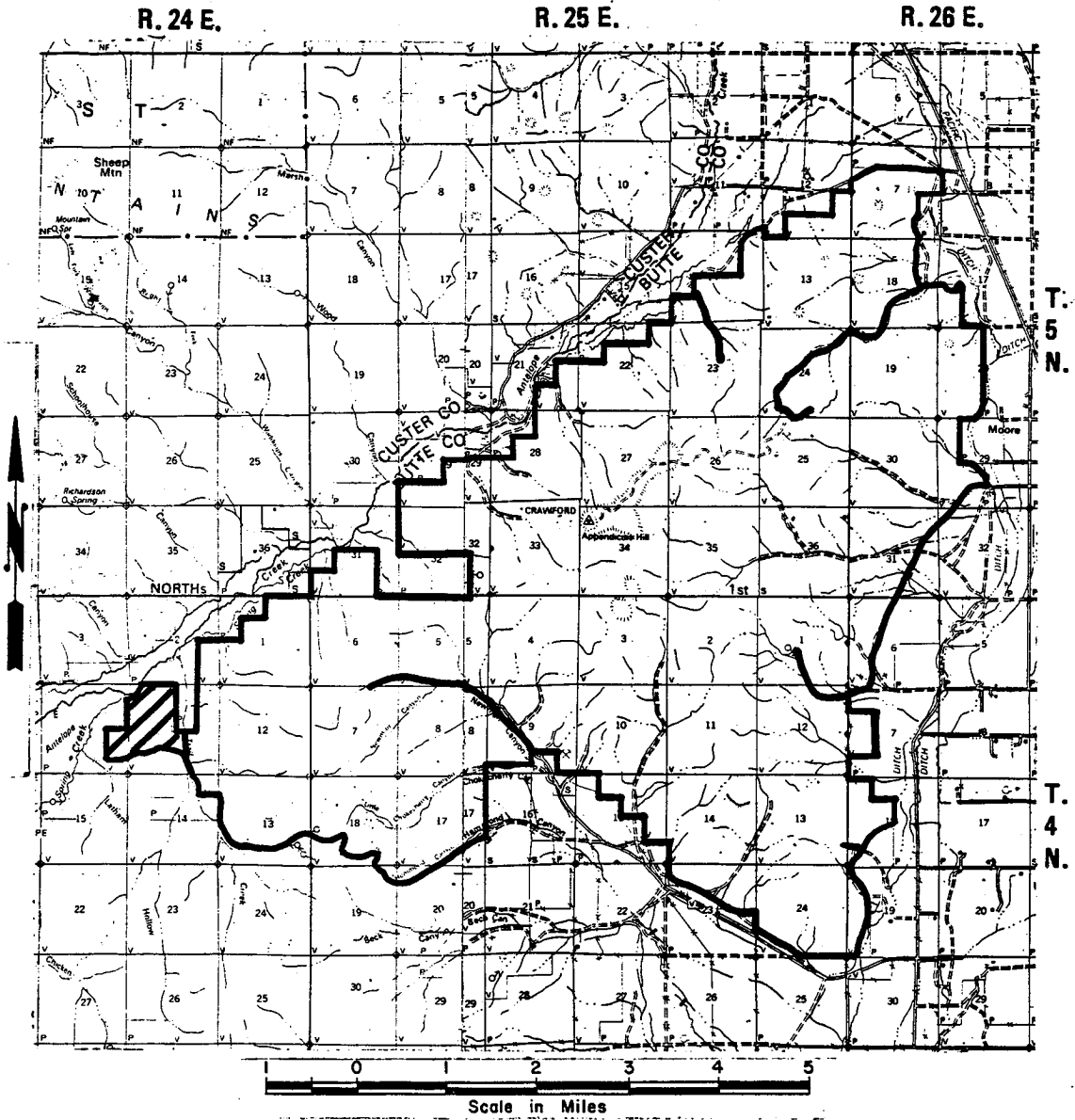




IDAHO FALLS DISTRICT
UNITS IDENTIFIED AS
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

31-14
APPENDICITIS HILL



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

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

NATURALNESS:

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

SOLITUDE:

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

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

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

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

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

REHABILITATION:

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

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

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

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

COMMENT EVALUATION:

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

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

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

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DECISION:

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

31-17 WHITE KNOB MOUNTAINS

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

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

NATURALNESS:

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

SOLITUDE:

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

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

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

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

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

REHABILITATION:

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

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PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

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

COMMENT EVALUATION:

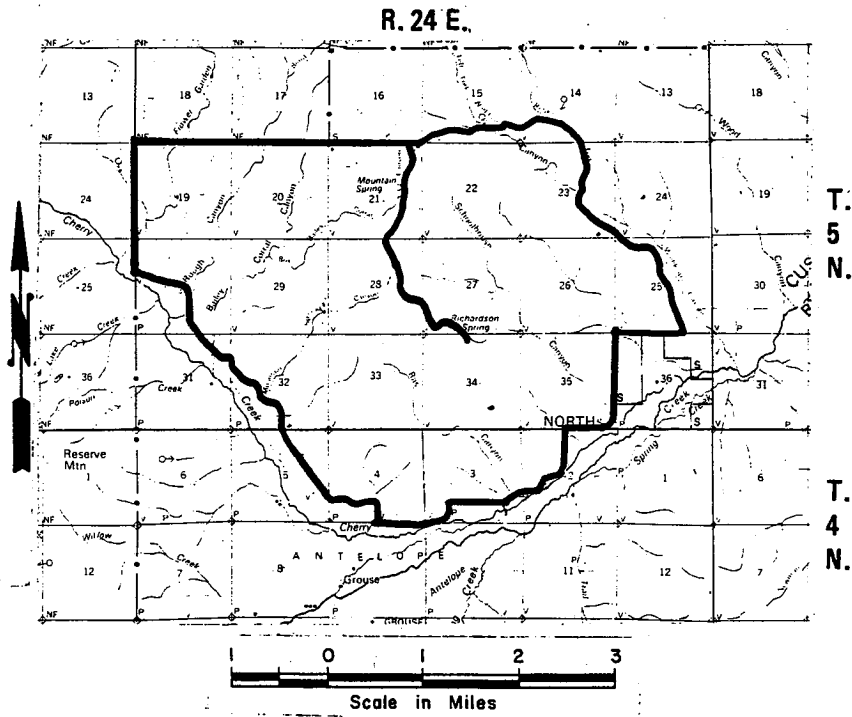
Most comments were not specific to the wilderness inventory criteria. The reference in the proposed decision to rehabilitation was to portions of the unit that already meet the naturalness criteria.

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DECISION:

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

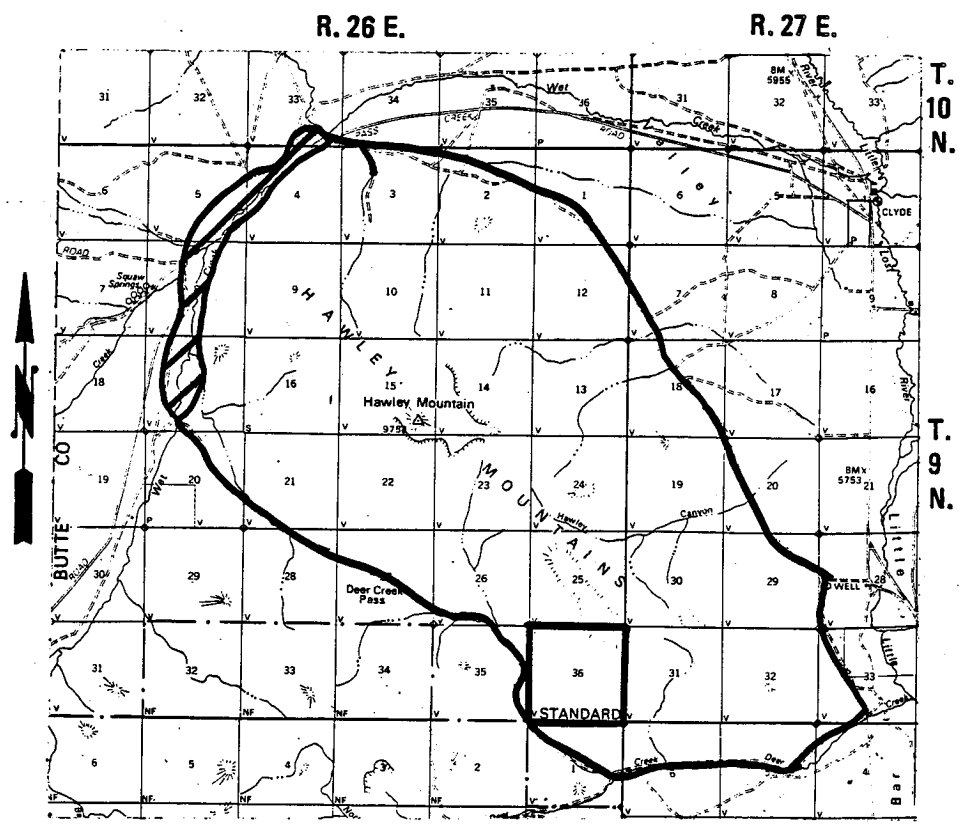
**31-17
WHITE KNOB MOUNTAINS**





LEGEND

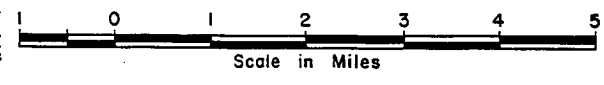
-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

**32-3
HAWLEY MOUNTAIN**



LEGEND

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



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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

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

NATURALNESS:

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

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

SOLITUDE:

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

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

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

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

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

REHABILITATION:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

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

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

COMMENT EVALUATION:

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

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DECISION:

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