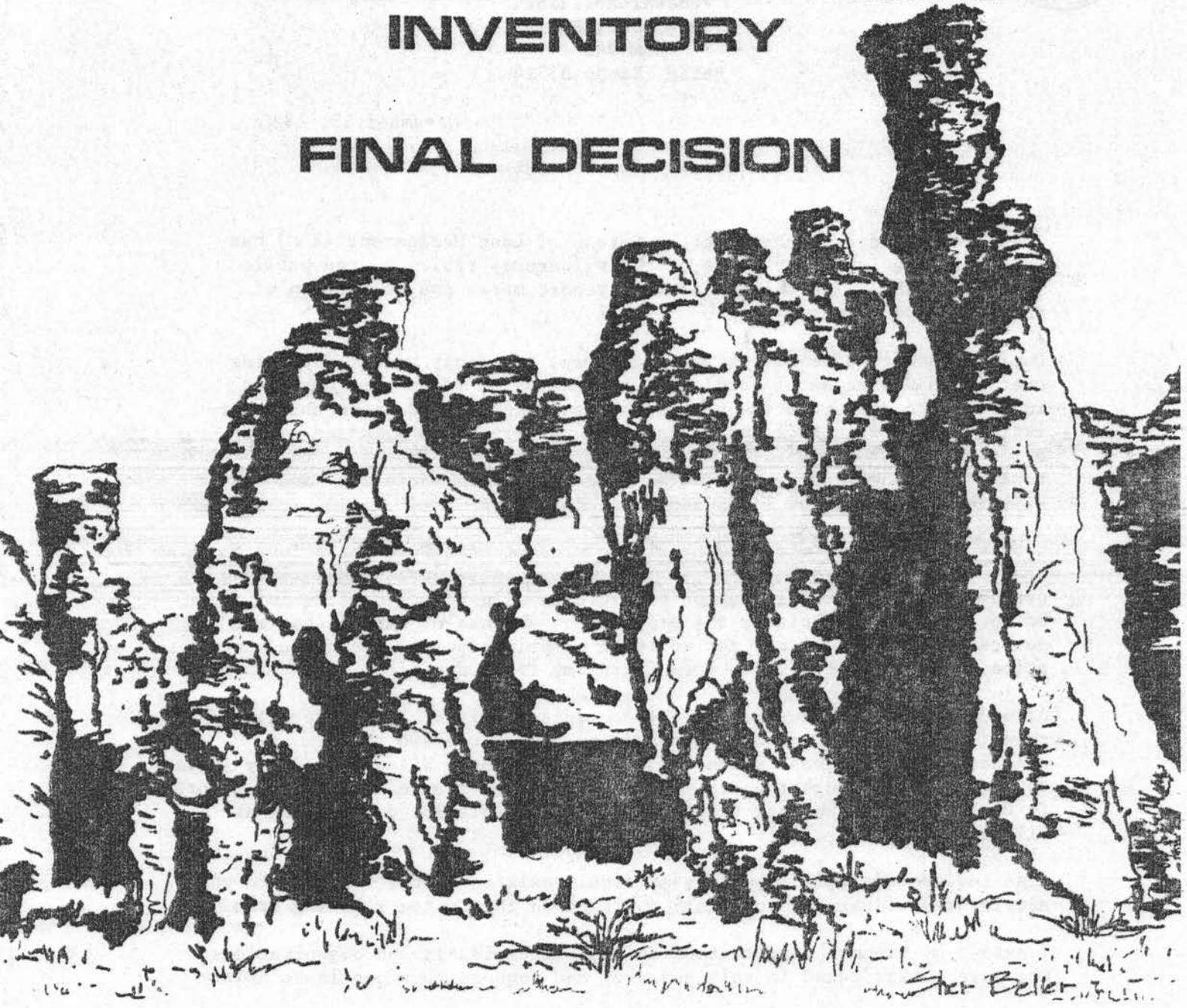
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113a

IDAHO

INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY

FINAL DECISION



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

IDAHO STATE OFFICE

NOVEMBER 1980

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

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Salmon District	
Shoshone District	
Coeur d'Alene District	

SUMMARY

IDAHO BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY

THROUGH NOVEMBER 14, 1980

Total Acres Inventories	11,949,386
Acres Dropped During Initial Inventory Phase	8,289,215
Acres Considered Under Intensive Inventory Phase	3,660,171
Intensive Inventory Decision	
Previous Decisions	
Acres Dropped	695,775
Acres Identified as Wilderness Study Areas	773,999
Current Decisions	
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

	Wilderness Study Areas		Units Under Appeal	
Inventory Name	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		1/
Overthrust	5	1,160		
Great Rift	1	374,400		
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

INVENTORY NUMBER	UNIT NAME	ACREAGE
Boise District		
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 1/	23,815
Idaho Falls District		
33-1	Great Rift 1/ 2/	374,400
34-2	Table Rock Islands 3/	380
34-3	Pine Creek Islands 3/	155
34-4	Conant Valley Islands 3/	235
35-77	Henry's Lake 4/	350
37-77	Worm Creek 4/	40
Salmon District		
45-1	Goldburg 4/	3,290
46-11	Corral Horse Basin	51,500
46-13	Boulder Creek 4/	2,573
46-14	Jerry Peak	48,000
46-14a	Jerry Peak West	15,000
Shoshone District		
53-4	Little Wood River 4/	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.

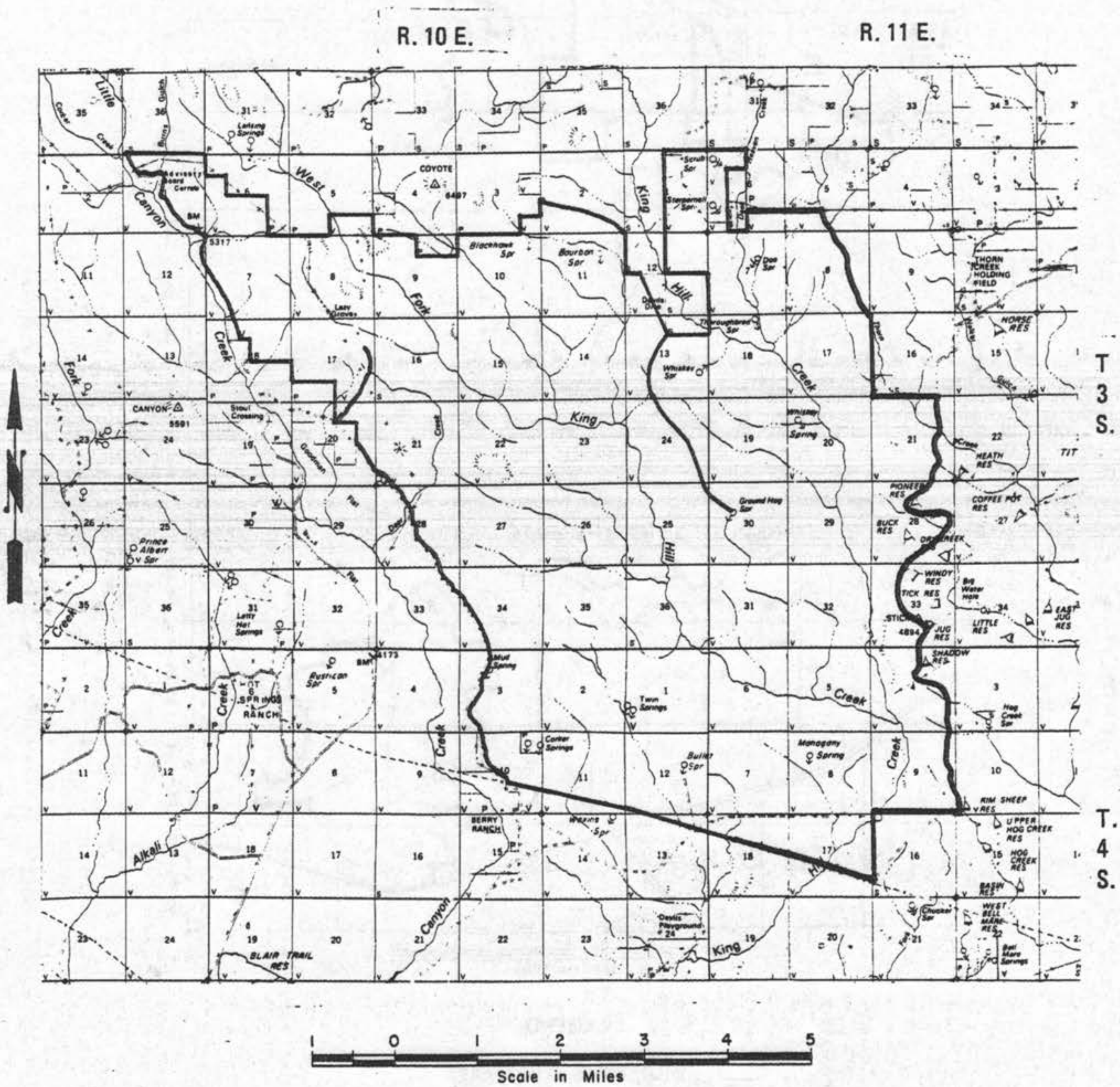
3/ These units were previously combined as one unit.

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.

19--2

KING HILL CREEK

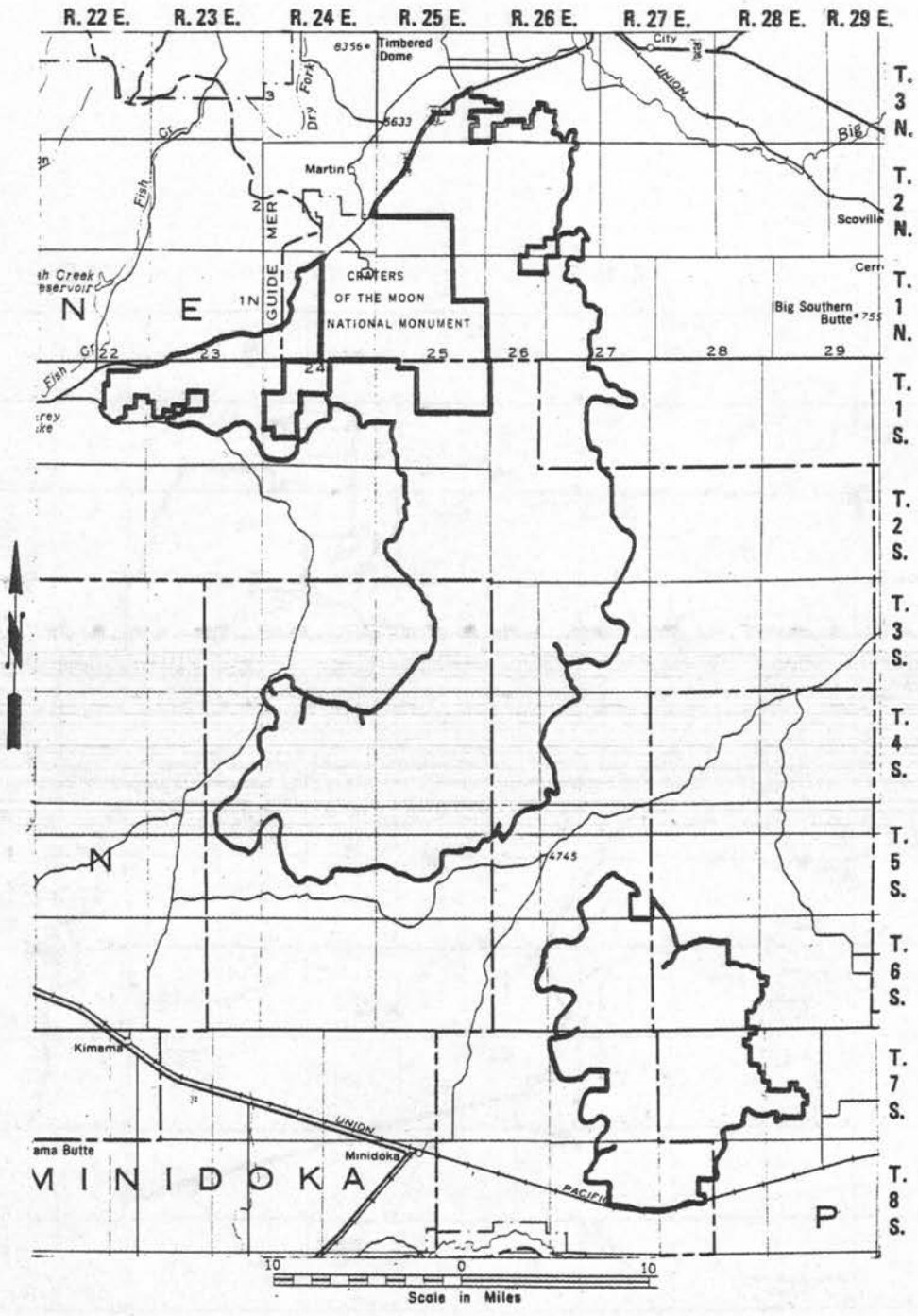


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WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

33–1
GREAT RIFT

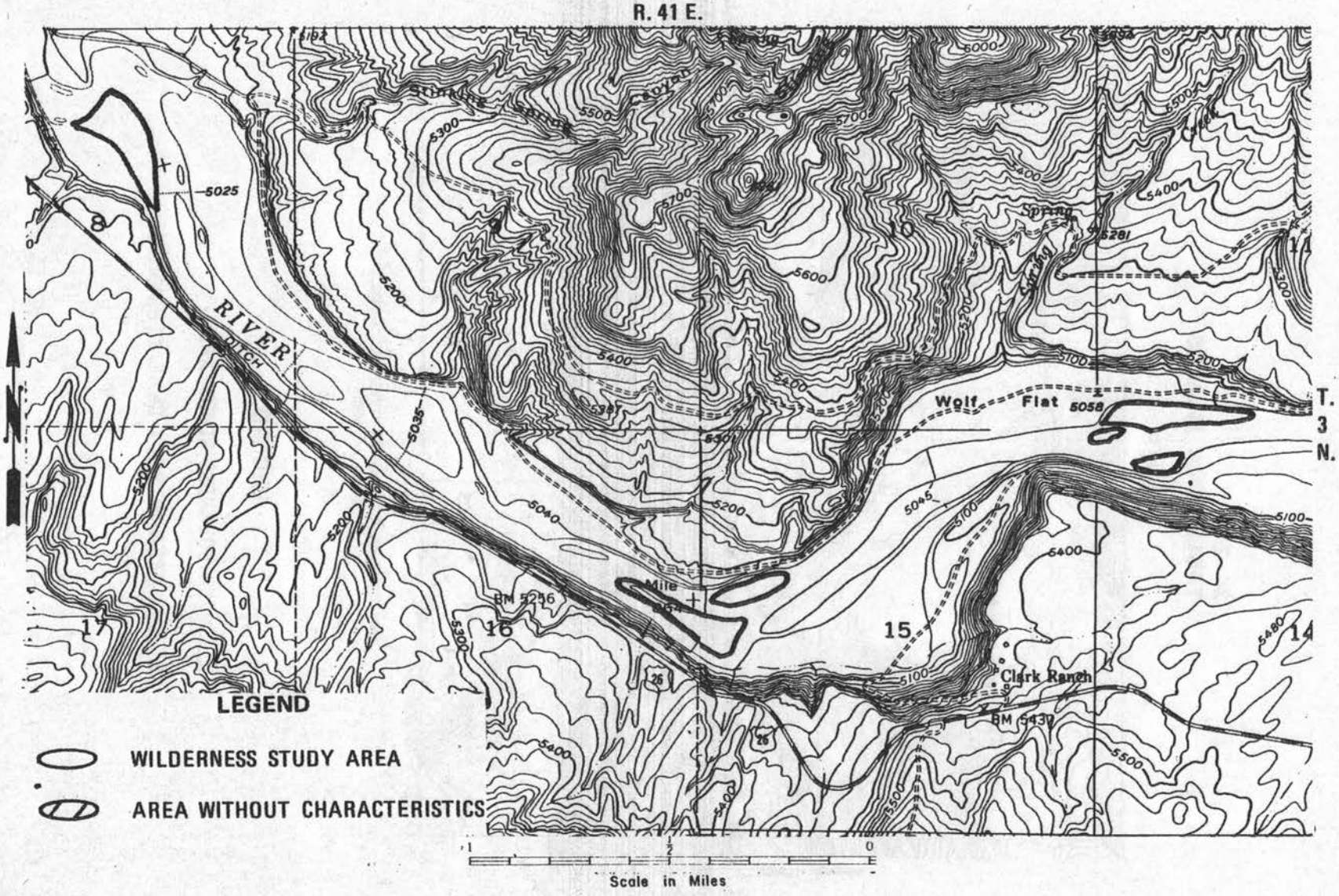


LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

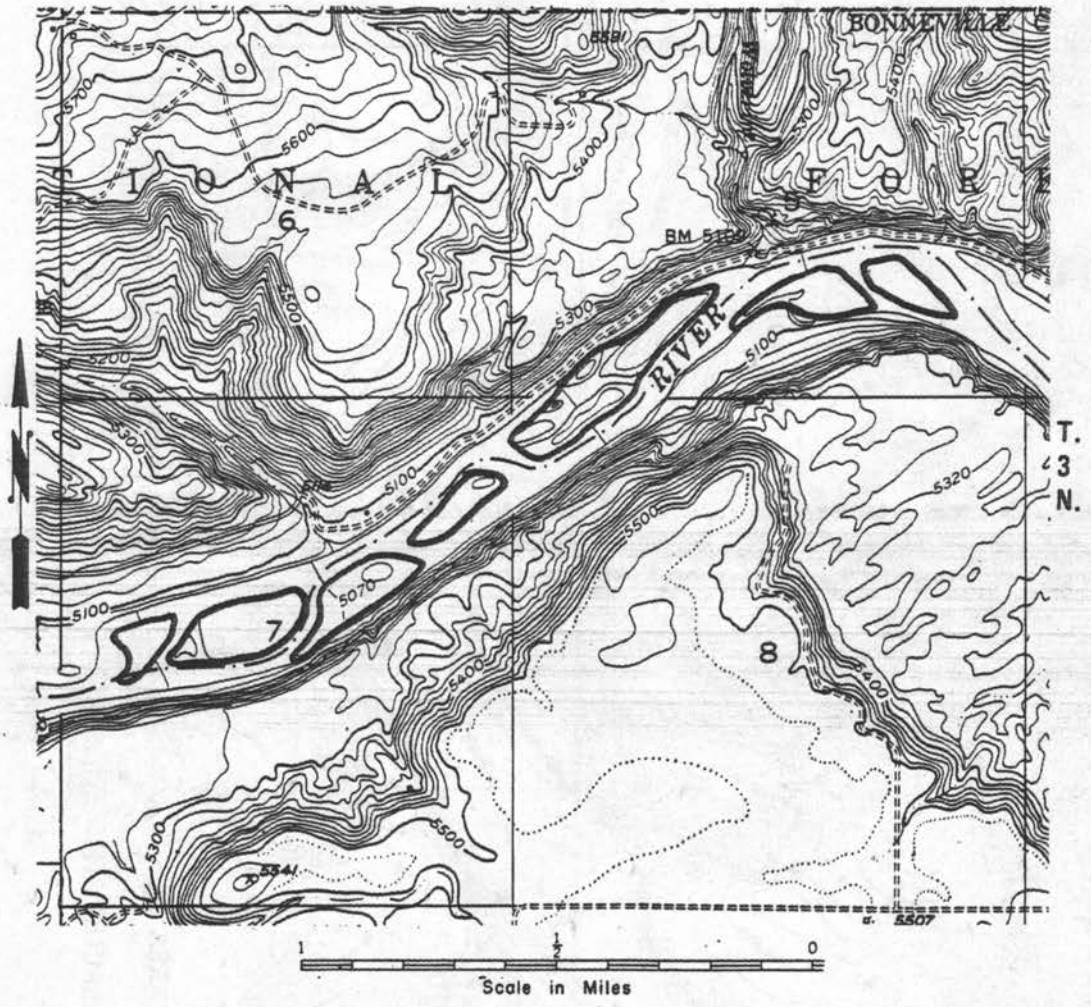
AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

34–2
TABLE ROCK ISLANDS



34–2
TABLE ROCK ISLANDS

R. 42 E.

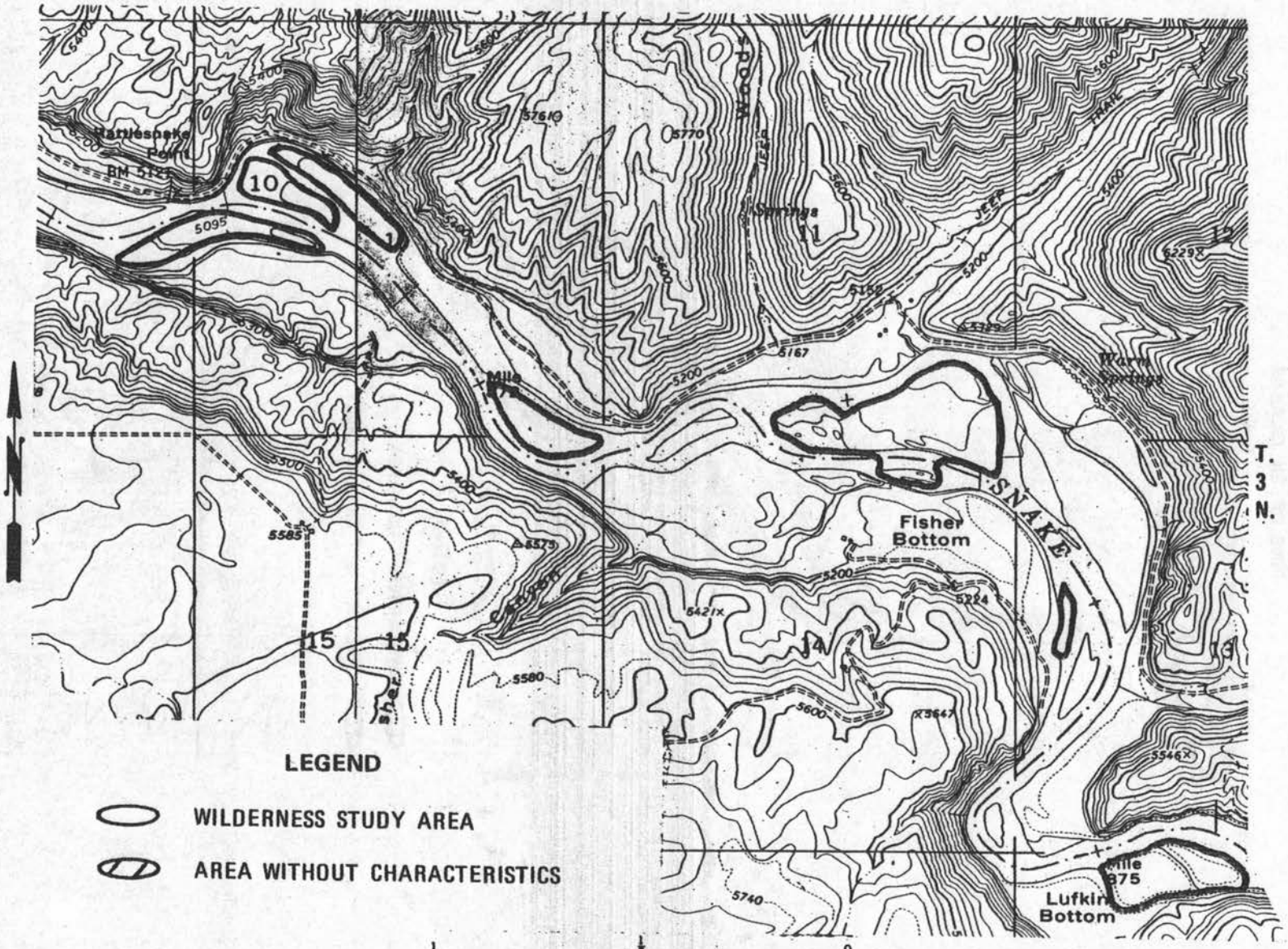


LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

34–2
TABLE ROCK ISLANDS
R. 42 E.

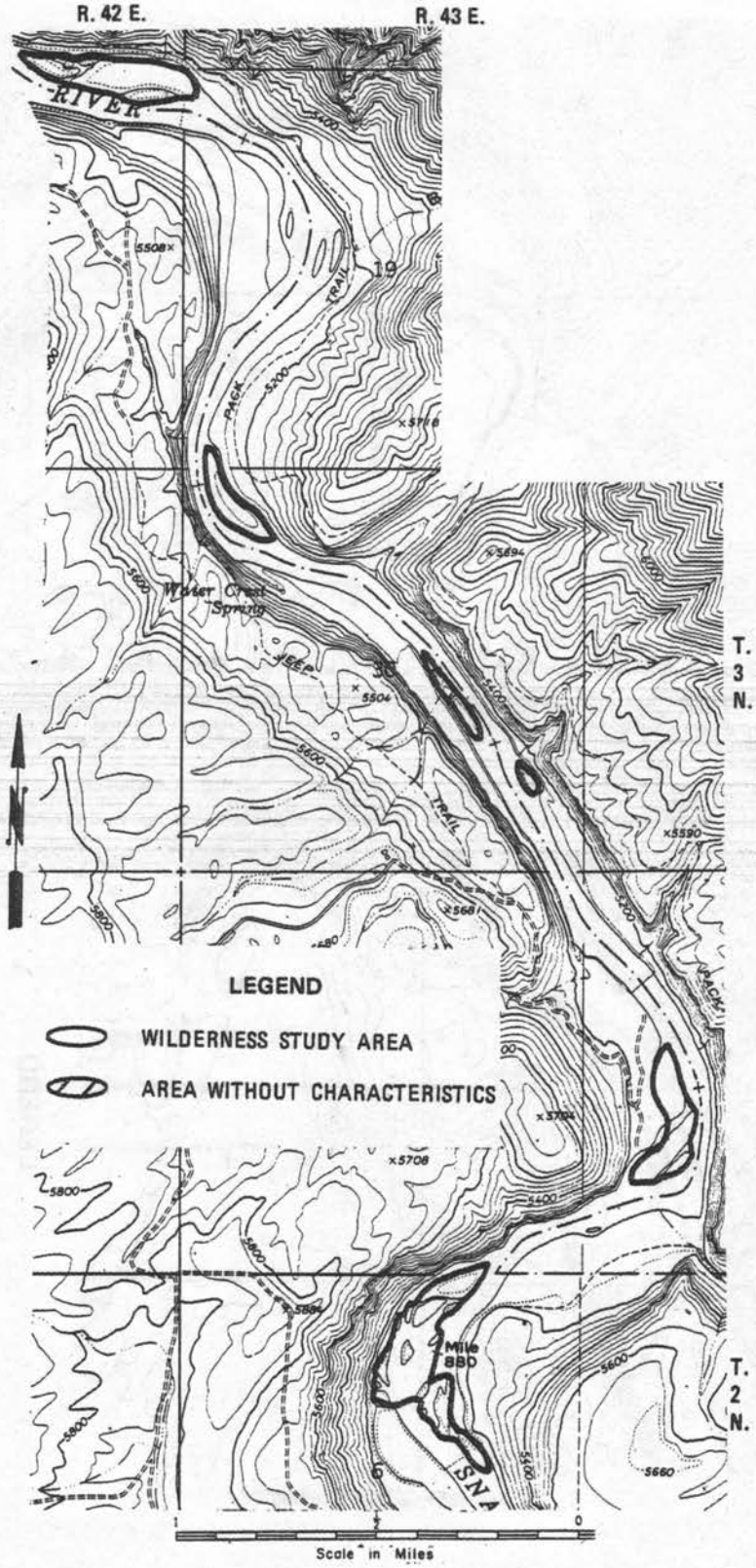


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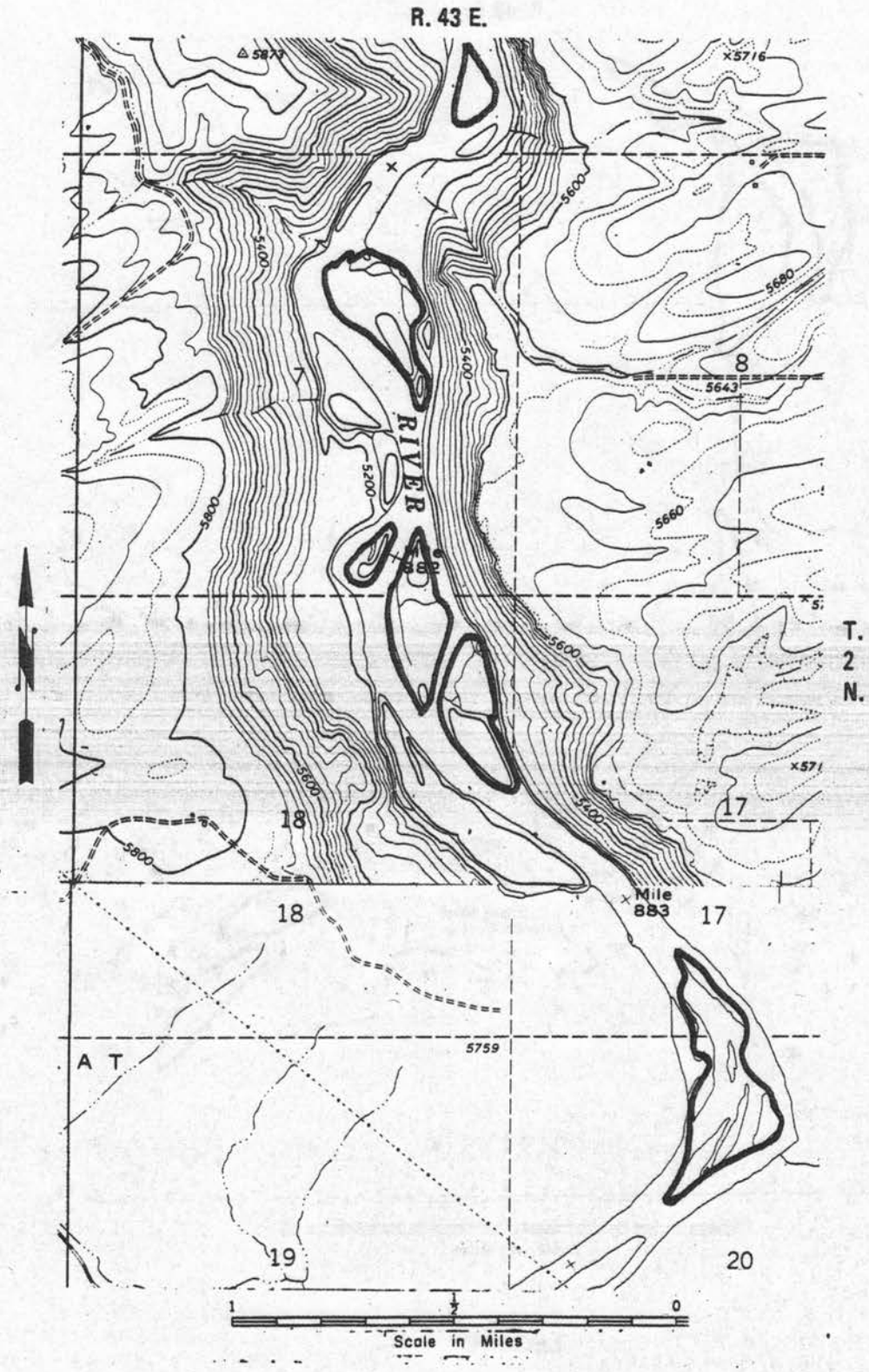
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

34–3
PINE CREEK ISLANDS



34–3
PINE CREEK ISLANDS

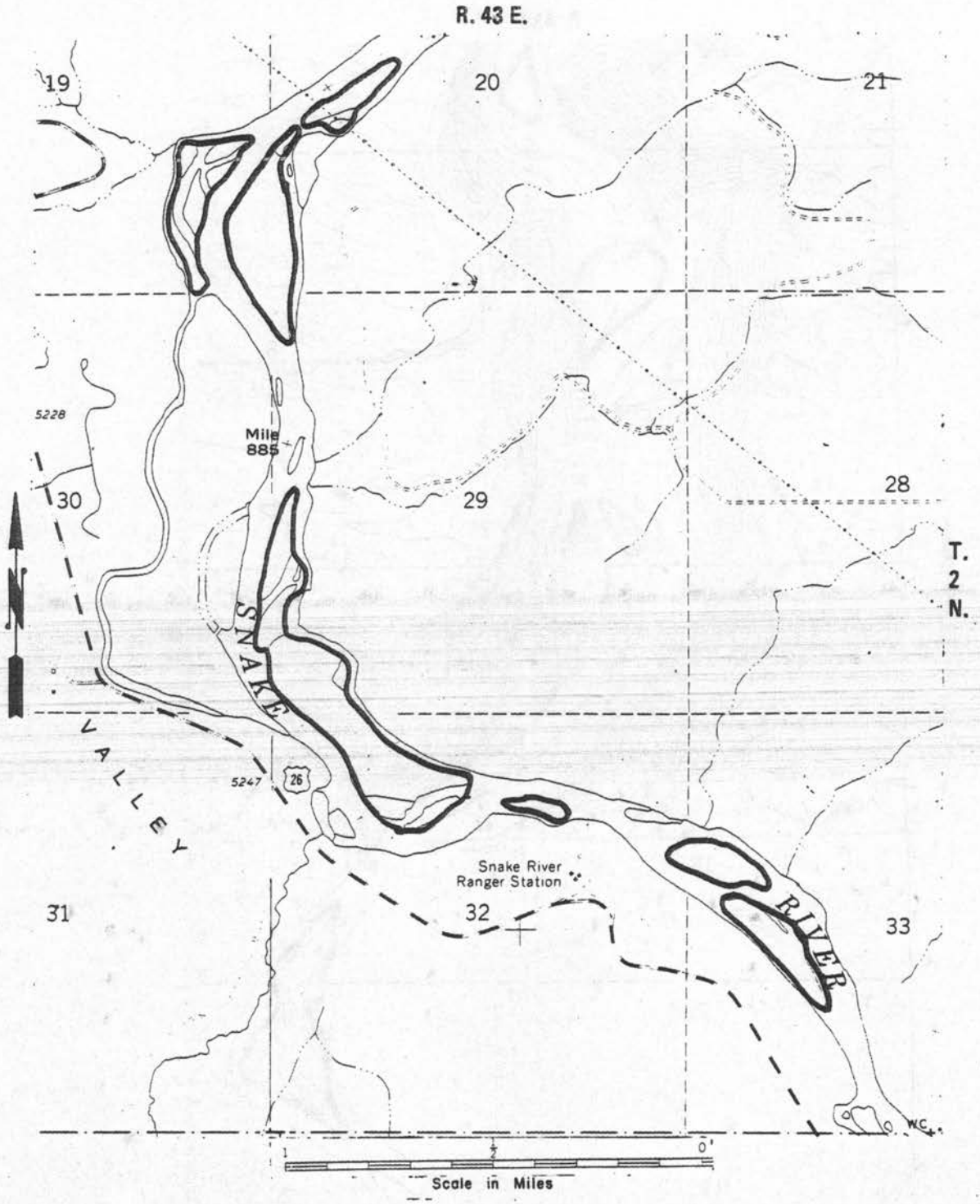


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WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

34–4
CONANT VALLEY ISLANDS

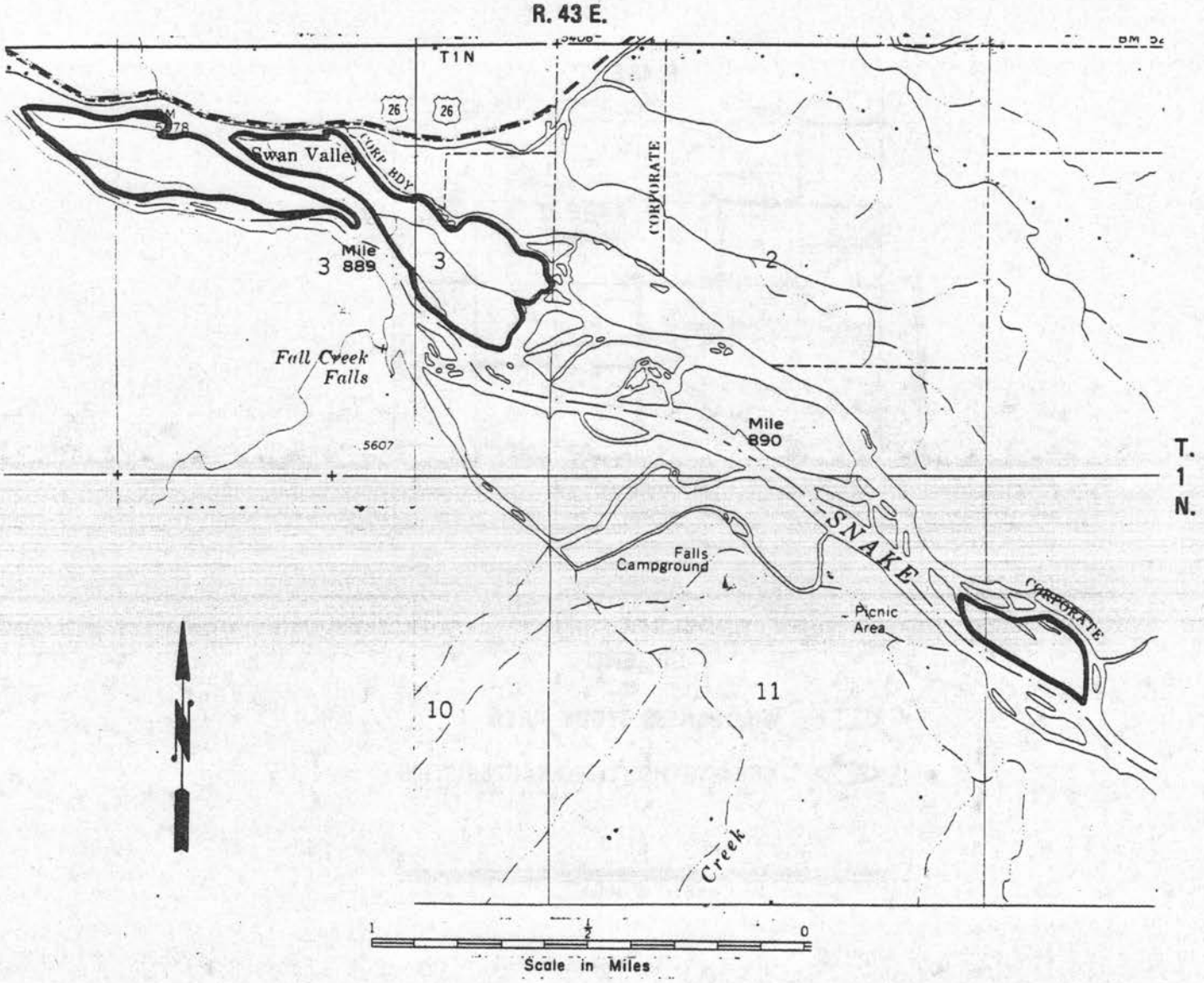


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WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

34–4
CONANT VALLEY ISLANDS



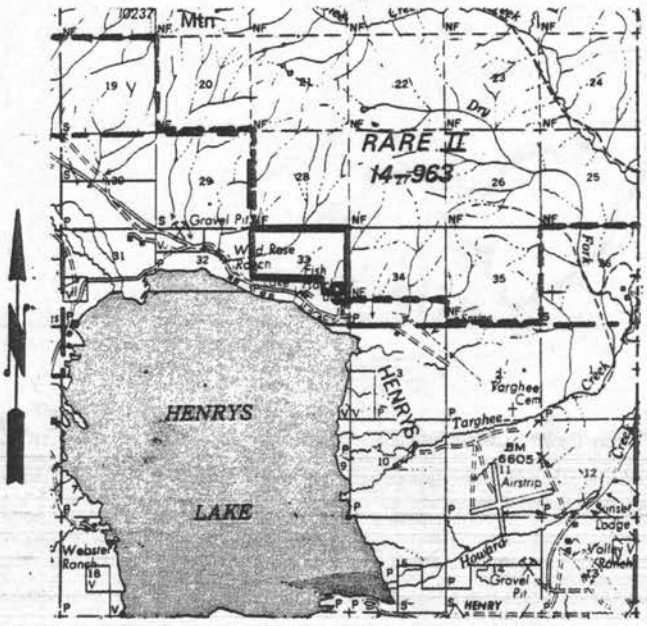
LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

35–77
HENRY'S LAKE

R. 43 E.



T. 16 N.

T. 15 N.

LEGEND

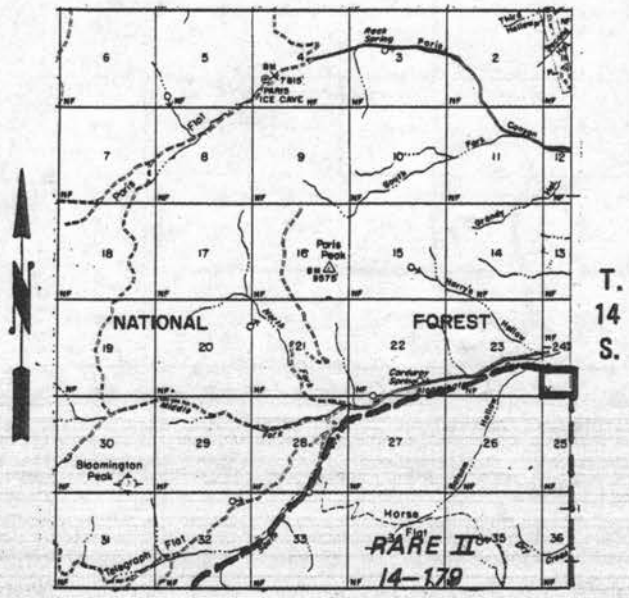
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

1 0 1 2 3 4 5
Scale in Miles

37–77
WORM CREEK

R. 42 E.



T. 14 S.

LEGEND

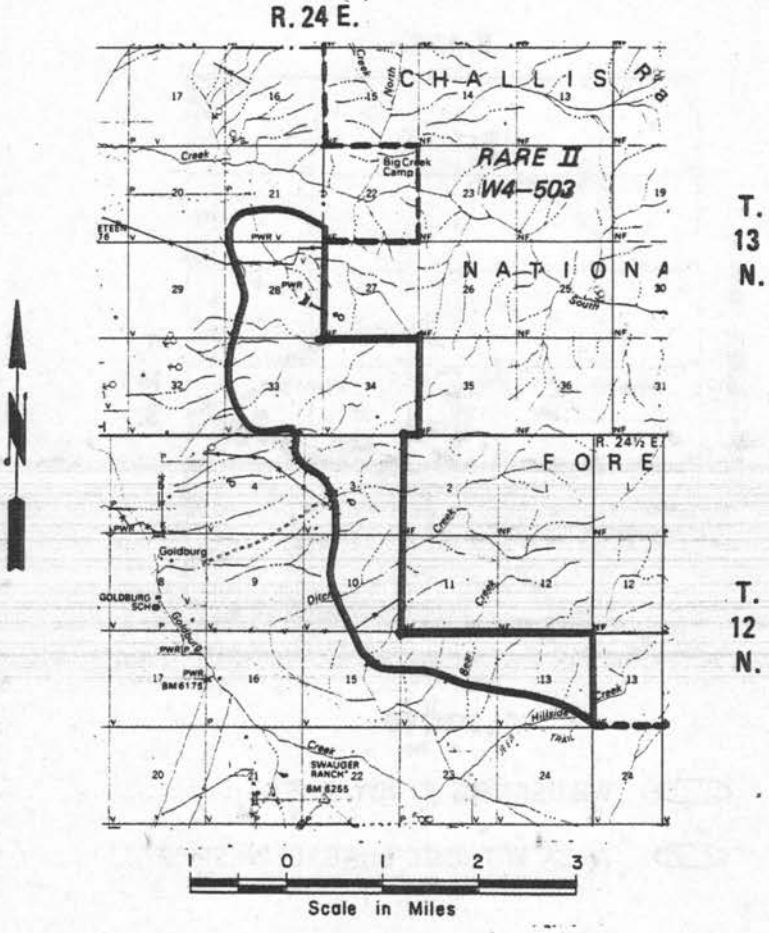
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

1 0 1 2 3

Scale in Miles

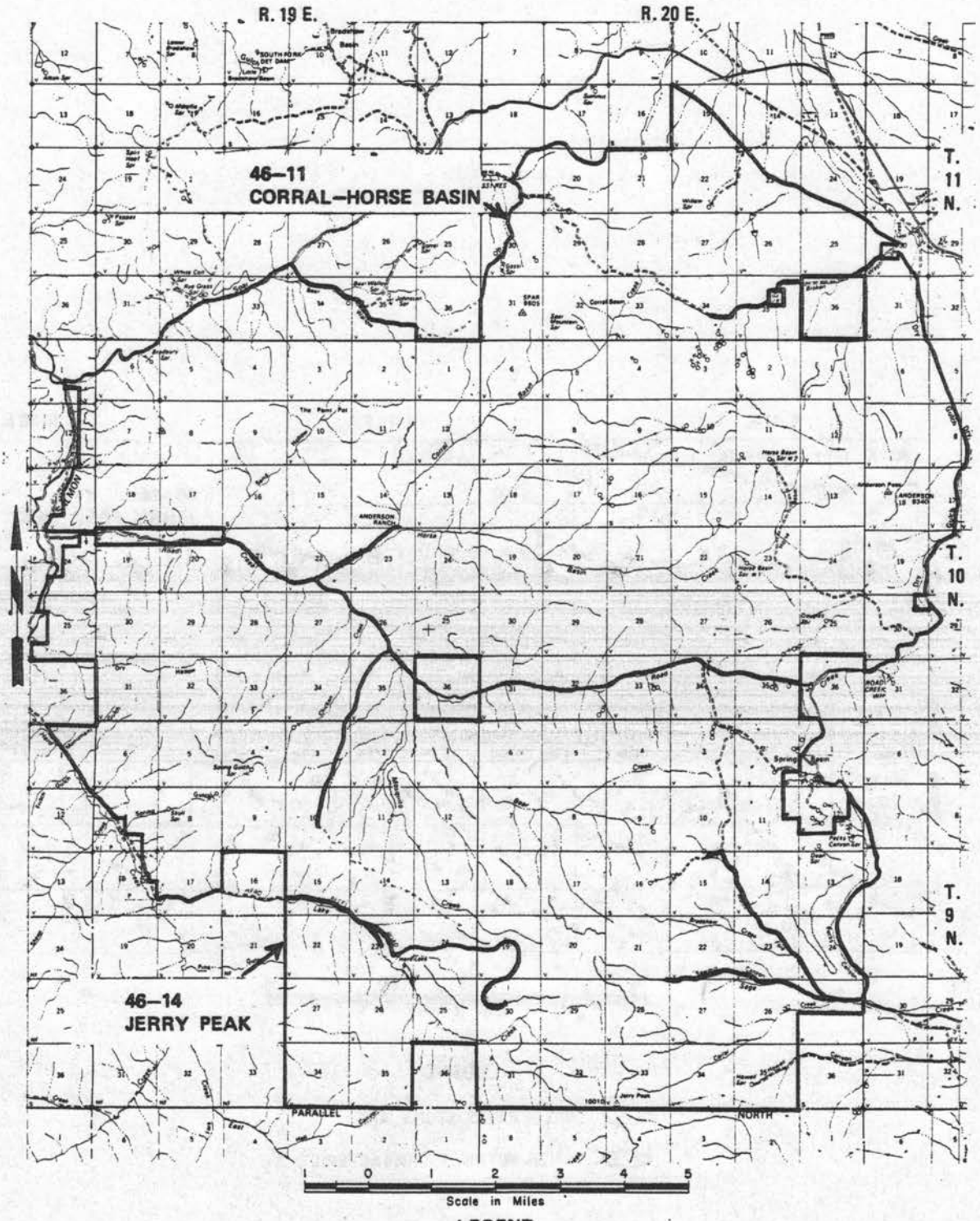
45–1
GOLDBURG

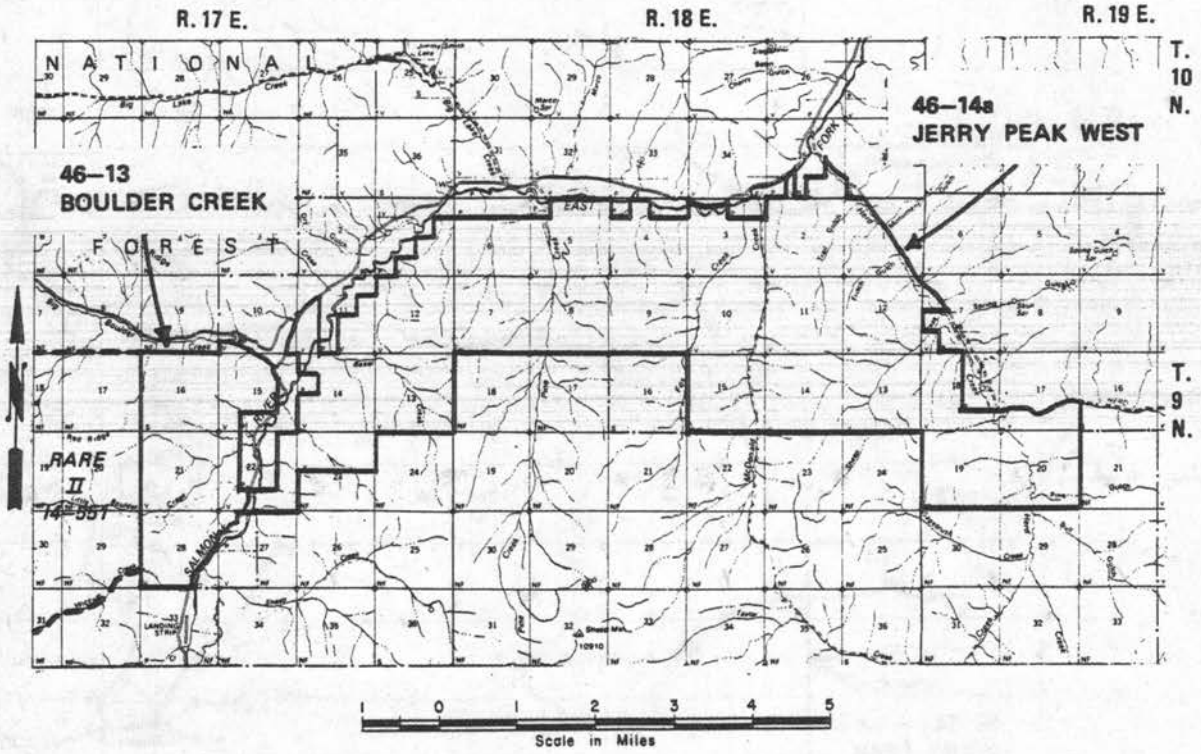


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WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

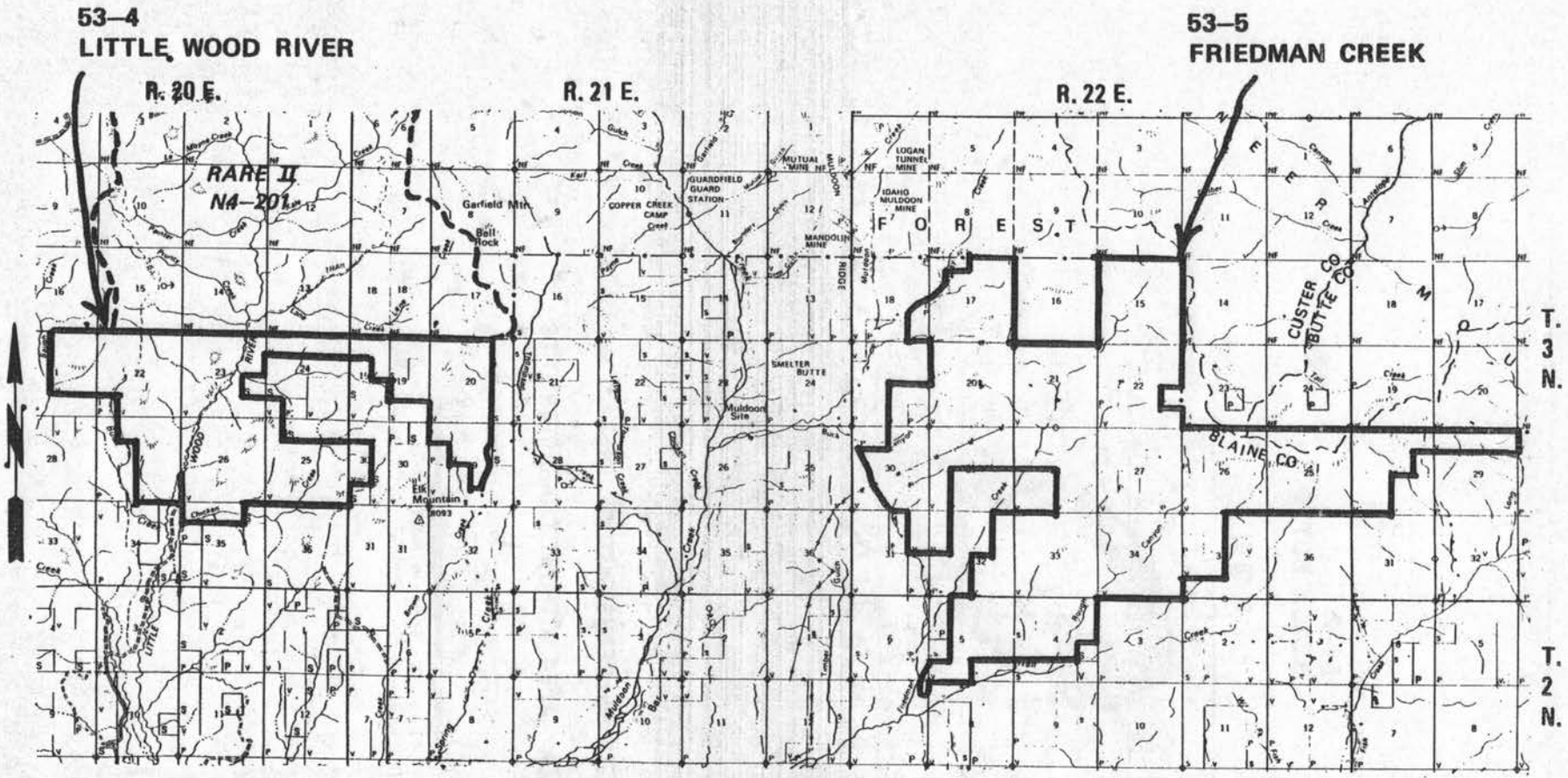

R. 19 E.
R. 20 E.
46–11
CORRAL–HORSE BASIN
T. 11 N.
T. 10 N.
T. 9 N.
46–14
JERRY PEAK
PARALLEL
NORTH
0 1 2 3 4 5
Scale in Miles
LEGEND
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



LEGEND

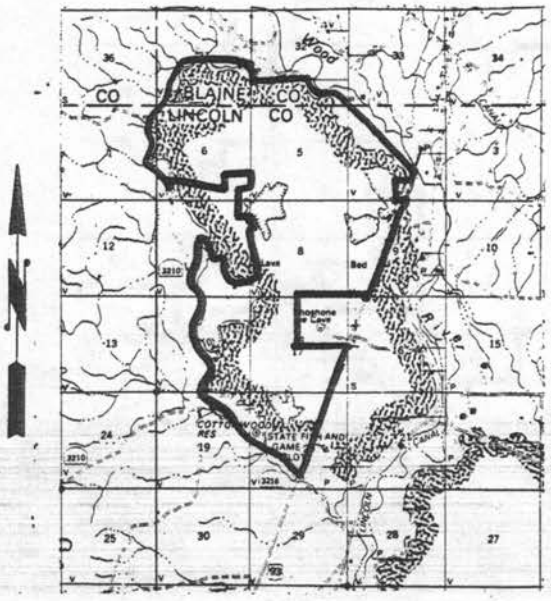
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS


53–4
LITTLE WOOD RIVER
53–5
FRIEDMAN CREEK
R. 20 E.
R. 21 E.
R. 22 E.
RARE II
N4–201
Garfield Mtn.
Bell Rock
COPPER CREEK CAMP
GUARDFIELD GUARD STATION
MUTUAL MINE
LOGAN TUNNEL MINE
IDAHO MULDOON MINE
MANDOLIN MINE
F O R E S T
SMELTER BUTTE
Muldoon Site
Elk Mountain
8093
CUSTER CO.
BUTTE CO.
BLAINE CO.
T. 3 N.
T. 2 N.
LEGEND
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS
0 1 2 3 4 5
Scale in Miles

54–2
BLACK BUTTE

R. 18 E.



LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

1 0 1 2 3

Scale in Miles

SUMMARY

IDAHO INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY

FINAL DECISION

DISTRICT	IDENTIFIED AS WSA UNITS	IDENTIFIED AS WSA ACRES	NOT IDENTIFIED AS WSA UNITS	NOT IDENTIFIED AS WSA ACRES	TOTAL UNITS	TOTAL ACRES
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
Boise District				
11-17	Outcrop		6,420	1-2
14-19	Long Tom Creek		13,226	1-4
14-21	Bennett Creek		11,162	1-7
16-2	Jump Creek		8,301	1-9
16-9	Reynolds Creek Canyon		14,650	1-12
16-49c	Squaw Meadows		10,316	1-16
17-1a	Lookout Butte		20,077	1-18
17-1b	East Fork Bruneau River		10,178	1-21
17-6	Dry Lakes		26,208	1-24
17-7	Clover Crossing		6,314	1-27
17-10	Lower Salmon Falls Creek 1/	3,500	18,787	1-68
17-11	Jarbidge River	75,340	35,670	1-71
17-12	Poison Creek		13,532	1-30
18-1	Wildhorse		7,472	1-33
19-1	Cold Springs Creek		21,380	1-36
110-91a	Box Creek	428		1-76
111-5	Poison Gulch		30,742	1-38
111-6	Little Jack's Creek	58,040	16,879	1-78
111-7a	Big Hill		12,924	1-41
111-7b	Duncan Creek		10,005	1-43
111-7c	Big Jack's Creek	54,833	10,301	1-84
111-12	Sheep Trail		19,702	1-46
111-17	Bruneau River	107,020	27,042	1-88
111-18	Pole Creek	24,509	7,247	1-93
111-19a	Camas Creek		19,347	1-49
111-19b	Bull Gulch		33,150	1-52
111-20a	Big Springs		5,342	1-55
111-20b	Upper Battle Creek		17,787	1-58
111-21	Bull Basin		17,625	1-61
111-36a	Sheep Creek West	11,680	3,696	1-96
111-36b	Sheep Creek East		12,412	1-64
	Boise District Total	335,350	467,894	
Burley District				
23-1a	Jim Sage		6,901	2-2
23-1c	Jim Sage		7,010	2-5
26-1	Hanzel Mountain		20,615	2-8
26-3	South Samaria		6,615	2-11
27-1	South Deep Creek		9,609	2-14
27-2	Deep Creek Peak		6,646	2-17
28-1	Petticoat Peak	11,298	1,748	2-21
	Burley District Total	11,298	59,144	
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

	Idaho Falls District (cont'd)	Acres Identified as WSA	Acres Not Identified as WSA	Page
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	
	Salmon District			
41-3	Geertson Creek		10,720	4-2
42-6	Baldy Basin		10,720	4-4
43-3	Eighteen Mile	24,922		4-17
44-2	King Mountain		12,602	4-6
44-3	Hat Creek		9,707	4-8
44-4	Ellis Creek		28,040	4-10
44-9	Cronks Canyon		7,470	4-12
45-5	Mill Creek		1,330	4-14
45-12	Burnt Creek 2/	24,980	5,130	4-20
47-4	Borah Peak	3,100	780	4-23
	Salmon District Total	53,002	86,499	
	Shoshone District			
54-3	Preacher Creek		8,827	5-2
54-4	Rattlesnake Canyon		11,355	5-5
54-5	Little City of Rocks	5,875	95	5-46
54-6	Black Canyon	10,371	10,589	5-49
54-7	Four Mile Bench		7,542	5-8
54-8a	Gooding City of Rocks	14,743)	2,440	5-52
54-8b	Gooding City of Rocks	6,287)		5-52
54-9	Clover Creek		8,455	5-10
54-10	Deer Creek	7,487	1,394	5-55
54-11	Indian		16,968	5-12
54-12	Dempsey Creek		23,644	5-14
54-13	Forgotten Hills		9,420	5-16
56-2	Lava	23,680	1,913	5-58
57-2	Shale Butte	15,968	5,930	5-61
57-3	Antelope		12,271	5-18
57-4	Black Ridge Crater		8,138	5-21
57-5	Lone Rock		10,934	5-24
57-6	Wildhorse		21,544	5-27
57-7	Pagari		33,116	5-30
57-8	Sand Butte	20,792	15,953	5-64
57-10	Raven's Eye	67,110	190	5-67
57-11	Little Deer	33,531	9,443	5-70
57-12	Laidlaw Butte		9,868	5-33
57-13	Potter Butte		16,180	5-36
57-14	Bear Den Butte	9,700	4	5-73
57-15	Point		7,398	5-39
57-16	MacRae Lake		7,876	5-42
59-7	Shoshone	6,914	3,014	5-75
	Shoshone District Total	222,458	264,501	

		Acres Identified as WSA	Acres Not Identified as WSA	Page
Coeur d'Alene District				
61-1	Selkirk Crest	720	440	6-14
61-6c	Hideaway Island		170	6-2
61-9	Rochat Creek		6,960	6-5
61-10	Crystal Lake	9,027		6-17
61-15a	Grandmother Mountain	10,339		6-20
61-15b	Grandmother Mountain	6,790		6-20
62-1	Snowhole Rapids	5,068	238	6-23
62-2	Confluence		5,110	6-7
62-4	Big Canyon		1,100	6-10
62-10	Marshall Mountain	6,524	966	6-26
	Coeur d'Alene District Total	38,468	14,984	
	STATE TOTAL	818,206	1,120,049	

1/ Portion of unit is in the Burley District.

2/ Portion of unit is in the Idaho Falls District.

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:

Natural Area	District
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

	Identified as Lacking Wilderness Characteristics		Identified as Containing Wilderness Characteristics	
Area Name	Units	Acres	Units	Acres
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 cherrystem.

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 . . ."

- Wilderness Act of 1964

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 untrammeled by man with man's developments permissable, 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 devleopments 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 amoung 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 Wilderenss 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.

A. STATELINE

The August 10, 1979, Initial Inventory final decision indicated that the final decision was being deferred for all inventory units in the southwestern portion of the State where the units were contiguous to BLM inventory units under evaluation in the adjoining States of Oregon and Utah. The reason for the deferral was to permit full coordination with the adjoining States in those decisions.

On December 14, 1979, the final decision for the initial inventory on the "Stateline" units in Idaho was announced which indicated the following units required intensive inventory to determine the presence of wilderness characteristics:

16-48a	Spring Creek	39,185 acres
16-48b	Owyhee River	33,708 "
16-48c	Little Owyhee River	26,817 "
16-53	South Fork Owyhee River	47,516 "
16-56a	Upper Little Owyhee River	4,309 "
16-59	Juniper Basin	15,248 "
16-70e	Oregon Butte	3,393 "
17-19	Upper Bruneau River	22,797 "
17-21	Jarbidge Addition	5,881 "
17-26	Salmon Falls Creek	5,977 "
22-1	Little Goose Creek	2,083 "
	Total	206,914 acres

During the protest period which ended on January 14, 1980, three letters of protest were received. After analysis of the protests, no changes were made and the final decision became effective on February 8, 1980. This announcement initiated a 30-day appeal period.

On February 28, 1980, the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association filed an appeal on the final decision to conduct intensive inventory on all 11 of the units listed above.

In order to utilize the 1979 season, the field work for the intensive inventory was accomplished by the Boise and Burley District Offices for their respective units. Release of any proposed decisions on this intensive inventory will not take place until a decision has been rendered on the appeal.

It should be noted that in Idaho we are not into any comment/protest/appeal period on these Stateline units, but are, as of the printing date of this report, awaiting further action by the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA).

B. SAND DUNES

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.

C. CHALLIS

The timetable for conducting the intensive inventory was accelerated for wilderness inventory units in the Challis Planning Area of the Salmon District.

The final decision on this intensive inventory as announced on January 4, 1980, indicated that the following inventory units possessed wilderness characteristics and were identified as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's):

46-11	Corral-Horse Basin
46-13	Boulder Creek
46-14	Jerry Peak
46-14a	Jerry Peak West

During the protest period which ended on February 4, 1980, one letter of protest was received, protesting the identification of the above four units as WSA's. After analysis of this protest, no changes were made to the final decision, which became effective on February 29, 1980.

During the 30-day appeal period, two appeals were filed: (1) by the Idaho Cattlemen's Association, and (2) by the Tri-county Cattlemen's Association, with both appeals covering all four of the units identified as Wilderness Study Areas.

It should be noted that we are not into any comment/protest/appeal period on these units, but are, as of the printing date of this report, awaiting further action by the IBLA.

D. OWYHEE

Data in this section represents the announcement of the final decision on the protests to the Owyhee intensive inventory.

The timetable for conducting the Intensive Inventory was accelerated for wilderness inventory units in the Owyhee Planning area of the Boise District.

The final decision on this intensive inventory as announced on January 16, 1980, indicated that ten inventory units possessed wilderness characteristics and were identified as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's).

During the protest period which ended on February 15, 1980, a number of letters of protest were received protesting the identification of all ten of the units as WSA's. In addition, several letters were received protesting the final decision to drop four units (16-26, 16-28, 16-36, and 16-49b) as lacking in wilderness characteristics.

As many of these protest letters were quite specific and detailed, some time was required and field checking necessary before an adequate analysis could be completed and a final decision made on the Owyhee protests.

The analysis has now been completed with the final decision announced as follows:

Owyhee Area Protest Decision

Unit Number	Unit Name	Acres Identified As WSA's	WSA Acres Deleted/Added As Result of Protest
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	- 1,828
16-49a	Deep Creek-Owyhee River	72,083	+ 80
16-49d	Yatahoney Creek	9,331	
16-49e	Battle Creek	31,540	1/
16-52	Upper Owyhee River	12,682	

Note: Units 16-26, 16-28, 16-36, and 16-49b previously identified as lacking in wilderness characteristics, will remain in that status.

1/ Acreage remains the same, however, a short cherrystem road was added in the southwest portion of the unit.

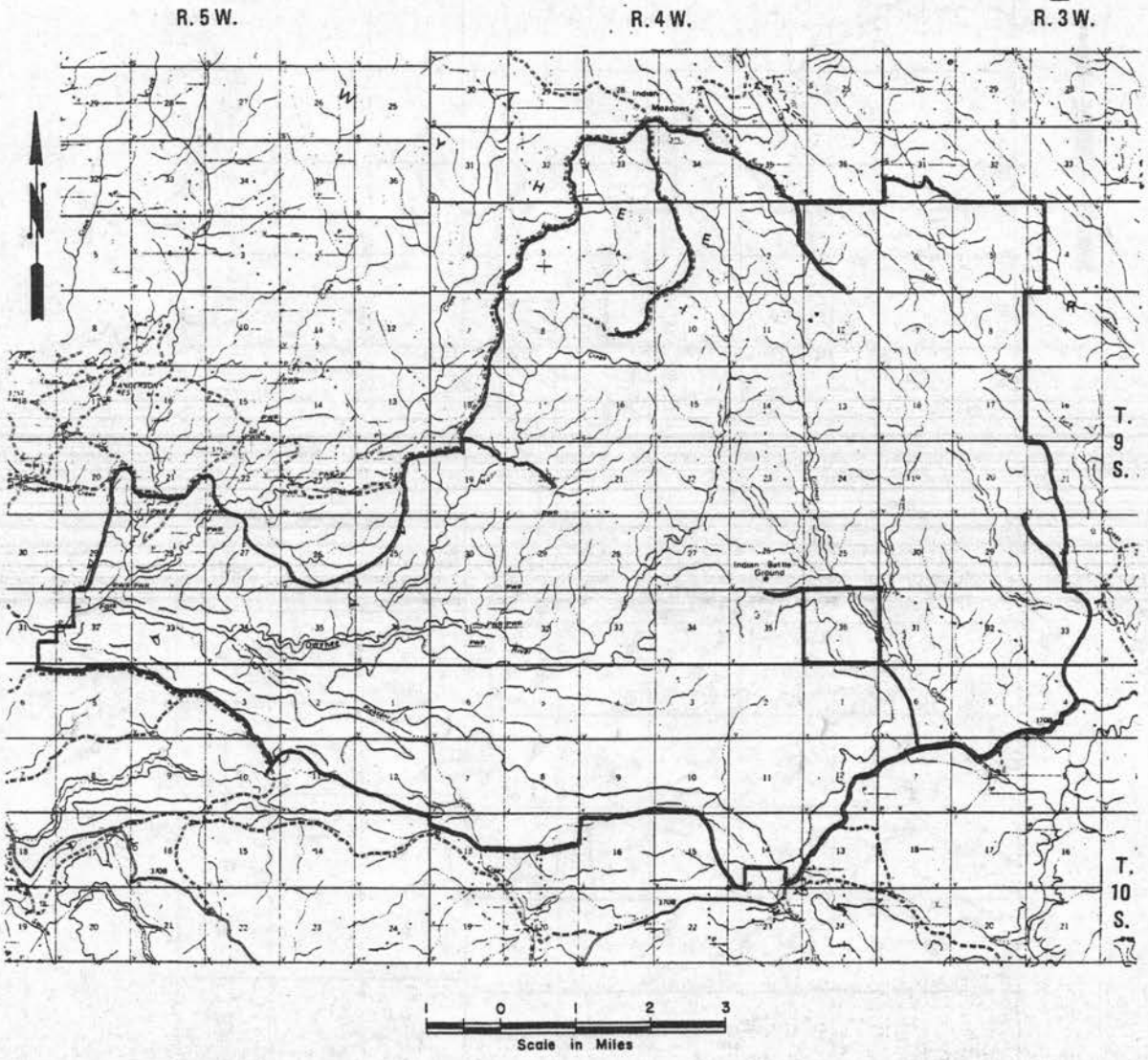
All of the individuals and organizations that filed protests to the Owyhee decision have received responses indicating the preliminary findings on the evaluation of protests. The following narratives are provided only for those units where the protest decision has resulted in a change in boundary and/or acreage of the unit.

This final decision on the Owyhee area is now subject to appeal. Appeals to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) will be processed in accordance with the policy and procedures in Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 4 and as amended in 45 FR (Federal Register) 5713.

For further information on the Owyhee Area inventory, contact the Boise District Office.

16–40

NORTH FORK OWYHEE RIVER



LEGEND

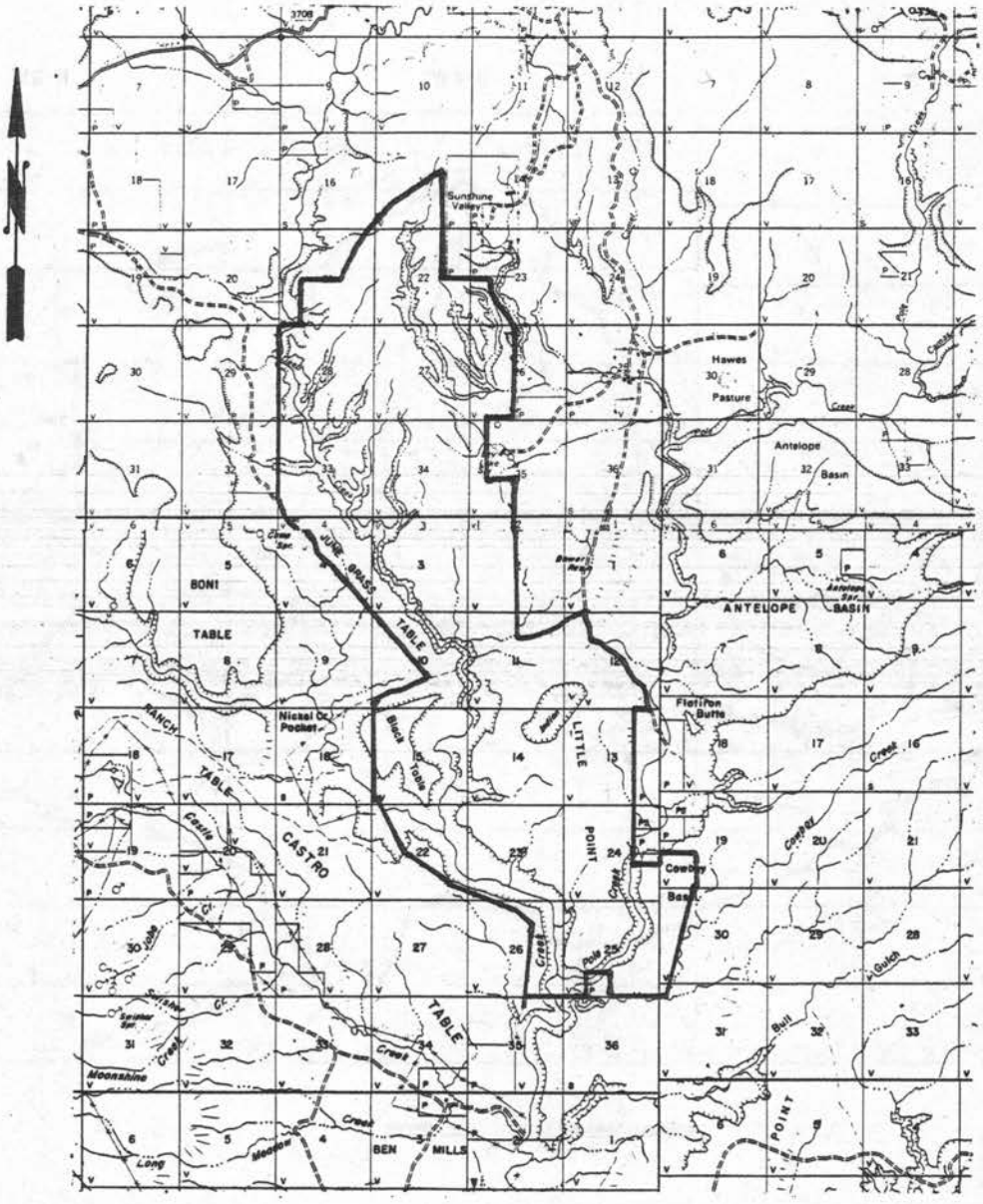
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

16–44

DEEP CREEK – NICKEL CREEK

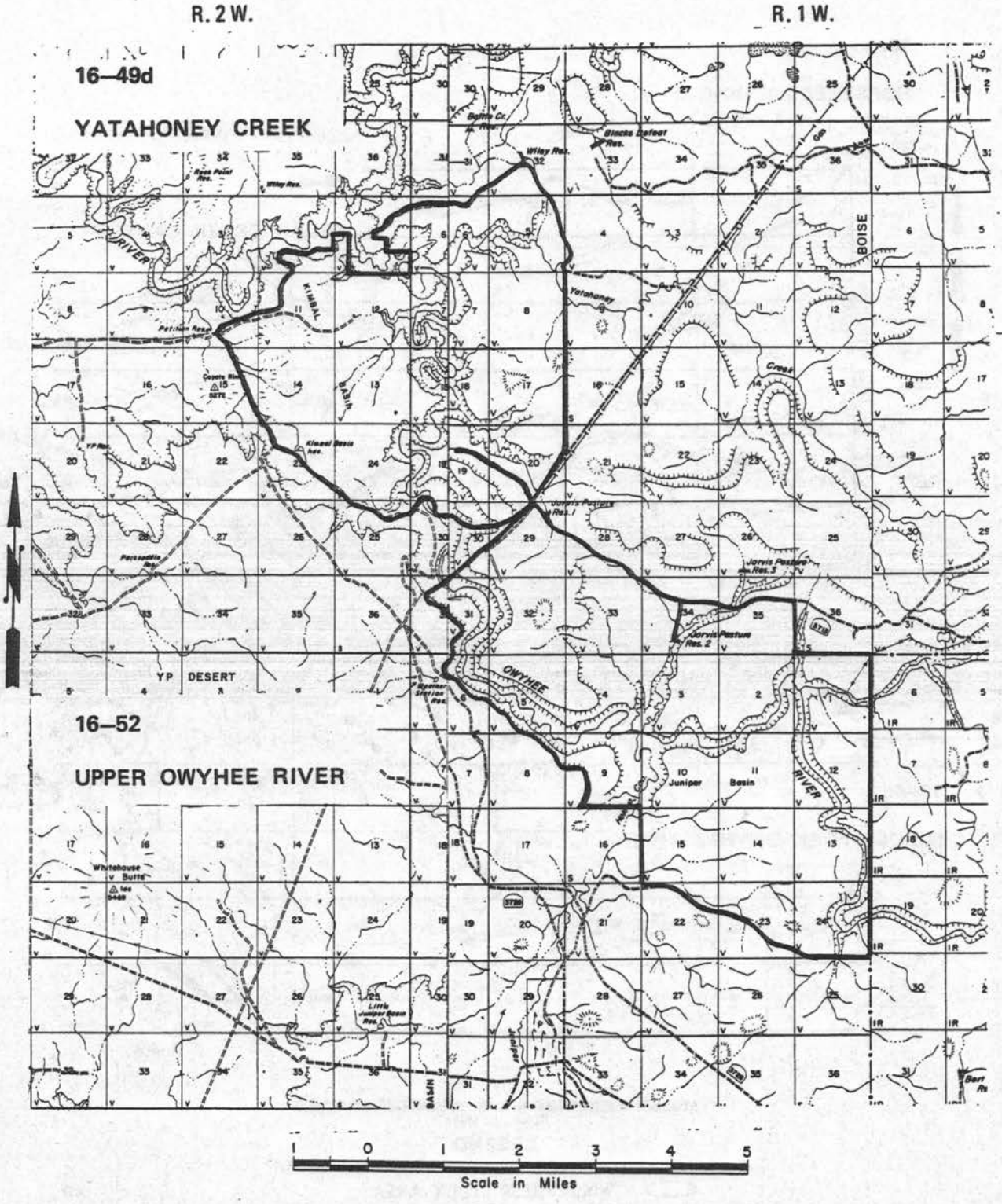
R. 3 W. R. 2 W.



LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



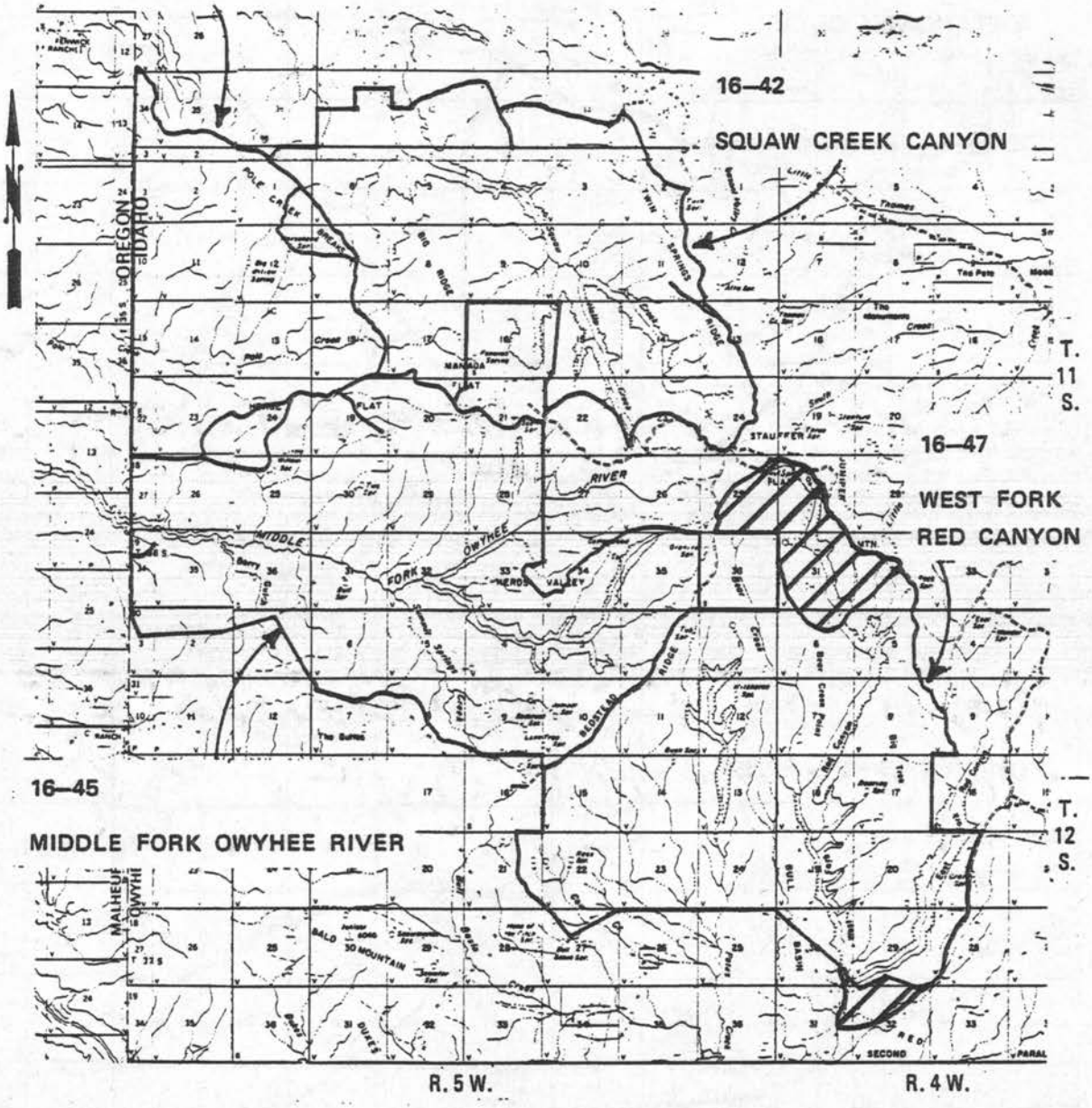
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WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

16–41

HORSEHEAD SPRING



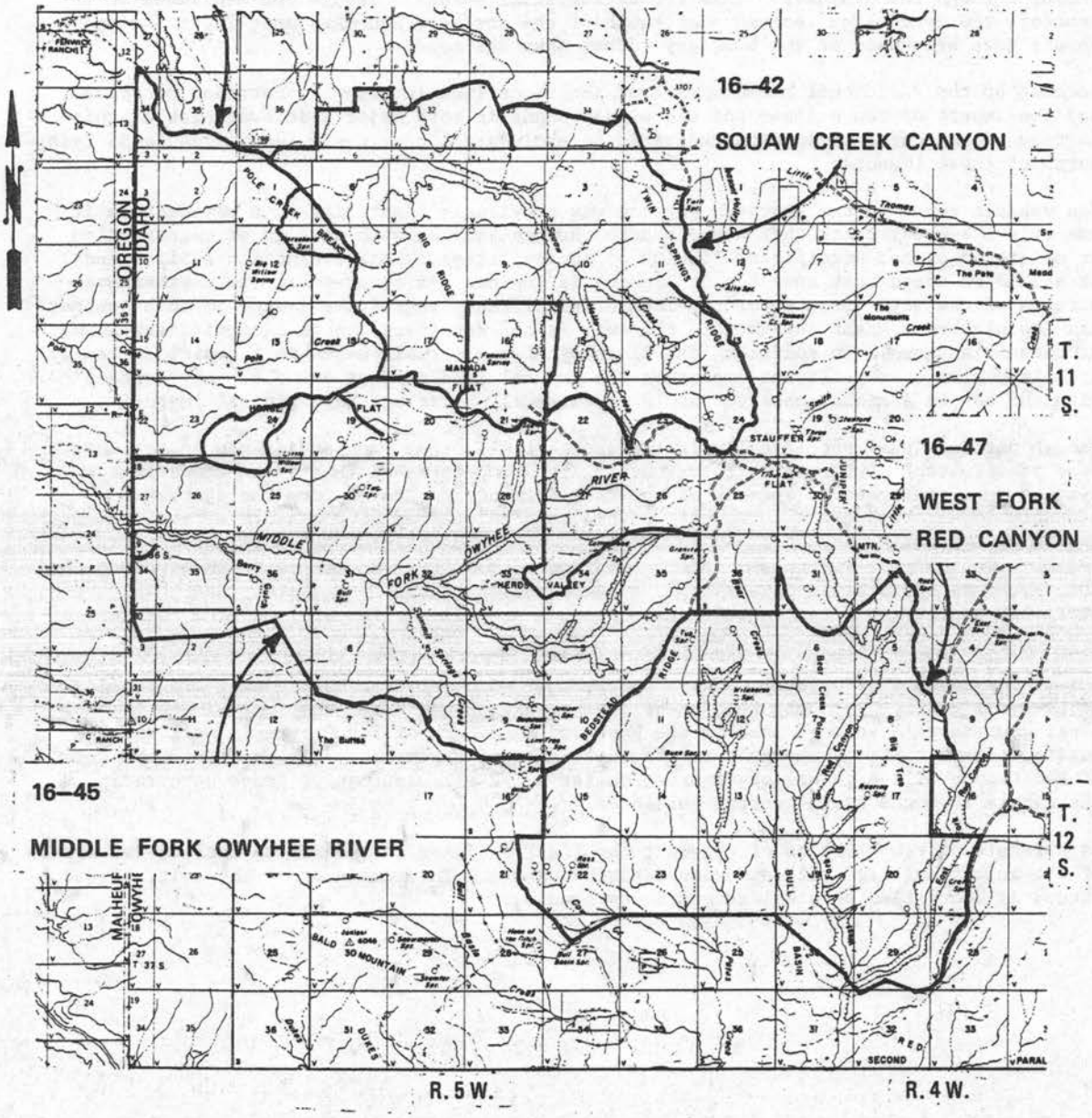
LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

16–41

HORSEHEAD SPRING



LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

16-47 West Fork Red Canyon

The naturalness of Unit 16-47 was questioned primarily because of a bladed fence line and two roads running into the unit, one in the northern and one in the southern portion.

The bladed fence line had been previously inventoried and evaluated. However, an additional hiking trip down the West Fork of Red Canyon found that the fence line runs down the bottom of the canyon for about 1/2 mile more than previously thought. However, in this 1/2 mile, the fence line is not bladed. The fence line does have a significant impact upon the natural character of the canyon as well as the sense of unconfined recreation and gets in the way of enjoying free mobility in the canyon bottom.

The northern road/way into the unit was also previously inventoried and evaluated. In the previous evaluation, it was determined that the road/way was inescapable when traveling through the drainage. This evaluation still stands. Though not mentioned in the protest, the fence line located just south of the northern boundary near Trout Springs should have been used as the boundary rather than the road.

Because of the additional known impact of the fence line in the main corridor of travel, and the impact of fence lines and old bladed roads in both major side drainages of this portion of the unit, the unit is adjusted to exclude all previously identified lands lying north of these impacts.

The vehicle route in the southern portion was previously identified as a way because it was only a 2-wheel track that wound a path through juniper with no sign of construction or maintenance, nor significant limbing of juniper trees. This evaluation still stands. It should be noted that some recent limbing of juniper has occurred in the northernmost portion of the way. Because of the lack of significant vegetative damage to both juniper and low sagebrush/grass vegetation, this way is not considered to be a significant impact at close distances. In addition, the flatness of the terrain makes this impact extremely localized with no significant impact on the natural landscape as a whole. Any contact with the way by a casual observer would be extremely brief and have minimal impact.

Though not mentioned specifically in the protest, all other imprints of man in the unit were reevaluated. During this reevaluation, it was determined that three fence line systems that penetrate to the rim of the East Fork of Red Canyon from the southeast boundary impact both the naturalness of this area as well as give a sense of confinement to the recreation experience. At intervals of one mile or less, these fences interrupt the free mobility of the casual observer between the rimrock and the eastern boundary road. The casual observer could escape the two northern fences upon penetrating the unit, however, the southernmost fence completely isolates a small portion of land from the rest of the unit. The unit boundary is adjusted to exclude this fence system.

The bladed fence line system and ways in the south-central core of the unit are considered to have a significant impact because of their location and concentration. There is, however, considerable acreage in both the West and East Fork of Red Canyon as well as the entire western third of the unit to provide a natural experience. Only in the West Fork of Red Canyon will a casual observer encounter a 1/2 mile section of fence penetrating the canyon from the south-central core area.

As a result of reevaluation of the unit the final decision is amended to exclude two areas of the unit totalling 1,828 acres as described above. The remainder of the unit, 12,882 acres, is identified as a Wilderness Study Area.

16-49a Deep Creek-Owyhee River

The naturalness of Unit 16-49a was questioned because of the number of existing known imprints of man within the unit and boundary roads (particularly cherrystem roads) as well as four internal roads, a reservoir and a fence line.

A vehicle route was located in T.13 S., R. 3 W., Secs. 28 and 33. This vehicle route consists of a 2-wheel track from the cherrystem boundary road in Sec. 28 in a southwest direction over a small saddle. There is no sign of construction or maintenance, therefore, the route is not a road, but rather a way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles. Because of its location on the hillside, it is visible from portions of the plateau country to the east. However, the wheel tracks do not represent a major scar on the face of the hill nor a significant impairment of the natural landscape. The spring development located nearby in Sec. 28, however, does represent a major scar on the hillside. Rehabilitation of the spring may be necessary if wilderness is recommended for the unit. The way can be expected to rehabilitate naturally.

Several light vehicle tracks were located in association with a reservoir in T. 12 S., R. 2 W., Sec. 34. Two vehicle routes extend from the eastern boundary road to the reservoir. A third route heads westward from the reservoir toward the rim of Deep Creek Canyon. This route rapidly deteriorates into a cattle trail when halfway to the canyon. The vehicle routes consist of 2-wheel tracks with well established sagebrush growing between the tracks. There is no sign of construction or maintenance, therefore, the routes are not roads but rather ways maintained solely by the passage of vehicles. Because of the flat terrain, the sagebrush vegetation is high enough to screen these ways from view except when one is almost standing on them. Therefore, the ways do not constitute a significant impairment of the natural landscape in the area as a whole. Contact with the ways by a casual observer would be brief and peripheral and have little or no impact upon the obtainment of a natural experience in the unit.

A vehicle route (way) showing no sign of construction or maintenance was previously inventoried in Sec. 10 leading from the eastern boundary road to a reservoir in the northeast corner of Sec. 9. An additional vehicle route was located extending westward from the reservoir but it quickly degenerates into a livestock trail. The vehicle route shows no sign of construction or maintenance. It appears to be a way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles. Because of the relatively flat terrain and screening from sagebrush, the entire way and reservoir are not a significant impairment of the natural landscape in the area as a whole. Contact with the way or reservoir by a casual observer would be brief and peripheral and have little or no impact upon the obtainment of a natural experience in the unit.

No reservoir could be located by helicopter in T. 12 S., R. 2 W., Sec. 17, other than the one previously inventoried near the rim of Deep Creek. The only resemblance of a reservoir that could be found in the location mapped in the protest was a natural depression in the bottom of a wash.

During the attempt to locate the reservoir, it was determined that the two vehicle routes leading to reservoirs in Secs. 17 and 20 are actually roads rather than ways as had been previously inventoried. Though not representing a significant impairment of the natural landscape due to the minimal amount of construction, these vehicle routes have obviously been bladed and are still serviceable, and are therefore roads.

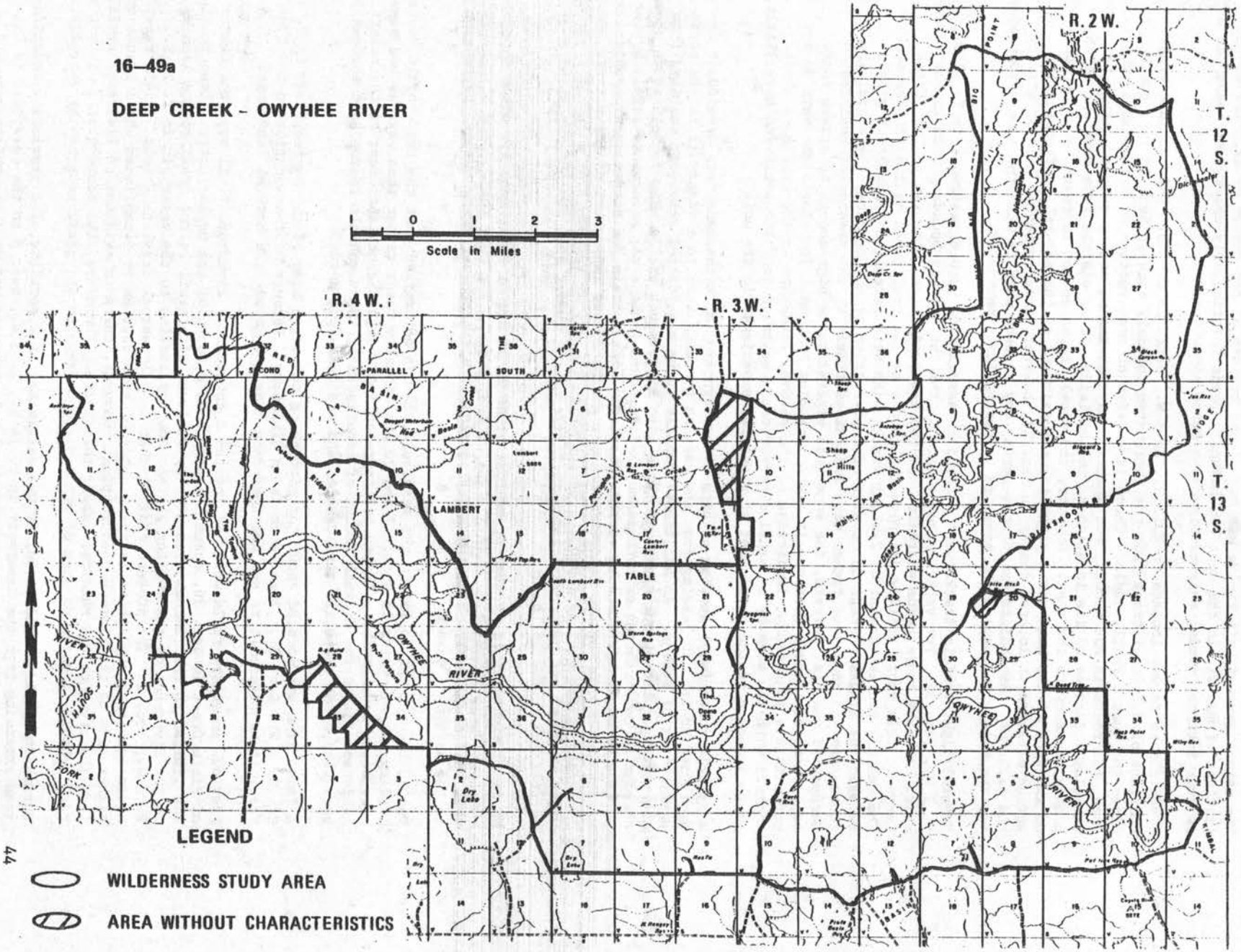
A fence line was located about the rimrock on the north side of the Owyhee River in T. 13 S., R. 2 W., Sec. 31. This fence is in disrepair. Because of its location on the rimrock, it is difficult to see and therefore does not impair the natural landscape.

Previous inventory field work had located a constructed livestock trail over the rimrock of Piute Creek in Sec. 36, about 1/4 to 1/2 mile south of the Owyhee River. Construction was limited to the rimrock area with no evidence of a trail in the creek bottom leading to the river nor on the rolling plateau country leading to the reservoir in T. 14 S., R. 3 W., Sec. 2. The protest claimed that this livestock trail is a road. Field reevaluation confirmed that there is no evidence of construction or established wheel tracks on either side of the rimrock construction. However, there is evidence of livestock trailing from the river to the reservoir along this route. Therefore, the route clearly is not a road because it shows no sign of maintenance or regular and continuous use by vehicles.

During the field reevaluation, it was determined that portions of a previously identified road extending from the reservoir in T. 14 S., R. 3 W., Sec. 3 to the reservoir in Sec. 2 should not be defined as a road because it clearly does not meet the maintenance and regular and continuous use requirement. From where this vehicle route leaves the flat plateau area in the NE 1/4 of Sec. 3 and proceeds down a wash into Sec. 2, it is heavily bladed, however, the old road bed has been badly eroded and overgrown with sagebrush and is no longer passable. There is evidence of wheel tracking around this area as well as along most of the route to the reservoir in Sec. 2. Though much of the route is still passable, the abundance and size of sagebrush and other vegetation in the old road bed

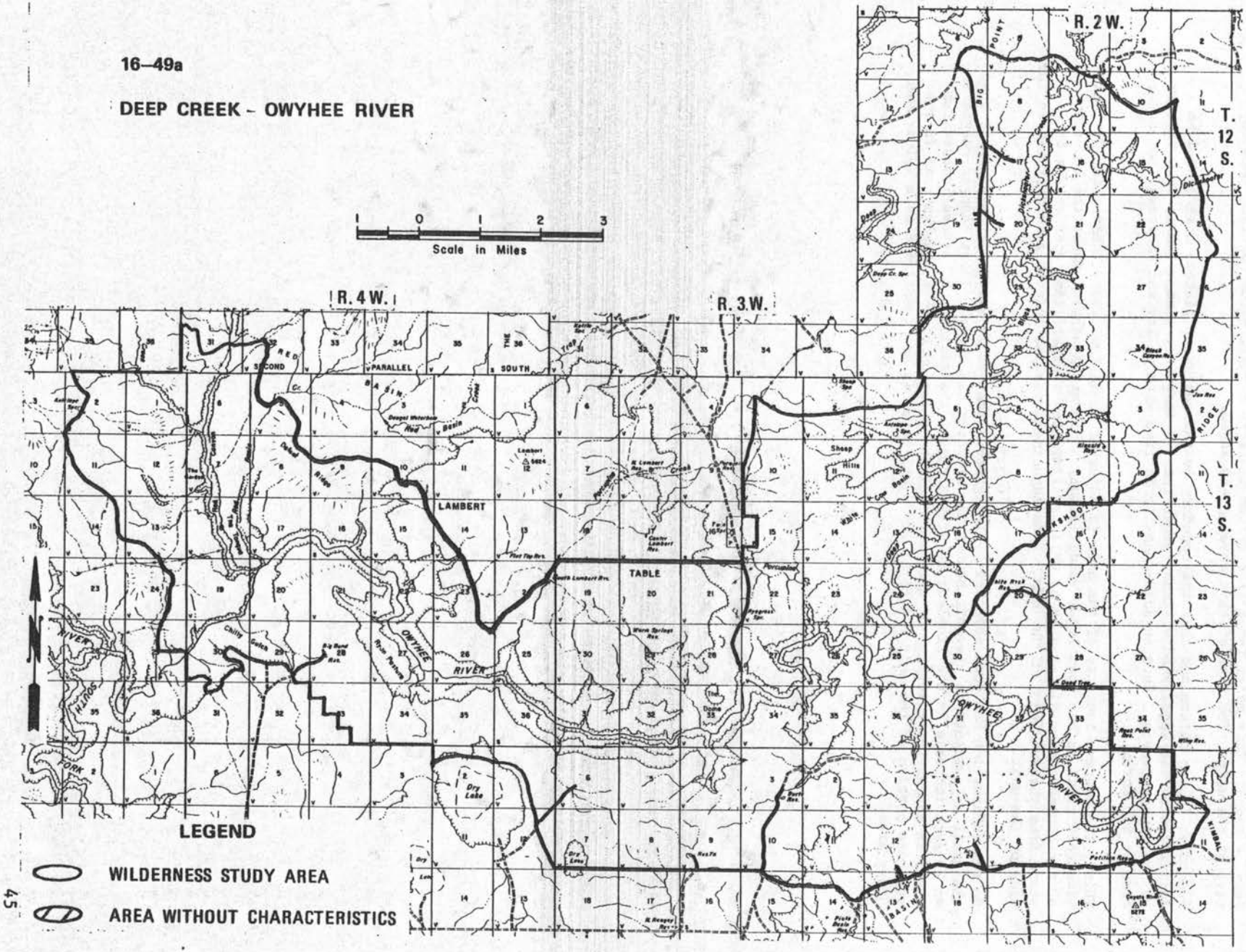
16–49a

DEEP CREEK - OWYHEE RIVER



16–49a

DEEP CREEK – OWYHEE RIVER



indicate that it does not receive regular and continuous use even to the point of not being maintained by the passage of vehicles.

During the field reevaluation, it was determined that the bladed fence line in T. 13 S., R. 3 W., Secs. 3 and 10 should be the boundary of the study area rather than the road in Secs. 4 and 9. This major fence line system isolates a small parcel of land from the rest of the unit. The size of this area is 460 acres.

Secondly, it was determined that the boundary on the southwest plateau area should be deliniated by the legal subdivisions rather than an imaginary line 1/2 mile from the rim of the Owyhee Canyon. Such an adjustment is in line with policy and increases the study area by 600 acres.

Third, the eastern boundary of the unit is adjusted to follow a very substantial way and livestock trail rather than legal subdivisions. Such an adjustment makes the location of the boundary more discernable as well as eliminates a significant scar on the landscape from the periphery of the unit. This adjustment results in a 60 acre decrease in the size of the unit.

No new information has been supplied by the protest that would warrant changes other than the small adjustments in the unit boundaries as described above. These changes result in an 80 acre increase in the final study area acreage, the addition of several cherrystem roads in the northern portion of the unit, and the deletion of a cherrystem road in the southern portion of the unit. A total of 70,083 acres is now identified as a Wilderness Study Area.

16-49e Battle Creek

The naturalness of unit 16-49e was questioned because of the previously uninventoried imprints of man, including a spring/water tank, old stoves and corrals, a gap fence and sheep study station, mining activity, and three roads. The developed spring could not be located by helicopter. It may well exist but its presence is clearly not a significant impact on the naturalness of the area. No road or wheel tracks could be located by helicopter in T. 13 S., R. 1 W., Sec. 3. The only evidence of disturbance was a livestock trail in the shallow drainage bottom leading to Battle Creek. The old stoves or corrals could be located by helicopter.

A gap fence exists in the side drainage of Battle Creek in T. 13 S., R. 2 W., Sec. 25. The sheep study station also exists in Sec. 25. The structure consists of a number of large wooden panels used as a temporary animal confinement pen during the release of bighorn sheep. This structure could easily be removed.

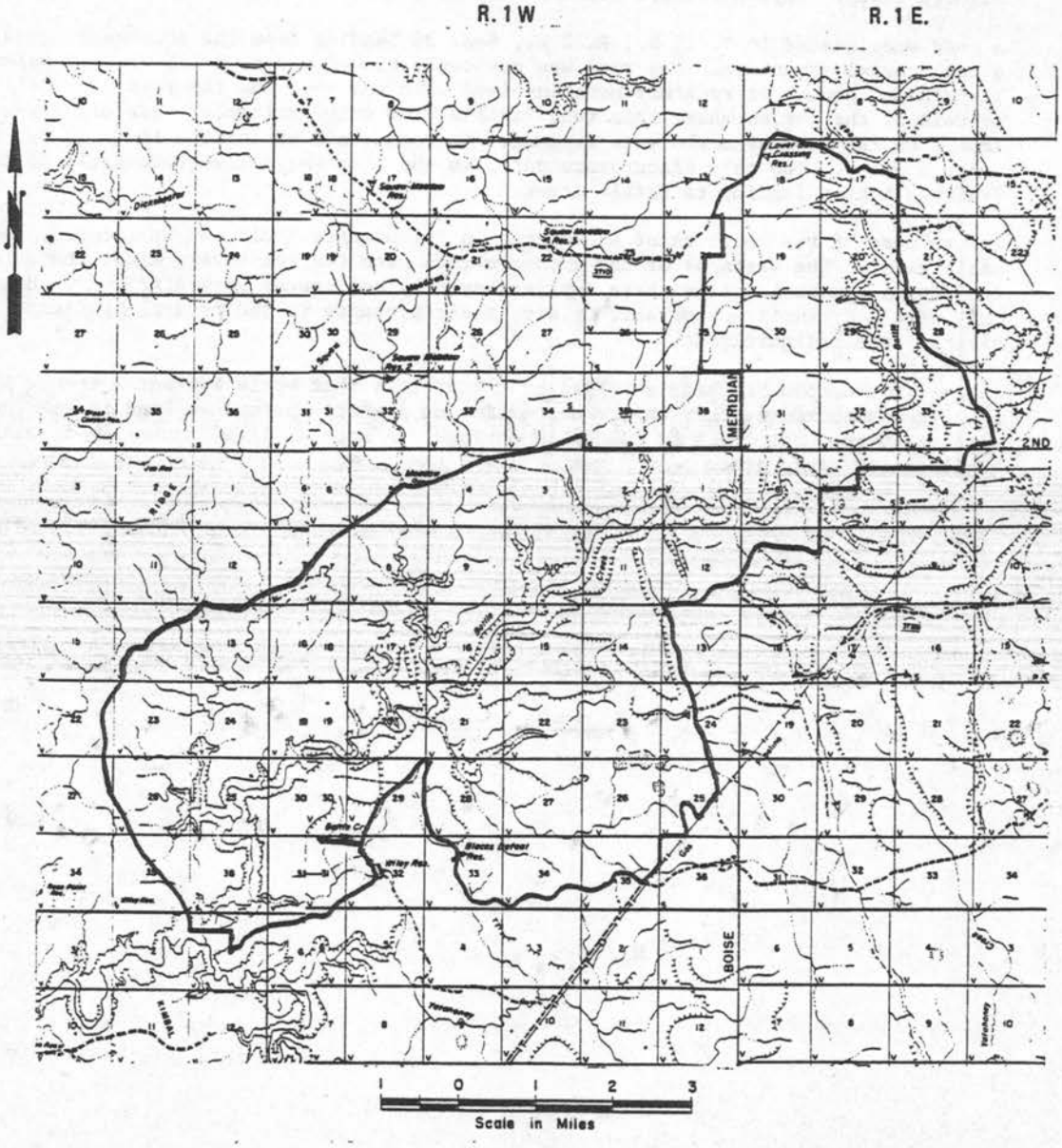
A road was located in T. 13 S., R. 2 W., Sec. 26 leading from the southwest boundary to a rock corral structure. The road was obviously bladed and is still readily passable. The minimal amount of rock movement involved with the road and the relatively flat terrain of the region makes this road visible from only extremely close distances. Its impact on the area as a whole is minimal. No road could be located in T. 13 S., R. 1 W., Secs. 5 and 8. The only disturbance noted in the area was a livestock trail in the shallow drainage bottom leading to Battle Creek.

Though most of the imprints of man stated in the protest could not be located, they may still exist. The vastness of the area combined with the relatively minor character of the imprints made locating these imprints even by helicopter very difficult. Because they were not readily observable by air, their presence in the natural landscape is clearly very insignificant.

No new information has been supplied by the protest that would warrant a change in the final recommendation other than the addition of a short cherrystem road in the southwest portion of the unit, with no change in acreage. A unit of 31,540 acres is identified as a wilderness study area.

16–49e

BATTLE CREEK



LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

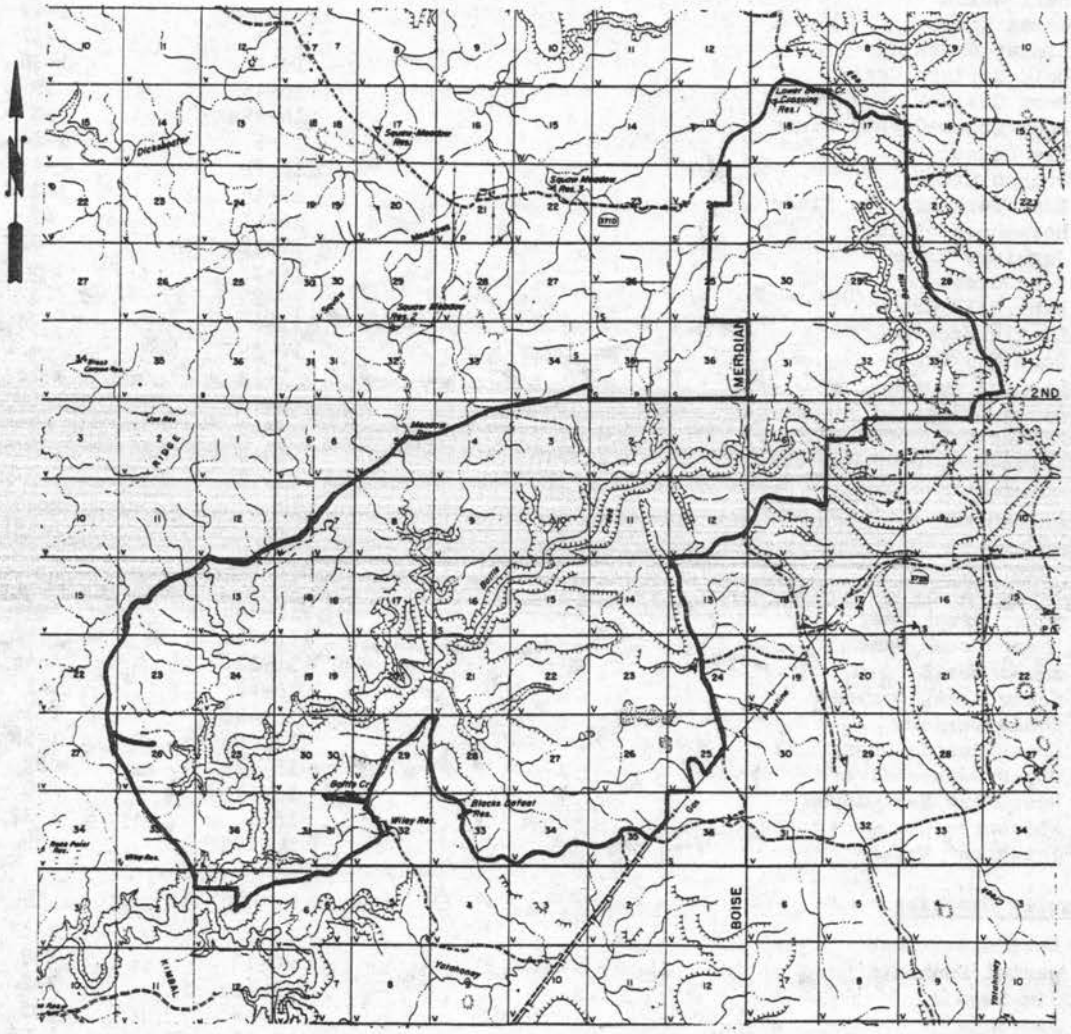
AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

16–49e

BATTLE CREEK

R. 1 W

R. 1 E.



LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

APPENDIX A

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Unit Name	Inventory Number		Page
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Marshall Mountain	62-10	6-26
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1/ Portion of unit is in the Shoshone District.

2/ Portion of unit is in the Burley District.

3/ Portion of unit is in the Boise District.

4/ Portion of unit is in the Salmon District.

5/ Portion of unit is in the Idaho Falls District.

APPENDIX B

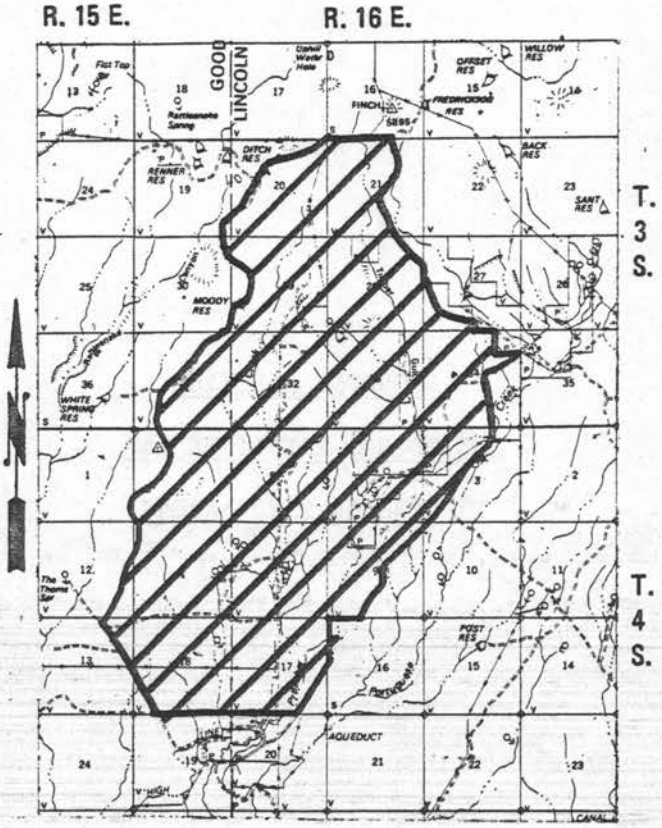
NARRATIVE SUMMARIES

SHOSHONE DISTRICT

UNITS NOT IDENTIFIED AS

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

54–3
PREACHER CREEK



LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

1 0 1 2 3 4 5

Scale in Miles

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 8,827 acres of BLM land, with 480 acres of private land inholdings. This figure differs from the 7,641 acres shown in the August 1979 report. A calculating error adds 239 acres of land, due to more accurate calculation methods. A 947 acre parcel has been added because it has been determined that a road used as part of the boundary does not exist. The unit lies on the south facing side of the Mount Bennett Hills, fifteen miles northeast of Gooding. The southern portion is a flat prairie dissected by Preacher Creek and several small intermittent drainages. The northern portion rises 900 feet higher in elevation and has a more broken topography composed of hills, rhyolite rock outcrops, and several small canyons. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. Cottonwoods and willows grow along the more shaded canyon bottoms.

NATURALNESS:

Several access routes have caused the deletion of a large parcel from the eastern side of the unit. These access routes and other developments present noticeable imprints on naturalness. Two additional routes, extend into that portion of the unit which still meets naturalness criteria. Several fences are within the unit. Four reservoirs, noticeable imprints on the naturalness of the unit, have been deleted. Excluding all major imprints of man, approximately 5,747 acres remain which contain some minor imprints on naturalness.

SOLITUDE:

Although it may be possible to find opportunities for solitude due to local topographic screening within portions of the unit, the small size, narrow configuration, and poor vegetative screening do not afford opportunities that are considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit's small size, lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions, and lack of significant physical challenge associated with primitive recreation render the recreational opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains golden eagle nesting sites, archeological sites, and an important deer wintering area.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that opposed study area identification stated a lack of naturalness due to imprints of man.

Specific reasons for requesting study area identification for the unit were as follows:

- Naturalness criteria has been met.
- The unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude because of canyons and riparian vegetation.
- Various supplemental values are present in the unit.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Naturalness:

Contrary to some public comment the unit does meet the naturalness criteria.

Solitude and Primitive Recreation:

The proposed decision stated that the unit lacked outstanding opportunities for solitude due to sparse vegetative screening, narrow configuration, and small size. Primitive recreation opportunities are considered less than outstanding because the unit lacks exceptional or unusual natural features and it lacks significant physical challenge.

Supplemental Values:

The supplemental values mentioned were already noted in the proposed decision. These values cannot qualify a unit as a study area if other characteristics are lacking.

* * *

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 in a portion of the unit, and to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 11,355 acres of BLM land with a 640 acre state land inholding. This figure differs from the 11,085 acres shown in the August 1979 report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. The unit is located 10 miles north of Gooding on the south facing slope of the Mount Bennett Hills. Highway 46 lies just west of the unit. The southern portion is a gently sloping plain with several small intermittant drainages. The northern end rises in elevation and is cut by several canyons, the largest of which is Rattlesnake Canyon. These canyons are composed of the weathered rhyolite rock which is found throughout the north end of the unit. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. Along the more shaded portions of the canyon bottoms there are willows and cottonwoods.

NATURALNESS:

An access route, which extends northwest from Thorn Springs, is the northern boundary of a parcel which should be deleted from the unit because it contains a concentration of imprints on naturalness. Another access route, which meets the road definition, extends into that portion of the unit which meets the naturalness criteria. Since this route is a road, the unit boundary should be altered to exclude the road and state land which the road intersects.

Numerous seedings, two spring developments, a small reservoir, and a small materials site are noticeable imprints on the apparent naturalness of the unit. After deletions are made to eliminate major imprints of man, 5,169 acres remain.

SOLITUDE:

Although it may be possible to find opportunities for solitude in some areas of the unit due to local topographic screening within Rattlesnake Canyon, the small size, narrow configuration, and poor vegetative screening do not afford opportunities that are considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit's small size, lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions, and lack of significant physical challenge associated with primitive recreation render the recreational opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains several archaeological sites and prairie falcon nesting sites.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that opposed study area identification stated a lack of naturalness, due to imprints of man.

Specific reasons for requesting study area identification for the unit were as follows:

- The unit meets the naturalness criteria.
- The unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.
- Various supplemental values are present.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Naturalness:

The proposed decision deleted 6,186 acres from the unit because of noticeable imprints of man in several parcels. None of the comments that addressed naturalness offered new information which would indicate that any of the deleted parcels meet the naturalness criteria. The remaining 5,169 acres do meet the naturalness criteria.

Solitude:

The proposed decision determined that opportunities for solitude were considered less than outstanding because the unit has sparse vegetative screening, is small, and has a narrow configuration. Several comments indicated that the unit met the solitude criteria. Some comments stated that narrow canyons and riparian vegetation provide outstanding opportunities.

Only a small portion of the unit actually provides screening. The topography of the unit is such that most visitor use would concentrate in these limited areas and make visual contact with others likely. This situation provides significantly less than an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Primitive Recreation:

Primitive recreation opportunities are considered less than outstanding because the unit lacks exceptional or unusual natural features, and lacks significant physical challenge. Although several comments indicated that the unit met the primitive recreation criteria, none specified what elements of outstanding primitive recreation were present in the unit.

Supplemental Values:

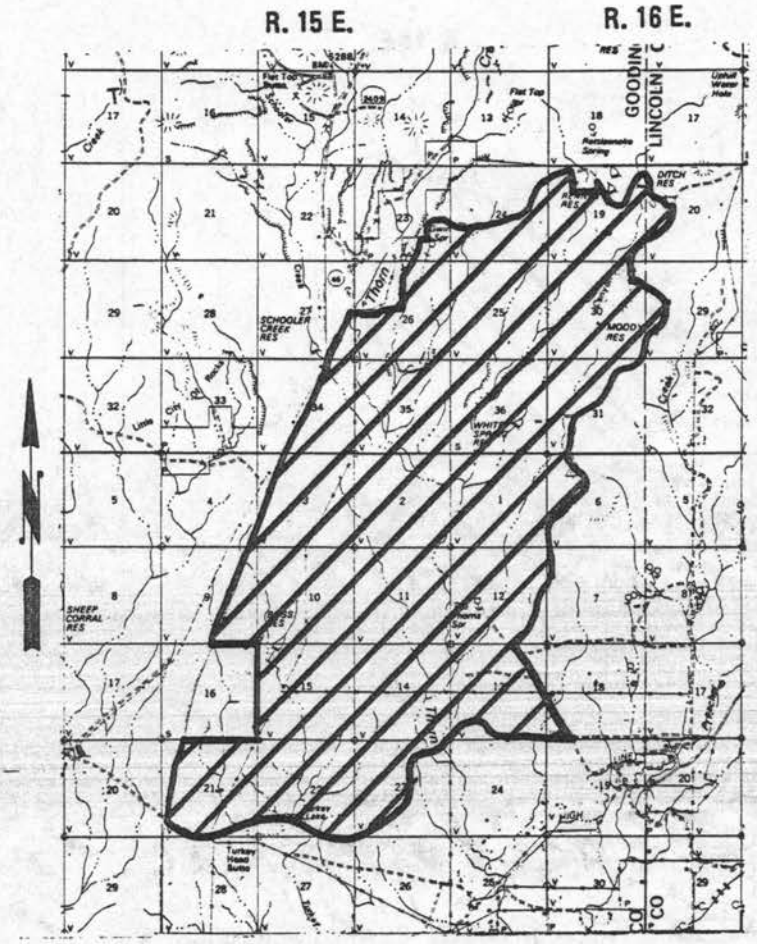
Goats, as mentioned in public comments, are not known to be present in the unit. Most other supplemental values were noted in the proposed decision. The presence of supplemental values when essential wilderness characteristics are lacking does not qualify the unit as a study area.

* * *

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 in a portion of the unit, and to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

54–4
RATTLESNAKE CANYON



LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

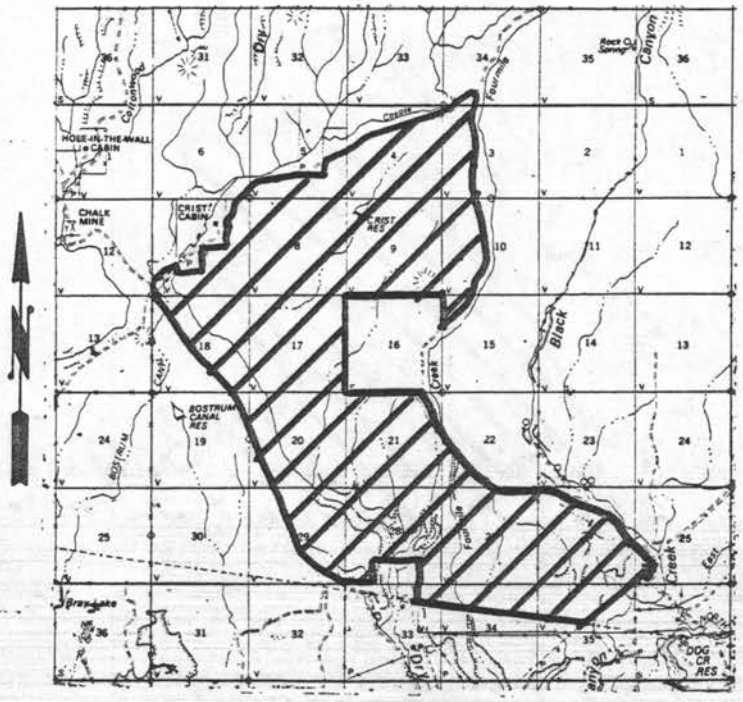
AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

1 0 1 2 3 4 5

Scale in Miles

54–7
FOUR MILE BENCH

R. 14 E.



LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

1 0 1 2 3 4 5

Scale in Miles

54-7 FOUR MILE BENCH

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 7,542 acres of BLM land. The unit lies on the southernmost terrace of the Mount Bennett Hills, nine miles northwest of Gooding. Most of the unit is composed of a flat prairie bench, rising gently to the north. Dry Creek, a perennial stream, runs near the western edge of the unit and cuts a deep basalt canyon as it flows south. The main vegetation in the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses, with some pockets of willows and other shrubs along Dry Creek.

NATURALNESS:

Three access routes which meet road definition, are located in the southern portion of the unit. Two other routes used for access to reservoirs are located in the northern portion. Those routes and reservoirs are major imprints of man; the reservoirs have been mechanically constructed. A mechanically constructed canal bed crosses the western tip of the unit. The southeast tip of the unit has been plowed and seeded. The large number of major imprints on naturalness provides a noticeable imprint of man's work.

SOLITUDE:

The major portion of the unit is a gently sloping prairie with little topographic relief. The only major topographic variation is Dry Creek Canyon. This deep canyon provides excellent topographic screening and the willows along the creek form pockets of vegetative screening. This combination allows visitors an outstanding opportunity to enjoy solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

There are a wide variety of recreational opportunities within the unit, including hiking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, photography, and nature study. Although many types of recreation are possible no particular activity nor group of activities are considered outstanding.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Public comments indicated that the unit lacked naturalness, due to imprints of man.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

The proposed decision contained the same conclusion as the public comments.

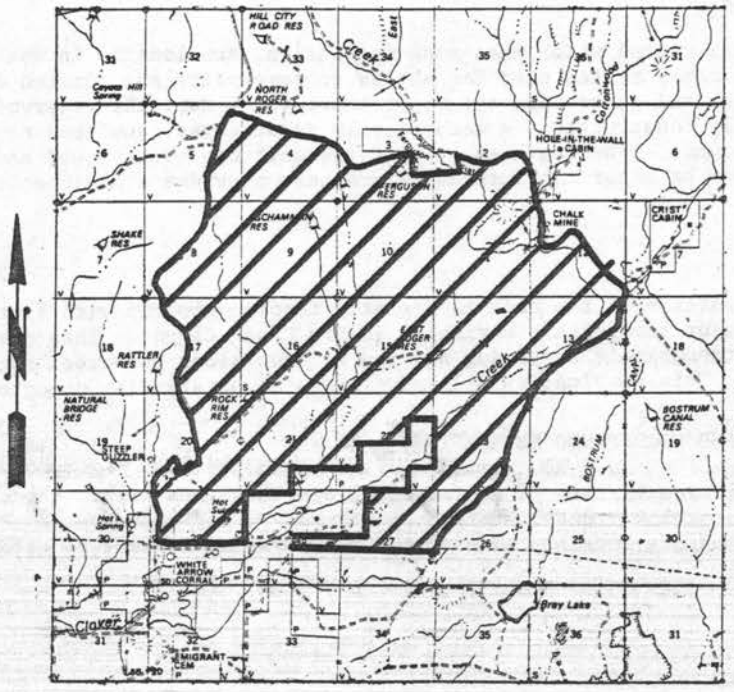
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DECISION:

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 to a lack of outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

54–9
CLOVER CREEK

R. 13 E.



LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

1 0 1 2 3

Scale in Miles

54-9 CLOVER CREEK

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 8,455 acres of BLM land, with a 640 acre State land inholding. The unit lies on the south facing side of the Mount Bennett Hills, ten miles north of Bliss. The major portion of the unit is a gradually sloping plain of basalt. Clover Creek runs just inside the east boundary and has eroded a deep canyon through the cap layer of basalt. The major vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. Clover Creek Canyon has riparian vegetation characterized by willow, chokecherry, and serviceberry.

NATURALNESS:

Five access routes, which meet the road definition, have been identified in this small, flat unit. The two longest roads are used to service reservoir developments. Two short access routes, associated with the roads, have also been identified, but are not substantial imprints on naturalness. There are five mechanically constructed reservoirs, two small chalk mines and several fences within the unit. Because there are several minor and major imprints on naturalness throughout the unit, this concentration makes the unit fail to meet the naturalness criteria.

SOLITUDE:

Although it may be possible to find opportunities for solitude in some areas of the unit due to local topographic screening within Clover Creek, the small size, poor configuration, and poor vegetative screening do not offer opportunities that are considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit's small size, lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions, and lack of significant physical challenge associated with primitive recreation render the opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains several archaeological sites, golden eagle and prairie falcon nesting sites, and sage grouse strutting grounds.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Public comments opposed the proposed decision not to identify the unit as a study area with no supporting rationale given. Other comments stated the unit lacked naturalness, due to imprints of man.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

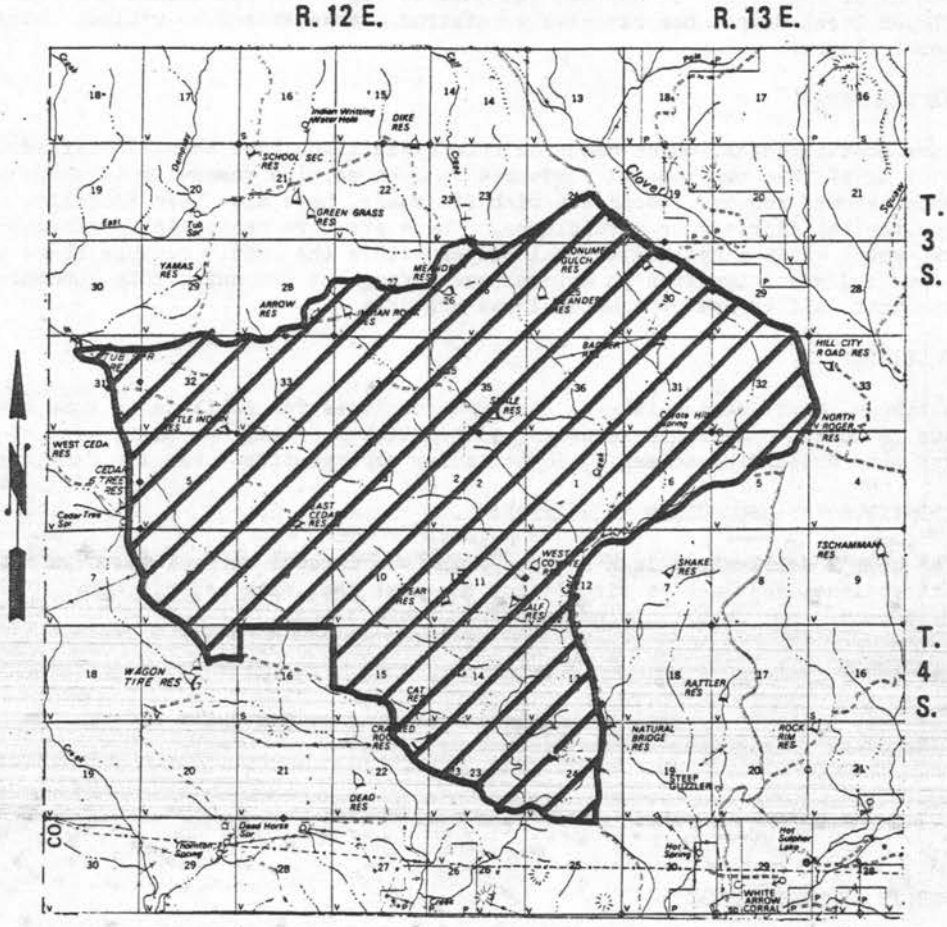
The proposed decision contained the same conclusion as public comments in reference to naturalness.

* * *

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.

54–11
INDIAN



LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

1 0 1 2 3 4 5

Scale in Miles

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 16,968 acres of BLM land. The unit is located 12 miles north of Bliss on the south side of the Mount Bennett Hills. The major portion of the unit is a stepped prairie which rises gently to the north. Calf Creek Canyon and its branches cut the prairie table top in several places. In the south end of its drainage, Calf Creek is a perennial stream. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. There are some pockets of willow and other shrubs along Calf Creek.

NATURALNESS:

There are two developed springs within the unit, a seeding at the south tip, and several fences. The unit contains a total of 13 access routes and 14 reservoirs. All of the reservoirs and six of the access routes have definite signs of mechanical construction. Because these imprints on naturalness are distributed throughout the unit, it fails to meet the naturalness criteria.

SOLITUDE:

The southeastern portion of the unit where Calf Creek Canyon intersects with several smaller canyons has a high degree of topographical screening. The southern end of Calf Creek supports dense shrub vegetation which provides further screening. These factors both contribute to make an outstanding opportunity for visitors to seek out and enjoy solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit provides opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, photography, nature study, bird hunting, and cross country skiing. None of these opportunities are considered outstanding, nor is there an outstanding opportunity for a variety of recreational experiences.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains golden eagle and prairie falcon nesting sites, sage grouse strutting grounds, and several archaeological sites.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Public comment opposed the proposed decision not to identify a study area, with no supporting details given.

Other comments stated the unit lacked naturalness, due to imprints of man.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

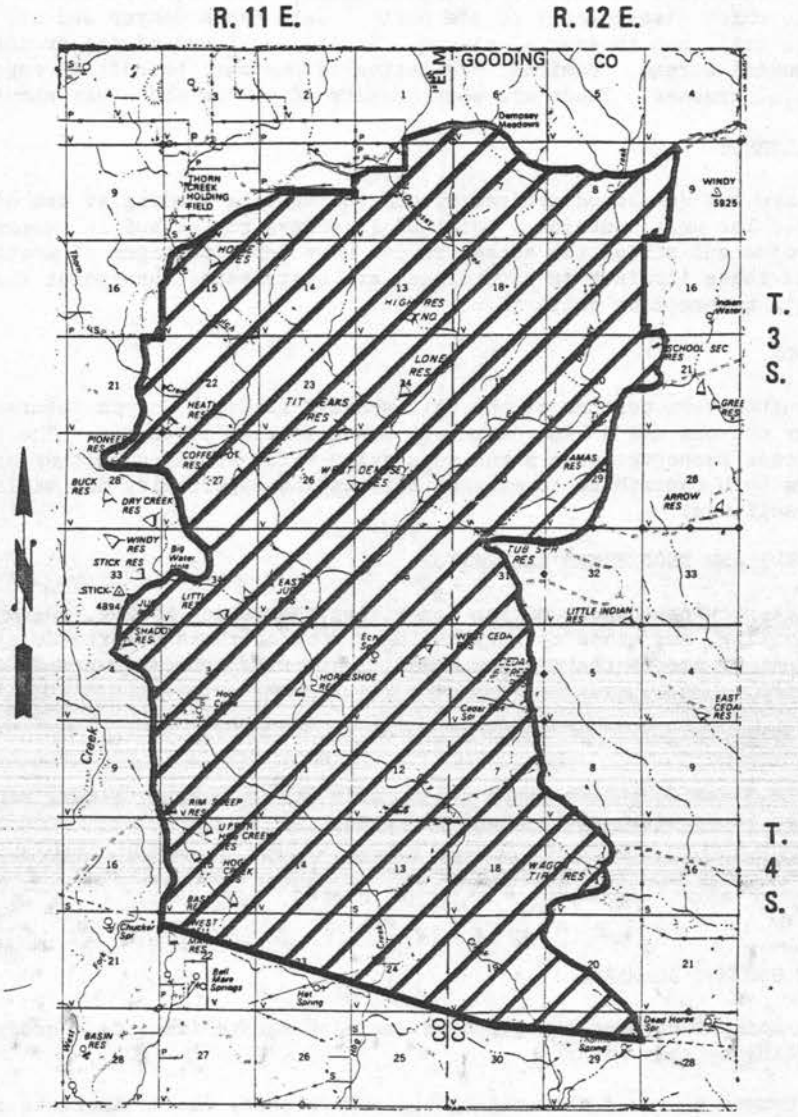
The proposed decision contained the same conclusion as public comments in reference to naturalness.

* * *

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 primitive recreation.

54–12
DEMPSEY CREEK



LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

0 1 2 3 4 5

Scale in Miles

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 23,644 acres of BLM land with 760 acres of State land inholdings. This figure differs from the 22,996 acres shown in the August, 1979, report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. The unit is located eight miles northeast of King Hill on the south side of the Bennett Hills. The major portion of the unit is a stepped prairie which rises gently to the north. Several intermittent stream drainages dissect the prairie bench. Dry Creek Canyon becomes a dominant feature of the landscape in the south portion of the unit. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. There are some juniper in Dry Creek Canyon and a few clumps of aspen on hills and gulleys at the north end of the unit.

NATURALNESS:

The unit contains ten routes with obvious mechanical construction, 28 reservoirs, one large seeding, an old homestead and two mechanical disturbances all of which are substantially noticeable impacts on the naturalness of the unit. Because of these impacts, which are distributed throughout, the unit fails to meet the naturalness criteria.

SOLITUDE:

The unit has topography which is broken by rolling hills and gulleys in the north and several canyons and basalt bluffs in the south. This uneven topography provides excellent topographic screening in some locations. Dry Creek Canyon has juniper and some willow and the north end of the unit has some aspen stands. This provides limited vegetative screening. The combination of topographical screening supplemented with vegetative screening gives an outstanding opportunity for solitude in parts of the unit.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit contains opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, photography, cross country skiing and nature study. None of these opportunities are considered outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains several archaeological sites and golden eagle nesting sites.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Public comment that opposed the proposed decision not to identify a study area stated the following:

- Excellent topographic screening within the unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude.
- The unit has several outstanding supplemental values.

Other comments stated the unit lacked naturalness, due to imprints of man.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

The proposed decision recognized the existance of outstanding opportunities for solitude within the unit. Topographic screening found in the unit was taken into account in making the determination on solitude. The unit was not proposed as a study area because of numerous imprints of man found within the unit which cause the unit not to meet the naturalness criteria.

The supplemental values were already noted in the proposed decision; they cannot be used to qualify a unit as a study area if other characteristics are lacking.

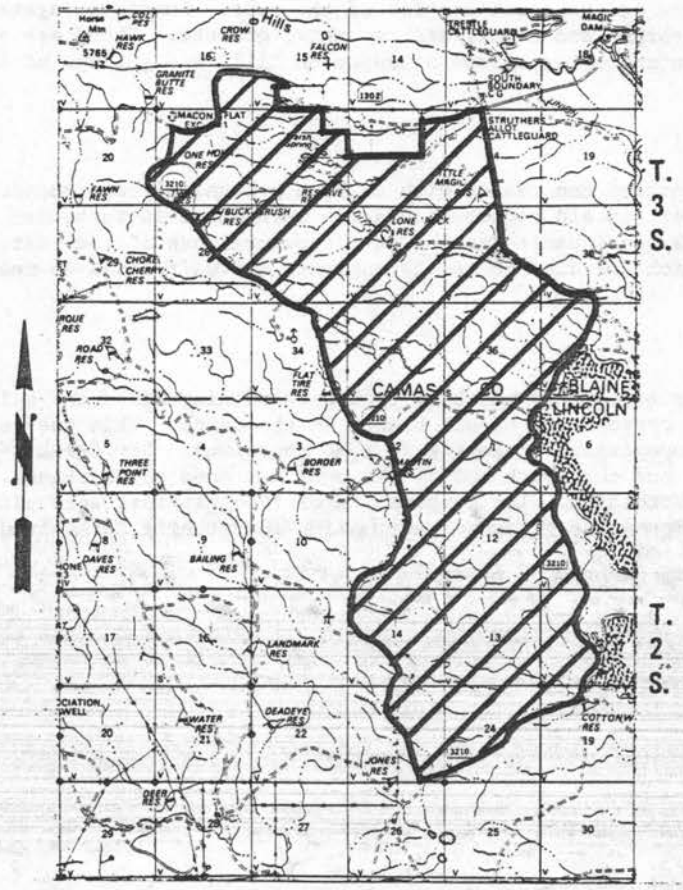
* * *

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 primitive recreation.

54—13
FORGOTTEN HILLS

R. 17 E.



LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

1 0 1 2 3

Scale in Miles

54-13 FORGOTTEN HILLS

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 with a 640 acre State land inholding. This figure differs from the 9,415 acres shown in the August, 1979, report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. The unit lies three miles west of Highway 75 near the Shoshone Ice Caves. The unit is composed of several hills and bluffs which are the far east end of the Bennett Hills. Black Butte and its surrounding lava beds are just to the east of the unit. The main vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. There are a few small patches of aspen on the north facing slopes and chokecherry scattered throughout.

NATURALNESS:

An access route which meets the road definition splits the unit into two parcels. The southern parcel is smaller than 5,000 acres and does not meet the size criteria. The northern parcel contains several access routes, reservoirs, and fences distributed throughout. These imprints of man, many of which are substantial, are so obvious that the unit fails to meet the naturalness criteria.

SOLITUDE:

The unit contains several rolling hills, bluffs, and gullies which all contribute to topographic screening. There is very little vegetative screening within the unit. Because the unit is narrow and open hillsides allow high visibility, the unit is not considered to offer outstanding opportunities to enjoy solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreational opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, photography, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and nature study exist within the unit. None of these are considered outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains sage grouse strutting grounds.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

The only public comment received that specifically addresses the unit indicated a lack of naturalness, due to imprints of man.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

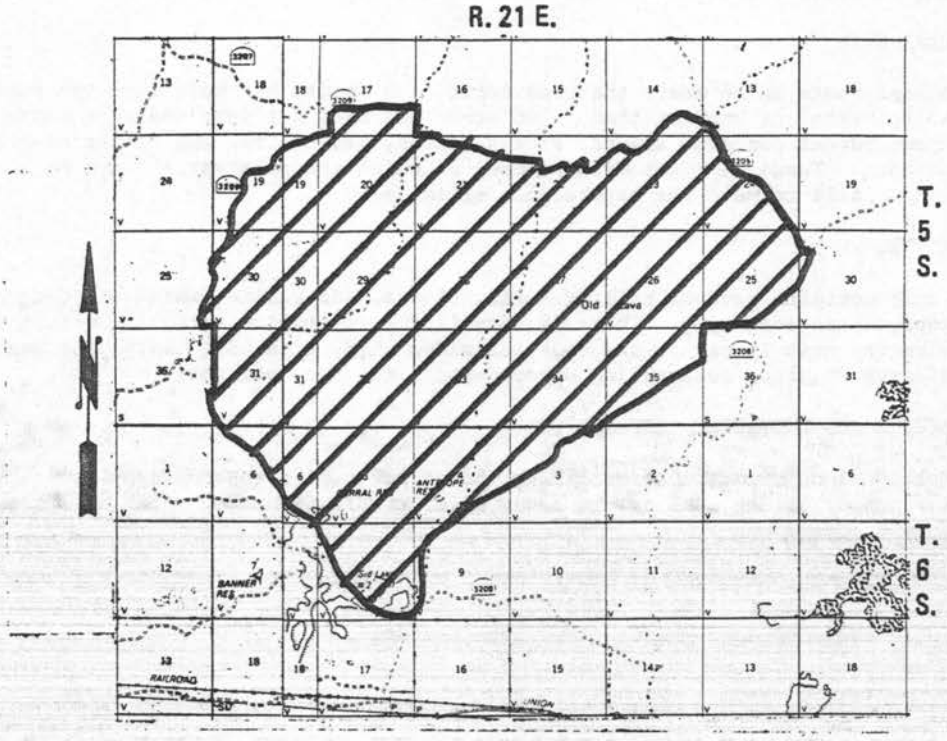
The proposed decision contained the same conclusion as public comments in reference to naturalness.

* * *

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.

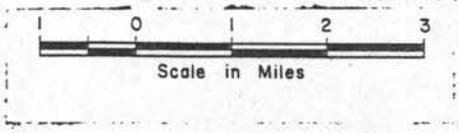
57–3
ANTELOPE



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 12,271 acres of BLM land. The unit is located ten miles southeast of Richfield, on relatively flat grassland terrain. Topographical relief increases in the interior and northern portions of the unit where weathered lava formations are found. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is annual and perennial grasses. There is some sagebrush scattered throughout the unit with the highest concentrations found in the northern portions.

NATURALNESS:

The unit is divided into four smaller parcels by three access routes. One of these routes meets the road definition, while the other two are substantial imprints on naturalness causing acreage to be deleted from the unit. The remaining parcels are smaller than 5,000 acres, and do not meet the size criteria.

SOLITUDE:

The unit lies on a relatively flat open prairie with very little topographic relief to provide screening. There is a limited amount of vegetative screening provided by scattered sagebrush. The lack of good topographical and vegetative screening does not allow for an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, nature study, and photography exist within the unit. None of these opportunities are considered outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains good examples of geologic formations associated with lava flows, and sage grouse strutting grounds.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that opposed the proposed decision not to identify a study area are summarized as follows:

- Unit should be reviewed as a cluster (with six adjacent units).
- Access routes which do not meet the road criteria should not be used to divide the unit into parcels which do not meet the size criteria.
- Lack of vegetative and topographic screening in the unit does not diminish outstanding opportunities for solitude.
- The unit offers outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

Comments that agreed with dropping the unit noted a lack of naturalness due to imprints of man.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Roadless/Naturalness:

Three access routes extend through the unit and divide it into four parcels, each of which contain less than 5,000 acres and, therefore, do not meet the size criteria. One of these routes meets the road criteria. Two other access routes appear to have been constructed as firebreaks. These routes show clear evidence of having been mechanically constructed. Rehabilitation through the use of hand tools or natural processes is not feasible given the length of the routes.

Clustering of units which are separated by roads, in order to consider them as one unit, is not provided for in any of the Bureau of Land Management policy for conducting wilderness inventory. Each unit must be assessed on its own.

Solitude:

It is generally recognized that the lack of topography and tall vegetation limits the opportunity to achieve solitude unless the area is large. Low vegetation on flat terrain can provide excellent screening if the area is large enough to allow other visitors or external influences to blend or disappear into the landscape. This unit, split into four parcels, is not large enough to allow a number of user groups or external influences to blend into the landscape.

Primitive Recreation:

The opportunity to achieve a primitive recreation experience is dependent upon a unit's size and ability to provide exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions. Exceptional natural features are those which provide exceptional scenery, diversity of landform and/or mobility of travel for a visitor, and would result in a strong recreation attraction to an area for one or more types of activities.

This unit has neither the size nor the exceptional or unusual natural features to provide primitive recreation opportunities which could be considered outstanding.

* * *

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.

57-4 BLACK RIDGE CRATER

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 8,138 acres of BLM land. The unit lies eight miles east of Richfield, on relatively flat prairie terrain. The flat terrain is broken in places by volcanic rock formations among which Black Ridge Crater is the most prominent. Black Ridge Caves lie to the north of the crater and are composed of several lava tubes of varying length and size. The main vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses.

NATURALNESS:

Three access routes, which meet the road definition, cross the unit from north to south. These roads divide the unit into smaller parcels, none of which meets the size criteria.

SOLITUDE:

Although Black Ridge Crater and the surrounding lava landscape provide some topographical relief, overall topographical screening in the unit is minimal. Some of the taller sagebrush provide limited vegetational screening. There is no area in the unit where topographic and vegetative screening combine to offer what is considered an outstanding opportunity for visitors to enjoy solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit offers opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, nature study and cave exploration. None of these opportunities are considered outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains opportunities for scientific study of geologic land forms and processes associated with fissure lava flows, and sage grouse strutting grounds.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that opposed the proposed decision not to identify a study area are summarized as follows:

- The unit should be reviewed as a cluster (with six adjacent units).
- Access routes which do not meet road criteria should not be used to divide the unit into parcels too small to meet the size criteria.
- Lack of vegetative and topographic screening in the unit does not diminish outstanding opportunities for solitude.
- The unit offers outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

Comments that agreed with dropping the unit noted a lack of naturalness due to imprints of man.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Roadless/Naturalness:

Clustering of units which are separated by roads, in order to consider them as one unit, is not provided for in any of the Bureau of Land Management policy for conducting wilderness inventory. Each unit must be assessed on its own.

Three access routes within the unit meet the road criteria and divide the unit into parcels of less than 5,000 acres. None of these parcels meet the size criteria.

Solitude:

It is generally recognized that the lack of topography and tall vegetation limits the opportunity to achieve solitude unless the area is large. Low

vegetation on flat terrain can provide excellent screening if the area is large enough to allow other visitors or external influences to blend or disappear into the landscape. This unit, split into four parcels, is not large enough to allow a number of user groups or external influences to blend into the landscape.

Primitive Recreation:

The opportunity to achieve a primitive recreation experience is dependent upon a unit's size and ability to provide exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions. Exceptional natural features are those which provide exceptional scenery, diversity of landform and/or mobility of travel for a visitor, and would result in a strong recreation attraction to an area for one or more types of activities.

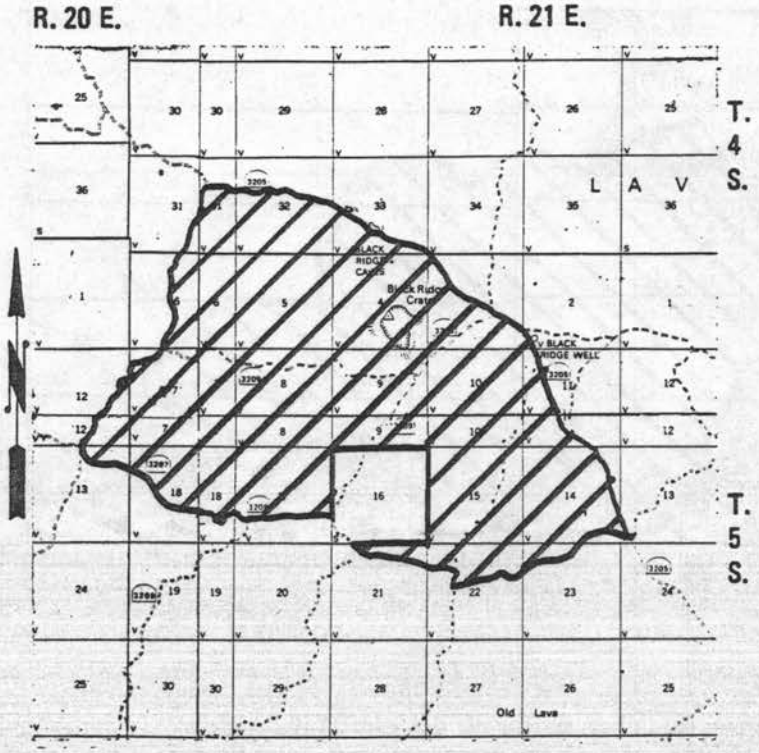
This unit has neither the size nor the exceptional or unusual natural features to provide primitive recreation opportunities which could be considered outstanding.

* * *

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.

57–4
BLACK RIDGE CRATER



LEGEND

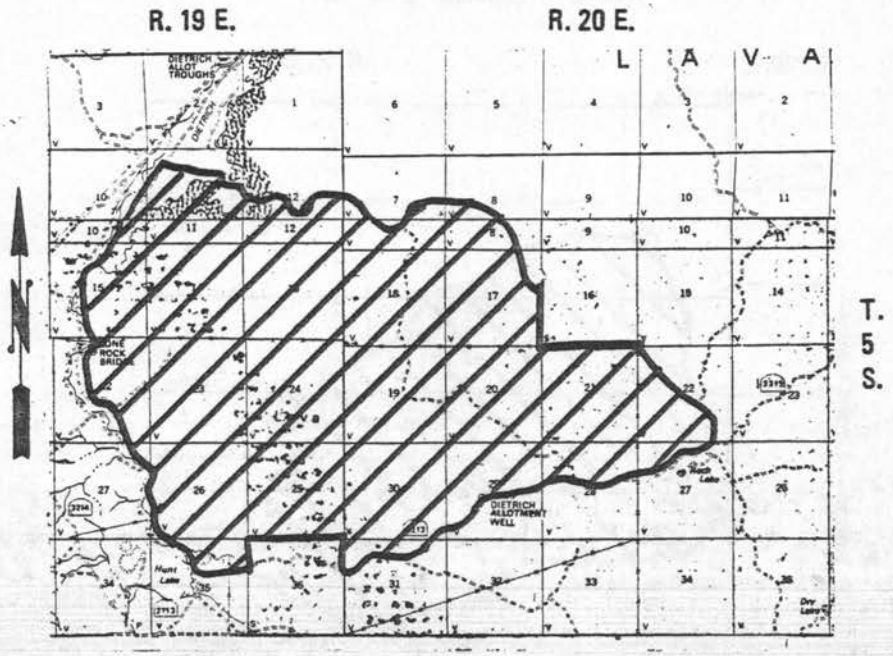
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

1 0 1 2 3

Scale in Miles

57–5
LONE ROCK



LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

0 1 2 3

Scale in Miles

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 10,934 acres of BLM land. The unit lies five miles south of Richfield, on a flat expanse of weathered lava. Rock outcrops add occasional variety to the terrain but topographical relief is minimal. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. Some small shrubs are found in shaded areas of the lava formations.

NATURALNESS:

Two access routes, which do not meet the road definition, but are substantial imprints on naturalness, pass into or through the unit. These routes effectively split the unit into three smaller parcels, which do not meet the size criteria.

SOLITUDE:

The unit contains very little topographical relief which can screen visitors from the sights and sounds of one another. Some portions of the unit contain a large subspecies of sagebrush which provides a limited degree of vegetative screening. There is no portion of the unit which is considered to have both topographical and vegetative screening to provide visitors an outstanding opportunity to enjoy solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit provides very little opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation. The flat topography with very little vegetative variation creates a dull landscape with few scenic qualities. Lack of scenic features makes recreation opportunities such as hiking and horseback riding less than outstanding. This unit is not considered to have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains burrowing owl nesting sites and sage grouse strutting grounds.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that favored identification as a study area are summarized as follows:

- The unit should be reviewed as a cluster (with six adjacent units).
- Access routes which do not meet the road criteria should not be used to divide the unit into parcels which do not meet the size criteria.
- Lack of vegetative and topographic screening does not diminish outstanding opportunities for solitude in the unit.
- The unit offers outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

Comments that agreed with dropping the unit noted a lack of naturalness due to imprints of man.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Roadless/Naturalness:

Clustering of units which are separated by roads, in order to consider them as one unit, is not provided for in any of the Bureau of Land Management policy for conducting wilderness inventory. Each unit must be assessed on its own.

One access route that does not meet the road criteria, shows evidence of heavy use and has deep ruts along much if its length. This route is a clear imprint on the naturalness of the unit. In order to exclude it from the unit, the unit must be divided by the route. Two other access routes, one a mechanically constructed route for which rehabilitation is not feasible, must be excluded. The exclusion of these access routes splits the unit into parcels which do not meet size criteria.

Solitude:

It is generally recognized that the lack of topography and tall vegetation limits the opportunity to achieve solitude unless the area is large. Low vegetation on flat terrain can provide excellent screening if the area is large enough to allow other visitors or external influences to blend or disappear into the landscape. This unit, split into three parcels, is not large enough to allow a number of user groups or external influences to blend into the landscape.

Primitive Recreation:

The opportunity to achieve a primitive recreation experience is dependent upon the unit's size and ability to provide exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions. Exceptional natural features are those which provide exceptional scenery, diversity of landform and/or mobility of travel for a visitor, and would result in a strong recreation attraction to an area for one or more types of activities.

This unit has neither the size nor the exceptional or unusual natural features to provide primitive recreation opportunities which could be considered outstanding.

* * *

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.

57-6 WILDHORSE

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 21,544 acres of BLM land with a 640 acre State land inholding. Old weathered lava covers the unit. There is very little relief with the plain covered with sagebrush and grasses.

NATURALNESS:

Three access routes along the east side of the unit are substantially noticeable imprints on naturalness. The boundary should be changed to delete acreage in the vicinity of these access routes. This boundary change also results in the cherrystemming of an access route which extends into the portion of the unit which meets the naturalness criteria. Another access route has caused the deletion of a parcel of land on the west side of the unit. All major imprints of man on the naturalness of the unit have been deleted.

SOLITUDE:

The unit contains very little topographical relief which can screen visitors from the sights and sounds of others. Some portions of the unit contain a large subspecies of sagebrush which provides a limited degree of vegetative screening. No portion of the unit is judged to contain adequate topographical and vegetative screening to provide visitors an outstanding opportunity to enjoy solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit provides little opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation. The flat topography with little vegetative variation creates a dull landscape with few scenic qualities. Lack of scenic features makes recreation opportunities such as hiking and horseback riding less than outstanding. The unit is judged to not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Rock monuments are found in the unit, which may have archaeological or historical significance.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments in favor of study area identification are summarized as follows:

- The unit should be reviewed as a cluster (with six adjacent units).
- Access routes which do not meet the road criteria should not be used to divide the unit into parcels which do not meet the size criteria.
- Lack of vegetative and topographic screening does not diminish outstanding opportunities for solitude in the unit.
- The unit offers outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

Comments that agreed with dropping the unit noted a lack of naturalness due to imprints of man.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Roadless/Naturalness:

Clustering of units which are separated by roads, in order to consider them as one unit, is not provided for in any of the Bureau of Land Management policy for conducting wilderness inventory. Each unit must be assessed on its own.

Two access routes are noticeable imprints of man on the naturalness of the unit. Rehabilitation of these routes through the use of hand tools is not feasible given the length of the routes. Another access route does meet the road criteria. All three routes have been excluded from the unit. To do this some small parcels have been cut off from the main portion of the unit and excluded with the access routes. As mentioned in the proposed decision, the remaining portion of the unit meets the size and naturalness criteria.

Solitude:

It is generally recognized that the lack of topography and tall vegetation limits the opportunity to achieve solitude unless the area is large. Low vegetation on flat terrain can provide excellent screening if the area is large enough to allow other visitors or external influences to blend or disappear into the landscape. This unit is not large enough to allow a number of user groups or external influences to blend into the landscape.

Primitive Recreation:

The opportunity to achieve a primitive recreation experience is dependent upon the unit's size and ability to provide exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions. Exceptional natural features are those which provide exceptional scenery, diversity of landform and/or mobility of travel for a visitor, and would result in a strong recreation attraction to an area for one or more types of activities.

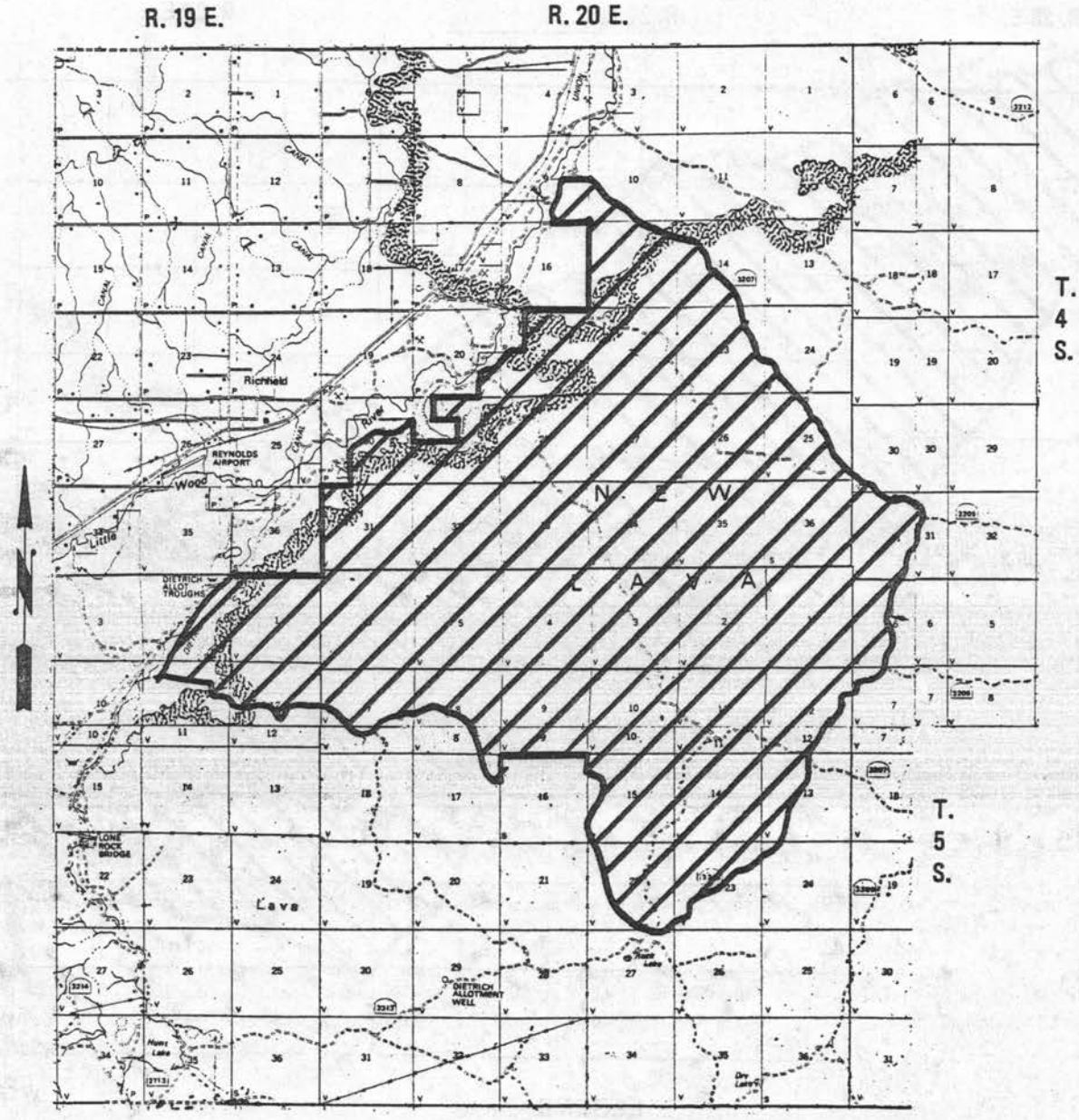
This unit has neither the size nor the exceptional or unusual natural features to provide primitive recreation opportunities which could be considered outstanding.

* * *

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.

57–6
WILDHORSE



LEGEND

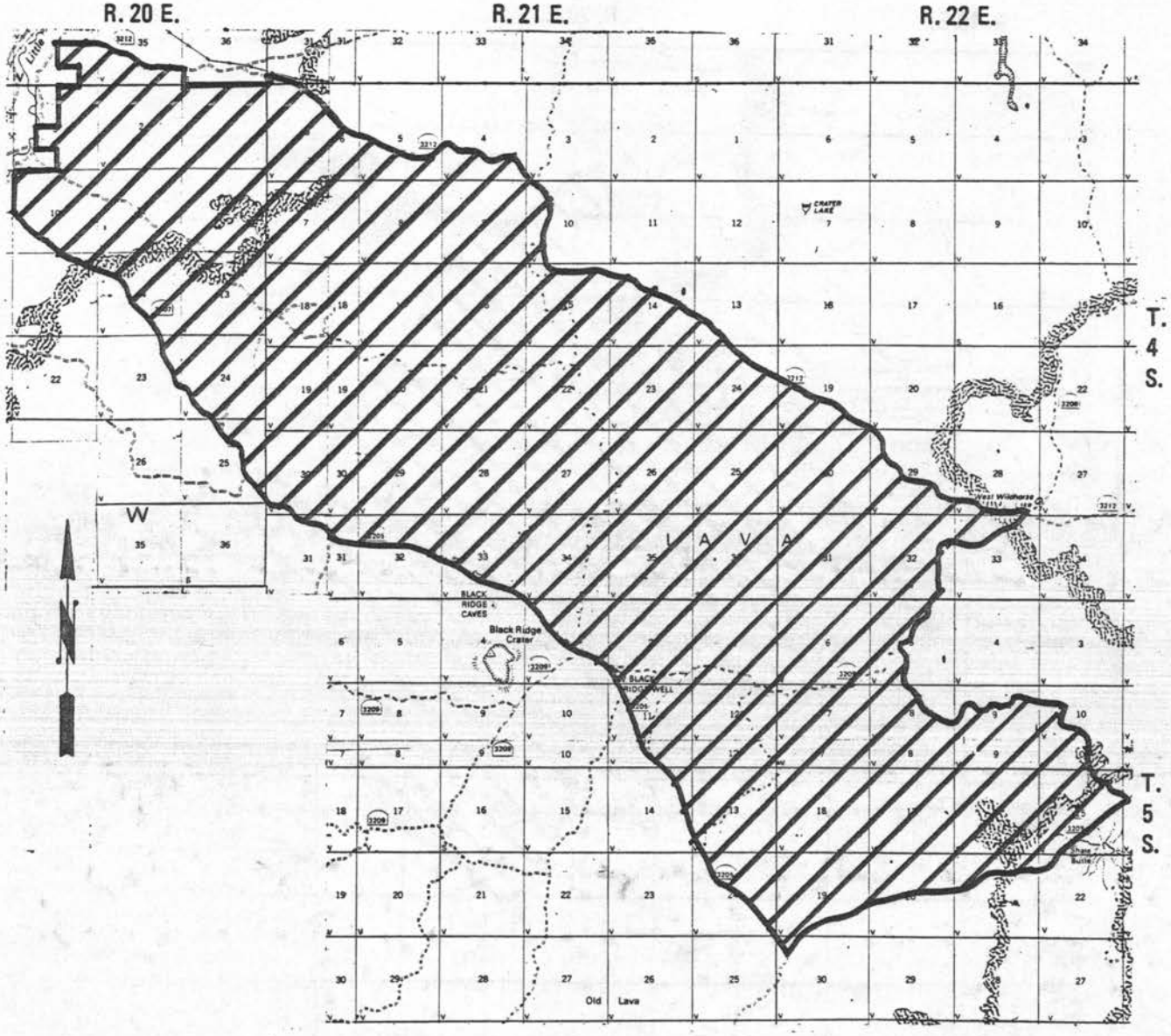
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

1 0 1 2 3

Scale in Miles

57–7
PAGARI



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 33,116 acres of BLM land, with State land inholdings of 1,280 acres. This figure differs from the 39,169 acres shown in the August, 1979, report, due solely to more accurate calculation methods, not to any deletion of land. The unit is relatively flat grassland terrain, with increasing topographical relief in interior portions. Old weathered and new lava formations add variety to the landscape. Sagebrush is the dominant vegetation.

NATURALNESS:

Two access routes, which meet the road definition have caused a parcel of land to be deleted from the southern part of the unit. Two other routes, which are substantial imprints on naturalness, divide the remainder of the unit into three parcels which are larger than 5,000 acres in size.

An access route, not considered a road, extends through the western part of the unit. Two other short access routes, extend into the unit from the northern boundary. All major imprints on naturalness have been deleted from the unit. These deletions have split the parcel into three smaller parcels, which have only minor imprints on naturalness within them.

SOLITUDE:

None of the unit is considered to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Since the unit is broken into three smaller parcels by major imprints on naturalness, and it is uniformly flat with little vegetative screening, it is not large enough to provide visitors much opportunity to escape the sights and sounds of others.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit offers the opportunity to experience primitive recreation activities such as hiking, camping, photography, and nature study. None of these opportunities are judged to be outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains burrowing owl nests (sensitive species), cairns which could have historical significance, and old weathered and new lava formations which provide opportunities for geologic and biologic studies of succession on lava flows. There are also excellent opportunities for ecological studies of high desert ecosystems.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that favored study area identification are summarized as follows:

- The unit should be reviewed as a cluster (with six adjacent units).
- Access routes which do not meet the road criteria should not be used to divide the unit into parcels which do not meet the size criteria.
- Lack of vegetative and topographic screening does not diminish outstanding opportunities for solitude in the unit.
- The unit offers outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

Comments that agreed with dropping the unit noted a lack of naturalness, due to imprints of man.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Roadless/Naturalness:

Clustering of units which are separated by roads in order to consider them as one unit is not provided for in any of the Bureau of Land Management policy for conducting wilderness inventory. Each unit must be assessed on its own.

Three access routes pass through or extend into the unit. All of these routes meet the road criteria. In order to exclude these routes from the unit two small parcels of land have also been excluded.

Another access route extends for five miles through the unit. It was mechanically constructed as a firebreak but does not meet the road criteria. As a noticeable imprint on the naturalness of the unit, however, this route must be excluded from the unit.

The exclusion of two of the access routes divide the unit into three parcels. As mentioned in the proposed action these parcels do meet the size criteria. Except for the exclusion of some parcels in the western portion of the unit, due to imprints of man on naturalness, these parcels also meet the naturalness criteria.

Solitude:

It is generally recognized that the lack of topography and tall vegetation limits the opportunity to achieve solitude unless the area is large. Low vegetation on flat terrain can provide excellent screening if the area is large enough to allow other visitors or external influences to blend or disappear into the landscape. This unit, split into three parcels, is not large enough to allow a number of user groups or external influences to blend into the landscape.

Primitive Recreation:

The opportunity to achieve a primitive recreation experience is dependent upon the unit's size and ability to provide exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions. Exceptional natural features are those which provide exceptional scenery, diversity of landform and/or mobility of travel for a visitor, and would result in a strong recreation attraction to an area for one or more types of activities.

This unit has neither the size nor the exceptional or unusual natural features to provide primitive recreation opportunities which could be considered outstanding.

* * *

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.

57-12 LAIDLAW BUTTE

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 9,868 acres of BLM land, with 640 acres of State land inholdings. The unit is dominated by Laidlaw Butte, elevation 5,355 feet. Desert grasslands rise gently upslope to this prominent landmark. Vegetation is primarily sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and grasses.

NATURALNESS:

Two access routes which can be defined as roads divide the unit into three parcels, none of which are over 5,000 acres. Therefore the parcels do not meet the size criteria.

SOLITUDE:

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are judged not to exist in the unit. Minimal vegetative and topographical screening make it difficult to find seclusion from others.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation exist within the unit, including hiking, camping, photography, nature study, hunting and horseback riding. None of these opportunities are judged to be outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Pronghorn antelope, coyotes, and other species of wildlife are found in the unit. Laidlaw Butte offers scenic and geological values.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that opposed the proposed decision not to identify the unit as a study area are summarized as follows:

- The unit offers a natural area with solitude, wildlife, and recreation values.
- The unit has often been used to observe wildlife, primarily grouse in early spring.

Comments that agreed with dropping the unit noted a lack of naturalness, due to imprints of man.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Roadless/Naturalness:

The unit is split into three small parcels by access routes which meet the road criteria. None of the parcels meet the size criteria. All of the parcels also contain range developments, primarily water reservoirs, which are major imprints of man on the naturalness of the unit. These imprints are highly visible from most portions of the unit because of the gentle slope of the land as it rises toward Laidlaw Butte. In Laidlaw Butte Crater another reservoir has been constructed and is plainly visible from the rim and the crater. Because these imprints of man are visible throughout the unit, it has been determined that the unit does not meet the naturalness criteria.

Solitude:

The gentle open slope of Laidlaw Butte, which occupies a central position in this unit, makes the entire unit, except for the crater, highly visible to anyone standing on the upper or lower portion of the slope. The crater area is too small and open to provide more than one group of users any solitude. For these reasons the opportunities for solitude in this unit are considered to be less than outstanding.

Primitive Recreation:

The opportunity to achieve a primitive recreation experience is dependent upon the unit's size and ability to provide exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions. Exceptional natural features are those which provide exceptional scenery, diversity of landform and/or mobility of travel for a visitor, and would result in a strong recreation attraction to an area for one or more types of activities.

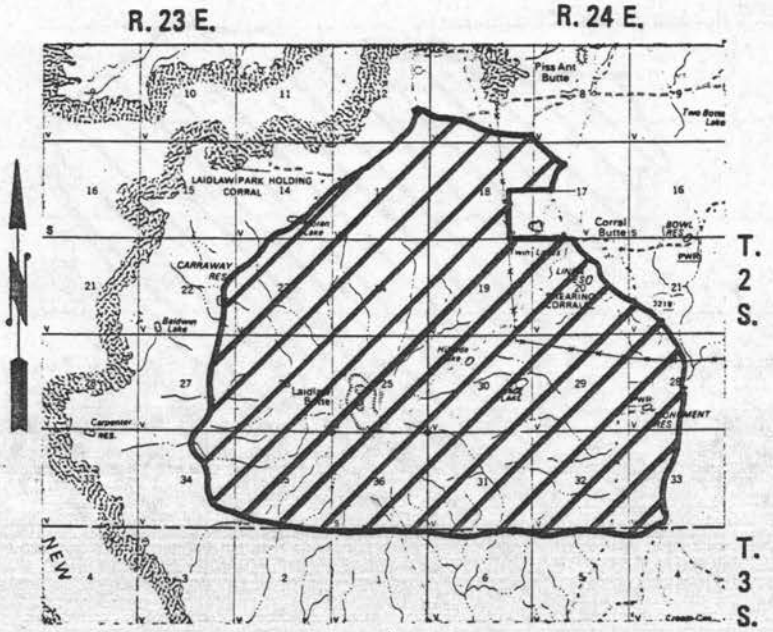
This unit has neither the size nor the exceptional or unusual natural features to provide primitive recreation opportunities which could be considered outstanding.

* * *

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.

57–12
LAIDLAW BUTTE



LEGEND

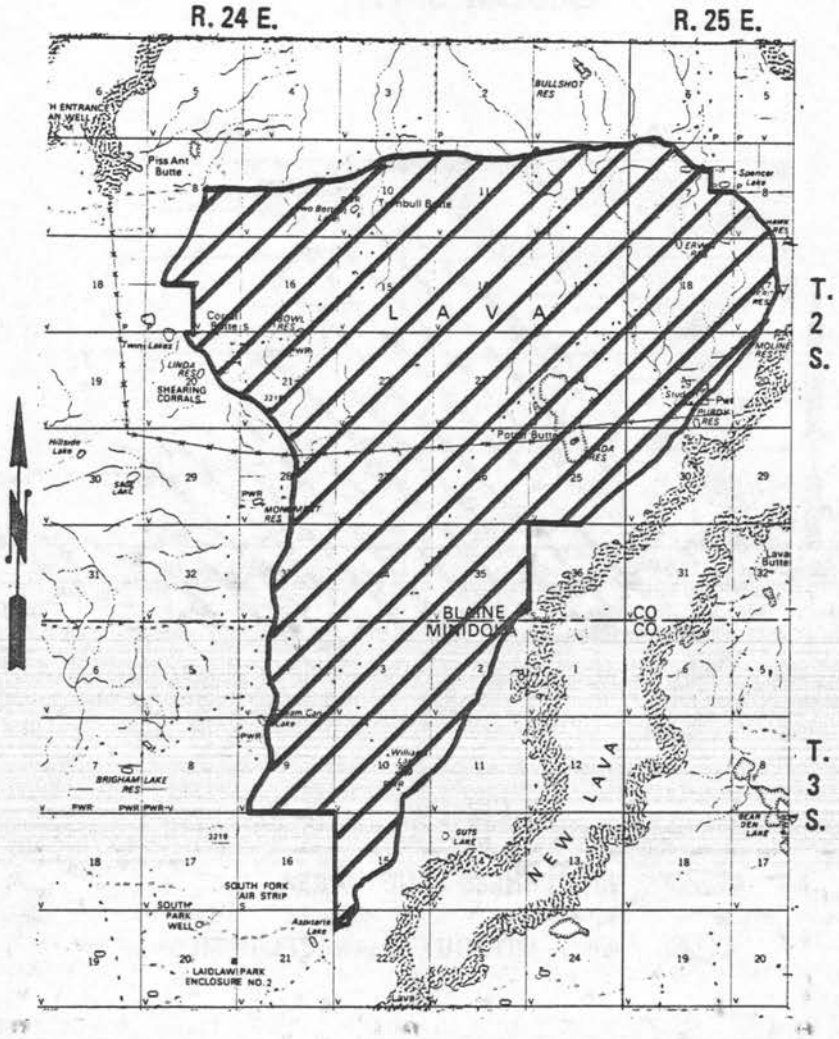
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

1 0 1 2 3

Scale in Miles

57–13
POTTER BUTTE



LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

1 0 1 2 3 4 5

Scale in Miles

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 16,180 acres of BLM land, with 640 acres of State land inholdings. This acreage differs from the 13,432 acres shown in the August, 1979, report due solely to a more accurate calculation of acreage. The unit is characterized by rolling desert terrain. Sagebrush is the dominant vegetation in the northern portion of the unit, with increasing amounts of rabbitbrush and annual and perennial grasses in southern portions. Turnbull Butte (5,262 feet), Corral Butte (5,052 feet), and Potter Butte (5,032 feet) are prominent features.

NATURALNESS:

Three access routes which have been constructed and/or are maintained to insure relatively regular and continuous use, divide the unit into five parcels, none of which are over 5,000 acres in size. Therefore the parcels fail to meet the size criteria.

SOLITUDE:

Opportunities for solitude in the unit are not considered outstanding. Minimal vegetative and topographic screening and numerous impacts of man make it difficult to escape the sights and sounds of others.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

None of the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are judged to be outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Pronghorn antelope, deer, and other species of wildlife are found within the unit. Cairns within the unit could possibly have archaeological value.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that opposed the proposed decision not to identify the unit as a study area are summarized as follows:

- The unit offers natural areas with solitude, wildife, and recreation values.
- The unit has been used regularly for recreation, primarily the observation of wildlife in early spring.

Comments that agreed with dropping the unit noted a lack of naturalness, due to imprints of man.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Roadless/Naturalness:

The unit is broken into several small parcels by access routes which meet the road criteria. None of the parcels has 5,000 acres which meet the naturalness criteria.

Solitude:

It is generally recognized that the lack of topography and tall vegetation limits the opportunity to achieve solitude unless the area is large. Low vegetation on flat terrain can provide excellent screening if the area is large enough to allow other visitors or external influences to blend or disappear into the landscape. This unit, split into five parcels, is not large enough to allow a number of user groups or external influences to blend into the landscape.

Primitive Recreation:

The opportunity to achieve a primitive recreation experience is dependent upon the unit's size and ability to provide exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions. Exceptional natural features are those which provide exceptional scenery, diversity of landform and/or mobility of travel for a visitor, and would result in a strong recreation attraction to an area for one or more types of activities.

This unit has neither the size nor the exceptional or unusual natural features to provide primitive recreation opportunities which could be considered outstanding.

* * *

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.

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 7,398 acres of BLM land, with 640 acres of State land inholdings. The unit lies in the southeast portion of Laidlaw Park, between two fingers of the Craters of the Moon Lava Flow. The flat terrain is dominated in the western and southern portions of the unit by annual and perennial grasses. Sagebrush and rabbitbrush increase in frequency to the north and east. Minimal topographical relief occurs in locations where lava rock outcrops add some diversity to the landscape.

NATURALNESS:

An access route goes through the unit from the north boundary to the west boundary. Another access route extends a short distance into the unit from the west boundary. Neither route is a substantially noticeable imprint of man. Four reservoirs have been mechanically constructed and have an impact on apparent naturalness of the unit.

SOLITUDE:

The unit has been judged not to contain outstanding opportunities for solitude. Screening due to vegetation and topography is minimal. The small size of the unit combined with the generally poor screening renders opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Although the unit contains opportunities for recreational activities of a primitive and unconfined nature, these opportunities have been judged not to be outstanding. The small size of the unit plus the lack of interesting land form has constraining effects on the primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Wildlife species observed in the unit include golden eagle and burrowing owl (threatened species). Several herds of antelope were observed in the unit.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that opposed the proposed decision not to identify the unit as a study area are summarized as follows:

- The unit should be reviewed as a cluster (with six adjacent units).
- Access routes which do not meet road criteria should not be used to divide the unit into parcels which do not meet the size criteria.
- Lack of vegetative and topographic screening does not diminish outstanding opportunities for solitude in the unit.
- The unit offers outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

Comments that agreed with dropping the unit noted a lack of naturalness, due to imprints of man.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Roadless/Naturalness:

Clustering of units which are separated by roads in order to consider them as one unit is not provided for in any of the Bureau of Land Management policy for conducting wilderness inventory. Each unit must be assessed on its own.

No roads have been identified in the unit. The proposed decision stated that the unit meets the naturalness criteria; with four reservoirs being the only other imprints of man.

Solitude:

It is generally recognized that the lack of topography and tall vegetation limits the opportunity to achieve solitude unless the area is large. Low vegetation on flat terrain can provide excellent screening if the area is large enough to allow other visitors or external influences to blend or disappear into the landscape. This unit is not large enough to allow a number of user groups or external influences to blend into the landscape.

Primitive Recreation:

The opportunity to achieve a primitive recreation experience is dependent upon the unit's size and ability to provide exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions. Exceptional natural features are those which provide exceptional scenery, diversity of landform and/or mobility of travel for a visitor, and would result in a strong recreation attraction to an area for one or more types of activities.

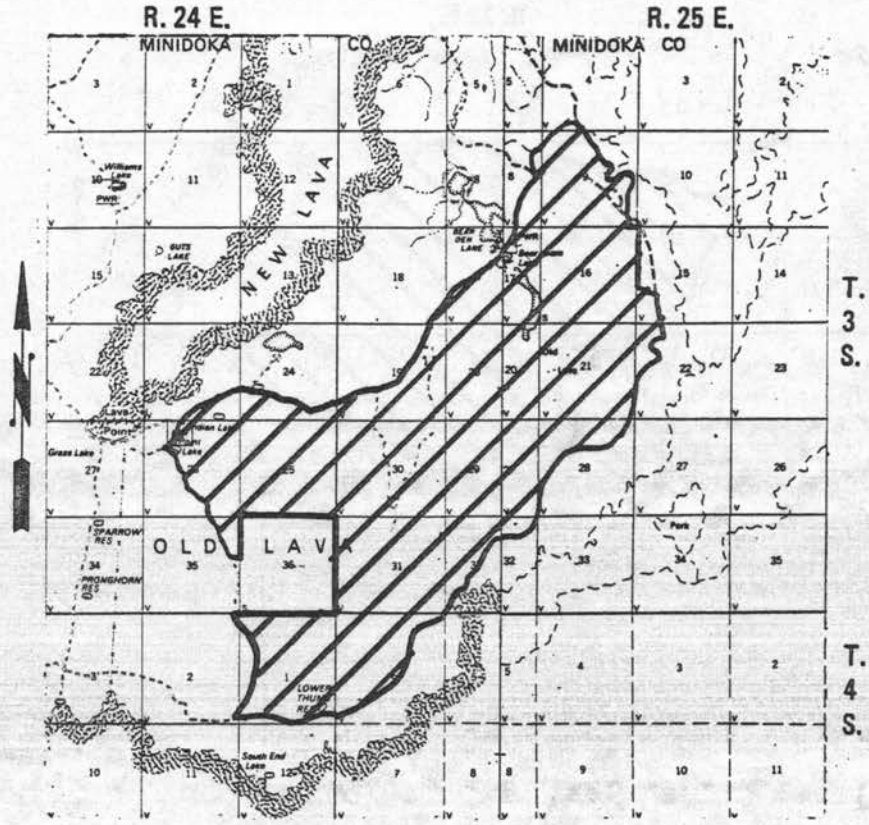
This unit has neither the size nor the exceptional or unusual natural features to provide primitive recreation opportunities which could be considered outstanding.

* * *

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.

57–15
POINT



LEGEND

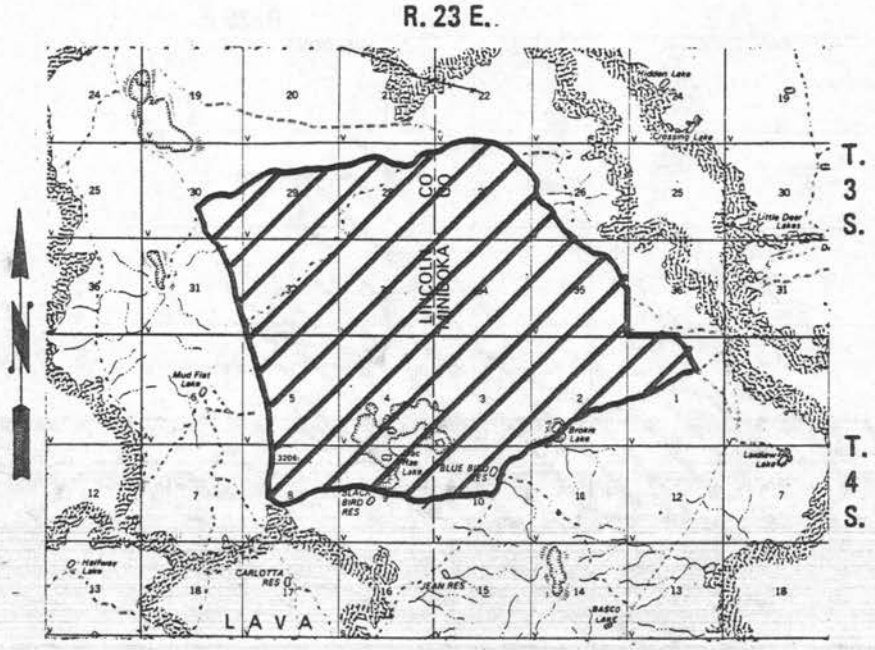
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

1 0 1 2 3 4 5

Scale in Miles

57–16
MacRAE LAKE



LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

1 0 1 2 3

Scale in Miles

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 7,876 acres of BLM land. This figure differs from the 6,386 acres shown in the August, 1979, report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. In addition 986 acres have been added to the unit when it was determined that a route used as part of the unit boundary does not exist on the ground.

The unit is relatively flat terrain and rough weathered lava. Topographical variability increases in the northwest portion of the unit where numerous rock outcrops add diversity to the landscape. Several natural lake formations exist in the lower elevations along the southern boundary. Of these, MacRae Lake is a prominent feature. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and annual and perennial grasses.

NATURALNESS:

An access route, which is a substantially noticeable imprint on the naturalness of the unit divides the unit into two parcels which do not meet size criteria. There is no part of the unit which is both free of man's imprint and greater than 5,000 acres in size.

SOLITUDE:

Opportunities for solitude may be found in the unit, however, these opportunities are not judged outstanding due to the flat terrain and minimal topographical variability.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit contains opportunities for a variety of recreational activities, including hiking, camping, nature study, photography, and hunting. None of these activities are judged outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Several lake formations exist in the unit with excellent potential to contain archaeological material. Six known areas serve as strutting grounds for sage grouse. Other species of wildlife found in the unit include antelope, coyote, and raptorial birds, such as marsh hawks.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that opposed the proposed decision not to identify the unit as a study area are summarized as follows:

- The unit should be reviewed as a cluster (with six adjacent units).
- Access routes which do not meet the road criteria should not be used to divide the unit into parcels which do not meet the size criteria.
- Lack of vegetative and topographic screening does not diminish outstanding opportunities for solitude in the unit.
- The unit offers outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

Comments that agreed with dropping the unit noted a lack of naturalness, due to imprints of man.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Roadless/Naturalness:

Clustering of units which are separated by roads in order to consider them as one unit is not provided for in any of the Bureau of Land Management policy for conducting wilderness inventory. Each unit must be assessed on its own.

An access route divides the unit into two parcels which are too small to meet the size criteria. The access route does not meet the road criteria, but it does create a major imprint on the naturalness of the unit. Therefore, it must be excluded.

Solitude:

It is generally recognized that the lack of topography and tall vegetation limits the opportunity to achieve solitude unless the area is large. Low vegetation on flat terrain provides excellent screening if the area is large enough to allow other visitors or external influences to blend or disappear into the landscape. This unit, split into two parcels, is not large enough to allow a number of user groups or external influences to blend into the landscape.

Primitive Recreation:

The opportunity to achieve a primitive recreation experience is dependent upon the unit's size and ability to provide exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions. Exceptional natural features are those which provide exceptional scenery, diversity of landform and/or mobility of travel for a visitor, and would result in a strong recreation attraction to an area for one or more types of activities.

This unit has neither the size nor the exceptional or unusual natural features to provide primitive recreation opportunities which could be considered outstanding.

* * *

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.

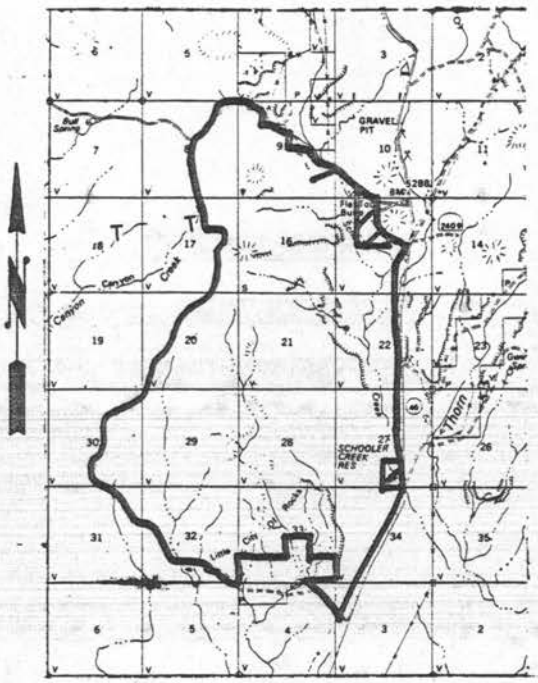
SHOSHONE DISTRICT

UNITS IDENTIFIED AS

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

54–5
LITTLE CITY OF ROCKS

R. 15 E.



T. 3 S.

LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

1 0 1 2 3

Scale in Miles

54-5 LITTLE CITY OF ROCKS

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 5,970 acres of BLM land with a 640 acre State land inholding. This acreage differs from the 5,665 acres shown in the August, 1979, report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. The unit is located 13 miles north of Gooding on the south facing side of the Bennett Hills. It lies just west of Highway 46. The major portion of the unit is a gently sloping plain with several rhyolite bluffs. The south-central portion of the unit contains an aggregation of wind and water eroded rhyolite columns which are collectively known as the Little City of Rocks. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. Chokecherry and willows are found in some of the more shaded portions of the canyons in the Little City of Rocks. There is one small grove of aspen on a north facing slope in the north end of the unit.

NATURALNESS:

Two access routes, which are not substantial imprints on naturalness, extend a short distance into the unit from the south and east boundaries. A total of 95 acres either impacted by a mechanical disturbance or reserved as material sites should be deleted from the unit.

SOLITUDE:

The rhyolite rock formations in the southern portion of the unit provide excellent topographic screening. The canyon bottoms also have some vegetative screening from several shrub species. The combination of topographic and vegetative screening in the unit provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The northern portions also contain good topographic screening, and provide the opportunity to enjoy solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit provides primitive recreation opportunities which are considered outstanding. The many rhyolite rock columns provide an ideal setting in which to participate in photography, nature study, and hiking and camping. Opportunities for other activities that are present, but may not be outstanding include hunting, horseback riding, and cross country skiing.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains several archaeological sites; golden eagle, prairie falcon, great horned owl, and red-tailed hawk nesting sites; and unique geological formations of wind and water eroded rhyolite.

REHABILITATION:

Two access routes have some potential for returning to a natural condition if vehicle access were restricted. With the passage of time, vegetation would grow in the routes and make them difficult to distinguish from the surrounding area.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments opposed to identifying the unit as a study area specifically mentioned the following reasons:

- The area is covered with roads; is not natural because of several imprints of man.
- There are no outstanding opportunities for solitude because works of man outside the unit are visible from inside the unit.
- There are no outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation because the area is too crowded; or the unit is hot, dry, and uncomfortable with many rattlesnakes.
- The unit is too small.

Comments supporting a study area specifically mentioned the following reasons:

- There are no roads in the unit which can be considered substantial imprints.
- The unit meets the naturalness criteria.
- The unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude.
- Many noted that they had experienced outstanding primitive recreation within the unit.
- Several supplemental values were noted.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Size:

The unit contains 5,875 acres of public land. Since the unit exceeds the 5,000-acre requirement, the comment that the unit is too small is not valid.

Roadless/Naturalness:

No supporting information was submitted by those claiming that roads or substantial imprints of man were located within the unit. No new roads or imprints of man were found during additional field checks.

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

Solitude:

Imprints of man outside the unit may be considered during the inventory only in situations where the imprint is adjacent to the unit and its impact so extremely imposing that it cannot be ignored. Imprints of man outside the unit, such as roads, highways, and agricultural activity are not necessarily significant enough to cause their consideration in the inventory of the unit. Highway 46 is well screened from the majority of the unit. Distant vistas of Gooding, Bliss, or other settlements are too far from the unit to be considered in evaluating solitude.

Primitive Recreation:

Present visitor use in the unit is not relevant to evaluating this criterion. The factor to be determined is whether an outstanding opportunity is present regardless of present amount of use. A hot and dry desert environment, replete with rattlesnakes, does not preclude the opportunity to have an outstanding recreation experience if one is prepared to deal with it, in fact, it adds to the physical challenge of the experience. The exceptional scenic beauty of the Little City of Rocks formation and the diversity of landforms within the unit, affords outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

* * *

DECISION:

No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. A unit of 5,875 acres is identified as a wilderness study area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

54-6 BLACK CANYON

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 20,960 acres of BLM land with 640 acres of State land inholdings. This figure differs from the 20,480 acres shown in the August, 1979, report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage.

The unit lies on the south-facing side of the Mount Bennett Hills, ten miles north of Gooding. Most of the unit is a flat prairie which rises gently to the north. In the central portion of the unit Black Canyon and East Black Canyon come to within one-third of a mile of each other leaving a narrow strip of the prairie table top between them. The northern half of the unit has a topography composed of rolling hills broken by large and small canyons. The west edge of the unit has unusual rock formations of weathered rhyolite. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. There are pockets of willow and other shrubs along some of the intermittent streams.

NATURALNESS:

Several access routes have caused a large parcel in the southern portion to be deleted from the unit. This parcel contains a concentration of imprints on naturalness which are substantially noticeable.

Two access routes from the north boundary extend into the portion of the unit which meets naturalness criteria. Both routes should be excluded from the unit, with the new boundary extending to the edge of the physical impact caused by the roads. An access route, which has been abandoned for several decades and which is not a substantially noticeable imprint on naturalness, extends the length of Black Canyon Creek.

SOLITUDE:

The more northern portions of the unit which are cut by Black Canyon and Burnt Willow Canyon and have rolling hills provide excellent topographic screening. The many rhyolite rock formations provide additional topographic screening. The southern end of the unit has a few small canyons which provide some screening between open expanses of sagebrush prairie. There is little vegetative screening within the unit. The high degree of topographic screening in the unit allows the visitor an outstanding opportunity to enjoy solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit contains opportunities for a wide variety of activities, including hiking, nature study, photography, and camping; all considered outstanding. Less outstanding opportunities include hunting, horseback riding, ski touring and snowshoeing.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains several archaeological sites, golden eagle nesting sites, and sage grouse strutting grounds.

REHABILITATION:

An old mechanically constructed trail in Black Canyon is well on the way to returning to a natural condition. The trail is very narrow and overgrown with vegetation to the point it is almost impossible to recognize on the ground. All fences could be completely removed without leaving scars. With the passage of time a brush spray area will become even harder to distinguish.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments opposed to identifying a study area within the unit are summarized as follows:

- The unit is covered with roads.
- There are no outstanding opportunities for solitude in the canyons because they would tend to crowd and confine users.
- There are no outstanding opportunities for solitude in the unit because settlements can be observed from high points in the unit.
- There are no outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation in the unit.

Comments from those supporting the proposed decision are summarized as follows:

- Roads in the unit do not affect solitude or naturalness.
- The unit meets the naturalness criteria.
- The unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude, and for primitive recreation.
- Access routes within the unit will easily return to a natural condition.
- Supplemental values were noted.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Roadless/Naturalness:

Field checks were made to locate roads which were noted in comments. No new roads were found. No new imprints of man were found in that portion of the unit proposed as a study area. The naturalness is not affected by vistas of settlements outside the boundaries of the unit.

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

Solitude:

Opportunities for solitude are considered outstanding because of topographic screening from Black and Burnt Willow Canyons and numerous rock formations along the western side of the unit. There are more than 14 miles of meandering shallow canyons within the area which one can easily leave in several places to explore the plateaus. Because the unit offers a diversity of interesting landforms and easy entry or exit to the main shallow canyons, the canyons do not create a significant corridor effect. Any corridor effect in the canyon is minimized by the number of miles of canyon available for use.

Primitive Recreation:

Primitive recreation opportunities are considered outstanding because of the unit's unusual natural features and recreation attractions found in a diversity of geological formations.

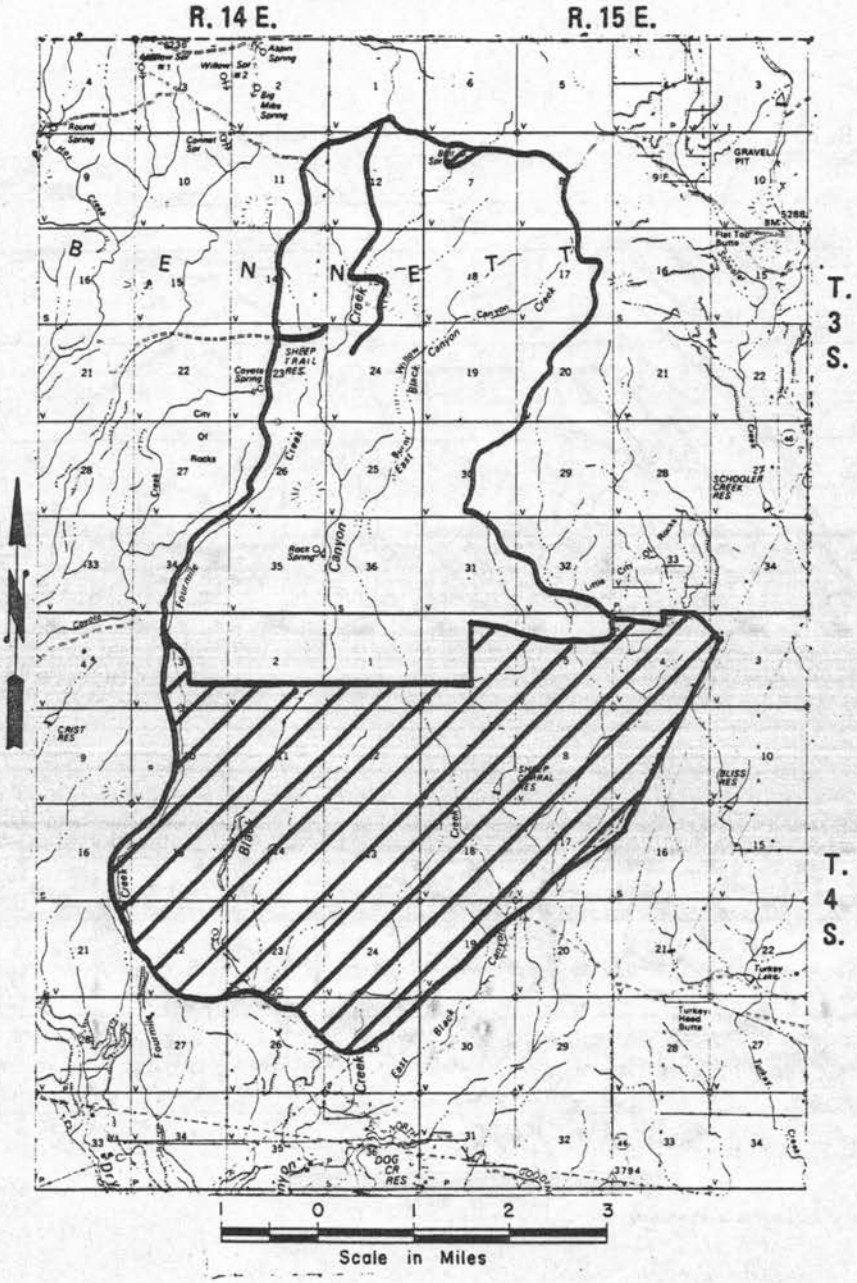
A hot and dry desert environment, replete with rattlesnakes, does not preclude the opportunity to have an outstanding recreation experience if one is prepared to deal with it, in fact, it adds to the physical challenge of the experience.

* * *

DECISION:

No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. A unit of 10,371 acres is identified as a wilderness study area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

54-6
BLACK CANYON

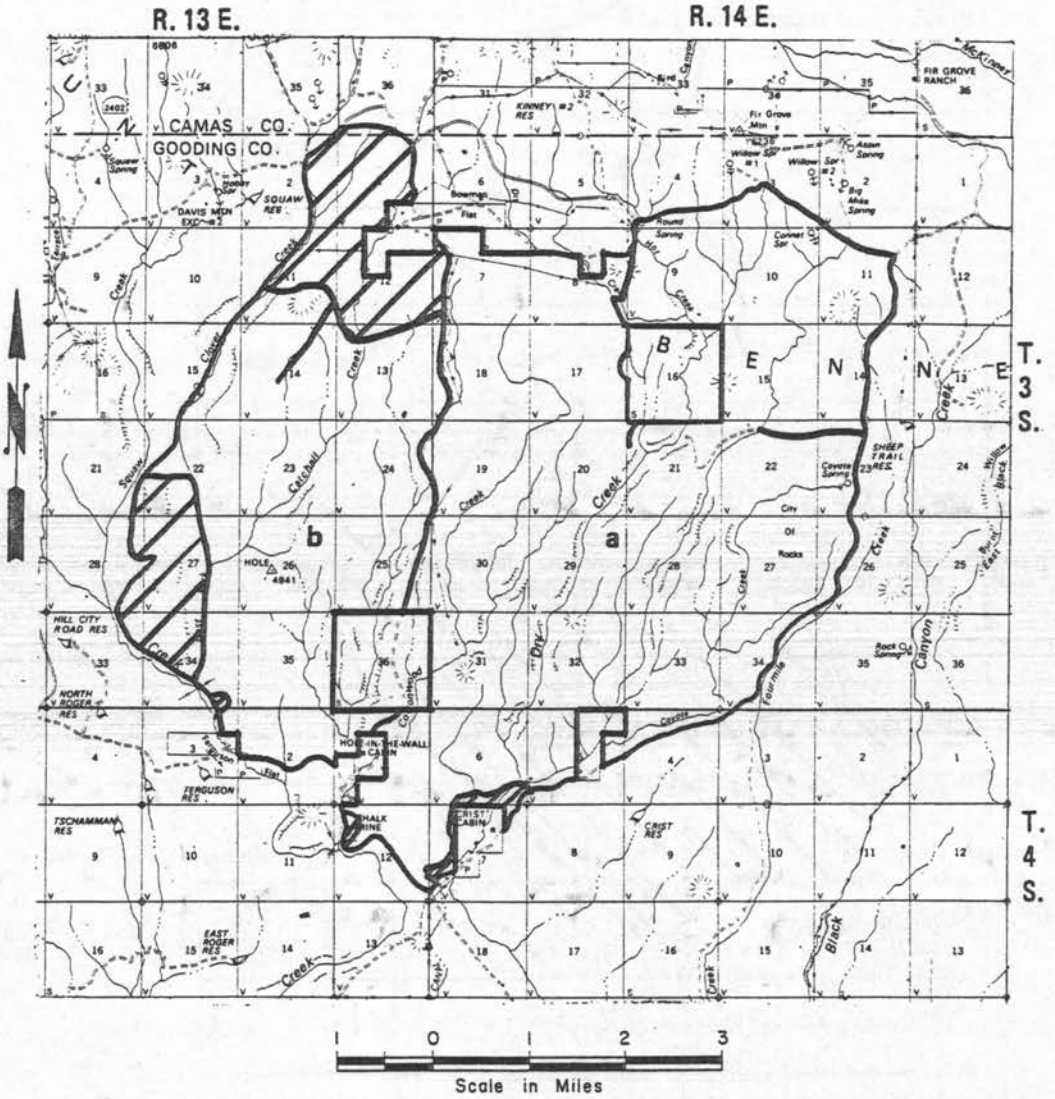


LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

54–8 a,b
GOODING CITY OF ROCKS



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 23,470 acres of BLM land with 1,280 acres of State land inholdings. This figure differs from the 22,685 acres shown in the August, 1979, report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage.

The unit lies on the south facing side of the Mount Bennett Hills, 14 miles northwest of Gooding. The southeastern portion of the unit is composed of a series of deeply carved rhyolite canyons. Throughout these canyons there are many large columns of rhyolite which rise over 100 feet into the air. These canyons, and their rhyolite rock formations, are collectively known as the City of Rocks. Dry Creek Canyon, on the western side of the City of Rocks, has a perennial stream flowing within it. The far west side of the unit is mostly a gently sloping prairie, cut by the East Fork of Clover Creek and Catchall Creek. There are several basalt bluffs which overlook this portion of the unit. The northern end of the unit is a rolling prairie dissected by several intermittent stream drainages. There are several basalt bluffs dominating some portions of this prairie landscape. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. The shaded portions of the canyons support a more luxuriant vegetation consisting of willow, aspen, cottonwood, serviceberry, and chokecherry.

NATURALNESS:

Several access routes, which meet the road definition, have caused parcels to be excluded from the unit. A parcel in the northeast corner has been dropped because it contains several roads and ways, as well as other substantial imprints of man. The boundary has been moved to exclude two sections of State land which are intersected by roads. Three roads have had a cherry stem boundary adjustment made to exclude them from the unit. Three other access routes, which are not substantial imprints on naturalness, extend into or through that part of the unit which meets naturalness criteria.

There are three chalk mines along the southwest boundary of the unit, one small mechanically constructed reservoir, three spring developments, a mechanically constructed canal, an old brush spraying and several fences within the unit. The majority of these imprints of man are within the portion deleted due to access roads.

SOLITUDE:

The numerous canyons and rhyolite rock formations in the southern portion of the unit provide excellent topographic screening. In addition, some portions of the canyon bottoms support a riparian vegetation which provides good vegetative screening. This combination of topographic and vegetative screening create an outstanding opportunity for solitude within the unit. The more northern portions of the unit have many rolling hills and buttes which also provide a good opportunity for solitude even though it may not be as outstanding as the southern portions.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreation opportunities within the unit are outstanding. Recreation is centered around the rock outcrops and canyons in the City of Rocks. Photography, hiking, camping, wildlife observation, and nature study are all considered outstanding. Many other activities including horseback riding, fishing, and hunting are also possible within the unit.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains outstanding examples of the geological processes of wind and fluvial erosion on rhyolite rock; one known archaeological site; nesting sites of the golden eagle, prairie falcon, red-tailed hawk, great horned owl, and short-eared owl; sage grouse strutting grounds; and outstanding scenic vistas of weathered rhyolite rock formations and deeply carved canyons.

REHABILITATION:

Four access routes have some potential for returning to a natural condition if vehicle access were restricted. With the passage of time, vegetation will grow in the routes and make them difficult to distinguish from the surrounding area. The three spring developments in the unit could all be rehabilitated to blend more with the surrounding landscape. The spring facilities could also be completely removed. All fences could be completely removed without leaving scars.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments opposed to identifying a study area within the unit are summarized as follows:

- Roads exist within the unit which were not identified in the proposed decision.
- Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist because the northern portion of the unit lacks screening, or because settlements outside the unit are visible from high points within the unit.
- Outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation do not exist because of adverse climatic conditions and rattlesnakes in unit, or because of overuse by recreationists at present.
- The unit does not meet the naturalness criteria because of the presence of fences, sheep camps, and waterholes.

Comments that supported identifying a study area are summarized as follows:

- The unit meets the naturalness criteria.
- The unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude, and for primitive recreation.
- Various supplemental values are present in the unit.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Roadless/Naturalness:

An access route (identified in the proposed decision) has been field checked in reference to the comments received which indicate that it should be identified as a road. The route is 1 1/4 miles in length. Comments indicated that this route receives regular use. Assuming that some maintenance is performed regularly when the route is used, the route should be identified as a road. This road would then form a new boundary for the unit, creating another unit on the west side of the road.

No other new roads or ways were identified. No new imprints of man were identified.

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

Solitude:

Portions of the unit offer outstanding opportunities for solitude because the extensive canyon system and numerous rock formations offer topographic screening. Imprints of man outside the unit may be considered during the inventory only in situations where the imprint is adjacent to the unit and its impact so extremely imposing that it cannot be ignored. Distant vistas of Gooding, Bliss, or other settlements do not fit this criteria.

Many areas within the unit offer outstanding opportunities for solitude where settlements, fences, or other developments are not visible.

Primitive Recreation:

Outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation are considered to be present within the unit because of the presence of exceptional natural features and because of challenging terrain and physical conditions. Adverse climate and rattlesnakes may enhance elements of challenge and risk for the various primitive recreation opportunities.

* * *

DECISION:

Due to public comments and field evaluations, the road as discussed earlier, splits the unit into two parcels. Unit a (east portion), 14,743 acres; and unit b (west portion), 6,287 acres are identified as separate wilderness study areas as they both meet 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 8,881 acres of BLM land with a 640 acre State land inholding. The unit lies southwest of the summit of Davis Mountain, one of the highest points in the Bennett Hills. It is 18 miles north of Bliss. The topography is dominated by a series of steep hills with several intermittent and perennial streams cutting between them. Rhyolite and basalt outcrops dominate the tops of many of the hills. Dominant vegetation throughout most of the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. The higher portions of the unit have several scattered stands of aspen and clumps of tobacco brush. Indian paintbrush and lupine are also found at the higher elevations.

NATURALNESS:

Three access routes, associated with reservoir developments on the east side of the unit, have caused a parcel of land to be deleted from the unit. An access route in the southern part of the unit has caused deletion of another parcel. Three short access routes, which are not substantial imprints on naturalness, extend into the unit from the northern boundary road. All of the substantially noticeable imprints on naturalness have been deleted from the unit with boundary changes. The remaining lands within the unit appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

The unit is broken by many steep hills and gulleys which provide excellent topographic screening. The higher portion of the unit supports dense stands of aspen and undergrowth of tobacco brush which give a high degree of vegetative screening. Additional vegetative screening is provided by willows along portions of stream drainages. The combination of topographic and vegetative screening provides the visitor an outstanding opportunity to enjoy solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The steep, rolling hills and numerous vistas within the unit contribute to make hiking, nature study, and photography opportunities outstanding. The scattered aspen groves provide variety in the landscape as well as shade. Less outstanding recreation opportunities include horseback riding and hunting.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains outstanding scenic vistas, and red-tailed hawk and great horned owl nesting sites.

REHABILITATION:

Five access routes have some potential for returning to a natural condition if vehicle access were restricted. With the passage of time, vegetation will grow in the routes and make them difficult to distinguish from the surrounding areas. All fences could be completely removed without leaving scars. All impacts within the unit could be returned to a natural condition with the passage of time and a very minimal amount of hand labor.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that opposed identifying a study area within the unit are summarized as follows:

- Roads exist in the unit which were not found in the inventory.
- Fences and other developments cause the unit not to meet the naturalness criteria.
- Since it is possible to see vistas of settlements from inside the unit, the unit does not meet the naturalness criteria.
- Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist in the unit because settlements can be seen from high points inside the unit.
- Outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation do not exist because the unit is too close to deeded land, or because of harsh climatic conditions and the presence of rattlesnakes.

Comments that supported the proposed decision to identify a study area in the unit are summarized as follows:

- The unit meets the naturalness criteria.
- Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation exist within the unit.
- Access routes identified in the proposed decision as not meeting road criteria will easily return to a natural condition.
- Various supplemental values were listed.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Roadless/Naturalness:

No new roads or access routes have been located within the unit. Existing access routes were reevaluated and do not meet road criteria or represent a substantially noticeable imprint of man. No new fences were located in the unit.

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

Solitude:

The unit's more than 12 miles of canyons, numerous aspen groves, and topographic screening provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Imprints of man outside the unit may be considered during the inventory only in situations where the imprint is adjacent to the unit and its impact so extremely imposing that it cannot be ignored. Distant vistas of settlements do not fit this criteria.

Primitive Recreation:

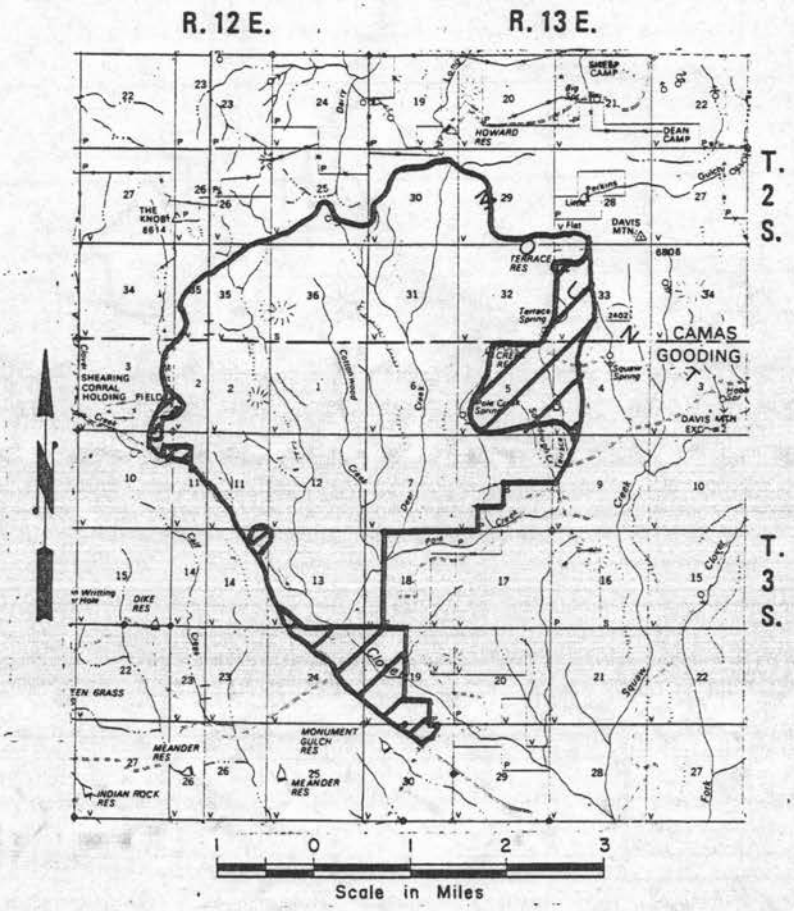
Present visitor use in a unit is not relevant to evaluating this criterion. The factor to be determined is whether an outstanding opportunity is present, regardless of present amount of use. Harsh climatic conditions and the presence of rattlesnakes may increase the elements of challenge and risk and enhance primitive recreation values. Outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation have been determined to exist in the unit because it provides exceptional scenery, diversity of landform, and mobility of travel in and out of more than 12 miles of canyons.

* * *

DECISION:

No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. A unit of 7,487 acres is identified as a wilderness study area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

54–10
DEER CREEK

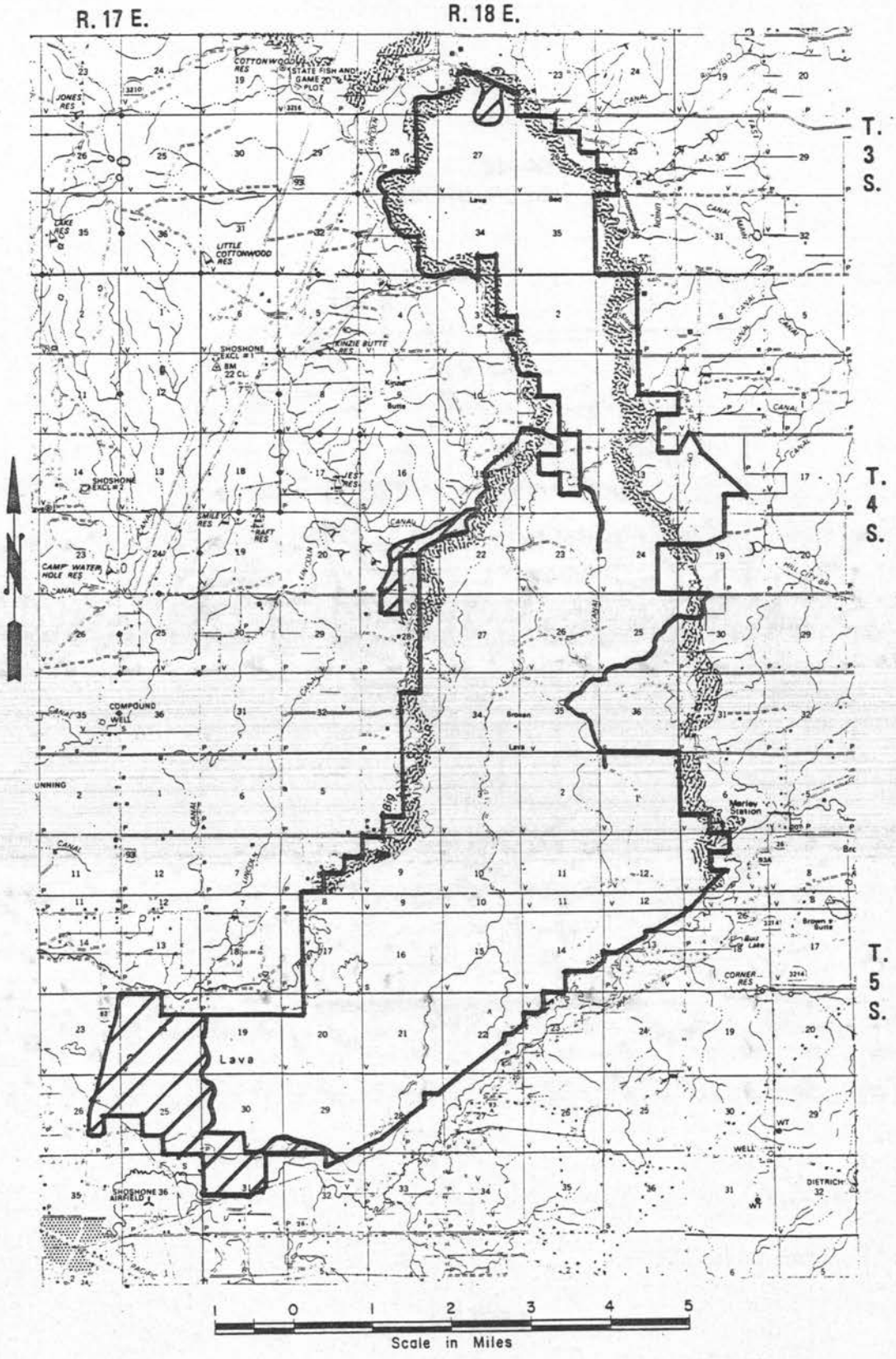


LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

56–2
LAVA



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 25,593 acres of BLM land. The August, 1979, report indicated that Unit 56-2 contained 9,400 acres of BLM land. Due to a more accurate calculation of acreage this figure should be 9,640 acres. Because of an erroneous identification of boundary roads during the initial inventory, Unit 56-3, containing 5,275 acres is now added as a part of Unit 56-2. Access routes identified previously as boundary roads of Units 56-2 and 56-3 were found during the Intensive Inventory to not meet the road definition, causing the addition of 10,678 acres to Unit 56-2, which now contains the total of 25,593 acres. The unit lies on a flat lava plain just northeast of Shoshone. The major portion of the unit is covered with a lava flow which contains many examples of pressure ridges and ropey lava. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. There are some ferns in shaded portions of lava fissures and many different colors of lichen on the exposed surfaces of the lava.

NATURALNESS:

An access route in the southern part of the unit meets the road definition and splits a small parcel from the remainder of the unit. Another road extends into the unit from the west side. The boundary has been cherry stemmed around this road to exclude it from the unit. Four other access routes, which are not substantial imprints on naturalness, extend into or through the unit from the south and east boundaries.

SOLITUDE:

The unit has a rugged lava landscape which provides a feeling of remoteness and isolation. There is topographic screening provided by rugged pressure ridges, lava domes, and subsidence craters. Large sagebrush provides only minimal screening. The topographic relief due to lava formations provides the visitor an outstanding opportunity to enjoy solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit contains the opportunity for a wide variety of recreational experiences, including hiking, geological study, and photography; all considered outstanding. Less outstanding opportunities include horseback riding, cross country skiing and camping.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit offers an outstanding opportunity for scientific study of geologic processes of lava flows and associated formations.

REHABILITATION:

Six access routes have some potential for returning to a natural condition if vehicle access were restricted. With the passage of time, vegetation will grow in the routes and make them difficult to distinguish from the surrounding area.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that opposed the identification of the unit as a study area are summarized as follows:

- There are many unimproved roads in the unit.
- The main canal runs through the unit; roads must be maintained along the canal.
- Outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist in the unit because vehicle traffic, houses, and agricultural developments can be seen and/or heard inside the unit.
- Outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation do not exist in the unit because it has a hot, dry climate with little variation in topography.

Comments that supported the proposed decision are summarized as follows:

- The unit meets the naturalness criteria.
- The unit clearly meets the criteria for outstanding solitude and primitive recreation opportunities.
- Various supplemental values exist within the unit.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Roadless/Naturalness:

Vehicle routes shown within the study area were identified in the proposed decision as access routes which do not meet the road criteria and which are substantially unnoticeable. In most cases these routes are two-wheel tracks winding through the rugged lava terrain with sagebrush growing between the tracks. In some cases, these routes have been so infrequently travelled in recent years that they have been obliterated by vegetative growth over much of their length. These routes, even when clearly defined as two tracks, are so well screened by low vegetation that they cannot be seen except when standing on or very close to them.

Inquiries have been made to the Big Wood Canal Company as to the existence of canals within the study area. They have confirmed that no canals are located within the unit. None of the access routes within the unit are maintained by the canal company, or needed to maintain the canal system. Features marked on the BLM map as canals are actually dry river beds with no construction or other visible imprints of man on them.

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

Solitude:

Opportunities for solitude within the study area are considered outstanding because of the topographic screening provided by numerous rugged lava outcrops, and the large size of the unit.

Field checks have determined that traffic sights and sounds from Highway 93 and other roads outside the unit cannot be seen or heard from large areas within the unit. Sights and sounds outside the unit may be considered during the inventory only in situations where the imprint is adjacent to the unit and its impact is so extremely imposing that it cannot be ignored. Imprints of man outside the unit such as roads, highways, and agricultural activity are not necessarily significant enough to cause their consideration in the inventory of a unit.

The agricultural developments adjacent to this unit do not have major impacts on the solitude of the unit. In many parts of the unit agricultural developments are not visible, and if visible from the central part of the unit are not clearly distinguishable as agricultural land.

Primitive Recreation:

Opportunities for primitive recreation are considered outstanding in the study area because it contains a large and exceptional geological feature, the recent Black Butte Lava Flow. Recreation opportunities are enhanced by the elements of challenge and risk which are encountered when travelling through the rugged landscape on foot.

Present visitor use is not relevant to evaluating this criterion. The factor to be determined is whether an outstanding opportunity is present regardless of present amount of use. A hot and dry desert environment, if one is prepared to deal with it, does not preclude the opportunity to have an outstanding recreation experience, in fact, it adds to the physical challenge of the experience.

* * *

DECISION:

No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. A unit of 23,680 acres is identified as a wilderness study area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

57-2 SHALE BUTTE

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 21,898 acres of BLM land, with a 640 acre State land inholding. This differs from the 21,661 acres shown in the August 1979 report, due to the addition of 237 acres where the boundary was incorrectly identified during the Initial Inventory.

The unit lies 15 miles southeast of Richfield. The unit is dominated by a large, relatively recent lava flow from the Shale Butte formation. Portions of the lava flow are extremely rugged with many pressure ridges, lava domes, and subsidence craters. Also in the unit are desert grasslands around the fringe of the lava flow.

NATURALNESS:

Several access routes, many the result of activities by National Guard tanks, create a concentration of substantially noticeable imprints on the naturalness of the unit. A large parcel of land has been deleted from the southern part of the unit to eliminate these routes. Another access route has caused a parcel of land on the west side of the unit to be deleted. Three access routes, which are not substantially noticeable imprints on naturalness extend a short distance into the unit. Two are located on the north boundary and one on the south boundary.

SOLITUDE:

Opportunities for solitude exist throughout most of the unit. Its remote location, the absence of man-made features, and the low probability of meeting others enhance opportunities for solitude. Outstanding opportunities for solitude have been judged to be present within the lava formation which occupies the central portion of the unit. The rugged, broken topography in the lavas provides excellent screening.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreation opportunities within the unit are considered outstanding and generally focus on the volcanic features and associated biotic community. Activities include hiking, camping, photography, and nature study. The unit offers a challenge and risk with all recreation activities which enhances the primitive experience. The factors of challenge and risk are emphasized by the rugged terrain, lack of reliable water sources, extreme temperatures, and lack of natural shelter.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

A burrowing owl (sensitive species) has a nesting site in the unit. The lava flow offers excellent opportunities to study primary succession and the geology of volcanic formations.

REHABILITATION:

Two access routes have some possibility of returning to a more natural condition if vehicular use were restricted. With the passage of time, vegetation will grow in the routes making it difficult to distinguish the routes from the rest of the area.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that supported the proposed decision to identify a study area are summarized as follows:

- Dropped acreage should be added back to the area proposed as a study area.
- The unit meets the naturalness criteria.
- Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation exist in the unit.
- Various supplemental values were mentioned.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Naturalness:

Extensive imprints of man in the form of tank tracks and random vehicle tracks of other kinds have left a noticeable mark on the naturalness of the lands dropped from the southern part of the unit. An access route, which is a major imprint on naturalness, cuts a parcel of less than 5,000 acres from the west side of the unit. No information in the comments indicates that an error was made in deleting these parcels from the unit.

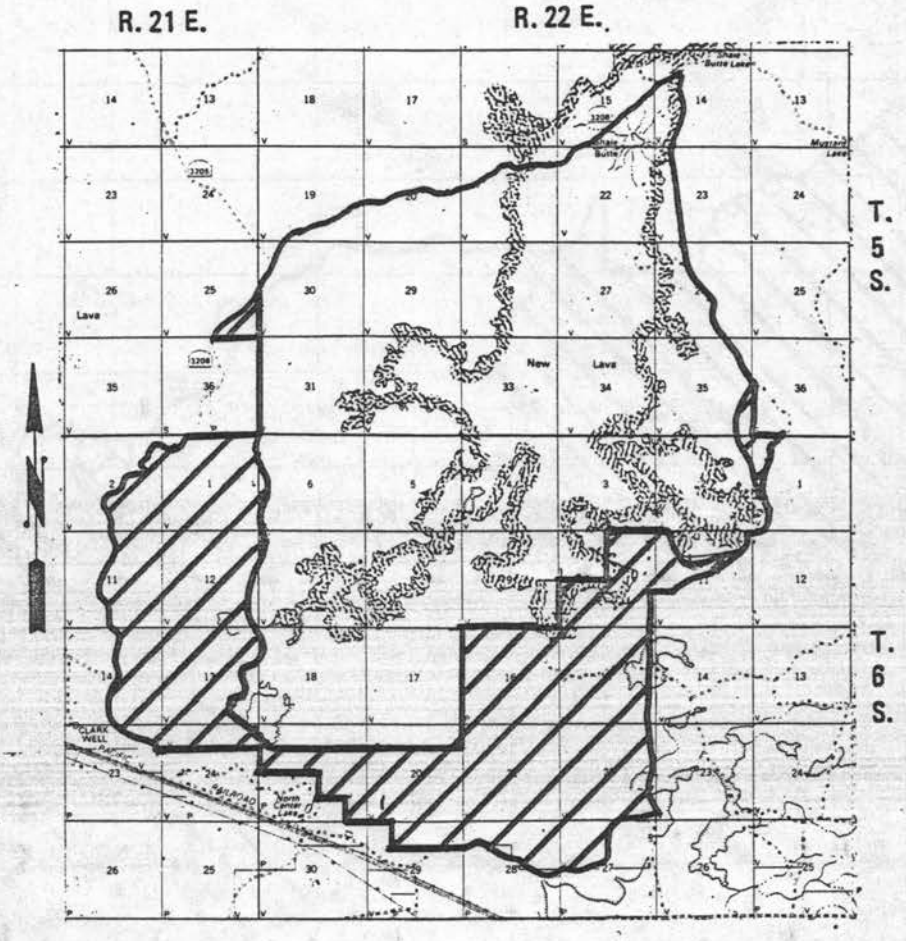
The reference in the proposed decision to rehabilitation was to portions of the unit that meet the naturalness criteria, not to those portions that do not.

* * *

DECISION:

No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. A unit of 15,968 acres is identified as a wilderness study area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

57–2
SHALE BUTTE



LEGEND

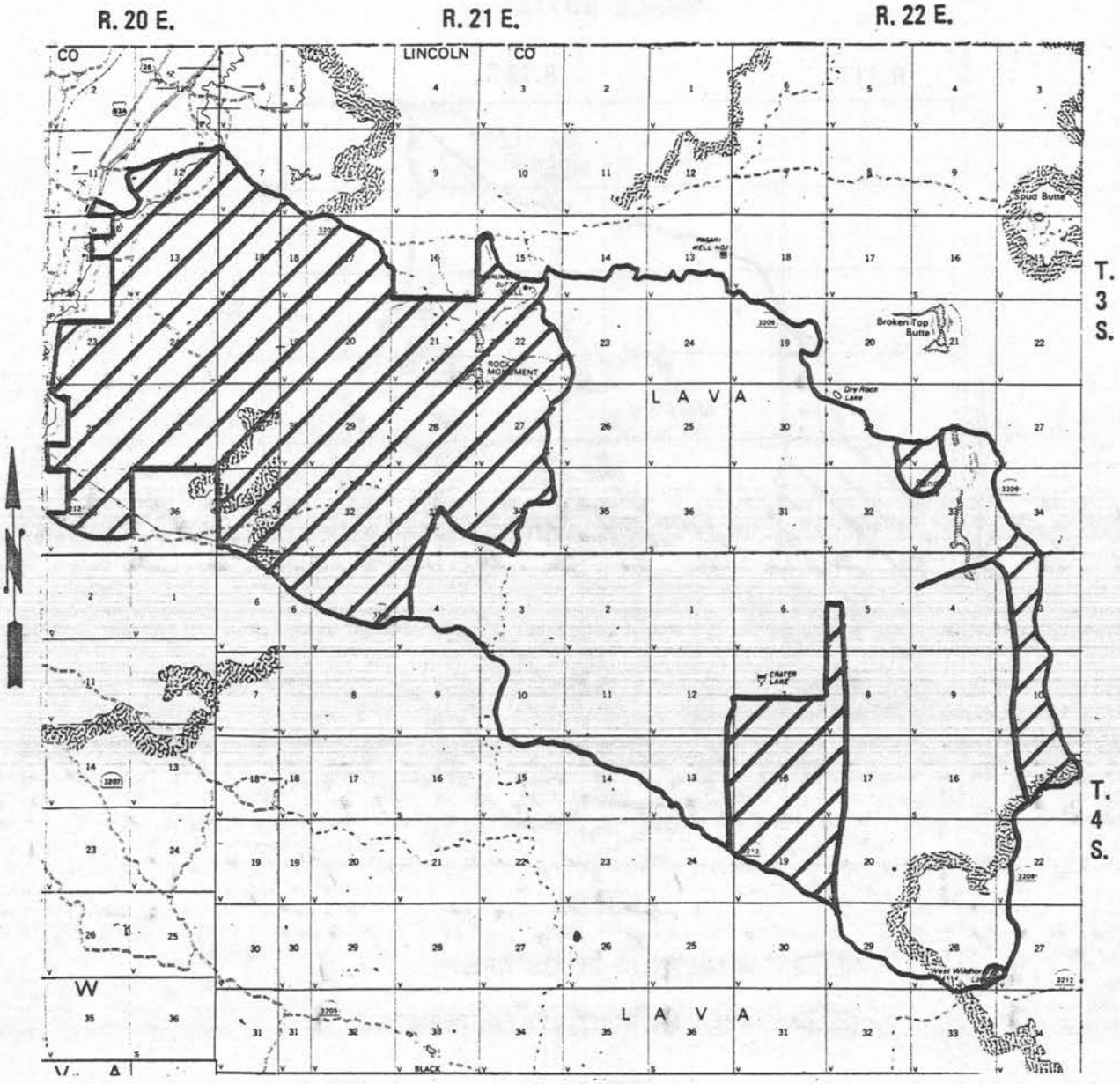
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

1 0 1 2 3

Scale in Miles

57–8
SAND BUTTE



LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

1 0 1 2 3

Scale in Miles

57-8 SAND BUTTE

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 36,745 acres of BLM land with State land inholdings totalling 1,280 acres. This figure differs from the 37,519 acres shown in the August 1979, report, due to a more accurate calculation of acreage.

The unit lies northeast of Richfield. Topography consists of a large, relatively flat expanse of weathered lava, which is characterized by low pressure ridges and depressions in the landscape. Rock Monument, Monument Butte, and Sand Butte are three prominent landmarks. West Wildhorse Lake and several other lake beds are found in the lower elevations of the southern and eastern portions of the unit. Dominant vegetation is sagebrush intermixed with annual and perennial grasses.

NATURALNESS:

An access route which extends through the western part of the unit from north to south is now being used as a boundary to exclude a large parcel from the western side of the unit. Two access routes on the eastern side meet the road definition and have caused some acreage to be excluded from the unit. Four access routes, which appear to be old firebreaks are substantially noticeable imprints on naturalness. A parcel of land in the southern part of the unit has been deleted in order to exclude these access routes. One access route, which is not a substantially noticeable imprint on naturalness, extends a short distance into the unit from the northern boundary.

The deletion of numerous small parcels have eliminated all major imprints on naturalness from the unit. Some minor imprints, which are not noticeable to the average person, remain. These include a portion of two access routes, aerial seedings, and fence lines.

SOLITUDE:

The unit is divided into two parcels by imprints on naturalness. The smaller contains 5,900 acres. This part of the unit is flat with little topographic or vegetative screening, and has been judged not to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The larger parcel has several areas within it where lava pressure ridges and subsidence craters provide good topographic screening. This portion of the unit has been judged to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreational opportunities are primarily associated with the rugged lava formations in the interior part of the unit and the Sand Butte formation. The diversity and quality of recreation opportunities in these areas are considered outstanding because of their exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Wildlife species including burrowing owls (sensitive species), marsh hawks, red-tailed hawks, and coyotes were observed during the inventory. Lava formations offer excellent opportunities for geologic studies. Cairns may have archaeological/historical significance. West Wildhorse Lake and other lake beds in the unit may also have archaeological significance.

REHABILITATION:

An access route has already become partially overgrown with vegetation. With the passage of time, this route could become hard to distinguish from the surrounding area. Fence lines can be removed or modified by hand labor to make them even less noticeable.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that supported a study area larger than that identified in the proposed decision are summarized as follows:

- Ten thousand acres were inappropriately excluded from the unit.
- The area that has been excluded in the proposed decision has outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Comments that supported the proposed decision generally just stated that the area met the wilderness criteria.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Roadless/Naturalness:

Numerous imprints of man on naturalness, as noted in the proposed decision, are concentrated in the western portion of the unit. Since these imprints are closely grouped, an access route, which does not meet the road criteria, was used as the boundary to exclude them from the unit. A parcel of land, completely surrounded by the excluded imprints of man, but which meets the size and naturalness criteria, was also excluded from the main unit.

Solitude:

It is generally recognized that the lack of topography and tall vegetation limits the opportunity to achieve solitude unless the area is large. Low vegetation on flat terrain can provide excellent screening if the area is large enough to allow other visitors or external influences to blend or disappear into the landscape. The parcel noted above is not large enough to allow a number of user groups or external influences to blend into the landscape.

Primitive Recreation:

The opportunity to achieve a primitive recreation experience is dependent upon the unit's size and ability to provide exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions. Exceptional natural features are those which provide exceptional scenery, diversity of landform and/or mobility of travel for a visitor, and would result in a strong recreation attraction to an area for one or more types of activities.

The parcel noted above has neither the size nor the exceptional or unusual natural features to provide primitive recreation opportunities which could be considered outstanding.

* * *

DECISION:

No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. A unit of 20,792 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 67,300 acres of BLM land, with State land inholdings totalling 1,920 acres. In the August, 1979, report Unit 57-10 was shown as 51,609 acres. It was determined through field inventory that a route previously used as a boundary between Units 57-9 (15,387 acres) and 57-10 does not meet the road definition. Therefore, both units are combined as Unit 57-10. An additional adjustment of 304 acres was made to include lands where a route used as part of the unit boundary was found not to exist on the ground.

An extension of Craters of the Moon lava flow dominates the northern portion of the unit. This rugged new lava is characterized by impressive spatter cones, pressure ridges, subsidence craters, and other formations that are unique to volcanic regions. The southern portion of the unit consists of older, weathered lava. Numerous rock outcrops characterize the broken topography of this high desert terrain. Dominant vegetational species are sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and annual and perennial grasses. Sand Butte and Broken Top Butte are prominent landmarks within the unit.

NATURALNESS:

An access route which extends through the unit from the eastern boundary, past Spud Butte to the Monument Butte well was originally identified as a road and was the southern boundary of this unit. Further inventory shows that only 1.8 miles of this access route, the segment from the eastern boundary road to Spud Butte, meets the road definition. The remaining portion of the route is only a faint way and is not a substantially noticeable imprint on the naturalness of the unit. This has resulted in the boundary being moved to include Unit 57-9 with 57-10 as one unit. The boundary is cherry stemmed around the road segment from the eastern boundary to Spud Butte.

Three short access routes, which are not substantially noticeable imprints on the naturalness of the unit, extend into the unit from the eastern boundary. Two other short routes extend into the unit from the southern boundary. A well development and two reservoir developments have a noticeable impact on the apparent naturalness in the unit. Several fences and an aerial seeding do not have a noticeable impact on the naturalness.

SOLITUDE:

Opportunities for solitude exist throughout most of the unit and are judged to be outstanding. Its remote location, and large size reduce the probability of meeting others and thus enhance opportunities for solitude. The broken topography of the high desert terrain and the new lava flow provide excellent screening from the sights and sounds of others.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreation opportunities within the area are judged to be outstanding and generally focus on the volcanic features and the biotic communities of the new lava flow and the surrounding desert lands. Activities include hiking, showshoeing, cross-country skiing, camping, photography, nature study, hunting, and spelunking. The unit offers challenge and risk with all recreation activities which enhances the primitive experience.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The new lava offers excellent opportunities to study primary succession, vegetational species that are indigenous to new lava, and geology of lava formations. Cairns, found throughout the unit, could be of historical or archaeological significance. Wildlife species, including pronghorn antelope, coyotes, burrowing owls (sensitive species), and sage grouse were observed during the inventory. Numerous lake beds exist within the unit. These areas plus Spud Butte and Broken Top Butte may contain archaeological sites.

REHABILITATION:

Six access routes could, over a period of several years, reach a condition where they are completely covered with vegetation and indistinguishable from surrounding areas. Extensive hand labor may be necessary to obliterate deeply worn ruts on one route. Fence lines could be modified to make them less noticeable or removed with hand labor.

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PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

All but one of the comments which specifically addressed the unit supported the proposed decision to identify a study area. One comment expressed a concern over the statements on rehabilitation.

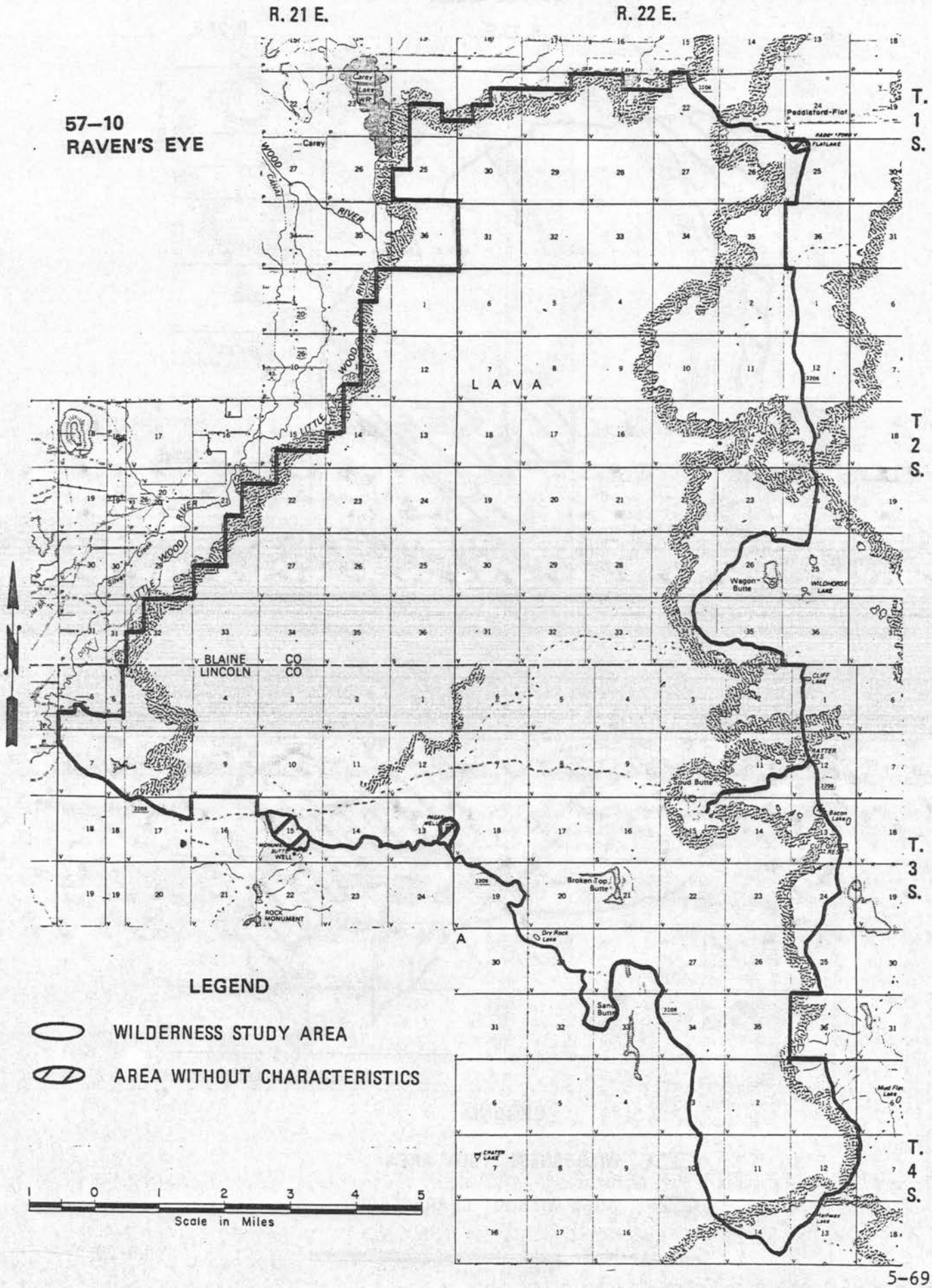
COMMENT EVALUATION:

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

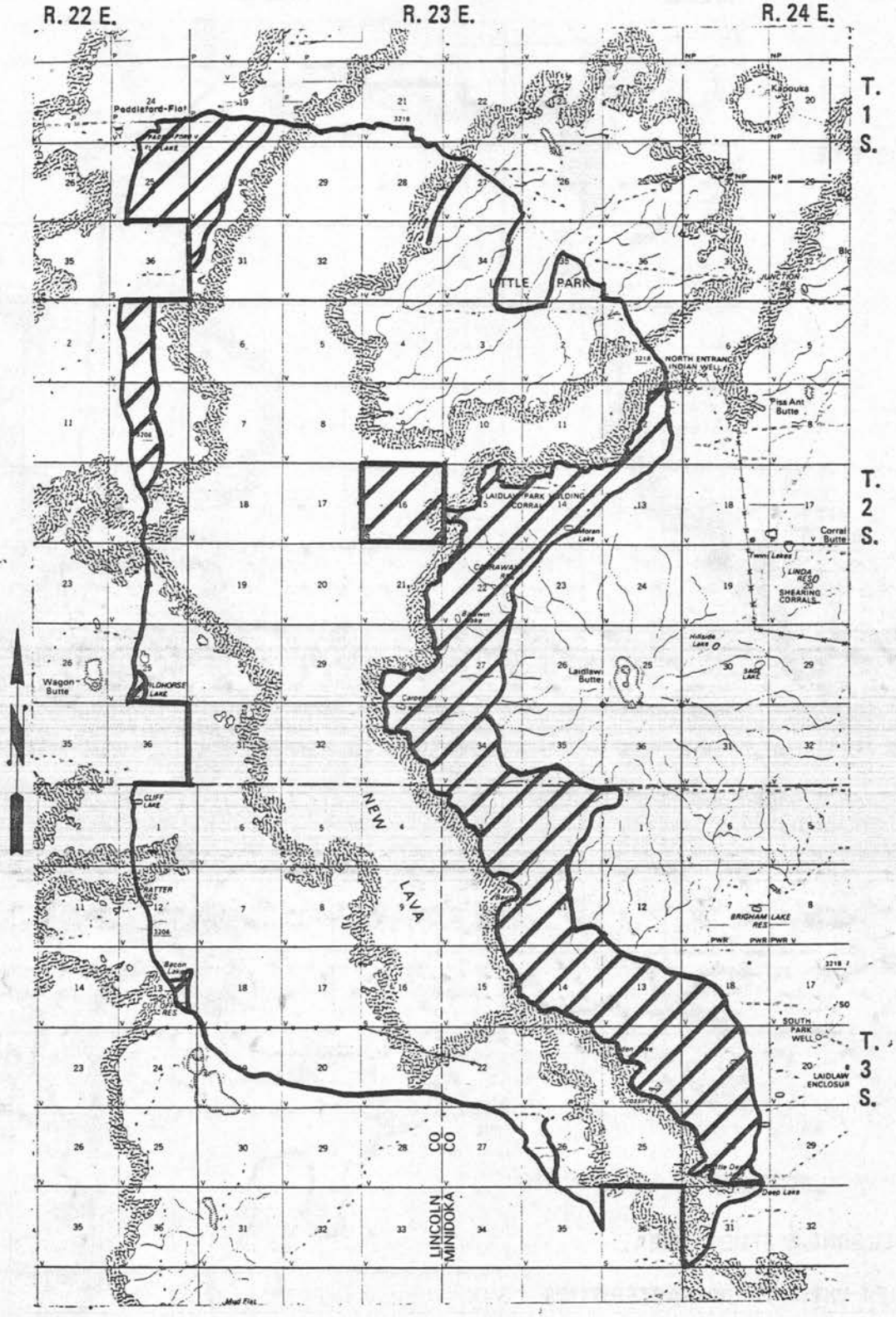
* * *

DECISION:

No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. A unit of 67,110 acres is identified as a wilderness study area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.


R. 21 E.
R. 22 E.
57–10
RAVEN'S EYE
T. 1 S.
T 2 S.
T. 3 S.
T. 4 S.
LAVA
BLAINE CO
LINCOLN CO
Carey
Carey Lake WR
WOOD RIVER
LITTLE WOOD RIVER
Silver Creek
Paddleford-Flat
FLATLAKE
Wagon Butte
WILDHORSE LAKE
CLIFF LAKE
Stud Butte
BACON LAKE
Broken Top Butte
Dry Rock Lake
Sand Butte
Mud Flat Lake
CRATER LAKE
Halfway Lake
ROCK MONUMENT
A
LEGEND
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS
0 1 2 3 4 5
Scale in Miles

57–11
LITTLE DEER



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 42,974 acres of BLM land, with 640 acres of State land inholdings. This figure differs from the 43,156 acres shown in the August, 1979, report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. The unit is dominated by a finger of new lava from the Craters of the Moon Lava Flow. The sparsely vegetated rugged lava is fringed by gently rolling desert lands vegetated with sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and annual and perennial grasses.

NATURALNESS:

Three access routes, which are substantially noticeable imprints on the naturalness of the unit, have caused two parcels to be deleted in the northwest part of the unit. Another route extends into the unit a short distance, and has been deleted from the unit by cherry stemming the boundary around it.

A large parcel of land along the eastern edge of the unit has been deleted due to numerous reservoir developments, access routes associated with the reservoirs and fences. Two access routes, which meet the road definition, are found in the southern part of the unit and have been deleted by cherry stemming the boundary around them. Three access routes extend a short distance into the unit from the western boundary. Three short routes extend into the unit along the northern boundary in Little Park. None of these routes are substantially noticeable imprints on the naturalness of the unit. All of the major imprints of man have been eliminated from the unit; this includes all reservoirs and seven access routes. A fence line, holding corral, and four access routes, although minor imprints on naturalness of the unit, have also been eliminated in redrawing the boundary to eliminate major imprints.

SOLITUDE:

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are judged to be present throughout most of the unit. The broken topography of the new lava, which dominates the unit, offers excellent screening from the sights and sounds of others. The ruggedness and remoteness of the lava flow reduces the probabilities of meeting others thus enhancing opportunities for solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Outstanding primitive recreation opportunities exist in the unit. The volcanic features on the lava flow offer excellent opportunities for hiking, camping, nature study, photography, spelunking and hunting. The unit offers a challenge and risk with all recreation activities which enhances the primitive experience. The factors of challenge and risk are emphasized by the rugged terrain, lack of reliable water sources, extreme temperatures, and lack of natural shelter.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The new lava flow offers excellent opportunities to study primary succession, vegetational species that are indigenous to new lava, and geology of lava formations. A variety of wildlife species are within the unit, including pronghorn antelope, burrowing owls (sensitive species), and the green-winged teal.

REHABILITATION:

Five access routes have some potential for returning to a natural condition if vehicle access were restricted. With the passage of time, vegetation will grow in the routes and make them difficult to distinguish from the surrounding area.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

All but one of the comments which specifically addressed the unit supported the proposed decision to identify a study area. One comment expressed a concern over the statements on rehabilitation.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

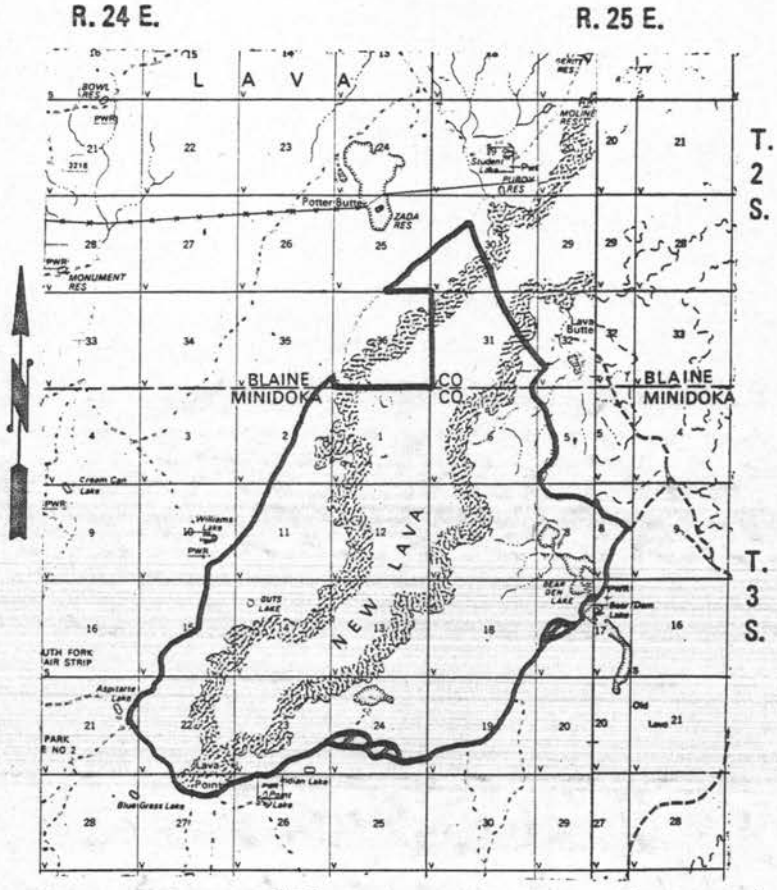
The reference in the proposed decision to rehabilitation was to the portions of the unit that meet the naturalness criteria not to portions that do not.

* * *

DECISION:

No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. A unit of 33,531 acres is identified as a wilderness study area as it meet the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

57–14
BEAR DEN BUTTE



LEGEND

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

1 0 1 2 3

Scale in Miles

57-14 BEAR DEN BUTTE

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 9,704 acres of BLM land. The unit is dominated by a finger of new lava which juts into Laidlaw Park from the Craters of the Moon Lava Flow. The unit is surrounded by a fringe of rolling desert grassland except where the road forming the north boundary cuts through the lava. Bear Den Butte and a smaller unnamed volcanic butte are prominent landmarks within the unit, representing older periods of volcanic activity. Vegetation is primarily sagebrush and grasses on the desert fringe with very sparse vegetation occurring in the newer lava.

NATURALNESS:

Two short access routes, which meet the road definition, serve as turnouts along the south boundary road. These roads have caused deletion of two small parcels from the unit. Two other access routes, which are not substantially noticeable imprints on the naturalness of the unit, extend into the unit from the south and west boundaries.

SOLITUDE:

Opportunities for solitude exist throughout most of the unit. Its remote location, the absence of man-made features, and the low probability of meeting others enhance opportunities for solitude. Outstanding opportunities for solitude have been judged to be present within the lava formation which occupies the central portion of the unit. The rugged, broken topography in the lavas provides excellent screening.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreation opportunities within the area are considered outstanding and generally focus on the volcanic features and associated biotic community. Activities include hiking, camping, photography, and nature study. The unit offers a challenge and risk with all recreation activities which enhances the primitive experience. The factors of challenge and risk are emphasized by the rugged terrain, lack of reliable water sources, extreme temperatures, and lack of natural shelter.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The new lava flow offers excellent opportunities to study primary succession, vegetational species that are indigenous to new lava, and geology of lava formations. Pronghorn antelope, deer, and other species of wildlife are found in the unit. Guts Lake, a series of lake beds along the western side of the unit, may have archaeological value. Bear Den Butte (5,104 feet elevation) and another butte (5,022 feet) offer scenic values.

REHABILITATION:

One access route has revegetated to a condition where it is difficult to distinguish from the surrounding area. Once erosion is stabilized with hand labor, another route should revegetate naturally and become difficult to distinguish from the surrounding area. A fence line could be removed by hand labor or modified to be much less noticeable.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

All but one of the comments which specifically addressed the unit supported the proposed decision to identify a study area. One comment expressed a concern over the statements on rehabilitation.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

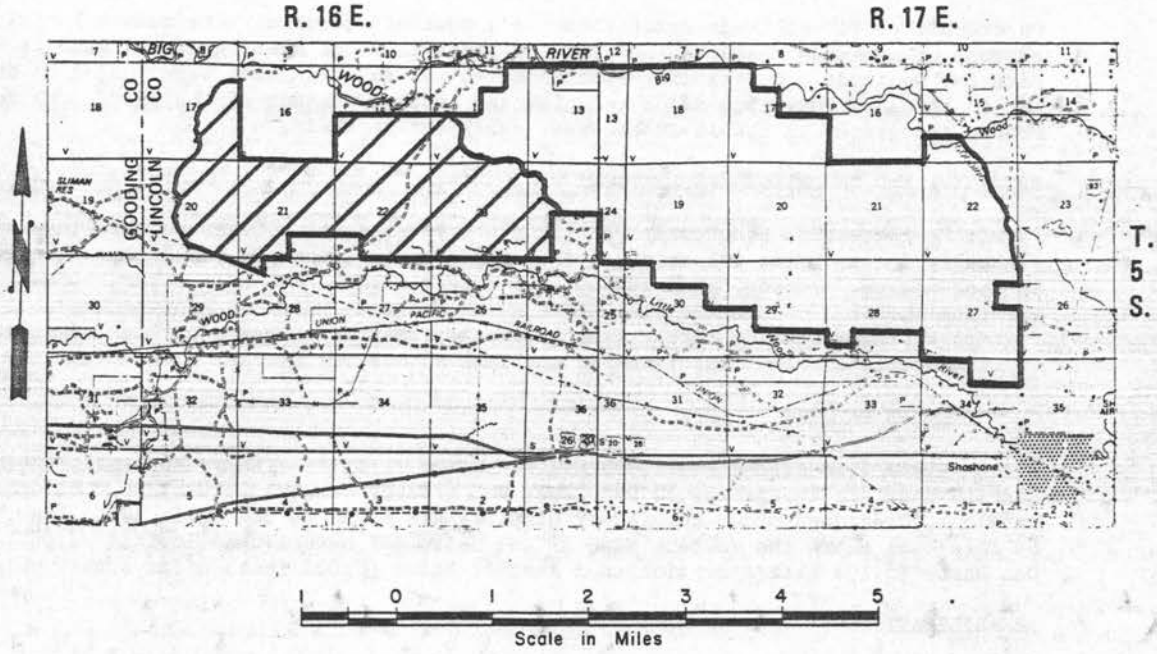
The reference in the proposed decision to rehabilitation was to the portions of the unit that meet the naturalness criteria, not to portions that do not.

* * *

DECISION:

No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. A unit of 9,700 acres is identified as a wilderness study area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.

59–7
SHOSHONE



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 9,928 acres of BLM land. This unit was called Lava in the August, 1979, report. The unit is entirely covered with a relatively recent lava flow which originated from the Black Butte vent. This lava flow is extremely rough, with numerous subsidence craters, pressure ridges, and other volcanic formations found throughout the unit. Vegetation is generally sparse, but in some places sagebrush and grasses have become established.

NATURALNESS:

Two access routes, which meet the road definition have caused part of the unit to be deleted on the western side.

SOLITUDE:

Opportunities for solitude exist throughout most of the unit. Its remote location, the absence of man-made features, and the low probability of meeting other visitors enhance opportunities for solitude. Outstanding opportunities for solitude have been judged to be present within the lava formation which occupies the central portion of the unit. The rugged, broken topography in the lavas provides excellent screening.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreation opportunities within the unit are considered outstanding and generally focus on the volcanic features and associated biotic community. Activities include hiking, camping, photography, and nature study. The unit offers a challenge and risk with all recreation activities which enhances the primitive experience. The factors of challenge and risk are emphasized by the rugged terrain, lack of reliable water sources, extreme temperatures, and lack of natural shelter.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit provides several opportunities to study phenomena related to volcanism.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that supported the proposed decision to identify the unit as a study area are summarized as follows:

- The unit clearly meets the criteria for naturalness.
- Outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation exist within the unit.
- Various supplemental values are found within the unit.

One comment expressed a concern over the statements on rehabilitation.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

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 6,914 acres is identified as a wilderness study area as it meets the naturalness and the solitude-recreation criteria.