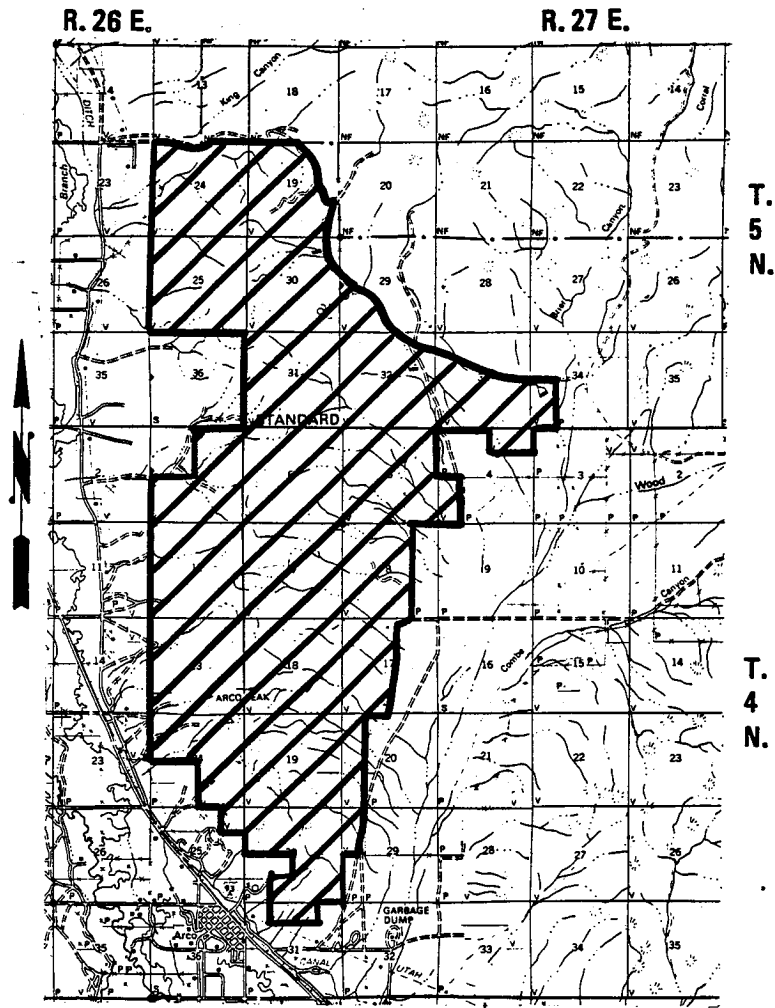


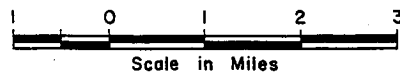
IDAHO FALLS DISTRICT
UNITS NOT IDENTIFIED AS
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

31-10
ILLINOIS



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 11,150 acres of BLM land and lies at the southeastern end of Big Lost Valley, northeast of Arco. The unit encompasses portions of the southern foothills of the Lost River Mountain Range. It forms a mountainous peninsula between the Big Lost River Valley and the small valley north of Butte City. Steep cliffs mark the western edge of the area while more gentle slopes are to the east. There are occasional springs and a few intermittent streams. Sagebrush and grasses form the dominant vegetative community, with scattered junipers on the rocky slopes.

NATURALNESS:

The southern portion of the unit is heavily impacted with a powerline, vehicle trail, a partially gravelled road, several small gravel piles, and numerous substantial vehicle ways criss-crossing the area. Numbers have been painted by Arco's high school classes on the western cliffs, some of which are in the unit and easily visible from the town below. Other major impacts throughout the unit are a bladed jeep trail, three short roads, numerous ways, and barbed wire fences. Several livestock watering troughs are located in the northeast portion of the unit. Impacts outside the unit that affect the naturalness are extremely obtrusive, particularly to the southeast. The sights and sounds of Arco intrude to a great degree and appear almost contiguous to the unit. The town's garbage dump and landfill are visible to the southeast, and seven miles of railroad track runs within one mile of the unit boundary. Twelve borrow pits, four quarries and a gravel pit are within one mile of the unit as are the town of Moore, Highway 93, and several roads. To the east, agricultural lands and structures are visible. The cumulative effects of these impacts from inside and outside the unit are extremely imposing and substantially decrease the apparent naturalness of the unit.

SOLITUDE:

Low level vegetation and open slopes dominate the unit and offer little vegetative or topographic screening. In a few scattered areas where there are stands of conifers, vegetative screening is considered good. Localized areas in the central and northern portions, which contain higher ridges, offer some additional screening, but in general topographic screening is minimal. The towns of Arco and Moore, nearby highway systems, the municipal landfill and adjacent intensively cultivated land appear to be significant outside influences. Although it may be possible to find opportunities for solitude in localized areas, the small size, irregular configuration, and minimal topographic and vegetative screening do not afford opportunities which are outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include camping, backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and spelunking. Natural features of the unit offer little challenge associated with these recreational opportunities. The unit's small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions, render the recreational opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The scenic values in portions of this unit are fairly high. Rock formations created through geologic processes of uplift and erosion provide picturesque and interesting dikes and spires of geological or educational value. Portions of the unit have been identified as critical deer winter range and a small sector at the southern tip as having Chukar partridge concentrations.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

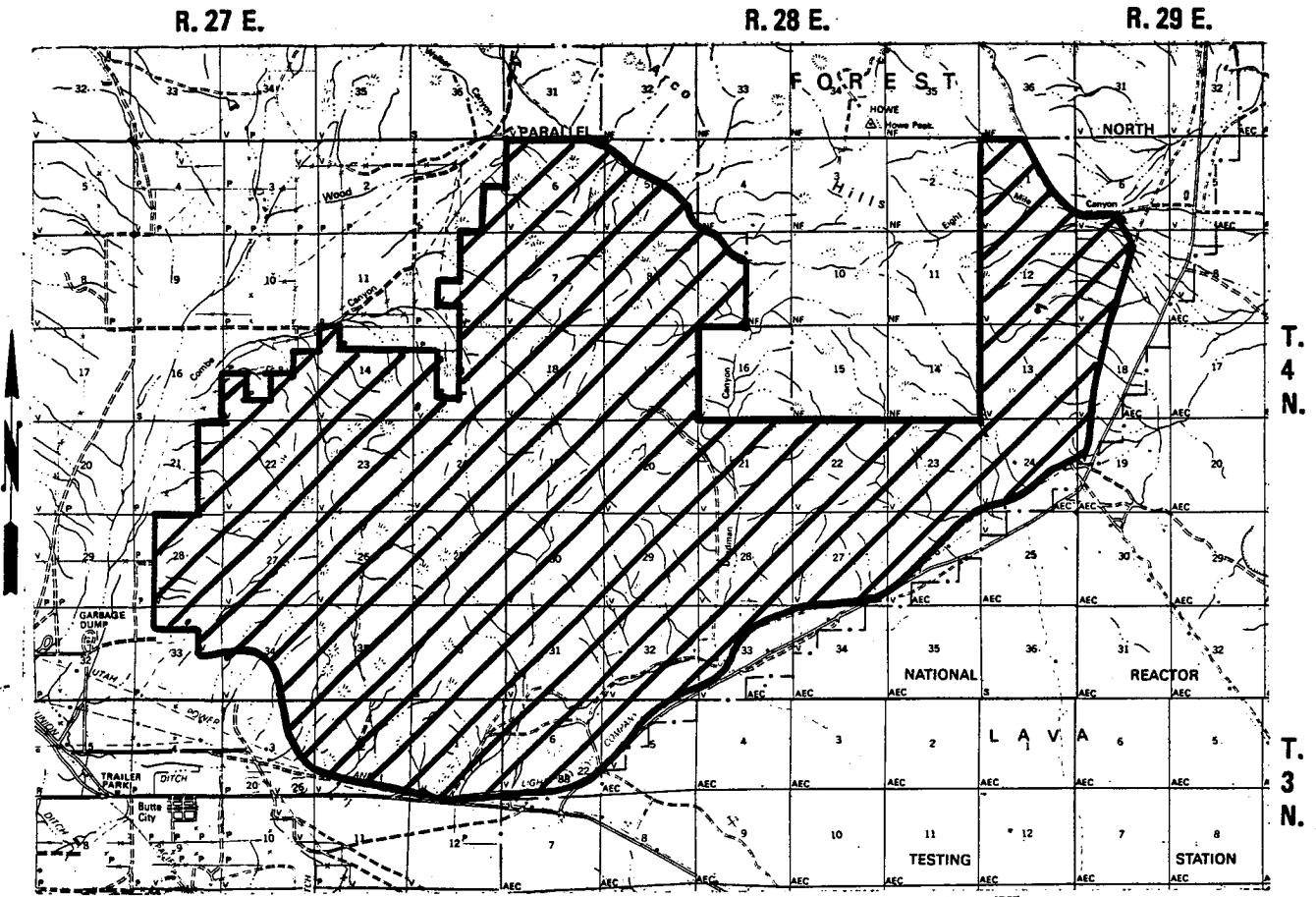
Comments agreed that the unit is not in a natural state, does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation and should not be identified as a study area.

* * *



DECISION:

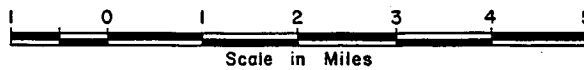
No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of naturalness, and to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

31-11
DEADMAN CANYON



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 23,000 acres of BLM land with a 640-acre State land inholding and is located between the Little Lost and Big Lost River Valleys, northeast of Butte City. The unit is part of the southeastern foothills of the Lost River Mountain Range. It rises from an altitude of 5,300 feet at the southern border to 7,914 feet at the highest point. Relatively flat land surrounds it on the east, south, and west. Sagebrush and grasses cover the majority of the area, with junipers in scattered areas and some Douglas fir at higher elevations.

NATURALNESS:

The major impacts on naturalness within the unit are the numerous substantial vehicle ways which dead-end in the unit and in some cases bisect it. They are heavily used and can be found in nearly every drainage bottom. Off-road vehicle routes are located throughout the unit. Three groups of livestock watering troughs are located in the northwest portion along with several barbed wire fences. A small corral is located up Eight Mile Canyon. Outside influences are substantial to the south of the unit. Butte City is one mile from the unit, as is a large radio tower. Two powerlines follow the southern edge of the unit. Twenty borrow pits surround the unit close to its border. U. S. Route 20-26 runs along the entire southern edge of the unit with State Route 22-33 to the east and southeast. Department of Energy facilities, though distant, are visible to the east, as is agricultural activity to the west and south. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints from casual observation. The unit does not appear to be affected primarily by natural processes.

SOLITUDE:

Desert shrubs and grasses dominate the unit and offer little vegetative screening. Screening is available in a few isolated areas where junipers and Douglas fir exist. Topographic screening is considered good in isolated areas to the north and in the central part of the unit, but in general is considered minimal for the unit as a whole.

Man caused outside influences are visible from the western, southern, and eastern slopes and affect over half of the unit and appear to be significant. Although the unit is large, the irregular configuration and minimal topographic and vegetative screening do not afford opportunities for solitude that are considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The unit lacks exceptional or outstanding natural features which attract primitive recreation activities. Therefore, opportunities for primitive recreation are considered less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The central portion of the unit has been identified as critical deer winter range. There are also geologic features of scenic value and educational importance. An archaeological site has been found near the unit, suggesting other sites within the unit's boundaries.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

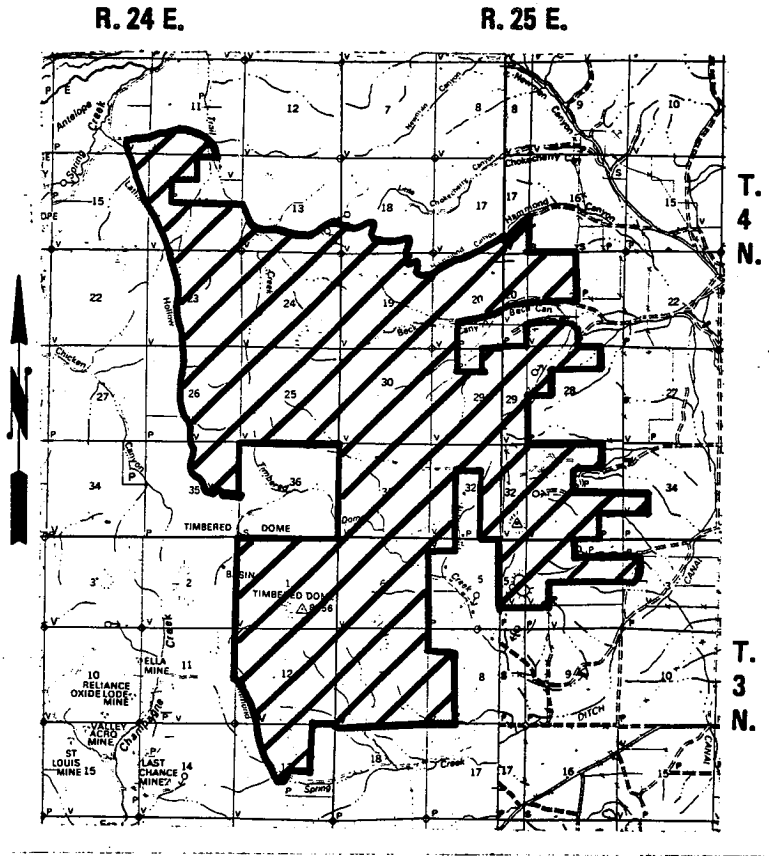
Comments agreed that the unit is not in a natural state, does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation, and should not be identified as a study area.

* * *



DECISION:

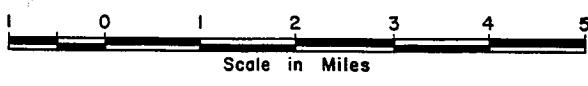
No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of naturalness, and to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

31-13
TIMBERED DOME



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 10,240 acres of BLM land and is located in the Big Lost River Valley ten miles west of Arco. One State section forms a 3½ mile border on the west and is nearly surrounded by the unit. Very irregular borders characterize the unit, with narrow fingers of BLM land extending into adjacent private land. The unit contains foothills of the Pioneer Mountains including Timbered Dome, which rises to 8,356 feet. Several springs are contained within the unit, which feed deeply cut intermittent stream drainages. Some aspen stands cluster around the springs, and Douglas fir occurs near the top of Timbered Dome. Sagebrush and grasses form the dominant plant community.

NATURALNESS:

The major impacts within the unit are the numerous vehicle ways, which bisect or almost bisect the narrow unit and constitute a substantial impact on naturalness. Spring developments occur at four locations near the unit's core. Other impacts include a small garbage dump and livestock fences. The State section contains several substantial ways. Because of its central location within the unit, these ways are very apparent and appear to be in the heart of the area. Private land also projects into the unit creating a corridor less than 1/4 mile wide in the northern end. This private land contains fences, watering devices and vegetation visibly affected by grazing. Many vehicle ways, agricultural activity and structures and roads are clearly visible, particularly to the east. Major ways and off-road vehicle routes have affected most of the unit. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints from casual observation. The unit does not appear to have been affected by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

Vegetative screening is available only within the trees atop Timbered Dome and around the springs. Opportunities for solitude do exist deep in the canyons and high in some saddles where topographic relief could screen a visitor from others. This solitude is more difficult to encounter near the boundaries and outside the unit's canyons. The ways and other impacts in and around the unit are very difficult to avoid, and decrease the feeling of being remote or removed from others and their activities. Therefore, the unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude because of its small size, irregular configuration, minimal topographic and vegetative screening and the general inability to avoid others and their activities.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include camping, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and horseback riding. These opportunities are limited to some extent by the presence of substantial vehicle ways, imposing outside influences and the unit's irregular configuration. Additionally, the unit's small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features render recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit has high scenic values due largely to the topographic relief and interesting geologic features. Evidence of prehistoric archaeological sites has been found within the unit. The unit serves as important habitat for mule deer and black bear.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that indicated the unit should be a study area offered no supporting data. Other comments agreed that the unit was not in a natural state, did not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation and should not be identified as a study area.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

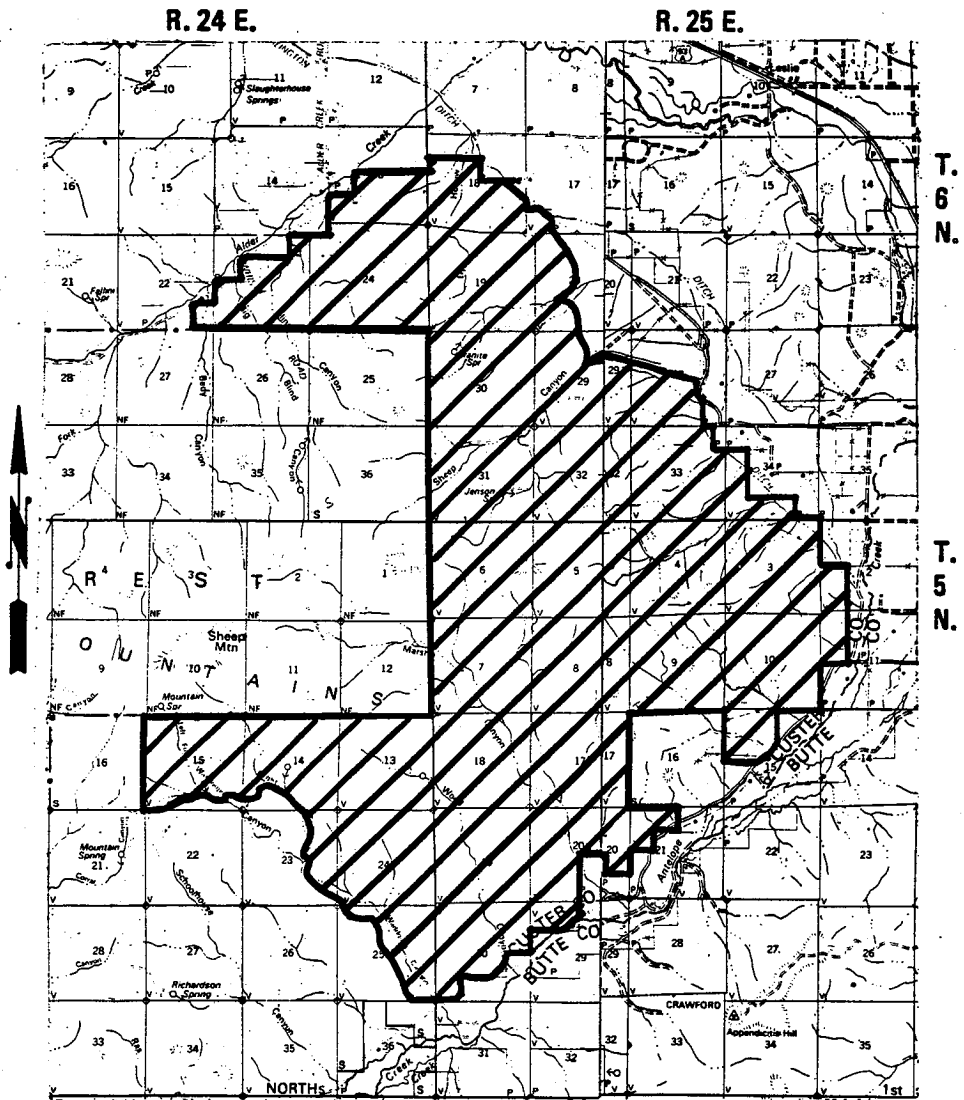
Comments either agreed with the proposed decision or did not show justification for further study.

* * *



DECISION:

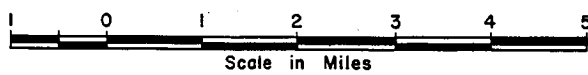
No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of naturalness, and to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

31-15
DRY HOLLOW



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 17,800 acres of BLM land and is situated east of the White Knob Mountains, three miles west of Darlington in the Big Lost River drainage. The unit is characterized by a foothill landscape with well defined drainages containing intermittent streams which contribute to Alder Creek, the Big Lost River, and Antelope Creek. The hills in the unit represent the easternmost extension of the White Knob Mountains. The higher elevations support scattered stands of Douglas fir while the remainder of the unit's vegetation is primarily sagebrush-grass. An occasional aspen-willow association can be found near active springs.

NATURALNESS:

Human imprints inside the unit consist of roads, vehicle ways, fences, two abandoned wells, a dump, watering troughs, cattle trails and a seeding. Ten miles of road penetrate the unit nearly bisecting it at five locations near the Forest Service boundary. Branching from these roads are 12 miles of ways. The way extending from the Marsh Canyon Road completely bisects the unit. Two abandoned mines occur in the unit. One is relatively small and hidden. The other is considerably more visible, including both horizontal and vertical shafts, adjacent slag mounds, and graded switchbacks leading 1/4 mile from the road. This mine and associated developments constitutes a substantial impact on naturalness. Impacts from grazing, though numerous are less obvious and often blend in with natural features. Six spring-trough developments are located within the unit. A livestock fence runs diagonally for more than a mile and forms the boundary between the unit and National Forest land. A small area of seeded grasses does not substantially affect apparent naturalness. A small revegetated borrow pit has been used as a dump. Its exposure is away from unit and contains very little trash. The overall impact of these developments appears significant. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints from casual observation. The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by natural processes.

SOLITUDE:

Desert shrubs dominate the unit and offer little vegetative screening. Some screening is available near the forest boundary where tree species are found near Jensen and Granite Springs. Topographic screening is good within the canyons, however, the major canyons contain improved and maintained roads which form the unit's irregular boundary. Outside influences, which are considered significant and are not well screened, include gravel pits, dumps, powerlines, irrigation ditches and agricultural lands. Although it may be possible to find opportunities for solitude in some small areas of the unit, the irregular configuration and minimal topographic and vegetative screening do not afford opportunities which are considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include upland and big game hunting, camping, scenic photography, hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The unit's lack of unusual or exceptional natural features and primitive recreation attractions render the recreational opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Areas within the unit have been identified as critical range for deer, and an abundance of raptors were sited during the inventory. Pictograph sites and surface lithic scatters found in the area indicate archaeological values exist.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that supported further study stated that the human imprints within the unit are minor and are not sufficient justification for dropping the unit. They pointed out that sagebrush-grasslands, riparian shrubs and aspen stands provide critical deer range and opportunities for a variety of primitive recreation activities and solitude. Comments also stated that if solitude or primitive recreation exist anywhere in the unit, the unit should be studied and that important archaeological sites were overlooked.

Other comments stated that the unit was not in a natural state, does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation and should not be identified as a study area.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

The unit does not meet the naturalness or solitude-recreation criteria. Human imprints are great enough, both individually and cumulatively, to significantly detract from the unit's apparent naturalness. Solitude is possible in small areas, but the unit's irregular configuration and minimal screening do not offer opportunities that are outstanding. Primitive recreation opportunities are less than outstanding due to the lack of exceptional recreation attractions. The unit's poor configuration and topography tend to confine recreation use to drainages where boundary roads are present.

* * *

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.