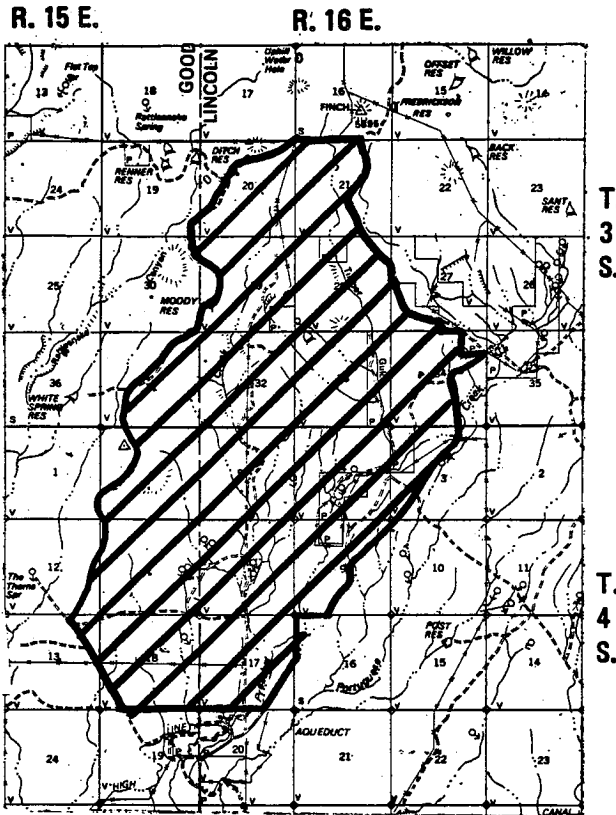




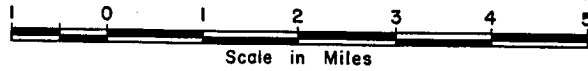
SHOSHONE DISTRICT  
UNITS NOT IDENTIFIED AS  
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

54-3  
PREACHER 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 8,827 acres of BLM land, with 480 acres of private land inholdings. This figure differs from the 7,641 acres shown in the August 1979 report. A calculating error adds 239 acres of land, due to more accurate calculation methods. A 947 acre parcel has been added because it has been determined that a road used as part of the boundary does not exist. The unit lies on the south facing side of the Mount Bennett Hills, fifteen miles northeast of Gooding. The southern portion is a flat prairie dissected by Preacher Creek and several small intermittent drainages. The northern portion rises 900 feet higher in elevation and has a more broken topography composed of hills, rhyolite rock outcrops, and several small canyons. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. Cottonwoods and willows grow along the more shaded canyon bottoms.

**NATURALNESS:**

Several access routes have caused the deletion of a large parcel from the eastern side of the unit. These access routes and other developments present noticeable imprints on naturalness. Two additional routes, extend into that portion of the unit which still meets naturalness criteria. Several fences are within the unit. Four reservoirs, noticeable imprints on the naturalness of the unit, have been deleted. Excluding all major imprints of man, approximately 5,747 acres remain which contain some minor imprints on naturalness.

**SOLITUDE:**

Although it may be possible to find opportunities for solitude due to local topographic screening within portions of the unit, the small size, narrow configuration, and poor vegetative screening do not afford opportunities that are considered outstanding.

**PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:**

The unit's small size, lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions, and lack of significant physical challenge associated with primitive recreation render the recreational opportunities less than outstanding.

**SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:**

The unit contains golden eagle nesting sites, archeological sites, and an important deer wintering area.

\* \* \*

**PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:**

Comments that opposed study area identification stated a lack of naturalness due to imprints of man.

Specific reasons for requesting study area identification for the unit were as follows:

- Naturalness criteria has been met.
- The unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude because of canyons and riparian vegetation.
- Various supplemental values are present in the unit.

**COMMENT EVALUATION:**

**Naturalness:**

Contrary to some public comment the unit does meet the naturalness criteria.

**Solitude and Primitive Recreation:**

The proposed decision stated that the unit lacked outstanding opportunities for solitude due to sparse vegetative screening, narrow configuration, and small size. Primitive recreation opportunities are considered less than outstanding because the unit lacks exceptional or unusual natural features and it lacks significant physical challenge.

**Supplemental Values:**

The supplemental values mentioned were already noted in the proposed decision. These values cannot 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 in a portion of the unit, and 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 11,355 acres of BLM land with a 640 acre state land inholding. This figure differs from the 11,085 acres shown in the August 1979 report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. The unit is located 10 miles north of Gooding on the south facing slope of the Mount Bennett Hills. Highway 46 lies just west of the unit. The southern portion is a gently sloping plain with several small intermittent drainages. The northern end rises in elevation and is cut by several canyons, the largest of which is Rattlesnake Canyon. These canyons are composed of the weathered rhyolite rock which is found throughout the north end of the unit. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. Along the more shaded portions of the canyon bottoms there are willows and cottonwoods.

**NATURALNESS:**

An access route, which extends northwest from Thorn Springs, is the northern boundary of a parcel which should be deleted from the unit because it contains a concentration of imprints on naturalness. Another access route, which meets the road definition, extends into that portion of the unit which meets the naturalness criteria. Since this route is a road, the unit boundary should be altered to exclude the road and state land which the road intersects.

Numerous seedings, two spring developments, a small reservoir, and a small materials site are noticeable imprints on the apparent naturalness of the unit. After deletions are made to eliminate major imprints of man, 5,169 acres remain.

**SOLITUDE:**

Although it may be possible to find opportunities for solitude in some areas of the unit due to local topographic screening within Rattlesnake Canyon, the small size, narrow configuration, and poor vegetative screening do not afford opportunities that are considered outstanding.

**PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:**

The unit's small size, lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions, and lack of significant physical challenge associated with primitive recreation render the recreational opportunities less than outstanding.

**SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:**

The unit contains several archaeological sites and prairie falcon nesting sites.

\* \* \*

**PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:**

Comments that opposed study area identification stated a lack of naturalness, due to imprints of man.

Specific reasons for requesting study area identification for the unit were as follows:

- The unit meets the naturalness criteria.
- The unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.
- Various supplemental values are present.

**COMMENT EVALUATION:**

**Naturalness:**

The proposed decision deleted 6,186 acres from the unit because of noticeable imprints of man in several parcels. None of the comments that addressed naturalness offered new information which would indicate that any of the deleted parcels meet the naturalness criteria. The remaining 5,169 acres do meet the naturalness criteria.

**Solitude:**

The proposed decision determined that opportunities for solitude were considered less than outstanding because the unit has sparse vegetative screening, is small, and has a narrow configuration. Several comments indicated that the unit met the solitude criteria. Some comments stated that narrow canyons and riparian vegetation provide outstanding opportunities.

Only a small portion of the unit actually provides screening. The topography of the unit is such that most visitor use would concentrate in these limited areas and make visual contact with others likely. This situation provides significantly less than an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

**Primitive Recreation;**

Primitive recreation opportunities are considered less than outstanding because the unit lacks exceptional or unusual natural features, and lacks significant physical challenge. Although several comments indicated that the unit met the primitive recreation criteria, none specified what elements of outstanding primitive recreation were present in the unit.

**Supplemental Values:**

Goats, as mentioned in public comments, are not known to be present in the unit. Most other supplemental values were noted in the proposed decision. The presence of supplemental values when essential wilderness characteristics are lacking does not qualify the unit as a study area.

\* \* \*

**DECISION:**

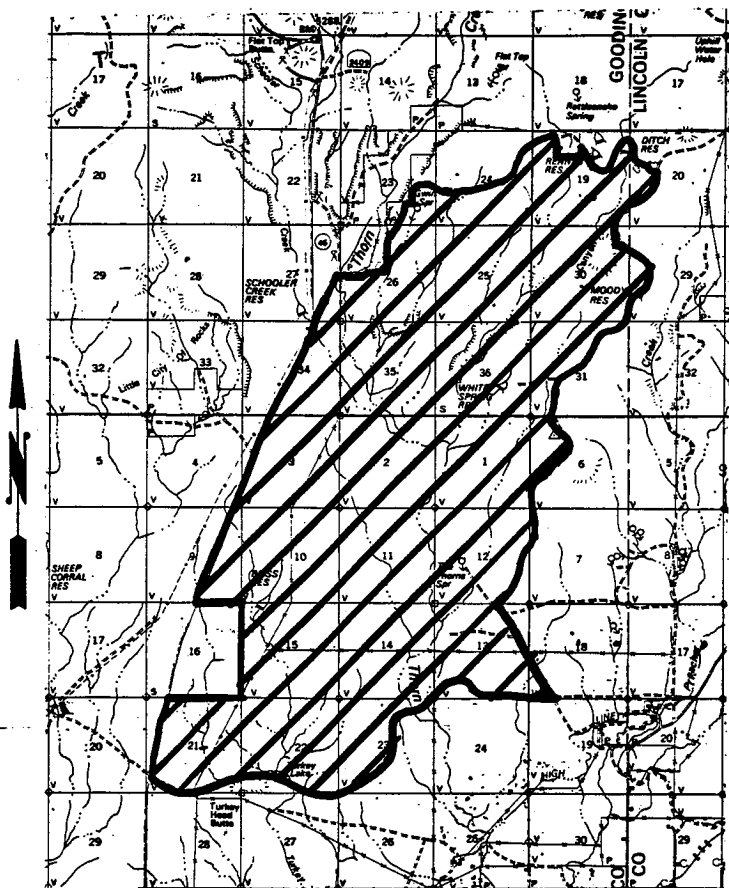
No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of naturalness in a portion of the unit, and to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

54-4

# RATTLESNAKE CANYON

R. 15 E.

R. 16 E.



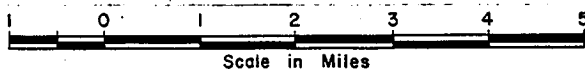
## LEGEND



WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

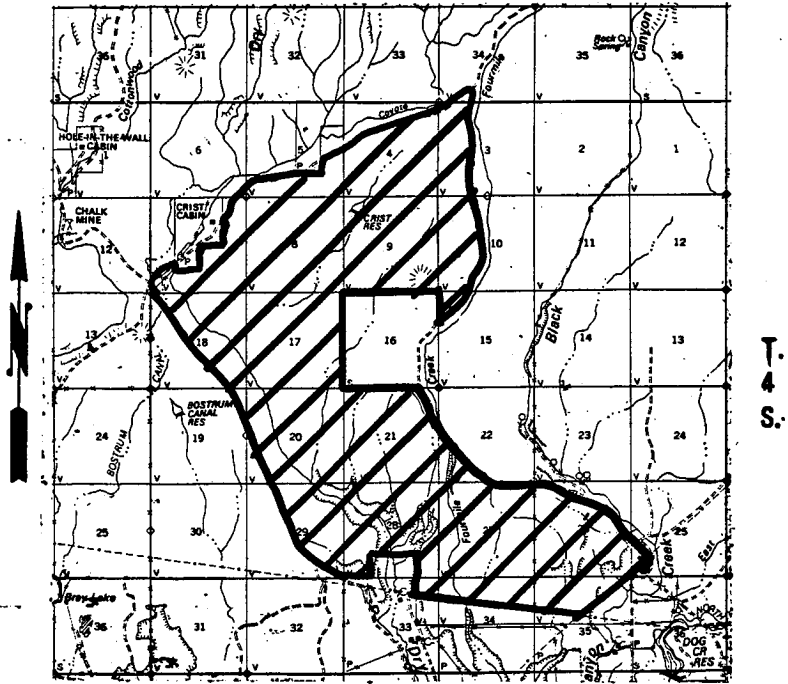


AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



54-7  
FOUR MILE BENCH

R. 14 E.



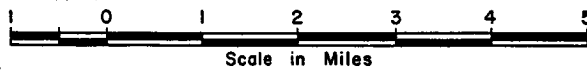
LEGEND



WILDERNESS STUDY AREA



AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



Scale in Miles

54-7 FOUR MILE BENCH

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 7,542 acres of BLM land. The unit lies on the southernmost terrace of the Mount Bennett Hills, nine miles northwest of Gooding. Most of the unit is composed of a flat prairie bench, rising gently to the north. Dry Creek, a perennial stream, runs near the western edge of the unit and cuts a deep basalt canyon as it flows south. The main vegetation in the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses, with some pockets of willows and other shrubs along Dry Creek.

NATURALNESS:

Three access routes which meet road definition, are located in the southern portion of the unit. Two other routes used for access to reservoirs are located in the northern portion. Those routes and reservoirs are major imprints of man; the reservoirs have been mechanically constructed. A mechanically constructed canal bed crosses the western tip of the unit. The southeast tip of the unit has been plowed and seeded. The large number of major imprints on naturalness provides a noticeable imprint of man's work.

SOLITUDE:

The major portion of the unit is a gently sloping prairie with little topographic relief. The only major topographic variation is Dry Creek Canyon. This deep canyon provides excellent topographic screening and the willows along the creek form pockets of vegetative screening. This combination allows visitors an outstanding opportunity to enjoy solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

There are a wide variety of recreational opportunities within the unit, including hiking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, photography, and nature study. Although many types of recreation are possible no particular activity nor group of activities are considered outstanding.

\* \* \*

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Public comments indicated that the unit lacked naturalness, due to imprints of man.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

The proposed decision contained the same conclusion as the public comments.

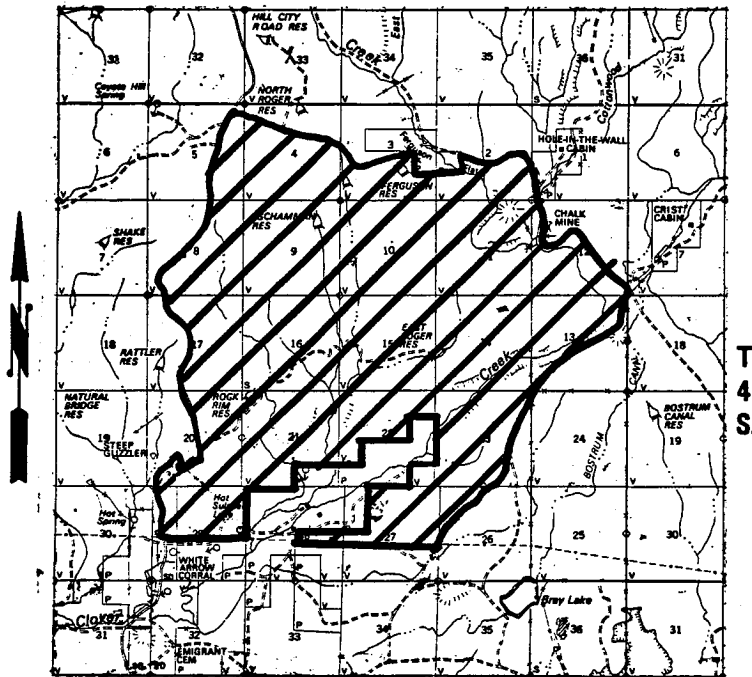
\* \* \*

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

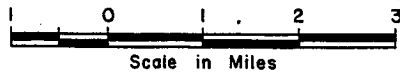
54-9  
CLOVER CREEK

R. 13 E.



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS



54-9 CLOVER CREEK

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 8,455 acres of BLM land, with a 640 acre State land inholding. The unit lies on the south facing side of the Mount Bennett Hills, ten miles north of Bliss. The major portion of the unit is a gradually sloping plain of basalt. Clover Creek runs just inside the east boundary and has eroded a deep canyon through the cap layer of basalt. The major vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. Clover Creek Canyon has riparian vegetation characterized by willow, chokecherry, and serviceberry.

NATURALNESS:

Five access routes, which meet the road definition, have been identified in this small, flat unit. The two longest roads are used to service reservoir developments. Two short access routes, associated with the roads, have also been identified, but are not substantial imprints on naturalness. There are five mechanically constructed reservoirs, two small chalk mines and several fences within the unit. Because there are several minor and major imprints on naturalness throughout the unit, this concentration makes the unit fail to meet the naturalness criteria.

SOLITUDE:

Although it may be possible to find opportunities for solitude in some areas of the unit due to local topographic screening within Clover Creek, the small size, poor configuration, and poor vegetative screening do not offer opportunities that are considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit's small size, lack of exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions, and lack of significant physical challenge associated with primitive recreation render the opportunities less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains several archaeological sites, golden eagle and prairie falcon nesting sites, and sage grouse strutting grounds.

\* \* \*

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Public comments opposed the proposed decision not to identify the unit as a study area with no supporting rationale 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 solitude and for primitive recreation.