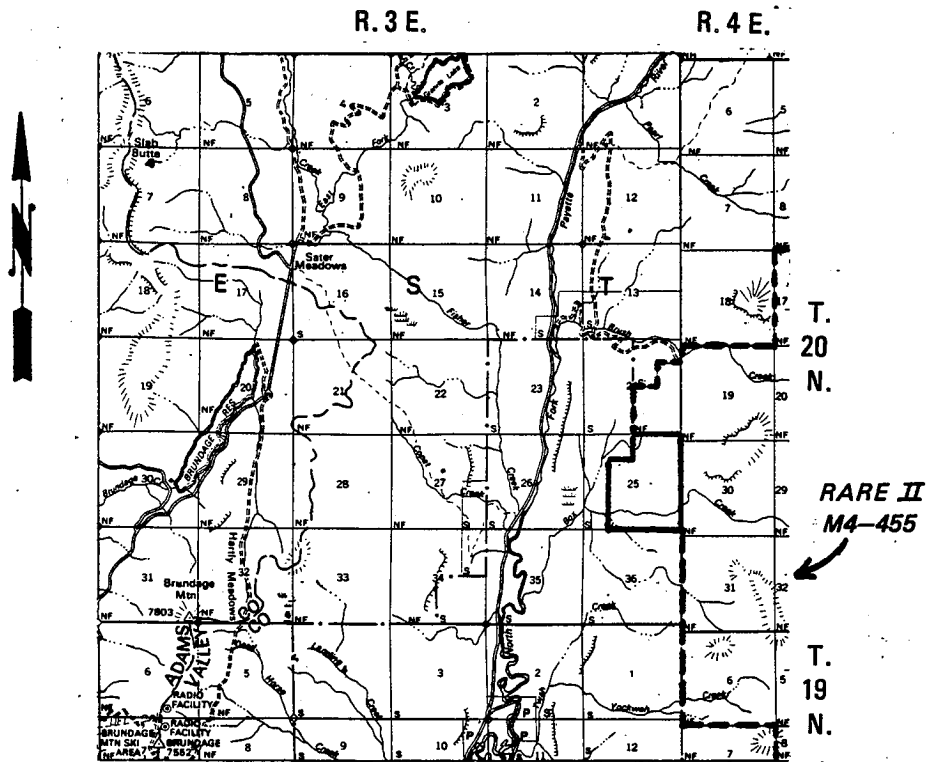




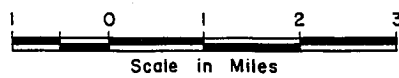
110-91a

BOX 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 428 acres of BLM land, contiguous to U.S. Forest Service Rare II area Lick Creek (M4-455, 61,470 acres), which has been recommended for wilderness. The unit is located five miles northeast of the Brundage Mountain Ski Area near McCall. The BLM unit is similar to the Forest Service area in landform and vegetation, consisting of rolling to extremely steep and broken terrain supporting mixed conifer forests of ponderosa, lodgepole and whitebark pine; white, Douglas and subalpine fir; spruce, larch and aspen. The forest cover is broken frequently by large granite outcrops. The chief drainage is Box Creek, flowing west through the BLM parcel.

**NATURALNESS:**

There appear to be no significant human imprints. The unit is substantially natural in character.

**SOLITUDE:**

When considered with the contiguous Forest Service area, the unit's size and excellent vegetative and topographic screening provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

**PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:**

When considered with the contiguous Forest Service area, the unit provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, photography and challenging cross-country travel.

\* \* \*

**PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY:**

Comments that specifically addressed unit 110-91a were largely limited to agreement or disagreement with the proposed decision without giving any specific reasons. Where characteristics were discussed, it was felt that the area was affected primarily by the forces of nature and offered outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation when considered in combination with contiguous Forest Service RARE II area. One comment pointed out that the unit did not meet the size criteria.

**COMMENT EVALUATION:**

Public comment agreed that the area, as stated in the proposed decision, offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation when considered with RARE II area. The area does meet one of the size criteria options as stated in the BLM inventory policy.

\* \* \*

**DECISION:**

No new information was received through public comments that would warrant a change in the decision. A unit of 428 acres is identified as a wilderness study area as it meets the naturalness criteria, and when considered with the contiguous Forest Service area meets the size and the solitude-recreation criteria.