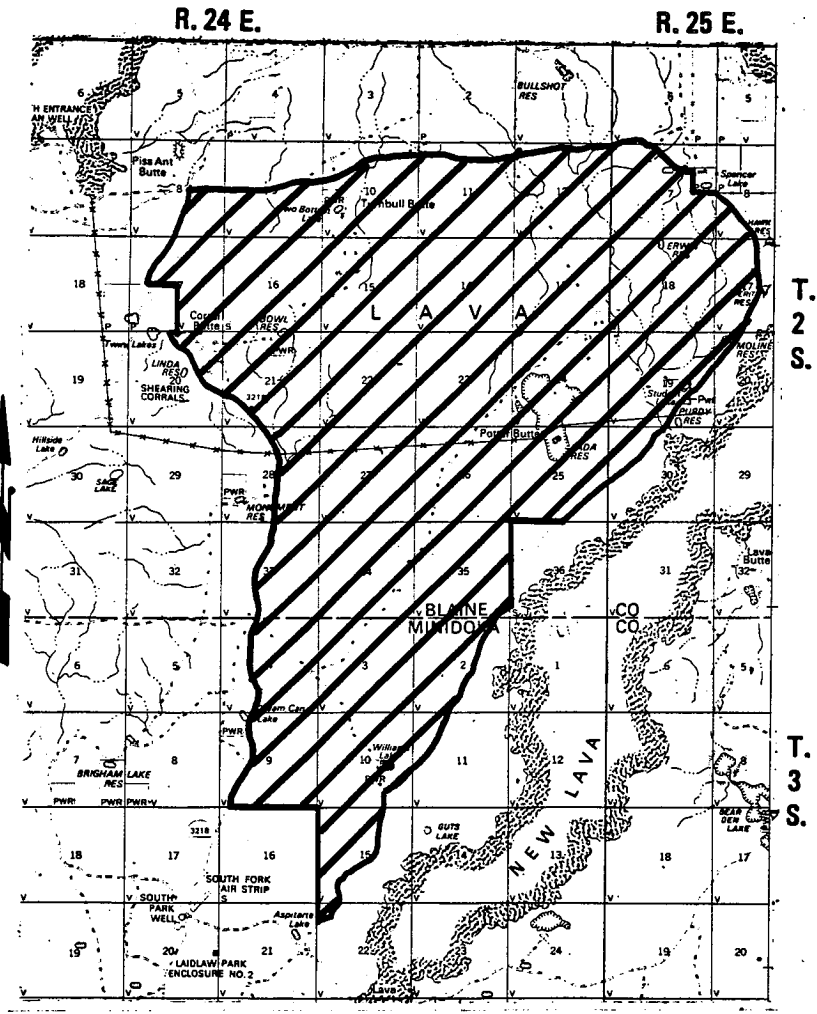


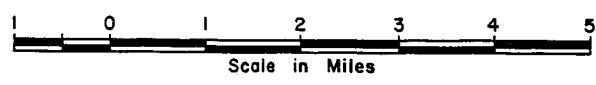


57-13
POTTER BUTTE



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 16,180 acres of BLM land, with 640 acres of State land inholdings. This acreage differs from the 13,432 acres shown in the August, 1979, report due solely to a more accurate calculation of acreage. The unit is characterized by rolling desert terrain. Sagebrush is the dominant vegetation in the northern portion of the unit, with increasing amounts of rabbitbrush and annual and perennial grasses in southern portions. Turnbull Butte (5,262 feet), Corral Butte (5,052 feet), and Potter Butte (5,032 feet) are prominent features.

NATURALNESS:

Three access routes which have been constructed and/or are maintained to insure relatively regular and continuous use, divide the unit into five parcels, none of which are over 5,000 acres in size. Therefore the parcels fail to meet the size criteria.

SOLITUDE:

Opportunities for solitude in the unit are not considered outstanding. Minimal vegetative and topographic screening and numerous impacts of man make it difficult to escape the sights and sounds of others.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

None of the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are judged to be outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Pronghorn antelope, deer, and other species of wildlife are found within the unit. Cairns within the unit could possibly have archaeological value.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that opposed the proposed decision not to identify the unit as a study area are summarized as follows:

- The unit offers natural areas with solitude, wildlife, and recreation values.
- The unit has been used regularly for recreation, primarily the observation of wildlife in early spring.

Comments that agreed with dropping the unit noted a lack of naturalness, due to imprints of man.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Roadless/Naturalness:

The unit is broken into several small parcels by access routes which meet the road criteria. None of the parcels has 5,000 acres which meet the naturalness criteria.

Solitude:

It is generally recognized that the lack of topography and tall vegetation limits the opportunity to achieve solitude unless the area is large. Low vegetation on flat terrain can provide excellent screening if the area is large enough to allow other visitors or external influences to blend or disappear into the landscape. This unit, split into five parcels, is not large enough to allow a number of user groups or external influences to blend into the landscape.

Primitive Recreation:

The opportunity to achieve a primitive recreation experience is dependent upon the unit's size and ability to provide exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions. Exceptional natural features are those which provide exceptional scenery, diversity of landform and/or mobility of travel for a visitor, and would result in a strong recreation attraction to an area for one or more types of activities.

This unit has neither the size nor the exceptional or unusual natural features to provide primitive recreation opportunities which could be considered outstanding.

* * *

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.

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

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 7,398 acres of BLM land, with 640 acres of State land inholdings. The unit lies in the southeast portion of Laidlaw Park, between two fingers of the Craters of the Moon Lava Flow. The flat terrain is dominated in the western and southern portions of the unit by annual and perennial grasses. Sagebrush and rabbitbrush increase in frequency to the north and east. Minimal topographical relief occurs in locations where lava rock outcrops add some diversity to the landscape.

NATURALNESS:

An access route goes through the unit from the north boundary to the west boundary. Another access route extends a short distance into the unit from the west boundary. Neither route is a substantially noticeable imprint of man. Four reservoirs have been mechanically constructed and have an impact on apparent naturalness of the unit.

SOLITUDE:

The unit has been judged not to contain outstanding opportunities for solitude. Screening due to vegetation and topography is minimal. The small size of the unit combined with the generally poor screening renders opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Although the unit contains opportunities for recreational activities of a primitive and unconfined nature, these opportunities have been judged not to be outstanding. The small size of the unit plus the lack of interesting land form has constraining effects on the primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Wildlife species observed in the unit include golden eagle and burrowing owl (threatened species). Several herds of antelope were observed in the unit.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that opposed the proposed decision not to identify the unit as a study area are summarized as follows:

- The unit should be reviewed as a cluster (with six adjacent units).
- Access routes which do not meet road criteria should not be used to divide the unit into parcels which do not meet the size criteria.
- Lack of vegetative and topographic screening does not diminish outstanding opportunities for solitude in the unit.
- The unit offers outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

Comments that agreed with dropping the unit noted a lack of naturalness, due to imprints of man.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Roadless/Naturalness:

Clustering of units which are separated by roads in order to consider them as one unit is not provided for in any of the Bureau of Land Management policy for conducting wilderness inventory. Each unit must be assessed on its own.

No roads have been identified in the unit. The proposed decision stated that the unit meets the naturalness criteria; with four reservoirs being the only other imprints of man.

Solitude:

It is generally recognized that the lack of topography and tall vegetation limits the opportunity to achieve solitude unless the area is large. Low vegetation on flat terrain can provide excellent screening if the area is large enough to allow other visitors or external influences to blend or disappear into the landscape. This unit is not large enough to allow a number of user groups or external influences to blend into the landscape.

Primitive Recreation:

The opportunity to achieve a primitive recreation experience is dependent upon the unit's size and ability to provide exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions. Exceptional natural features are those which provide exceptional scenery, diversity of landform and/or mobility of travel for a visitor, and would result in a strong recreation attraction to an area for one or more types of activities.

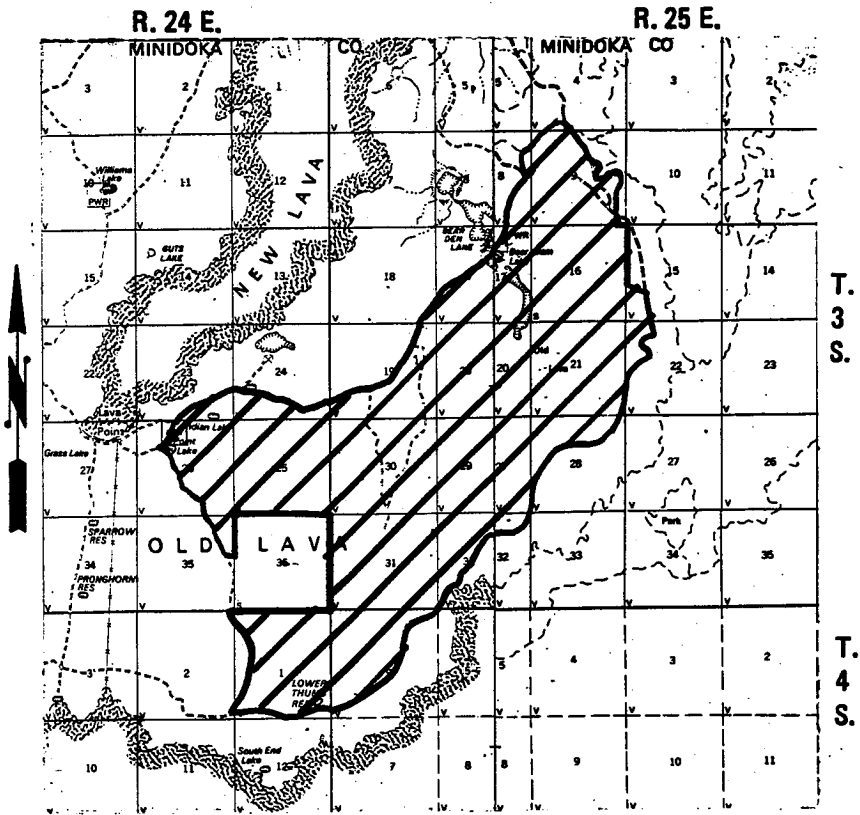
This unit has neither the size nor the exceptional or unusual natural features to provide primitive recreation opportunities which could be considered outstanding.

* * *



DECISION:

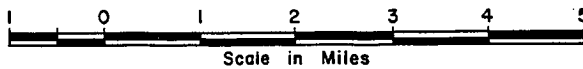
No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. The unit is not identified as a wilderness study area due to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation.

57-15
POINT



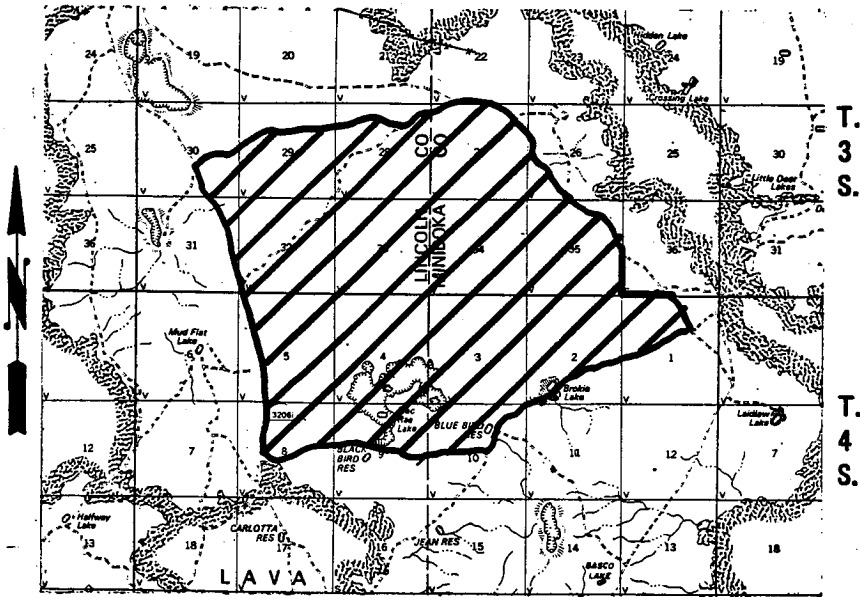
LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS





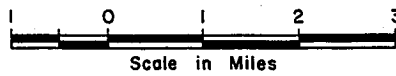
57-16
MacRAE LAKE

R. 23 E.



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 7,876 acres of BLM land. This figure differs from the 6,386 acres shown in the August, 1979, report due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. In addition 986 acres have been added to the unit when it was determined that a route used as part of the unit boundary does not exist on the ground.

The unit is relatively flat terrain and rough weathered lava. Topographical variability increases in the northwest portion of the unit where numerous rock outcrops add diversity to the landscape. Several natural lake formations exist in the lower elevations along the southern boundary. Of these, MacRae Lake is a prominent feature. Dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and annual and perennial grasses.

NATURALNESS:

An access route, which is a substantially noticeable imprint on the naturalness of the unit divides the unit into two parcels which do not meet size criteria. There is no part of the unit which is both free of man's imprint and greater than 5,000 acres in size.

SOLITUDE:

Opportunities for solitude may be found in the unit, however, these opportunities are not judged outstanding due to the flat terrain and minimal topographical variability.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The unit contains opportunities for a variety of recreational activities, including hiking, camping, nature study, photography, and hunting. None of these activities are judged outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

Several lake formations exist in the unit with excellent potential to contain archaeological material. Six known areas serve as strutting grounds for sage grouse. Other species of wildlife found in the unit include antelope, coyote, and raptorial birds, such as marsh hawks.

* * *

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:

Comments that opposed the proposed decision not to identify the unit as a study area are summarized as follows:

- The unit should be reviewed as a cluster (with six adjacent units).
- Access routes which do not meet the road criteria should not be used to divide the unit into parcels which do not meet the size criteria.
- Lack of vegetative and topographic screening does not diminish outstanding opportunities for solitude in the unit.
- The unit offers outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

Comments that agreed with dropping the unit noted a lack of naturalness, due to imprints of man.

COMMENT EVALUATION:

Roadless/Naturalness:

Clustering of units which are separated by roads in order to consider them as one unit is not provided for in any of the Bureau of Land Management policy for conducting wilderness inventory. Each unit must be assessed on its own.

An access route divides the unit into two parcels which are too small to meet the size criteria. The access route does not meet the road criteria, but it does create a major imprint on the naturalness of the unit. Therefore, it must be excluded.

Solitude:

It is generally recognized that the lack of topography and tall vegetation limits the opportunity to achieve solitude unless the area is large. Low vegetation on flat terrain provides excellent screening if the area is large enough to allow other visitors or external influences to blend or disappear into the landscape. This unit, split into two parcels, is not large enough to allow a number of user groups or external influences to blend into the landscape.

Primitive Recreation:

The opportunity to achieve a primitive recreation experience is dependent upon the unit's size and ability to provide exceptional or unusual natural features and recreation attractions. Exceptional natural features are those which provide exceptional scenery, diversity of landform and/or mobility of travel for a visitor, and would result in a strong recreation attraction to an area for one or more types of activities.

This unit has neither the size nor the exceptional or unusual natural features to provide primitive recreation opportunities which could be considered outstanding.

* * *

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.