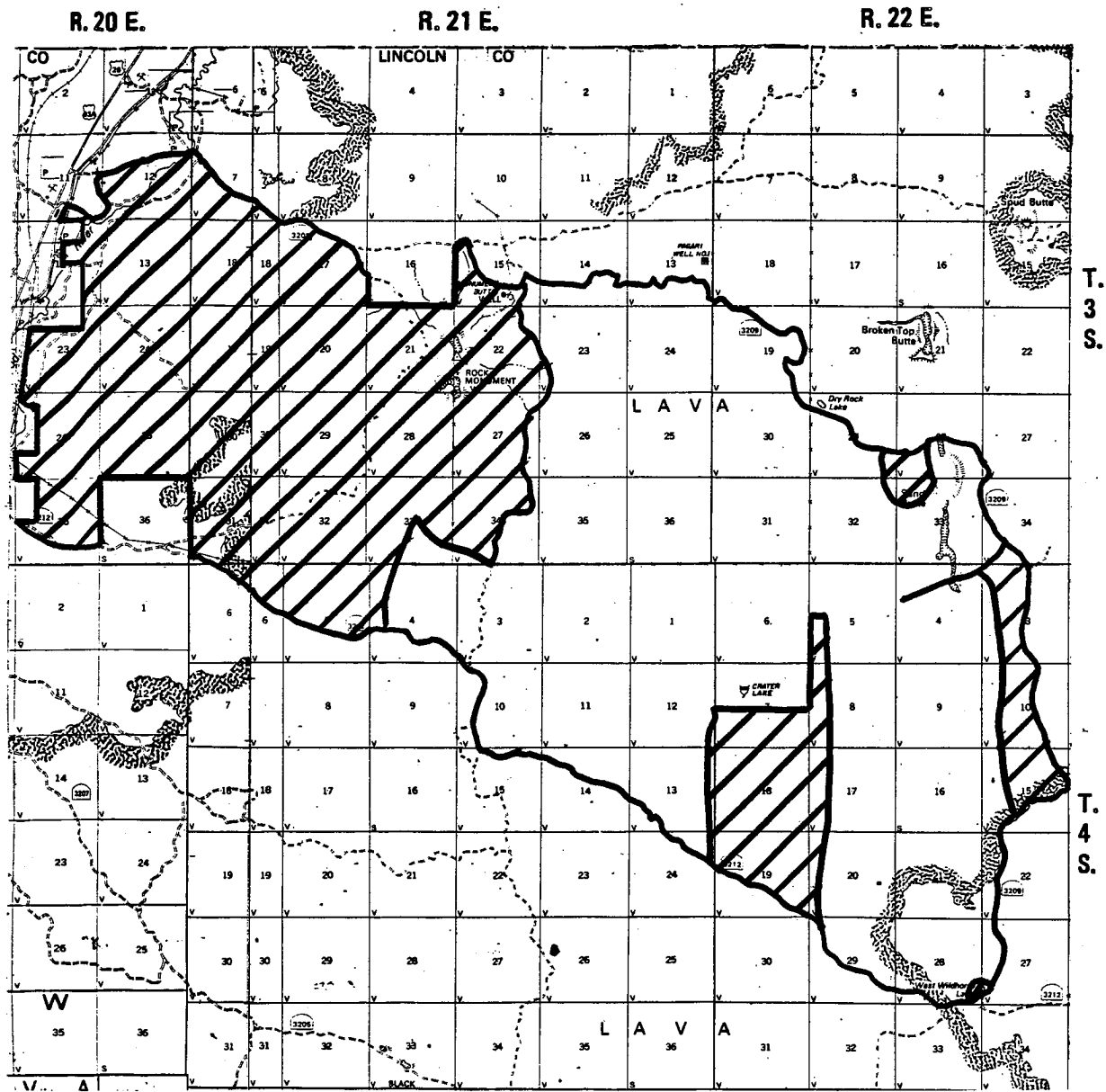


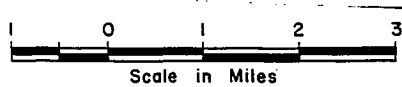


57-8
SAND BUTTE



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



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.

57-10 RAVEN'S EYE

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.

* * *

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.

57-10
RAVEN'S EYE

R. 21 E.

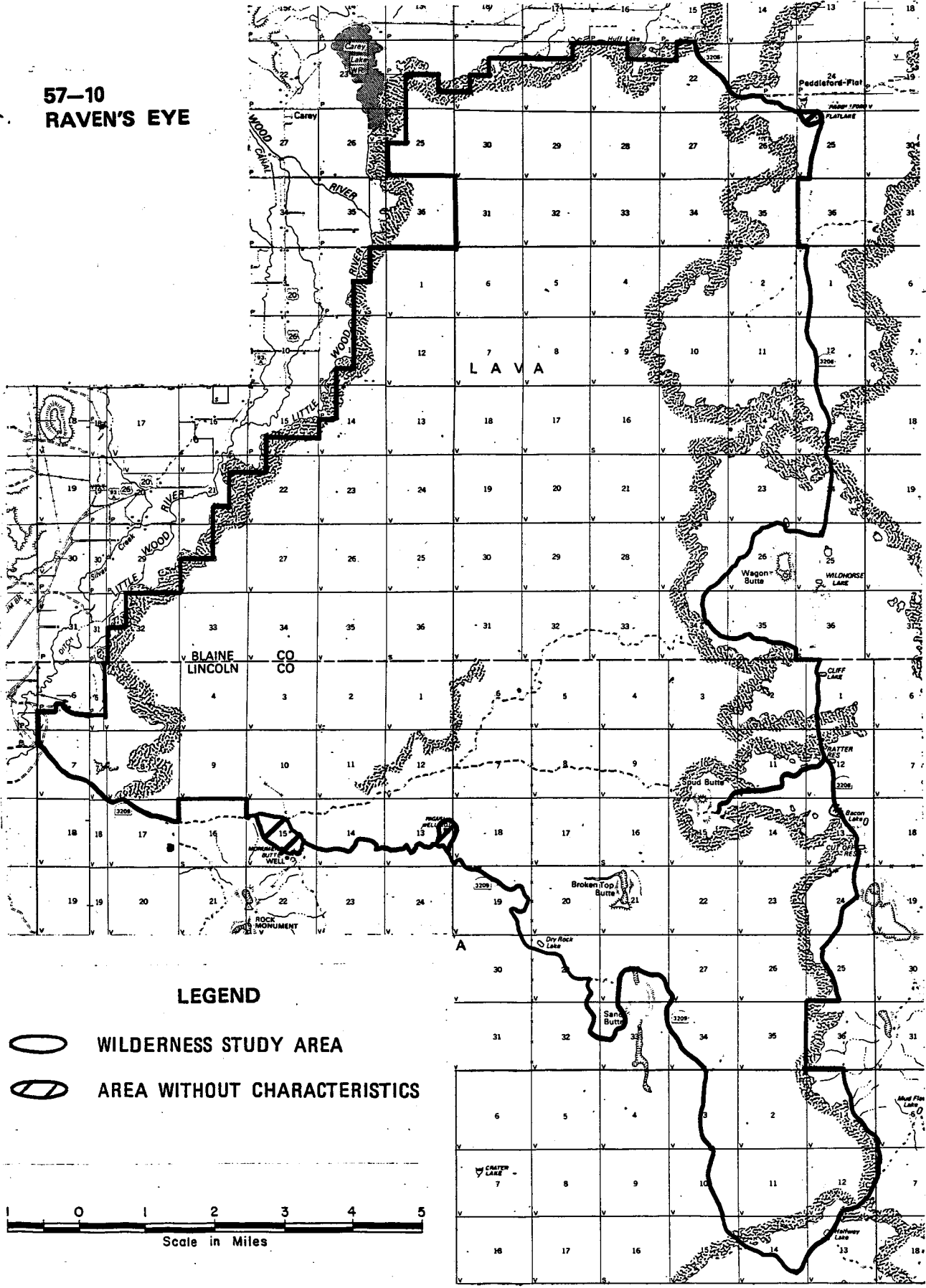
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T. 1 S.



T. 2 S.

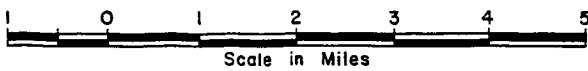
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T. 4 S.

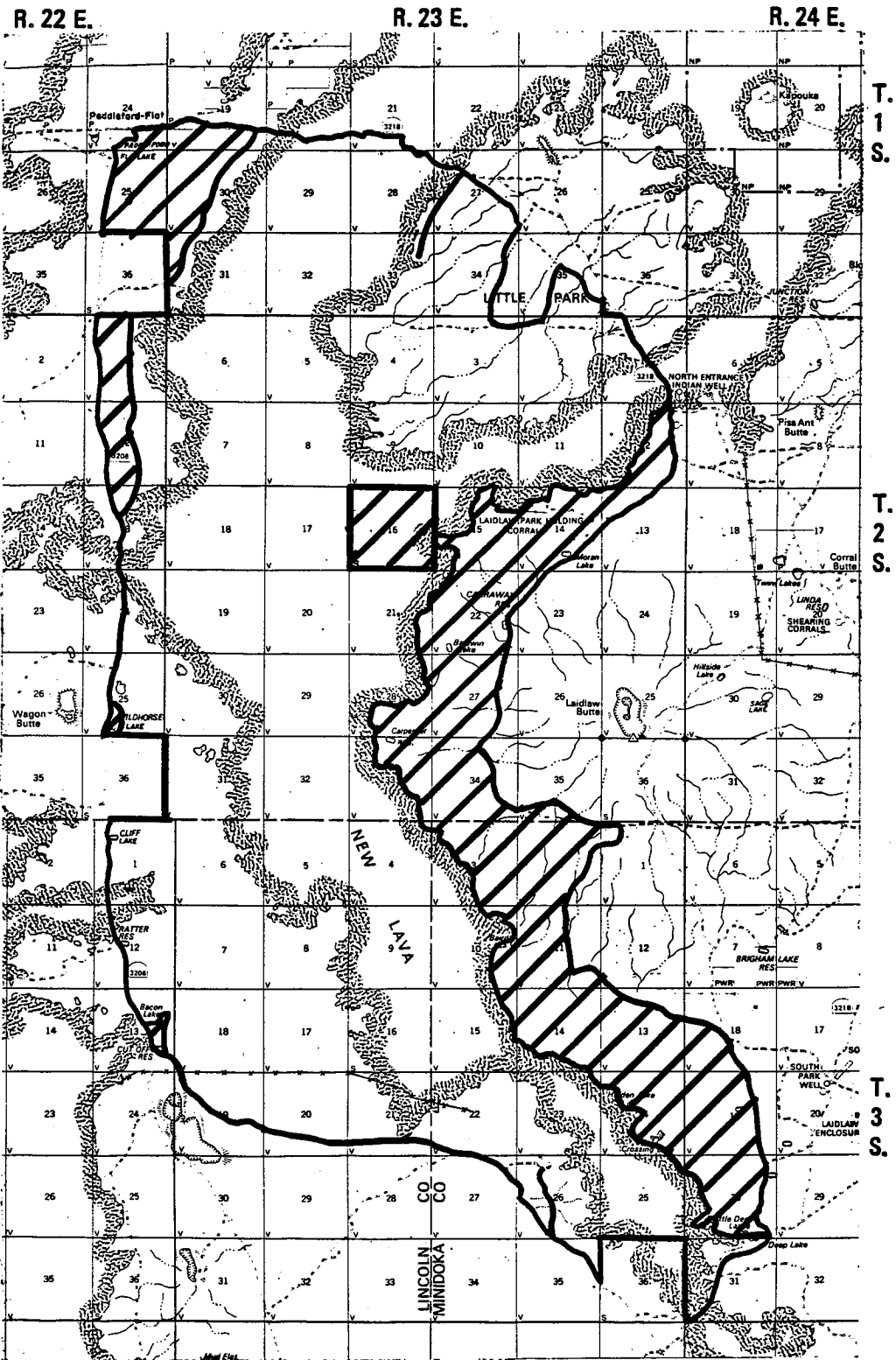


LEGEND



-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

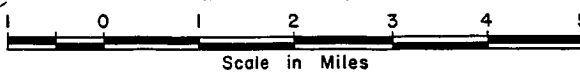


57-11
LITTLE DEER



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.