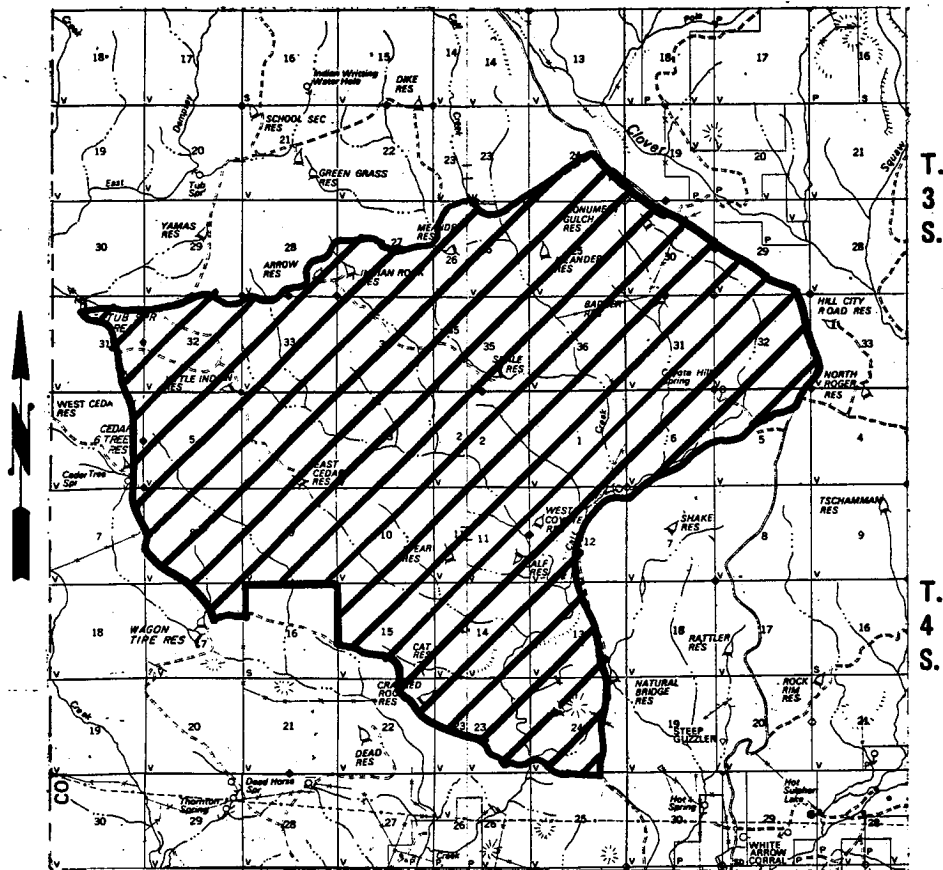




54-11
INDIAN

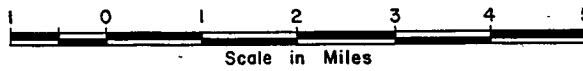
R. 12 E.

R. 13 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 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:

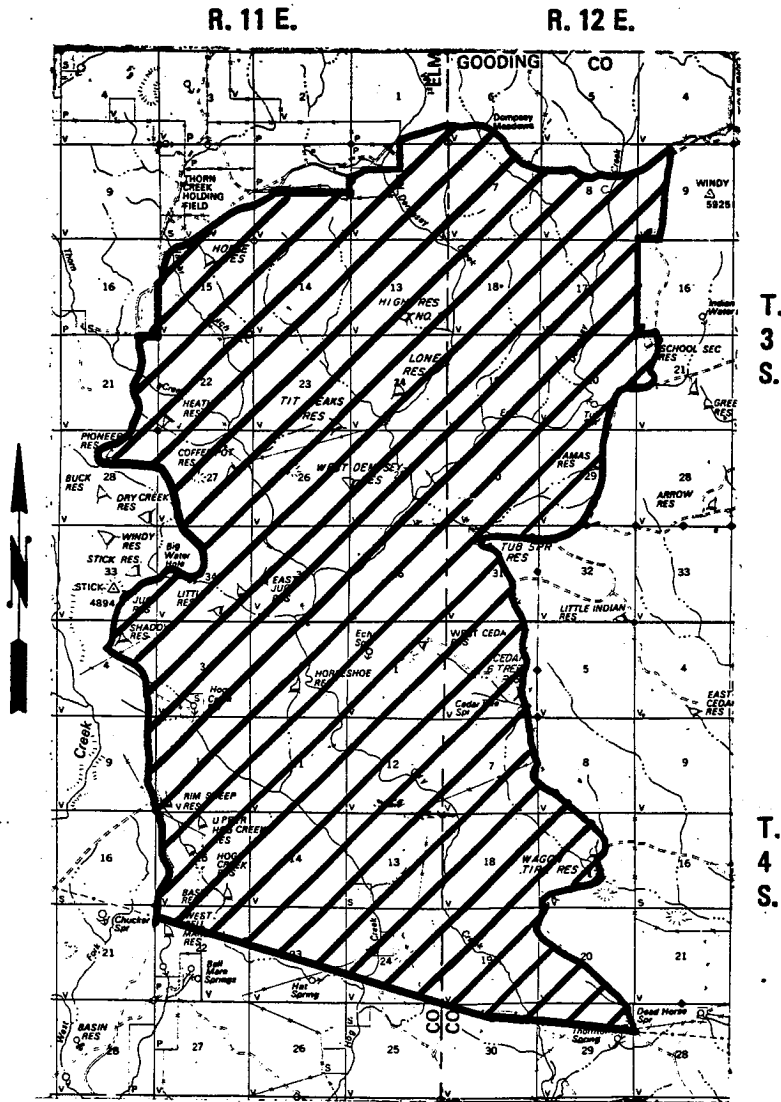
The proposed decision contained the same conclusion as public comments in reference to naturalness.

* * *



DECISION:

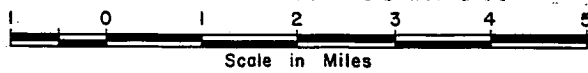
No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of naturalness, and to a lack of outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

54-12
DEMPSEY CREEK



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



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 existence 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.

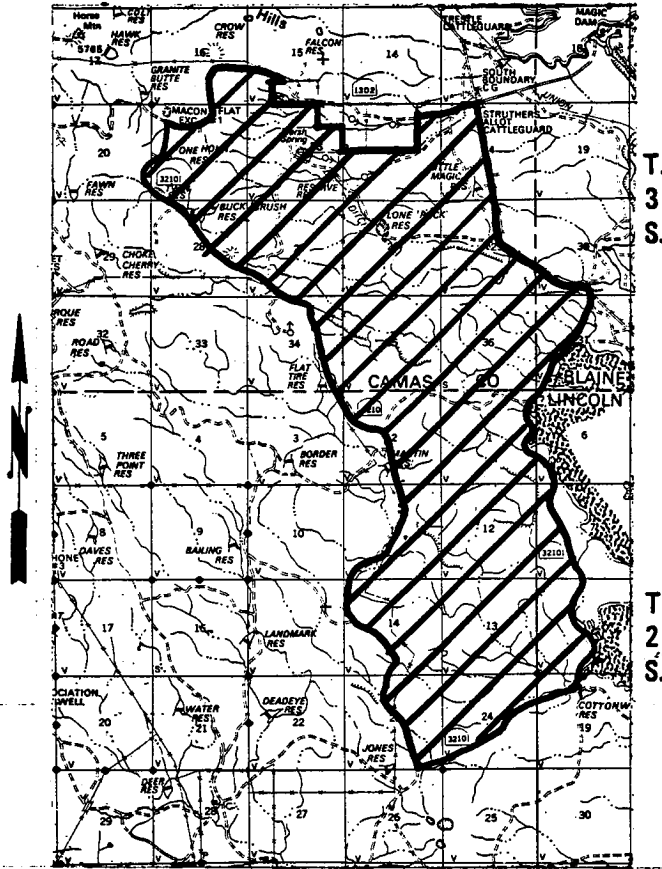
* * *

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.

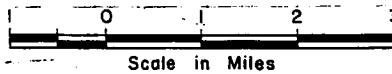
54-13
FORGOTTEN HILLS

R. 17 E.



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



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.

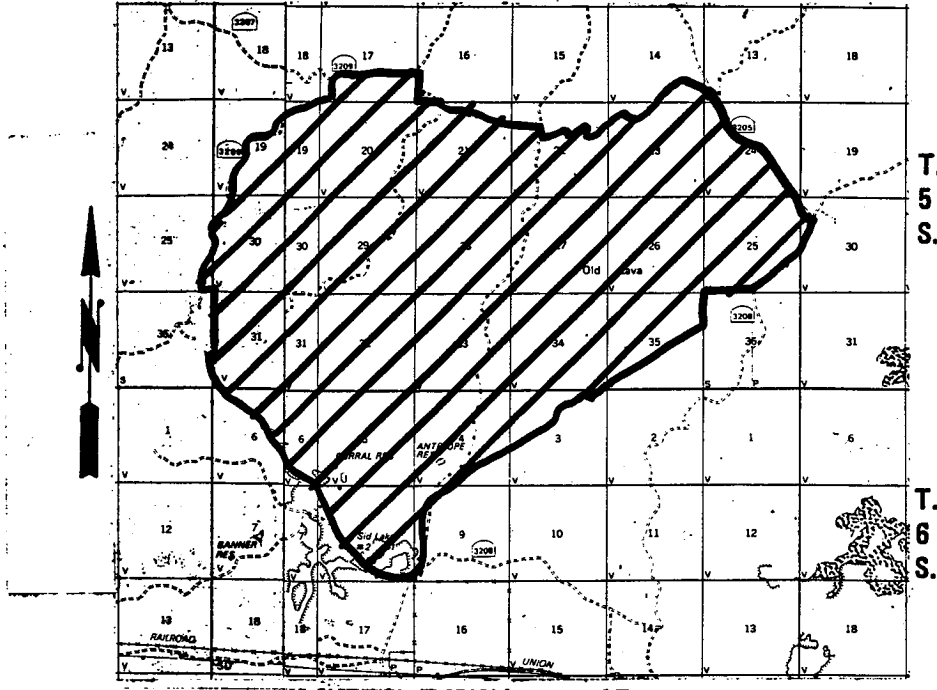
* * *

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.

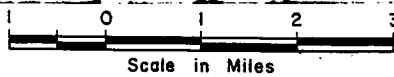
57-3
ANTELOPE

R. 21 E.



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 12,271 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.

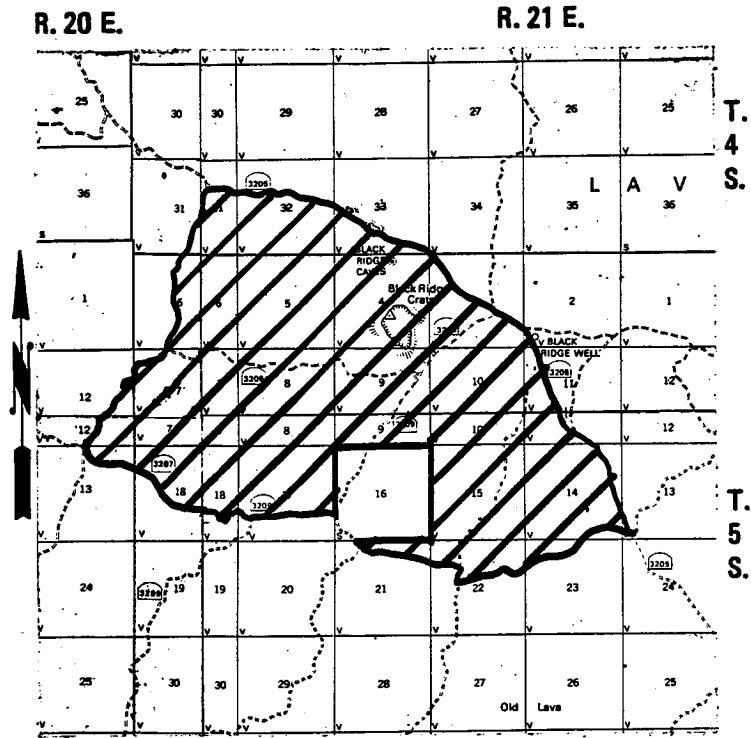
This unit has neither the size nor the exceptional or unusual natural features to provide primitive recreation opportunities which could be considered outstanding.

* * *



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

