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# wilderness study areas

a final inventory report

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# Wyoming Wilderness Study Areas

*a final inventory report*

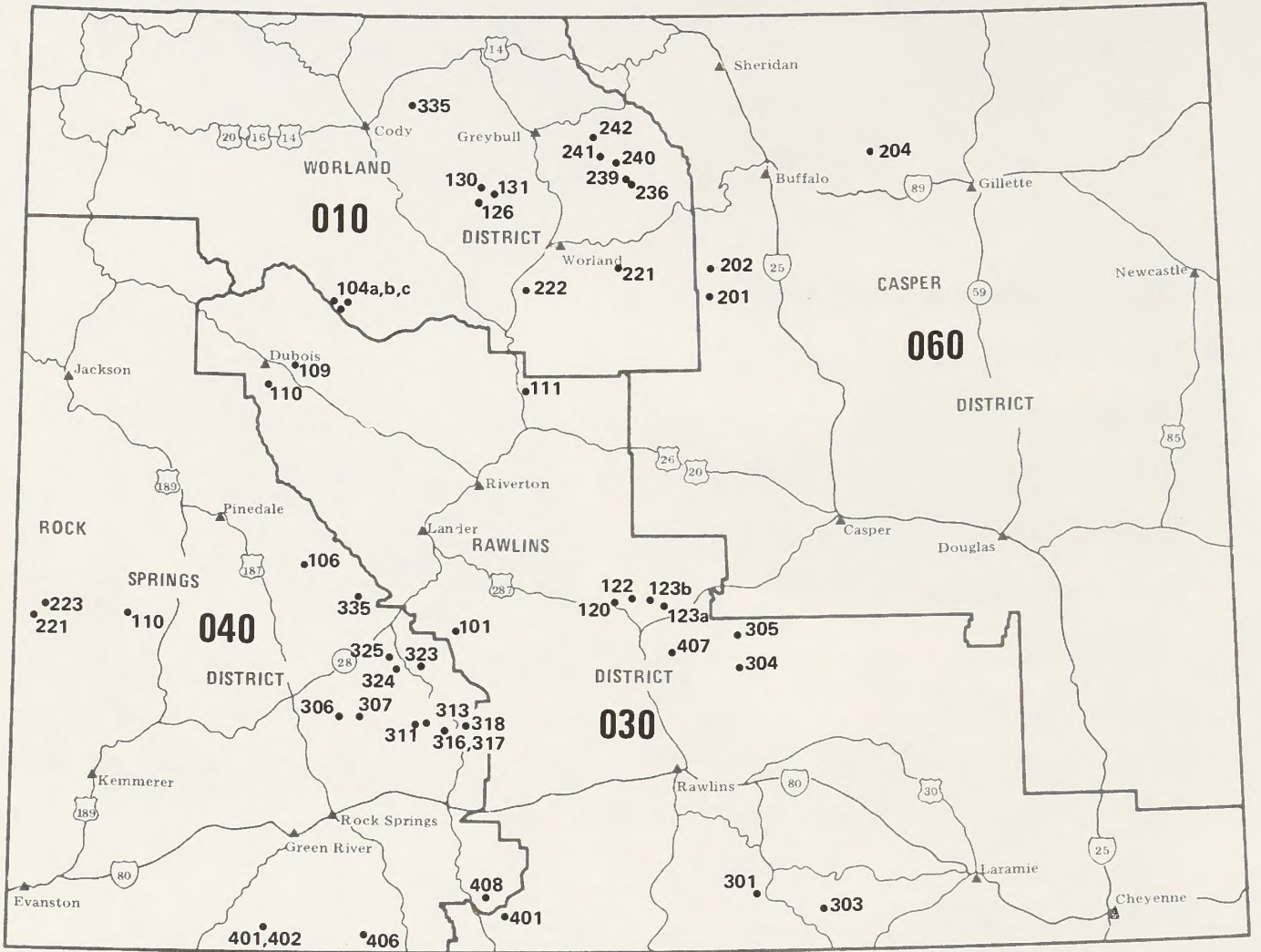
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U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
May 1981



# Table of Contents

<b>Map of Wilderness Study Areas</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Index to Units</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>BLM's Wilderness Review Process</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Worland District</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>Rock Springs District</b> .....	<b>41</b>
<b>Rawlins District</b> .....	<b>75</b>
<b>Casper District</b> .....	<b>105</b>
<b>BLM Offices in Wyoming</b> .....	<b>112</b>



WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS IN WYOMING

# Index to Wilderness Study Areas

## Worland District

Owl Creek (WY-010-104a,b,c) 710 acres	16
Bobcat Draw Badlands (WY-010-126) 17,150 acres	18
Sheep Mountain (WY-010-130) 23,250 acres	20
Red Butte (WY-010-131) 11,350 acres	22
Honeycombs (WY-010-221) 21,000 acres	24
Cedar Mountain (WY-010-222) 21,570	26
South Paint Rock (WY-010-236) 660 acres	28
Paint Rock (WY-010-239) 2,770 acres	30
Medicine Lodge (WY-010-240) 7,740 acres	32
Alkali Creek (WY-010-241) 10,100 acres	34
Trapper Creek (WY-010-242) 7,200 acres	36
McCullough Peaks (WY-010-335) 25,210 acres	38

## Rock Springs District

East Fork (WY-040-106) 1,415 acres	42
Lake Mountain (WY-040-110) 13,970 acres	44
Raymond Mountain ((WY-040-221)) 32,936 acres	46
Coal Creek (WY-040-223) 13,174 acres	48
Buffalo Hump (WY-040-306) 10,300 acres	50
Sand Dunes (WY-040-307) 27,200 acres	52
Alkali Draw (WY-040-311) 16,990 acres	54
South Pinnacles (WY-040-313) 10,826 acres	56
Alkali Basin - East Sand Dunes (WY-040-316/317) 12,800 acres	58
Red Lake (WY-040-318) 9,515 acres	60
Honeycomb Buttes (WY-040-323) 41,620 acres	62
Oregon Buttes (WY-040-324) 5,700 acres	64
Whitehorse Creek (WY-040-325) 4,028 acres	66
Mill Creek (WY-040-335) 1,300 acres	68
Devil's Playground-Twin Buttes (WY-040-401/402) 24,276 acres	70
Red Creek Badlands (WY-040-406) 8,020 acres	72

## Rawlins District

Sweetwater Canyon (WY-030-101) 9,056 acres	76
Dubois Badlands (WY-030-109) 4,520 acres	78
Whiskey Mountain (WY-030-110) 487 acres	80
Copper Mountain (WY-030-111) 6,858 acres	82
Sweetwater Rocks (WY-030-120) 6,316 acres	84
Sweetwater Rocks (WY-030-122) 12,789 acres	86
Sweetwater Rocks (WY-030-123a) 7,041 acres	88
Sweetwater Rocks (WY-030-123b) 6,429 acres	90
Encampment River Canyon (WY-030-301) 3,380 acres	92
Prospect Mountain (WY-030-303) 1,099 acres	94
Bennett Mountains (WY-030-304) 5,722 acres	96
Pedro Mountains (WY-030-305) 5,990 acres	98
Adobe Town (WY-030-401/WY-040-408) 85,710 acres	100
Ferris Mountains (WY-030-407) 20,495 acres	102

## Casper District

Gardner Mountain (WY-060-201) 6,423 acres	106
North Fork of Powder River (WY-060-202) 10,089	108
Fortification Creek (WY-060-204) 12,419 acres	110





# Introduction

The first section explains the three phases of the wilderness review program—inventory, study and reporting—and reviews the inventory phase in Wyoming.

Since 1978, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has been involved in a major undertaking. The Bureau was directed through the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to inventory the public lands and to identify those lands which possessed wilderness characteristics as described in the 1964 Wilderness Act.

As a result of this inventory, BLM in Wyoming has identified 47 areas, totaling 582,000 acres, which possess wilderness characteristics. These lands are located primarily in the western half of the State. They are the remaining parcels of public lands in Wyoming that have not been affected by the intensive mineral exploration and development occurring in Wyoming over the past 20 years. The 47 Wilderness Study Areas constitute only 3.2% of the public lands administered by BLM in Wyoming.

The wilderness inventory officially began in November, 1978. This booklet, a final report of the inventory phase of Wyoming's wilderness review program, is intended to provide basic information for the next phase of the review - the study phase.

# Overview of the BLM's Wilderness Review Process

The BLM's wilderness review was mandated by Congress through Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (Public Law 94-579) of October 21, 1976.



# Phase I - Inventory

The inventory phase had two parts: *initial* and *intensive*. Its overall purpose was to identify public lands administered by BLM which had wilderness characteristics as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-577).

**Initial Inventory.** BLM began the initial inventory in the fall of 1978 and was completed through review of information already available in the BLM offices and through consultation with industry, State government, conservation groups, individual citizens and private organizations. Of the 17.8 million acres of public lands, 1.04 million acres in 86 inventory units were recommended for further inventory. The proposed initial inventory decisions were announced by the Wyoming State Director on February 7, 1979. A 90-day public comment period followed. The final decision on the initial inventory was released on July 15, 1979. Approximately 16.6 million acres of public land in Wyoming was released from wilderness consideration at that time. BLM announced that 1.2 million acres in 83 units would be advanced to the intensive inventory. In this step, the 83 inventory units were evaluated on the ground by BLM resource specialists. The procedures outlined in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook were utilized to conduct the intensive inventory during the 1979 field season. At this time the Secretary of the Interior announced that BLM would conduct an "accelerated inventory of those lands located on the Overthrust Belt."

**Accelerated Inventory.** The Secretary of the Interior directed that the wilderness inventory for units on the Overthrust Belt, a geologic formation with high oil and gas potential, be completed by December 31, 1979. In Wyoming, there were seven inventory units located on the Overthrust Belt. These units were inventoried along with the rest of the State during the early summer of 1979; however, the proposed decisions, public comment and final decisions were speeded up to meet the December deadline. In August of 1979 BLM announced the proposed decisions for the seven Overthrust units plus six other units in the Rawlins District.

In the proposed decisions, four units were proposed as Wilderness Study Areas. One of the four units was subdivided and only a portion of the unit was proposed as a Wilderness Study Area. The other nine units and the remainder of the Prospect Mountain Unit were proposed to be dropped from the Wilderness Review. After the comment period ended in November, 1979 one of the four units (the Coal Creek unit) was dropped as a Wilderness Study Area. The final decision in December, 1979 identified three Wilderness Study Areas totaling 48,005 acres.

Seven public protests were received on the final decisions. Four of the protests were satisfactorily resolved at that stage, but three protestants filed appeals with the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). Those unit decisions appealed were the Wilderness Study Area status of Raymond Mountain and Lake Mountain and the dropped status of the Coal Creek unit. At the time of this publication, the IBLA had not issued a decision on these appeals.

**Intensive Inventory.** The intensive inventory on the remaining 1.06 million acres of public lands still under review was conducted during the summer and fall of 1979. A file was prepared on each unit. Each file contains color photographs of the unit which shows most intrusions present in the unit. Another item in each file is a complete narrative discussion of the unit including the inventory teams findings and district recommendations. Each file also contains maps of the unit showing boundaries, location of intrusions, photo points, roads and other information documented in the field. All public comments received during the comment period are also placed in the appropriate unit file. These files are referred to as "Permanent Documentation Files."

In April, 1980 BLM published proposed decisions on the intensive inventory with 43 units proposed as Wilderness Study Areas. These 43 units totaled 495,724 acres. An extended public comment period was conducted during the summer of 1980, providing the public and special interest groups ample opportunity to review these units on the ground.

After reviewing the 2,500 public comments, BLM published the final decisions on Wilderness Study Areas in November, 1980. That announcement identified 43 areas totaling 525,504 acres as Wilderness Study Areas. The three units totaling 48,005 acres from the accelerated overthrust inventory and 7,636 acres in the one instant study area gave a statewide total of 47 units and 581,145 acres.

In that announcement, opportunity was provided for anyone objecting to any of the decisions to protest to the State Director. Eighteen protests were received on 14 units. A summary of these protests was published in the Federal Register on January 29, 1981. All but one of the protests were denied. In one case, a small adjustment was made to a unit which added 920 acres to the unit. The final results of the inventory identified 47 areas totaling 582,000 acres as Wilderness Study Areas.

The appeals period, which closed on February 27, 1981 resulted in five appeals being received. The units under appeal are the Alkali Draw unit and Sand Dunes unit in the Rock Springs District, the Pedro Mountain unit in the Rawlins District and the Adobe Town units which lie in both the Rawlins and Rock Springs districts. With the three units under appeal from the Overthrust decisions, Wyoming has a total of seven Wilderness Study Areas under appeal.

These seven Wilderness Study Areas being appealed are all under review by the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). All other decisions on Wilderness Study Areas and units dropped were final December 15, 1980. Status for the appealed units will be determined by the IBLA. In the meantime, the Wilderness Study Areas not appealed will now proceed through the second phase which is the study phase.



## Phase II - Study

During the study phase, the Bureau will evaluate each Wilderness Study Area in a multiple-use context and arrive at a recommendation on suitability for each area. Each area will be recommended either suitable for wilderness designation or nonsuitable.

A suitable recommendation means that when all resources in the Wilderness Study Area, as well as the regional importance of the area, are taken into account wilderness is considered to be the highest and best use of the land.

A nonsuitable recommendation means that, although the area does possess wilderness qualities, other resource values or regional considerations dictate that wilderness is not the best use of the land and the area should not be designated wilderness by the Congress.

BLM is now beginning the study phase of the wilderness review, this phase will be conducted as part of a comprehensive land use planning effort by BLM. During the study phase, the public will have several opportunities to comment upon other resource values within a Wilderness Study Area. These comments will be considered in making decisions prior to subsequent recommendations to the President and Congress on an area's suitability or nonsuitability as wilderness.

**Instant Study Areas.** The Federal Land Policy and Management Act identified 55 instant study areas that should proceed immediately to the study phase and be reported to the President. Wyoming has one of these areas. The Scab Creek Primitive Area was studied for wilderness value in a multiple-use context and 7,636 acres were recommended suitable for wilderness designation. A draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) and a suitability report has been circulated for public comment. A public hearing was held in Pinedale on January 6, 1981 to receive comment on the adequacy of the DEIS. Comments received at the hearing and letters received during the comment period have pointed out some minor changes needed in the final environmental impact statement (FEIS). The FEIS is now being prepared and will be published in April, 1982.

If the Secretary of the Interior concurs with the State Director's recommendations, it will be up to the Congress to enact legislation to designate Scab Creek as a Wilderness Area.



**Current Studies.** The study phase has already begun for a number of the Wilderness Study Areas in Wyoming. The Big Sandy and Salt Wells resource areas in the Rock Springs District and Grass Creek resource area in the Worland District began land use plans in fiscal year 1980. In these three resource areas, suitability determinations are now being made for 18 Wilderness Study Areas. Anyone desiring to provide input to these plans or to review work done to date, should contact the area manager of the respective resource area where the Wilderness Study Area of interest is located. Addresses for the resource areas in Wyoming are listed in the back of this booklet.

In the Kemmerer and Pinedale resource area of the Rock Springs District, work has begun on the study phase for the Raymond Mountain Wilderness Study Area and Lake Mountain Wilderness Study Area. In the Rawlins District, work is just beginning on the study phase for the Ferris Mountains and the Rawlins portion of the Adobe Town Wilderness Study Areas. Again, anyone wishing to participate in these planning studies should contact the appropriate area manager.

**Future Studies.** Wyoming's first Resource Management Plans under the new BLM planning regulations are now beginning in the Buffalo resource area of the Casper District, the Lander resource area of the Rawlins District and the Washakie resource area of the Worland District. These resource areas all contain Wilderness Study Areas. The resource management plans will all produce suitability determinations for each Wilderness Study Area within the plan area.

The new resource management plan process requires three to five years to complete and provides for several specific points when public input, comment and review will be sought. Interested persons should ensure that the BLM district has their name and address on the BLM public contact list. The narratives and maps in this booklet are provided to give the reader specific information on each Wilderness Study Area.



## Phase III - Reporting

The third and final phase of BLM's wilderness review is the reporting phase. Recommendations on an area's suitability or unsuitability for wilderness designation are reported to Congress through the Secretary of the Interior and the President. Each Wilderness Study Area must be reported to the Secretary of the Interior according to a Bureauwide schedule. The Secretary reports these areas to the President. All reports must be submitted to the President by September 1987. The President has two years from the time he receives the Secretary's report to make his recommendations to the Congress. Table 1 lists all the BLM planning areas in Wyoming and when those containing Wilderness Study Areas are to be reported to the Secretary. This schedule sets the time frame for doing the land use planning and making wilderness suitability determinations in each planning area of the State.

As a Wilderness Study Area proceeds through the planning system, all resource values are evaluated. A planning recommendation is made concerning wilderness activity. For those Wilderness Study Areas determined unsuitable for wilderness designation, a DEIS addresses their final disposition. The DEIS evaluates the impact of alternative land uses on the wilderness qualities of the Wilderness Study Area.

For those Wilderness Study Areas determined suitable for wilderness designation, several additional steps are required. The DEIS analyzes the costs and benefits of designating the area wilderness. The U.S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines provide a minerals report for the Wilderness Study Area which sets forth the mineral values of the area. This minerals report is used in the DEIS to evaluate what mineral resources, if any, would be foregone by wilderness designation.



**Table 1.**  
**Wilderness Study and Reporting Schedule**

District	Resource area	Plan name	Type	Plan Start	Plan Completion	Reporting year to the Secretary of the Interior
Rock Springs	Kemmerer	Pioneer Trails	*MFP-A	1981	1982	1984
Worland	Grass Creek	Grass Creek	MFP-T	1979	1981	1986
Rock Springs	Salt Wells	Salt Wells	MFP-T	1979	1981	1985
Rock Springs	Big Sandy	Pilot Butte	MFP-T	1979	1981	1985
Rawlins	Overland	Overland	FP-T	1980	1982	1985
Rawlins	Divide	Divide/Ferris	FP-T	1980	1982	1986
Casper	Buffalo	Buffalo	RMP	1983	1986	1987
Rawlins	Lander	Gas Hills	RMP	1982	1986	1987
Worland	Washakie	Washakie	RMP	1983	1986	1987
Worland	Cody	Cody	MFP-A	1985	1986	1987
Rawlins	Medicine Bow	Medicine Bow	RMP	1983	1986	1987
Rock Springs	Pinedale	Pinedale	MFP-A	1981	1982	1984

\* MFP-A Management Framework Plan Amendment  
MFP-T Transition Management Framework Plan  
RMP Resource Management Plan





## Worland District

# Owl Creek

WY-010-104a,b,c  
710 acres

## Unit Description

The unit is composed of three separate tracts located in the southeastern portion of the Absaroka Mountains near the Washakie Needles. The landscape is dominated by a major ridge line that divides the main drainages of Rock Creek and the South Fork of Owl Creek. Several steep, rugged spur ridges extend laterally from the main ridge, and are sharply separated by a number of deep side draws that drain into the relatively wide, flat bottoms of the main drainages.

Tracts 104a and 104c are composed of moderately vegetated spur ridges that drop sharply from about mid-slope down to the wide bottoms of the South Fork of Owl Creek and Rock Creek. The steep slopes are covered with irregular dense patches of mixed conifers interspersed with exposed areas of bare, rocky soil.

Conifers mingle with linear patches and isolated pockets of aspen along the steeper draw bottoms. Tract 104b is a long, narrow strip located above the timber line along the crest and upper western slopes of the main ridge line dividing the South Fork of Owl Creek and Rock Creek. Severe weathering and erosion on the steep rocky slopes and cliffs are accentuated by the complete lack of vegetation along the ridge line.

Elevations in the unit range from almost 10,900 feet along the bare ridge crest in tract 104b, to 9,200 feet in the southeast corner of tract 104c along the Rock Creek bottom, and 9,000 feet along the South Fork of Owl Creek in the southern tip of tract 104a.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** The three parcels of land total 710 acres. The tracts are contiguous with the formally designated Washakie Wilderness Area in the Shoshone National Forest, and are exempt from meeting the minimum 5,000 acre size criteria.

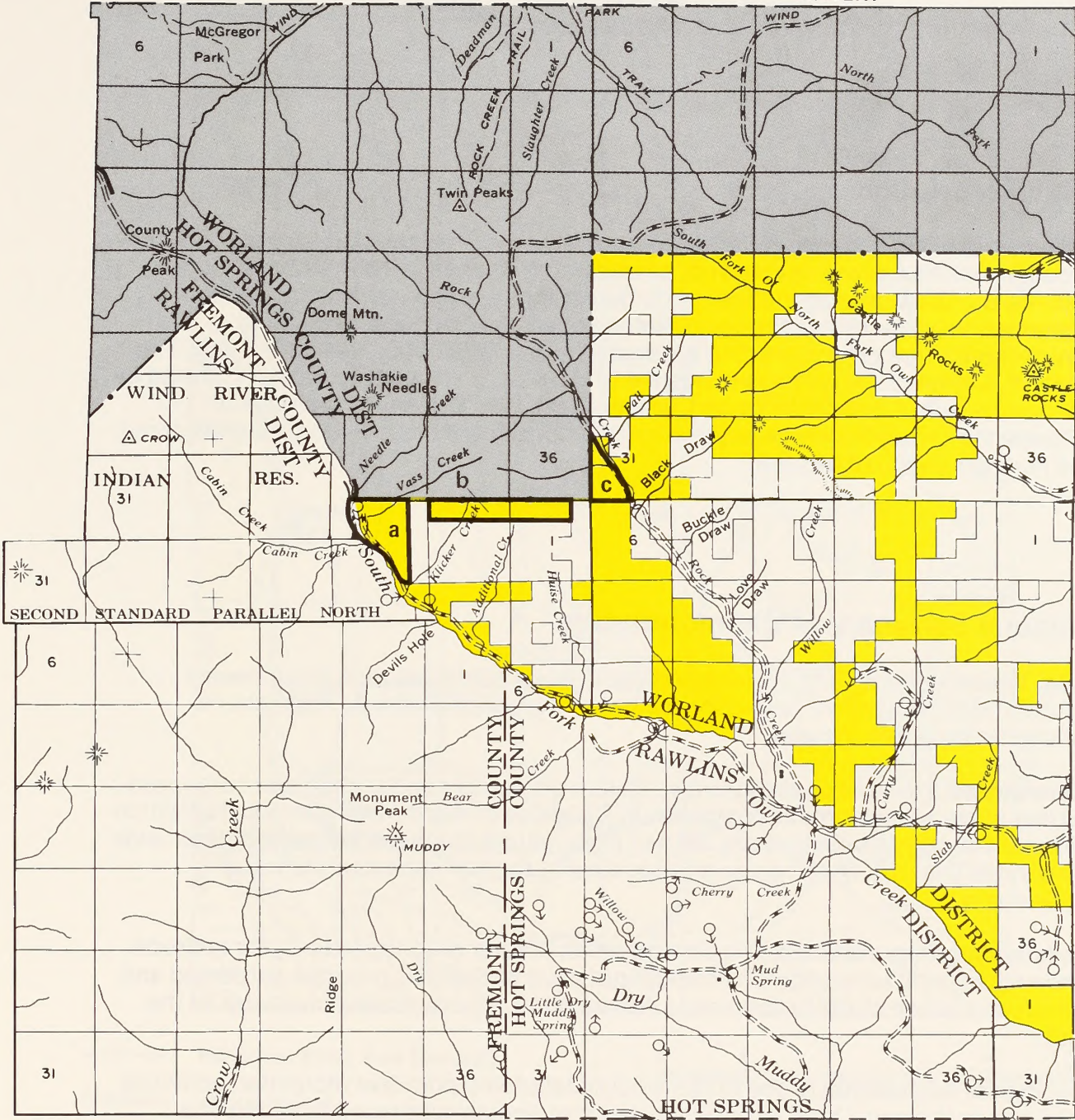
**Naturalness.** The tracts appear to be almost completely untouched by imprints of man. An improved jeep trail running along the South Fork of Owl Creek and a fenced study enclosure in the Rock Creek drainage bottom are the only intrusions documented during the intensive inventory. The impact of these intrusions is insignificant.

**Outstanding Opportunities.** The unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation only insofar as it is a contiguous portion of the wilderness area.

**Supplemental Values.** The unit provides important habitat for deer, elk, bighorn sheep and a variety of raptors and small upland game animals. The geology of the area is largely unexplored and offers excellent opportunities for study of tertiary volcanics in the area.

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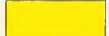


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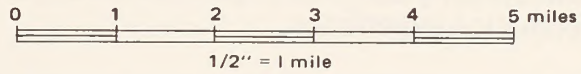


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T. 43 N.

SECOND STANDARD PARALLEL NORTH

-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land
-  National Forest Land



OWL CREEK  
WY-010-104a,b,c

# Bobcat Draw Badlands

WY-010-126

17,150 acres

## Unit Description

Terrain in the unit is highly variable. The western portion of the unit is dominated by broad, bench-like, grass covered ridges separated by deep, wide drainages running into the Big Draw drainage to the north. Bare, rugged badland ridges broken by numerous irregular drainages and isolated pockets of hoodoos, spires and "mushrooms" are predominant in the central and southern portions of the unit. The eastern portion of the unit opens into the broad, flat, grass covered bottom formed by the confluence of Bobcat Draw and Timber Creek. The flat, sandy drainage of Fifteenmile Creek, thickly vegetated with sagebrush and greasewood, extends along the northern fringe of the unit.

## General Summary of Characteristics

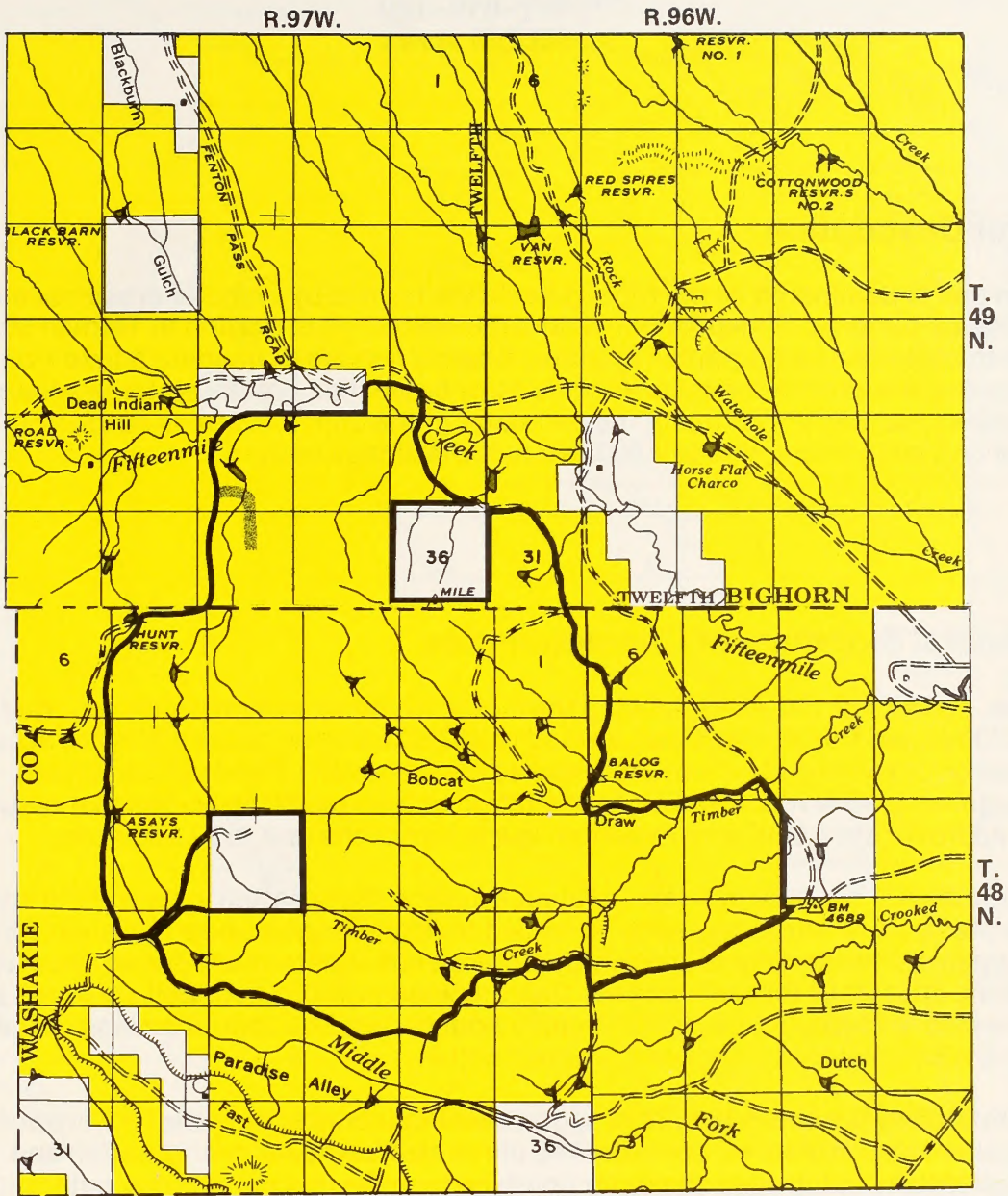
**Size.** The unit contains 17,150 acres of contiguous public lands. A State owned section near the western boundary has been cherrystemmed out. There are no private lands within the unit.

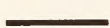
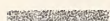

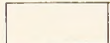
**Naturalness.** The area possesses a sufficient degree of natural character to warrant further study for wilderness designation. A number of bladed trails are located within the unit, but do not substantially detract from natural character because of their wide dispersion over the 17,150 acres and because of the low impact of the trails individually.

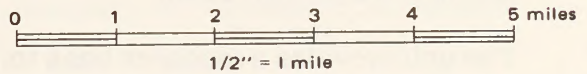
**Outstanding Opportunities.** The area offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The rugged badland topography throughout most of the area provides screening and a profound sense of seclusion that is enhanced by the unintruded character of the unit.

Geological sightseeing is one of the most outstanding primitive recreation activities available in the unit. Other activities such as zoological sightseeing, hiking and photography combine to provide the opportunity for an outstanding primitive recreation experience.

**Supplemental Values.** Other values within the unit include habitat for wild horses, mule deer, a variety of raptors and small animals; Class A scenic quality; and geological and paleontological scientific values.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Excluded Area
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



**BOBCAT DRAW BADLANDS**  
 WY-010-126

# Sheep Mountain

WY-010-130  
23,250 acres

## Unit Description

The unit is dominated by the rugged badlands formed by irregular erosional and drainage patterns. Sheep Mountain and the easternmost portion of Tatman Mountain are the dominant topographic features. Sharply incised drainages radiate from these mountains and combine to form moderately broad, flat, grassy bottoms separated by rounded badland ridges along the perimeter of the unit. Elevations range from 5,900 feet on Tatman Mountain to 4,500 feet in the drainage bottom.

## General Summary of Characteristics

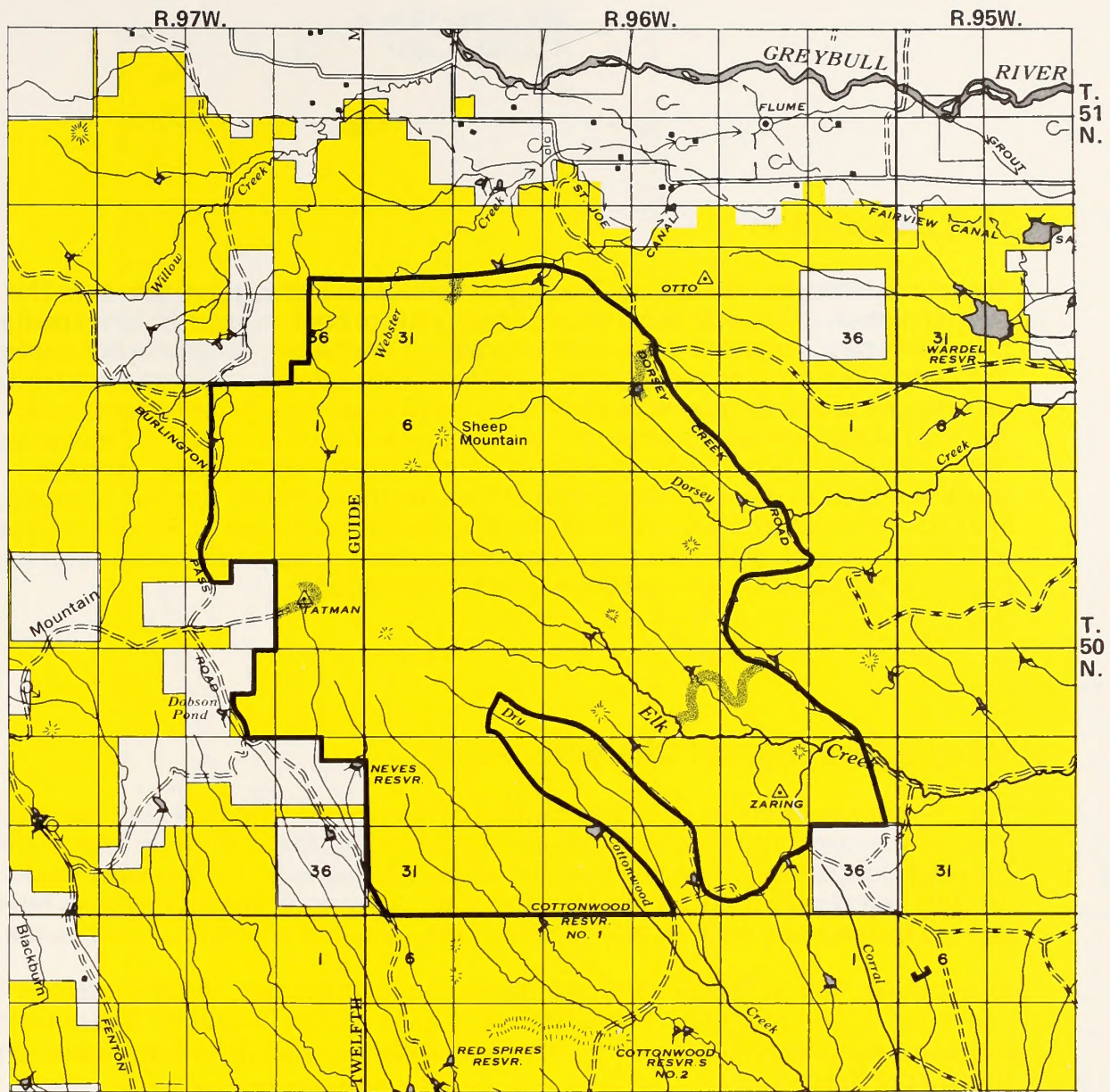
**Size.** The size of the area following the initial inventory was originally reported as 28,300 acres. This acreage was revised to 29,250 acres as a result of more accurate location of roads and a more precise area measurement. Field investigations identified several roads and a concentration of man-made intrusions that resulted in an approximate 6,000-acre reduction in the size of the unit to 23,250 acres.

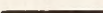
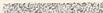

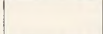
**Naturalness.** The area appears to retain a substantially natural character in spite of the presence of intrusions such as bladed trails, reservoirs and a few short fence segments. The impacts of these intrusions do not substantially detract from the natural character of the unit because they are widely distributed, well screened and generally in close proximity to the unit's boundaries. The central portion of the unit is almost completely untouched by human activity.

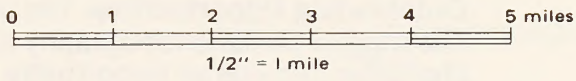
**Outstanding Opportunities.** The rugged badland topography in the unit provides excellent opportunity for solitude. The unit's size, compact configuration and substantially unintruded character combine to make this opportunity outstanding within the Big Horn Basin.

The unit provides a resource base for a variety of primitive recreation activities, such as geologic sightseeing, collecting, photography, hiking and backpacking. The unit's size and unimpaired natural character enhance these activities to provide an opportunity for an outstanding primitive recreation experience.

**Supplemental Values.** Supplemental values in the unit include scientifically important geologic and paleontologic resources and habitat for mule deer, wild horses, sage grouse and a variety of raptors and small mammals.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Excluded Area
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



**SHEEP MOUNTAIN  
WY-010-130**

# Red Butte

WY-010-131  
11,350 acres

## Unit Description

The unit exhibits an interesting diversity of landforms and vegetation types. The central portion of the unit consists predominantly of bare, rugged, colorful badland ridges and peaks broken by irregular, sharply cut drainages. Red Butte dominates this central terrain at an elevation of 5,185 feet. The northeastern portion exhibits less rugged badlands intermixed with a series of small bench-like terraces overlooking the flat drainage bottom of Fivemile Creek. This area exhibits a moderately dense cover of sagebrush-grass vegetation in contrast with the bare, red-hued badland ridges. In the western portion of the unit, the badlands open up to broad, shallow drainages and flat to rolling plains along the drainages of Reservoir Creek and the North Fork of Fifteenmile Creek. Vegetation in this portion of the unit is predominantly a salt bush-sagebrush-grass association.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** Field investigations have substantiated three roads within the unit: two short cherrystem roads intruding from the western boundary, and a one mile segment in the northwest corner extending from the western to the northern boundary roads. The two cherrystem routes and a 150-acre tract in the northwest corner have been deleted by boundary revision along these roads, reducing the unit to 11,350 acres.

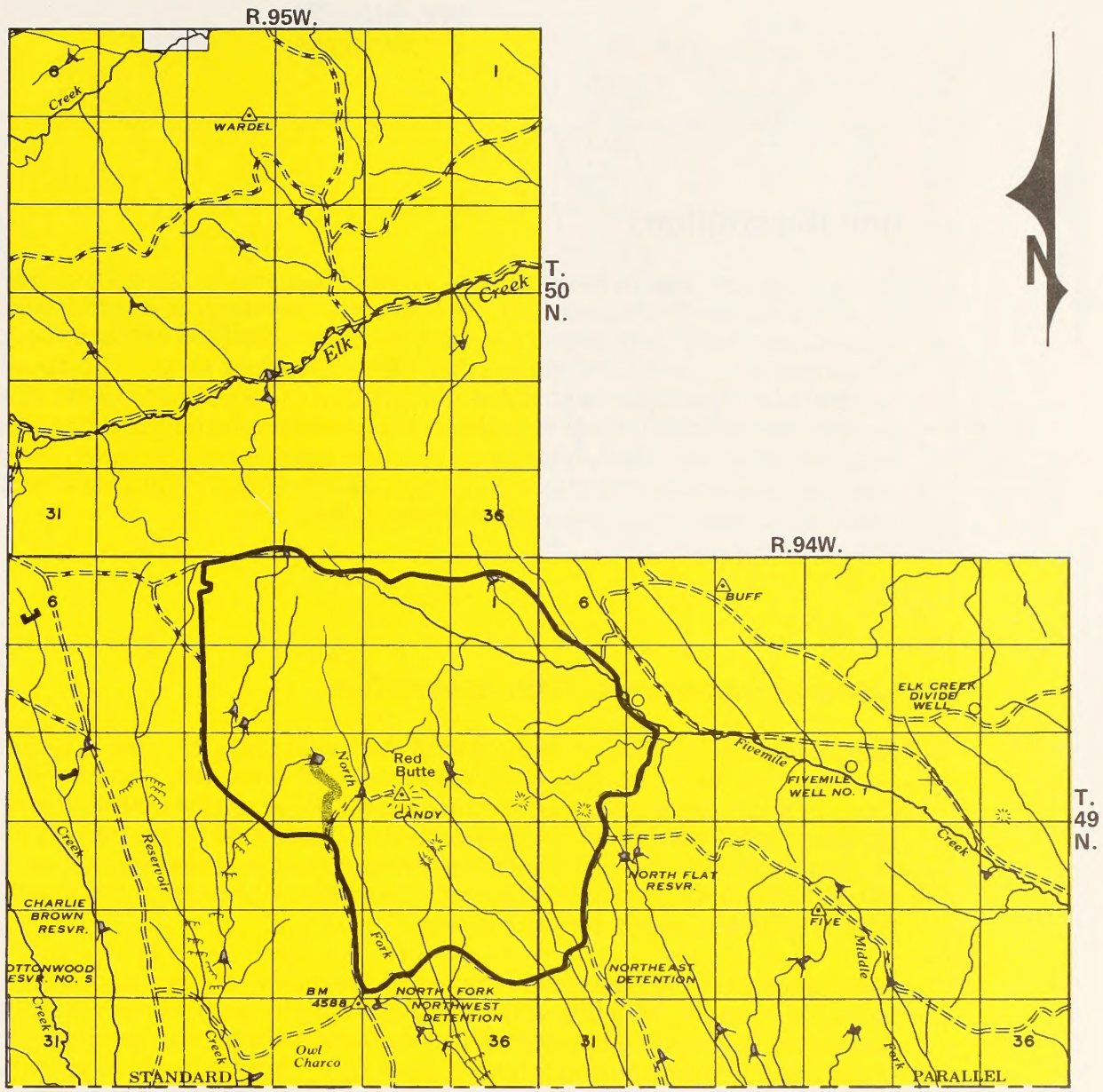
**Naturalness.** The unit retains a substantially natural character. Minor intrusions consist of a number of short bladed trails along the eastern boundary, five miles of fence line extending through the eastern half, and eleven small reservoirs scattered throughout the unit.

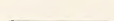



**Outstanding Opportunities.** The unit offers an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The rugged badland topography of the unit, combined with its unintruded natural character, provide an opportunity to avoid the evidence of man's presence that is uncommon in more intruded badland areas.

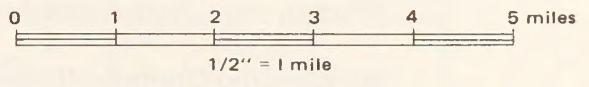
A variety of primitive recreation activities are available in the unit. Some activities, such as geologic sightseeing and photography, are excellent throughout the entire badlands area. Opportunities for backpacking, hiking and other activities that are enhanced by areas exhibiting a high degree of natural character are especially good. The variety and quality of activities available combine to offer an outstanding recreation experience in the unit.

**Supplemental Values.** Scientifically significant geological and paleontological values, habitat for wild horses, mule deer, antelope and numerous small mammals, and Class A scenic quality are among supplemental values the unit.





-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Excluded Area
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



RED BUTTE  
WY-010-131

# Honeycombs

WY-010-221  
21,000 acres

## Unit Description

This unit encompasses thousands of acres of badland topography known locally as the Honeycombs. In a general sense, this unit consists of two land forms. A central or core area consists of sharply eroded, strongly dissected badland topography. The remainder of the unit is rolling to steep hills. Elevations range from about 4,400 feet to 5,500 feet. The rolling area of the unit supports fairly dense stands of sagebrush and grasses. The density of vegetation decreases as the badland topography becomes more prevalent. Sagebrush and grasses are still the most common vegetation. However, the majority of vegetation is found in the drainages, leaving most hillsides and ridge tops sparsely vegetated.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** The recommendation at the end of the initial inventory was to retain 60,000 acres for intensive inventory. Public comment resulted in an increase in the size of the area retained for intensive inventory to 68,400 acres (64,000 BLM and 4,400 State). However, identification of two-track roads and other intrusions during intensive inventory resulted in a division of the inventory unit into two segments. Segment 1 is the portion identified as a Wilderness Study Area at the end of the intensive inventory period and shown on the map.

**Naturalness.** On the basis of the intensive inventory, the area appeared to be essentially natural with the works of human activity substantially unnoticeable. Bladed trails in varying conditions and reservoirs are the two major groups of intrusions identified during intensive inventory. These intrusions are substantially unnoticeable due to their dispersal, size, topographic screening and natural healing of scars through non-use, erosion and revegetation.

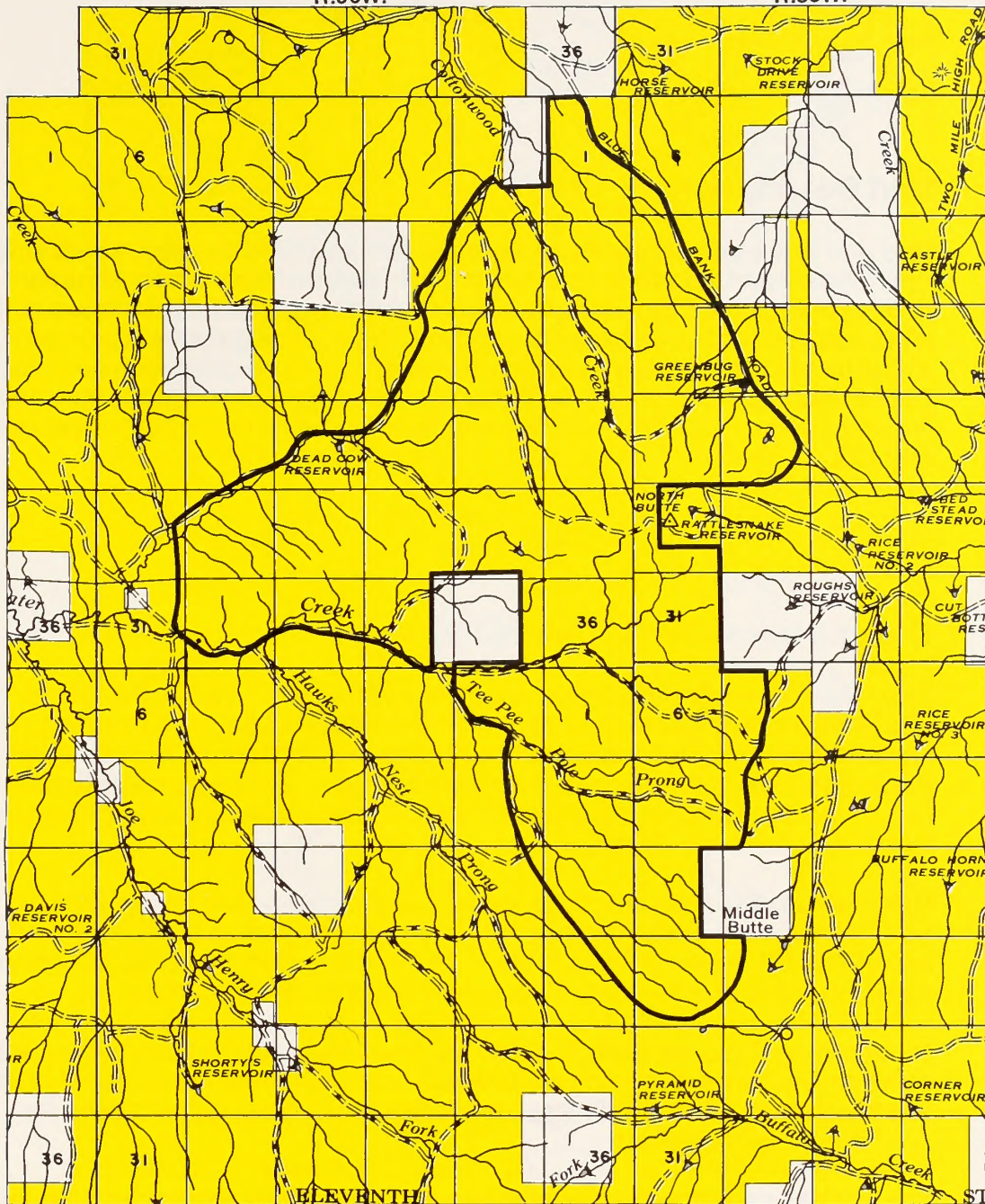
**Outstanding Opportunities.** Solitude exists in the unit because of its size and because other uses are limited. Outstanding solitude is thought to exist primarily because of the suitability of the terrain for screening. The rugged terrain, steep-sided hills and winding drainages limit sight distances. Additional factors which lead to an outstanding opportunity are the dispersal of use due to size and configuration and the relative lack of man-made features.

Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are found throughout the unit. The entire unit seems to possess these opportunities because of its size, the varied character of the landscape, the natural resources available and the diverse activities which can occur there.

**Supplemental Values.** This unit is yearlong range for deer and antelope. The east Fork of Nowater Creek is classified as deer winter range. The southern portion of the unit is utilized by elk for winter range. Golden eagles also inhabit the unit. The area is known to have deposits of large mammalian fossils from the Tertiary Period. The possibility exists for locating reptilian fossils in the vicinity of the unit's east boundary.

R.90W.

R.89W.



T. 46 N.

T. 45 N.

— Wilderness Study Area Boundary

Public Land

State and Private Land

0 1 2 3 4 5 miles

1/2" = 1 mile

HONEYCOMBS  
WY-010-221

# Cedar Mountain

WY-010-222

21,570 acres

## Unit Description

This unit is an area of rugged topography characterized by deep, steep-sided drainages flowing north or west toward the Bighorn River. Cedar Mountain is the dominant visual feature of the unit. It is unusual in the vicinity because of its elevation, the vegetation growing on it and the imposing rock escarpment which forms its southern side. Vegetation consists mainly of sagebrush and grasses. Rabbitbrush is common in drainages, around reservoirs and along vehicle routes. A belt of junipers is found on Cedar Mountain. Elevation in the unit varies from 4,200 feet to 5,500 feet.

## General Summary of Characteristics

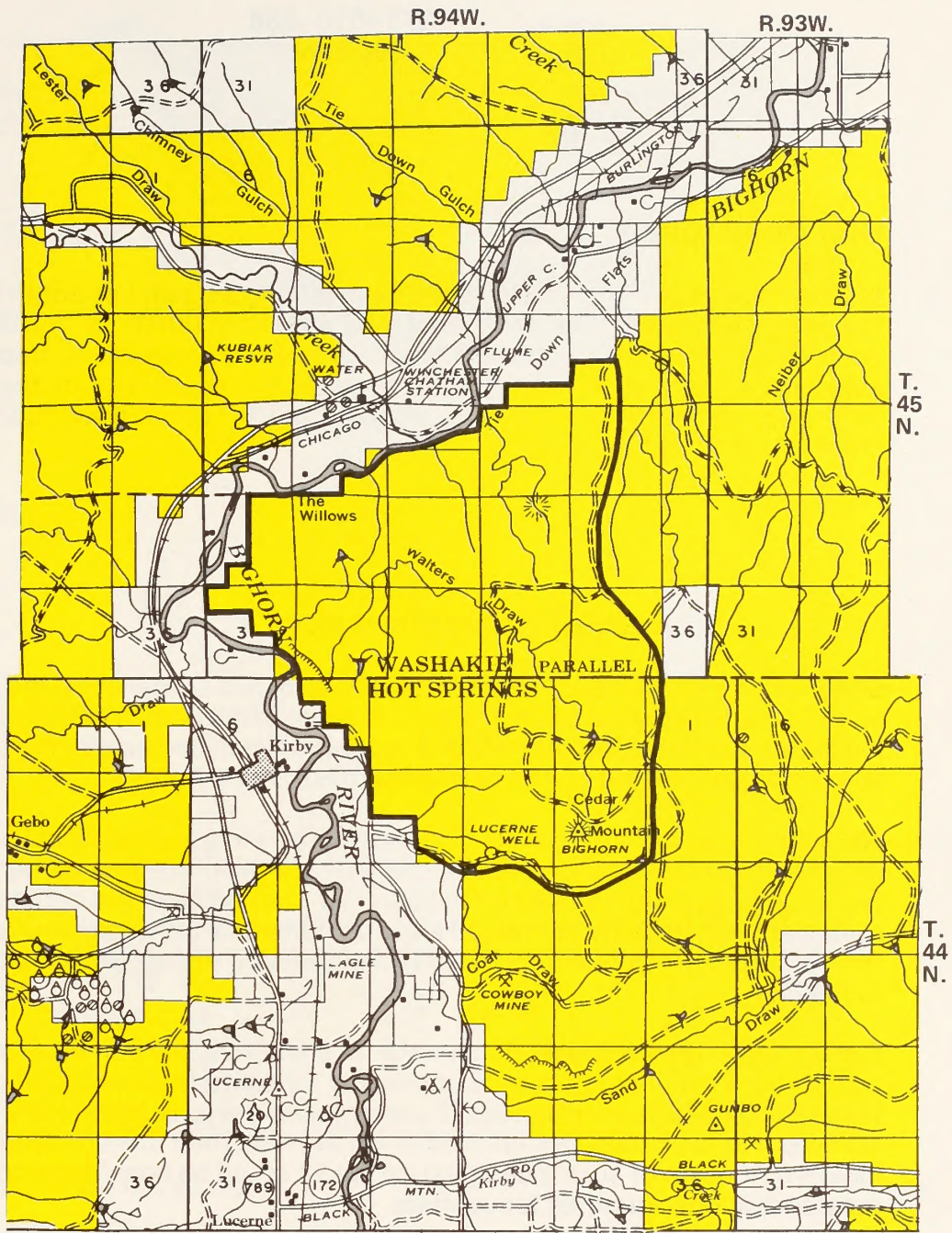
**Size.** The area recommended for intensive inventory totaled 20,940 acres. The unit had State inholdings amounting to 560 acres. Public comment resulted in boundary adjustments which increased the unit's size to 27,200 acres, including 365 acres of State land. During inventory, a series of two-track roads were identified which caused parts of the inventory unit to drop. The final acreage is 21,570 acres of public land.

**Naturalness.** The naturalness of the unit is affected by the presence of old bladed trails. However, that presence is mitigated by topographic screening, by lack of use and by natural ongoing rehabilitation. The unit has marginal apparent naturalness, with good potential for a return to a higher degree of naturalness.

**Outstanding Opportunities.** The unit seems to have outstanding opportunities for solitude. Factors influencing solitude are size and screening ability of topography and vegetation. The rugged, steep-sided, badland character enhances the opportunities for solitude.

The unit has opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The diversity of the activities possible, the size of the unit, and the lack of manmade confinements, in combination, provide an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.

**Supplemental Values.** This unit provides both winter range and year-long habitat for mule deer. Bald and golden eagles have been sighted in the unit. The geologic formations of the unit are storehouses for reptilian and mammalian fossils and petrified wood.



CEDAR MOUNTAIN  
WY-010-222

# South Paint Rock

WY-010-236  
660 acres

## Unit Description

Most of the lands in the unit fall within a mile-long segment of South Paint Rock Canyon. The canyon is about one-half mile wide from rim to rim and 600 to 700 feet deep. Conifers constitute most of the vegetation on north-facing slopes. Stands of aspen are also found on north slopes. Grasses and sagebrush are the main forms of vegetation on south-facing slopes. A narrow band of riparian vegetation along the creek is dominated by aspen.

## General Summary of Characteristics

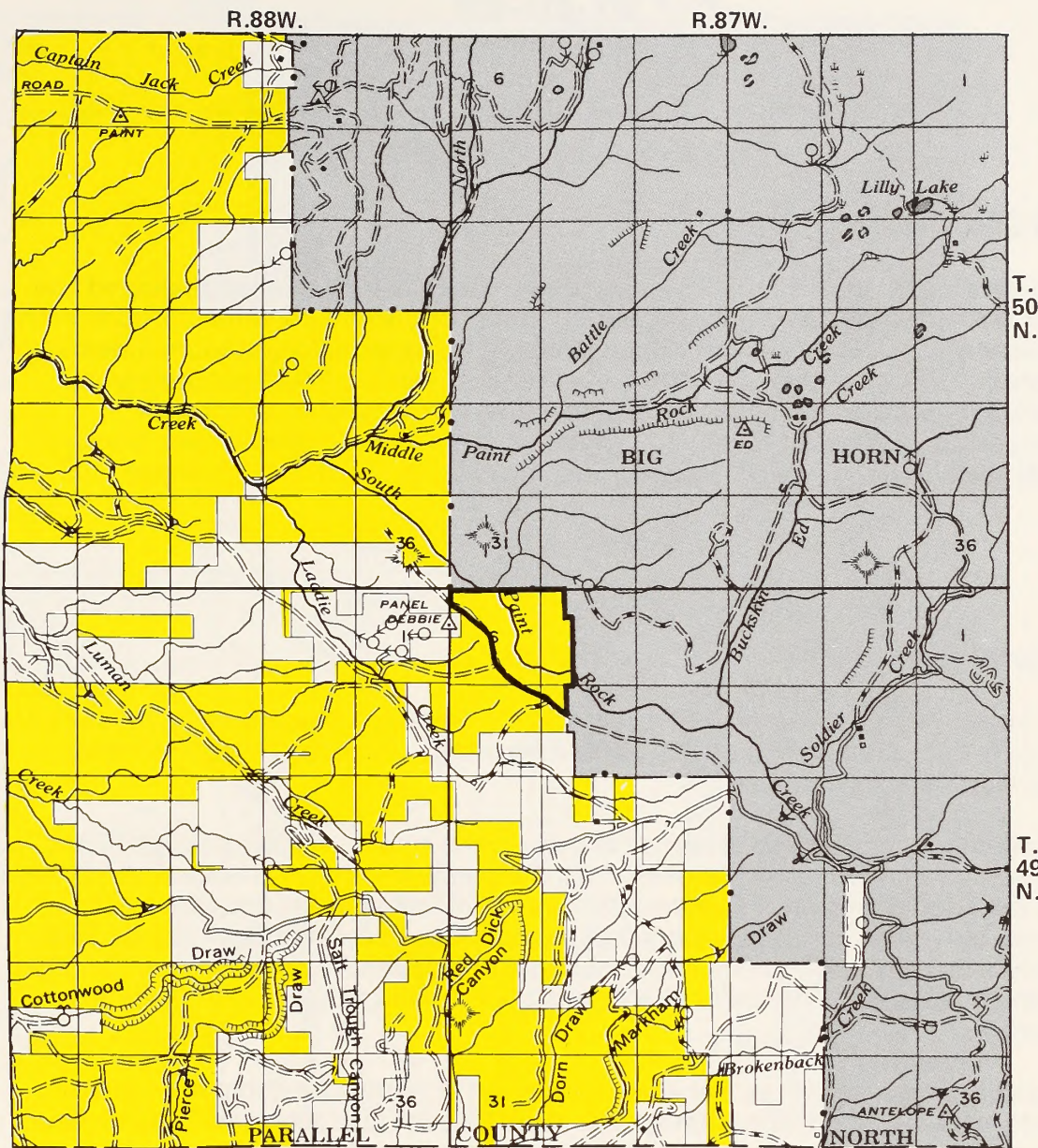
**Size.** The unit contains 660 acres of public land. It is bordered on the north and east by National Forest lands which are included in a unit classified for further planning following the Forest Service RARE II evaluation. It is because of the adjacent forest lands that caused this unit to be a Wilderness Study Area.

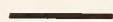



**Naturalness.** The only evidence of human activity is a section of barbed wire fence extending a short distance into the canyon near the northwest corner of the unit, and two segments of vehicle trail on the bench in the northeastern corner. These two routes are two-track trails created and maintained by the occasional passage of vehicles. These intrusions do not have a significant impact on the natural character of the unit.

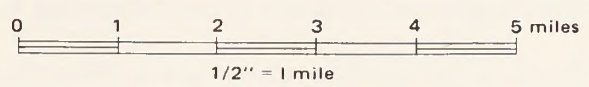
**Outstanding Opportunities.** Because of its small size, the unit could not by itself provide the kind of outstanding opportunity for solitude expected of wilderness. However, if the adjacent National Forest roadless area is found to have outstanding solitude and to warrant designation as wilderness, then this unit would make a logical extension of such a designation, and it could be considered to have outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Similarly, the difference between an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation and merely an opportunity depends on the adjacent National Forest lands.

**Supplemental Values.** This unit falls in an area of critical winter habitat for elk and mule deer.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land
-  National Forest Land



**SOUTH PAINT ROCK  
WY-010-236**

# Paint Rock

WY-010-239  
2,770 acres

## Unit Description

The northern half of this unit lies within Paint Rock Basin, the broad U-shaped canyon of North Paint Rock Creek. The southern half of the unit contains portions of the Middle and South Fork canyons which exhibit a V-shaped cross section. A riparian community along the creeks is dominated by aspen and narrowleaf cottonwood. Vegetation on south-facing slopes and in Paint Rock Basin is a sagebrush community with some mountain mahogany occurring on steeper slopes. Dense stands of conifers, mainly Douglas fir, are found on the north-facing slopes.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** The size of this unit is 2,770 acres. It is a Wilderness Study Area by virtue of its proximity to an area classified for "further planning" under the Forest Service's RARE II evaluation.

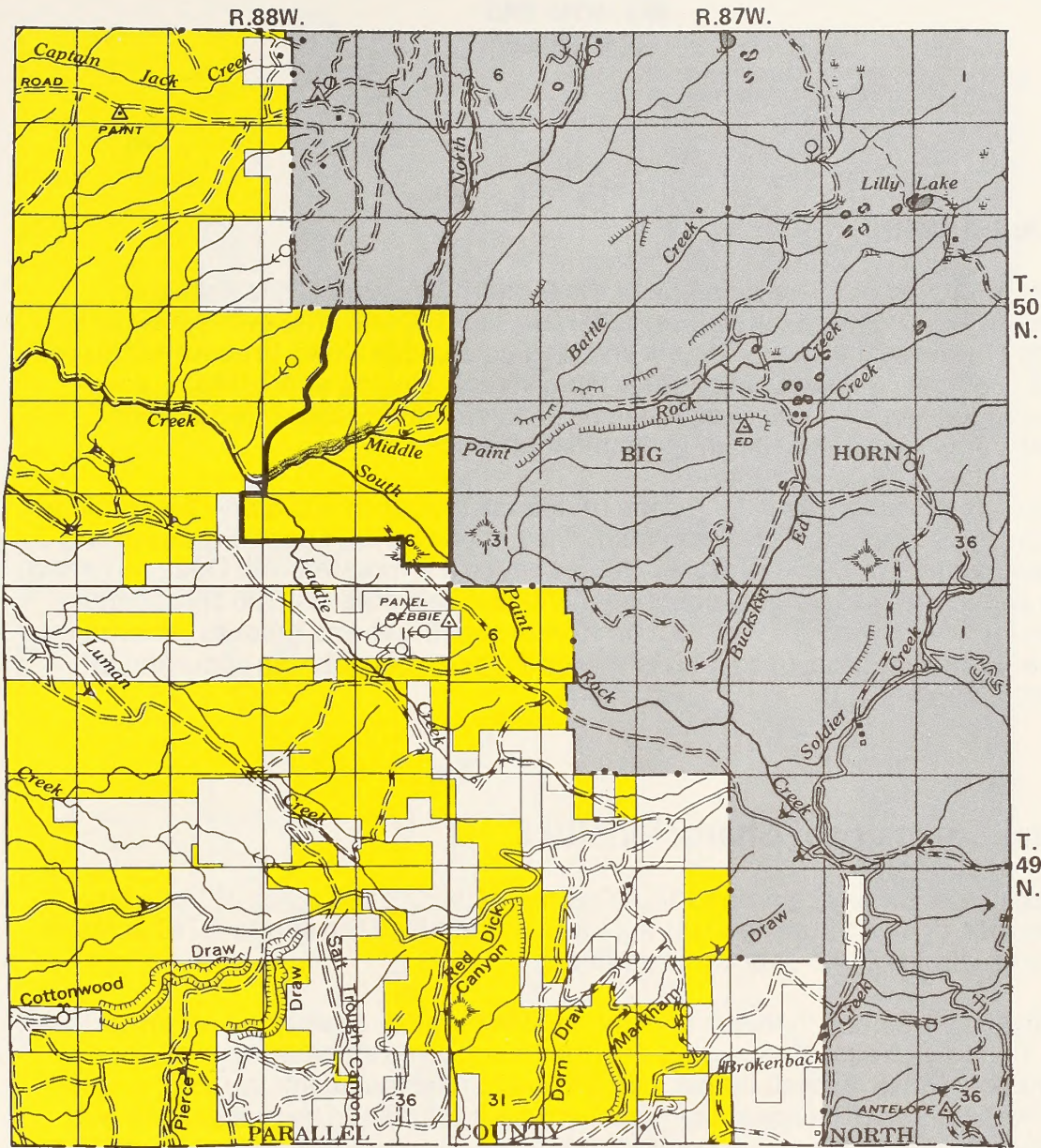
**Naturalness.** The evidence of human activity in the area is relatively insignificant. The Paint Rock Road is the feature having the greatest impact on natural character. It was classified during intensive inventory as a cherrystem road, from the west boundary of the intensive inventory unit to the bridge over Paint Rock Creek. Two two-track trails, an abandoned cabin, two foot bridges and some fence are the other man-made features in the unit but are not considered significant in the natural landscape.



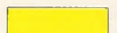
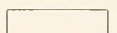

**Outstanding Opportunities.** Because of its small size, the unit could not by itself provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. If that characteristic is determined to exist on the adjacent National Forest lands, however, the unit would make a significant contribution to opportunities for outstanding solitude.

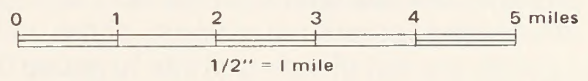
The fish and wildlife resources in this unit provide outstanding opportunities for stream fishing and hunting. If the unit was combined with adjacent National Forest lands into a single management unit, outstanding opportunities would exist for most of the recreational activities usually associated with a mountain wilderness setting.

**Supplemental Values.** The unit is included in critical winter habitat for mule deer, elk and bighorn sheep. The unit is of geologic interest as the point of furthest advance of the Paint Rock Glacier.





-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Excluded Area
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land
-  National Forest Land



**PAINT ROCK  
WY-010-239**

# Medicine Lodge

WY-010-240  
7,740 acres

## Unit Description

This unit is located on the west slope of the Bighorn Mountains. It is a steeply sloping unit ranging in elevation from 8,200 feet to 5,100 feet. The average elevation difference between the canyon's rims and Medicine Lodge Creek is about 1,000 feet. The unit consists of Medicine Lodge Canyon, steeply sloping shrubsteppe, and broken, rugged areas with shallow canyons and unusual knobby rock outcrops. Medicine Lodge Canyon is the unit's dominant feature.

Vegetation in the unit is diverse. A band of riparian growth exists along the Medicine Lodge Creek. South facing slopes in Medicine Lodge Canyon support grasses and mountain mahogany. The cool slopes in the canyon are forested with Douglas fir and, in open areas, with sagebrush, mountain mahogany and grasses. The shrubsteppe areas and rims of the canyon are vegetated with sagebrush and grasses. The rough, broken areas are dominated by juniper with grasses and sagebrush occurring in more open areas.

## General Summary of Characteristics

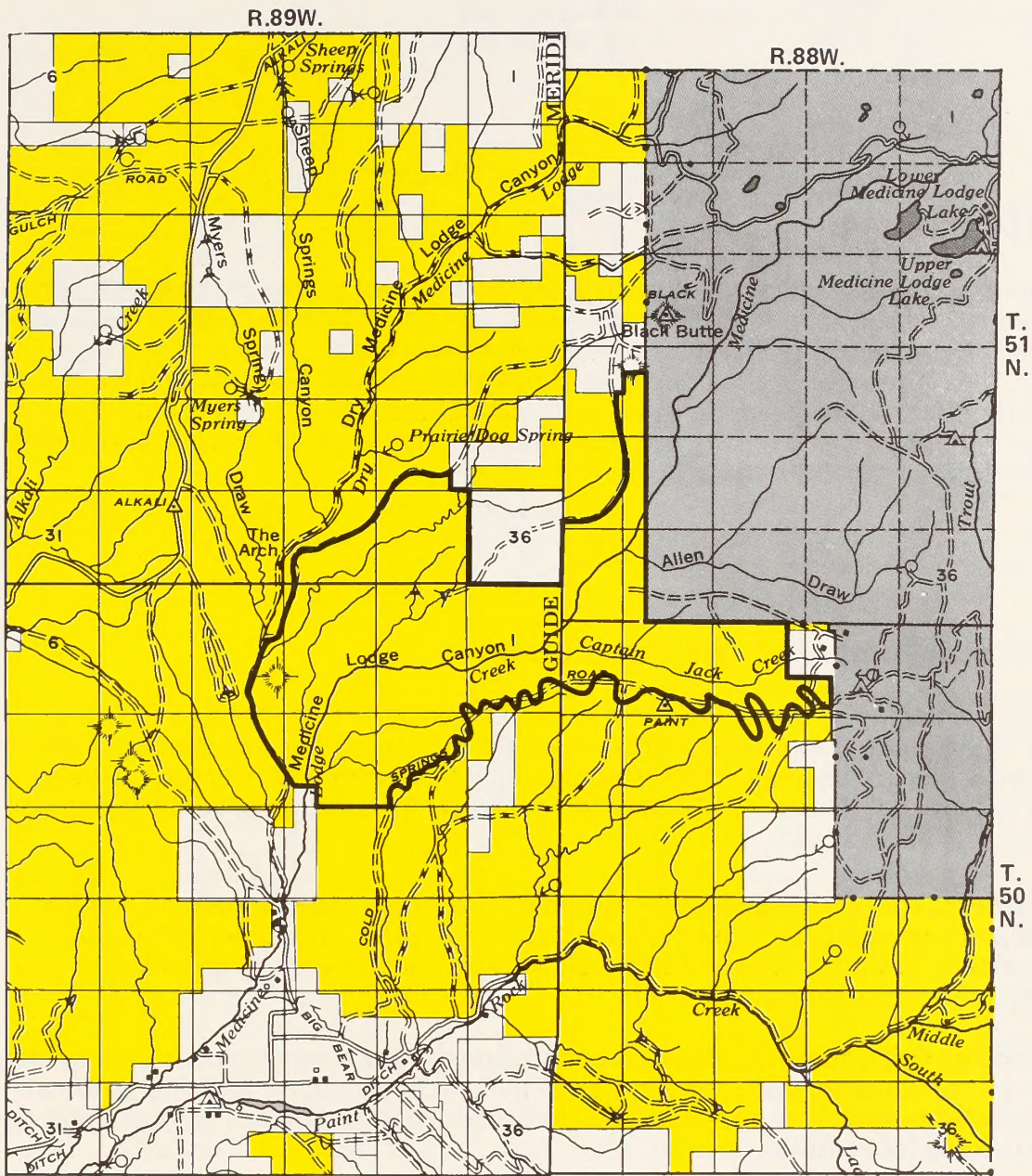
**Size.** The unit originally contained 10,700 acres, including 990 acres of State land. Identification of a two-track road during inventory reduced the unit to 7,740 acres of public land with no State or private inholdings.



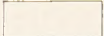

**Naturalness.** Intrusions in the unit are minimal in terms of density, visual impact and extent. Two-track trails, three spring developments, three small reservoirs, short segments of fences, a small timber sale and cabin ruins are major intrusions noted during the inventory. The impact of these intrusions is limited by topographic and vegetative screening. Medicine Lodge Canyon has no intrusions and is essentially pristine. The intrusions on the rims and flats above the canyon do not significantly affect the apparent naturalness of the unit. Overall, the intrusions, individually or as a group, are not of a magnitude to cause the exclusion of portions of the unit.

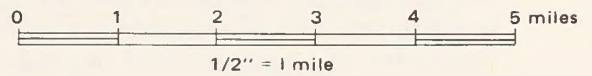
**Outstanding Opportunities.** Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist in the major portion of the unit. Topographic and vegetative screening, in general, coupled with the attributes of Medicine Lodge Canyon provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

The unit as a whole, has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, due to the variety of activities available and quality of the resources on which those activities rely.

**Supplemental Values.** Nearly the entire unit is critical elk winter range. Portions of the unit serve as critical deer winter range and as bighorn sheep summer range. Part of the unit is used as access by elk moving to calving areas in the National Forest. Medicine Lodge Canyon is essentially unaffected by human activity and therefore, is important in the study of natural processes. The exposed geologic features in the canyon provide the opportunity for study of the geologic history of the area. The canyon is also a storehouse for fossils from the Lower Mississippian Age. Medicine Lodge Canyon rates extremely high under the BLM's system of rating scenic value.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land
-  National Forest Land



MEDICINE LODGE  
WY-010-240

# Alkali Creek

WY-010-241

10,100 acres

## Unit Description

This unit is located in a transition zone between the lower slopes of the Big Horn Mountains and the floor of the Big Horn Basin. The unit is an extension of the juniper covered slopes and canyons which characterize the lower west slope of the Big Horns. The unit ranges in elevation from about 4,850 to 7,000 feet. The unit is primarily vegetated by junipers, sagebrush and grasses. The topography is characterized by small canyons and rock outcrops. Soil and rock color is a dominant visual feature throughout the unit.

## General Summary of Characteristics

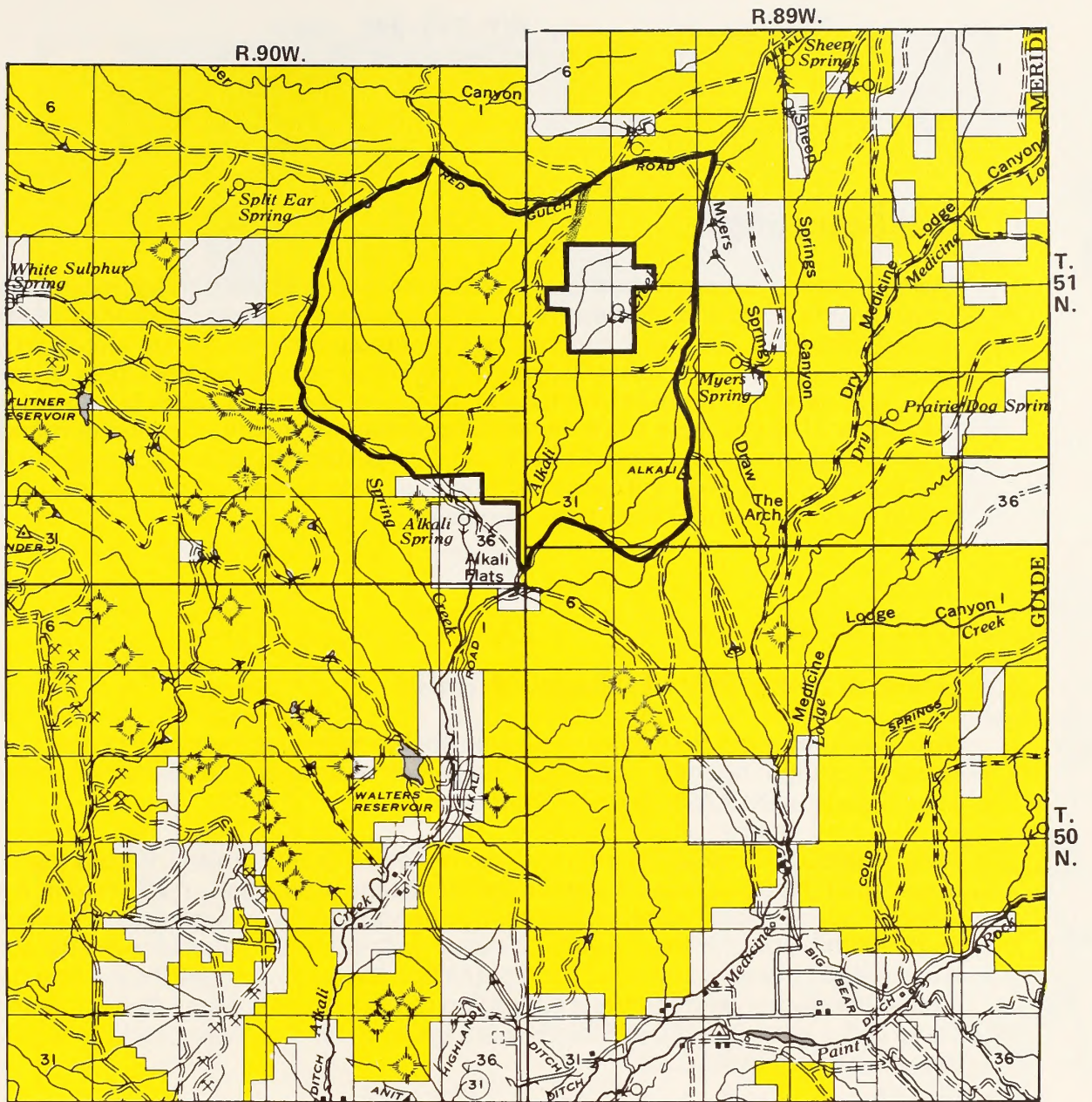
**Size.** At the beginning of the intensive inventory period, the unit totaled 17,000 acres. During inventory several intrusions and a two-track road was identified which dropped a western segment of 6,910 acres of public land (plus 645 acres of State land). The present Wilderness Study Area contains 10,100 acres of public land and 711 acres of private land.



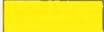

**Naturalness.** The unit is essentially natural with few man-made intrusions. Vehicle routes and fences are the most common intrusions. Other intrusions are visually insignificant, few in number and sufficiently dispersed so as not to be a major impact on the naturalness of the unit.

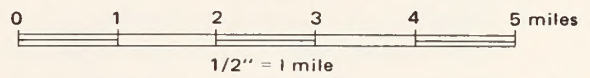
**Outstanding Opportunities.** Vegetative and topographic screening are major features of the unit's character. The configuration of the unit is conducive to solitude. When the constraint of minimal use is coupled with these factors, the unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude.

The unit is considered to have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The numerous forms of activity possible are enhanced by landscape character, topographic and vegetative diversity and lack of man-made confinements.

**Supplemental Values.** The unit falls within critical winter range for mule deer and is an elk wintering area. The unit encompasses at least two sage grouse strutting grounds. Golden eagles inhabit the area.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Excluded Area
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



ALKALI CREEK  
WY-010-241

# Trapper Creek

WY-010-242

7,200 acres

## Unit Description

Trapper Canyon is one of the most spectacular of the canyons on the west slope of the Big Horn Mountains. The canyon is characterized by nearly vertical sides ranging from 500 feet to 1,200 feet in height. The rims are approximately 800 feet apart. A riparian vegetative community is found along the length of Trapper Creek. A conifer zone dominated by Douglas fir is located on higher elevation, north facing slopes in the canyon. The canyon's south-facing slopes support mountain mahogany and juniper, as do lower elevation north-facing slopes. Sagebrush and grasses are the dominant vegetation on the canyon's rims. Elevation of the unit ranges from 4,700 feet at the west end to 8,400 feet at the east end.

## General Summary of Characteristics

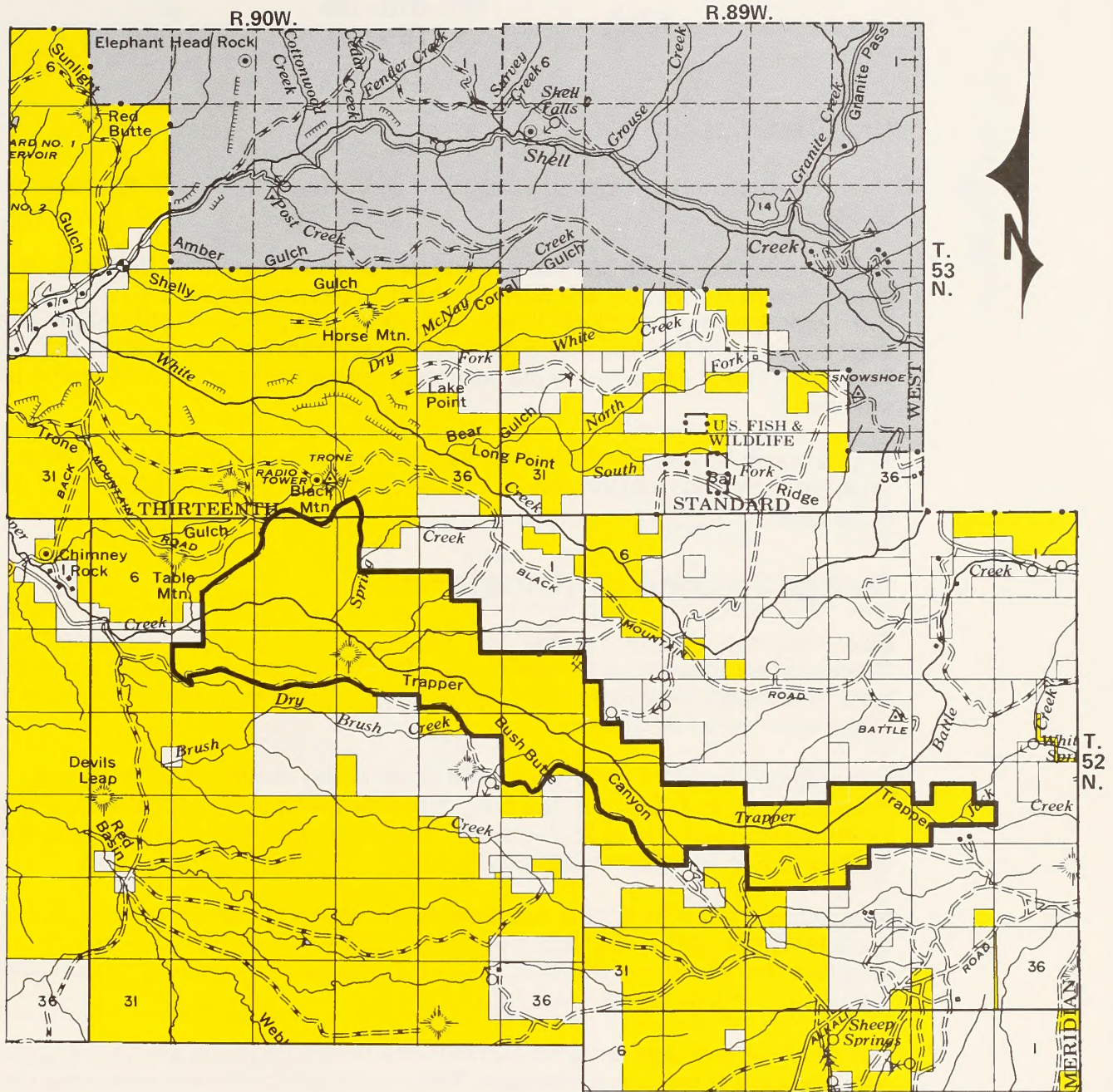
**Size.** This unit was 7,600 acres in size during the intensive inventory period; however, a slight boundary modification and more accurate measurement resulted in a Wilderness Study Area of 7,200 acres.

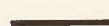



**Naturalness.** Evidence of human activity in the unit is very limited. Within the confines of the canyon itself, man-made intrusions are virtually nonexistent. A small water pump and short plastic pipeline in a tributary to the canyon was the only man-made feature noted in the canyon. Livestock grazing was noted but was limited to a small area at the east and west ends of the unit. Intrusions above the canyon rims are limited mainly to two-track trails extending to the canyon's edges from more major roads in the area. Overall, intrusions were few and not significant enough to affect the unit's naturalness.

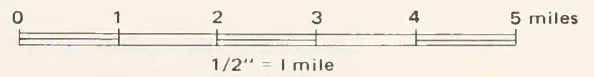
**Outstanding Opportunities.** This unit provides outstanding opportunity for solitude. As a result of the excellent screening characteristics and the difficulty of access, one can expect to have an experience in Trapper Canyon unintruded by the sights and sounds of man or his activities. The quality of this solitude experience and the perception of the experience are enhanced by the outstanding natural setting and by the difficulty of access and the effort required to travel in the unit.

The Trapper Creek unit provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The types of activities available and the setting of the unit are essentially similar to the activities and the setting traditionally associated with a "typical" wilderness setting and experience.

**Supplemental Values.** Supplemental values relate to geology (study of formations and paleontological values), wildlife (populations less affected by man than in surrounding areas), ecology (a natural ecosystem not affected by domestic livestock), and high quality scenic values.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land
-  National Forest Land



TRAPPER CREEK  
WY-010-242

# McCullough Peaks

WY-010-335  
25,210 acres

## Unit Description

This unit is located in the northern portion of the Big Horn Basin, 10 miles northeast of Cody.

The unit consists of the badlands which form the north slope of the McCullough Peaks. The terrain is characterized by sharp ridges and deeply eroded drainages. The five major drainages are: Deer Creek, Willwood Draw, Roan Wash, and the north and west branches of Whistle Creek. Elevations vary from 6,400 feet at the McCullough Peaks to a low of 4,000 feet in the northeast corner of the unit. There are no perennial streams.

Vegetation in this badlands unit is a sagebrush, saltbush, grass association. Riparian vegetation (cottonwoods, willows, etc.) does occur along some of the major drainages.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** Field investigation resulted in a major boundary change in the unit. The Deer Creek trail was found not to meet criteria for classification as a road and the area west to Badland Peak Road and south to the Sage Creek Road was found to meet the wilderness roadless criteria.

The original size of this unit as defined in the initial inventory decision was approximately 11,000 acres. The boundary change returned 14,210 acres to the unit, resulting in a total size of 25,210 acres of public land. A State section falls within the area identified as a Wilderness Study Area.

**Naturalness.** The unit retains a substantially natural character. Intrusions consist of the Deer Creek trail, numerous vehicle trails in the northwest portion of the unit and a small number of seismograph exploration trails. Several reservoirs are scattered through the unit but are a minor intrusion.

The dendritic drainage patterns and extreme terrain variation within the unit provide ample natural screening throughout. This topographic diversity enhances the naturalness of the unit and provides many interesting views and scenic vistas.

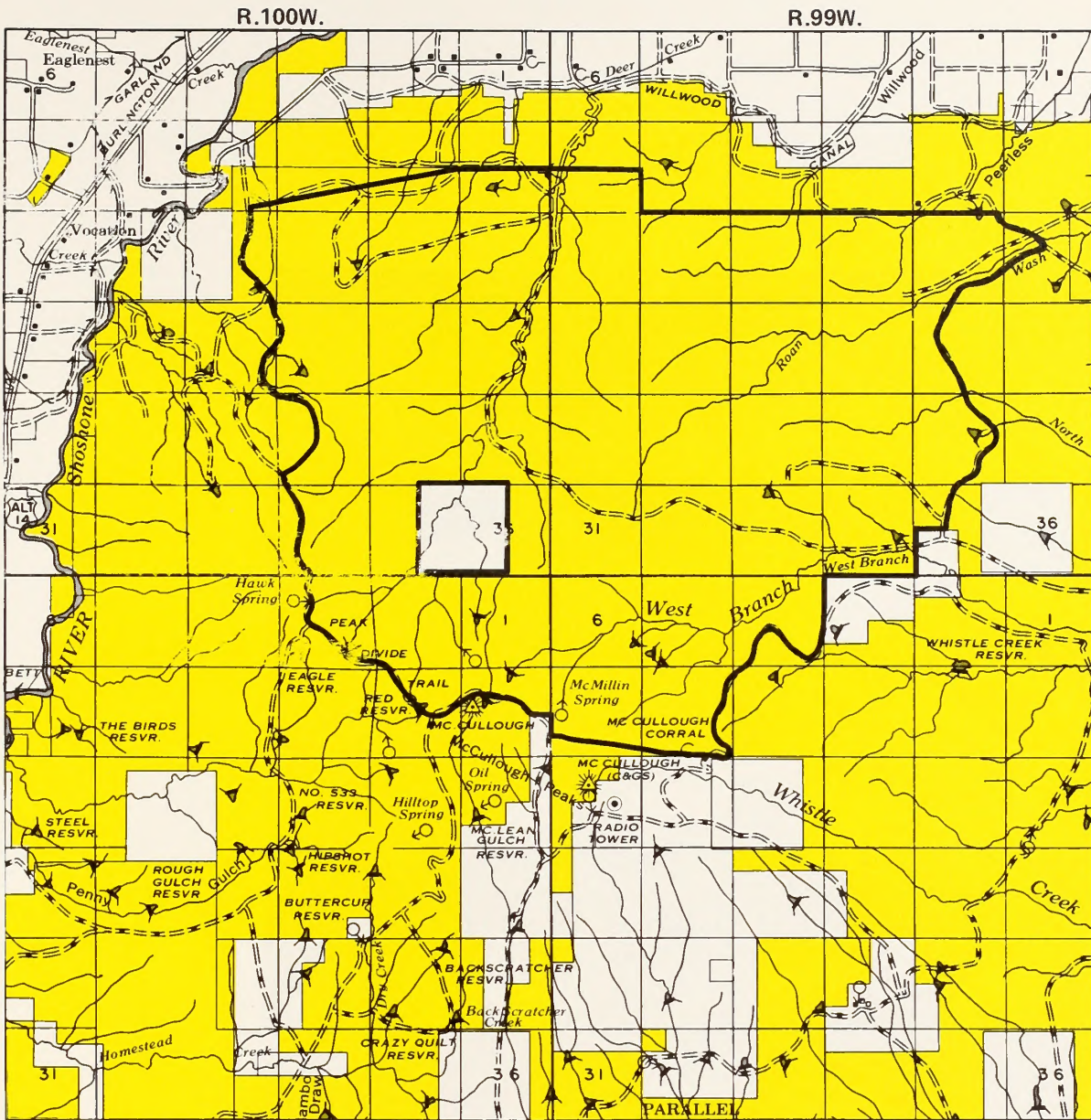
**Outstanding Opportunities.** The unit offers outstanding opportunity for solitude. The rugged badland topography of the unit combined with its size, configuration and substantially natural character provide opportunity to avoid evidence of human activity. The fact that there are five separate drainages within the unit and each drainage branches into a maze of small, winding, badland canyons, ensures both excellent dispersal of use and an exceptionally high degree of visual screening.




A variety of primitive recreation activities are available throughout the unit. Some activities such as hiking, hunting, horseback riding and photography are excellent.

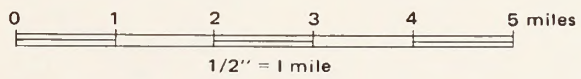
**Supplemental Values.** During field inventory, paleontological values were frequently observed within the unit. One small archeological site was also identified.

Wild horse bands are found in the unit. It has been estimated that 200 to 250 wild horses populate the McCullough Peaks vicinity. Perhaps one-fourth the total herd uses the lands within the unit boundaries on a regular basis.





-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



**McCULLOUGH PEAKS**  
 WY-010-335





**Rock Springs District**

# East Fork

WY-040-106

1,415 acres

## Unit Description

The unit is located within the foothills of the Wind River Mountain Range. Elevation varies from 7,800 feet on the west to 9,000 feet at the forest boundary. Topographic and vegetative characteristics are steep forested slopes interspersed with massive granitic outcroppings. This small unit is retained as a Wilderness Study Area because it is adjacent to a Forest Service RARE II area and will be studied in conjunction with the Forest Service area.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** The unit was initially reported to contain approximately 4,600 acres of public land. Redetermination of these figures added approximately 900 additional acres, making the inventory acreage 5,500 acres. After several deletions due to intrusions a final Wilderness Study Area of 1,415 acres of public land was identified.

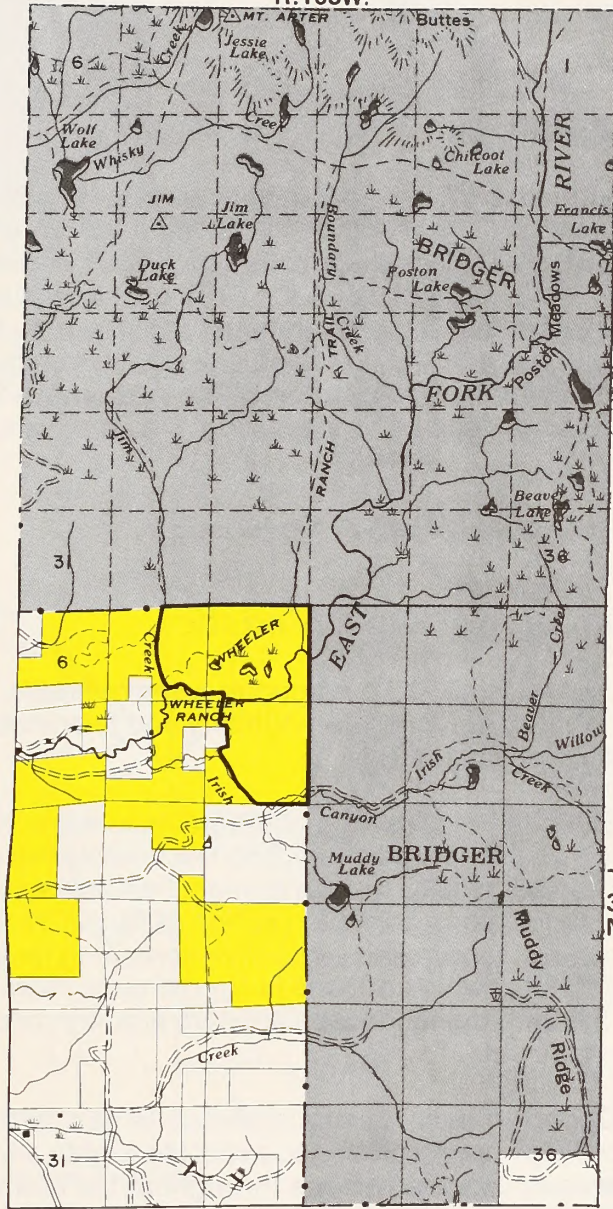
**Naturalness.** Of the 5,500 acres inventoried, approximately 1,415 acres were determined to meet the naturalness criteria. This area along the Forest Service boundary is steep and rugged, with the only evidence of man being two pack trails. The remainder of the area contains significant man-made intrusions, including a road, ways, fences, a water gauging station and an irrigation ditch.

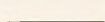
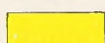


**Outstanding Opportunities** This unit possesses the inherent capability to offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The area borders on a portion of the Bridger-Teton National Forest that has been recommended for wilderness designation. The terrain varies from river bottom to bare granitic outcrops, with vegetation ranging from open sagebrush slopes to dense forest cover. This topographic variance and widespread vegetative cover supplies opportunities for isolation from the sights and sounds of other users.

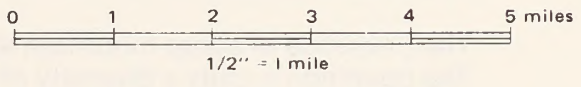
Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are found in the same area offering opportunities for solitude. Rugged, challenging topography, perennial streams, variable terrain and vegetation all contribute to outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. This area contains a diversity that can supply a broad base for a variety of recreation activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, rock climbing and sightseeing.

**Supplemental Values.** The East Fork Unit provides excellent antelope, sage grouse, elk and fish habitat. It also provides access to Forest Service lands, portions of which have been recommended for designation as wilderness. The Jim Creek and Wheeler Ranch pack trails both cross this unit and provide access to Forest Service lands and the Bridger Wilderness Area.

R. 105W.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land
-  National Forest Land



# Lake Mountain

WY-040-110  
13,970 acres

## Unit Description

The unit lies within the Wyoming Range in western Wyoming. It contains an irregular series of steep-sided ridges ranging in elevation from 7,400 feet to over 9,600 feet. Four main drainages are found within the unit. Rock Creek, in the central part of the unit, contains a population of Colorado River cutthroat trout designated "rare" by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and "sensitive" by the BLM. Forest cover is found throughout most of the unit. This cover is broken by areas of a sagebrush-grass association and bare talus slopes. The Wilderness Study Area decision on this unit is presently under appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** The unit contains 13,970 contiguous acres of public land. A 2 1/4-mile cherry-stem road penetrates the northern boundary and terminates at a 40-acre parcel of private land on Lake Mountain.

**Naturalness.** Despite the presence of several man-made intrusions, the unit appears to retain an essentially natural character. The cumulative effect of all intrusions compromises naturalness to a small degree. Five ways, a short road and a buck and pole enclosure fence along a 2-mile section of Rock Creek constitute the major intrusions. However, terrain and vegetative screening lessen their impact to the point that they are not noticeable until one is almost upon them. From numerous vantage points within the unit, the landscape appears entirely natural and completely unaffected by man.

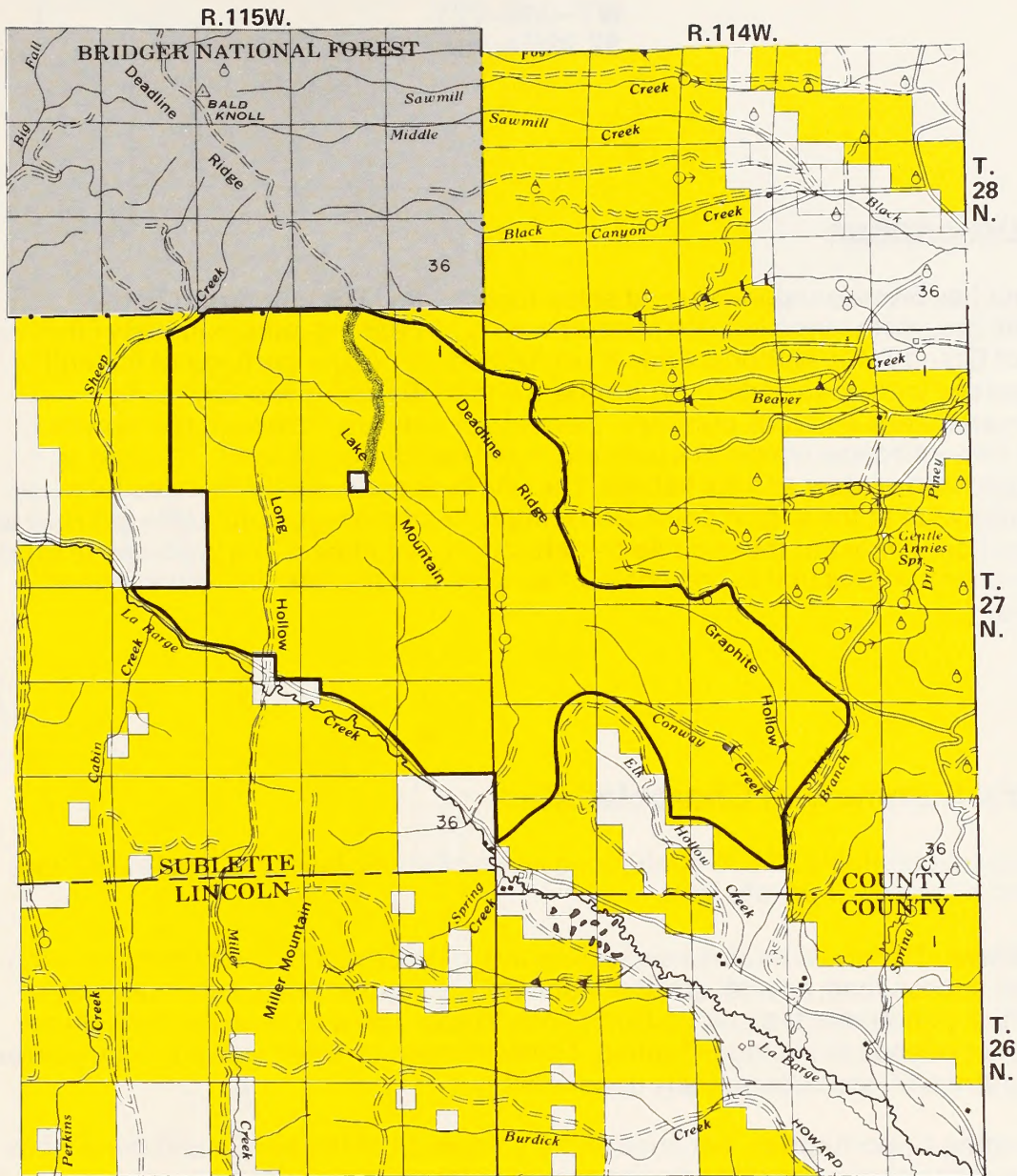
**Outstanding Opportunities.** The mountainous terrain, with moderate to dense forest cover, provides many opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of other users. There are numerous secluded places throughout the unit where a person could experience outstanding solitude. The Class A scenery enhances this opportunity.




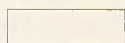

The presence of steep mountain slopes, deep canyons, forested areas and meadow-like openings supply a diversity of recreation opportunity that is almost unlimited.

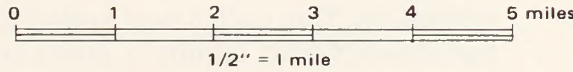
Activities for which outstanding opportunities exist include hiking, horseback riding, hunting, wildlife observation, ski touring and nature photography.

**Supplemental Values.** Wildlife is the principal supplemental value of the unit. Species include moose, elk, deer, black bear, grouse and a genetically pure population of Colorado River cutthroat trout. Rock Creek in this unit and five other streams in western Wyoming are the only streams in Wyoming which contain these rare trout.

This unit is important elk winter range for one of the last naturally wintering elk herds in the area. Pikas inhabit the talus slopes and a wide variety of other nongame species is present.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Excluded Area
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land
-  National Forest Land



LAKE MOUNTAIN  
WY-040-110

# Raymond Mountain

WY-040-221  
32,936 acres

## Unit Description

This unit has diverse vegetation and steep topography. The unit is part of the Sublette mountain range located in southwestern Wyoming, approximately 60 miles south of Grand Teton National Park. It is forested over major portions of the unit interspersed with open parks. The southern end of the unit gives way to big sagebrush stands and rock outcrops. Several streams are located in the canyons. One of these streams contains a pure strain of Utah cutthroat trout. The area is important moose, deer and elk habitat. The unit is approximately 19 miles long and four miles wide at the widest point. Some imprints of man are noticeable but they are not significant; most of these could be naturally rehabilitated. The Wilderness Study Area decision on this unit is presently under appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** The unit contains 32,936 contiguous acres of public land, 1,320 acres of State land and 200 acres of private land.

**Naturalness.** The unit contains several imprints of man including a communication site with access road, several small phosphate exploration sites, a dry well site, a road which penetrates the unit up Huff Creek to some private land, several vehicle ways and evidence of livestock trailing. These intrusions, when viewed in the context of the entire unit, are substantially unnoticeable.

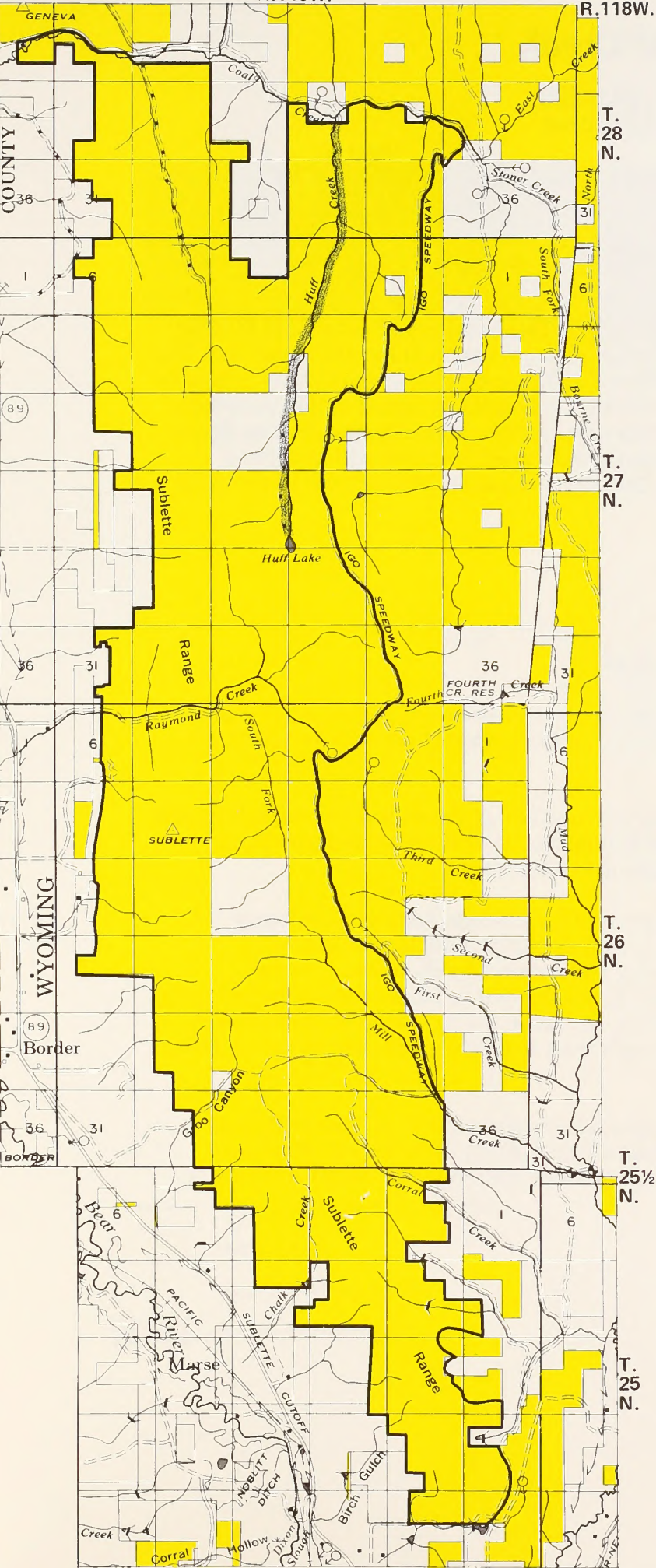
**Outstanding Opportunities.** Because of the steepness of the terrain and the accompanying vegetation, an outstanding opportunity for solitude exists almost throughout the unit. There are many secluded spots which would permit undisturbed recreation. This unit is well suited to hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, climbing, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, nature photography, bird-watching and sightseeing. Opportunity for these activities is considered outstanding in relation to other areas of the region.

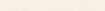
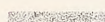

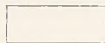
**Supplemental Values.** The area has several supplemental values which enhance the wilderness qualities. The great botanical diversity with abundant species of wild flowers, unusual geologic formations and numerous viewpoints from which magnificent scenery can be enjoyed are the primary supplemental values.

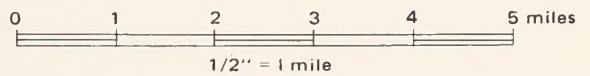


R.119W.

R.118W.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Excluded Area
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



**RAYMOND MOUNTAIN**  
**WY-040-221**

# Coal Creek

WY-040-223

13,174 acres

## Unit Description

This unit is bordered on the north by the Bridger-Teton National Forest. It is located in western Wyoming approximately 50 miles south of Grand Teton National Park. The unit is composed mainly of ridges and draws with two creeks. Vegetation is primarily sagebrush with stands of aspen and conifers. This unit is included in this summary because the inventory decision to drop the unit is under appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. If the inventory decision is overturned, this unit will become a Wilderness Study Area. If the inventory decision is upheld, this unit will be dropped from the wilderness review process.

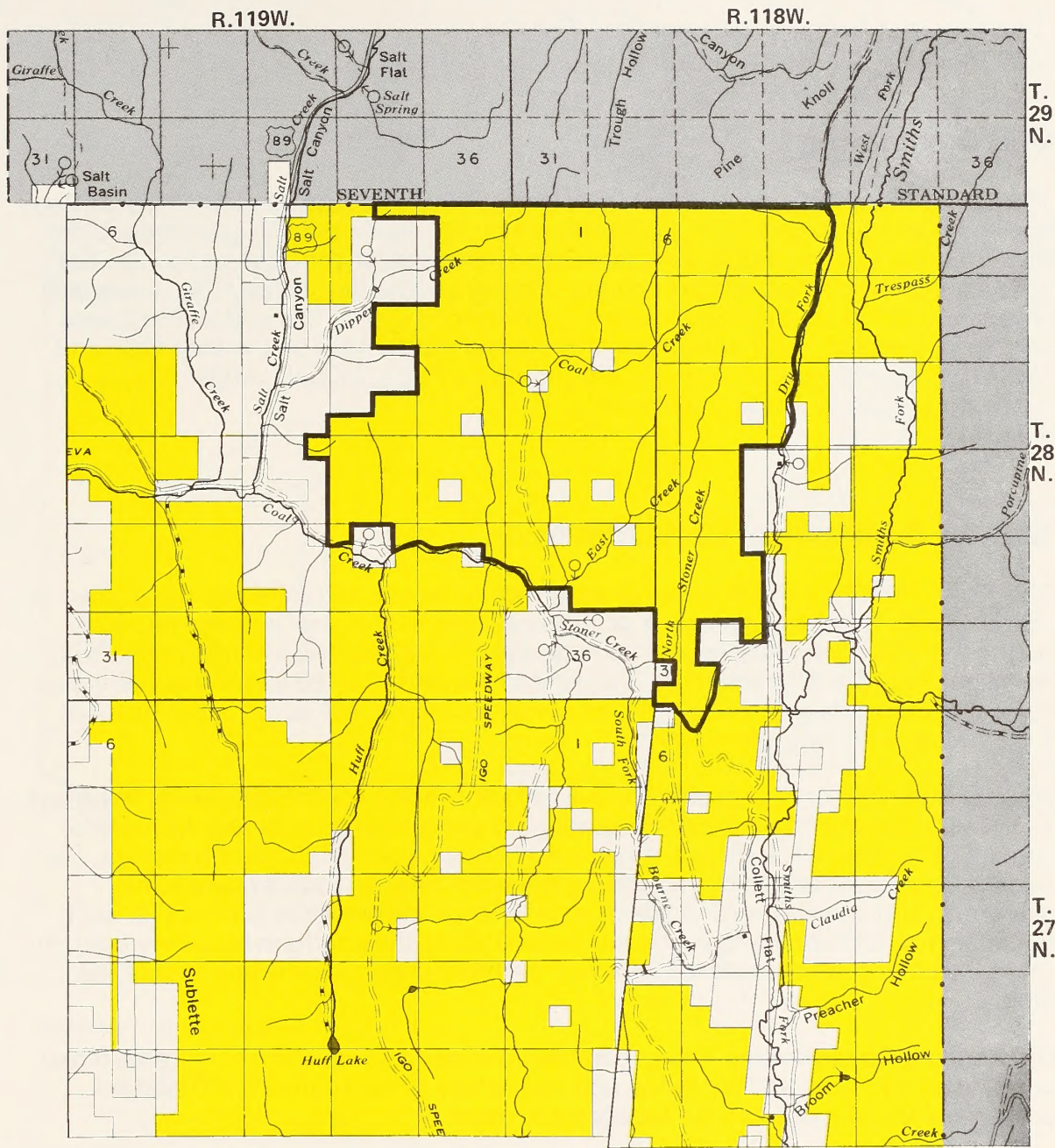
## General Summary of Characteristics





**Size.** The unit contains 13,174 contiguous acres of public land, 320 acres of state land and 40 acres of private land. The State and private lands are in nine scattered 40-acre tracts.

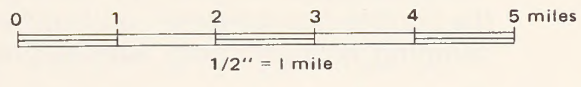
**Naturalness.** Heavy livestock grazing and several vehicle ways are the major impacts on the unit's naturalness. However, these impacts are short term and overall; the area still appears to be substantially natural in character.

**Outstanding Opportunities.** While opportunity for solitude does exist in many locations throughout the unit, the quality of that opportunity is not clearly outstanding. The same situation exists for recreation opportunities. Several recreation opportunities exist for primitive, unconfined recreation including hunting, horseback riding and cross-country skiing. However, the opportunity to engage in these activities is not significantly different than similar opportunity on surrounding lands.

**Supplemental Values.** Coal Creek contains a fairly good strain of Utah cutthroat trout. Several beaver ponds are present and important to the area's ecological interrelationships. Some scenic views are present, although the overall scenery is not all that spectacular.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land
-  National Forest Land



**COAL CREEK  
WY-040-223**

# Buffalo Hump

WY-040-306  
10,300 acres

## Unit Description

This unit is located in northcentral Sweetwater Country about 30 miles north of Rock Springs. The unit ranges from climax stands of big sagebrush and greasewood on the north and west, to active sand dunes and meadows on the east and south. The main topographic relief, which consists of many sand valleys, blowouts, dunes and hills, occur in the southern and eastern portions of the unit. The unit's boundaries consist of a railroad spur and edges of State and private land on the east side, and roads to the north, west and south. Washington's Place, a local historic site, is located just outside the west boundary.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** This unit totals 10,300 acres of which 907 acres are withdrawn to the Bureau of Reclamation. This acreage total is an increase over the original acreage because during the initial inventory the northern boundary road was incorrectly plotted from aerial photos. After State land (120 acres) and private land (180 acres) were dropped during intensive inventory and the road correction made, 400 acres of public land were added to the original acreage.

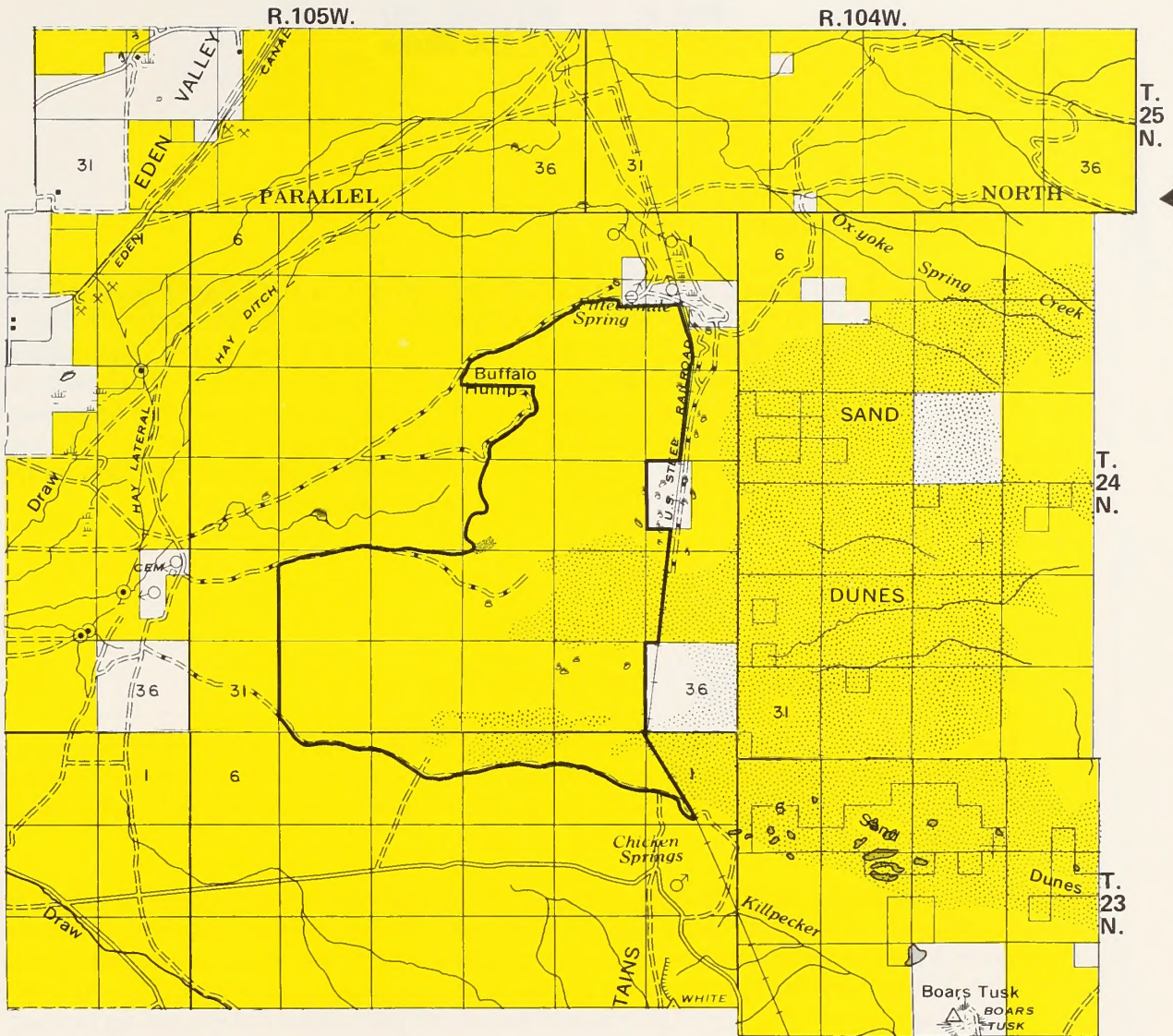
**Naturalness.** This unit is essentially in a natural condition exhibiting an undisturbed sagebrush-grassland ecosystem intermingled with active sand dunes. Intrusions consist of five two-track ways and one seismograph line for a total of 5.5 miles, one tract of sand fence and two recently dug livestock pits. All the ways are faint, overgrown with vegetation and dead end after short distances or connect up with boundary roads. The livestock pits are located along the southern boundary road. All these intrusions are considered to have only minor impact on the integrity of the area.




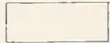
**Outstanding Opportunities.** The general remoteness and isolation of the area make solitude easily found and felt in the unit, especially in the southern and eastern portions of the unit due to their topographic relief.

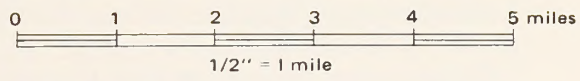
The best opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation can also be found in the southern and eastern portions of the unit. These include hiking, backpacking, camping, bird-watching, wildlife photography, horseback riding and hunting.

**Supplemental Values.** Ecological, historic and cultural values occur in the unit. Ecologically, this area typifies a sagebrush-bunchgrass ecosystem featuring gently rolling sagebrush covered sand hills, with some active barren sand dunes. Rabbit-brush and greasewood are also common throughout this unspoiled remnant. This area attracts wild horses, mule deer, a unique herd of desert elk and large numbers of pronghorn antelope. Signs were found that indicate raptors and coyotes are frequent visitors to the area. Reports of cougar have been received.

Of cultural interest, two very important archeological sites have been found in and within one mile of the unit. These are the Finley site and Eden-Farson site where a distinctive projectile point gave evidence of one of man's earliest inhabited sites in North America. Therefore, it is highly probable that other notable sites may exist in or around Buffalo Hump.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Excluded Area
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



**BUFFALO HUMP**  
**WY-040-306**

# Sand Dunes

WY-040-307  
27,200 acres

## Unit Description

Killpecker Sand Dunes comprises a large part of this unit. Ox-yoke Spring Creek drains out of this unit in the north and Killpecker Creek runs through this unit in the southwest portion. Boar's Tusk is a prominent landmark just along the southern edge of this unit. Besides the barren active dunes which offer superb draws and valleys, this area contains wet meadows, sod grass, greasewood, big sagebrush and rabbitbrush communities. The unit is located in northcentral Sweetwater County about 13 miles southeast of Farson. The Wilderness Study Area decision on this unit is presently under appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

## General Summary of Characteristics

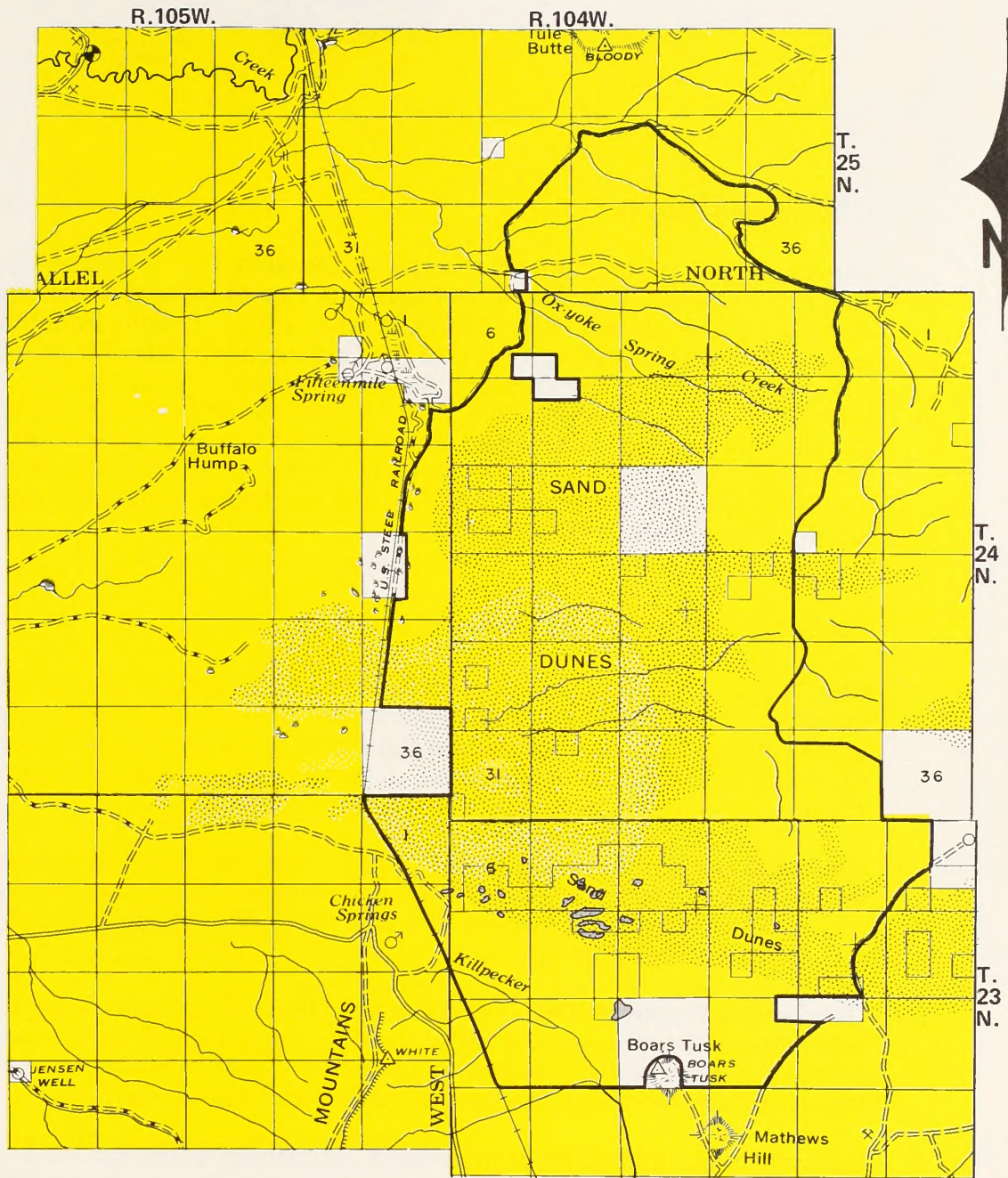
**Size.** The original Sand Dunes unit totaled 31,016 acres of public land. Numerous seismic tracts and two-track ways in part of the original unit caused 3,816 acres to be dropped. The remaining 27,200 acres of public lands contain no State or private inholdings.




**Naturalness.** A portion in the east edge of the unit, which contained 26 jeep trails and 10 seismic lines for a total of 36.33 miles, was dropped. The remaining intrusions were considered fairly minor and do not detract from the apparent naturalness of the unit. These remaining intrusions are two old drill pads occurring within 50 feet of the unit boundary an old corral in the southwestern part and a deteriorating barbed wire fence located in the northern part of the unit. These slight intrusions can easily be rehabilitated. The spectacular northern dunes show no signs at all of human activity.

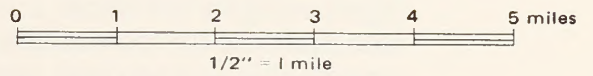
**Outstanding Opportunities.** A person could easily imagine being lost in a sea of sand simply by hiking into one of the many sand-blown basins. The numerous draws, valleys and ridges in the north and eastern sections also provide outstanding opportunities for solitude, due to the screening effect they offer. The relatively large size of this unit with its correspondingly large amount of active sand dunes creates further opportunities for solitude.

Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are readily available in this unit. Hiking in the dunes is a strenuous but rewarding experience. Other activities include nature photography - both scenic and wildlife, bird-watching (raptors), hunting and sightseeing.

**Supplemental Values.** The Sand Dunes contain several supplemental values which qualify this area for wilderness study. Ecologically, the most unique feature of the Sand Dunes is the Eolian ice-cells that feed pools at the base of many large dunes. These are formed as snow and ice accumulate on the leeward side of the dunes and then are covered by blowing sand. These pools, or ponds, range in depth from 6 inches to 8 feet deep, some being crystal clear and almost void of life, while others are muddy, murky and alive with tadpoles, salamanders, insects, waterfowl and various grasses and algae. A very unique wildlife feature to this region is that the dunes presently help support the only herd of desert elk in Wyoming.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



SAND DUNES  
WY-040-307

# Alkali Draw

WY-040-311  
16,990 acres

## Unit Description

The Alkali Draw unit contains a remnant of the Great Divide Basin-Red Desert Area. Two eco-sites are within the Alkali Draw Unit. One of these is Alkali Draw which is dominated by the Draw and its tributaries draining eastwardly from the Bush Rim and Steamboat Mountain portions of the Continental Divide. A series of draws or canyons extend west-east through the unit to create a “washboard” topographic effect. Alkali Rim is the second eco-site and the “washboard” topographic effect is more tightly confined and rugged versus the first eco-site to the north. The Rim dominates the site’s southern aspect and exhibits colorful blue rock escarpments. The Wilderness Study Area decision on this unit is presently under appeal to the Interior Board of the Land Appeals.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** The unit is located 25 miles north of Point of Rocks. Originally this unit was two units containing 22,169 acres of public lands. Through the intensive inventory phase, field investigations reduced this acreage to its present 16,990 acres of public land. An additional 640 acres of State land remain within the southeast corner of the unit. The area is entirely bounded by roads on all sides.

**Naturalness.** The man-made intrusions in the area consist of nine vehicle ways and one abandoned well site. All these ways are substantially unnoticeable and all are undergoing natural revegetation. (The well site is only noticeable to the experienced eye due to natural rehabilitation.)

**Outstanding Opportunities.** The vastness of this unit along with the “washboard” topographic effect contribute to outstanding opportunities for solitude. Several persons could be in the unit and not be aware of each other because of the topographic screening in the form of numerous draws or canyons.

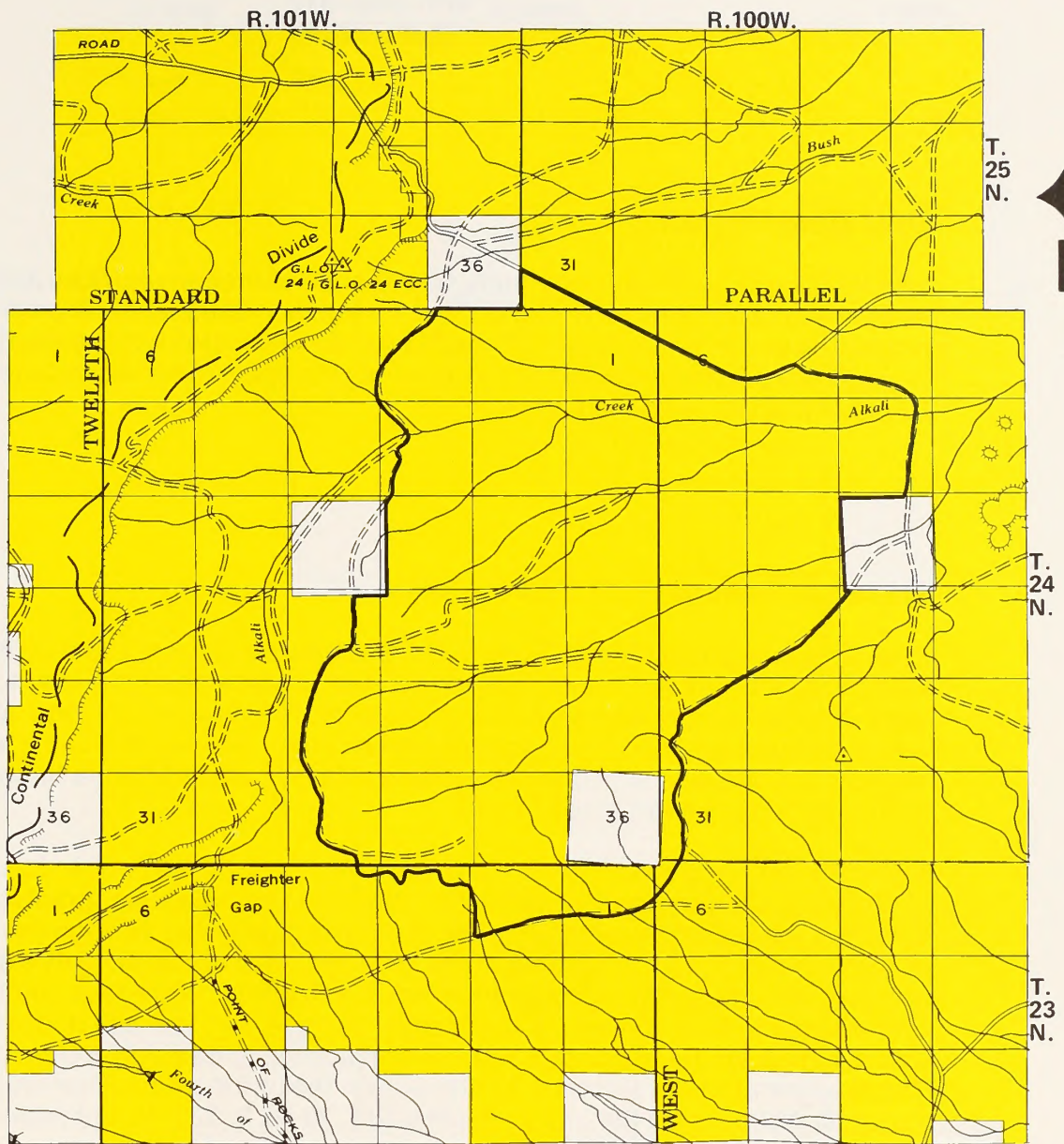
Splendid opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are available within this unit. These include horseback riding, hiking, camping, photography and sightseeing for botanical, zoological and geological features. Some small caves are also available for recreational opportunities. The interesting and beautiful topographic and geologic features (rims and cliff escarpments) offer challenging scenic hikes and non-technical climbing opportunities.




**Supplemental Values.** Ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic and cultural historical supplemental values enhance the wilderness characteristics of the Alkali Draw inventory unit.

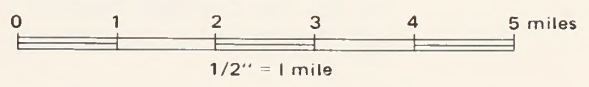
Paleocene fossils, largely snails, clams and leaves are to be seen in the several layers of geologic strata suggesting a former riparian habitat. The blue and yellow colorations associated with the escarpments along with the sandstone formations invite geologic exploration.

This unit is a remnant ecosystem, a relatively rare undisturbed remaining portion of the Red Desert where scientific studies can be accomplished. The Continental Divide splits within this unit to create a basin where the waters are totally contained within the province.





-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



ALKALI DRAW  
WY-040-311

# South Pinnacles

WY-040-313  
10,826 acres

## Unit Description

Within this vast and flat topography, an expanse of broken rimrocks and ridges run west to east across the unit. Rough rocky crags and unusual escarpments are prominent in this rim rock area. Greasewood communities occupy the draws while big sagebrush and nuttall salt bush dominate the open areas. Boundaries are formed by roads and edges of State land.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** This unit is located in northeastern Sweetwater County about 30 miles north-east of Rock Springs. The original unit totaled 12,154 acres; however, 1,328 acres were dropped during intensive inventory phase. The dropped acreage contained a parcel of State land with the original boundary road running through it, a complete section of State land with a well and two roads in it, and a 1/8 mile finger of Federal land containing seismograph lines.

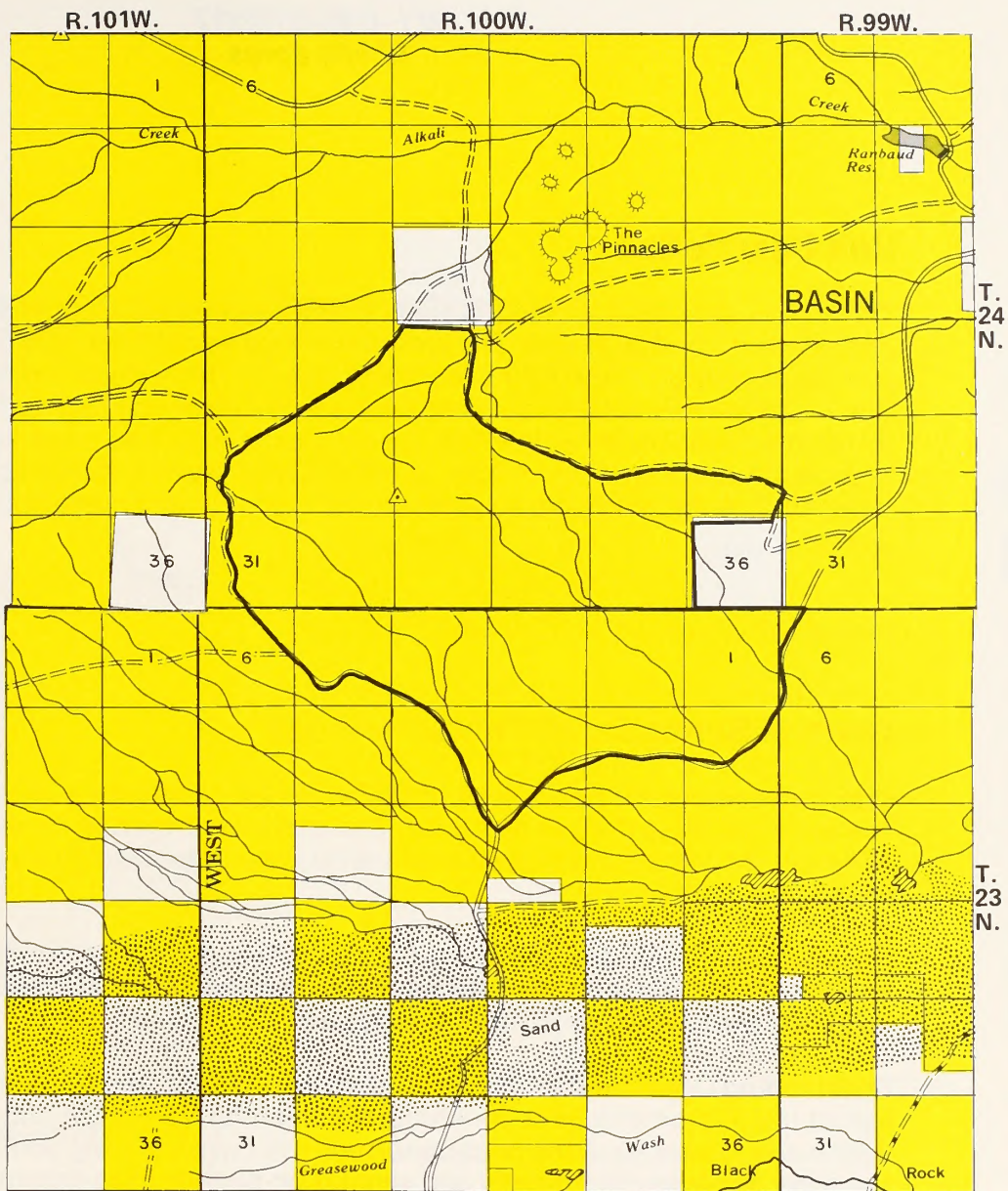
**Naturalness.** The South Pinnacles unit, has for the most part, been spared from the exploration and development activities of man. Only six seismograph trails totaling 9.4 miles are within the unit. Only one trail runs all the way through the midsection of the unit and it is very faint. All other trails are on or along the unit's borders and only two are noticeable. All but one of six jeep trails run along the unit boundary or only intrude a short distance into the unit. The one jeep trail which does enter the unit is extremely faint, washed out and considered to be a very minor intrusion. These jeep trails (ways) total 6.2 miles within the unit borders. One old drill site is about 50 yards within the unit in Section 9, T. 23 N., R. 100 W., but is almost completely natural in appearance and would be passed by the average visitor were it not for the dry hole marker which marks the site. Overall, most of the unit shows very few signs of human activity.




**Outstanding Opportunities.** The rimrock area provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The numerous pockets and small draws provide excellent opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of other people.

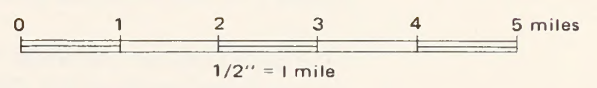
Although not considered outstanding, primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities do exist mainly in the rimrock portion of the unit. These include wildlife observation and photography, rockhounding, horseback riding, hiking and backpacking.

However, two other opportunities may be considered outstanding. Observation and photography of the many geological microsites within the rimrock area is the most notable activity. Camping among the rocky crags could be the second form of outstanding recreation.

**Supplemental Values.** Wildlife is the primary supplemental value. The unit contains wild horses, deer and elk. Some rather large prairie dog towns are located within the unit.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



**SOUTH PINNACLES  
WY-040-313**

# Alkali Basin - East Sand Dunes

WY-040-316/317  
12,800 acres

## Unit Description

This combined unit is located in east central Sweetwater County about 21 miles northeast of Point of Rocks. The area identified as a Wilderness Study Area includes a portion of the Killpecker Sand Dunes. These dunes transverse this unit from west to east. Also, this area comprises an unspoiled remnant of the Red Desert within the Great Divide Basin. The sand dunes themselves impart a rolling topography and draws and ridges of Alkali Creek provide topographic relief. Vegetation is limited to big sagebrush and bunchgrass covered plains between sand dunes.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** The acreage for this unit is 12,800 acres. Originally the size was 47,130 acres in two separate units divided by a road. The intensive inventory found that this road did not exist. Boundary and intrusion adjustments combined the two units into one study area.

**Naturalness.** An old drill pad, a shut-in gas well and two vehicle trails are the only remaining intrusions on the naturalness of the unit; however, these intrusions are insignificant on the overall natural character.

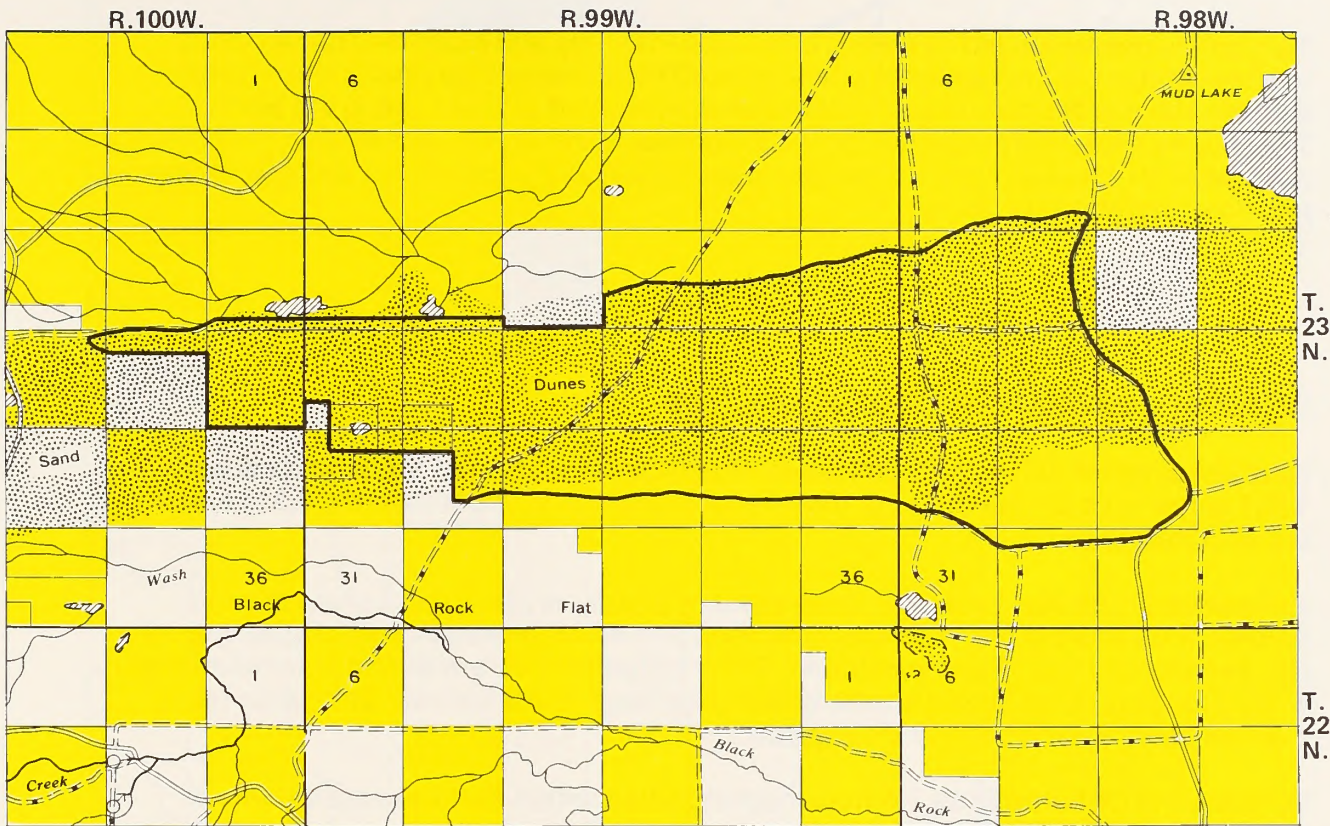
**Outstanding Opportunities.** Many large sand dunes, draws and ridges in the southern half of the unit provide excellent natural screening from sight and sound of others. Within the dune area is the best opportunity to have a quality solitary experience. In the other portions, topography and vegetation provide little natural screening, thus these portions would provide a low quality experience of solitude.




The Sand Dunes provide "outstanding" recreation opportunities for a unique type of unconfined recreation. Other primitive and unconfined types of recreation are horseback riding, hiking, backpacking, camping (packing of water is a necessity), nature study, wildlife photography and observation, hunting, and sightseeing for botanical, zoological, geological and archeological features.

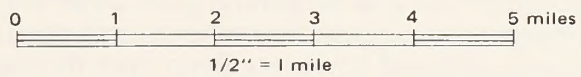
**Supplemental Values.** The Killpecker Dunes are the largest active sand dune region in Wyoming. A remnant of the Red Desert area was recommended for primitive area designation in the Sandy-Pilot Butte MFP of 1975. These dunes help support a unique herd of desert elk, along with antelope, wild horses, coyotes, raptors and numerous other wildlife species.

This region may be of significant value for the study of active sand dunes, their movements and how they are stabilized.

Arrowheads and old chippings bear evidence that early day Native Americans inhabited this region.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



ALKALI BASIN - EAST SAND DUNES  
WY-040-316,317

# Red Lake

WY-040-318  
9,515 acres

## Unit Description

This unit is characterized by rolling brush covered hills and stabilized dunes in its western portion, active and partially stabilized sand dunes throughout the central, eastern and southern sections and the flat dry-lake bed of Red Lake in the north. These dune areas form a portion of the Killpecker Sand Dunes. Vegetation consists of sagebrush species, rabbitbrush and greasewood within the draws and grassy wet meadows between the dunes.

## General Summary of Characteristics

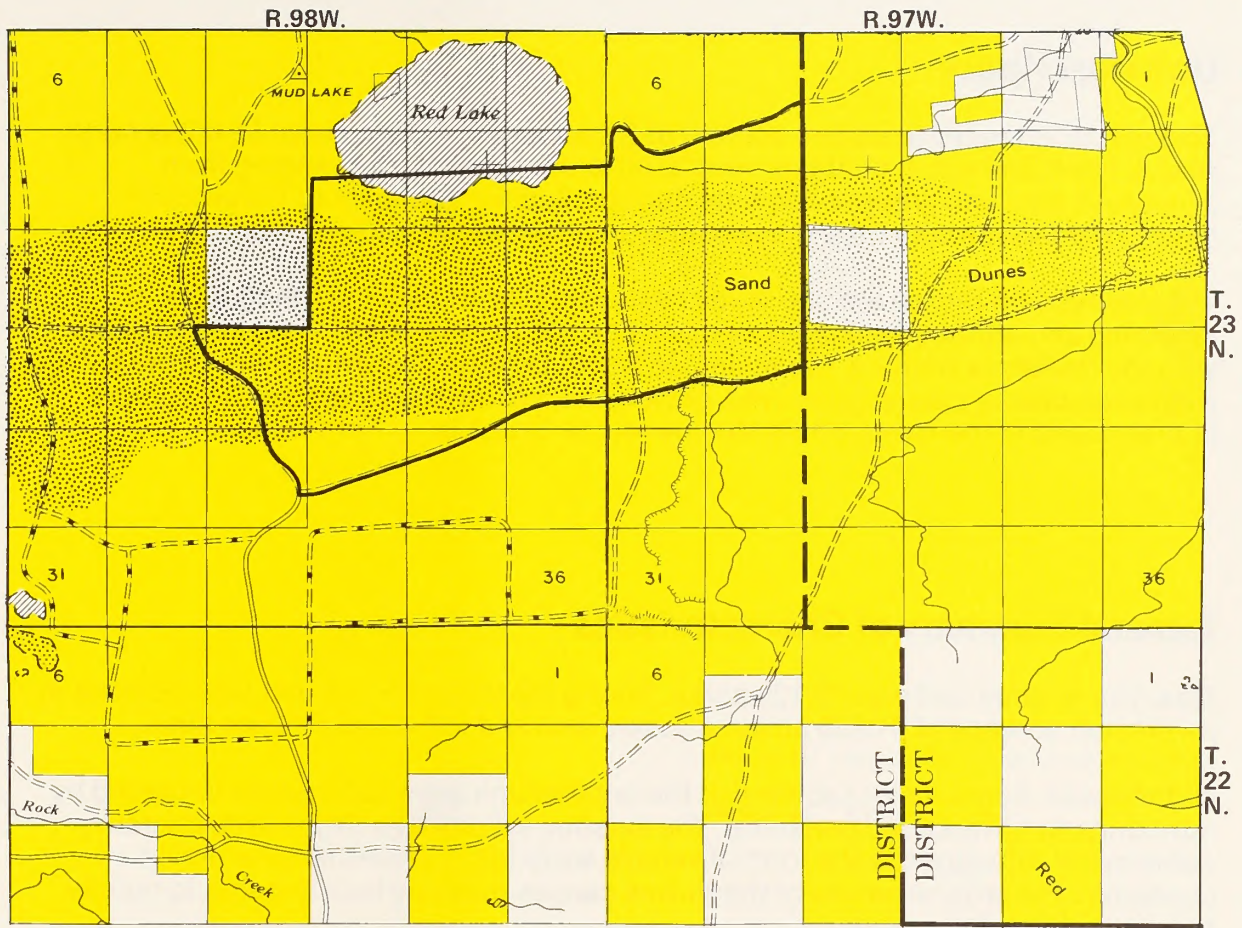
**Size.** The original unit was 10,602 acres. Roads and a section of State land caused 1,087 acres to be dropped during the intensive inventory. The remaining 9,515 acres are all public land.




**Naturalness.** The Red Lake unit, in its present status, is clearly and obviously in a natural state. During the intensive inventory, one minor two-track way originating off the western boundary road was found. Other intrusions are a well and accompanying water trough just inside the northern boundary road, and a few random tracks from 4-wheel drive vehicles and dunebuggies.

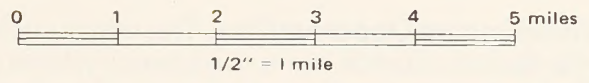
**Outstanding Opportunities.** Solitude opportunities within Red Lake are excellent. The size of the unit, combined with the hilly, broken topography, provide the visitor excellent natural screening from other visitors and/or outside influences. Topography, vegetative patterns and sand dune characteristics give the wilderness user a sense of isolation. Even from the top of the larger sand dunes, it would be difficult and unlikely to notice another or several visitors who were traveling along the bottoms of the draws.

This area is very conducive to primitive and unconfined recreation. The large dunes rising abruptly from the surrounding vegetation make for striking photographic subjects as well as pure scenic beauty. Raptors, wild horses, antelope, coyotes and a variety of small mammals challenge the wildlife photographer. Hiking, backpacking, camping (water must be carried in), horseback riding, hunting and sightseeing for botanical, zoological, geological and archeological features are other experiences available to the visitor.

**Supplemental Values.** Of ecological significance, a portion of the Killpecker Sand Dunes transverses this unit from west to east. Additionally, the dunes help support a unique herd of desert elk, as well as a variety of wildlife species. Lastly, this region comprises an unspoiled remnant of the Red Desert within the Great Divide Basin and was recommended for primitive area designation in the Sandy-Pilot Butte MFP of 1975. This region may be of significant scientific value for the study of active sand dunes, their movements and how they are stabilized.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



RED LAKE  
WY-040-318

# Honeycomb Buttes

WY-040-323

41,620 acres

## Unit Description

This unit is in the northeastern section of Sweetwater County, about 52 miles north-east of Rock Springs. It contains several different terrain types ranging from sagebrush hills and greasewood flats surrounding the badlands to the eroding buttes themselves with their many bluffs, small draws and side canyons.

The Honeycomb Buttes are one of the best examples of badland topography in Wyoming and although not as extensive or as spectacular, they compare favorably with the Badlands National Monument in South Dakota. The vivid colors of the buttes form a rainbow of colors: green, red, gray, white, yellow and violet bands of colors may be found in the Laney Shale Member of the Green River Formation.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** The original unit was 75,123 acres. During the inventory the unit was reduced to its present acreage of 41,620 acres of public land and 640 acres of State land.

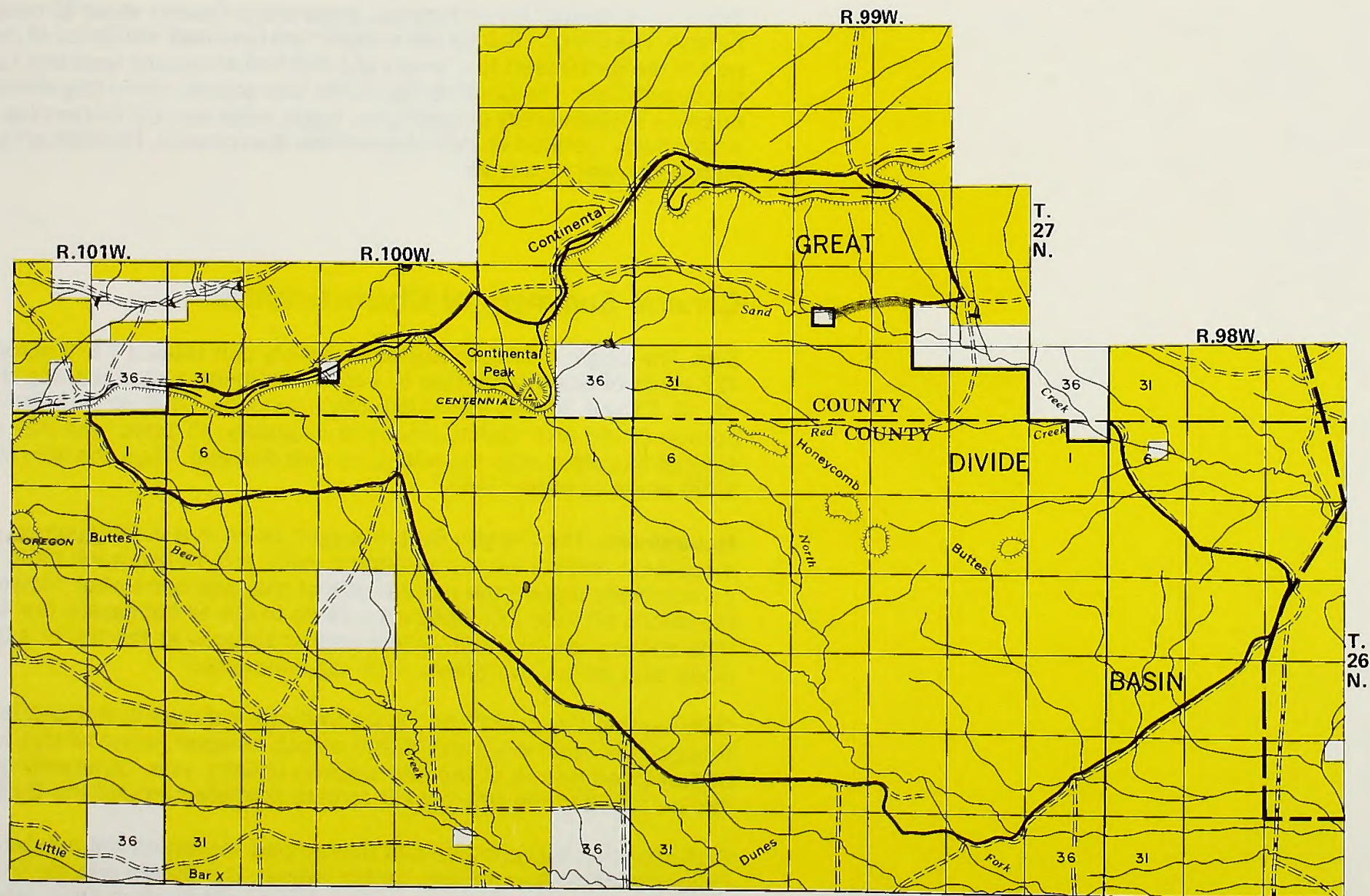
**Naturalness.** Some major sections of the original unit were sufficiently impacted by intrusions to be rendered unnatural. The existing Wilderness Study Area contains some minor intrusions in the form of vehicle ways but is essentially natural in character. The erosive nature of the Buttes causes most surface impacts to rapidly fade into obscurity.



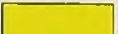
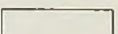
**Outstanding Opportunities.** The many cliffs, ridges, draws and secluded grottos of the Buttes provide numerous areas where a person could find outstanding solitude. The superb coloration of the Buttes serves to enhance the feeling of solitude and inspires a feeling of awe which widens one's appreciation for the undisturbed natural setting of the Honeycombs.

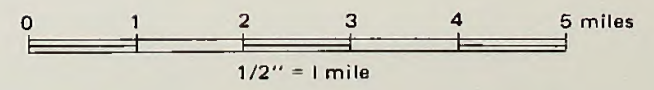
The unit provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Two of the opportunities in the area are camping and rockhounding among the many twisted and contorted shapes of the badlands. Non-technical climbing on the clay and rocky buttes is an outstanding experience. Caving in the many erosion caves found in the buttes is a highly unusual experience.

**Supplemental Values.** The variety of wildlife species found within this unit is unusual. The area not only has the more common species such as antelope, deer, coyotes and raptors, but it also has such uncommon species as mountain lion, spotted bats and wild horses. The fossilized turtle shell, agates, jade and petrified wood found in the unit provides an outstanding rockhounding experience.





-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Excluded Area
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



# Oregon Buttes

WY-040-324  
5,700 acres

## Unit Description

This unit is located in northcentral Sweetwater County about 30 miles northeast of Farson. The Oregon Buttes are a prominent landmark rising out of the northwestern part of the Red Desert to a height of 8,612 feet above sea level and 1,200 feet above the desert floor. The Continental Divide also occurs within this vicinity. The Buttes possess a wide variety of vegetative types, most notably limber pine stands, but small, thick, isolated stands of aspen are also present. Numerous springs display lush, green wet meadows.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** The original Oregon Buttes inventory unit totaled 7,578 acres which included 422 acres of State land. Due to public comment, a road running through Sections 12, 13, 23 and 24 was identified which dropped 1,456 acres from the southeastern portion of the unit. During intensive inventory, all State land (422 acres) was considered extraneous to the unit so it was dropped. Thus the size of this unit is 5,700 acres of public land.

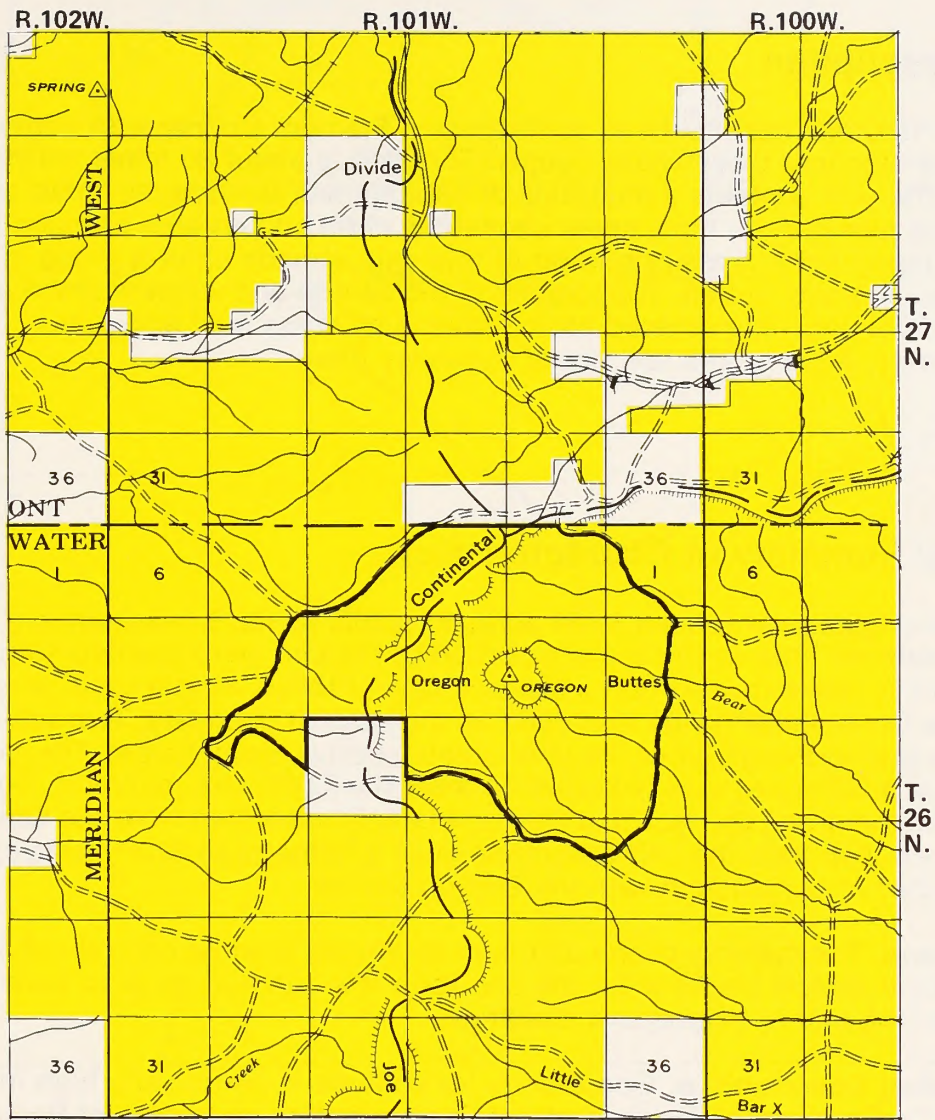
**Naturalness.** The Oregon Buttes appear to be in a mostly natural condition. Closer inspection reveals two seismograph trails and 13 two-track trails which cumulatively reduce the naturalness of this unit somewhat. However, these intrusions all fade into obscurity; some to die as haphazard tire tracks across the hills and dry claylike soil; others ending abruptly at the top of a bench or saddle ridge; and others overgrown with sage and grass.

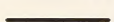


**Outstanding Opportunities.** Opportunity for solitude in the unit is good even though it is relatively small (5,700 acres); however, much of this is due to the undeveloped nature of the surrounding country side. Outstanding opportunities can be found in the tiny pocket forests scattered around the Buttes.

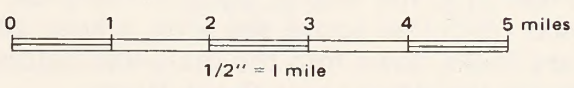
Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are outstanding in the Oregon Buttes. Being prime raptor habitat, the Buttes provide bird watchers with a variety of species and hours upon hours of observation time. Also, this is a prime area for scenic and wildlife photography offering a unique variety of settings and subjects. Other opportunities include hiking, rock climbing, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding and sightseeing. Finally, this area is a rockhoulder's paradise.

**Supplemental Values.** The Oregon Buttes are rich in supplemental values. Under geological values, petrified wood is abundant varying in size from chips to petrified stumps.

The historical significance of Oregon Buttes has been well documented. The Buttes were an important landmark for fur trappers, missionaries, Oregon settlers, Mormons and California gold seekers traveling the Emigrant Trail, located just 6 1/2 miles to the north.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



**OREGON BUTTES  
WY-040-324**

# Whitehorse Creek

WY-040-325  
4,028 acres

## Unit Description

Whitehorse Creek lies mostly in southeastern Fremont County with some of the area extending into Sweetwater County. This unit is about 30 miles northeast of Farson. The unit contains a multitude of habitats and landscapes, such as lush aspen and pine groves, high, sheer sandstone cliffs and an area of magnificent badland topography. A major portion of this unit is made up of a group of eroding red, green and gray buttes. Topography in the central and western sections consists of a flat, sage covered basin, rimmed by sheer mud and clay escarpments rising to 100 feet above the valley floor.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** The original unit totaled 6,690 acres of public lands. Several vehicle tracks and old seismic lines in the eastern portion of the unit were deemed sufficiently noticeable to make that portion unnatural. One of these vehicle trails which runs along the Continental Divide was used as the eastern boundary. Two vehicle routes in the northern part of the unit isolate another small parcel. The remaining acreage of 4,028 acres was too small to meet the 5,000 acre minimum, but due to public comment and the fact that this unit is only separated from the Oregon Buttes by a jeep trail, the unit was retained as a Wilderness Study Area and will be evaluated in conjunction with the Oregon Buttes.

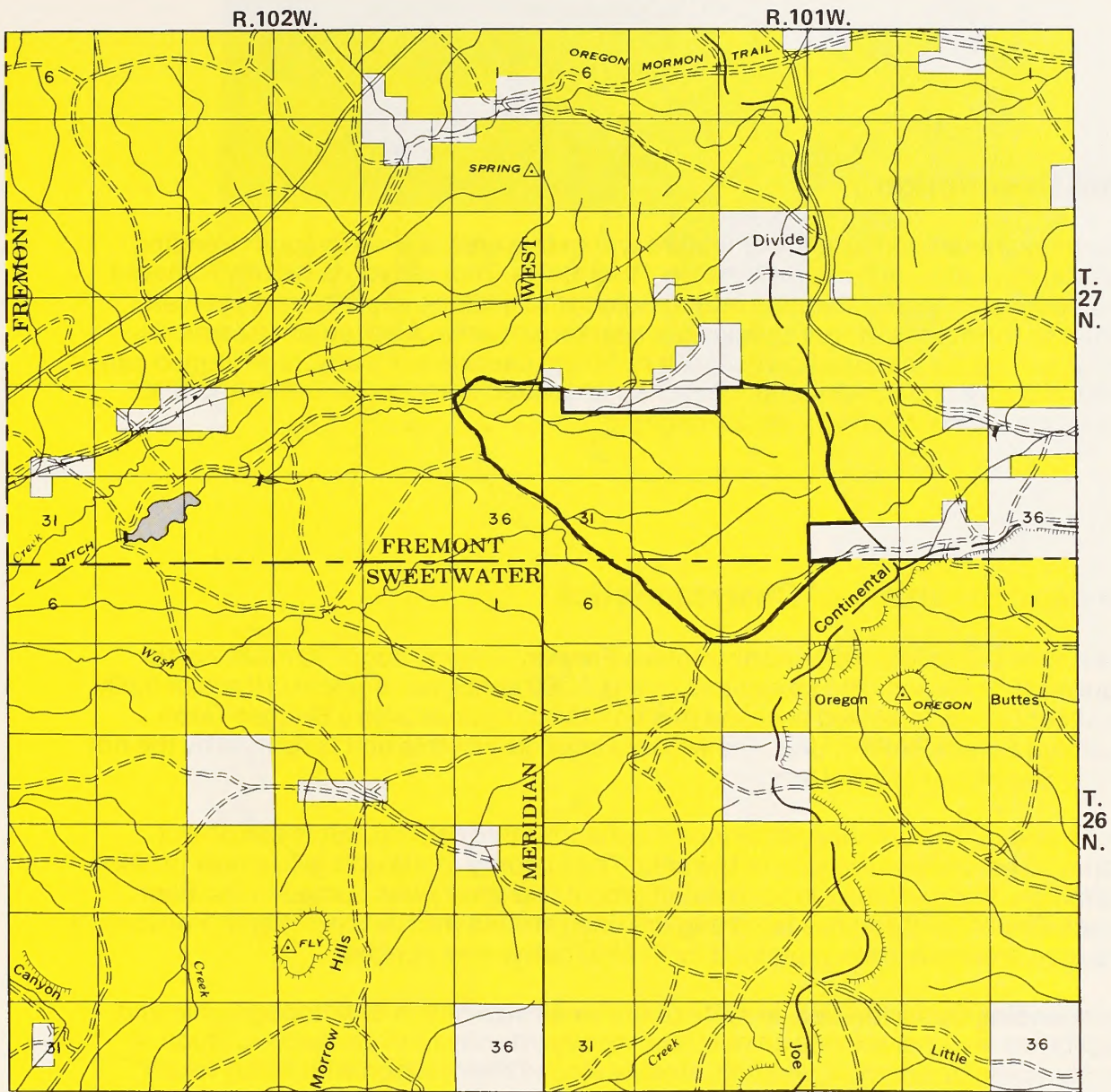
**Naturalness.** The majority of the unit is in an almost pristine natural condition. A few obscure vehicle tracks enter the unit for a few hundred yards in several locations; the unit is in a natural condition.



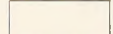
**Outstanding Opportunities.** Opportunity for solitude is particularly high in areas west of the Continental Divide, north of Oregon Buttes and south of Pastel Butte. From atop the largest Butte in the area, which rises 650 feet above the basin floor and 7,915 feet above sea level, a keen sense of isolation and solitude is felt as one looks down into the maze-like setting created by the eroded escarpments lining the Whitehorse Creek Basin.

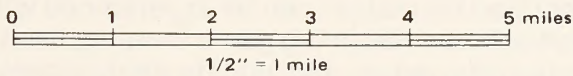
Particularly outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation include rock climbing and studying the unique badland type topography of Whitehorse Creek. Other excellent recreational opportunities of Whitehorse Creek, are nature and wildlife photography along with bird watching.

**Supplemental Values.** A great number of supplemental values can be found in this unit. The badlands are laced with petrified wood, agate beds and fossils of snails and clams.

The Whitehorse Creek Unit is important raptor habitat: marsh hawks, golden eagles, prairie falcons, red-tailed hawks and various owls occur here. Other wildlife include ducks, which inhabit the few wet meadows within the unit.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



**WHITEHORSE CREEK  
WY-040-325**

# Mill Creek

WY-040-335

1,300 acres

## Unit Description

The predominate topographical feature within this area is a north-south trending canyon through which the Sweetwater River flows. This canyon is heavily forested with lodgepole and limber pine intermingled with quaking aspens. Interspersed between the stands of tree species are sagebrush parks. Also, quiet streamside glens and nooks are interspersed with rumbling cascades. Finally, high jagged canyon cliffs give one a panoramic view of an unspoiled setting. Mill Creek and Blair Creek are the connecting side drainages.

## General Summary of Characteristics

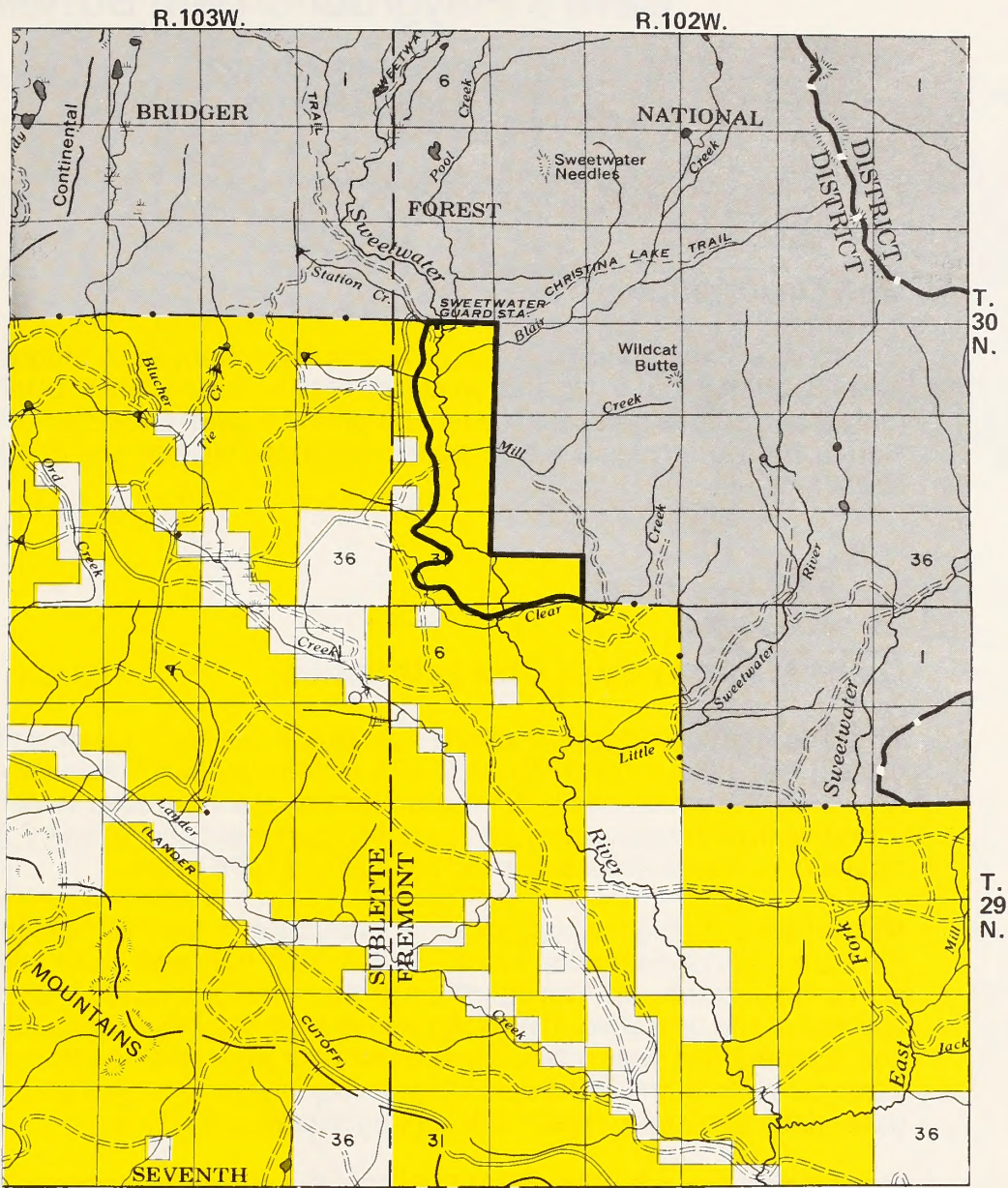
**Size.** This unit is located in northwestern Fremont County about 30 miles north-northeast of Farson. The size of this unit is 1,300 acres, but the size criteria of 5,000 minimum acres is waived because this unit is contiguous with a Bridger-Teton National Forest RARE II Unit. The western boundary of this unit is formed by the rim of the Sweetwater River Canyon.





**Naturalness.** The unit has some minor intrusions (old cabins), but these do not detract from the naturalness of the area. The majority of the unit is in a near pristine condition. The northern part of the unit (about 500 acres) was burned in the Blair Creek Fire of 1978 and has hand-dug fire lines around the fire's perimeter. Portions of the burn area have been replanted by BLM to native tree species.

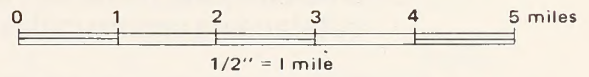
**Outstanding Opportunities.** In spite of the small size of this unit, topographic and vegetative features provide an outstanding opportunity to experience solitude. A combination of a narrow, winding, steeply sloped river canyon with heavy forest provides an excellent setting for this experience. Many forms of primitive and unconfined recreation can be experienced within the Mill Creek unit. Outstanding opportunities exist in big game hunting, trout fishing, rock climbing on jagged granite cliffs, nature and wildlife photography, plus hiking, backpacking, camping, horseback riding and cross-country skiing. Lush mountain meadows perched beside rippling water lend themselves to scenic camp-sites.

**Supplemental Values.** The large number of ecotones within the unit support great numbers and varieties of wildlife. This area is prime elk calving range as well as summer and fall range for elk, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, black bear, cougar and other animals.

An old Forest Service campground lies on the northern boundary of the unit and a BLM campground lies on the southern boundary. Both sites are on the river and provide excellent access points to the unit. Both receive about 6,000 visitor use days annually.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land
-  National Forest Land



MILL CREEK  
WY-040-335

# Devil's Playground-Twin Buttes

WY-040-401/402  
24,276 acres

## Unit Description

This Devil's Playground-Twin Buttes Unit is characterized by highly eroded badland areas largely devoid of vegetation and by high outcrops with scattered patches of juniper and sparse grasses. The most prominent points are Black Mountain and Twin Buttes, both large mesas which are located in the westcentral and southern portions of the unit.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** The size was originally reported as 26,605 acres. This is a combination of two units - Devil's Playground (WY-040-401) which was 16,704 acres and Twin Buttes (WY-040-402) which was 9,901 acres. No changes in acreage were made during the intensive inventory; however, due to public comment and review, 2,329 acres were dropped due to intrusions, leaving the size at 24,276 acres.

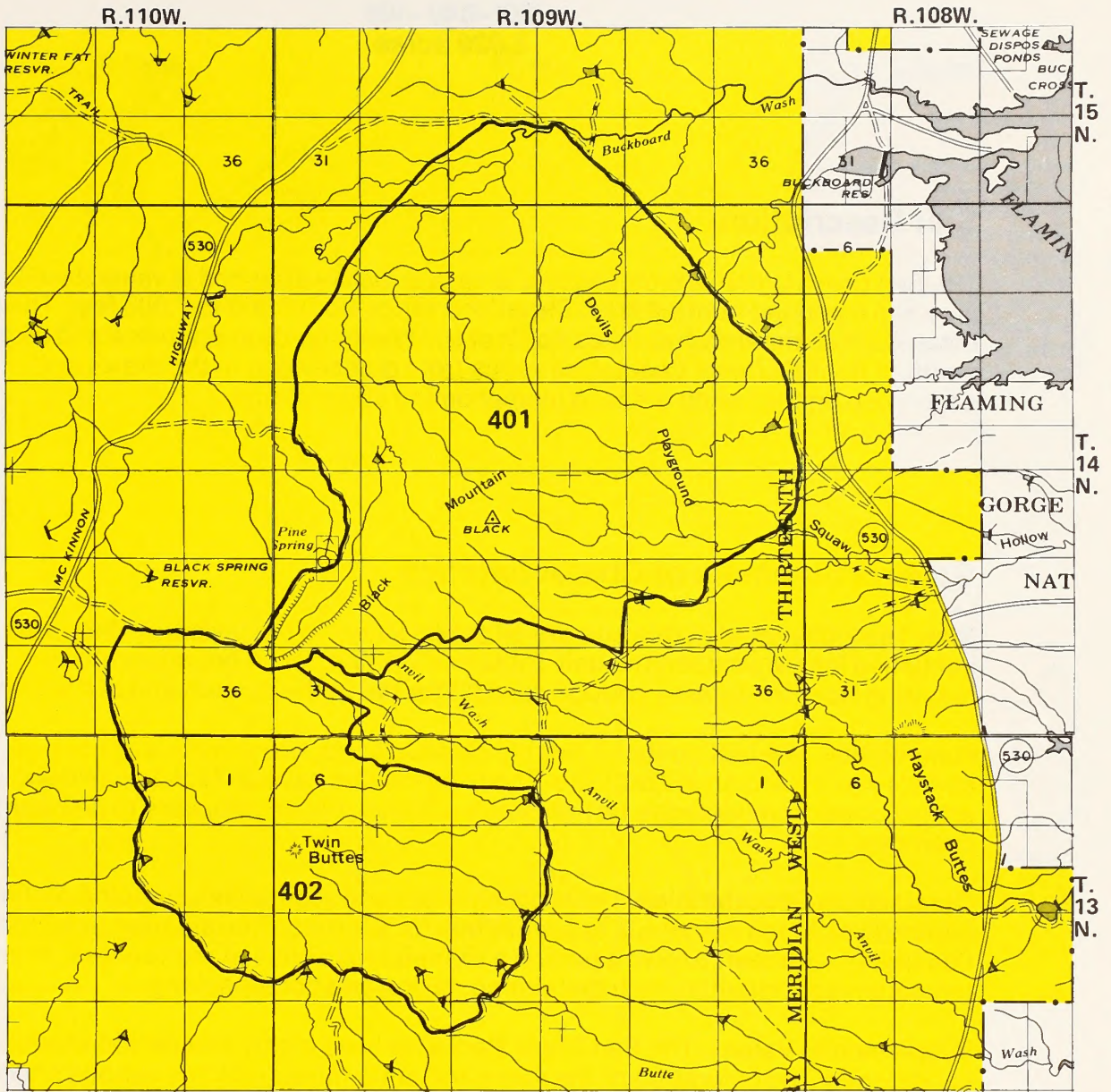
**Naturalness.** During the supplemental evaluation of the intensive inventory unit, by the BLM staff 17 reservoirs, over 23 routes, a dry hole well and a fence were found scattered over the unit. The condition of the reservoirs varied from disrepair to functional and operative. The routes varied from faint and obscure to bladed scars and substantially noticeable. Some comments were received from the public on the numerous intrusions in the unit. Upon review it was felt that a portion of the unit was essentially unnatural. This 2,329-acre portion was dropped.



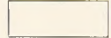
**Outstanding Opportunities.** BLM feels that the abundant topographic diversity created by the numerous drainages provides substantial topographic screening for outstanding opportunities for solitude.

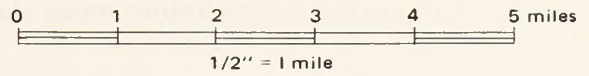
The area has outstanding opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, photography and sightseeing.

**Supplemental Values.** The unit has interesting and unusual geologic features. Fossil deposits and evidence of early man can be found throughout the unit.





-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



DEVILS PLAYGROUND/TWIN BUTTES  
WY-040-401,402

# Red Creek Badlands

WY-040-406

8,020 acres

## Unit Description

The Red Creek Unit is a highly scenic area, a critical watershed, a valuable wildlife area and a popular hunting area. Elevations range from 7,000 to 7,900 feet. The unit is located approximately five miles north of the Wyoming-Utah state line and 35 miles south of Rock Springs. Vegetation varies from greasewood in the draws and sagebrush on the bench areas to juniper on the upper slopes.

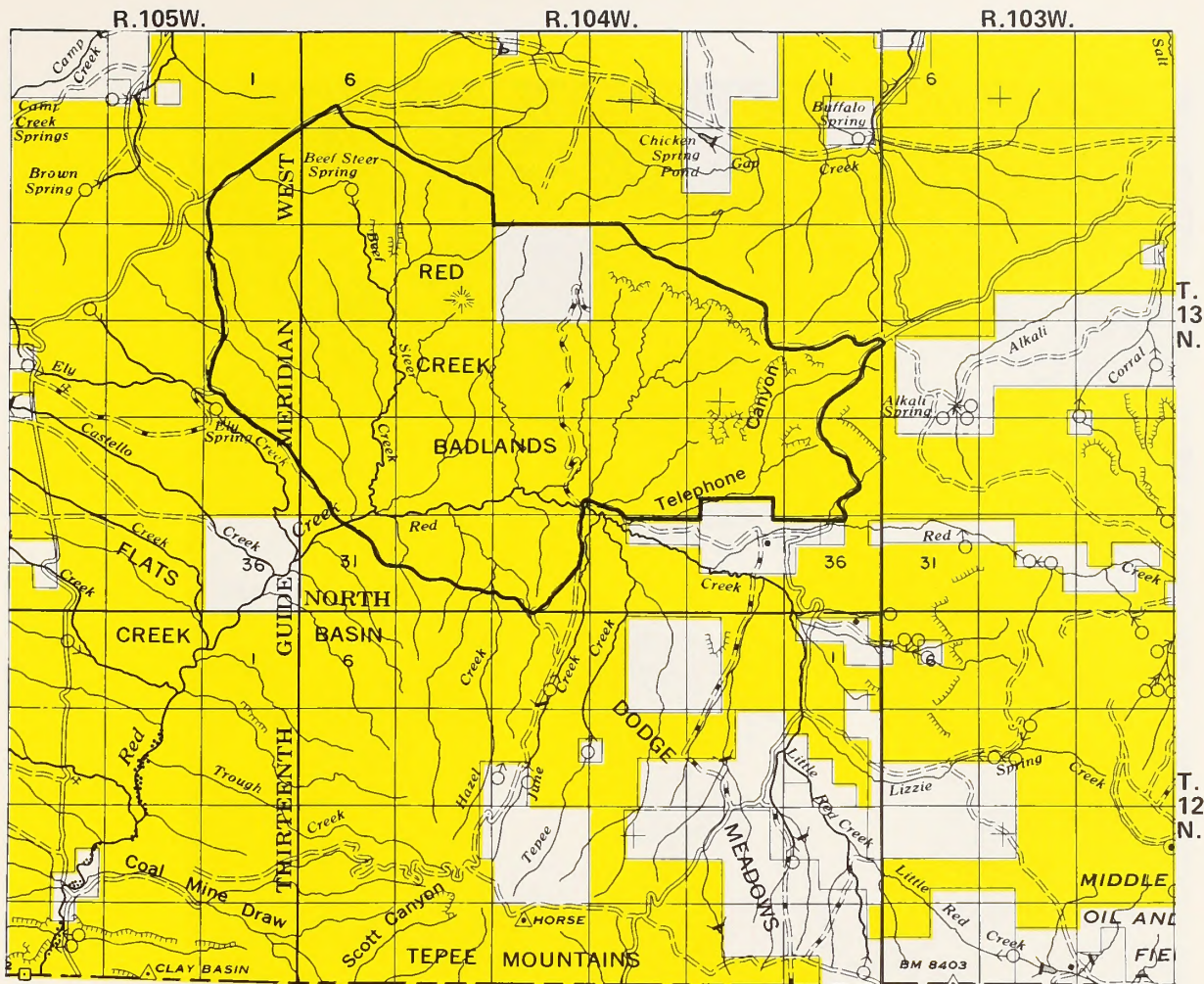
## General Summary of Characteristics



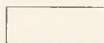
**Size.** The 8,020 acres in this unit are all public lands. In the inventory decisions published last November, the unit contained 7,100 acres. A boundary change resulting from the protest period added 920 acres to the eastern end of the unit.

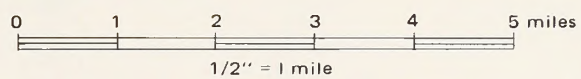
**Naturalness.** The unit contains two old seismic lines, two vehicle ways and an abandoned road to an old drill site. These intrusions have all faded considerably and are no longer considered to be noticeable. Overall, the unit appears to be natural in character.

**Outstanding Opportunities.** The rugged terrain and vegetative screening of the badlands provides numerous opportunities for solitude. The isolation possible in this unit is sufficient to give a person a tremendous sense of remoteness. Primitive recreation opportunities include hunting, hiking and horsepacking.

**Supplemental Values.** The Red Creek Badlands have highly erosive red shales and sandstones. The coloration of the rocks and cliffs mixed with the various shades of green of the vegetation provide a very attractive landscape. The unit is thought to contain the northeastern most stands of pinyon pine.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



RED CREEK BADLANDS  
WY-040-406





**Rawlins District**

# Sweetwater Canyon

WY-030-101  
9,056 acres

## Unit Description

The topography of the area consists of two varieties. Most of the unit is made up of flat to gently rolling terrain. There are a few small rock outcrops, but they are not extensive. Vegetation on the flats consists of sparse, low-growing sagebrush and grasses.

The second variety of landform is the canyon itself along with its tributary draws. The canyon is roughly nine miles long and about 350 feet deep. The western and eastern portions of the gorge are not nearly as abrupt as the center section. Vegetation consists primarily of willows, coniferous trees and aspens on the canyon floor and sagebrush and grasses on the canyon walls.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** The unit consists of 9,056 acres. There are no private or state lands within the unit. The area is bordered by roads and private and state lands.

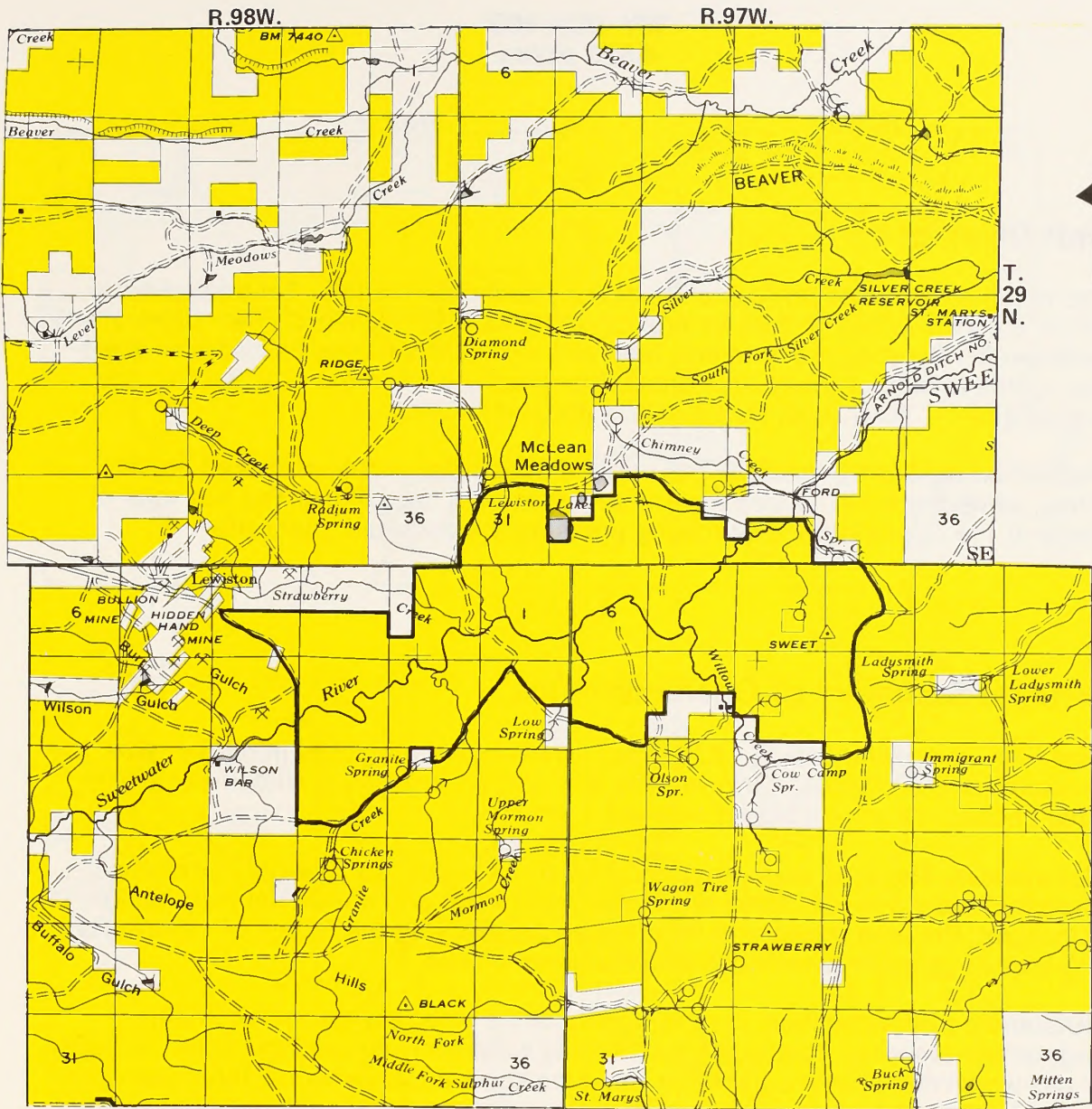
**Naturalness.** The unit is in essentially natural condition. For most of the area, human activity is substantially unnoticeable; the majority of the area is devoid of any man-made features. Intrusions consist of two-track ways which provide access to the canyon rim, and in one case, to the canyon floor. The visual effect of these ways is minimal and they have no effect on apparent naturalness of the unit as a whole.



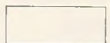
**Outstanding Opportunities.** During the inventory the Bureau had concluded that the opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation and solitude were high quality but not outstanding. The recommendation was therefore made to drop the unit from further wilderness consideration. However, during the public comment period a large number of comments indicated that the canyon did, in fact, provide outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation and solitude. Opportunities considered outstanding are fishing, backpacking, hiking and camping. The comment indicated that more than ample vegetative and topographic screening existed to provide the visitor with an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

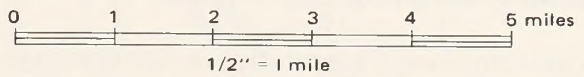
**Supplemental Values.** A number of other values are present in the unit; most notable are wildlife and historical values, as well as scenic values. The area is used by deer year-round, and as a critical winter habitat for moose and elk. Raptors and a number of smaller bird species may be found within the unit.

The two-track road forming parts of the northern boundary is the route of the Oregon Trail, and an aspen grove used by Jedediah Smith and his band of trappers in the winter of 1823-1824 is within the unit. A portion of the Pony Express route also passes through the canyon within the unit.

The canyon is very scenic in nature and contrasts significantly with the surrounding high plateau area of low growing sagebrush.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



SWEETWATER CANYON  
WY-030-101

# Dubois Badlands

WY-030-109

4,520 acres

## Unit Description

The topography of the unit consists of the "badlands" variety, flat-topped hills which are extensively broken by erosion patterns and drainages. The colors of the sedimentary banding are reds and tans and are quite striking. Eroded pinnacles and spires abound. Clearly, this area's topography is its most outstanding and scenic quality. Total relief in the unit is about 400 feet.

Vegetation is slightly variable. The upper slopes have widely scattered limber pines, while the lower slopes have widely scattered sagebrush. The flat tops of some of the ridges have low-growing grass as the dominant plant life.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** The size of the unit is 4,520 acres, which is less than the minimum size guideline of 5,000 acres. However, the unit was retained as a Wilderness Study Area because of strong public support.

**Naturalness.** The area is in essentially a natural condition. The only intrusions identified were a fence, some minor two-track ways and a material sale (rock) site. In general, the area appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

**Outstanding Opportunities.** Large amounts of the area provide limited, if any, vegetative screening. Topographic screening would only be available in the eroded draws which dissect the unit. While secluded spots could be found, the area in general does not provide seclusion. Visitor overlap would occur if just a few people were in the unit at any one time.

Opportunities for primitive recreation are not only extremely limited in scope but also lack any outstanding characteristics. Hiking, while possible, would be on a daily basis; however, lack of good campsites, coupled with the lack of water in the area, would not serve to draw the backpacker for extended recreation.

Hunting is possible and is the area's current main recreation activity, along with off-road vehicle use. Other possibilities include sightseeing or possibly nature study.

While some primitive recreation activities are clearly possible within the unit, the number and scope of such activities, coupled with the low potential to serve as an outstanding recreation area, limit such opportunities.

**Supplemental Values.** Several supplemental characteristics exist within the unit. It is these opportunities which solicited the strong public support for protection of the area. The relatively unique geology, with its colorful banding and unusual landforms, is primary in this concern. The area is extremely scenic and geological study of the area is a definite possibility. A herd of bighorn sheep live within the unit, and the area is winter range for elk.





# Whiskey Mountain

WY-030-110  
487 acres

## Unit Description

The unit is a small area on the north-facing slope of Whiskey Mountain in the Wind River Mountains. Terrain is rough and mountainous. Vegetation is limber pine and spruce-fir.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** This unit has 487 acres. It is bounded by the Ross Lake jeep trail on the west, the Fitzpatrick Wilderness area on the south and east, and private lands to the north. It is a Wilderness Study Area because it shares a common boundary with an established Wilderness Area managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

**Naturalness.** There are two very faint vehicle ways within the area. An early fire blackened most of the timber on the south end of the area. Snags are still standing with some new regeneration coming in. The fire scar is considered a natural occurrence, although some trespass firewood cutting has taken some of the snags and left stumps behind in isolated areas.

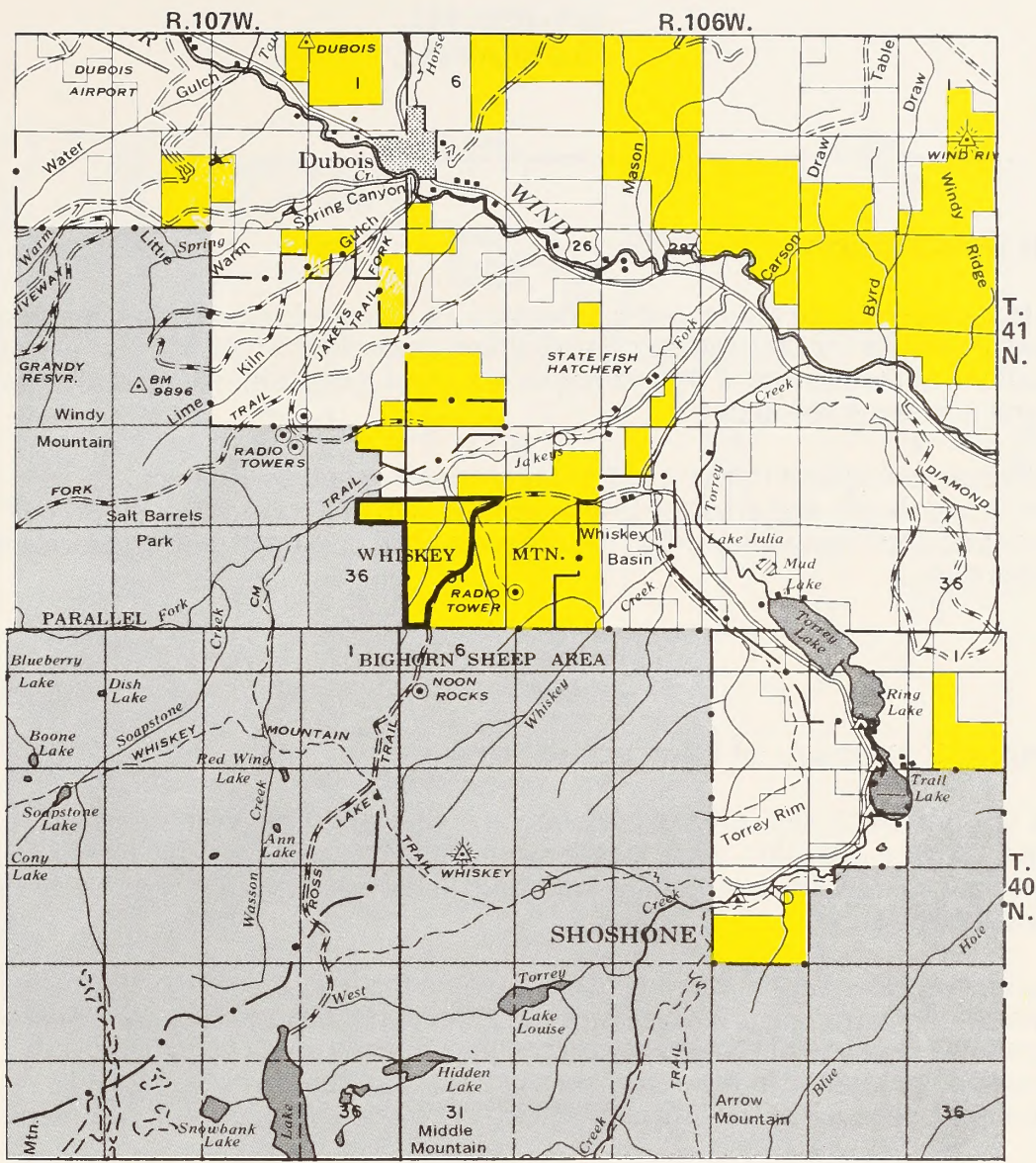
All in all, the area is in a natural condition with the works of human activity substantially unnoticeable.



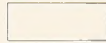

**Outstanding Opportunities.** Solitude is possible and is outstanding in conjunction with the Fitzpatrick Wilderness Area. The topography drops off into Jakey's Fork Canyon which affords spectacular views, peace and tree cover. There is some influence of motor vehicle traffic on the Ross Lake road. It receives little traffic and its influence is only audible and visible close to the road.

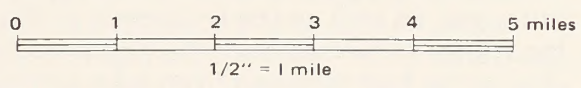
The unit makes a contiguous extension of the established Fitzpatrick Wilderness area and would complement outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

There is a trail head where the Ross Lake jeep trail meets the forest boundary. The CM pack trail runs up the bottom of Jakey's Fork Creek also. There is some guide and outfitter use on these trails. Whiskey Mountain area, including the BLM lands, is an exceptional hunting area for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.

**Supplemental Values.** Whiskey Mountain is the primary winter range for the largest herd of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep in the continental United States. This sheep population and their habitat are of national significance.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land
-  National Forest Land



WHISKEY MOUNTAIN  
WY-030-110

# Copper Mountain

WY-030-111  
6,858 acres

## Unit Description

The topography of the entire unit is mountainous. Steep-sided canyons and rocky slopes dominate the unit and give rise to rough peaks reaching 6,400 feet elevation. Elevations at the mouths of the drainages are about 5,000 feet. Thus, total relief in the unit is about 1,400 feet.

Vegetation throughout this arid unit is fairly constant and consists of sparse growing sagebrush and grass, with a healthy growth of juniper throughout. The juniper becomes quite thick along the drainages and contrasts with the surrounding reddish rock.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** The unit has 6,858 acres of contiguous public land. The area is bordered on the north by private and state lands, on the west by the Wind River Indian Reservation, on the east by a county maintained road, and on the south by U.S. Highway 20 and private lands.

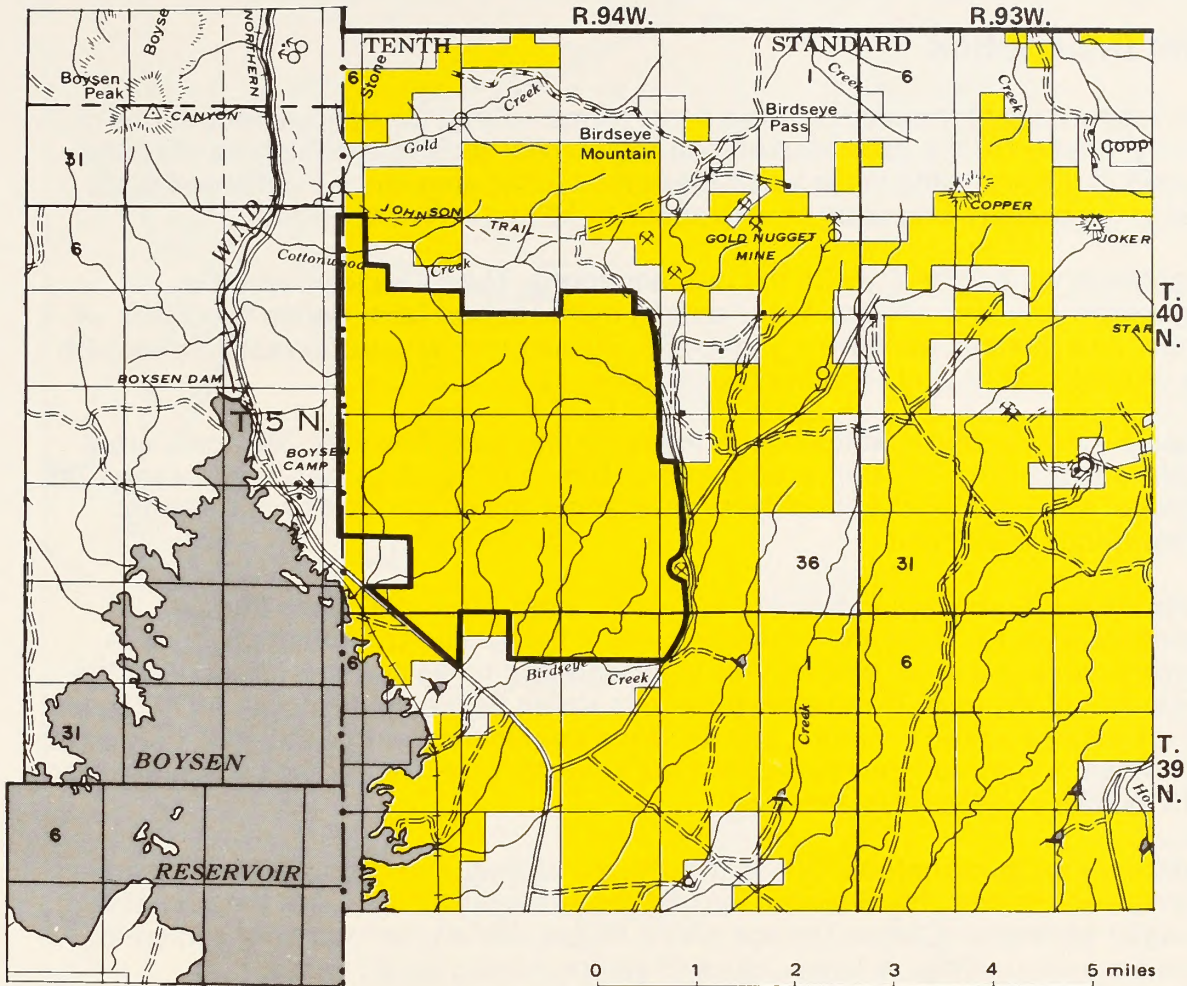
**Naturalness.** No significant impacts exist within the unit. A small fenceline is located in the extreme northeast corner of the unit but has no effect on the area's naturalness because of topographic screening. Several small cedar post drift fences may be located in the mountain's passes, but they do not affect the naturalness because of the overall blending of colors and topographic screening.

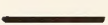

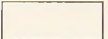
**Outstanding Opportunities.** The rough topography of drainages, peaks and outcrops, as well as the thickness of the juniper cover in some areas, quickly allow the visitor to be free from the sights and sounds of others. Secluded spots where a visitor can feel removed from man and his works abound and are easily found. Because of the numerous places where solitude may be found, as well as the interesting topographic features, such solitude is truly outstanding in its scope.

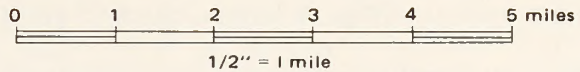
The potential for primitive recreation is outstanding. Opportunities exist for hiking, backpacking, hunting, trapping, rock scrambling and sightseeing for zoological and geological features.

The topographic features would offer a challenge and present a strenuous walk for the day hiker or backpacker. Both large and small game are located in the area providing a reward for the hunter. Several topographic features would present challenges to the nontechnical climber. Spectacular views of the Wind River Basin and Boysen Reservoir to the south and west could serve to entice the sightseer into the area.

**Supplemental Values.** Views from 10 to 50 miles from the peaks are outstanding and include such sights as the Wind River Range, Beaver Rim and Boysen Reservoir. Good opportunities exist for the educational and/or scientific study of the unimpacted ecological communities found within the area. Numerous interesting geological formations abound in the unit.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



# Sweetwater Rocks

WY-030-120

6,316 acres

## Unit Description

The topography of the area is in two basic forms—First, the uplifted mountains of reddish granite rocks, slabs and exfoliating domes; second, are the flats of Nolen Pocket in the north and in the west. Elevations in the area range from about 6,200 feet at the western boundary road to about 7,700 feet on Lankin Dome.

Vegetation varies directly with the two land forms. The rocks support little vegetation; however, the drainages among them support fairly dense “pockets” of limber pine, juniper, aspen and sagebrush. These green areas contrast sharply with the reddish granite and are quite scenic in nature.

**Size.** The unit has 6,316 acres of contiguous public land; however, 360 acres are public surface only. The unit is bordered on the north by private lands and a road; on the west by a road; on the south by private lands; and on the east by state and private lands and a road.

**Naturalness.** Four ways and two fencelines penetrate the unit. Both fences penetrate from the west and run to the base of the rocks. A primitive way runs in from the west to a small pocket. Due to topography, it has minimal effect upon the remainder of the area. Three ways penetrate Nolen Pocket in the north. All of these ways are two-tracked in nature, and while noticeable from within the area, they do not significantly compromise the area’s overall naturalness. They could be rehabilitated with the use of hand tools and time.

**Outstanding Opportunities.** Due to topography and vegetation, solitude is clearly available in the unit. The draws in the unit are generally small as are the pockets along its perimeter. Campsites and hiking routes, while scenic, are not secluded from the surroundings. A large degree of visitor overlap would occur.

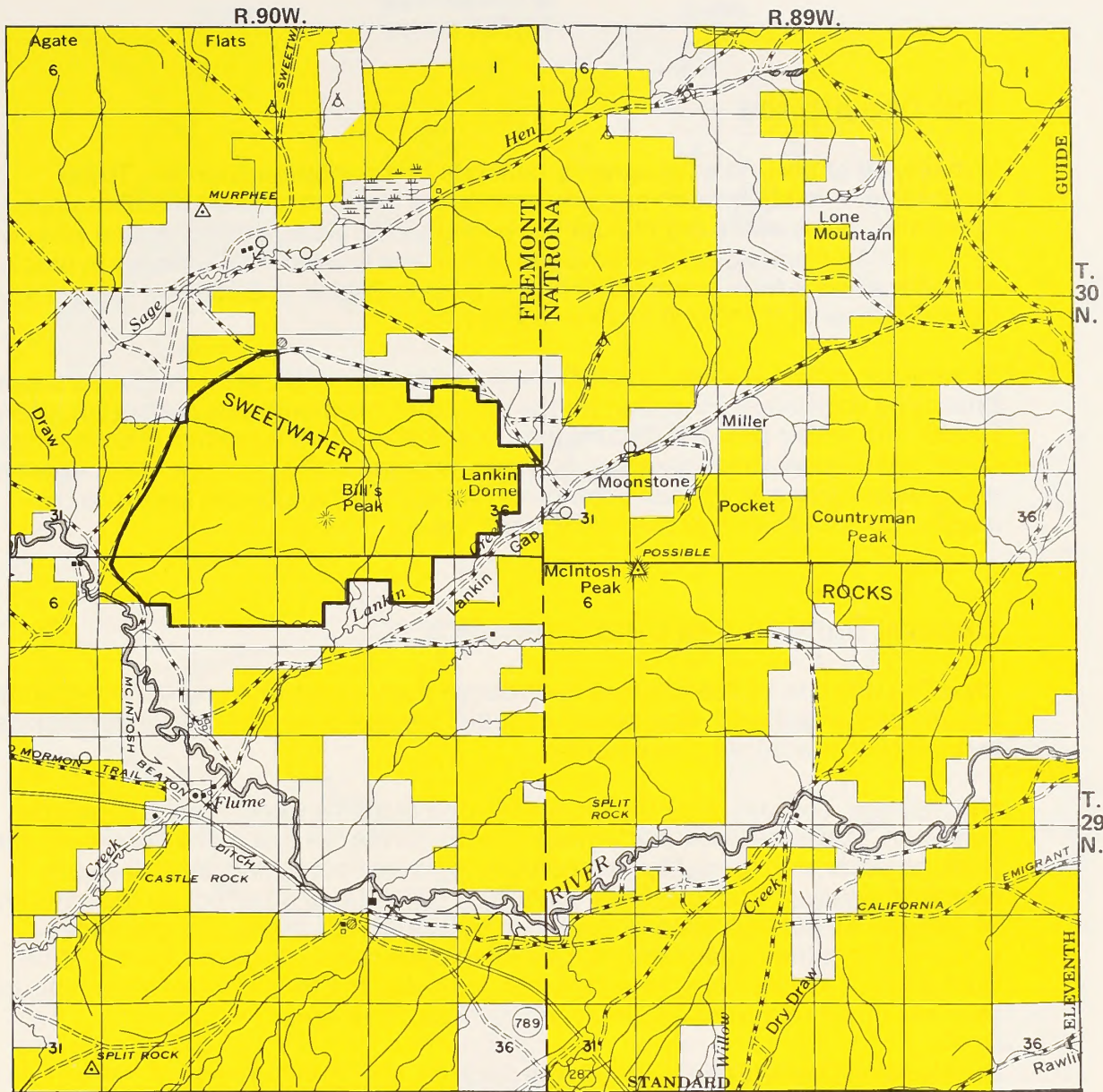
The Bureau concludes that the opportunity for solitude exists but that it is not outstanding since the area which provides topographic and vegetative screening to the visitor is small and would be somewhat confining. The pockets along the base do not provide the seclusion necessary to make the area outstanding.



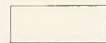
Outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation clearly exist in the unit. Principal examples are rock climbing, hiking, backpacking and hunting.

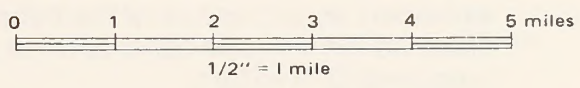
Lankin Dome, the most prominent feature of the unit, has long been an attraction to rock climbers. It has a rock climbing history which dates back to the 1950’s and it has been featured in national magazines such as “Summit.” Lankin Dome, as seen from the east, is somewhat reminiscent of Devil’s Tower, a national monument in northeast Wyoming.

Backpacking to one of the wooded “pockets” could entice recreational use. Hunting for antelope is outstanding on the flats due to the abundance of game and short packing distances involved. Birdwatching is also outstanding.

**Supplemental Values.** The area is exceptionally scenic with reddish granite boulders, slabs and exfoliating domes contrasting significantly with the greens of the wooded pockets.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



**SWEETWATER ROCKS  
WY-030-120**

# Sweetwater Rocks

WY-030-122  
12,789 acres

## Unit Description

Virtually all of the unit's topography consists of mountainous terrain. These mountains of reddish, decomposing granite are cut by numerous small drainages or "pockets." Many of the granite uplifts form gigantic slabs, domes, and/or piles of broken rocks from the exfoliated areas above, and exceed 100% slopes in places. Elevations range from about 6,200 feet in Beaton Pocket to 8,508 feet on McIntosh Peak. Total relief in the unit is about 1,800 feet.

Vegetation is considerably diverse. The rockier, steeper slopes sometimes support little or no vegetation. However, for the most part the mountains support scattered juniper and limber pine which contrasts scenically with the reddish granite. The most outstanding vegetative character, however, is found in the pockets. Here, sagebrush and grasses give way to dense stands of limber pine, juniper and aspen as one moves "up" the pocket toward the water source.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** The unit has 12,789 acres of contiguous public land with one 40-acre parcel of private land and one 40-acre parcel of public surface only. The private parcel was not included in the acreage computation.

**Naturalness.** The unit is for the most part, free of man's works, and is in natural condition. There are two-track ways which penetrate the unit in the southeast and west; however, due to vegetative and/or topographic screening, as well as the primitive, unused nature of those ways, they have little or no effect on the naturalness of the unit. An old jade mine is located in the southeast, but is topographically screened from the remaining unit. One dilapidated cabin on public land in Miller Pocket is not visible from more than 100 yards due to the vegetative screening and thus has no effect on the apparent naturalness of the area.

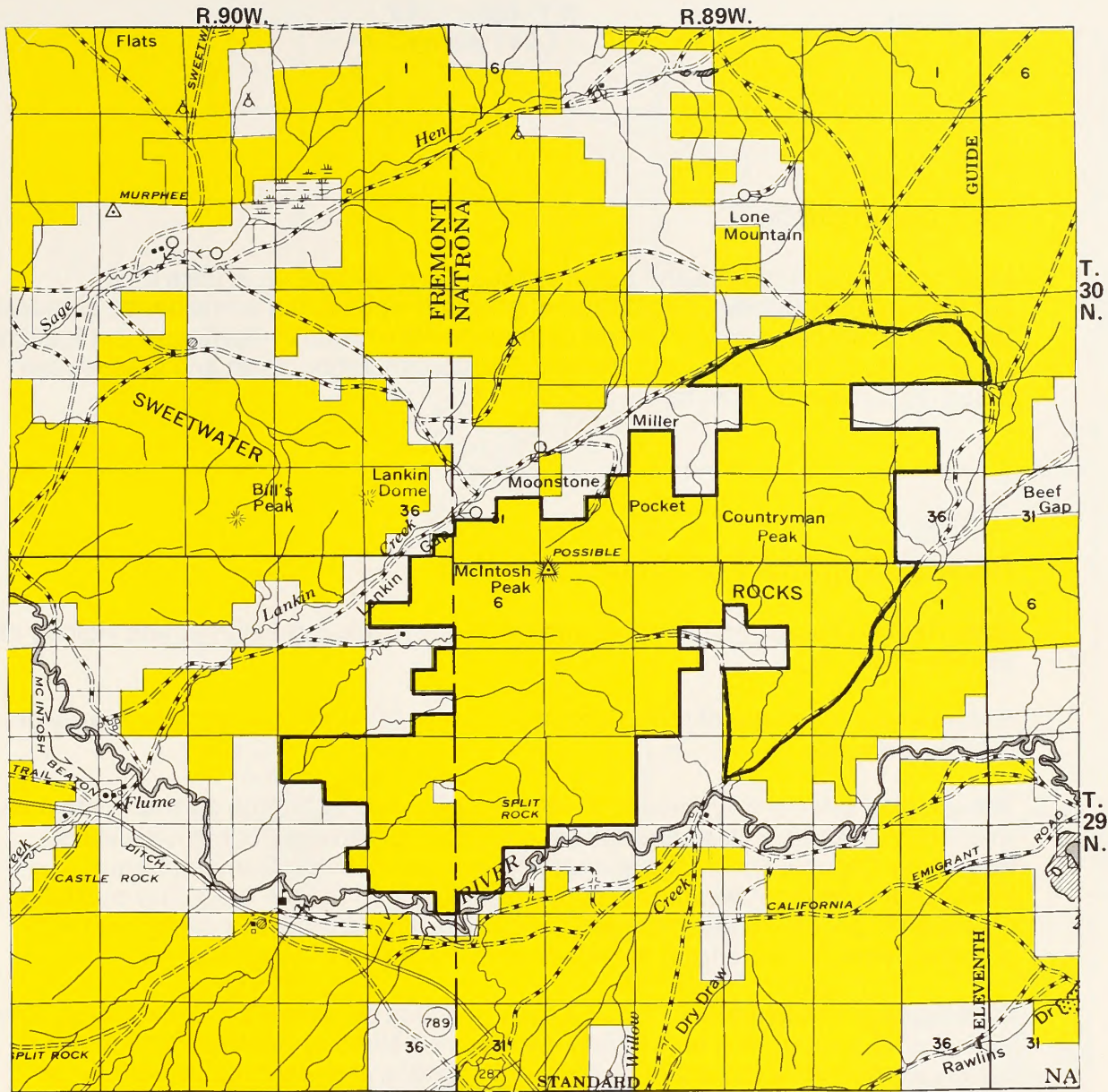
**Outstanding Opportunities.** Within the pockets, the "mini-forests" allow visitors to be free of the influence of others within relatively short distances. Once again, the extremely scenic nature of the trees contrasting with the reddish peaks of granite, enhance the solitude opportunities significantly, making such opportunities truly outstanding in nature.




The only areas where solitude is not obtainable are the flats at the mouths of the pockets, and the wide alluvial slope of the extreme southeast of the area. Here neither vegetation nor topography allow visitors to find secluded spots or to be out of the sights and sounds of others.

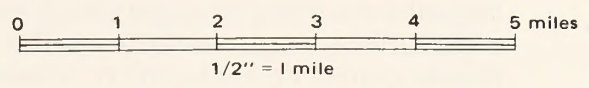
The unit provides a variety of opportunities for primitive unconfined recreation including: primitive camping, backpacking, rock climbing, hiking, hunting and a host of related activities, such as nature study, photography, environmental education and bird watching.

**Supplemental Values.** The area contains a wide base of supplemental values to draw visitors. The historical aspects of the area include Miller's Cabin (used by an old trapper), numerous fields of arrowhead and thumb-scraper chippings and fragments, and a procession of Indian rock cairns found on the ridge at the head of Vice Pocket. Split Rock, a historic landmark and National Register Nomination for the Oregon Trail corridor on the Sweetwater River is just south of this area.





-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



**SWEETWATER ROCKS**  
WY-030-122

# Sweetwater Rocks

WY-030-123a

7,041 acres

## Unit Description

Most of the unit is rugged and mountainous. Large expanses of bare rock predominate throughout. Vegetation is generally sparse, but some dense stands of Douglas fir, limber pine, aspen and cottonwood are found in drainages. Juniper can be found scattered throughout the unit. Sagebrush, rabbitbrush and grasses are found on surrounding plains.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** The 7,041 acres unit is concentrated in one block in the immediate vicinity of Savage Peak.

**Naturalness.** A number of intrusions are found in the unit consisting primarily of fences and ways.

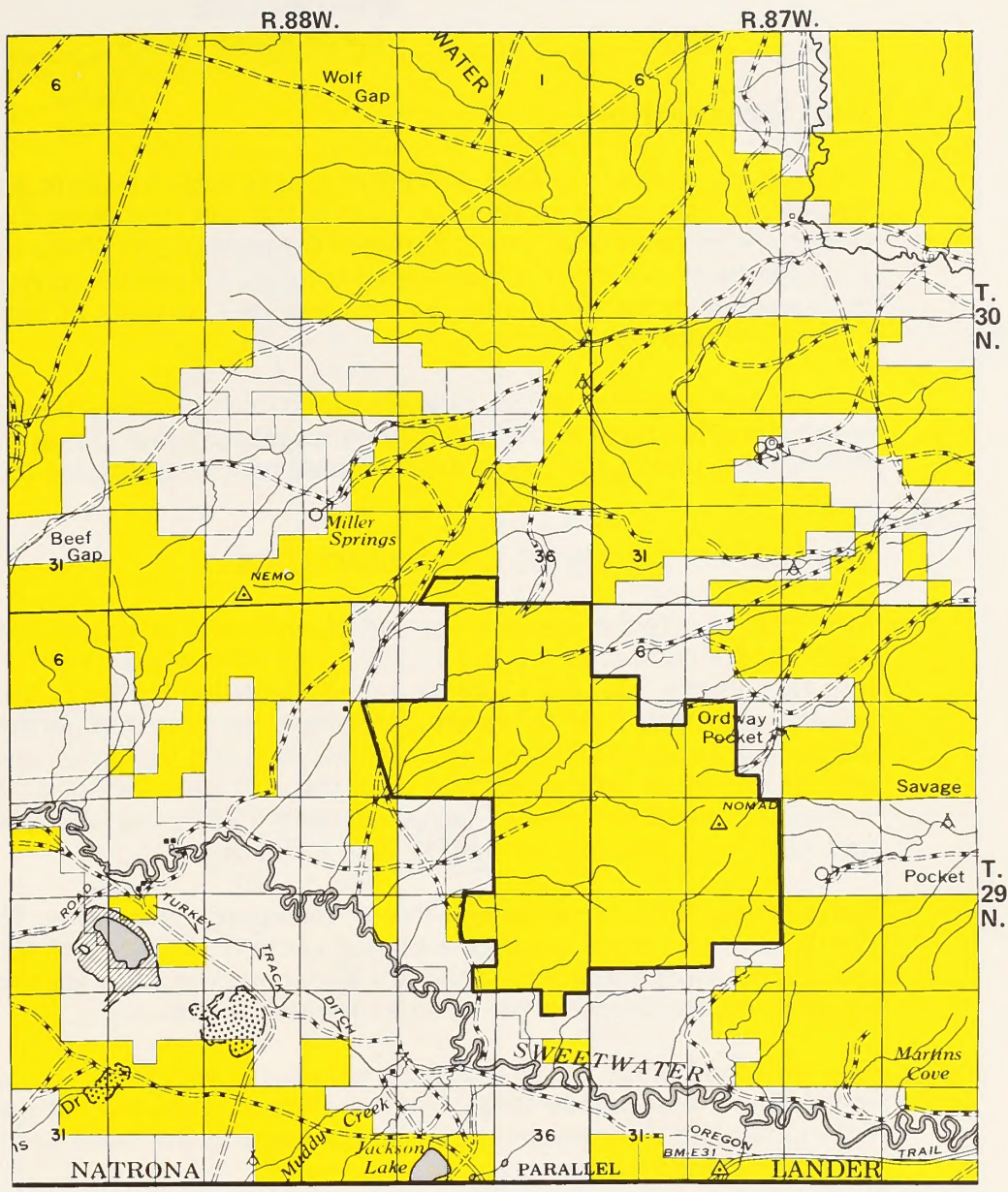
The unit has several ways which penetrate the "pockets" which surround the rocks themselves. Martin's Cove and the southern part of Savage Pocket have ways traversing them as well as the pockets on the east near the Dumbell Ranch headquarters and on the south near the Sun Ranch at Devil's Gate. The central or core area is penetrated by three ways. All are faint and generally overgrown with grasses. None detracts from the apparent naturalness of the area.



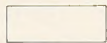
**Outstanding Opportunities.** The unit does possess opportunities for solitude. The topography is rough and broken and the area is incised by numerous draws and small canyons. A large pocket on the west provides excellent opportunities for camping below Savage Peak itself. It is well secluded from the surroundings and contains excellent scenery which enhances the feeling of solitude. The size of the area, 7,041 acres, contributes to the feeling of solitude. Vegetation is dense in places, providing seclusion or screening for the visitor.

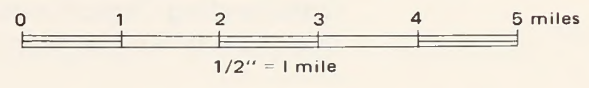
A variety of opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation exist in the unit. Those opportunities include hiking, camping, backpacking, hunting, rock climbing, nature study and photography.

The Savage Peak area contains great vertical relief. Large pockets of open grass and sagebrush on the west are surrounded by steeply rising slopes. On the east, state and private lands cover most of the lower slopes of Savage Peak and the surrounding rocks. Nonetheless, the size of the area coupled with the diverse topography combine to provide some high quality opportunities for primitive recreation.

**Supplemental Values.** Large expanses of bare granite are not found elsewhere in central Wyoming. They form a natural and highly scenic backdrop for the Sweetwater River Valley which has a long history related to the exploration and early settlement of the west.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



SWEETWATER ROCKS  
WY-030-123a

# Sweetwater Rocks

WY-030-123b  
6,429 acres

## Unit Description

Topography consists almost entirely of rough, broken granite domes and outcrops. Sagebrush flats make up about 10-15% of the unit. The name Sweetwater Rocks or Granite Mountains is very descriptive of the topography. Parts of the unit resemble a pile of huge monolithic rock masses. Although not unique to Wyoming or the west, the Sweetwater Rocks are unusual and provide a very scenic backdrop to the historic Sweetwater Valley.

Juniper and scattered limber pine are found on the rocky slopes. Aspen can be found along the base of the rocks, while sagebrush and grasses are found on the surrounding plains. Large expanses of bare rock characterize the unit.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** This unit is the western portion of the initial inventory area WY-030-123 which contained an estimated 19,900 acres. The initial inventory area was split into two units (123a and 123b) by a road identified by the public. The road crosses private, state and BLM lands as it traverses the unit in a north-south direction. Other roads and intrusions were identified during the initial inventory. Some narrow fingers of land extending from the unit were dropped. The combined acreage dropped because of intrusions and fingers was 885 acres. Allowing for this reduction, the size for unit 123b is 6,429 acres.

**Naturalness.** The unit is largely free of man-made intrusions. Those that exist are confined to two-track ways, one bladed section of road, and about .3 of a mile of fence. The ways and bladed road are all located on the east and northeast ends of the unit. All are found in the open sagebrush areas.

The ways and bladed road are quite noticeable while one is traveling on them or immediately adjacent to them. From a distance they are not particularly noticeable and their visual impact is confined to the level, sage covered areas around the base of the rocks.

**Outstanding Opportunities.** The linear shape is a configuration which would limit opportunity for the visitor to find isolation from others in the unit.

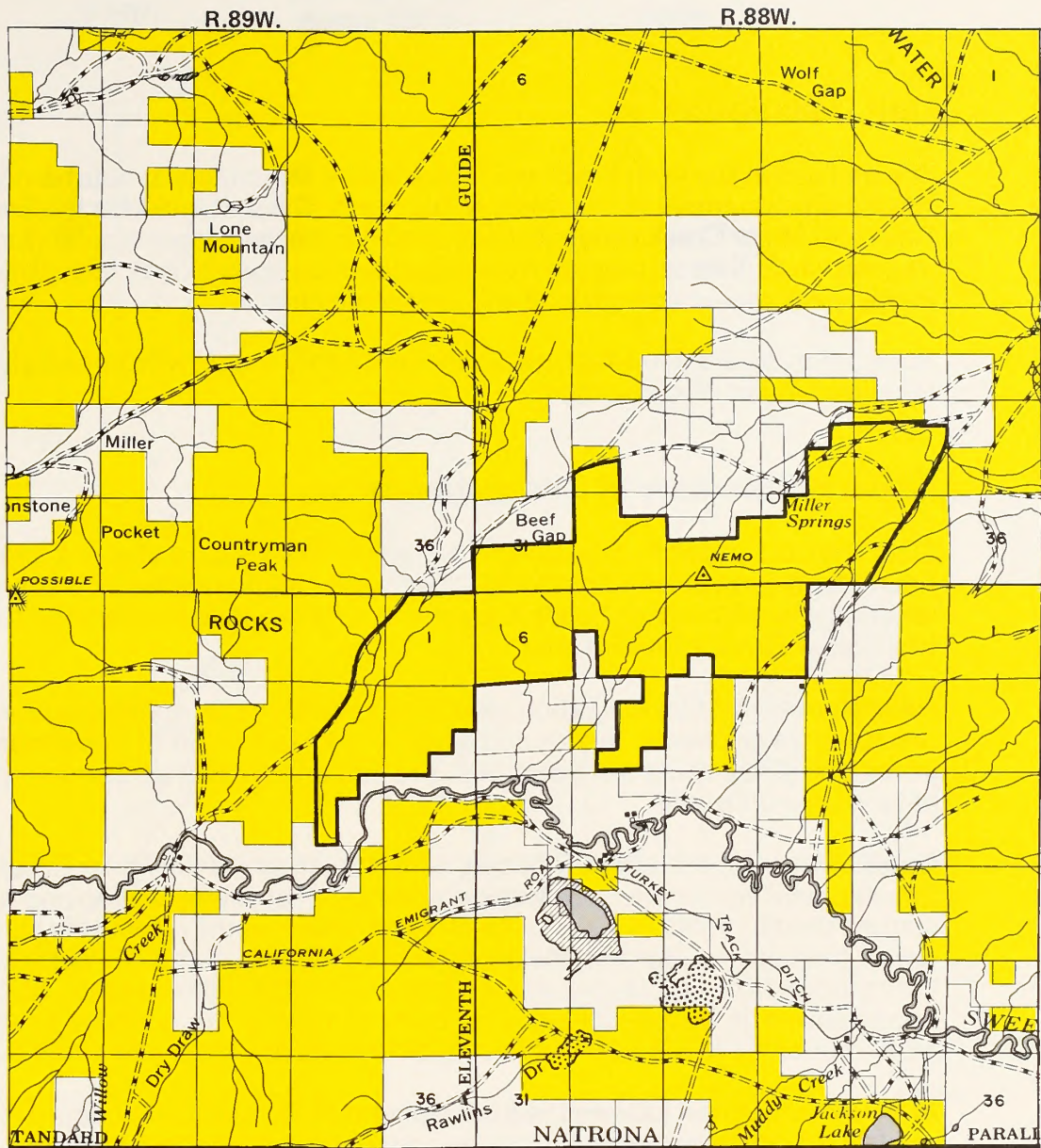
The BLM has concluded that the degree of solitude available to the visitor would be a function of the number of visitors rather than terrain, vegetation or size. The opportunity for solitude is limited.

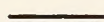

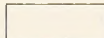
Primitive recreation opportunities include hiking, camping, rock climbing, hunting and related activities such as photography, nature study, sightseeing and bird watching.

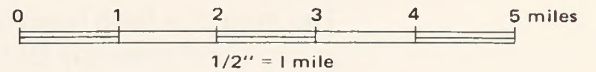
Primitive campsites are available in a few places where grassy meadows, shelter and concealment are available. The lack of well distributed quality campsites may cause some visitor overlap and confinement of use.

The BLM concluded that the area does provide outstanding opportunities for a primitive, unconfined type of recreation. However, the opportunity is limited.

**Supplemental Values.** Geological study, as well as scenic attributes, are also found within the area. The Sweetwater Rocks area contains historical and archeological sites.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



SWEETWATER ROCKS  
WY-030-123b

# Encampment River Canyon

WY-030-301  
3,380 acres

## Unit Description

The unit lies in the foothills of the Sierra Madre Mountains of southern Wyoming. The town of Encampment is two miles to the north. The unit includes the Encampment River and Miner Creek canyons, both of which are deep, spectacular gorges. Vegetation is diverse, ranging from sagebrush on open slopes to scattered stands of limber pine, aspen, cottonwood and lodgepole pine.

Rock outcrops are abundant, giving the unit a very rough, wild appearance. Steep talus slopes are also common.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** The unit originally contained 5,840 acres. The present size of 3,380 acres, a figure considerably less than 5,000-acre minimum guidelines for wilderness, was retained as a Wilderness Study Area due to strong public support and the proximity to a Forest Service RARE II area.

**Naturalness.** Field investigation identified several roads, mineral exploration pits, two-track ways, cabins, fences and a powerline. As a result of these man-made intrusions, 2,460 acres were dropped. The remaining 3,380 acres meet the naturalness criterion.

**Outstanding Opportunities.** The area consists largely of the Miner Creek and Encampment River canyons. Both canyons are deep, steep walled and rugged and contain dense vegetation along the streams which would effectively screen the visitor from others. Further, the great relief of the area completely shields visitors to the canyons from sights and sounds from the I.O.O.F. camp and the town of Encampment as well, in spite of their close proximity. The scattered mining pits and other intrusions in the 3,380-acre canyon area do not adversely affect solitude.

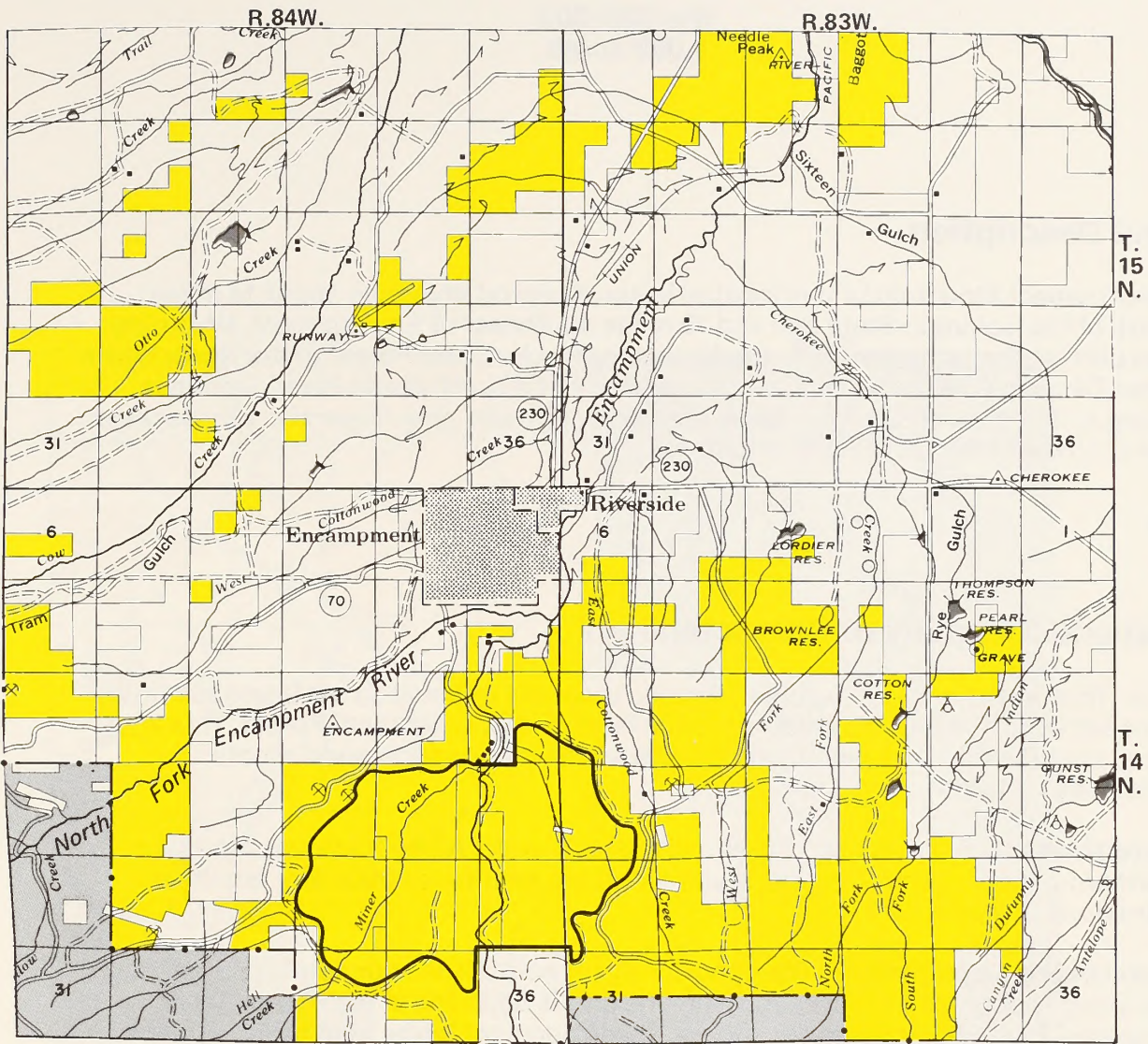
Although a foot trail follows the Encampment River, sufficient campsites would be available so that visitors would not be concentrated in certain areas.

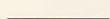

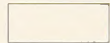

The area has long been identified by the general public, area residents, conservation groups and previous BLM planning efforts as having high quality primitive values, outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and outstanding natural values. The public has long identified the area as one where existing scenic, recreational and wildlife values should be protected.

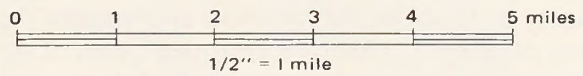
It has been pointed out by public comment that although the BLM wilderness inventory unit and the U.S. Forest Service RARE II unit are not contiguous, they are connected by the physical features of the canyon and by a legal permanent foot trail easement. The units are used as one unit. This effectively increases the size of the unit.

Public comment has also pointed out that the narrow, deep canyons of the Encampment River and Miner Creek provide outstanding opportunities for solitude, in spite of their small size, and that their size (3,380 acres) is sufficient to manage as wilderness.

**Supplemental Values.** The Encampment River unit provides habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species. It is crucial winter habitat for deer, elk and bighorn sheep.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land
-  National Forest Land



ENCAMPMENT RIVER CANYON  
WY-030-301

# Prospect Mountain

Wy-030-303  
1,099 acres

## Unit Description

The Prospect Mountain Unit is located in southcentral Wyoming about 14 miles north of the Colorado State line and 19 miles southeast of Encampment, Wyoming. The unit is situated adjacent to the Medicine Bow National Forest in the North Platte River Canyon. One corner of the unit borders on the North Platte River. Terrain is steep and tree covered with a dense stand of lodgepole pine. Several aspen pockets are scattered through the pine stand.

## General Summary of Characteristics

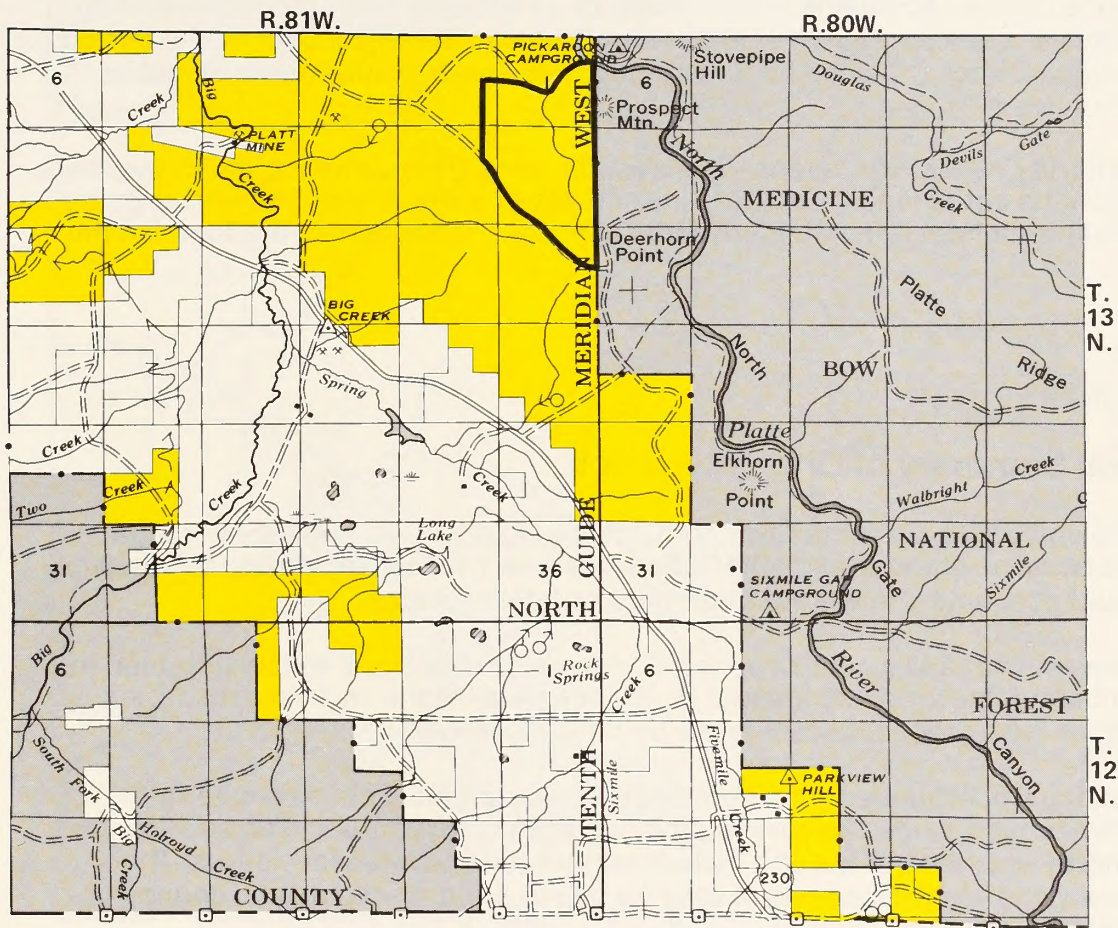
**Size.** This unit of only 1,099 acres of public land was retained as a Wilderness Study Area because it is located adjacent to the Medicine Bow National Forest. This area, when considered in conjunction with adjacent Forest Service lands, meets wilderness criteria.





**Naturalness.** The unit is in an essentially natural state. A two-track way along the northern boundary and a two-track way along the southwest boundary are the only intrusions in the area.

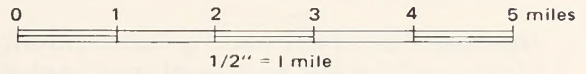
**Outstanding Opportunities.** The opportunity for solitude is abundantly present due to the steep topography and forest cover. The unit is adjacent to the Forest Service's proposed Platte River Wilderness Area. These adjacent lands, also having wilderness character, tend to reinforce and complement the wilderness qualities of the unit. The diversity of topography, wildlife and vegetative zones provides opportunity for a variety of primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The forested slopes are ideal for hiking, backpacking and hunting.

**Supplemental Values.** The unit has outstanding dendrological and botanical attributes for educational studies. This unit has a pristine ecosystem that has been relatively undisturbed by man. The unit also has some interesting geological formations in the form of rock outcrops and rock pinnacles. The North Platte River at this point is a free-flowing stream which provides excellent fishing opportunity. Scenery in the unit and surrounding lands is spectacular.





-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land
-  National Forest Land



**PROSPECT MOUNTAIN**  
 WY-030-303

# Bennett Mountains

Wy-030-304  
5,722 acres

## Unit Description

The Bennett Mountains are a small mountain range lying east of Seminoe Dam and west of the Shirley Mountains. They consist of an abruptly rising mountain wall on the south and a series of small canyons or gulches on the north. Overall, the terrain is very rugged. Rock outcrops abound throughout. Travel by any means would be quite strenuous.

Vegetation is diverse. Ponderosa Pine is found along the southern crest of the range throughout its entire length. Limber Pine and aspen are common, the former being scattered throughout the unit. Fairly large expanses of sagebrush are found in the unit.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** The unit originally contained approximately 7,080 acres. The total acreage dropped because of roads and other intrusions was 1,358 acres, leaving 5,722 acres, an amount adequate to meet the wilderness criterion for size.

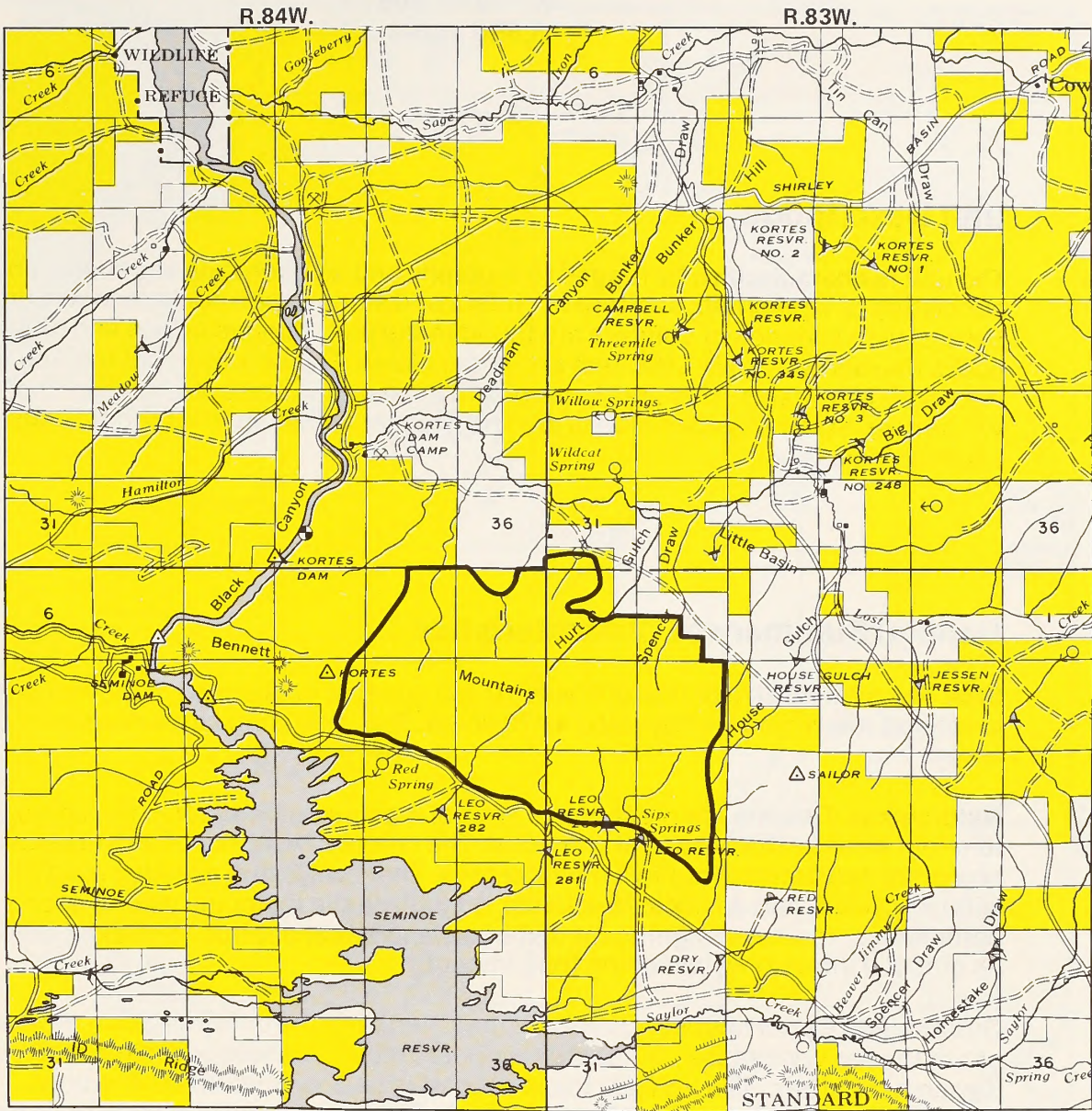
**Naturalness.** The BLM located a series of man-made intrusions which detracted from apparent naturalness; all are located on the perimeter of the unit. As a result, six small areas were dropped reducing the unit to 5,722 acres.



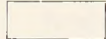
**Outstanding Opportunities.** The high topographic variability coupled with the vegetative cover provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The deep canyons on the north and south of the unit include many secluded sites for visitors. The topography and vegetation make it easy for one to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors in the unit.

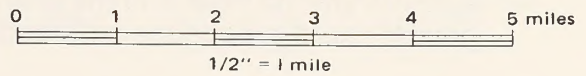
Number 2 and Number 3 gulches, along with Hurt and Spencer gulches, contain steep rocky areas and scattered pockets of coniferous and aspen trees. All offer secluded campsites. While in these gulches, the visitor would be effectively screened from other visitors in the area.

The Bennett Mountains contain outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Examples would be hunting, hiking, sightseeing, wildlife observation, backpacking and some rock climbing.

**Supplemental Values.** The unit provides for deer and elk and non-game species of wildlife. It provides roosting areas for raptors and is known to be used by golden eagles.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



**BENNETT MOUNTAINS**  
**WY-030-304**

# Pedro Mountains

WY-030-305

5,990 acres

## Unit Description

The unit is characterized by rugged topography and an open type vegetative cover consisting of sagebrush, scattered conifers and some aspen pockets in wet draws. Several dense stands of conifers are found in the unit. Rugged ridges and mountain peaks rise abruptly over 1,000 feet above the plains. The unit does not include all of the Pedro Mountains. This area is natural in appearance and quite scenic. The Wilderness Study Area decision is presently under appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** The original size of this unit was 10,460 acres of public land. Field investigation identified roads which eliminated 4,470 acres. The remaining lands consist of 5,990 acres.

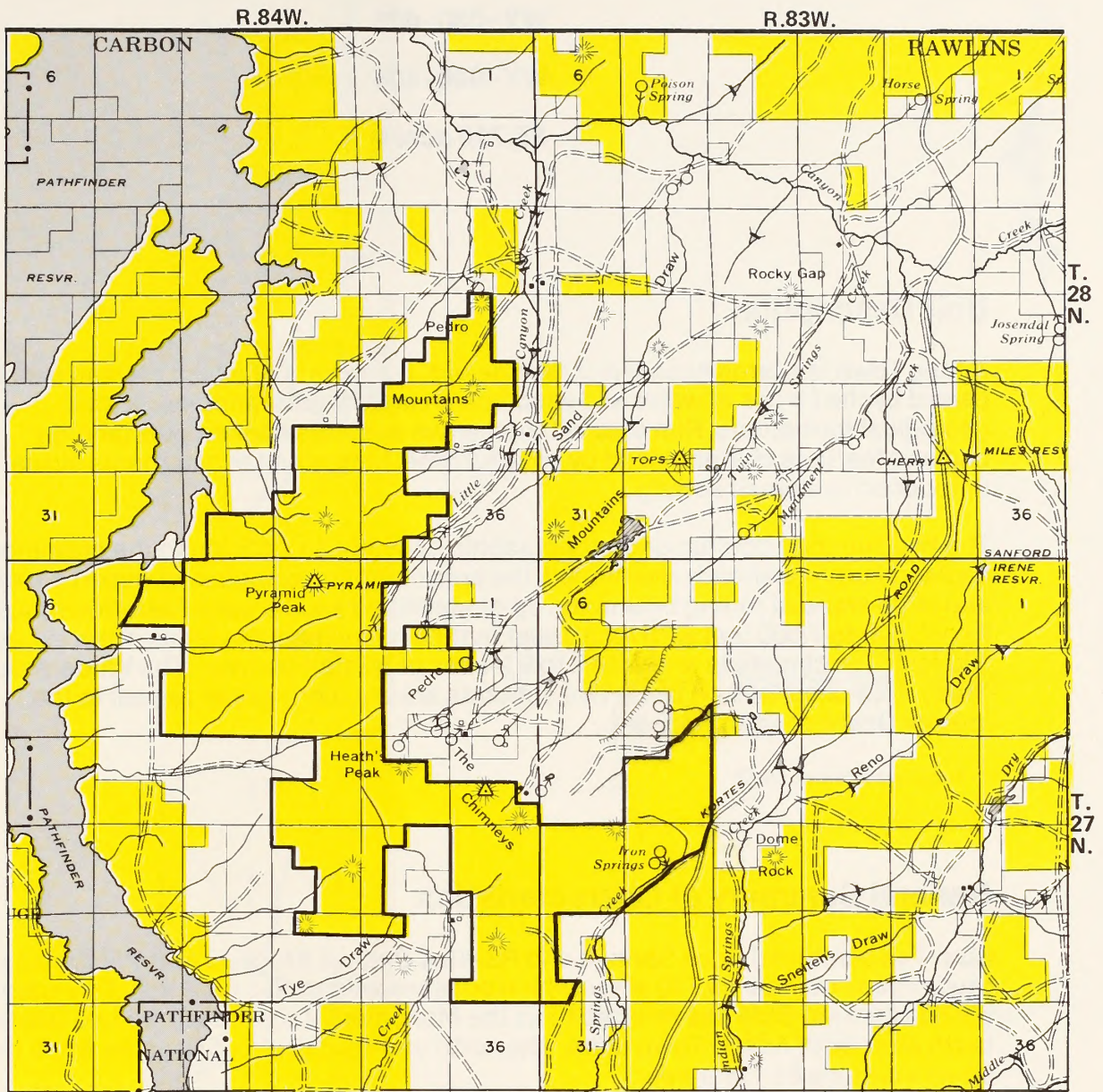
**Naturalness.** Despite the presence of several man-made intrusions, the unit appears to retain an essentially natural character. The cumulative effect of all intrusions compromises naturalness to a minor degree. Three ways and a bladed road located within the area, and an enclosure fence, constitute the major intrusions upon naturalness. However, significant distances and visual obstructions exist between all of these intrusions, lessening their impact.




**Outstanding Opportunities.** Of critical importance to the determination of whether or not the area possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude is the land ownership pattern. The unit, for the most part is narrow and linear. The only "blocked up" part lies around Pyramid Peak. The dense conifer stands on the north side of Pyramid Peak and the peak to the north provide an area in the unit where a person could experience outstanding solitude.

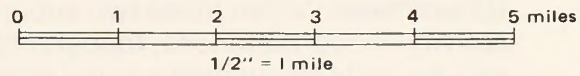
The Pedro Mountains provide opportunities for several types of primitive, unconfined recreation. Deer and elk hunting, hiking, primitive camping and backpacking are the principal examples.

None of the opportunities were considered outstanding. All are effectively restricted without the adjoining private and state lands. Primitive hunting would be restricted or confined without the use of the mountain slopes or some of the adjoining private lands. The better campsites, draws with intermittent streams or springs, are on private lands or contain ways and/or developed springs and reservoirs.

**Supplemental Values.** The Pedro Mountains provide some type of habitat, both winter and summer, for a wide variety of animal species. The Pedro's are unusual in one respect, they provide winter roosting areas for approximately 20 bald eagles—as counted by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. This makes the Pedro's an ideal place for research observation of winter habitat for bald eagles.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



PEDRO MOUNTAINS  
WY-030-305

# Adobe Town

WY-030-401

WY-040-408

**85,710 acres**

## Unit Description

Adobe Town is a large expanse of high desert. It consists of a high plateau deeply carved by the forces of water and wind into an area of outstandingly scenic geological formations. Rim area within the two subunits contain outstanding badland features characterized by colorful rims, buttes and escarpments virtually untouched by human activity.

The two subunits contain great topographic diversity. In addition to the prominent badland features already mentioned, the area contains expanses of desert pavement and large areas of rolling hills made up of stabilized sand dunes. Elevation ranges from 6,500 to 7,000 feet with local relief in the rim and badland areas often exceeding 300 feet. The climate is arid with 7 to 9 inches of rainfall per year. The Wilderness Study Area decisions on these two subunits are presently under appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

## General Summary of Characteristics

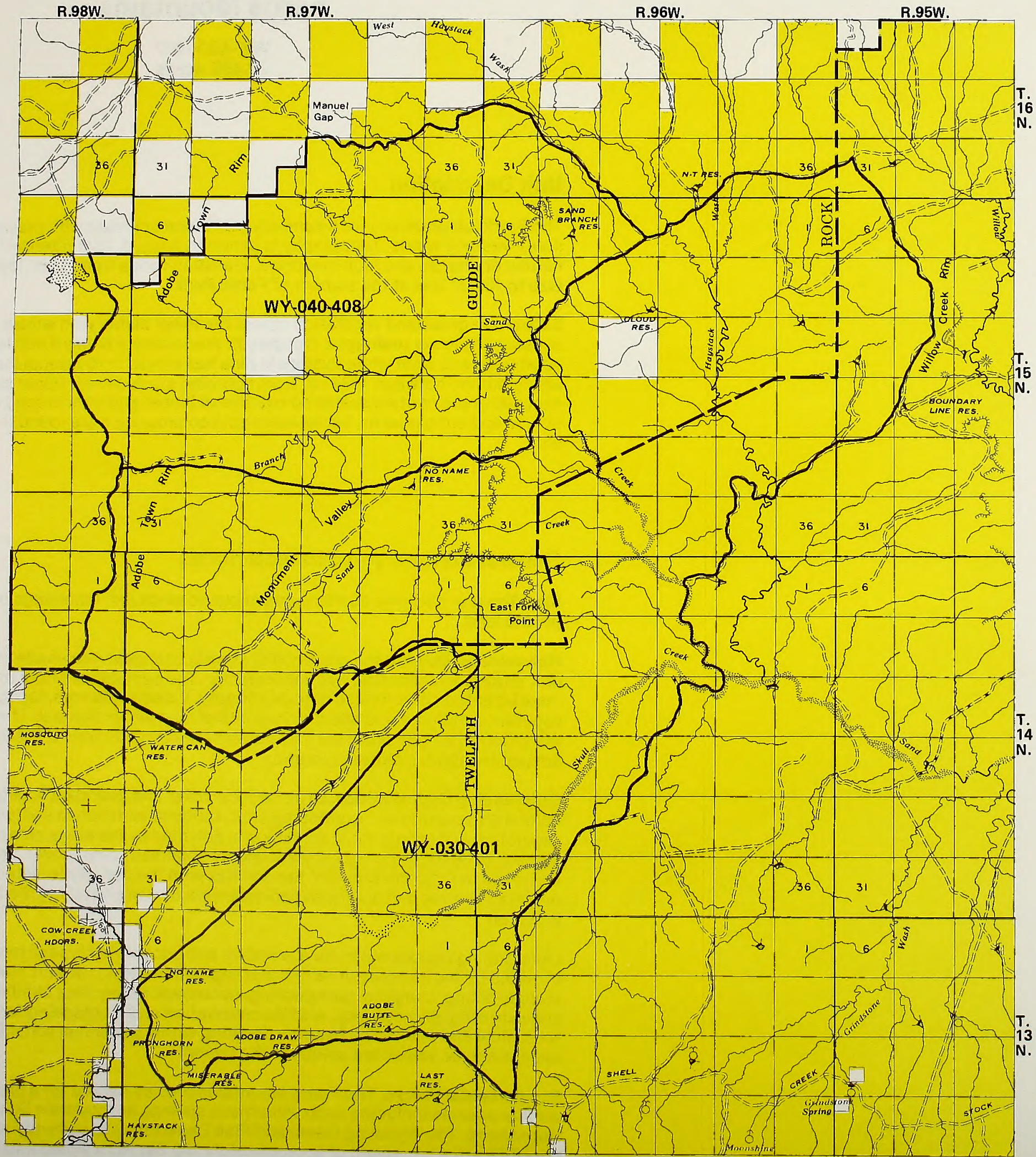
**Size.** The combined Rock Springs and Rawlins District Adobe Town Wilderness Study Areas contain 85,710 acres which possess wilderness qualities. This tract is divided by what BLM has referred to as the Monument Valley road into two tracts, the north and south Adobe Town units. The north unit contains 24,540 acres while the south contains 61,170 acres.

**Naturalness.** Within these two subunits, are scattered minimal evidences of human activity. Visual distances, topography and vegetation obscure these imprints of man and the units retain their natural character.

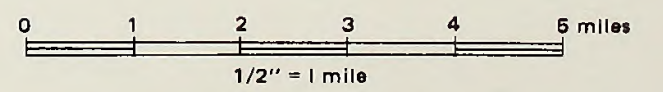
**Outstanding Opportunities.** Outstanding Opportunities to experience solitude are provided in the badlands and rim areas within the unit. These areas in particular are: Adobe Town Rim, the Monument Valley area, the upper tributaries of Sand Creek and Skull Creek Rim. These areas make up the bulk of the lands in the Rock Springs District unit (WY-040-408) and a sizable part of the Rawlins District unit (WY-030-401).

These features provide abundant opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of other users. The rugged rock formations in the badlands, canyons and rims provide exceptional natural screening. The quality and diversity of colors, shapes and forms provide a scenic grandeur and a feeling of remoteness which clearly provides the visitor with outstanding qualities of solitude.

**Supplemental Values.** Vertebrate and invertebrate fossils are widely distributed throughout the unit. Fossils and petrified wood can be found eroding out of not fewer than 26 beds in the Washakie Formation.



- Wilderness Study Area Boundary
- Public Land
- State and Private Land



ADOBE TOWN  
WY-030-401 WY-040-408

# Ferris Mountains

WY-030-407  
20,495 Acres

## Unit Description

The Ferris Mountains have a semi-arid, temperate climate with prevailing westerly, southwesterly winds. Topography is generally rugged, characterized by steep slopes, narrow drainages and high meadows. Elevation varies from 6,580 feet near Whiskey Gap to 10,037 feet at the summit of Ferris Peak.

Sagebrush-grassland vegetation covers the lower plains with willow-cottonwood zones in the lower drainages. Douglas fir predominate below 8,000 feet in the southwest and west while lodgepole pine has moved in to revegetate two areas which burned between 1939-40 from lightning started fires. Upper slopes and exposed areas contain scattered patches of limber and ponderosa pine, Englemann spruce and subalpine fir. Aspen-lodgepole communities are found throughout the unit.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** The unit contains 20,495 acres of public lands and inholdings of 160 acres of private land.

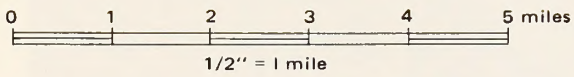
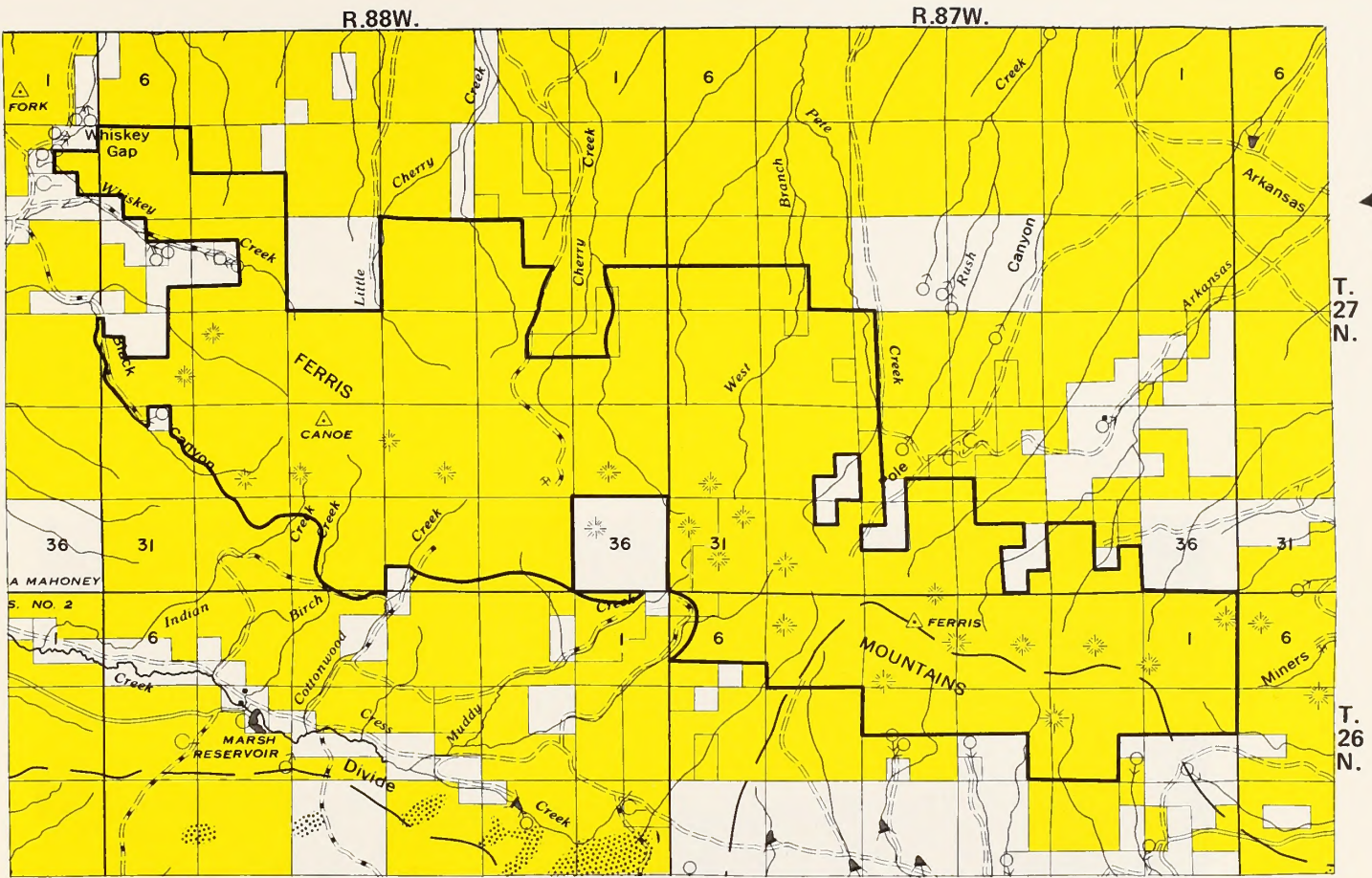
**Naturalness.** Despite the presence of several scattered man-made intrusions, the unit retains an essentially natural character. The cumulative effect of all intrusions is insufficient to compromise natural integrity. Visual distances, topography and vegetation mitigate and obscure imprints of man within the unit. The only intrusions which infringe upon apparent naturalness are centered around the traces of the suspended Babb's Mine exploration.



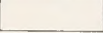
**Outstanding Opportunities.** Extreme local relief and abundant vegetative cover combine to provide an outstanding opportunity to experience solitude. Substantial vegetation and topographic screening is provided by the areas steep mountain slopes, its deep, secluded canyons and its abundant forest cover. Scattered open meadows in the central part of the unit mix with the densely forested stands to provide a diverse and quality experience without compromising the feeling of isolation.

Outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are provided by the diversity of terrain and vegetation within the unit. Such opportunities include hiking, camping, backpacking, horseback riding, rock climbing, ski touring, snowshoeing, photography, wildlife observation and sightseeing for botanical, zoological and geological features. Hunting within the unit is considered exceptional and the scenic values are unique to the region.

**Supplemental Values.** The Ferris Mountains provide habitat for a great diversity of wildlife species including such wilderness species as mountain lion, elk and Big Horn sheep. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is currently studying the possibility of a transplant of approximately 100 Big Horn sheep into the area.





-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land

FERRIS MOUNTAINS  
WY-030-407





**Casper District**

# Gardner Mountain

WY-060-201  
6,423 acres

## Unit Description

The topography varies from gentle grass covered slopes to steep-forested ridges and sheer-deep canyons. The two major perennial streams, Beartrap Creek and North Fork of the Red Fork and the canyons they form, traverse the length of the unit and separate the gentle grasslands from the rugged, steep topography. The slopes vary from grass and sage covered to heavily forested. Elevation of the unit ranges from 5,700 to 7,800 feet. The unit is located approximately 70 miles northwest of Casper.

## General Summary of Characteristics

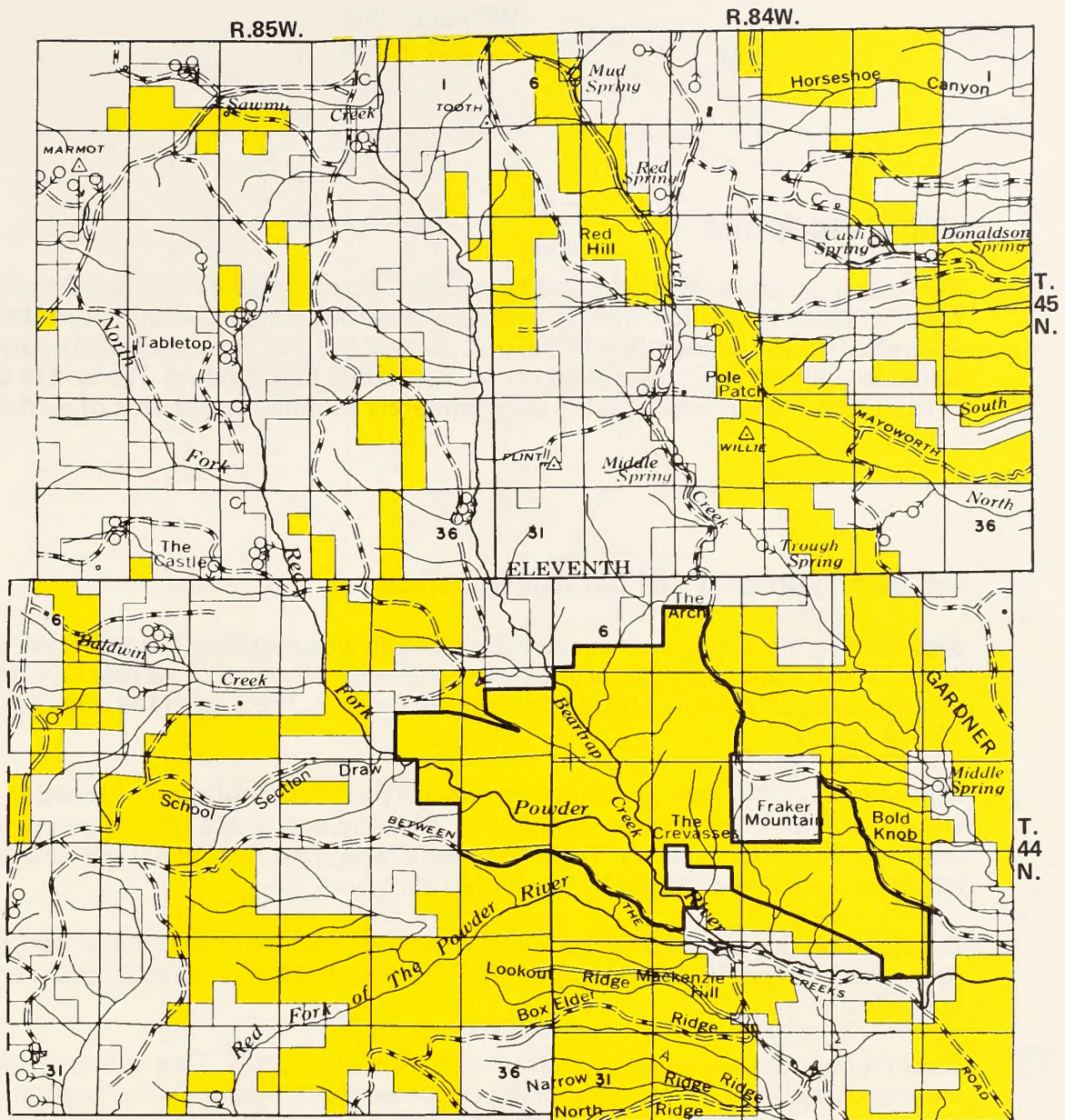
**Size.** The size of the unit is now approximately 6,423 acres. Because of numerous road reclassifications, the size of the unit was cut considerably from the 18,440 acres originally identified. Several range improvements located in the "V" and north-east of the Graves Ranch also resulted in a small amount of acreage being deleted from the unit.



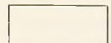
**Naturalness.** A large portion of the original unit has been affected by the imprints of human activity. Evidence of logging activities, mill sites, range improvements and log cabins which clearly impact the naturalness of the area resulted in a large amount of acreage being dropped from further study. The remaining acreage has been primarily affected by the forces of nature and human activity is substantially unnoticeable.

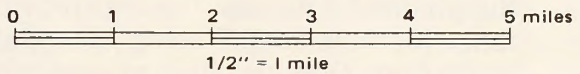
**Outstanding Opportunities.** Within the unit are two major canyons, rugged topography and heavily forested terrain which provides an abundance of natural screening so that solitude can be found.

The variety in terrain and vegetative cover, along with the presence of many different types of wildlife creates a broad base for a variety of recreational activities. The area would offer an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

**Supplemental Values.** The unit provides critical winter habitat for elk and is year-long range for mule deer. Opportunities to view many types of wildlife are excellent. Both rivers within the unit provide excellent fishing opportunities and opportunities to view geological formations in the deep canyons are also present.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



GARDNER MOUNTAIN  
WY-060-201

# North Fork of Powder River

WY-060-202

10,089 acres

## Unit Description

Two major canyons and rivers, the North Fork of the Powder River and Pass Creek traverse much of the unit. The canyons are deep and rugged, offering spectacular scenery. The remaining parts of the unit contain gentle grasslands and heavily forested rolling terrain. Elevation varies from 5,800 to 8,000 feet. The unit is located in the south Big Horn Mountains approximately 30 miles southwest of Buffalo.

## General Summary of Characteristics

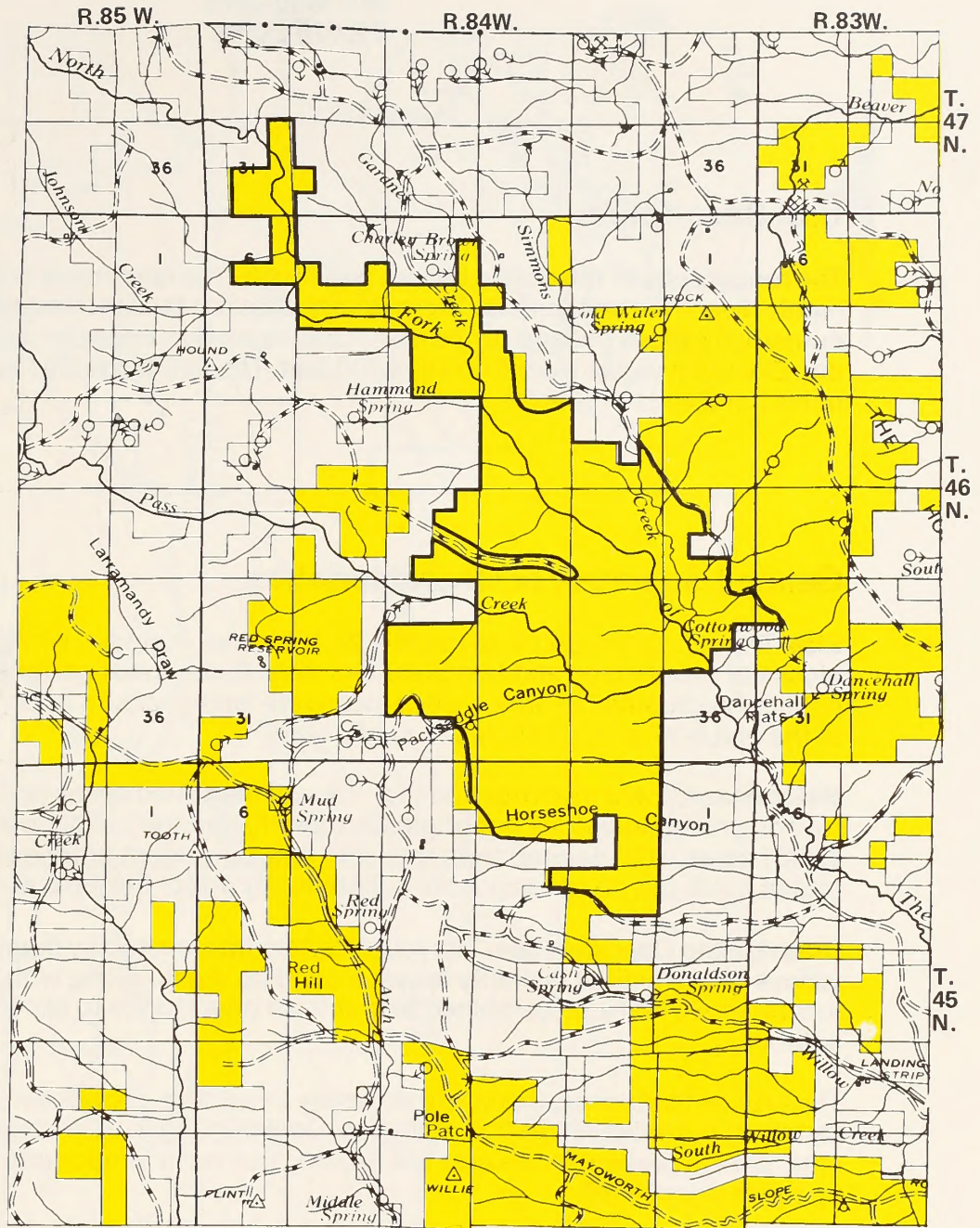
**Size.** During the intensive inventory the acreage was recalculated and totaled 15,171 acres. There were two parcels of private land within the unit. As a result of boundary adjustments, all private land is now outside the unit. The size of the unit is now 10,089 acres.




**Naturalness.** Field investigations resulted in the documentation of additional roads and a stock watering pipeline within the unit. Approximately 5,082 acres were removed from further study. The remaining acreage retains its natural character and has been primarily affected by the forces of nature.

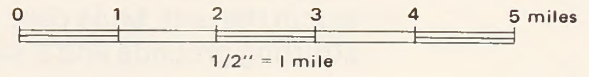
**Outstanding Opportunities.** The unit is divided by two major and minor canyons. Along with rolling, forested topography, the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude.

The unit provides a diversity of terrain and vegetative cover. This combines with its natural character to offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

**Supplemental Values.** The area provides critical winter elk range and is also summer range for mule deer. Fishing is considered to be excellent in both Pass Creek and North Fork. Opportunities to view geological formation within the canyons are numerous.



-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



# Fortification Creek

WY-060-204

12,419 acres

## Unit Description

The topography of the unit is broken and rough. The landscape is steeply sloping and highly dissected and gullied. There is very little flat terrain. Narrow ridges and numerous valleys caused by the many drainages dominate the unit. The area is very dry. Elevation varies from 4,000 to 4,700 feet. The unit is located approximately 30 miles northwest of Gillette.

## General Summary of Characteristics

**Size.** The size of the unit was initially 28,100 acres. Included within the unit were two blocks of private land and two State sections. Field investigations have resulted in boundary adjustments which freed all private land and both State sections. The size of the unit is now 12,419 acres of public land.

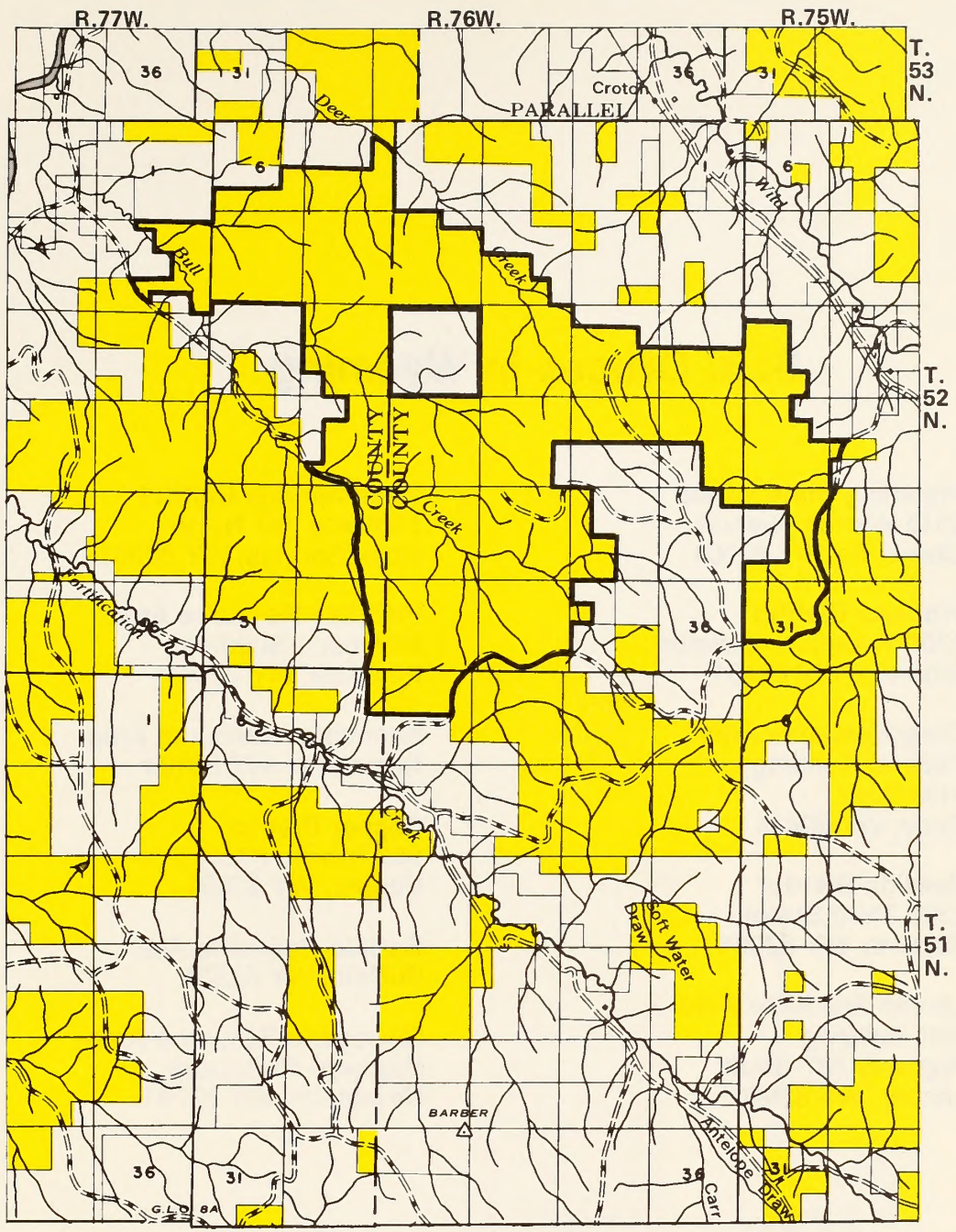
**Naturalness.** Field investigations for the unit identified seven additional roads and four oil drilling locations not originally identified in the initial inventory. As a result 15,681 acres were deleted from this unit. A large amount of fence line and several routes exist, but do not appear to substantially effect the natural character.

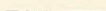

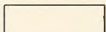
**Outstanding Opportunities.** The rough terrain intersected by many narrow ridges and valleys offers limited visibility into surrounding areas. Along with the scattered juniper these features combined to create an opportunity to experience outstanding solitude.

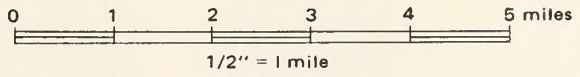
The broken landscape, along with a variety of wildlife, provides a resource base for a variety of primitive recreation activities. Deer hunting is considered excellent in the area. Elk are present in the area but hunting has been temporarily prohibited to build up the resident herd.

**Supplemental Values.** Critical elk calving and winter range have been identified within the unit. Mule deer use the area throughout the year. Two sharptail grouse strutting grounds and a sage grouse strutting ground have been identified.





-  Wilderness Study Area Boundary
-  Public Land
-  State and Private Land



**FORTIFICATION CREEK**  
**WY-060-204**

## BLM Offices in Wyoming

**Wyoming State Office**  
2515 Warren Avenue  
Cheyenne, WY 82001

**Worland District**  
1700 Robertson Avenue  
Worland, WY 82401

Cody Resource Area  
Federal Building  
1131 13th  
Cody, WY 82414

**Rawlins District**  
1300 Third Street  
Rawlins, WY 82301

Lander Resource Area  
Jett Building  
Highway 287 South  
Lander, WY 82520

**Rock Springs District**  
Highway 187 North  
Rock Springs, WY 82901

Pinedale Resource Area  
Molyneux Building  
Pinedale, WY 82941

Kemmerer Resource Area  
Kemmerer, WY 83101

**Casper District**  
951 Rancho Road  
Casper, WY 82601

Buffalo Resource Area  
Buffalo, WY 82834

Newcastle Resource Area  
Highway 16 Bypass  
Newcastle, WY 82701

BLM LIBRARY  
RS 150A BLDG. 50  
DENVER FEDERAL CENTER  
P.O. BOX 25047  
DENVER, CO 80225

READER'S CARD

1966 1981  
of Land  
Wyoming State  
Wilderness study

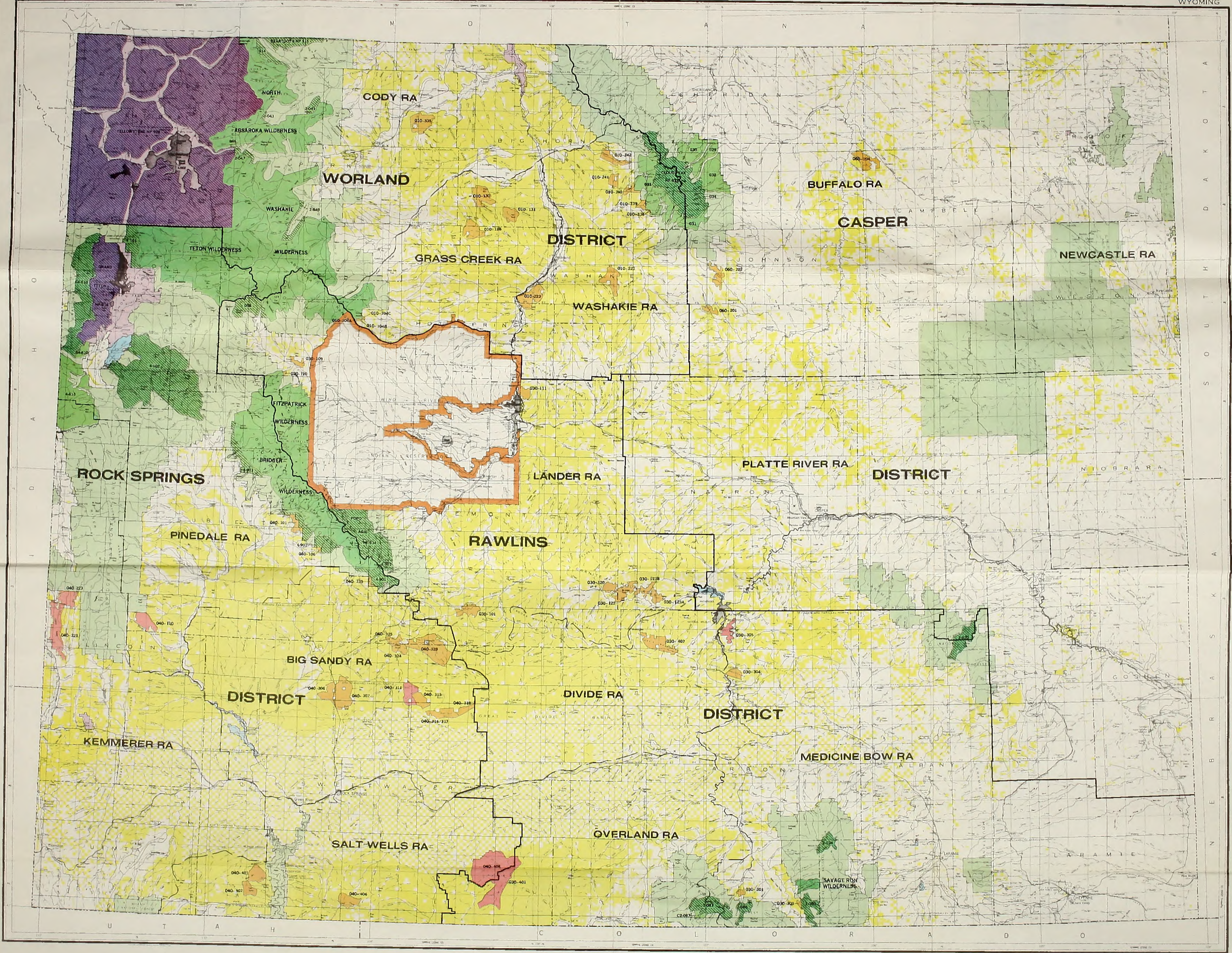
OFFICE	DATE RETURNED

(Continued on reverse)

QH 76.5 .W8 W966 1981  
U. S. Bureau of Land  
Management. Wyoming State  
Wyoming wilderness study  
areas

BLM LIBRARY  
RS 150A BLDG. 50  
DENVER FEDERAL CENTER  
P.O. BOX 25047  
DENVER, CO 80225

**u. s. department of the interior  
bureau of land management**



LEGEND

Designated Wilderness	BLM	USFS	NPS	FWS
Administratively Endorsed as Suitable	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE
Further Planning or Study Area (WSA)	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE
Other Agency Lands	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE
BLM Wilderness Inventory Not Completed	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE
BLM Lands Administratively Endorsed as Nonsuitable	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE
BLM Lands Under Appeal (WSA's)	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE
USFS Rare II Under Litigation (California)	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE
State Designated Wilderness	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE
Indian Reservations	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE
BLM Non WSA's Under Appeal	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

State capital	Legend
County seat	
City, town, or village	
Site of public service support	
Build up area shown for towns over 5,000 population	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

STATE OF WYOMING WILDERNESS STATUS MAP

JUNE 1981 Scale 1:1,000,000 1 inch equals approximately 16 miles

BASE MAP BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

