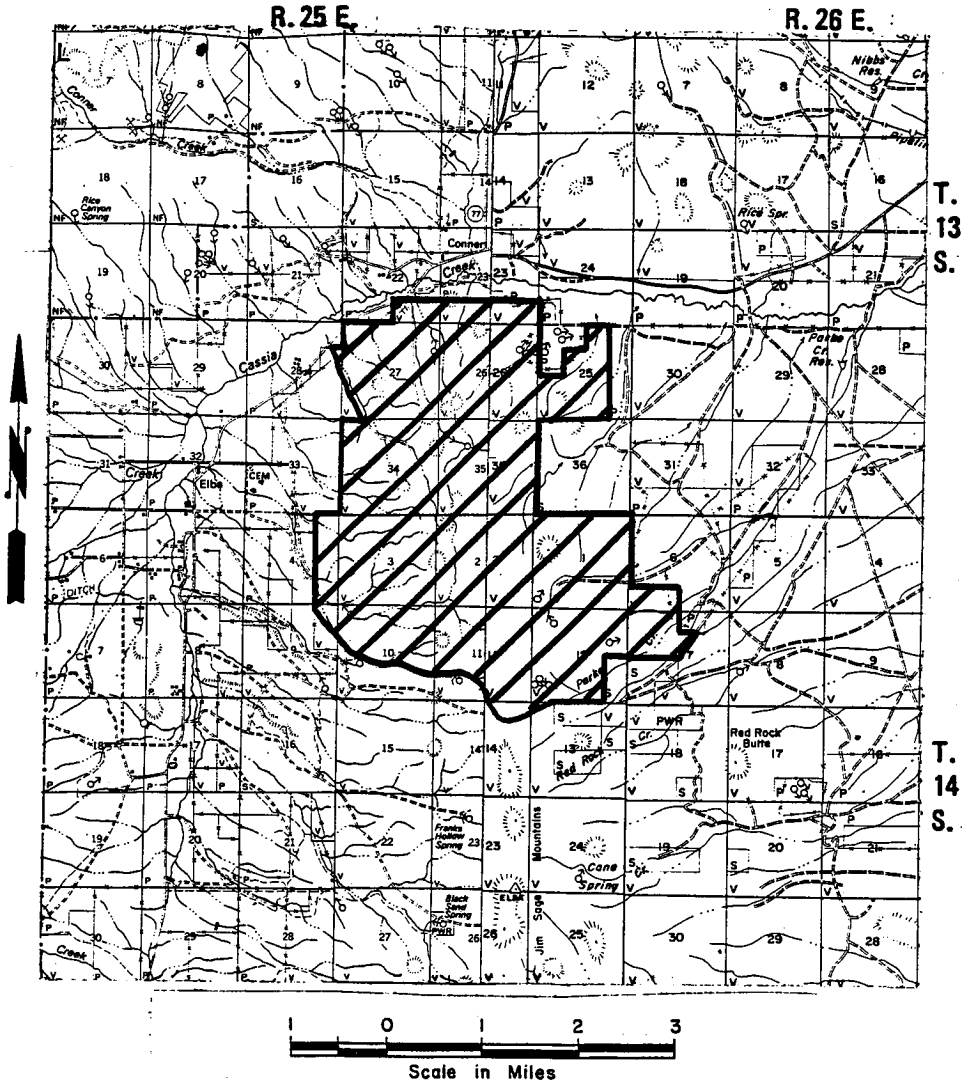




BURLEY DISTRICT
UNITS NOT IDENTIFIED AS
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

23-1a
JIM SAGE



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 6,901 acres of BLM land, in an irregular configuration, approximately three by four miles. It is located on the north end of the Jim Sage Mountain Range, two miles east of Elba.

The unit's topography is generally rough and mountainous, with rolling hills at lower elevations. Near the Cassia Creek drainage on the north end of the unit, elevation is just under 5,000 feet, and climbs to above 7,500 feet in the southern portion. Vegetation consists of sagebrush, mixed with large concentrations of juniper on the west side.

NATURALNESS:

Three roads and four dead-end ways intrude on the north, east and west sides of the unit. The roads are not actually within the unit but are part of the unit boundary. On the north, several old fencelines and material site excavations are within the unit.

The scattered nature of these impacts causes the unit to appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

SOLITUDE:

Vegetative and topographic screening are available in some of the higher elevation draws where juniper concentrations are located. However, due to the unit's small size and irregular configuration caused by the dead-end roads, opportunities for solitude are not considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreation opportunities include horseback riding, big game and upland bird hunting, camping, hiking and photography. The unit's small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions render the recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Portions of the unit contain habitat of the bald eagle and peregrine falcon, endangered species; and the spotted bat, bobcat, pigeon hawk, ferruginous hawk, long-billed curlew and the western burrowing owl, sensitive species.

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PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Public comments that agreed with the proposed decision to drop the unit gave no specific reasons why they agreed.

Comments that disagreed with the proposed decision gave the following specific reasons:

- Unit offers outstanding opportunities for recreation in the form of camping, hiking, horseback riding, and other primitive types of recreation.
- Unit's topography and vegetation support a diversity of wildlife, including the ferruginous hawk.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Solitude:

Comments on solitude were opinions only with no reasons given as to why they felt the unit had outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Primitive Recreation:

Having steep topography and dense vegetation in portions of the unit and a variety of types of recreation that could occur in the unit does not necessarily mean that the unit offers outstanding opportunities.

The opportunity to achieve a primitive recreation experience is dependent upon a unit's size and ability to provide exceptional or unusual natural features or recreation attractions. Exceptional natural features are those which provide exceptional scenery, diversity in 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.

Even though a number of recreation activities could occur within the unit, opportunities are less than outstanding due to the unit's size, less than exceptional scenery, confined locations for recreation activities, and man's activities seen and heard just outside the unit.

Supplemental Values:

Supplemental values present in the unit do not qualify the unit as a study area unless other wilderness characteristics are present.

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

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 7,010 acres of BLM land. This figure differs from the 6,190 acres shown in earlier reports due to an acreage correction. The unit is in an irregular configuration, approximately three by five miles, and is located in the southern portion of the Jim Sage Mountain Range, just north of the area known as "The Narrows" on the Raft River.

The unit's topography varies from gentle rolling hills in the south and east portions to moderately steep terrain in the north portion. Elevation varies from below 5,100 feet in the southeast to over 7,200 feet in the north. Vegetation consists of sagebrush, shrubs and native grasses, with a large concentration of junipers in the east portion.

NATURALNESS:

Five roads enter the unit in the south and east portions, and either dead-end, or continue as ways and loop back outside the unit. Also within the unit are 13 ways, concentrated in the south and east portion. Water developments within the unit consist of the Chokecherry water system and the West Bridge Spring system, and include developed springs, pipelines and troughs.

Old mining prospect sites are located in the east portion of the unit and consist of exploratory cuts covering approximately 1/5 mile. Also affecting the unit's naturalness to a minor degree is a 140 acre fire rehabilitation area, which has come back with native grass species. Two old borrow pits in the south are evident although they appear to be unused for years. Old drift fences and small juniper wood cutting areas are located in the west portion.

Considering the small size of the unit, the number of imprint's of man affect the naturalness of the unit to a point where it fails to meet the criteria.

SOLITUDE:

Vegetative and topographic screening are available in some of the unit's interior draws and where dense concentrations of juniper are located. However, due to the small size and very irregular configuration of that portion of the unit where naturalness has not been impacted, the opportunities for solitude are not considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreation opportunities include horseback riding, big game and upland bird hunting, camping, hiking and photography. The unit's small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions render the recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Portions of the unit contain habitat of the bald eagle and peregrine falcon, endangered species; and the spotted bat, bobcat, pigeon hawk, ferruginous hawk, longbilled curlew and the western burrowing owl, sensitive species. A portion of the unit contains a prehistoric site of cultural value.

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PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Public comments that agreed with the proposed decision to drop the unit gave no specific reasons why they agreed.

Comments that disagreed with the proposed decision gave the following specific reasons:

- Unit offers outstanding opportunities for recreation in the form of camping, hiking, horseback riding, and other primitive types of recreation.
- Unit's topography and vegetation support a diversity of wildlife, including the ferruginous hawk.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Solitude:

Comments on solitude were opinions only, with no reasons given as to why they felt the unit had outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Primitive Recreation:

Having steep topography and dense vegetation in portions of the unit and a variety of types of recreation that could occur in the unit does not necessarily mean that the unit offers outstanding opportunities.

The opportunity to achieve a primitive recreation experience is dependent upon a unit's size and ability to provide exceptional or unusual natural features or recreation attractions. Exceptional natural features are those which provide exceptional scenery, diversity in 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.

Even though a number of recreation activities could occur within the unit, opportunities are less than outstanding due to the unit's size, less than exceptional scenery, confined locations for recreation activities, and man's activities seen and heard just outside the unit.

Supplemental Values:

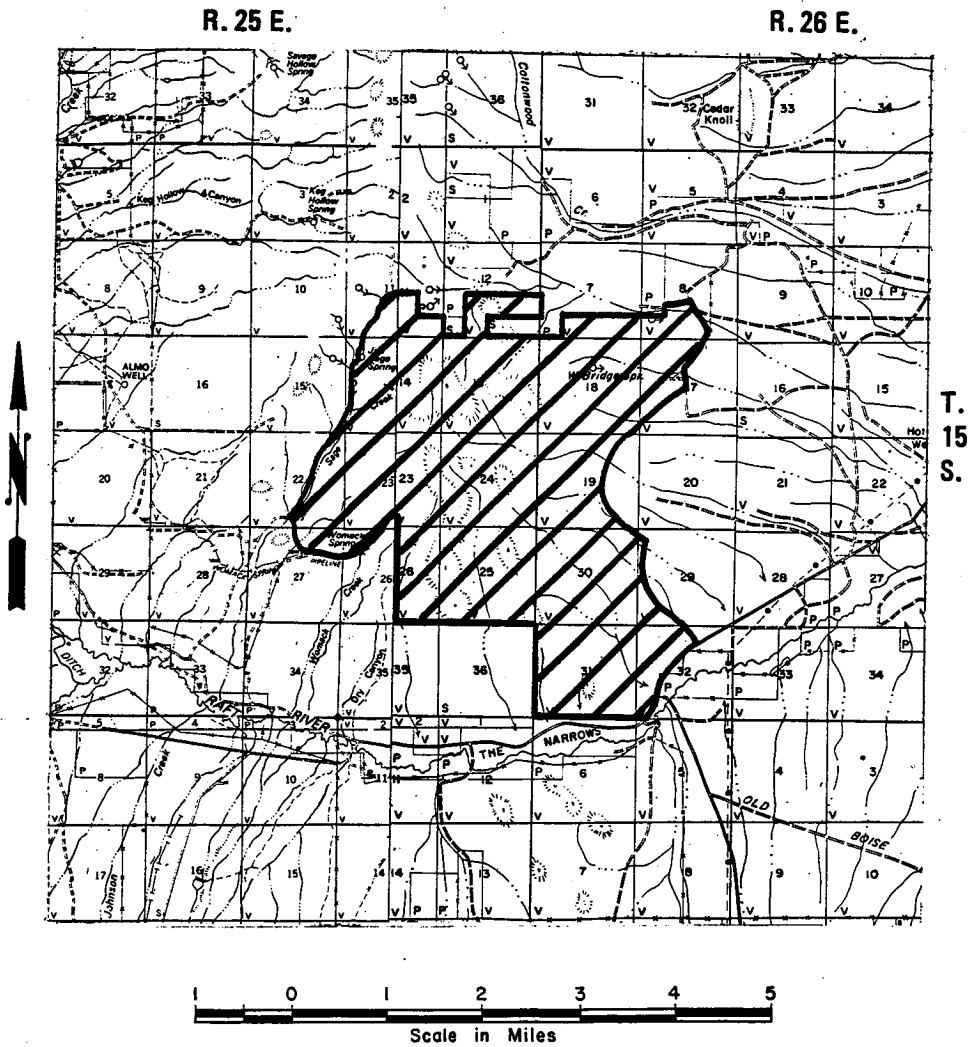
Supplemental values present in the unit do not qualify the unit as a study area unless other wilderness characteristics are present.

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

23-1c
JIM SAGE

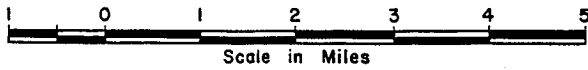
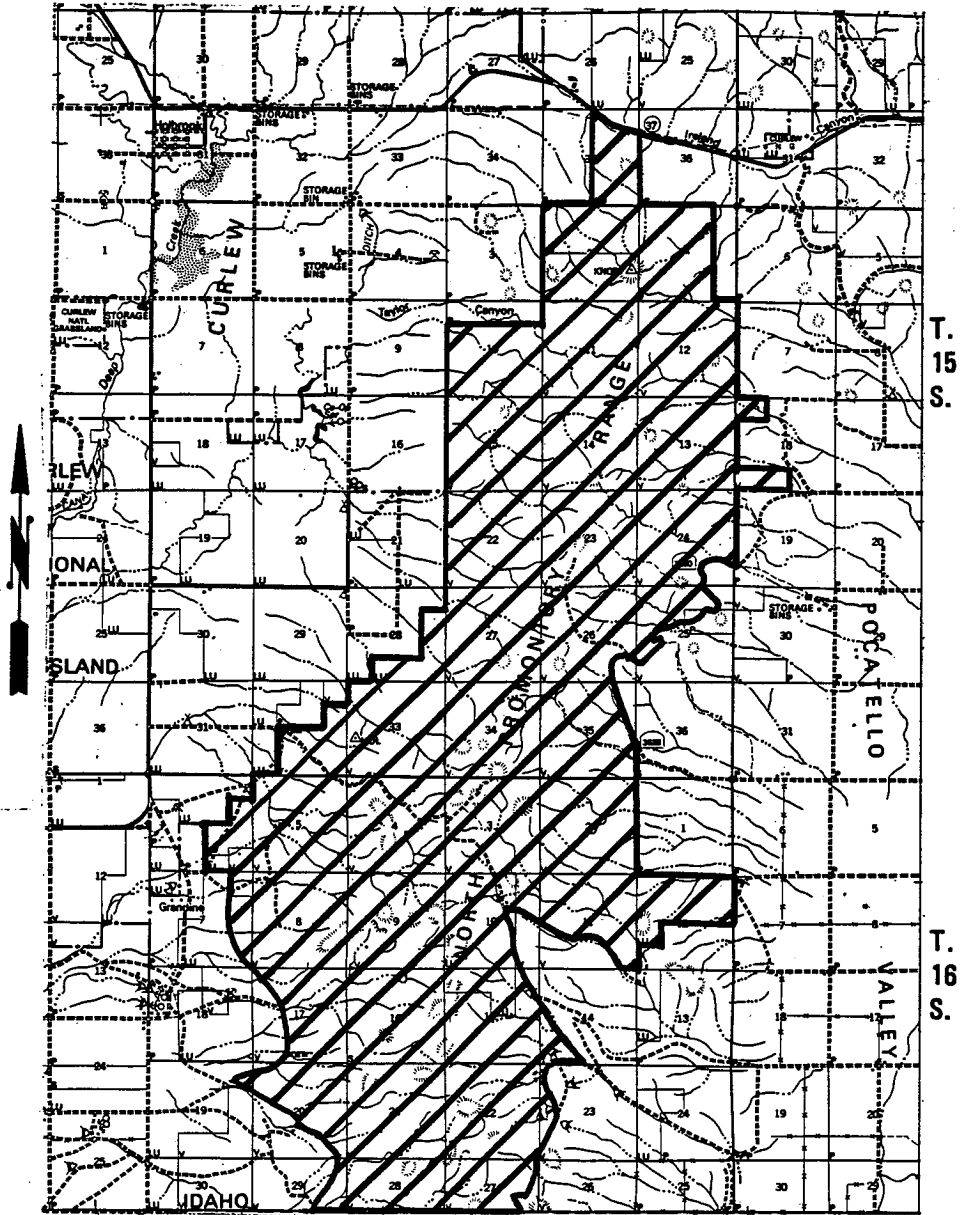


LEGEND



-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

26-1
HANZEL MOUNTAIN

R. 33 E.



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 20,615 acres of BLM land with a 640-acre state inholding. The irregular shaped unit is approximately 11 miles long and $\frac{1}{2}$ - 4 miles wide, and is located in the North Promontory Range north of the Utah state line, four miles south-east of Holbrook. The unit is located between the Curlew Valley on the west and the Pocatello Valley on the east, and is dominated by a north-south ridge with several side canyons running east and west. On the east side the unit's vegetation is dominated by big sagebrush intermixed with bluebunch wheatgrass with pockets of mountain brush and aspen in some of the drainages. The western side is dominated by Utah juniper with mountain brush in the upper draws.

NATURALNESS:

Impacts on naturalness are concentrated in the southern 2/3 of the unit. Seven roads enter the unit and either dead-end or continue as ways. Thirteen ways have been identified, all dead-ending within the unit. At least seven fence lines are also located in the southern 2/3 of the unit. Water developments include three small reservoirs and a few portable water troughs scattered on the east side of the mountain. Juniper cutting areas are located off ways near the western boundary. A 450-acre fire rehabilitation area has come back in with native species and blends well visually. Just inside the west boundary, along a dead-end road is a dump site. Abandoned dwellings from an old homestead are also located in the southern portion. Sheep camps can be found on both sides of the mountain at the end of ways and on top of ridges, however only two of these have caused any visible impact. The cumulative effect of these impacts constitutes significant impairment of natural characteristics for the southern 2/3 of the unit. Only the northern 1/3 appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

SOLITUDE:

The east side of Hanzel Mountain provides few opportunities for solitude due to low vegetative cover and rolling terrain, providing poor vegetative and topographic screening. In some steep draws with thick concentrations of juniper on the west side of the mountain opportunities for solitude can be attained.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreation opportunities include big game and upland game hunting, horseback riding, camping, hiking, and photography. The unit's irregular shape with numerous dead-end roads and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions render the recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Portions of the unit contain habitat of the peregrine falcon and bald eagle, endangered species; and the spotted bat, bobcat, Canada lynx, ferruginous hawk, pigeon hawk, sharptailed grouse, longbilled curlew and western burrowing owl on the sensitive list. Portions of the unit are also critical winter range for mule deer. The unit contains a prehistoric site of cultural value.

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PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that agreed with the proposed decision to drop the unit indicated the unit lacked naturalness, and also gave the following more specific reasons:

- Lack of significant opportunities for solitude due to sparse vegetation and rolling terrain, small size and outside farming operations.
- The unit's irregular shape with numerous dead-end roads and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions render the recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

Comments that disagreed with the proposed decision gave the following specific reasons:

- Entire unit has naturalness.
- Unit has outstanding opportunities for recreation in the form of hunting, hiking, camping, horseback riding, backpacking, and other forms of recreation.
- Lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions does not justify exclusion of the area.
- Has supplemental values for wildlife, providing habitat for two endangered and eight sensitive wildlife species including peregrine falcon, lynx, longbilled curlew, and sharptailed grouse.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Naturalness:

Even though one comment disagreed with the finding that the southern two-thirds of the unit was impaired by human activities, a field check confirmed that the many dead-end roads, ways, fence lines, a dump site, sheep camps, and abandoned buildings do constitute a significant impairment of the natural characteristics of this area. Contrary to one comment, the remaining portion of the unit still retains a natural appearance.

Solitude:

Comments that disagreed with the proposed decision gave no specific reasons why outstanding opportunities for solitude were present.

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 or recreation attractions. Exceptional natural features are those which provide exceptional scenery, diversity in 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. Even though a number of recreation activities could occur within the unit, the opportunity is less than outstanding due to the combination of less than exceptional scenery, the number of man's impacts within the unit, the confined locations where the activities occur, and man's activities seen and heard just outside the unit.

Supplemental Values:

Supplemental values within the unit does not mean the unit should become a study area unless it contains other wilderness characteristics.

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