

26-3 SOUTH SAMARIA

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 6,615 acres of BLM land in an irregular configuration approximately two by four miles and is located five miles south of Samaria. Lying on the east side of the Samaria Mountains, the unit is dominated by the Brush Creek Canyon drainage. This drainage contains very rough and steep topography covered with sagebrush, juniper and mountain mahogany on the south facing slopes; Douglas fir and aspen on the north facing slopes; and chokecherry and maple in the drainage bottoms. Two fairly broad ridges are within the unit, one runs north-south on the western boundary, and the other runs east-west south of Brush Creek Canyon.

NATURALNESS:

Three dead-end roads, two ways and two foot trails are within the unit. Maple Hollow Road extends from the northern boundary to within 1/4 mile of the southern boundary. The other roads are short access routes from Maple Hollow Road to water development sites. In the eastern portion of the unit are several drift and boundary fences. Woodcutting is evident along the Gardner Canyon Road on the north of the unit and in Brush Creek. Three primitive campsites can be found along Gardner Canyon Road. The majority of these impacts are minor and are scattered throughout the unit, leaving the unit, as a whole, in a natural condition. The above mentioned roads are not within the unit, but form a portion of the boundary.

SOLITUDE:

The western portion of the unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude due to narrow configuration, caused by the Maple Hollow Road cutting off this portion from the main section. Good vegetative screening can be found in small aspen-fir pockets in the drainages west of the road. In the eastern portion of the unit, opportunities for solitude are lacking on the eastern and southern facing slopes due to sparse-low vegetation. Farm machinery can be seen and heard as well as the cultivated fields viewed from almost every ridge and slope above Brush Creek Canyon. The only area with opportunities for solitude is the Brush Creek Canyon and portions of its forks where there is thick vegetation in the drainage bottoms, and these opportunities are not considered outstanding due to the small area involved.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreation opportunities include big game and upland bird hunting, camping, hiking, photography and berry picking. The unit's relatively 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 peregrine falcon and bald eagle, endangered species; and the spotted bat, bobcat, Canada lynx and pigeon hawk on the sensitive list. Brush Creek Canyon is critical winter range for mule deer. Portions of the unit contain prehistoric sites of cultural value.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that agreed with the proposed decision to drop the unit gave the following specific reasons:

- Lack of significant opportunities for solitude due to sparse vegetation and rolling terrain, outside farming operations, and small size.
- Lack of naturalness, due to man's imprints.
- Lack of outstanding opportunities for recreation due to small unit size and lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions.

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

- Unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude due to rugged, steep, varied topography.
- Unit has outstanding opportunities for recreation due to steep topography, dense vegetation along drainages, and north facing slopes.
- Unit has outstanding opportunities for recreation in the form of hunting, hiking, camping, photography, and other forms of recreation.
- Small size and the lack of exceptional or unusual features do not justify dropping the unit, nor are these qualities easy to define.
- Unit has supplemental values for wildlife, providing habitat for six sensitive or endangered species, and has critical mule deer winter range and archaeological sites.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Naturalness:

Contrary to public comment, most of the unit does retain a natural appearance.

Solitude:

Rugged and varied topography does not necessarily mean the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. The unit's size, vegetative screening, sights and sounds of adjacent land activities, and the narrow configuration of the western portion of the unit caused by a dead-end road cutting off this portion from the main section all contribute to the decision that the unit does not have 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 the visitor and would result in a strong recreation attraction to an area for one or more types of activities.

The unit does provide different forms of recreation, but because of the unit's small size, less than exceptional scenery, the confined locations for these recreation activities, plus man's presence just outside the unit that can be seen and heard, the recreation opportunities are less than outstanding.

Supplemental Values:

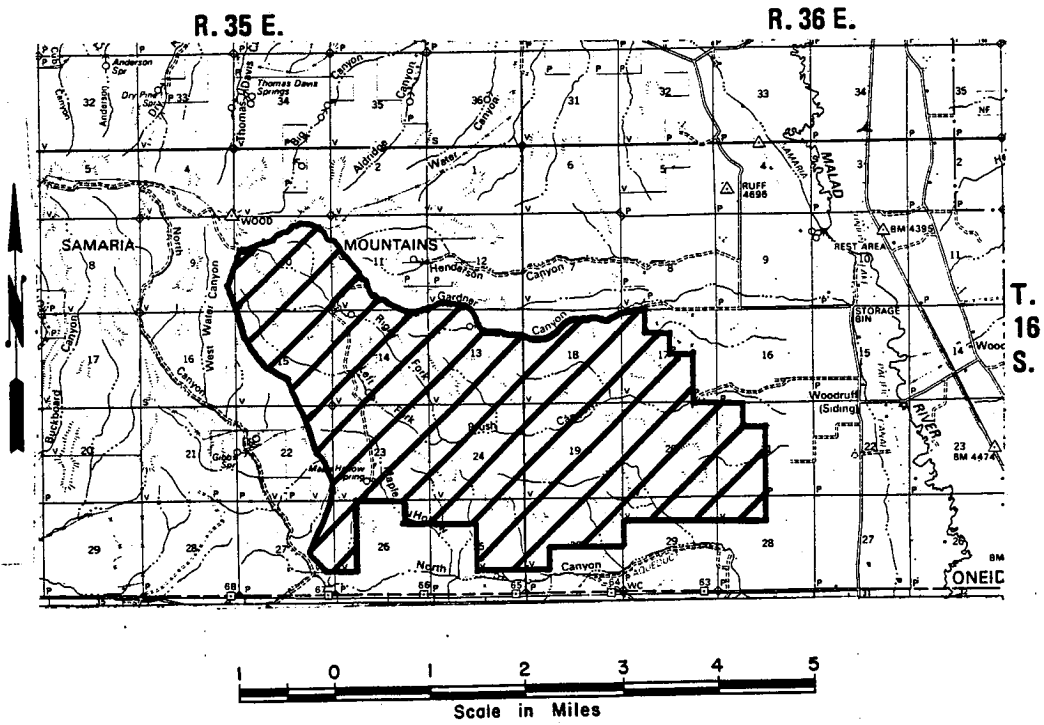
Supplemental values within the unit do not qualify the unit as a study area unless other wilderness characteristics are present.

* * *



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 outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

26-3
SOUTH SAMARIA

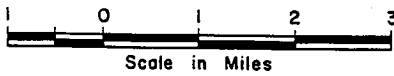
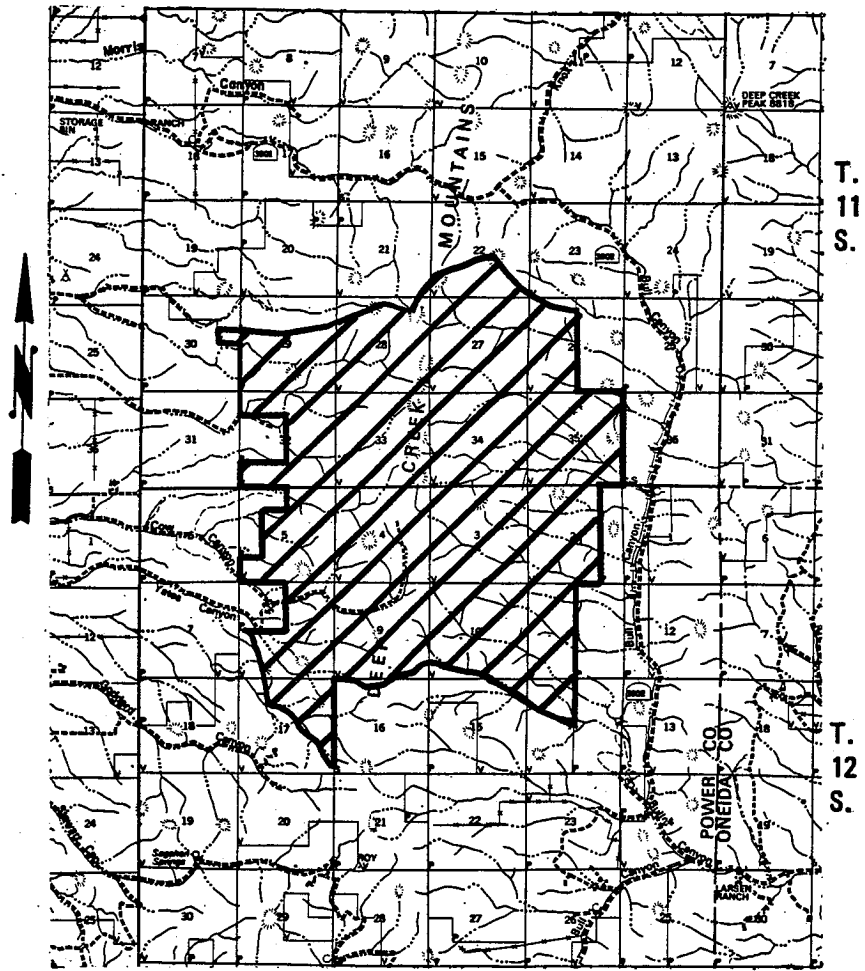


LEGEND



-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

27-1
SOUTH DEEP CREEK

R. 32 E.



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

27-1 SOUTH DEEP CREEK

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 9,609 acres of BLM land, in an area approximately three by four miles and is located seven miles southwest of Arbon. Lying in the southern portion of the Deep Creek Range, which runs north and south between Rockland Valley and Arbon Valley, the unit consists of a main north-south ridge with several side east-west canyons. The canyons on the west side of the range are much more rugged and steeper than on the east.

NATURALNESS:

Imprints of man within the unit consist of two dead-end roads, five ways, and several water developments in the southeast portion near the boundary. Woodcutting has occurred in relatively small areas off the Cow Canyon Road. Four undeveloped recreation sites, used as hunter or sheep camps are just off the roads and ways within the unit. Most of these imprints are minor and located on the periphery of the unit. As a whole, the unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

SOLITUDE:

The unit's low vegetative cover consisting of sagebrush, juniper and mountain shrubs provides very poor screening. Opportunities for solitude especially on the west side of the unit are lacking due to the outside influences of farm machinery and cultivated fields which can be seen from most of the ridges. Some canyons on the east side, with fir and aspen on north facing slopes, do provide opportunities for solitude. However, these opportunities are not considered outstanding due to the small area involved.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreation opportunities include big game hunting, camping, and berry picking. The numerous cow trails provide opportunities for hiking and photography. The unit's lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions renders 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 and pigeon hawk on the sensitive list. The unit contains a prehistoric site of cultural value.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that agreed with the proposed decision to drop the unit gave the following specific reasons:

- Lack of naturalness, imprints of man.
- Lack of significant opportunities for solitude due to the sparse vegetation, rolling terrain, small size, and outside farming operations.
- The unit offers limited recreation attractions.

Comments that disagreed with the proposed decision stated the following:

- Area contains an outstanding mountain peak 4-5 miles from existing back roads, many secluded and timbered valleys.
- The unit is topographically varied and includes the highest peak in Deep Creek Mountains. The topographic and vegetative screening (aspen/fir groves) provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.
- Outside sights and sounds are minimal compared to the enjoyment of values within the unit.
- Small size and visibility of farm machinery and fields from ridgetops should not cause this area to be excluded.

- Area is large enough for outstanding opportunities for recreation if combined with the other Deep Creek Unit.
- Opportunities exist for hiking, ski touring, photography, and hunting; good opportunities on high ridges.
- Lack of exceptional or unusual natural features or recreation opportunities is not valid criteria for excluding.
- Area is unspectacular, but truly wild and replete with the growth and animals we need to preserve.
- Area provides habitat for numerous endangered or sensitive wildlife species and archaeological values.
- Closure of the jeep road from Bull Canyon to Knox Canyon, plus some connecting logging roads, would allow area to return to wilderness quality condition.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Naturalness:

The proposed decision indicated that some imprints of man do exist, but as a whole the unit is natural in character. The jeep road from Bull Canyon to Left Fork of Knox Canyon Road is definitely a road that has been improved and maintained periodically for continuous use. The comment on connecting logging roads in the area was not specific in giving the locations of these roads. There are no logging roads within the unit.

Solitude:

The unit is located in the Deep Creek Range and has mountain peaks over 7,000 feet in elevation. Much of the unit is above the timber line and affords very little vegetative screening. A few of the lower elevation canyons, where Douglas and sub-alpine fir can be found, provide opportunities for solitude. However, these opportunities are not considered outstanding due to the small area involved. The size, natural screening, and ability of the user to find a secluded spot are valid elements to be used to determine whether the unit offers outstanding opportunities. The low vegetative cover in the majority of the unit, combined with the outside influences of farm machinery and cultivated fields adjacent to the boundary, affects 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 result in a strong recreation attraction to an area for one or more types of activities.

Although there are a number of recreation activities that could occur within the unit, the opportunity is less than outstanding due to the unit's size, less than exceptional scenery, the confined locations for recreation activities, and man's presence just outside the unit that can be seen and heard.

Supplemental Values:

Supplemental values within the unit does not mean that the unit should become a study area unless other wilderness characteristics 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 outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 6,646 acres of BLM land, in an irregular shaped area approximately 1/2-3 by five miles. This unit is located in the Deep Creek Range, five miles west of Arbon. Lying in the middle portion of the Deep Creek Range which runs north and south between Rockland Valley and Arbon Valley, the unit consists of a main north-south ridge with several side canyons running east-west.

NATURALNESS:

Imprints of man are generally found just inside the unit boundaries. Three roads dead-end within the unit. Seven ways, primarily off the western boundary roads either dead-end at wood cutting areas or connect back to roads. Selective woodcutting has occurred just off the Left Fork Knox Canyon Road and Bull Canyon Road. Several corral fences, a small stock pond and five undeveloped recreation sites constitute other impacts on naturalness. Most of the imprints of man are minor and near the unit boundaries, with the unit as a whole appearing to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

Much of the unit is above the timber line and is covered by sagebrush, mountain brush and native grasses. Only in the lower elevation canyons where Douglas fir and sub-alpine fir are found is there sufficient vegetation and topography to provide opportunities for solitude. The unit's small size, narrow configuration and poor vegetative screening do not afford opportunities that are considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Recreation opportunities include big game and upland game hunting, camping, hiking, photography and berry picking. 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 peregrine falcon and bald eagle, endangered species; and the spotted bat, bobcat, Canada lynx, and pigeon hawk on the sensitive list. The unit contains a prehistoric site of cultural value.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that agreed with the proposed decision to drop the unit gave the following specific reasons:

- Lack of naturalness, imprints of man.
- Lack of significant opportunities for solitude due to the sparse vegetation, rolling terrain, small size, and outside farming operations.
- The unit offers limited recreation attractions.

Comments that disagreed with the proposed decision stated the following:

- Area contains an outstanding mountain peak 4-5 miles from existing back roads, many secluded and timbered valleys.
- The unit is topographically varied and includes the highest peak in Deep Creek Mountains. The topographic and vegetative screening (aspen/fir groves) provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.
- Outside sights and sounds are minimal compared to the enjoyment of values within the unit.
- Small size and visibility of farm machinery and fields from ridgetops should not cause this area to be excluded.

- Area is large enough for outstanding opportunities for recreation if combined with the other Deep Creek Unit.
- Opportunities exist for hiking, ski touring, photography, and hunting; good opportunities on high ridges.
- Lack of exceptional or unusual natural features or recreation opportunities is not valid criteria for excluding.
- Area is unspectacular, but truly wild and replete with the growth and animals we need to preserve.
- Area provides habitat for numerous endangered or sensitive wildlife species and archaeological values.
- Closure of the jeep road from Bull Canyon to Knox Canyon, plus some connecting logging roads, would allow area to return to wilderness quality condition.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Naturalness:

The proposed decision indicated that some imprints of man do exist, but as a whole the unit is natural in character. The jeep road from Bull Canyon to Left Fork of Knox Canyon Road is definitely a road that has been improved and maintained periodically for continuous use. The comment on connecting logging roads in the area was not specific in giving the locations of these roads. There are no logging roads within the unit.

Solitude:

The unit is located in the Deep Creek Range and has mountain peaks over 7,000 feet in elevation. Much of the unit is above the timber line and affords very little vegetative screening. A few of the lower elevation canyons, where Douglas and sub-alpine fir can be found, provide opportunities for solitude. However, these opportunities are not considered outstanding due to the small area involved. The size, natural screening, and ability of the user to find a secluded spot are valid elements to be used to determine whether the unit offers outstanding opportunities. The low vegetative cover in the majority of the unit, combined with the outside influences of farm machinery and cultivated fields adjacent to the boundary, affects 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 result in a strong recreation attraction to an area for one or more types of activities.

Although there are a number of recreation activities that could occur within the unit, the opportunity is less than outstanding due to the unit's size, less than exceptional scenery, the confined locations for recreation activities, and man's presence just outside the unit that can be seen and heard.

Supplemental Values:

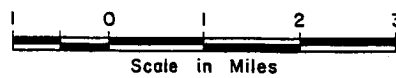
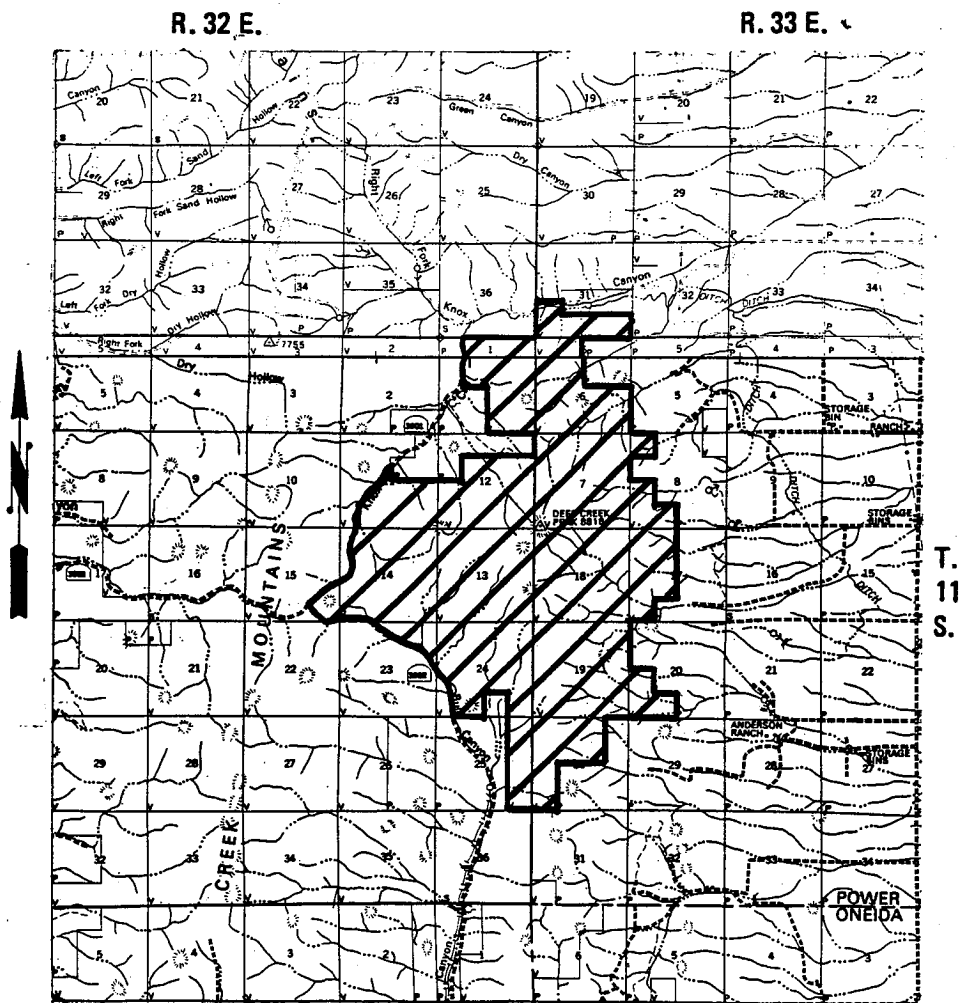
Supplemental values within the unit does not mean that the unit should become a study area unless other wilderness characteristics are present.

* * *



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 outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

**27-2
DEEP CREEK PEAK**



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS