder of the unit "roaded."

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are wilderness characteristics examined in the intensive wilderness inventory. Factors contributing to opportunities for solitude are size, vegetative screening, topographic relief, vistas, and physiographic variety.

Supplemental Values: Features of ecological, geological, or other scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value that may be present in an inventory unit. These are not necessary criteria for wilderness characteristics, as is stated in the Wilderness Act of 1964, but must be assessed during the intensive wilderness inventory.

Way: A two-wheel track created only by the passage of vehicles.
A "way" is not a road.

Wilderness: The definition contained in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 is as follows: "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. Wilderness is an area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Wilderness Area: An area formally designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics: Those characteristics of wilderness as described in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. These include size, naturalness, solitude, primitive and unconfined type of recreation, and supplemental values.

Wilderness Inventory: An evaluation of the public lands in the form of a written description and a map showing those lands that meet the wilderness criteria as established under Section 603(a) of FLPMA and Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. The lands meeting the criteria will be referred to as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's). Those lands identified as not meeting wilderness criteria will be released from further wilderness consideration.

Wilderness Review: The term used to cover the entire wilderness inventory, study, and reporting phases of the wilderness program of the BLM.

Wilderness Study Area (WSA): A Wilderness Study Area is a contiguous roadless area over 5,000 acres in size (or of sufficient size) within which can be found apparent naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude or for primitive and unconfined recreation. A WSA is merely the identification of the physical limits of the wilderness resource. It makes no attempt to determine the value of the wilderness resource compared to other resource values. Because a WSA is partially defined as a roadless area, the physical limit of that resource may be the physical edge of the road. WSA boundaries are required to be along roads unless the inventory of the roadless unit shows a reason for adjusting away from the road due to a lack of naturalness or a clear and obvious lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

D. Interim Management Policy (IMP)

During the period of the wilderness review and until Congress acts on the President's recommendations on which areas are suitable for wilderness designation, the Secretary of the Interior is required to manage lands having wilderness characteristics so as not to impair their suitability for preservation as wilderness, subject to certain exceptions and conditions. This management is referred to as "interim management" and is discussed in a BLM document entitled Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review, December 1979. This is available at any BLM office.

E. How Wilderness Characteristics Were Evaluated

1. Size

" . . . has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition . . . "

Specifically, the size criteria will be satisfied for inventory units in the following situations and circumstances:

- a. Roadless areas with over 5,000 acres of contiguous public lands. State or private lands are not included in making this acreage determination.
- b. Any roadless island of the public lands of less than 5,000 acres.
- c. Roadless areas of less than 5,000 acres of contiguous public lands where any one of the following apply:
 - They are contiguous with lands managed by another agency which have been formally determined to have wilderness or potential wilderness values.
 - The public has indicated strong support for study of a particular area of less than 5,000 acres and it is demonstrated that it is clearly and obviously of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition, and of a size suitable for wilderness management.
 - They are contiguous with an area of less than 5,000 acres of other Federal lands administered by an agency with authority to study and preserve wilderness lands, and the combined total is 5,000 acres or more.

2. Naturalness

" . . . generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable . . . "

- Wilderness Act of 1964

This criteria states that areas must only appear to be primeval and untrammelled by man with man's developments permissible, yet substantially unnoticeable on the landscape. Acceptable imprints include fences, reservoirs, spring developments, constructed trails, bridges, fire towers, fire breaks, fire suppression facilities, pit toilets, fishery enhancement facilities, snow gauges, water quantity and quality measuring devices, and other scientific devices.

The presence of these human developments cannot be used to declare an inventory unit unnatural. Only when these developments are of such a number and distribution throughout a unit, or portion of the unit, that they become substantially noticeable to a casual observer can they be used to declare an entire unit or portion of the unit unnatural.

Imprints of man outside a unit are not normally considered in assessing the area's naturalness.

3. Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

" . . . has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation . . . "

- Wilderness Act of 1964

Two key words appear here: "or" and "outstanding." Either opportunities for solitude or opportunities for primitive recreation must be present for an area to qualify as a WSA; both need not be present. These opportunities must be outstanding in order for an area to qualify as a WSA. Opportunities for either solitude or primitive recreation may exist in an inventory unit, but if these opportunities are not outstanding, the area does not qualify as a WSA.

The evaluation of opportunities for solitude during the inventory is based upon the ability of a unit of a given size, topographic relief and vegetative type to allow a visitor group to escape the sights and sounds of others within the unit as well as external influences (such as vehicle traffic on boundary roads or significant agricultural development and activity immediately adjacent to the unit.)

In order for an inventory unit to have outstanding opportunities for solitude it must be:

- a. Large enough so that topographic relief can provide plentiful screening among visitors as well as provide opportunities for visitors to disperse throughout the unit. If topographic relief tends to concentrate visitors into small or narrow corridors within the unit, the corridors must be sufficiently long enough and/or provide plentiful topographic or vegetative screening to lessen the impact of the corridor effect.
- b. Large enough so that vegetation can provide plentiful screening among visitors as well as not hinder the visitors' mobility throughout the unit. Land patterns of dense vegetation can create corridor effects.

The ability of vegetation to provide screening is dependent upon the height of the vegetation and its stand density in combination with topographic relief. Taller vegetation can provide excellent screening on both flat and steep topography if stand density is sufficient. In general, as topographic relief increases, stand density must also increase to provide the same amount of screening because a visitor is more able to look over or through light density stands as the angle of slope increases. Likewise, low vegetation can provide greater screening on flat ground than on rolling or steep topography. Low vegetation can provide excellent screening on flat topography if the unit is large enough to provide sufficient distance for visitors or external influences to blend or disappear into the landscape. Not only can low vegetation on flat terrain provide screening, it can give a definite sense of remoteness, vastness or wide open space; adding to the achievement of a sense of solitude. The greater the topographic diversity of a unit, the smaller the unit can be to provide outstanding solitude.

The evaluation of the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation was based on a unit's size and ability to provide exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions. Exceptional natural features are those topographic and vegetative features which provide exceptional scenery, create a diversity of landforms and/or enable a visitor to achieve reasonable mobility within a unit, and would result in a strong recreation attraction to a unit for one or more types of activities.

A unit is considered to have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation if the overall unit size in combination with one or more of the factors contributing to exceptional natural features give a visitor a sense of non-confinement within an esthetically pleasing area. Some examples of areas where outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation can exist are:

- a. In small units where topography and/or vegetation is such that there is a diversity of landforms to encounter and topographic relief readily permits mobility throughout the unit to make efficient use of the land available.
- b. In large units where topography tends to concentrate visitors in confining narrow corridors and the scenic quality within the corridor is exceptional. In units where there are strong corridor effects, the unit must be sufficiently large enough, or the corridor long enough, to negate the sense of confinement. In addition, the corridor must be exceptionally scenic to encourage travel within the corridor.

- c. In large units where topography and/or vegetation is such that there is a diversity of landforms to encounter, mobility may be difficult (but not confined to corridors).

Areas without diversity of landform or exceptional scenery may not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, irregardless of their size and the ease of mobility within them. An example would be a large sagebrush flat where travel across a unit would eventually result in a sense of monotony.

Examples of primitive and unconfined types of recreation are: hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, spelunking, horseback riding, mountain or rock climbing, river running, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, dog sledding, photography, bird watching, canoeing, kayaking, sailing, and sightseeing for botanical, zoological, or geological features. These opportunities include potential as well as present use.

4. Supplemental Values

" . . . ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value."

- Wilderness Act of 1964

The presence or lack of supplemental values, such as ecological geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical importance will not determine whether an inventory unit becomes a WSA. These values are not essential for WSA status; however, it is important that the presence or absence of these types of features in an area be noted.

5. Possibility of Returning Area to A Natural Condition

Many imprints of man have a significant impact on the naturalness of an area and are excluded from WSA's. When the impact of man's imprints is only moderate, there is the possibility of returning the area to a substantially unnoticeable level by natural processes or hand labor. This is dependent on the kind of imprint, the topography, the vegetation, the amount of rainfall, etc.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. Overview of Public Comments

The 90-day public comment period on the intensive inventory began on April 4 with a deadline of July 3. Comments were accepted and analyzed through the date of printing of this report, due to a change in the decision announcement date from September to November 14.

Over 3,200 comments were received from individuals and from a wide variety of organization interests.

Over 85 percent of the comments resulted from a nationwide effort on the part of conservationists to provide input to the BLM wilderness effort. For the most part these comments did not address specific inventory units and therefore did not contain unit-specific comments that could be utilized in the intensive inventory decision. The general statements on characteristics that were in these responses as well as the opinions for or against wilderness are being retained for use later in the study phase.

The remaining 15 percent of the total comments, generally were unit specific, with most of these providing comment on wilderness characteristics. Notable among these comments were the approximately 50 received that addressed the Idaho conservation groups' proposal for desert WSA's and another group of inputs that proposed an alternative "W" (addressing units in the Boise and Burley Districts only). It must be stressed that the content of these comments was not considered any differently than other comments.

One comment specific to wilderness characteristics that offered the BLM new information or that shed new light on an issue could change the decision on an inventory unit. Conversely, large numbers of comments opposing or supporting study area designation without reference to the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics, had little or no affect on the final decision.

Information concerning other resource values and potential resource conflicts in the inventory units will not be considered until the study phase of the wilderness review and did not affect the inventory decision.

The intent of the public comment period was to gather ideas on the adequacy of the inventory data and the correctness of the recommendations.

Documents and maps describing the Bureau's proposed decision were sent to everyone indicating an interest in the wilderness program. Open houses, workshops, and meetings were held throughout the state for the purpose of exchanging information with the public. The public was asked to comment on the wilderness characteristics as described in the Wilderness Act, namely—size, naturalness, outstanding solitude or outstanding primitive recreation opportunities, and supplemental values.

Sincere effort was made to share with the public the criteria applied to BLM-managed lands during this intensive inventory process.

B. How Comments Were Utilized

Every public comment received by the BLM during the public comment period was read, analyzed, and, when necessary, field checked for validity. The appropriate District Managers and/or district office wilderness staffs read each letter relating to their respective inventory units, and addressed the points raised in each comment. These comments are kept in the district file for the inventory unit(s). A copy of each comment was sent to the BLM State Office in Boise where all were reviewed and analyzed. If maps and photos were included with the comment, these are also filed at the district offices. The inventory unit files may be reviewed upon request.

Comments were given identification numbers as received in the State Office. The numbers, names of respondents, and dates received were recorded in a log book kept in the public affairs office. Copies were kept at the State Office by the Wilderness Coordinator and the Public Affairs Office.

A comment analysis sheet was designed for recording public comments by inventory unit. One sheet was made for each inventory unit receiving comment. Each response was individually read and analyzed, identification numbers recorded on the analysis sheets, and the remarks coded on the sheets using designated phrases.

After the conclusion of the public comment period, an overall statewide analysis was compiled by the State Office. This report provides an overview of the kind of comments received, makes available to the State Director and District Managers an analytical summary of public comment on the Idaho intensive inventory for their evaluation and use in the decision-making process, and documents and makes available to the public an organized record of their comments. This report can be examined in the district offices or the State Office in Boise.

The comments were summarized and displayed in various formats to give both the decision makers and the public a complete and indepth view of this inventory-generated collection of data.

Comments outside the scope of intensive inventory criteria were also received. While they could not influence the intensive inventory decisions, they will be retained by the appropriate district offices and later utilized in the study process.

The analysis of comments did not involve "vote-counting." Comments were examined for their informational value regarding the wilderness characteristics of an inventory unit.

Information provided by the public was carefully considered, and changes made when the comments revealed the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics that the BLM had not identified. The factors evaluated in the intensive inventory are somewhat subjective, so public input was critical in making these difficult decisions.

All areas identified as Wilderness Study Areas will be further analyzed through the Bureau's Planning Process to determine which areas should receive a suitable or non-suitable recommendation for wilderness designation. These recommendations will eventually be forwarded to Congress for the final decision on possible designation of areas into the National Wilderness Preservation System.

III. FORMAT OF THIS REPORT

All wilderness inventory units which were intensively inventoried are included in this report. Some of these are identified as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) and some are not. The summary narratives are arranged by district; within each district section, the summaries for the units not identified as WSA's are separated from those identified as study areas. Inventory units are arranged in numerical order.

District prefix numbers are:

- 1 - Boise
- 2 - Burley
- 3 - Idaho Falls
- 4 - Salmon
- 5 - Shoshone
- 6 - Coeur d'Alene

The degree of detail both in the file documentation in the various offices and in the summaries presented here depends upon the size of the inventory unit, the number of imprints of man within the unit, the number of adjustments made since the initial inventory, and the extent and complexity of the public comment.

Non-public land inholdings are not calculated in the acreage inventoried for wilderness characteristics, nor are these lands themselves inventoried. In some cases, these inholdings are too small to be noted on the maps, but are mentioned in the narratives.

The state map that is being released with this report is 1 - 500,000 scale and gives the general boundary of each of the WSA's.

The August 10, 1979, Initial Inventory final decision to drop three wilderness units located in the Idaho Falls District as clearly and obviously lacking wilderness values was appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) on October 4, 1979, by the Idaho Representative of the Wilderness Society. On January 11, 1980, the IBLA remanded the case to Idaho BLM for further consideration.

After analysis of all data available, the inventory decision for these units was re-issued on February 8, 1980. This final decision indicated that it was not clear and obvious that the following units are lacking in wilderness values, therefore, they should be subjected to an intensive inventory in order to determine the presence of wilderness characteristics:

35-3	Sand Mountain	27,670 acres
35-4	Black Knoll	7,095 "
35-5	Big Sandy	10,735 "
	Total	45,500 acres

The release of the final decision initiated a 30-day protest period which concluded on March 10, 1980. During the protest period 35 letters of protest were received on the "Sand Dune" units.

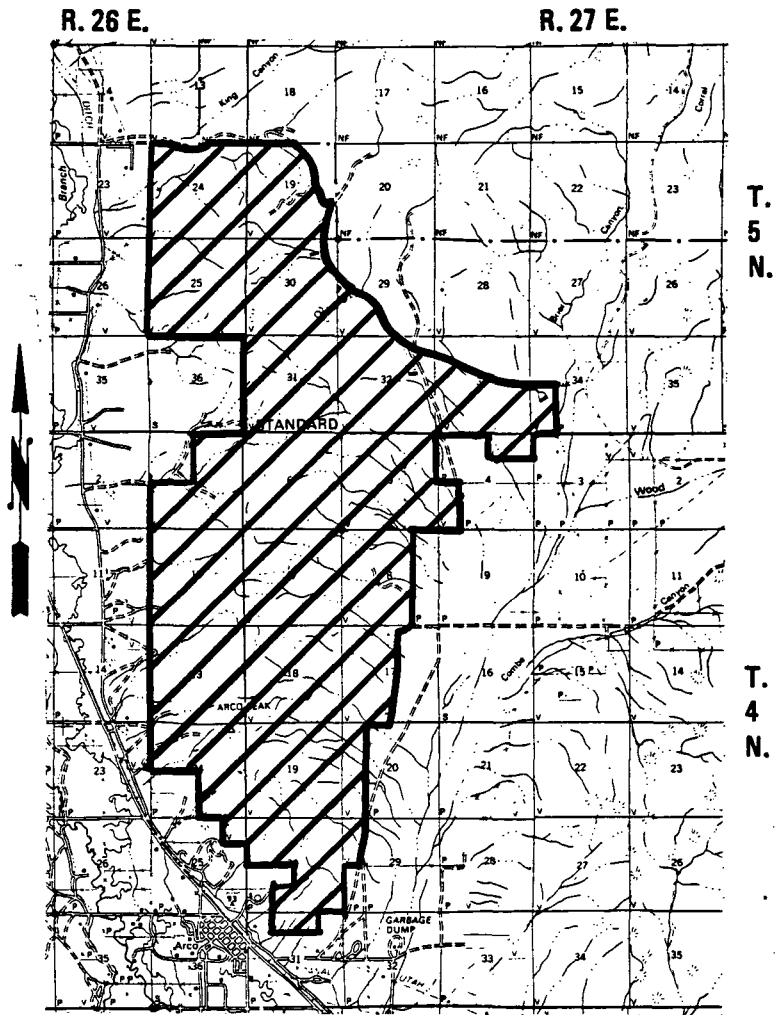
After analysis of the protest letters it was determined that no new facts were presented that would alter the decision to conduct intensive inventory on the units.

During the 30-day appeal period, an appeal was received from an individual from St. Anthony, Idaho. Thus, as of the printing date of this report, we are not into any comment/protest/appeal period on these units, but are awaiting further action by the IBLA.



In order to utilize the 1979 season, the field work for this intensive inventory was accomplished by the District Office. Release of the proposed decision on this intensive inventory will not take place until a decision has been rendered by the IBLA.

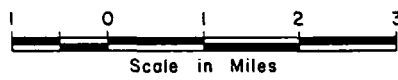
IDAHO FALLS DISTRICT
UNITS NOT IDENTIFIED AS
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

31-10
ILLINOIS



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 11,150 acres of BLM land and lies at the southeastern end of Big Lost Valley, northeast of Arco. The unit encompasses portions of the southern foothills of the Lost River Mountain Range. It forms a mountainous peninsula between the Big Lost River Valley and the small valley north of Butte City. Steep cliffs mark the western edge of the area while more gentle slopes are to the east. There are occasional springs and a few intermittent streams. Sagebrush and grasses form the dominant vegetative community, with scattered junipers on the rocky slopes.

NATURALNESS:

The southern portion of the unit is heavily impacted with a powerline, vehicle trail, a partially gravelled road, several small gravel piles, and numerous substantial vehicle ways criss-crossing the area. Numbers have been painted by Arco's high school classes on the western cliffs, some of which are in the unit and easily visible from the town below. Other major impacts throughout the unit are a bladed jeep trail, three short roads, numerous ways, and barbed wire fences. Several livestock watering troughs are located in the northeast portion of the unit. Impacts outside the unit that affect the naturalness are extremely obtrusive, particularly to the southeast. The sights and sounds of Arco intrude to a great degree and appear almost contiguous to the unit. The town's garbage dump and landfill are visible to the southeast, and seven miles of railroad track runs within one mile of the unit boundary. Twelve borrow pits, four quarries and a gravel pit are within one mile of the unit as are the town of Moore, Highway 93, and several roads. To the east, agricultural lands and structures are visible. The cumulative effects of these impacts from inside and outside the unit are extremely imposing and substantially decrease the apparent naturalness of the unit.

SOLITUDE:

Low level vegetation and open slopes dominate the unit and offer little vegetative or topographic screening. In a few scattered areas where there are stands of conifers, vegetative screening is considered good. Localized areas in the central and northern portions, which contain higher ridges, offer some additional screening, but in general topographic screening is minimal. The towns of Arco and Moore, nearby highway systems, the municipal landfill and adjacent intensively cultivated land appear to be significant outside influences. Although it may be possible to find opportunities for solitude in localized areas, the small size, irregular configuration, and minimal topographic and vegetative screening do not afford opportunities which are outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include camping, backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and spelunking. Natural features of the unit offer little challenge associated with these recreational opportunities. The unit's small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions, render the recreational opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The scenic values in portions of this unit are fairly high. Rock formations created through geologic processes of uplift and erosion provide picturesque and interesting dikes and spires of geological or educational value. Portions of the unit have been identified as critical deer winter range and a small sector at the southern tip as having Chukar partridge concentrations.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

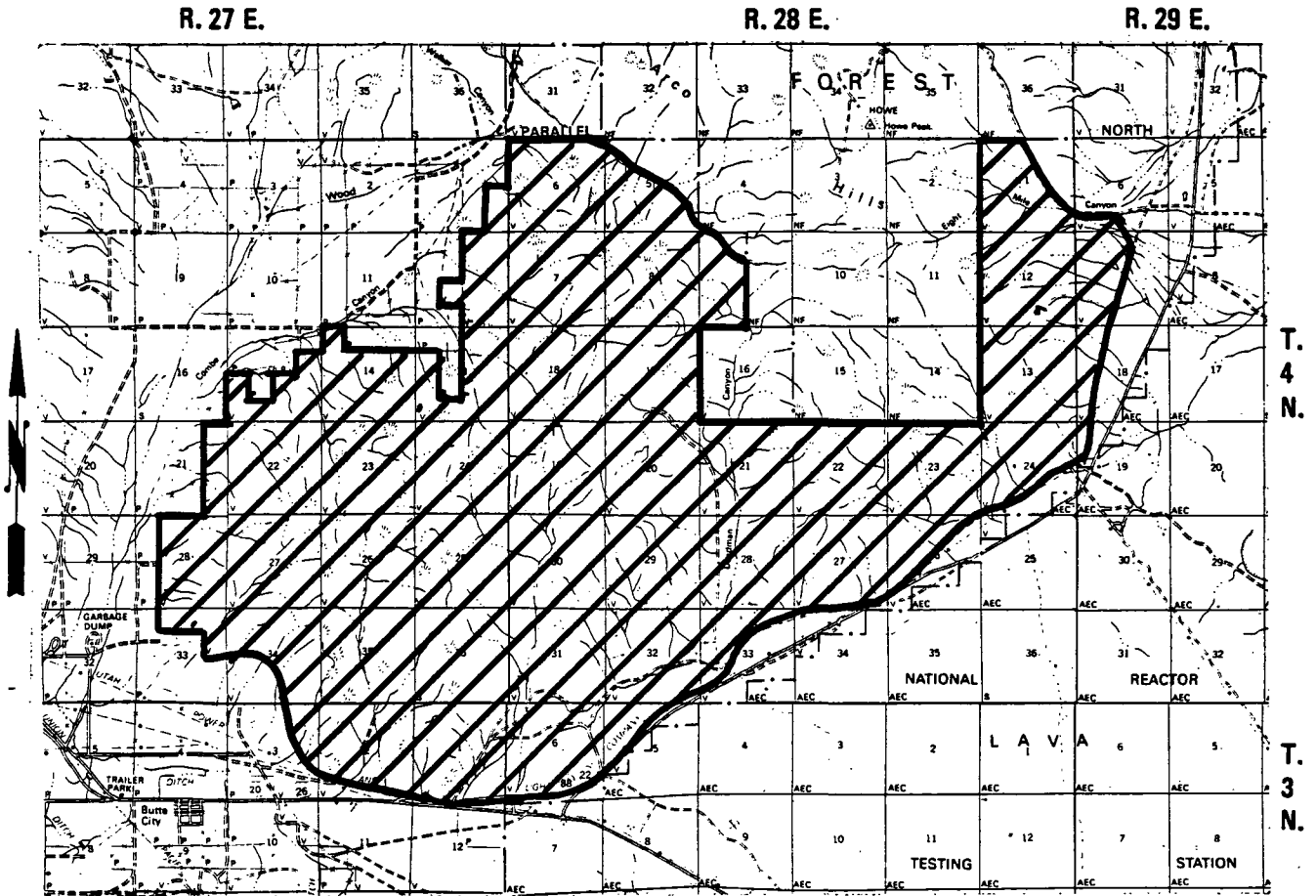
Comments agreed that the unit is not in a natural state, does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation and should not be identified as a study area.

* * *



DECISION:

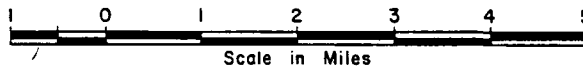
No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of naturalness, and to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

31-11
DEADMAN CANYON



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 23,000 acres of BLM land with a 640-acre State land inholding and is located between the Little Lost and Big Lost River Valleys, northeast of Butte City. The unit is part of the southeastern foothills of the Lost River Mountain Range. It rises from an altitude of 5,300 feet at the southern border to 7,914 feet at the highest point. Relatively flat land surrounds it on the east, south, and west. Sagebrush and grasses cover the majority of the area, with junipers in scattered areas and some Douglas fir at higher elevations.

NATURALNESS:

The major impacts on naturalness within the unit are the numerous substantial vehicle ways which dead-end in the unit and in some cases bisect it. They are heavily used and can be found in nearly every drainage bottom. Off-road vehicle routes are located throughout the unit. Three groups of livestock watering troughs are located in the northwest portion along with several barbed wire fences. A small corral is located up Eight Mile Canyon. Outside influences are substantial to the south of the unit. Butte City is one mile from the unit, as is a large radio tower. Two powerlines follow the southern edge of the unit. Twenty borrow pits surround the unit close to its border. U. S. Route 20-26 runs along the entire southern edge of the unit with State Route 22-33 to the east and southeast. Department of Energy facilities, though distant, are visible to the east, as is agricultural activity to the west and south. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints from casual observation. The unit does not appear to be affected primarily by natural processes.

SOLITUDE:

Desert shrubs and grasses dominate the unit and offer little vegetative screening. Screening is available in a few isolated areas where junipers and Douglas fir exist. Topographic screening is considered good in isolated areas to the north and in the central part of the unit, but in general is considered minimal for the unit as a whole.

Man caused outside influences are visible from the western, southern, and eastern slopes and affect over half of the unit and appear to be significant. Although the unit is large, the irregular configuration and minimal topographic and vegetative screening do not afford opportunities for solitude that are considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The unit lacks exceptional or outstanding natural features which attract primitive recreation activities. Therefore, opportunities for primitive recreation are considered less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The central portion of the unit has been identified as critical deer winter range. There are also geologic features of scenic value and educational importance. An archaeological site has been found near the unit, suggesting other sites within the unit's boundaries.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

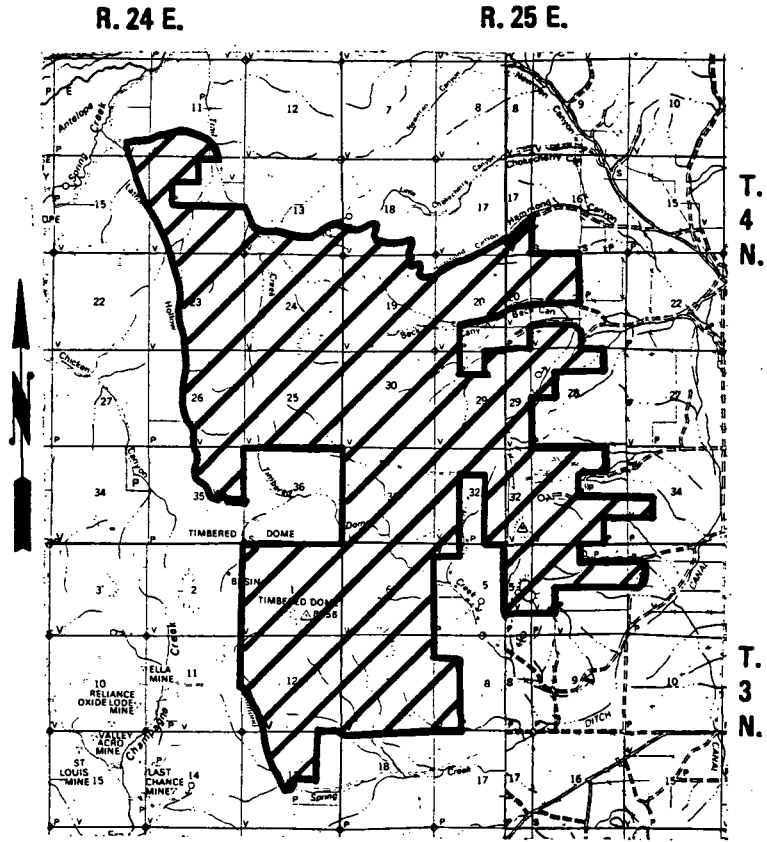
Comments agreed that the unit is not in a natural state, does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation, and should not be identified as a study area.

* * *



DECISION:

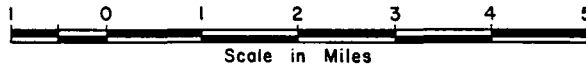
No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of naturalness, and to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

31-13
TIMBERED DOME



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



31-13 TIMBERED DOME

The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 10,240 acres of BLM land and is located in the Big Lost River Valley ten miles west of Arco. One State section forms a 3½ mile border on the west and is nearly surrounded by the unit. Very irregular borders characterize the unit, with narrow fingers of BLM land extending into adjacent private land. The unit contains foothills of the Pioneer Mountains including Timbered Dome, which rises to 8,356 feet. Several springs are contained within the unit, which feed deeply cut intermittent stream drainages. Some aspen stands cluster around the springs, and Douglas fir occurs near the top of Timbered Dome. Sagebrush and grasses form the dominant plant community.

NATURALNESS:

The major impacts within the unit are the numerous vehicle ways, which bisect or almost bisect the narrow unit and constitute a substantial impact on naturalness. Spring developments occur at four locations near the unit's core. Other impacts include a small garbage dump and livestock fences. The State section contains several substantial ways. Because of its central location within the unit, these ways are very apparent and appear to be in the heart of the area. Private land also projects into the unit creating a corridor less than 1/4 mile wide in the northern end. This private land contains fences, watering devices and vegetation visibly affected by grazing. Many vehicle ways, agricultural activity and structures and roads are clearly visible, particularly to the east. Major ways and off-road vehicle routes have affected most of the unit. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints from casual observation. The unit does not appear to have been affected by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

Vegetative screening is available only within the trees atop Timbered Dome and around the springs. Opportunities for solitude do exist deep in the canyons and high in some saddles where topographic relief could screen a visitor from others. This solitude is more difficult to encounter near the boundaries and outside the unit's canyons. The ways and other impacts in and around the unit are very difficult to avoid, and decrease the feeling of being remote or removed from others and their activities. Therefore, the unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude because of its small size, irregular configuration, minimal topographic and vegetative screening and the general inability to avoid others and their activities.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include camping, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and horseback riding. These opportunities are limited to some extent by the presence of substantial vehicle ways, imposing outside influences and the unit's irregular configuration. Additionally, the unit's small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features render recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit has high scenic values due largely to the topographic relief and interesting geologic features. Evidence of prehistoric archaeological sites has been found within the unit. The unit serves as important habitat for mule deer and black bear.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that indicated the unit should be a study area offered no supporting data. Other comments agreed that the unit was not in a natural state, did not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation and should not be identified as a study area.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

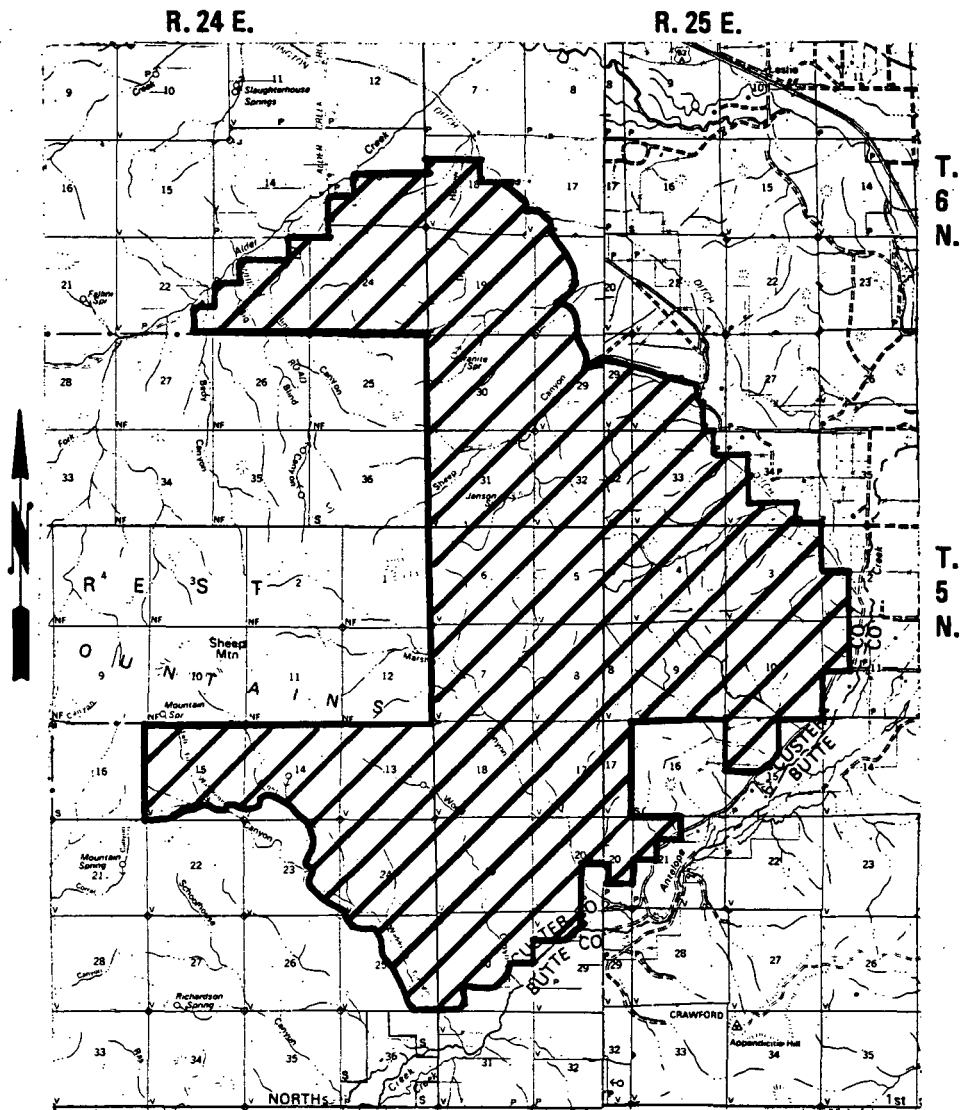
Comments either agreed with the proposed decision or did not show justification for further study.

* * *



DECISION:

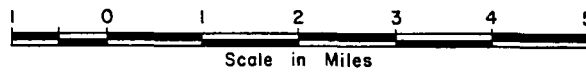
No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of naturalness, and to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

31-15
DRY HOLLOW



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



31-15 DRY HOLLOW

The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 17,800 acres of BLM land and is situated east of the White Knob Mountains, three miles west of Darlington in the Big Lost River drainage. The unit is characterized by a foothill landscape with well defined drainages containing intermittent streams which contribute to Alder Creek, the Big Lost River, and Antelope Creek. The hills in the unit represent the easternmost extension of the White Knob Mountains. The higher elevations support scattered stands of Douglas fir while the remainder of the unit's vegetation is primarily sagebrush-grass. An occasional aspen-willow association can be found near active springs.

NATURALNESS:

Human imprints inside the unit consist of roads, vehicle ways, fences, two abandoned wells, a dump, watering troughs, cattle trails and a seeding. Ten miles of road penetrate the unit nearly bisecting it at five locations near the Forest Service boundary. Branching from these roads are 12 miles of ways. The way extending from the Marsh Canyon Road completely bisects the unit. Two abandoned mines occur in the unit. One is relatively small and hidden. The other is considerably more visible, including both horizontal and vertical shafts, adjacent slag mounds, and graded switchbacks leading 1/4 mile from the road. This mine and associated developments constitutes a substantial impact on naturalness. Impacts from grazing, though numerous are less obvious and often blend in with natural features. Six spring-trough developments are located within the unit. A livestock fence runs diagonally for more than a mile and forms the boundary between the unit and National Forest land. A small area of seeded grasses does not substantially affect apparent naturalness. A small revegetated borrow pit has been used as a dump. Its exposure is away from unit and contains very little trash. The overall impact of these developments appears significant. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints from casual observation. The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by natural processes.

SOLITUDE:

Desert shrubs dominate the unit and offer little vegetative screening. Some screening is available near the forest boundary where tree species are found near Jensen and Granite Springs. Topographic screening is good within the canyons, however, the major canyons contain improved and maintained roads which form the unit's irregular boundary. Outside influences, which are considered significant and are not well screened, include gravel pits, dumps, powerlines, irrigation ditches and agricultural lands. Although it may be possible to find opportunities for solitude in some small areas of the unit, the irregular configuration and minimal topographic and vegetative screening do not afford opportunities which are considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include upland and big game hunting, camping, scenic photography, hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The unit's lack of unusual or exceptional natural features and primitive recreation attractions render the recreational opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Areas within the unit have been identified as critical range for deer, and an abundance of raptors were sited during the inventory. Pictograph sites and surface lithic scatters found in the area indicate archaeological values exist.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that supported further study stated that the human imprints within the unit are minor and are not sufficient justification for dropping the unit. They pointed out that sagebrush-grasslands, riparian shrubs and aspen stands provide critical deer range and opportunities for a variety of primitive recreation activities and solitude. Comments also stated that if solitude or primitive recreation exist anywhere in the unit, the unit should be studied and that important archaeological sites were overlooked.

Other comments stated that the unit was not in a natural state, does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation and should not be identified as a study area.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

The unit does not meet the naturalness or solitude-recreation criteria. Human imprints are great enough, both individually and cumulatively, to significantly detract from the unit's apparent naturalness. Solitude is possible in small areas, but the unit's irregular configuration and minimal screening do not offer opportunities that are outstanding. Primitive recreation opportunities are less than outstanding due to the lack of exceptional recreation attractions. The unit's poor configuration and topography tend to confine recreation use to drainages where boundary roads are present.

* * *

DECISION:

No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of naturalness, and to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

32-2 SANDS CANYON

The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 8,010 acres of BLM land in a long, narrow configuration, and is located ten miles northwest of Howe. This unit encompasses a narrow portion of foothills of the Little Lost Mountains. Beginning at 5,600 ft. on the eastern border the hills rise to the west to 7,400 feet. This steeply rolling topography is cut by several scenic canyons, most notably the North Fork of Cedarville Canyon, Buck Canyon and Sands Canyon. The vegetation is comprised predominantly of sagebrush/bunchgrass. Mountain mahogany, Douglas fir and juniper occur in higher elevations and moist draws or aspects. Some aspen is also found in the larger canyon bottoms.

NATURALNESS:

Approximately eight miles of vehicle ways form the major impact on this unit. Four ways bisect the narrow area, the longest travels 1½ miles up the North Fork of Cedarville Canyon between the southern and western borders. Another way bisects the unit from east to west through Sands Canyon. Other ways are located in Buck and Bird Canyons. All the remaining ways enter the unit for short distances and dead-end. The cumulative impact of these eroded and substantial ways significantly detracts from the unit's naturalness. Three fence lines also enter the unit for short distances. External influences are not considered significant. Major ways and off-road vehicle routes have affected all of the unit's canyons and drainages. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints from casual observation inside this small and narrow unit. The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by natural processes.

SOLITUDE:

Vegetative screening is moderately good in the western portion of the unit due to scattered clumps of trees. It is fair in the rest of the unit where tree cover is sparse. Topographic screening is moderate to good where dominate ridges are broken by a number of small draws and spur ridges. The unit's terrain and vegetation are sufficient to provide a moderately good opportunity for solitude. However, in considering the small size and poor configuration, the unit does not provide an opportunity for solitude that is considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreational opportunities include rock climbing, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The unit's small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions render the primitive recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The eastern portion of the unit is crucial for antelope as a fawning ground and winter range. This same area is also winter range for sage grouse and mule deer. A threatened plant, the Idaho Bladderpod is found in the unit. The unit is also of important archaeological value; rock shelters with pictographs, hunting blinds and surface lithic scatters occur in this area.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that supported further wilderness study, stated that the vehicle ways and fence lines are not valid criteria for dropping the unit. They felt that outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation exist within the unit, and that the human imprints cannot be judged serious in comparison to the enjoyment of the unit for its scenic and recreational values. Others said cross-country skiing in the area is an unforgettable experience, or pointed out important wildlife and archaeological values.

Other comments agreed that the unit was not in a natural state, did not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation, and should not be identified as a study area.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

The unit does not meet the naturalness criteria. Human imprints, particularly the vehicle ways, are quite substantial and noticeable in every canyon and access point in the unit. Solitude is possible in some areas but the unit's small size and poor configuration do not offer outstanding opportunities. Primitive recreation is also present but cannot be considered outstanding. Physical features which attract primitive recreation use are not exceptional. The small size, poor configuration and topography would also be confining to users.

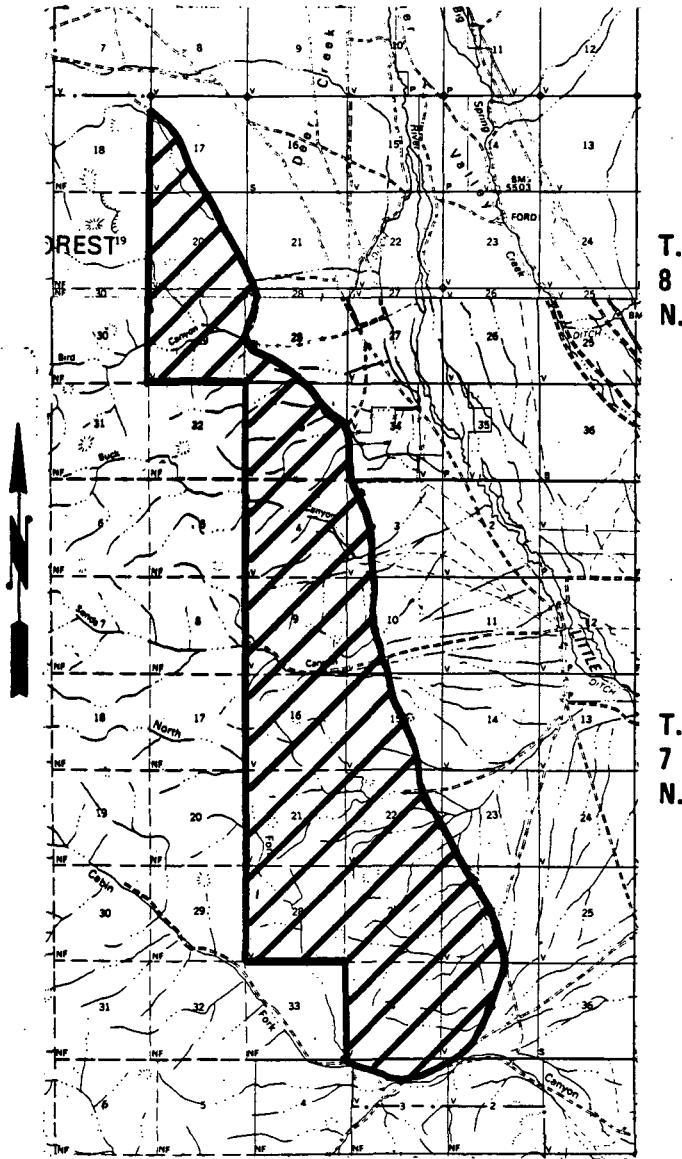
* * *

DECISION:

No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of naturalness, and to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

32-2
SANDS CANYON

R. 27 E.



T.
8
N.

T.
7
N.

LEGEND



WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

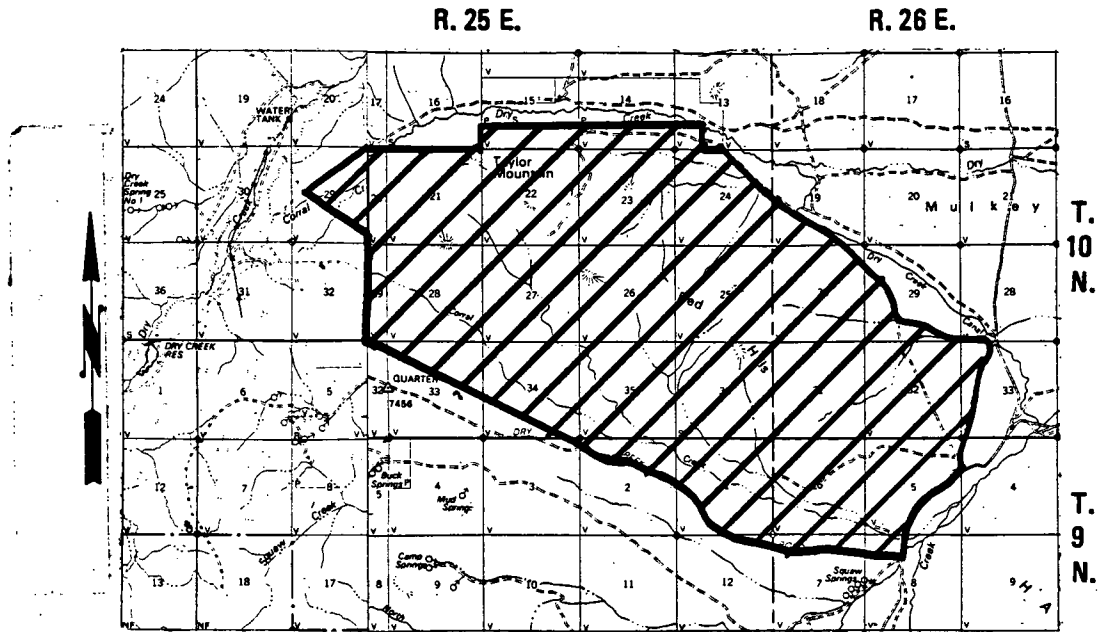


AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS





Scale in Miles

32-4
TAYLOR MOUNTAIN



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



32-4 TAYLOR MOUNTAIN

The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 11,134 acres of BLM land, with a 640-acre inholding of State land. This acreage figure differs from the 11,160 acres shown in the August 1979 report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. It is located six miles west of Clyde in the Little Lost River Valley. The unit is hilly and characterized by well defined drainages. Taylor Mountain is the main focal point in the unit, rising to nearly 8,700 feet. The Red Hills, southeast of Taylor Mountain, occupy 2/3 of the unit. Most of the land surface is covered with sagebrush and grasses. The higher elevations, and particularly the north side of Taylor Mountain, support Douglas fir and junipers. Isolated pockets of mountain mahogany are present in some drainages and on higher slopes.

NATURALNESS:

The major impacts on naturalness include livestock fences, watering developments and ways. Approximately ten miles of ways skirt or bisect the unit. One encircles the base of Taylor Mountain, others follow fence lines within the unit or provide short cuts on eastern boundary roads. Livestock developments include watering troughs along the north boundary and a three-mile fence near the south boundary. Most of these impacts are widely scattered and not substantially noticeable. The unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

Desert shrubs and grasses dominate the unit and offer little vegetative screening. An exception is the north facing slope of Taylor Mountain where tree species occur. Topographic screening is moderate to poor except on the north side of Taylor Mountain. The Dry Creek Flume and traffic along the major roads to the north and east appear to be significant external influences. Although it may be possible to find opportunities for solitude in some small areas within the unit, the small size and minimal topographic and vegetative screening do not afford opportunities that are outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities include camping, hiking, horseback riding, and photography. The unit's small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions render the recreation opportunities less than outstanding. There is little significant physical and mental challenge associated with the recreation opportunities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit is important as habitat for wildlife with most of the unit identified as antelope fawning grounds, and a small portion of the southeast corner antelope winter range. Two threatened plants grow inside the unit; Idaho Bladderpod and Inverted Cryptantha. Numerous archaeological sites exist in the unit, including rock shelters, hunting blinds and surface lithic scatters.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that disagreed that the unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation stated that the small size, minimal topographic and vegetative screening, and external influences should not be considered as factors which render these opportunities less than outstanding. The unit's wildlife habitat and archaeological sites were pointed out as important supplemental values.

Other comments said the unit does not appear natural, lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, and should not be a study area.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Reevaluation shows that the unit does not meet the solitude-recreation criteria. Opportunities for solitude are limited, due to the unit's small size and minimal topographic and vegetative screening. Primitive recreation opportunities are limited due to the lack of exceptional recreation attractions. The most prominent natural feature is Taylor Mountain which is mostly contained within an adjacent State section. This State land was not evaluated with the rest of the unit.

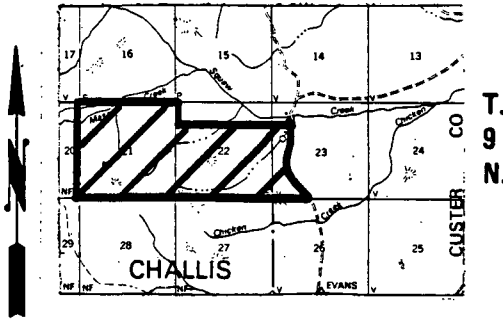
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DECISION:



No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

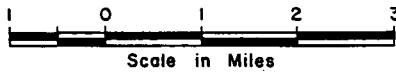
**32-16
PASS CREEK**

R. 25 E.



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



32-16 PASS CREEK

The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Unit 32-16 was identified in the August 1979 report as containing 11,330 acres, in two parcels. The larger, northernmost parcel is now being evaluated as part of Unit 45-12 with the Salmon District narrative, due to a reevaluation of a previously identified road separating Units 32-16 and 45-12. The southernmost parcel contains 1,220 acres and is covered below as Unit 32-16.

The unit contains 1,220 acres of BLM land and lies 12 miles west of Clyde in the northwest portion of the Little Lost Valley. It is 3/4 - 1 mile wide and 2 1/4 miles long and is adjacent to the Forest Service Borah Peak wilderness proposal on its one mile western boundary. The parcel creates a narrow peninsula which extends from the Borah Peak area and is not considered of sufficient size to be managed in an unimpaired condition.

NATURALNESS:

Man-made imprints within the unit are not substantial. The area appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

Topographic and vegetative screening in the unit are considered minimal and render opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreation opportunities within the unit include hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, camping and backpacking. However, these opportunities are considered less than outstanding due to the narrow configuration. Additionally, this unit lacks exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comment received on this unit agreed with the proposed decision to drop it from further wilderness consideration, stating a lack of naturalness.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

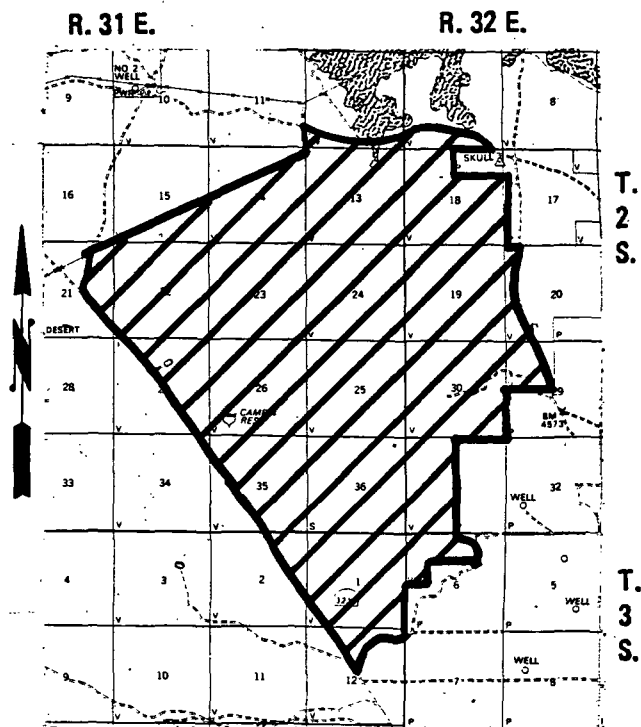
Contrary to public comment, the unit does retain a natural appearance, but is lacking in other required criteria.

* * *



DECISION:

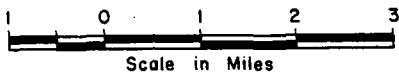
No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

**33-5
SKULL**



LEGEND

-  **WILDERNESS STUDY AREA**
-  **AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS**



The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 8,650 acres of BLM land with a 640-acre State inholding, and is located 13 miles south of Atomic City and 12 miles southeast of Big Southern Butte. The unit lacks significant topographic relief, varying a maximum of 200 feet. Vegetation is largely sagebrush with grass species dominating in those areas that have been subjected to brush control.

NATURALNESS:

The most significant impacts within the unit are vehicle trails. Over 11 miles of ways occur in the unit, with two of them bisecting the area from east to west. These ways vary, with some approaching the definition of a road while others are faint and appear to receive infrequent use. Camp Reservoir, on the western border, is a small development with minimal impact. A 640-acre brush control project has some effect on the naturalness of this area. Agricultural use around Moreland is visible from the unit, but the view is not imposing.

SOLITUDE:

Opportunities for experiencing solitude in this unit are limited by the lack of vegetative or topographic screening. Vehicles traveling the border roads can be seen or heard from nearly every point. There is only a limited opportunity to avoid the activities of others within the unit. The small size and lack of vegetative and topographic screening do not afford opportunities that are outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and upland game bird hunting. The unit's small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions render the recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The western border of this unit is of historical and anthropological value. Before the pioneers moved west, this route was an Indian trail. Archaeologists believe there are several significant sites along it. During pioneer times this road was known as Goodale's Cutoff, an alternate northern route for the Oregon Trail between Fort Hall and Boise.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that agreed that the unit should not receive further study stated that naturalness is lacking and solitude-recreation is marginal.

Other comments supported further study, disagreeing that the unit lacks naturalness and does not offer opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Some felt that the unit's small size, minimal topographic and vegetative screening, and lack of natural features do not limit solitude-recreation opportunities and therefore, are not justifiable reasons for dropping the unit. Other comments said that the unit should be evaluated together with two adjacent units.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

The unit cannot be evaluated as one with two adjacent units since they are separated by roads which meet the BLM's road definition. Reevaluation showed that the unit does not meet the naturalness or solitude-recreation criteria. Human imprints are great enough, both individually and cumulatively to detract from the unit's apparent naturalness.

Opportunities for solitude are limited, due to the unit's small size and minimal topographic and vegetative screening. The lack of screening increases the probability of encountering others within the unit and decreases the opportunity to avoid visual and audible contact with activities outside the unit. This unit is small and lacks the physical characteristics that provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are dependent on the area's size and/or natural features that attract primitive use. The unit lacks physical features which attract primitive recreation.

* * *

DECISION:

No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of naturalness, and a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

33-6 RYE GRASS

The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 8,000 acres of BLM land. This acreage figure differs from the 9,150 acres shown in the August 1979 report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. It is located 12 miles southeast of Big Southern Butte and 14 miles south of Atomic City. This area is generally flat with no more than 300 ft. in elevation change over the entire unit. The vegetative community consists mainly of sagebrush and grasses. Non-native grass species occur in areas that have been subjected to brush control and artificial plantings. These areas contrast dramatically with the sagebrush dominated areas.

NATURALNESS:

Vehicle ways are the major impact in the unit. Nine and one-half miles of ways enter the unit, the most substantial trail is six miles long and bisects the unit on a meandering east-west path. There are two small reservoirs in the southeast portion of the unit. A 3,200-acre brush control project within the area has a significant affect on naturalness. The borders between the controlled areas and the sage dominated areas are abrupt and unnaturally linear. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints from casual observation. The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by natural processes.

SOLITUDE:

Desert shrubs and grasses dominate the unit and offer little vegetative screening. Topographic screening is considered minimal throughout the unit. Vehicles traveling the border roads can be seen or heard from nearly every point within the unit and are considered significant outside influences. The unit's small size and lack of vegetative and topographic screening do not afford opportunities that are outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and upland game bird hunting. The unit's small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions render the recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The eastern border road is of both historical and anthropological value. The road, known as Goodale's Cutoff, was an alternative northern route for the Oregon Trail between Fort Hall and Boise. Before the pioneers moved west this same route was an Indian trail. Archaeologists believe this route has several significant sites scattered along it.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that agreed that the unit should not receive further study stated that naturalness is lacking and solitude-recreation is marginal.

Other comments supported further study, disagreeing that the unit lacks naturalness and does not offer opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Some felt that the unit's small size, minimal topographic and vegetative screening, and lack of natural features do not limit solitude-recreation opportunities and therefore, are not justifiable reasons for dropping the unit. Other comments said that the unit should be evaluated together with two adjacent units.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

The unit cannot be evaluated as one with two adjacent units since they are separated by roads which meet the BLM's road definition. Reevaluation showed that the unit does not meet the naturalness or solitude-recreation criteria. Human imprints are great enough, both individually and cumulatively to detract from the unit's apparent naturalness.

Opportunities for solitude are limited, due to the unit's small size and minimal topographic and vegetative screening. The lack of screening increases the probability of encountering others within the unit and decreases the opportunity to avoid visual and audible contact with activities outside the unit. This unit is small and lacks the physical characteristics that provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

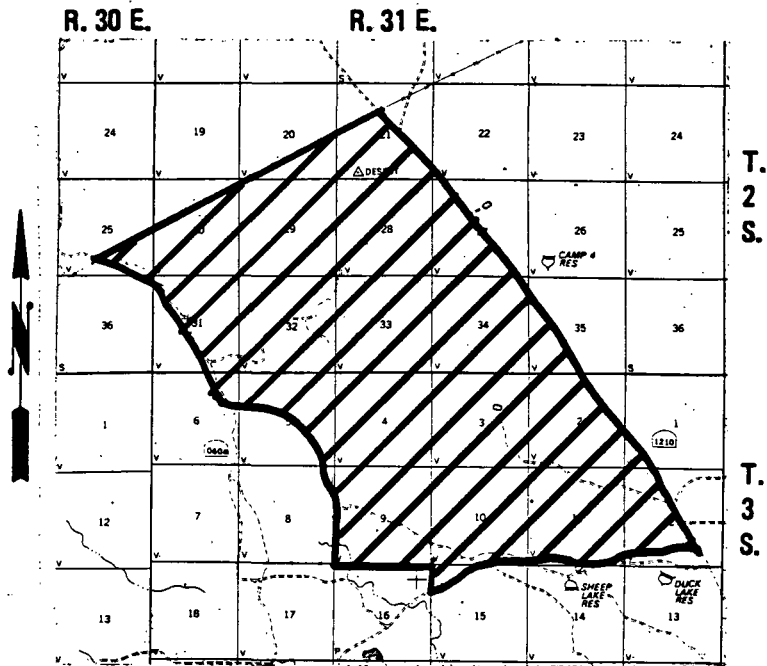
Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are dependent on the area's size and/or natural features that attract primitive use. The unit lacks physical features which attract primitive recreation.

* * *



DECISION:

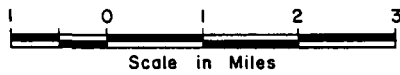
No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of naturalness, and a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

33-6
RYE GRASS

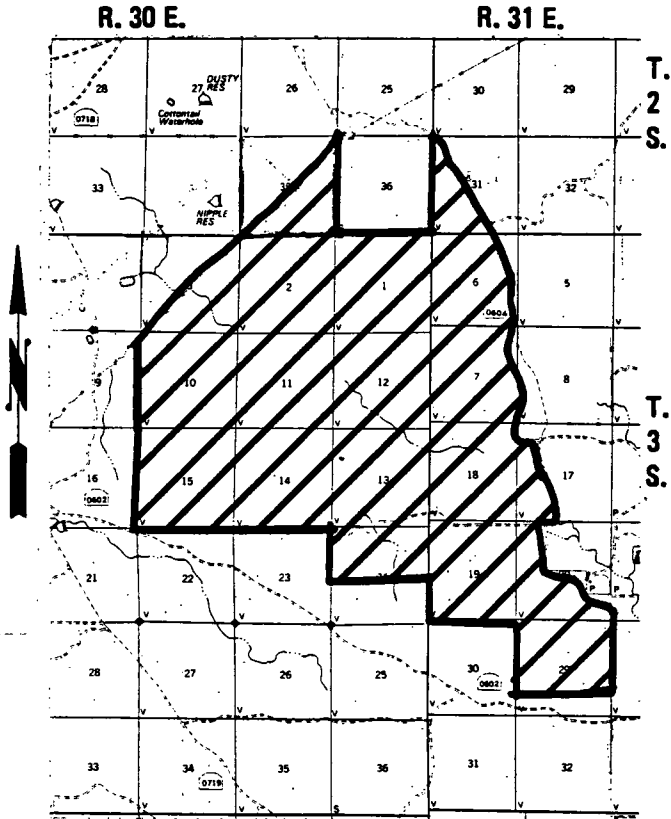


LEGEND



-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

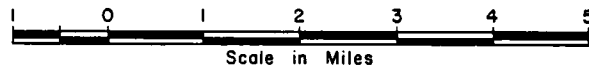


**33-7
COTTONTAIL**



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 9,300 acres of BLM land. This acreage figure differs from the 8,300 acres shown in the August 1979 report due to a typographical error in the August report. The unit is approximately 12 miles south of Big Southern Butte and 14 miles southwest of Atomic City. This unit has little topographic relief, varying a maximum of 300 feet. The area is dominated by low sagebrush with little other vegetation. Part of the unit has undergone brush control and seedings of crested wheatgrass, with these areas contrasting dramatically to the sage-dominated communities.

NATURALNESS:

Vehicle ways are the dominant impact on the naturalness of this unit. Seven miles of jeep trails and substantial ways enter the unit, the longest bisects the unit from east to west. Brush control and seeding activities also affect the naturalness of this unit. The border between the natural sage community and manipulated areas is abrupt. Approximately 1/3 of the unit has been seeded, substantially affecting apparent naturalness. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints of man from casual observation. The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by natural processes.

SOLITUDE:

Little topographic or vegetative screening occurs in the unit, significantly limiting opportunities for solitude. Vehicles moving along roads around the unit are clearly visible and are considered significant outside influences. The unit's small size and lack of vegetative and topographic screening does not afford opportunities that are outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and upland game bird hunting. The unit's small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions render the recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that agreed that the unit should not receive further study stated that naturalness is lacking and solitude-recreation is marginal.

Other comments supported further study, disagreeing that the unit lacks naturalness and does not offer opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Some felt that the unit's small size, minimal topographic and vegetative screening and lack of natural features do not limit solitude-recreation opportunities and therefore, are not justifiable reasons for dropping the unit. Other comments said that the unit should be evaluated together with two adjacent units.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

The unit cannot be evaluated as one with two adjacent units since they are separated by roads which meet the BLM's road definition. Reevaluation showed that the unit does not meet the naturalness or solitude-recreation criteria. Human imprints are great enough, both individually and cumulatively to detract from the unit's apparent naturalness.

Opportunities for solitude are limited, due to the unit's small size and minimal topographic and vegetative screening. The lack of screening increases the probability of encountering others within the unit and decreases the opportunity to avoid visual and audible contact with activities outside the unit. This unit is small and lacks the physical characteristics that provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are dependent on the area's size and/or natural features that attract primitive use. The unit lacks physical features which attract primitive recreation.

* * *

DECISION:

No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of naturalness, and a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

33-12 SPLIT TOP

The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 18,080 acres of BLM land, with a State land inholding of 640 acres. It is located 27 miles southeast of Arco and 25 miles northwest of American Falls. The topography of the unit is flat or gently rolling with the most prominent feature being the 5,563 ft. Split Top Butte which rises 200 ft. above the surrounding plain. Lava features such as caves, lava tubes and volcanic uplift areas occur throughout the unit. Because of the limited precipitation characteristic of this desert environment, vegetation in the unit is sparse. Big sagebrush is the dominant plant, with a variety of bunchgrasses and forbs scattered throughout the area. In some portions of the unit the natural vegetation has been replaced by artificially planted non-native grasses.

NATURALNESS:

Approximately 24 miles of vehicle ways form a major impact on the naturalness of this unit. These ways vary from faint jeep tracks to deeply rutted and frequently used access routes that are very substantial in nature. They criss-cross and bisect all portions of the unit. In the eastern half vegetation has been heavily impacted by brush control measures and mechanical seeding with crested wheatgrass. The linear nature of the seedings between sagebrush and grass creates an unnatural pattern and a substantial impact on the apparent naturalness of the unit. Seven miles of fence in the unit have a minimal impact on the area's naturalness. Major ways, off-road vehicle routes and man-caused vegetative changes have affected most of the unit. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints of man from casual observation. The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by natural processes.

SOLITUDE:

Desert shrubs and grasses dominate the unit and offer little vegetative screening. Topographic screening is considered minimal throughout the unit. Vehicles traveling the border roads can be seen from a large percentage of the unit and are considered significant outside influences. The unit's lack of topographic and vegetative screening does not afford opportunities that are outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

This unit provides excellent opportunities for a diversity of primitive recreation activities. The presence of several caves and collapsed lava tubes within the unit provide outstanding opportunities for spelunking. The rolling topography also provides good opportunities for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter as well as hiking and horseback riding during the summer months.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Archaeologists have identified several surface lithic scatter sites as well as rock shelters.

This unit has also been identified as critical winter habitat for sage grouse and pronghorn antelope. The unit has several caves, lava tubes and other volcanic features which are important geological, educational and scenic resources.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that supported further wilderness study felt that the vehicle ways, brush control measures and seedings were not justifiable reasons for dropping the unit. They stated that more consideration should be given to the prospect of allowing time for nature to heal these impacts. Also mentioned were opportunities for solitude and recreation and supplemental values. Other comments stated that the unit is not in a natural state, does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation and should not be identified as a study area.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

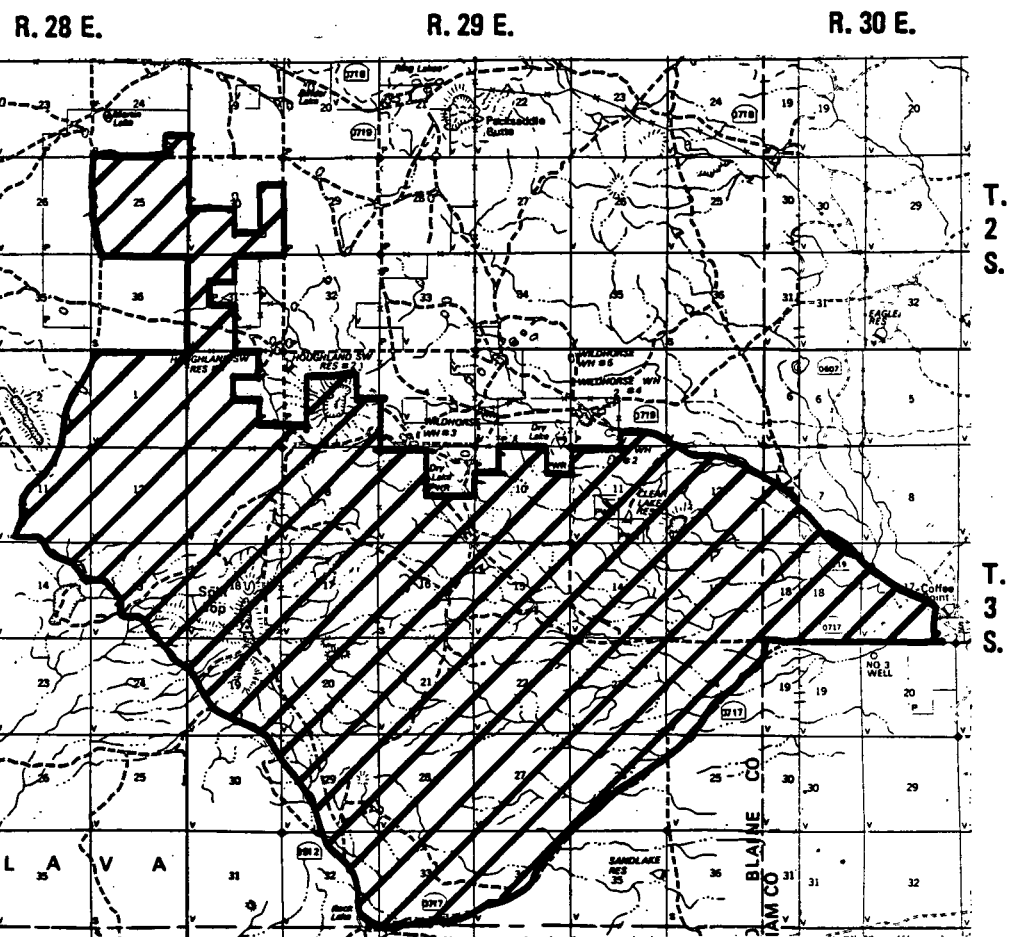
The unit does not meet the naturalness criteria. Vehicle ways, brush control measures and seedings significantly detract from the apparent naturalness of the unit. Comments suggested that the unit be evaluated based on the prospect of allowing time for nature to heal these impacts. This could only take place if the unit as a whole met the naturalness criteria; small areas could be considered for rehabilitation through natural processes or hand labor.

* * *



DECISION:

No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of naturalness, and a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude.

33-12
SPLIT TOP

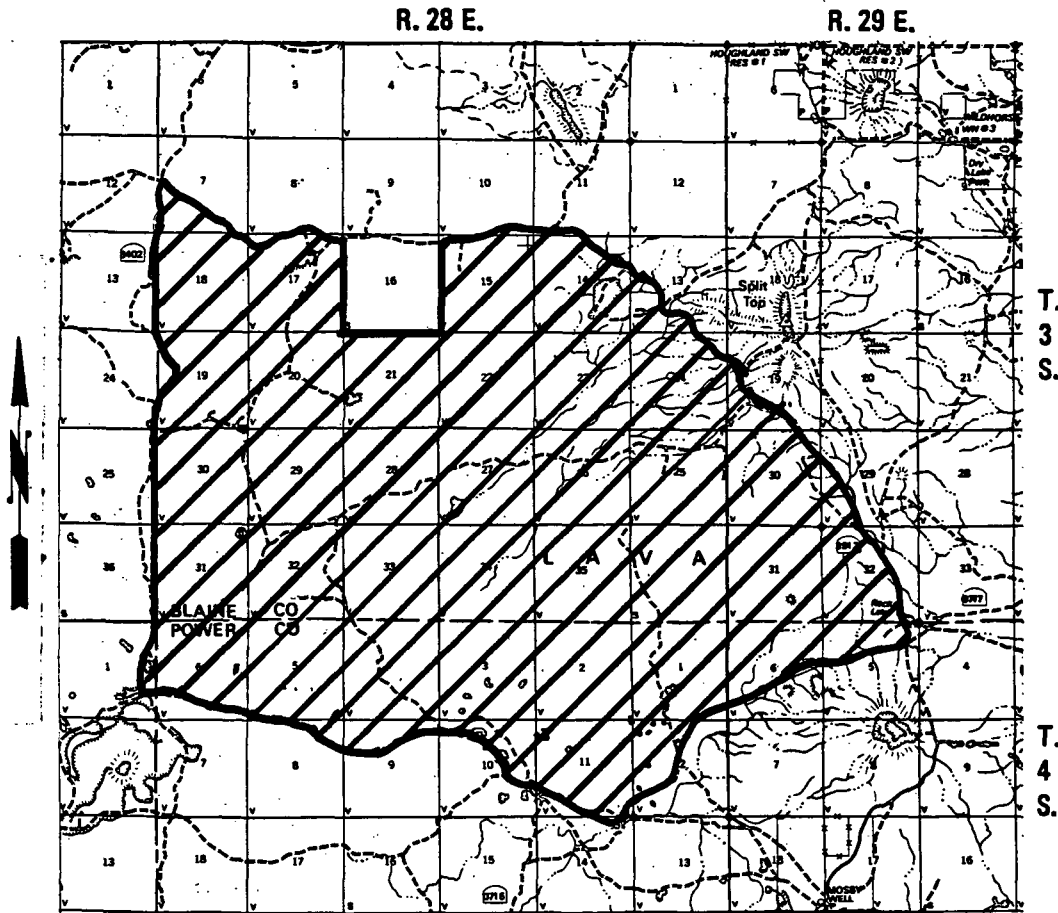


LEGEND



-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

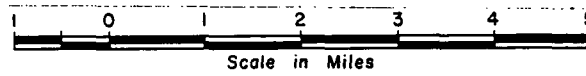


33-13
BEAR POINT



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 20,650 acres of BLM land, with a 640-acre state inholding. It is located approximately 15 miles southwest of Big Southern Butte. The topography of the unit is gently rolling with a maximum elevational difference of 400 feet. Several lava outcrops occur throughout the unit. A segment of the Great Rift fracture extends over two miles into the northwest corner. The vegetation is a result of low annual precipitation; Big Desert sagebrush is the predominant species, with a mixture of bunchgrasses and forbs. In some portions this natural vegetation has been interrupted by artificial seedings of introduced non-native grass species.

NATURALNESS:

Approximately 20 miles of vehicle ways have a significant effect on the naturalness of this unit. These ways vary in intensity from light duty jeep tracks to very substantial trails that are frequently used and have deep ruts. At least four ways bisect the unit. Off-road vehicle trails are located in most sections of the unit. Four small reservoirs exist within one mile of the boundary roads on all four sides. Over 1/4 of the unit, vegetation has been altered through brush control projects. The borders between these controlled areas and the natural sage dominated areas are abrupt and appear unnaturally linear. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints from casual observation. The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by natural processes.

SOLITUDE:

Desert shrubs and grasses dominate the unit and offer little vegetative screening. Topographic screening is considered minimal throughout the unit. Vehicles traveling border roads can be seen from approximately 1/4 of the unit and are considered moderate outside influences. Despite the lack of topographic and vegetative screening, the unit's large size and excellent configuration appear to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include hunting, hiking, backpacking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and horseback riding. The unit lacks exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions which renders the recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

This unit has been identified as critical range for pronghorn antelope and sage grouse. Archaeologists have also identified this area as having good potential for sites.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that supported further wilderness study stated that the vehicle ways, brush control measures, seedings and reservoirs were not justifiable reasons for dropping the unit. They stated that more consideration should be given to the prospect of allowing time for nature to heal these impacts. Others pointed out that litter should not be regarded as a problem beyond solution. Also mentioned were outstanding opportunities for solitude-recreation and that these values should outweigh the minimal impacts on naturalness. Other comments stated that the unit is not natural, does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation and should not be identified as a study area.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

The unit does not meet the naturalness criteria. Human imprints, particularly the vehicle ways and linear seedings, are very apparent throughout the unit.

Comments suggested that the unit be evaluated based on the prospect of allowing time for nature to heal the human imprints. This could only take place if the unit as a whole met the naturalness criteria; small areas could be considered for rehabilitation through natural processes or hand labor.

* * *

DECISION:

No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of naturalness, and a lack of outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 35,720 acres of BLM land with two State sections as inholdings. The eastern boundary is 19 miles west of American Falls Reservoir. Topography in the unit is generally flat with occasional rises, interrupted periodically by volcanic exposures and collapsed lava tubes. Major landmarks in the unit include Bear Trap Lava Tube, Cottrell's Blowout, Inferno Chasm, Horse Butte, Sullivan's Cave, and Mosby Butte. Due to an average annual rainfall of 11-13 inches, vegetation is limited to sagebrush and grasses.

NATURALNESS:

The predominant human imprint in the unit is the presence of vehicle ways, the cumulative impact of which is extremely substantial. Some ways, particularly those leading to livestock watering areas, are well used routes. Extending over 50 miles the ways form a complex network of loops, dead ends and multiple routes which criss-cross and bisect the unit. The impact is most noticeable in the unit's southern portion where the highest concentration occurs. Garbage has been dumped in Inferno Chasm, a frequently visited spot, and adversely affects the natural appearance of this important geologic feature. Brush control, seedings, and livestock reservoirs are present but do not substantially affect the apparent naturalness due to their small size in comparison to the size of the unit. Major ways and off-road vehicle routes have affected most of the unit. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints from casual observation. The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

Desert shrubs and grasses dominate the unit and offer little vegetative screening. Topographic screening is considered minimal throughout the unit. Traffic on the major roads which form the boundaries affects only peripheral areas and is not considered a substantial external influence. Despite the lack of topographic and vegetative screening, the unit's large size and good configuration appear to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include hunting, hiking, backpacking, cross-country skiing, spelunking and photography. The unusual and exceptional volcanic features such as lava tubes, cinder cones, and caves provide recreational attractions which offer outstanding opportunities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Bear Trap Lava Tube, Creon's Cave, Cottrell's Blowout, Inferno Chasm, and Horse Butte are prominent geologic features which possess educational and scenic values. The entire unit has been identified as a sage grouse booming ground and brood-rearing area. The west side of the unit is considered critical antelope range. The unit contains areas of archaeological significance, with surface lithic scatters in the vicinity of Bear Trip Cave.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that supported further wilderness study stated that the complex of vehicle ways and other human imprints were not justifiable reasons for dropping the unit. They stated that more consideration should be given to the prospect of allowing time to heal these impacts. Others pointed out that litter should not be regarded as a problem beyond solution. Also mentioned were outstanding opportunities for solitude-recreation and that these values should outweigh the minimal impacts on naturalness.

Other comments said the unit is not natural, does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation, and should not be identified as a study area.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

The unit does not meet the naturalness criteria. Human imprints, particularly the complex network of vehicle ways, are very apparent throughout the entire unit.

Comments suggested that the unit be evaluated based on the prospect of allowing time for nature to heal the human imprints. This could only take place if the unit as a whole met the naturalness criteria; small areas could be considered for rehabilitation through natural processes or hand labor.

* * *

DECISION:

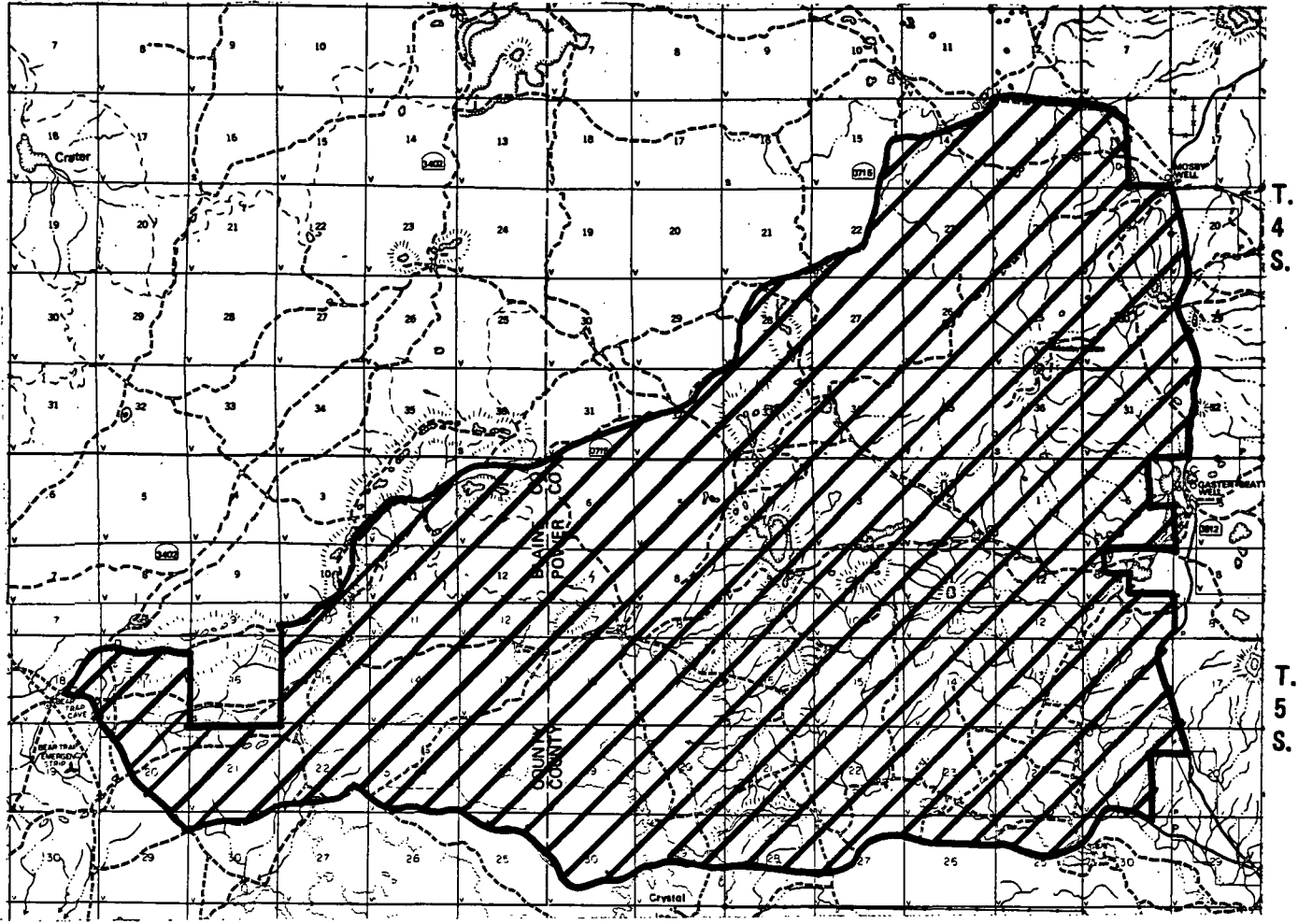
No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of naturalness.

33-14
MOSBY BUTTE



R. 27 E.

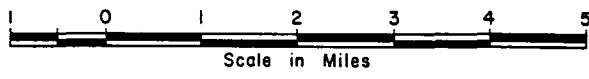
R. 28 E.

R. 29 E.

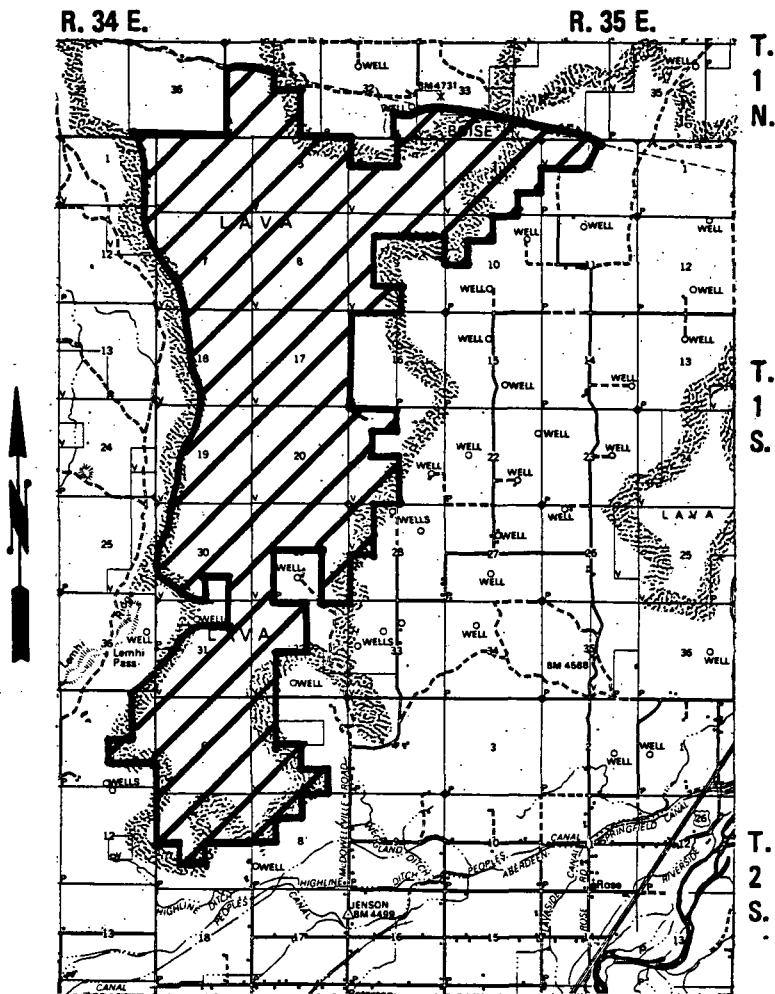


LEGEND



-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



33-16
MORGAN



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 9,420 acres of BLM land and is located five miles north of Blackfoot. Topographic relief across the unit is minimal with an elevational variation of 300 feet. It includes the southernmost extension of the 4,100 year old Hell's Half Acre lava flow. Almost the entire unit is lava with collapsed lava tubes, caves, fissures and other volcanic features in the unit. Vegetation is sparse due to low rainfall and limited soil development. Scattered junipers, forbs, grasses, and prickly pear cactus form the vegetative community on the lava. Some ferns occur deep in cool, moist cracks.

NATURALNESS:

Impacts within the unit include vehicle ways, evidence of lava trespass, and dumping sites, however, none of these impacts can be considered very substantial. Two ways in the northeast corner of the unit are apparent only due to an absence of vegetation along a narrow corridor on the flow, and appear to be access ways to areas where lava has been removed from the flow. Littering and minor dumping has occurred along the northern powerline road. An abandoned automobile lies in a collapsed lava tube on the unit border.

SOLITUDE:

Solitude cannot be termed outstanding due to the unit's narrow width, poor configuration and vulnerability to outside influences. Agricultural land and associated activities intrude to the unit's border on the east, west, and south. Flat topography and sparse vegetative cover provide little screening from adjacent human activities and limit the opportunity to avoid others within the unit. The unit's narrow width is also a limiting factor. A feeling of remoteness can only be found in the low areas and depressions in the lava flow where topographic screening is sufficient to block out human influences.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities include geologic sightseeing, photography, hiking, and camping. The concentration, frequency and variety of unusual natural features and recreational attractions are not considered exceptional throughout this portion of the Hell's Half Acre lava flow. The unit's narrowness also tends to confine recreation opportunities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The entire unit is a recent lava flow which represents a significant geologic process of scientific and educational value. Pioneer vegetative communities coupled with the occurrence of ferns, a high moisture-demanding plant not usually found in the desert, offer uncommon ecological values of educational importance. Prehistoric and historic sites of archaeological value are present.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that supported further study pointed out the unit's lava features and vegetative communities as having tremendous opportunity for public education and scientific study. Others believed the unit's small size, poor configuration, minimal topographic screening, and nearness to agricultural activities did not justify dropping the unit. Other comments stated that dropping areas because of minimal topographic and vegetative screening discriminates against the majority of desert wild lands. Others felt that the unit's narrow width and sounds around it were not reason enough to drop it from study. Primitive recreation opportunities were thought to exist for a variety of activities.

Other comments stated that the unit is not natural, does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation, and should not be a study area.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

The unit's supplemental values were recognized in the proposed decision.

Opportunities for solitude could be considered outstanding in the small unit if: screening was adequate; external activities were not imposing; and its configuration did not increase a visitor's chances of meeting others and encountering the views and sounds of adjacent farming activities.

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not outstanding. Recreational attractions are not exceptional and the unit's small size and narrowness would tend to confine use between intensively used agricultural lands. The sense of being in a primitive setting is limited because of the nearness to active farming practices.

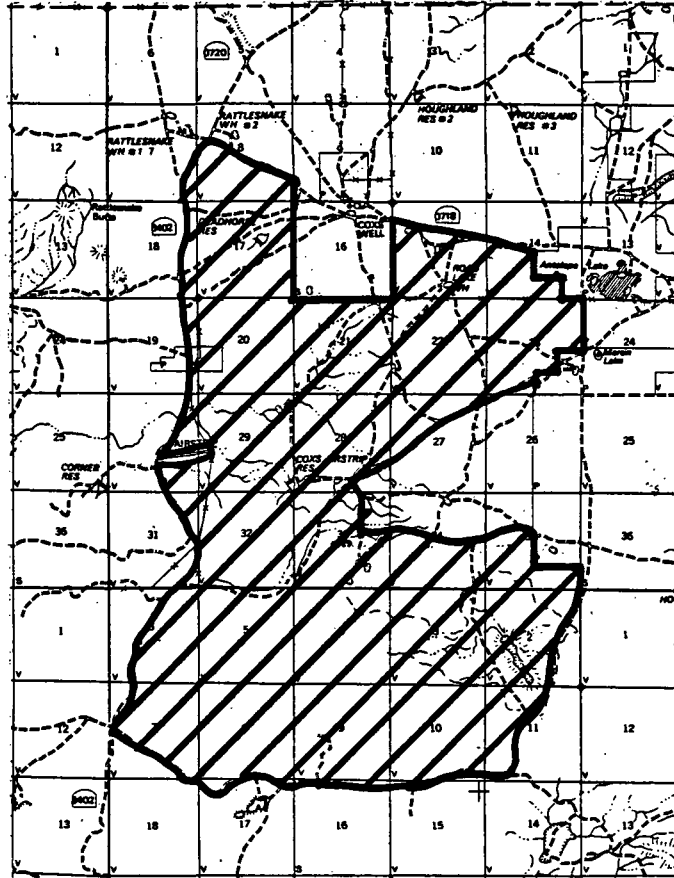
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DECISION:



No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

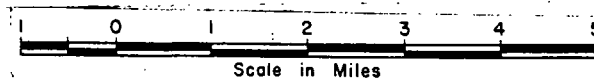
33-22
COX'S PLACE

R. 28 E.



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 12,790 acres of BLM land and is located 15 miles southwest of Big Southern Butte. This flat unit varies only 300 feet in elevation, with the highest point 5,352 feet. Vegetation is sparse and low, consisting mostly of sagebrush and grasses.

NATURALNESS:

Vehicle ways constitute a significant impact on the area, as they completely cross the unit in four places. Five reservoirs are within the unit with ways leading to them. A fence crosses the north half, another runs through the western portion. Cox's airstrip is a significant outside impact due to its close proximity, and to the north Cox's Well and associated structures are visible. Major ways, off-road vehicle routes and livestock developments have affected much of the area. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints from casual observation. The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by natural processes.

SOLITUDE:

There is almost no topographic or vegetative screening and the area is not large enough to isolate visitors from outside influences and from each other. The unit's small size and lack of vegetative and topographic screening do not afford opportunities that are outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities include camping, hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The unit's small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions render the recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Portions of the unit are critical antelope range and sage grouse booming and brood rearing grounds. Possibilities for archaeological sites are high, due to known sites near the border.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that supported further study disagreed that the unit lacked naturalness, stating more consideration should be given to the prospect of allowing time for nature to heal minimal impacts. Others pointed out that litter should not be regarded as a problem beyond solution. Also mentioned were outstanding opportunities for solitude-recreation and that these values should outweigh the minimal impacts on naturalness. Some comments stated that the proposed decision indicated the unit has outstanding opportunities for spelunking and that solitude can be easily obtained. Other comments stated that the unit was not natural, does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation, and should not be studied further.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

The unit does not meet the naturalness criteria. Human imprints, particularly the vehicle ways and livestock developments, are very apparent throughout the entire unit. Comments suggested that the unit be evaluated based on the prospect of allowing time for nature to heal the human imprints. This could only take place if the unit as a whole met the naturalness criteria; small areas could be considered for rehabilitation through natural processes or hand labor. The proposed decision did not indicate that outstanding opportunities for spelunking exist or that solitude could easily be obtained.

* * *

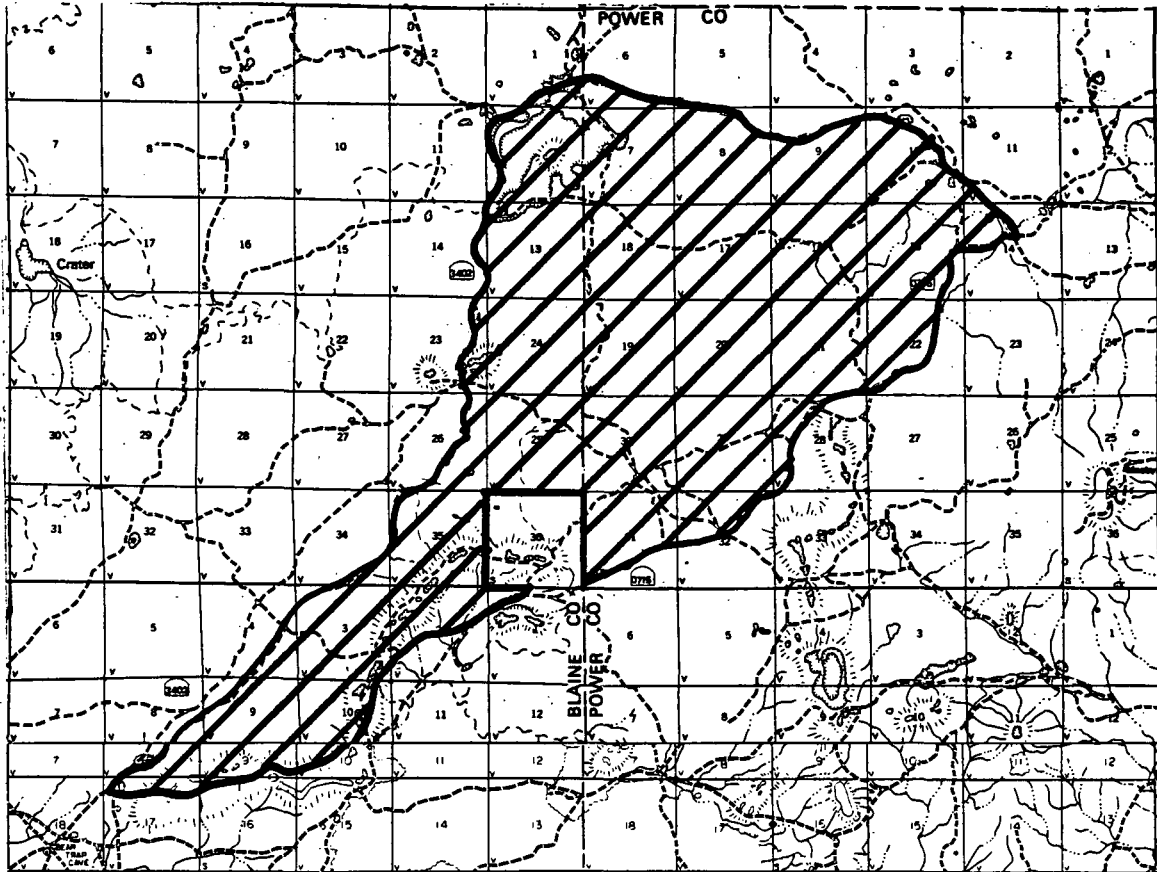
DECISION:

No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of naturalness, and a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.



33-23
BEAR TRAP

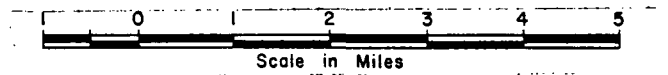
R. 27 E.

R. 28 E.



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 13,860 acres of BLM land with a 640-acre State inholding. It is located approximately 25 miles west of American Falls Reservoir and five miles north of the Crystal Ice Caves. The unit's topography is characterized by low hills with flat basins; elevation varies only 300 feet across the unit. Older volcanic features, which are well vegetated, interrupt the landscape. A collapsed lava tube beginning at Bear Trap Cave extends five miles northeast into the south portion of the unit. One low butte occurs in the northwest corner where several small caves can be found. A series of parallel cracks in the earth's surface extend through the unit's central portion and delineates the path of the Great Rift, an important geologic feature. Vegetation in the unit is principally sagebrush-grass. Several ephemeral ponds are found along the unit's west side.

NATURALNESS:

The major impact affecting naturalness in the unit is the existence of many vehicle ways, with ten miles of substantial ways completely bisecting the unit in three places, while an additional eight miles penetrate the unit. Off-road vehicle trails are located in many sections of the unit. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints from casual observation. The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by natural processes.

SOLITUDE:

Desert shrubs and grasses dominate the unit and offer little vegetative screening. Some topographic screening is present where rock outcropping and grottos occur, but is considered minimal throughout the unit. Although it may be possible to find opportunities for solitude in small areas within the unit, the small size, irregular configuration (particularly the southwestern portion) and minimal topographic and vegetative screening do not afford opportunities that are outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include hunting, hiking, geologic sightseeing, photography, spelunking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The unit contains several exceptional and unusual natural features and recreational attractions. They include volcanic features such as low buttes, collapsed lava tubes, fissures in the earth's surface and caves. Physical and mental challenge is considered significant with the recreational activities. Recreational opportunities are considered outstanding within the unit.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Proximity to Bear Trap Cave, a well-known archaeological site possessing considerable surface lithic scatters, suggests that this unit may contain important sites and information regarding early inhabitants - the Shoshone and Bannock tribes. The unit has also been identified as critical antelope range as well as a sage grouse booming ground and brood-rearing area. The cracks of the Great Rift, which occur in the northwest to southeast portion of the unit, are of noteworthy geological interest.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that supported further study disagreed that the unit lacked naturalness, stating more consideration should be given to the prospect of allowing time for nature to heal minimal impacts. Others pointed out that litter should not be regarded as a problem beyond solution. Also mentioned were outstanding opportunities for solitude-recreation and that these values should outweigh the minimal impacts on naturalness. Some comments stated that the proposed decision indicated that solitude could easily be obtained in the unit.

Other comments stated that the unit was not natural, does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation, and should not be studied further.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

The unit does not meet the naturalness criteria. Human imprints, particularly the vehicle ways, are very apparent throughout the unit. Comments suggested that the unit be evaluated based on the prospect of allowing time for nature to heal the human imprints. This could only take place if the unit as a whole met the naturalness criteria; small areas could be considered for rehabilitation through natural processes or hand labor. The proposed decision indicated that outstanding solitude did not exist within the unit.

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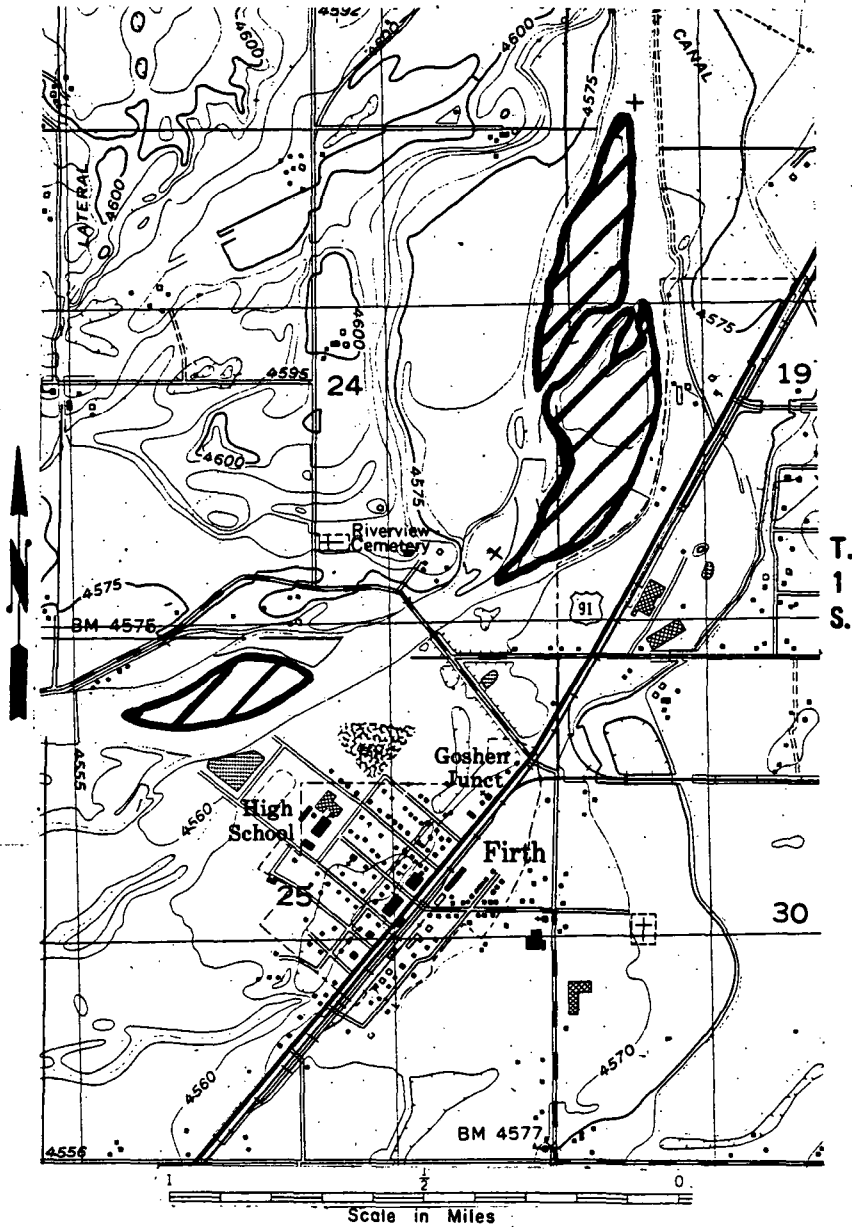
DECISION:

No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of naturalness, and a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude.



33-24
FIRTH QUAD ISLANDS

R. 36 E.

R. 37 E.



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

33-24 FIRTH QUAD ISLANDS

The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit consists of three islands totalling 86 acres of BLM land. The islands are located in a 1.8 mile stretch of the main stem of the Snake River, within 1/4 mile of the communities of Firth and Basalt. The islands are generally flat. They are well vegetated with cottonwood, willow, sage, and grasses; vegetation is dense around the perimeters. The surrounding river is shallow and relatively slow moving.

NATURALNESS:

The natural character of these islands is impacted by the proximity of human activity. The channel to island 2 is so shallow that the neighboring landowner frequently drives across; vehicle ways are apparent on the island. Litter is scattered over all the islands, some of it carried there by the Teton Dam flood, the remainder by local recreationists. Vehicles are plainly visible from the islands, and traffic from U. S. 26/91 is easily heard and fairly constant. Houses are located directly across the narrow channels from the islands, as are agricultural areas and accompanying farm machinery.

Fluctuations of the water level are not usually caused by natural forces, with water diversion structures lining the river, substantially decreasing flow during the irrigation season.

MANAGEABILITY:

Due to the shallow narrow channels, prevention of vehicle crossings from the shore to the islands would be very difficult. They are small and are surrounded by agricultural and residential areas. Managing these islands in an unimpaired state would be virtually impossible due to their size, location, variability of river flow, and channel separation from the mainland.

SOLITUDE:

Vegetative screening is considered good on all three islands. Topographic screening is minimal. External influences are considered substantial and so imposing that they cannot be avoided. Due to the islands small size, general lack of screening and imposing outside influences, opportunities for solitude are not considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities include fishing, hunting, and camping. Thick brush and a few openings inhibit camping opportunities. The unnatural water level fluctuations and low water quality reduce fishing opportunities and wildlife populations are not particularly abundant. Primitive recreation is considered less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

These islands provide habitat for beaver, rabbits, deer and some waterfowl.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

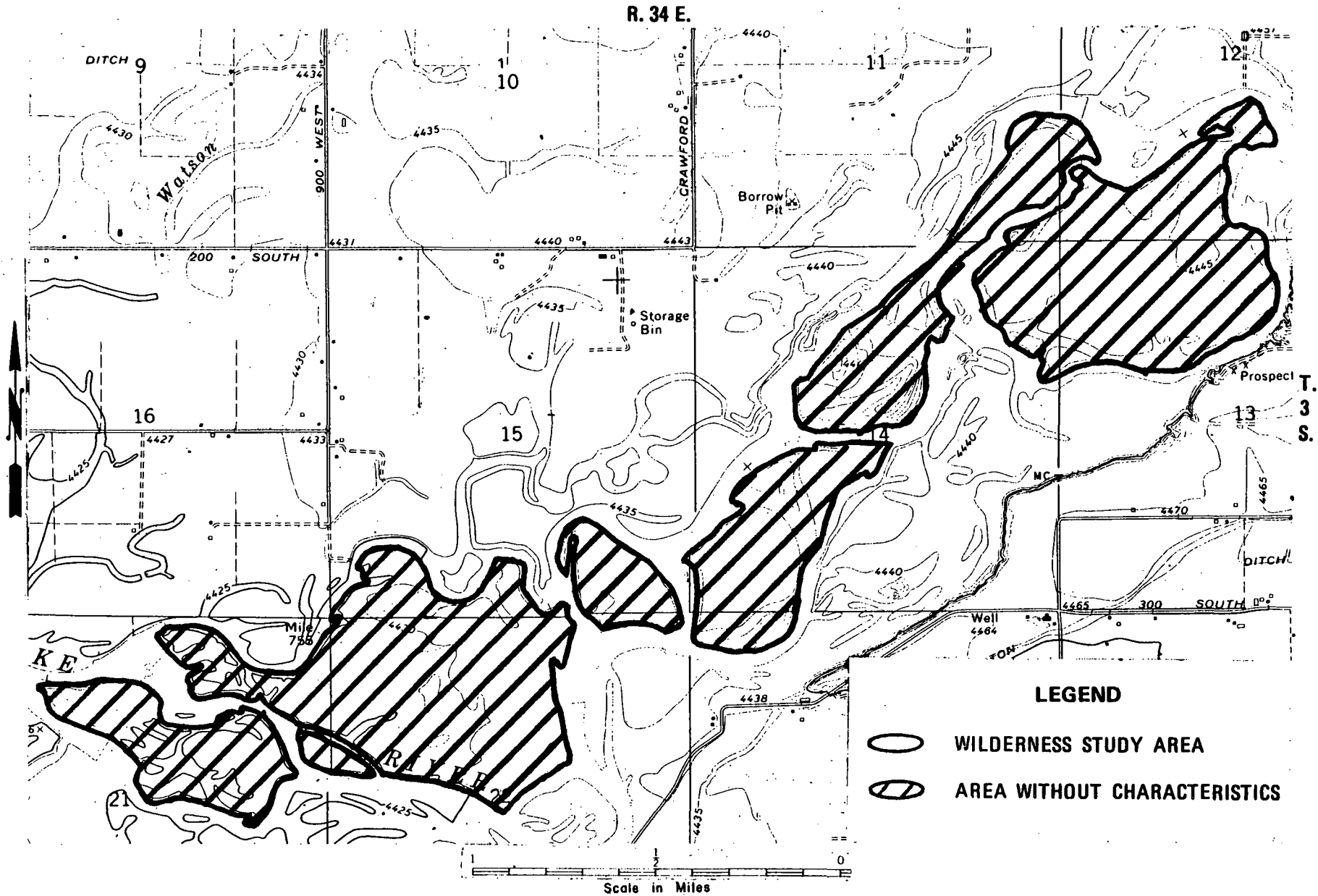
Comment received on this unit agreed with the proposed decision to drop it from further wilderness consideration.

* * *



DECISION:

No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of naturalness, a lack of manageability, and a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

33-25
MORELAND QUAD ISLANDS



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

33-25 MORELAND QUAD ISLANDS

The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit consists of seven islands totalling 807 acres of BLM land. They are located along a 4.7 mile stretch of the main stem of the Snake River downstream from Blackfoot, and four miles south of Moreland. The islands are generally flat. They are well vegetated with cottonwood, willow, sage, and grasses; vegetation is dense around the perimeters. The surrounding river is shallow, meandering and slow moving.

NATURALNESS:

Impacts on the islands include bulldozer tracks, motorcycle and other vehicle tracks, livestock fences, junk autos and litter. Bulldozer tracks and severe vegetation damage cut into the western end of island 8. Island 6 has been extensively used by motorcycles and has well worn trails on it. Fences were found on island 8 and several junk autos on islands 9 and 10. Trash and litter were found on all of the islands. External influences of a nearby highway and agricultural lands are considered substantial. None of the islands are large enough nor do they provide enough screening to hide these imprints from casual observation. The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by natural processes.

MANAGEABILITY:

Islands 4, 6, 8, 9, and 10 are not actually islands during the irrigation season and drier months of the year, when the river channels dry up. Channels separating the other islands from the mainland are extremely shallow during low water seasons. Due to their small size, variability of river flow and channel separation from the mainland, it is not considered practicable to manage the islands in an unimpaired condition.

SOLITUDE:

Vegetative screening is considered good on all islands. Topographic screening is minimal. External influences are considered substantial and so imposing that they cannot be ignored or avoided. Due to the island's small size, general lack of screening and imposing outside influences, opportunities for solitude are not considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities include fishing, hunting, and camping. Thick brush and few openings inhibit camping opportunities. The unnatural water level fluctuations and low water quality reduce fishing opportunities and wildlife populations are not particularly abundant. Primitive recreation opportunities are considered less than outstanding.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comment received on this unit agreed with the proposed decision to drop it from further wilderness consideration.

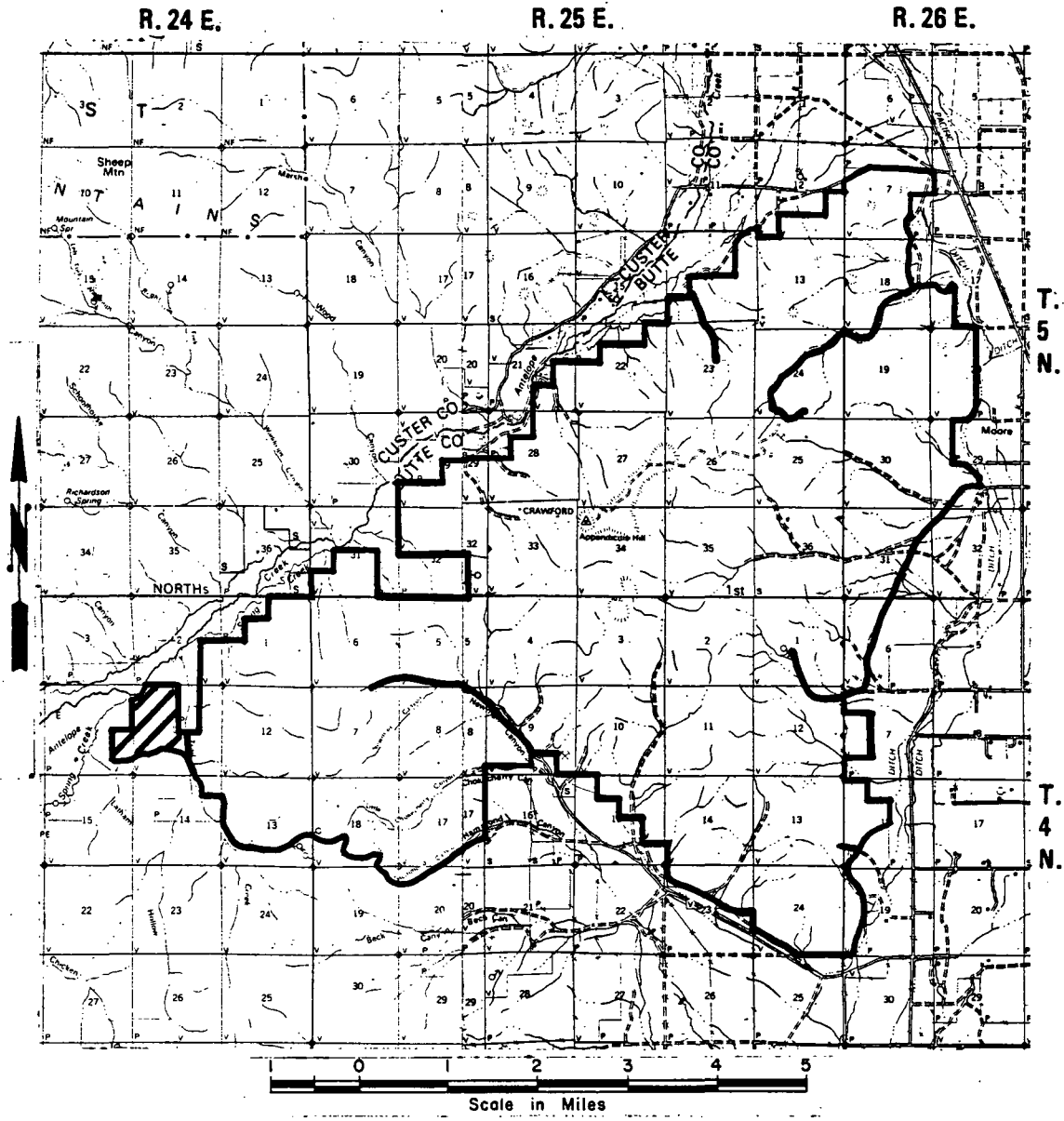
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DECISION:



No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of naturalness, a lack of manageability, and a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

IDAHO FALLS DISTRICT
UNITS IDENTIFIED AS
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

31-14
APPENDICITIS HILL



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

31-14 APPENDICITIS HILL

The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 25,500 acres of BLM land with a 640-acre State inholding. The unit has a semi-triangular form and is located two miles south of Darlington, two miles east of Grouse and five miles northwest of Arco.

Lying between the Antelope Creek and Big Lost River drainages, the unit contains several intermittent streams which contribute to both major drainages. The unit is mountainous, with Crawford Peak rising to 8,523 feet, 2,900 feet above Antelope Valley. Lower elevation hills are generally rounded, supporting sagebrush and grass. Several canyons contain impressive rock outcrops and caves. High northfacing slopes support concentrated stands of Douglas fir; choke-cherry and mountain mahogany can be found on slopes and canyon walls. Stands of aspen accompanied by willows grow in Newman and Chokecherry Canyons.

NATURALNESS:

In the unit's northeast corner, rocks have been dumped in piles just inside the unit. The unit boundary has been adjusted to exclude these impacts. Four small mining scars are evident just inside the unit near Newman Canyon. They appear insignificant and revegetation has made them less noticeable. A larger rectangular mining scar forms a ditch but is not a major intrusion. Two borrow pits occur near the borders. Their visual impact is minimal as they are partially revegetated and their aspect faces out of the unit. Eight livestock watering sites consisting of spring developments with troughs or tanks are spaced throughout the unit. While exposed soil is noticeable at these spots, erosion seems to be minimal and usually localized. Approximately 18 miles of vehicle ways penetrate the unit. Many are related to livestock maintenance, while others provide access for hunters. The longest vehicle access enters the unit from the northeast tip, and eventually winds up to Crawford Rock on Appendicitis Hill. A small reservoir appears as a grassy depression and is not a significant imprint. Human imprints, distributed mainly around the periphery, are judged to be substantially unnoticeable. The unit's large size and good topographic and vegetative screening tend to decrease the effect of most impacts on apparent naturalness. The unit as a whole appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

The deep, narrow, meandering canyon systems and rugged mountainous region provide excellent topographic screening. At the Crawford Peak summit and on the ridge tops topographic screening is moderate. Vegetative screening is good on hillsides and in the canyons where tree species occur and moderate on ridges and slopes that support desert shrub species. Topographic and vegetative screening is poor in the far western corner of the unit where the boundary narrows to approximately 1/4 mile. Opportunities for solitude are considered less than outstanding within this small finger of land totalling 300 acres. The large size and good configuration combined with generally good topographic and vegetative screening afford outstanding opportunities for solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreation opportunities include hiking, backpacking, hunting, wildlife observation, scenic photography, climbing, and sightseeing for botanical and geological features. The unusual or exceptional natural features and diversity of recreational attractions provide opportunities for primitive recreation which are considered outstanding. These features and attractions are lacking in the 300 acre parcel at the far western corner of the unit, with opportunities considered less than outstanding in this small parcel. There appears to be significant physical challenge associated with cross-country travel in the area due to the rugged terrain.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

A large part of this unit has been identified as critical deer range and a smaller portion as critical range for elk. The unit has heavy concentrations of chukar partridges and raptors as well as booming grounds and a brood-rearing area for sage grouse. Numerous archaeological sites occur in the unit, including pictographs and surface lithic scatters.

REHABILITATION:

The borrow pits and mining scars are in the process of natural revegetation and will be substantially unnoticeable in a few years. The vehicle ways would also revegetate with time, with the exclusion of vehicles. The amount of trash that has been dumped in the unit is small and easily removable.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that supported further wilderness study felt the vehicle ways and other human imprints were not that noticeable and would revegetate easily. They believed the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation because of its large size and physical characteristics. The unit's wildlife habitat and archaeological sites were pointed out as important supplemental values.

Other comments did not favor further study, stating the unit does not appear natural because of vehicle ways, livestock developments, and mining scars. They also stressed that views of nearby towns and agricultural developments and the lack of significant water sources decreases opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude. Comments stated that the vehicle route to the top of the two highest peaks in the unit should be a road since there are intermittent bulldozer cuts along the entire length. Others stated that the way into Newman Canyon was constructed and is maintained for livestock management uses.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Reevaluation shows that the human imprints are not that noticeable. They are scattered throughout this large unit and are hidden by the good topographic and vegetative screening.

A portion of the vehicle route leading to the top of the two highest peaks was originally identified as a road. The remaining portion does show signs of past construction but does not appear to be maintained for regular and continuous use. The Newman Canyon way does appear to meet the road definition up to the livestock watering area. Adjustments have been made to exclude this road.

The reference in the proposed decision to rehabilitation was to portions of the unit that meet the naturalness definition, not to portions that do not.

* * *

DECISION:

Based on public comment and field evaluations, the route up Newman Canyon is now classed as a road. A unit of 24,870 acres is identified as a wilderness study area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 9,950 acres of BLM land. This figure differs from the 9,900 acres shown in the August 1979 report due to more accurate calculation of acreage. The unit is located less than one mile north of Grouse, a community in Antelope Valley. On the north a road penetrates approximately 2 1/2 miles into the core of the unit. The unit is mountainous, with its highest point rising 2,000 ft. above Antelope Valley to an elevation of 7,955 ft. Many well defined drainages with southward orientations feed Cherry and Antelope Creeks, just outside the unit. While the majority of the unit supports a sagebrush-bunchgrass complex, scattered and concentrated stands of Douglas fir occur at higher elevations. Mountain mahogany is often found between the sage-to-Douglas fir transition or on the tops and slopes of lower hills with cooler aspects. Several pockets of aspen and willow surround moist spring areas in upper Waddoups Canyon.

NATURALNESS:

Livestock grazing has little impact on the unit's apparent naturalness. Cattle trails and salting areas generally are not obvious. Near springs, pipes have been sunk to feed small troughs. Trampling in the area immediately surrounding each tank is evident though good vegetative and topographic screening tends to mitigate the impact. The remains of a relatively small reservoir are situated at the end of the way in Ras Canyon. Vegetation has come back on the dam making it quite unnoticeable. Six vehicle ways penetrate the unit at various locations. These ways appear to receive infrequent use and their impact is not substantial. External influences are not considered substantial and do not affect apparent naturalness. Topographic and vegetative screening is sufficient to hide these minor imprints from casual observation. The unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

Vegetative screening is considered excellent at higher elevations and fair near the unit's southern border. The deeply cut drainages and generally mountainous topography offer good to excellent topographic screening. The unit contains adequate topographic and vegetative screening affording outstanding opportunities for solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit offers a variety of primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities including hunting, camping, hiking, photography, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. The unit is presently used for deer and sage grouse hunting. A year-round water source and aspen groves offer good camping sites. The recreational opportunities are considered outstanding because of the unusual natural features and recreational attractions associated with the unit's canyons. There is significant challenge, both mental and physical, associated with some of the recreation activities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The abundance of deer, antelope and sage grouse suggests that this area contains important habitat. The unit has been identified as having numerous archaeological sites including hunting blinds, rock shelters and surface lithic scatters, which offer archaeological and educational values.

REHABILITATION:

A small trash pile could easily be removed using hand labor. Water troughs and ways would then constitute the only noticeable human imprints remaining in the unit. Restricting vehicular access would allow natural revegetation within a few years and the troughs could easily be removed.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that supported further study stated that the unit meets the minimum wilderness definition and has important supplemental values. Other comments did not favor further study, or questioned the statements on rehabilitation.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

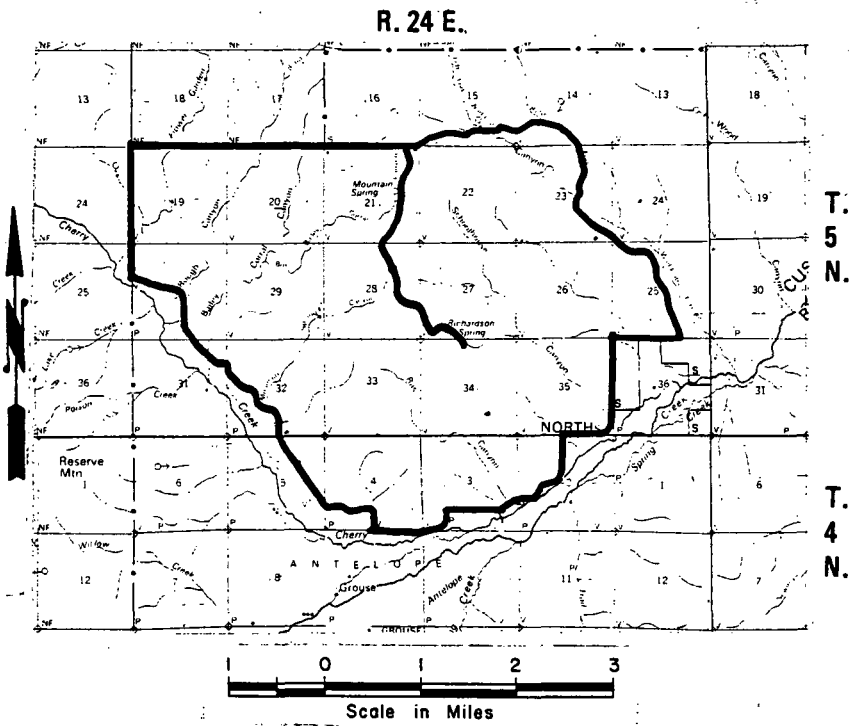
Most comments were not specific to the wilderness inventory criteria. The reference in the proposed decision to rehabilitation was to portions of the unit that already meet the naturalness criteria.

* * *

DECISION:

No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. A unit of 9,950 acres is identified as a wilderness study area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

31-17
WHITE KNOB MOUNTAINS



LEGEND

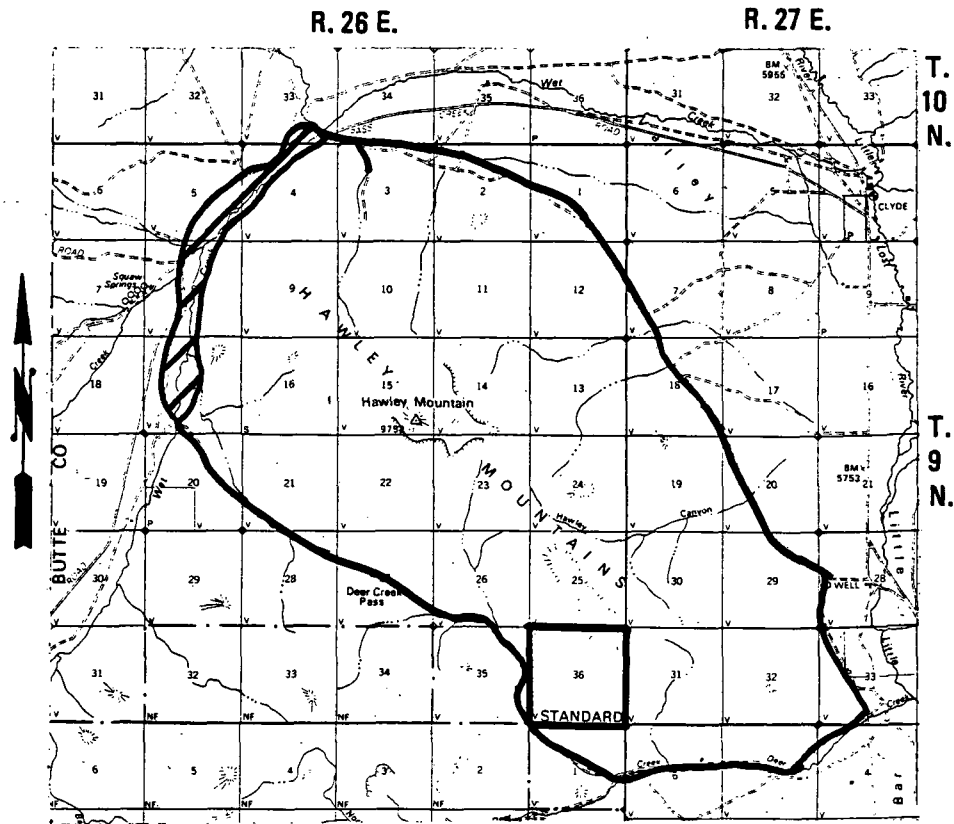


WILDERNESS STUDY AREA





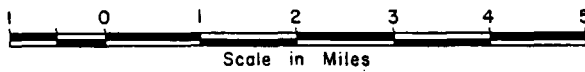
AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

**32-3
HAWLEY MOUNTAIN**



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



32-3 HAWLEY MOUNTAIN

The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 16,150 acres of BLM land with two State section inholdings. It lies 2½ miles southwest of Clyde on the eastern edge of the Lost River Range. The unit completely encompasses Hawley Mountain. The base of the mountain begins at about 6,000 feet and rises sharply to 9,752 feet. Well-defined drainages fan out in all directions toward the unit boundary. Vegetation at lower elevations is dominated by a sagebrush/bunchgrass community. Large stands of older mountain mahogany and some Douglas fir blanket the higher elevations in about half the unit. Much of the summit and associated ridges are dominated by rock outcrops and talus slopes.

NATURALNESS:

Approximately six miles of vehicle ways penetrate the unit, the longest climbs a basin in the northern part. Another of these ways travels up Hawley Canyon 1½ miles before terminating. Other ways are faint jeep trails which penetrate not more than a half mile into the unit. Impacts resulting from livestock grazing include scattered parcels of cropped grasses on lower slopes, an old seeding along the western border, and a few fences which penetrate a short distance into the area. None of these impacts significantly detract from the apparent naturalness of this unit. On the southwest side of Hawley Mountain old growth mountain mahogany stands have been thinned. This project has little impact on apparent naturalness. On the southeast side of the unit there is a small old garbage dump. External influences are not considered significant.

Due to the cumulative impact of several vehicle ways, powerlines, grazing and numerous campsites, an adjustment in the boundary has been made on the northwest side along Wet Creek. The new border runs along the easternmost vehicle way, excluding these impacts, and trims 630 acres from the unit. The boundary is also adjusted slightly along a new segment of the Deer Creek Road, resulting in a deletion of 10 acres. Other impacts on naturalness are minor and not substantial. The unit as a whole appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

Within the Hawley Mountain Unit there exist outstanding opportunities for experiencing solitude. The rugged terrain and timber on the upper slopes provide excellent topographic and vegetative screening. Views of the Little Lost Valley from within the unit enhance these feelings of isolation. The valley is sparsely populated and human activities appear to be very remote. The unit is of sufficient size for a visitor to avoid the activities of others within the unit.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Hunting is an outstanding recreational activity within this area. Deer, antelope, elk, and sage grouse all utilize this unit extensively. Hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are also outstanding recreational opportunities. The gentle lower slopes and the rugged, rocky upper slopes provide a wide diversity of environments for these recreational activities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains important habitat for a variety of wildlife. Pronghorn antelope use the southwest portion of the unit as a migration route and the north and west portions as fawning grounds. The lower slopes have been identified as sage grouse nesting and brood-rearing areas along with mule deer winter range. Views to the west of the proposed Borah Peak wilderness provide striking vistas from Hawley Mountain's summit. This is also true of the view of the Lemhi Range and jagged Diamond Peak to the east. Within this unit two threatened plants have been identified: Invested cryptantha and Idaho Hymenopappus. This unit is also of archaeological importance; hunting blinds, surface lithic scatters and rock shelters are located throughout the area.

REHABILITATION:

With restrictions on vehicular access the ways within the unit should revegetate in two to five years. Seeding of the more impacted areas and the use of water bars to channel water off the ruts would speed this process. The small garbage dump could easily be removed using hand labor.

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that supported further wilderness study agreed that the unit was natural in appearance, however, some comments felt the ways leading to Hawley Canyon should be excluded. Other comments indicated the ways were substantially unnoticeable and would easily revegetate. Supportive comments on solitude and primitive recreation indicated the unit offered outstanding opportunities. Comments stated the cultural modifications in the valley below had a minor affect on solitude, while others thought a visitor had a feeling of being removed when looking down at human development from afar. Supplemental values of geology, biology, archaeology, and threatened plants were mentioned.

Other comments concurred that 640 acres along Wet Creek should be excluded due to the cumulative impact of vehicle ways and powerlines.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

The ways in Hawley Canyon do not appear significant enough, either individually or cumulatively, to influence apparent naturalness. These ways would revegetate naturally in two to five years. The reference in the proposed decision to rehabilitation was to portions of the unit that meet the naturalness criteria, not to portions that do not.

* * *

DECISION:

No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. A unit of 15,510 acres is identified as a wilderness study area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

32-9 BLACK CANYON

The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 5,400 acres of BLM land. This figure differs from the 5,220 acres shown in the August 1979 report. The initial inventory located the southern boundary along a legal subdivision. After reevaluation in the field it was determined that a more appropriate boundary would be a way near the subdivision line, resulting in an increase in 180 acres. The unit lies in the foothills of the Lemhi Range between the Birch Creek and Little Lost River Valleys. The rugged Lemhi Range rises from the southern unit boundary to a height of 7,455 feet in the northwest portion. Several deep canyons cut the area with steep rock walls and intermittent streams. Junipers outline the stratification of sedimentary rocks on the upper slopes. A few dense patches of Douglas fir occur on higher points in the unit. A sagebrush/bunchgrass community dominates the lower slopes and canyons.

NATURALNESS:

Two vehicle trails penetrate the unit from the south following canyon bottoms. A faint spur trail runs a short distance to Jackknife Cave on the west wall of the eastern canyon. A barbed wire fence is located in the northeast portion of the unit.

External influences are considered minimal, and include distant sights of agricultural lands and associated structures and the Department of Energy facilities to the east.

Even though the unit is small, the natural features of the area are so prominent and of such high interest that the casual observer would tend to overlook the imprints of man in favor of examining the natural features. The area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

Extensive topographic variation combined with some vegetative screening make opportunities for solitude outstanding. The deep, winding canyons, caves, rock outcrops and scattered junipers offer outstanding opportunities for visitors to avoid others within the unit.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Opportunities for rock-climbing and spelunking are outstanding in this unit. The many rock outcrops, faces and cliffs provide excellent possibilities for climbing. Numerous caves are located in the area and these offer opportunities for exploring. Hiking up the canyons and viewing the variety of beautiful rock formations is also an outstanding opportunity. The unique geologic features found in this area combined with wildlife populations make this unit a good location for photography. Overall the quality of recreational opportunities is considered outstanding because of the exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions throughout the unit.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Rock formations in this unit have important geologic, scenic, and educational values.

The unit is also important habitat for the prairie falcon, golden eagle, kestrels, Cooper's hawk, goshawk, sharp-shinned hawk, great horned owl, and red-tailed hawk. In addition, this area is historic bighorn sheep range. The unit is of important archaeological value, containing numerous rock shelters, pictographs and surface lithic scatters. Locations in the unit show evidence of human use dating back 10,000 years.

REHABILITATION:

Vehicle trails and ways are considered light and should revegetate through natural processes.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that agreed with the proposed decision recognized that the unit has some jeep trails and that agricultural development can be seen from a few viewpoints in the unit.

However, they felt the trails would easily revegetate through natural processes and that the unit contains sufficient topographic and vegetative screening to hide external human imprints. Screening was also stressed as contributing to outstanding opportunities for solitude. Comments pointed out that the unit has exceptional natural features that provide an outstanding primitive recreation attraction. The unit's archaeological sites and wildlife habitat were identified as important supplemental values.

Other comments did not support further study, emphasizing that the unit does not appear natural because of vehicle trails and a livestock fence. They also stressed that the views of agricultural and other developments, the unit's small size, lack of water, and presence of rattlesnakes makes opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation less than outstanding.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

The unit appears natural, displays an unusual diversity of landforms, has outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, and important supplemental values. Topography and vegetation screen a visitor well from external sounds and views. Water is not necessary for a primitive recreation experience; the absence of it offers a risk or challenge to the primitive recreationist. The same may apply to rattlesnakes, which to some are a part of the Western outdoor experience.

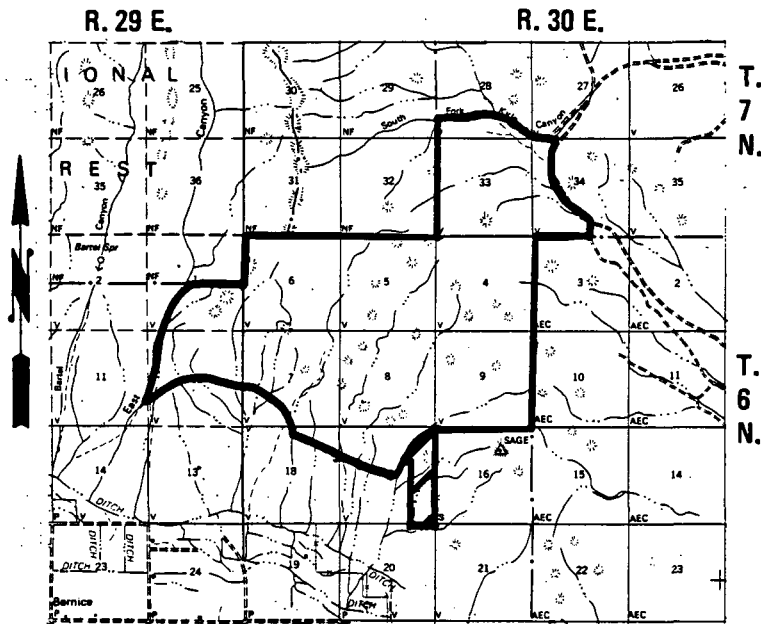
The reference in the proposed decision to rehabilitation was to portions of the unit that meet the naturalness criteria, not to portions that do not.

* * *



DECISION:

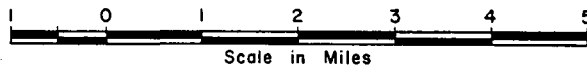
No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. A unit of 5,400 acres is identified as a wilderness study area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

32-9
BLACK CANYON



LEGEND

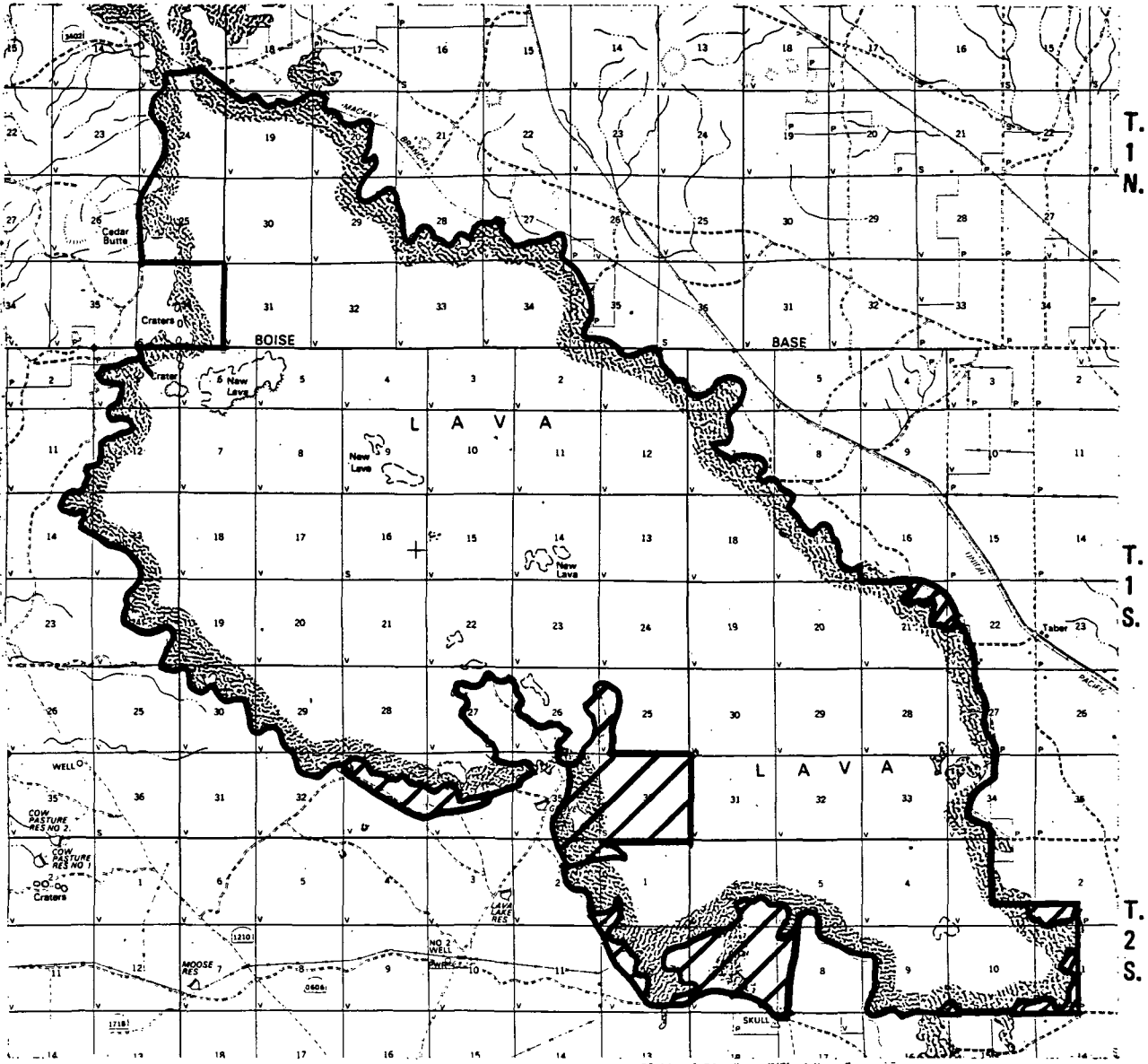
-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS





33-4
CEDAR BUTTE

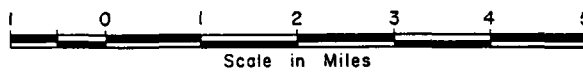
R. 31 E.

R. 32 E.



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderenss characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 38,820 acres of BLM land with two State section inholdings. It is located just south of Atomic City with the northern tip of the unit lying five miles east of Big Southern Butte. The unit contains all but the northern tip of the Cerro Grande lava flow, which dates back to 10,780 + 300 years old. Several more recent flows overlie the old flow. Volcanic features including blow-out craters, lava tubes and caves characterize the area. The source vent represents the highest point in the unit at 5,235 ft. Nowhere in the area does elevation drop below 4,600 ft. illustrating the unit's flat topography. The vegetation in the northern portion is characterized by bunch grasses, concentrated in the lava cracks where soil accumulation is greatest. Junipers and sage become more prevalent toward the central and southern portions where greater soil development has occurred.

NATURALNESS:

While the unit boundary tends to follow the edge of the lava flow, certain areas along the perimeter include a narrow margin of desert range. These are the most impacted areas, in particular, land adjacent to agriculture areas along the southeast corner of the lava flow where dumps, rock piles and vehicle ways exist. A livestock trough and some small excavations occur in the northwest corner. Numerous crested wheatgrass seedings are visible along this same margin on the unit's west side. Three sections of wooden drift fences have been placed within the unit along railroad tracks on the north boundary. Boundary adjustments have excluded these impacts. Approximately four miles of vehicle ways are visible on the lavas. They are apparent more from their affect on the low vegetation rather than from any impact on the substrata. Their overall impact is minor and easily absorbed due to the size of the unit. A portion of the lava flow has been designated as a community pit, where the public can collect lava rock after obtaining a permit from the BLM. The section includes a large portion of the main source vent. Several small lava removal sites occur along the road leading to the main source vent, but the impact is not substantial. As most of the impacts are located just inside the unit boundary but outside the actual flow, the border has been adjusted to follow the lava edge. These adjustments eliminate impacts to naturalness on the east and west sides of the unit.

SOLITUDE:

Desert shrubs, grasses and juniper dominate the unit and offer little vegetative screening. Topographic screening is considered moderate overall, due to the general open and flat character of this lava landscape. The numerous depressions and lava swells provide adequate screening for visitors to avoid others within the unit. Other than the occasional passing of a train on the northeast and agricultural activities to the east, external influences are non-existent. Due to the unit's large size and sufficient relief, opportunities for solitude are considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The rugged nature of the unit offers outstanding opportunities for various recreational activities in an uncommon environment. Collapsed lava tubes, fissures and craters provide excellent exploratory possibilities for hikers, photographers, and geologists. Camping on the lava flow constitutes another unusual yet rewarding recreational activity for the enthusiast willing to pack water. Similarly, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing could provide risk and challenge for the winter recreationist. Due to the unit's large size and exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions, opportunities for primitive recreation are considered outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

In addition to its scenic quality, the scientific and geologic significance of this lava flow is the greatest supplemental value. This uncommon landform offers unique educational opportunities to a variety of disciplines including geology, botany, zoology and ecology. The flow also provides important habitat for rabbits, coyotes, reptiles, bobcats, and mule deer. Booming grounds for sage grouse have been identified in the flow.

REHABILITATION:

The community pit area has only minor and sparsely distributed evidence of lava rock collection. These man-caused signs would eventually disappear as the lichen cover returned and weathering processes took effect. Closing the vehicle ways leading to these sites would eliminate any further impacts.

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that agreed that the unit qualified as a study area were not detailed as to the reasons why it qualified. Other comments did not favor further study, mentioning roads, a powerline, crested wheatgrass seedings, and a reservoir; and indicating that they adversely affect naturalness and opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Other comments stated that nearby agricultural sounds have a negative influence on the unit's naturalness and were disruptive to solitude. Solitude was also cited as less than outstanding because the unit lacks vegetative and topographic screening.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

The developments listed above are quite a distance outside of the unit and are not significant enough to affect the unit's wilderness values. These factors are not imposing enough to disqualify this large area from further study. A unit this large does not need good screening to provide outstanding opportunities--space and limited topographic relief is sufficient.

The reference in the proposed decision to rehabilitation was to portions of the unit that meet the naturalness criteria, not to portions that do not.

* * *

DECISION:

No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. A unit of 35,700 acres is identified as a wilderness study area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

33-15 HELL'S HALF ACRE

The April 1980 proposed decision included the following evaluation of wilderness characteristics.

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 68,920 acres of BLM land with four State land inholdings totalling 2,560 acres, and a 40-acre private inholding. The BLM acreage figure differs from the 66,200 acres shown in the August 1979 report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. The unit is located five miles west of Idaho Falls. As a general rule, the edge of the lava flow forms the boundary on the north, east and west sides. Morgan's Pasture, a private agricultural area, with numerous developments, forms part of the unit's southern boundary. The unit consists almost entirely of a 4,100-year old "pahoe-hoe" lava flow. Very small amounts of desert land occur inside the boundaries. Various volcanic features including collapsed lava tubes, cones, caves, fissures and the source vent are found throughout the flow. Vegetation on the lava is typically a pioneer type including lichens, mosses and grasses; junipers and ferns appear in some of the cracks. The flow ranges from 4,600 to 5,350 feet in elevation.

NATURALNESS:

Boundary adjustments have been made to exclude agricultural trespass, several ways, and other impacts, decreasing the unit by 2,720 acres. The remainder of the unit is free from man-caused impacts due to difficult vehicular access onto the rugged lava. Fifteen ways enter the unit, but none are substantial nor extend over one mile. Along the powerline and road forming the southmost boundary and in some northern sections, garbage dumps are found just inside the border. Some disturbance and ways indicate a possibility of unauthorized lava removal. External influences consist of scattered dumps, views of agricultural activity, farm roads and highways and the cities of Idaho Falls and Shelley. These are visible from the edges of the unit and from the higher points within, but are not considered substantially imposing.

SOLITUDE:

Desert shrubs, grasses and juniper dominate the unit and offer little vegetative screening. Topographic screening is considered moderate overall, due to the general open and flat character of this lava landscape. The numerous depressions and lava swells provide adequate screening for visitors to avoid others within the unit. External influences are not considered significant. Due to the unit's large size and sufficient relief, opportunities for solitude are considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit offers outstanding opportunities for recreational activities. Volcanic forces have created lava tunnels which can be explored as well as a myriad of volcanic features that provide excellent subjects for photographers and geology buffs. Sight-seeing is outstanding for botanical and zoological features. Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing could offer physical and mental challenge to winter explorers. For those willing to brave the rough portions of lava, hiking the area allows the visitor to discover its unique beauty. Camping constitutes another unusual and rewarding activity for the enthusiast willing to pack in water. Due to the unit's large size and exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions, opportunities for primitive recreation are considered outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The scientific, educational, and scenic values of this unit are significant. A large portion of the unit has been designated a National Natural Landmark due to its unusual occurrence within the Snake River Plain. It includes excellent examples of "pahoe-hoe" lava features of geologic importance. The ecology of the lavas is unique, a prime illustration of pioneering plant communities. The ferns in the deep cracks are a botanical anomaly. Prehistoric and historic sites of archaeological value are present.

REHABILITATION:

If protected from vehicle use, the ways entering the unit should revegetate with natural processes. Trash and garbage could be cleaned up using hand labor.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that supported further wilderness study gave the following reasons why the unit should be studied:

- The unit is natural in appearance. Human imprints that are present along the unit boundary are of minor significance; naturalness would be met if a boundary adjustment were made. The suggested adjustment was to exclude sections in the southeastern part of the unit containing bladed vehicle trails. The area is close to major population centers, yet so expansive and relatively untouched that human imprints are scarcely noticeable.
- Opportunities for solitude are outstanding. Visitors need only walk in 200 yds. to feel isolated. The little but sharp relief in the lava provides adequate screening for reducing encounters with others. Good camping sites are visually isolated from each other. Solitude would not be diminished if others were in the area. Size and topography allow for outstanding solitude.
- Opportunities for primitive recreation are outstanding. The unusual lava landscape provides opportunities for sightseers, geologists, photographers, hikers, etc. The area has real challenge for backpacking, low-skill rock climbing and desert survival. Recreation would be primitive because there are no roads, running water, or marked trails.
- Supplemental values are numerous and important. Those mentioned include: public education and scientific study of a large and recent lava flow, primitive vegetation, unique geological features, wildlife habitat, and one of a kind zoological and botanical sightseeing.

Other comments that did not favor further study gave the following specific reasons:

- The unit is not natural. The recommendation to drop 2,720 acres is supported because it does not meet the criteria. Surrounding sights and sounds detract from the unit's naturalness.
- Solitude is not outstanding. The unit's southern boundary consists of a road and powerline making a wilderness experience difficult because of sights and sounds of man associated with the road. Agricultural activities in the surrounding countryside are visible. Sights and sounds of tractors and other farm equipment penetrate and detract from the unit's solitude.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

The suggested boundary adjustment to exclude bladed trails in the southeastern part of the unit was further field checked. Access to these trails is blocked by agricultural activities. The trails are not maintained for continuous and regular use and do not appear to be frequently used. They are very difficult to locate and follow, and show only intermittent construction. In many places weathering has erased signs of earlier use. They can be found and followed from an aircraft but are not apparent from the ground. These trails do not have a significant influence on naturalness when considering the unit as a whole.

Sights and sounds surrounding the unit are not sufficient to disqualify the unit. Because of the unit's large size, excellent configuration and adequate topographic screening, the external views of human activity are not imposing. Once into the lava flow, a visitor need only travel a short distance to feel isolated. The many depressions, lava features and the area's vastness give a visitor unlimited opportunities to avoid external influences.

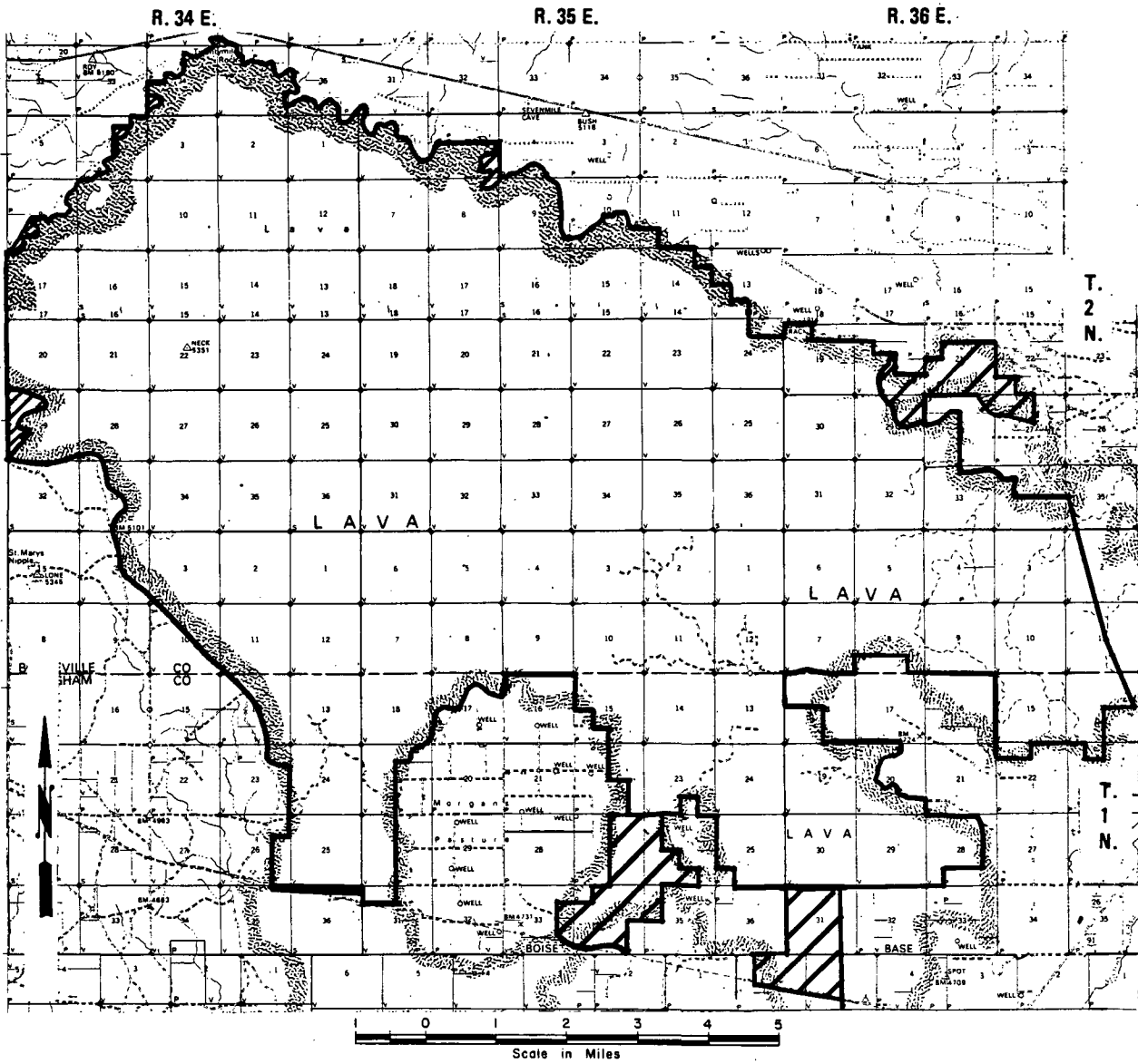
The reference in the proposed decision to rehabilitation was to portions of the unit that meet the naturalness criteria, not to portions that do not.

* * *



DECISION:

No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. A unit of 66,200 acres is identified as a wilderness study area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

33-15
HELL'S HALF ACRE



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS