

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 8,010 acres of BLM land in a long, narrow configuration, and is located ten miles northwest of Howe. This unit encompasses a narrow portion of foothills of the Little Lost Mountains. Beginning at 5,600 ft. on the eastern border the hills rise to the west to 7,400 feet. This steeply rolling topography is cut by several scenic canyons, most notably the North Fork of Cedarville Canyon, Buck Canyon and Sands Canyon. The vegetation is comprised predominantly of sagebrush/bunchgrass. Mountain mahogany, Douglas fir and juniper occur in higher elevations and moist draws or aspects. Some aspen is also found in the larger canyon bottoms.

NATURALNESS:

Approximately eight miles of vehicle ways form the major impact on this unit. Four ways bisect the narrow area, the longest travels 1½ miles up the North Fork of Cedarville Canyon between the southern and western borders. Another way bisects the unit from east to west through Sands Canyon. Other ways are located in Buck and Bird Canyons. All the remaining ways enter the unit for short distances and dead-end. The cumulative impact of these eroded and substantial ways significantly detracts from the unit's naturalness. Three fence lines also enter the unit for short distances. External influences are not considered significant. Major ways and off-road vehicle routes have affected all of the unit's canyons and drainages. Topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to hide these imprints from casual observation inside this small and narrow unit. The unit does not appear to have been affected primarily by natural processes.

SOLITUDE:

Vegetative screening is moderately good in the western portion of the unit due to scattered clumps of trees. It is fair in the rest of the unit where tree cover is sparse. Topographic screening is moderate to good where dominate ridges are broken by a number of small draws and spur ridges. The unit's terrain and vegetation are sufficient to provide a moderately good opportunity for solitude. However, in considering the small size and poor configuration, the unit does not provide an opportunity for solitude that is considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreational opportunities include rock climbing, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The unit's small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions render the primitive recreation opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The eastern portion of the unit is crucial for antelope as a fawning ground and winter range. This same area is also winter range for sage grouse and mule deer. A threatened plant, the Idaho Bladderpod is found in the unit. The unit is also of important archaeological value; rock shelters with pictographs, hunting blinds and surface lithic scatters occur in this area.

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PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that supported further wilderness study, stated that the vehicle ways and fence lines are not valid criteria for dropping the unit. They felt that outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation exist within the unit, and that the human imprints cannot be judged serious in comparison to the enjoyment of the unit for its scenic and recreational values. Others said cross-country skiing in the area is an unforgettable experience, or pointed out important wildlife and archaeological values.

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:

The unit does not meet the naturalness criteria. Human imprints, particularly the vehicle ways, are quite substantial and noticeable in every canyon and access point in the unit. Solitude is possible in some areas but the unit's small size and poor configuration do not offer outstanding opportunities. Primitive recreation is also present but cannot be considered outstanding. Physical features which attract primitive recreation use are not exceptional. The small size, poor configuration and topography would also be confining to users.

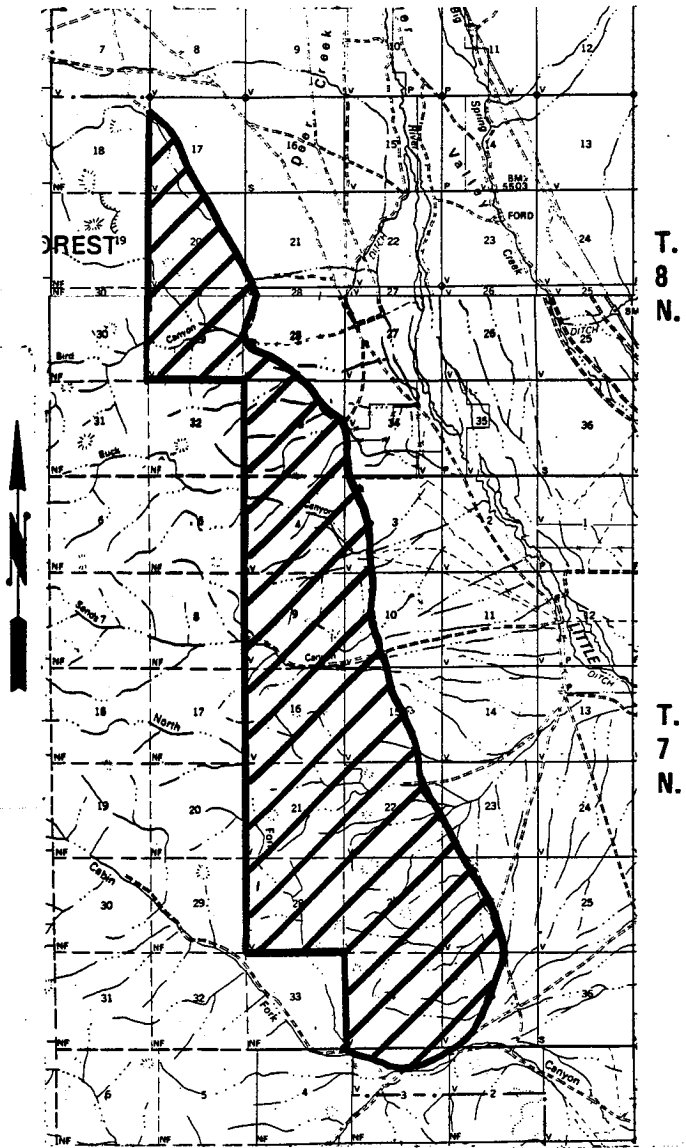
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DECISION:



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, and to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

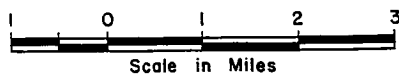
32-2
SANDS CANYON

R. 27 E.

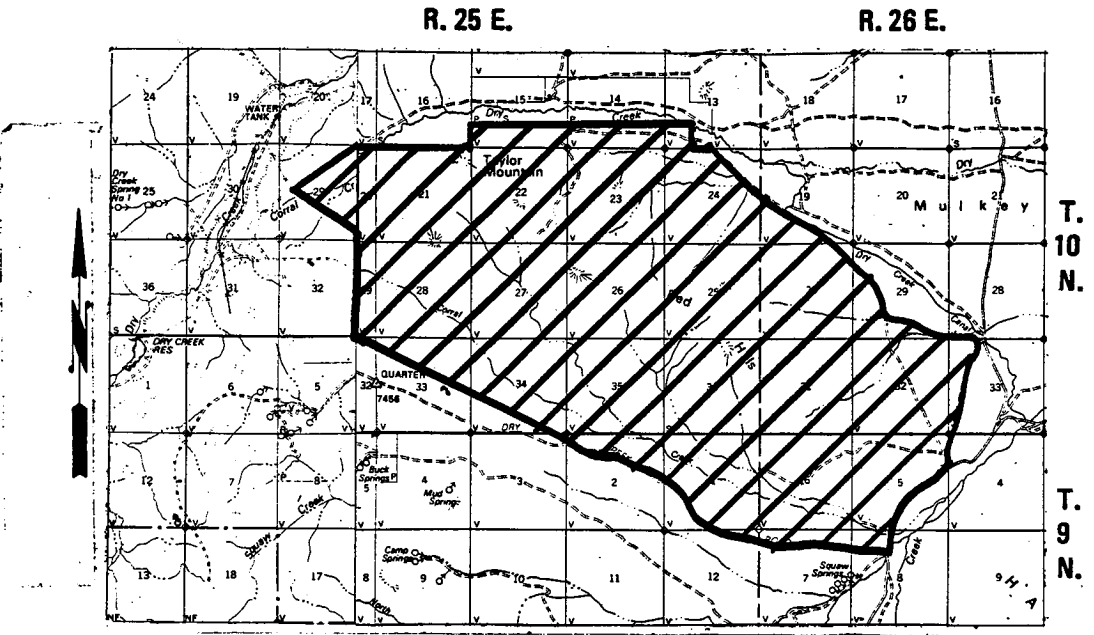


LEGEND



-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

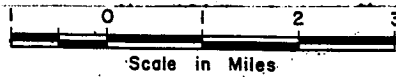


**32-4
TAYLOR MOUNTAIN**



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 11,134 acres of BLM land, with a 640-acre inholding of State land. This acreage figure differs from the 11,160 acres shown in the August 1979 report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. It is located six miles west of Clyde in the Little Lost River Valley. The unit is hilly and characterized by well defined drainages. Taylor Mountain is the main focal point in the unit, rising to nearly 8,700 feet. The Red Hills, southeast of Taylor Mountain, occupy 2/3 of the unit. Most of the land surface is covered with sagebrush and grasses. The higher elevations, and particularly the north side of Taylor Mountain, support Douglas fir and junipers. Isolated pockets of mountain mahogany are present in some drainages and on higher slopes.

NATURALNESS:

The major impacts on naturalness include livestock fences, watering developments and ways. Approximately ten miles of ways skirt or bisect the unit. One encircles the base of Taylor Mountain, others follow fence lines within the unit or provide short cuts on eastern boundary roads. Livestock developments include watering troughs along the north boundary and a three-mile fence near the south boundary. Most of these impacts are widely scattered and not substantially noticeable. The unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

Desert shrubs and grasses dominate the unit and offer little vegetative screening. An exception is the north facing slope of Taylor Mountain where tree species occur. Topographic screening is moderate to poor except on the north side of Taylor Mountain. The Dry Creek Flume and traffic along the major roads to the north and east appear to be significant external influences. Although it may be possible to find opportunities for solitude in some small areas within the unit, the small size and minimal topographic and vegetative screening do not afford opportunities that are outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities include camping, hiking, horseback riding, and photography. The unit's small size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions render the recreation opportunities less than outstanding. There is little significant physical and mental challenge associated with the recreation opportunities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit is important as habitat for wildlife with most of the unit identified as antelope fawning grounds, and a small portion of the southeast corner antelope winter range. Two threatened plants grow inside the unit; Idaho Bladderpod and Invested Cryptantha. Numerous archaeological sites exist in the unit, including rock shelters, hunting blinds and surface lithic scatters.

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PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that disagreed that the unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation stated that the small size, minimal topographic and vegetative screening, and external influences should not be considered as factors which render these opportunities less than outstanding. The unit's wildlife habitat and archaeological sites were pointed out as important supplemental values.

Other comments said the unit does not appear natural, lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, and should not be a study area.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Reevaluation shows that the unit does not meet the solitude-recreation criteria. Opportunities for solitude are limited, due to the unit's small size and minimal topographic and vegetative screening. Primitive recreation opportunities are limited due to the lack of exceptional recreation attractions. The most prominent natural feature is Taylor Mountain which is mostly contained within an adjacent State section. This State land was not evaluated with the rest of the unit.

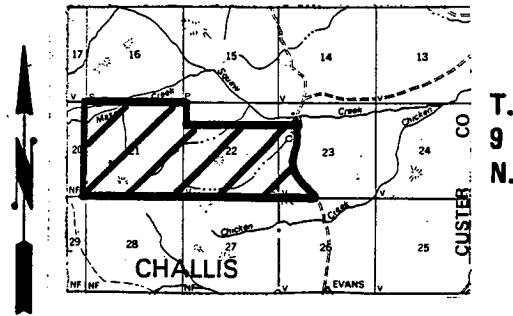
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DECISION:



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 outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

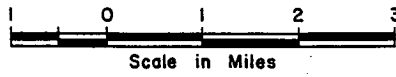
**32-16
PASS CREEK**

R. 25 E.



LEGEND

-  **WILDERNESS STUDY AREA**
-  **AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS**



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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Unit 32-16 was identified in the August 1979 report as containing 11,330 acres, in two parcels. The larger, northernmost parcel is now being evaluated as part of Unit 45-12 with the Salmon District narrative, due to a reevaluation of a previously identified road separating Units 32-16 and 45-12. The southernmost parcel contains 1,220 acres and is covered below as Unit 32-16.

The unit contains 1,220 acres of BLM land and lies 12 miles west of Clyde in the northwest portion of the Little Lost Valley. It is 3/4 - 1 mile wide and 2 1/4 miles long and is adjacent to the Forest Service Borah Peak wilderness proposal on its one mile western boundary. The parcel creates a narrow peninsula which extends from the Borah Peak area and is not considered of sufficient size to be managed in an unimpaired condition.

NATURALNESS:

Man-made imprints within the unit are not substantial. The area appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

Topographic and vegetative screening in the unit are considered minimal and render opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive recreation opportunities within the unit include hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, camping and backpacking. However, these opportunities are considered less than outstanding due to the narrow configuration. Additionally, this unit lacks exceptional or unusual natural features and recreational attractions.

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PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comment received on this unit agreed with the proposed decision to drop it from further wilderness consideration, stating a lack of naturalness.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

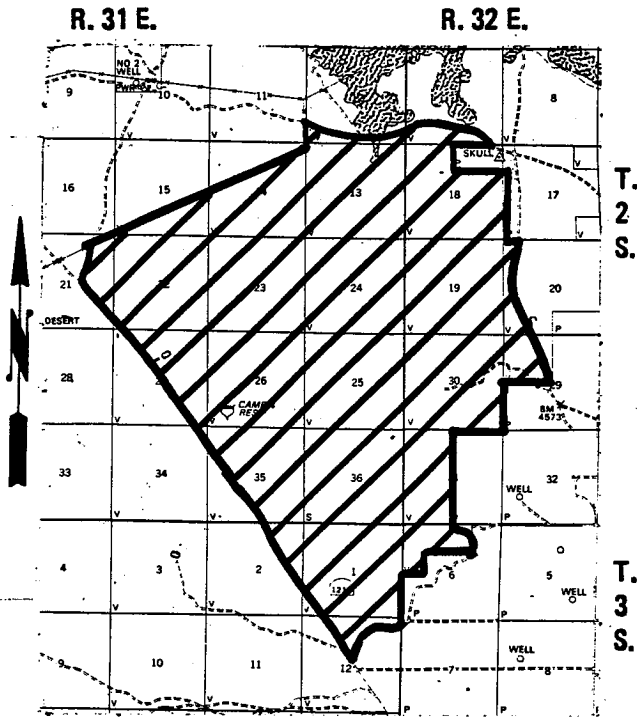
Contrary to public comment, the unit does retain a natural appearance, but is lacking in other required criteria.

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DECISION:

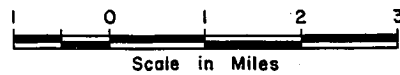
No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

33-5
SKULL



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 8,650 acres of BLM land with a 640-acre State inholding, and is located 13 miles south of Atomic City and 12 miles southeast of Big Southern Butte. The unit lacks significant topographic relief, varying a maximum of 200 feet. Vegetation is largely sagebrush with grass species dominating in those areas that have been subjected to brush control.

NATURALNESS:

The most significant impacts within the unit are vehicle trails. Over 11 miles of ways occur in the unit, with two of them bisecting the area from east to west. These ways vary, with some approaching the definition of a road while others are faint and appear to receive infrequent use. Camp Reservoir, on the western border, is a small development with minimal impact. A 640-acre brush control project has some effect on the naturalness of this area. Agricultural use around Moreland is visible from the unit, but the view is not imposing.

SOLITUDE:

Opportunities for experiencing solitude in this unit are limited by the lack of vegetative or topographic screening. Vehicles traveling the border roads can be seen or heard from nearly every point. There is only a limited opportunity to avoid the activities of others within the unit. The small size and lack of vegetative and topographic screening do not afford opportunities that are outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and upland game bird hunting. 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:

The western border of this unit is of historical and anthropological value. Before the pioneers moved west, this route was an Indian trail. Archaeologists believe there are several significant sites along it. During pioneer times this road was known as Goodale's Cutoff, an alternate northern route for the Oregon Trail between Fort Hall and Boise.

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PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that agreed that the unit should not receive further study stated that naturalness is lacking and solitude-recreation is marginal.

Other comments supported further study, disagreeing that the unit lacks naturalness and does not offer opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Some felt that the unit's small size, minimal topographic and vegetative screening, and lack of natural features do not limit solitude-recreation opportunities and therefore, are not justifiable reasons for dropping the unit. Other comments said that the unit should be evaluated together with two adjacent units.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

The unit cannot be evaluated as one with two adjacent units since they are separated by roads which meet the BLM's road definition. Reevaluation showed that the unit does not meet the naturalness or solitude-recreation criteria. Human imprints are great enough, both individually and cumulatively to detract from the unit's apparent naturalness.

Opportunities for solitude are limited, due to the unit's small size and minimal topographic and vegetative screening. The lack of screening increases the probability of encountering others within the unit and decreases the opportunity to avoid visual and audible contact with activities outside the unit. This unit is small and lacks the physical characteristics that provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are dependent on the area's size and/or natural features that attract primitive use. The unit lacks physical features which attract primitive recreation.

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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, and a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.