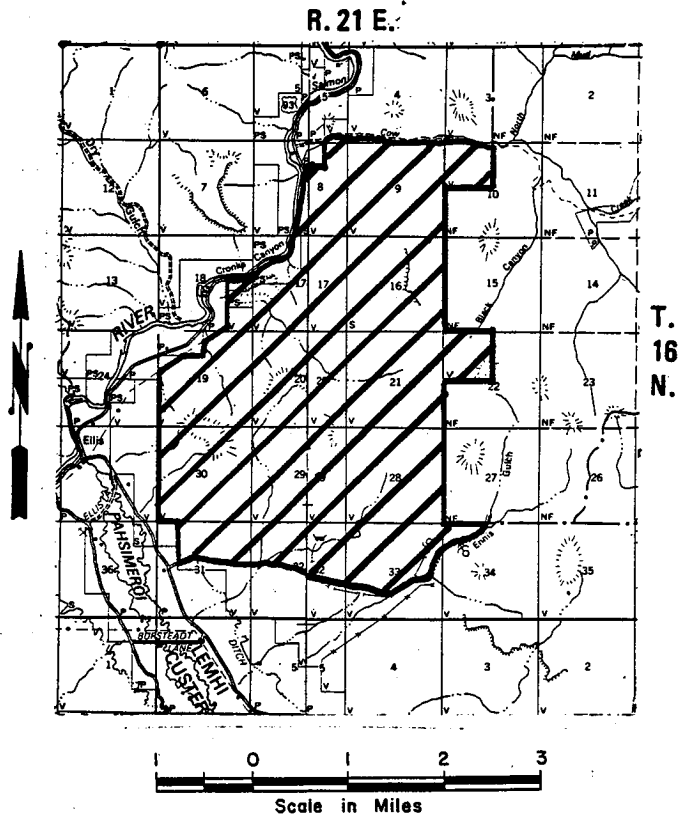




44-9
CRONKS CANYON



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 a total of 7,470 acres which includes 640 acres of State lands involved in the Donkey Hills land exchange. The August 1979 report did not indicate that the State acreage was included in the total. The unit is located east of Ellis. Topography is composed of steep slopes rising from 5,600 feet at the Salmon River to the Forest Service border 8,200 feet. Vegetation is sparse sagebrush-grass.

NATURALNESS:

The unit has retained its natural appearance due to the small amount of developments and steep slopes.

SOLITUDE:

While solitude is possible, the proximity of Highway 93 and the Pahsimeroi Road combined with the small size of the unit render the opportunities less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Opportunities are limited due to steep terrain and small unit size. The recreation opportunities are considered less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Cronks Canyon offers supplemental values in the form of geologic and scenic views.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments favoring study area status considered this unit as part of a cluster of four areas adjacent to the Salmon River. It was stated that the area met the naturalness criteria, and provided outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. Lack of vegetative screening and visibility of roads and ranches outside the unit should not be valid criteria for dropping the unit.

Comments opposing study area status agreed that the unit lacked outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, and stated a lack of naturalness.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

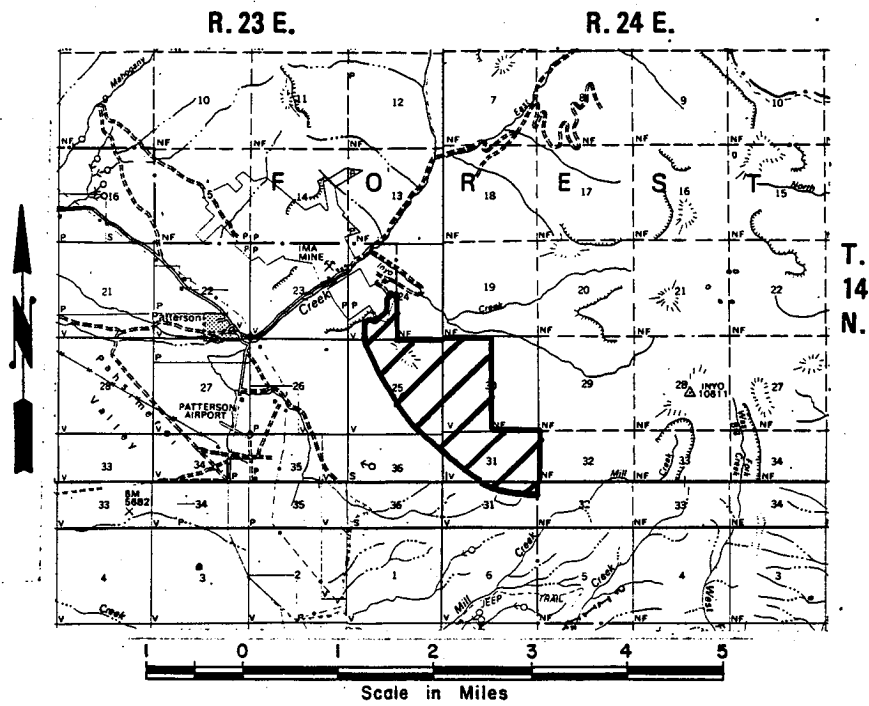
Although the determination of outstanding opportunities is certainly a subjective judgment, supplemental field checks confirmed that due to the size, shape, lack of screening, and difficulty in avoiding the imprints of man, the unit does not contain outstanding opportunities.

* * *



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 outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

45-5
MILL 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 1,330 acres of BLM lands and borders U. S. Forest Service lands on the east. The unit is located north of Goldberg. The contiguous border with RARE II Area 4-503 has been reduced by about half due to the President's RARE II recommendations. This has left the unit sticking out like a thumb from non-wilderness lands.

NATURALNESS:

There are no impacts on naturalness within the unit. Exterior impacts--roads, mining prospects, etc.--border the unit.

SOLITUDE:

Outstanding opportunities for solitude would be possible if the unit were joined with the RARE II area in a good configuration, however, the size, shape, and configuration of the unit where it joins with the RARE II area, render the opportunities less than outstanding on the BLM parcel.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Opportunities are severely restricted by the confining boundaries and size of the BLM parcel, so as to render the opportunities less than outstanding.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments favoring study area status stated that the unit should be allocated to wilderness along with the adjacent RARE II area.

Comments opposed to study area status felt the unit was not natural and lacked outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

New data related to wilderness characteristics was not provided through the public comments.

* * *

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 outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.