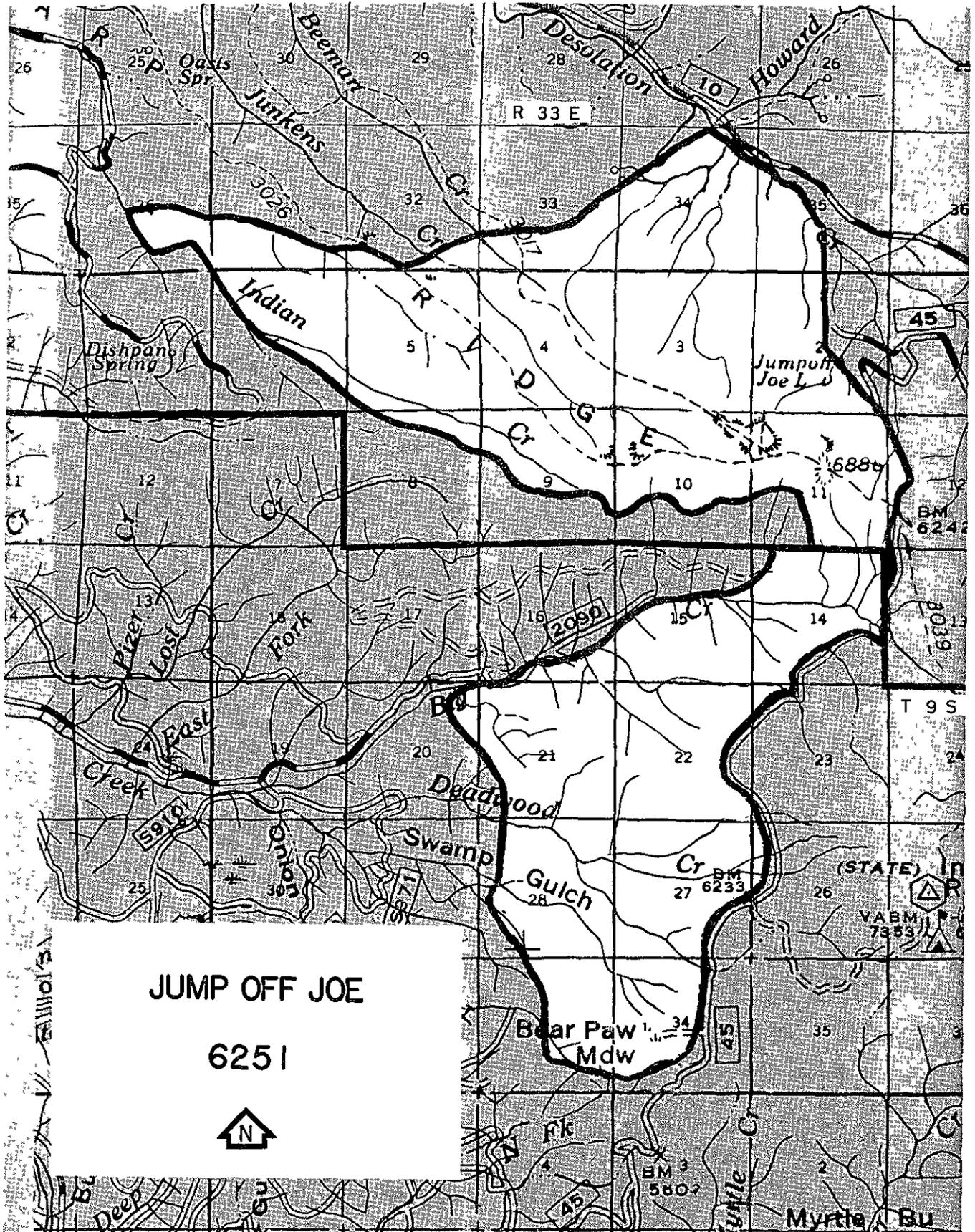


FIGURE C-11



L. JUMPOFF JOE - 4,006
Acres (RARE II No. 6251)

1. Description

a. History This area was inventoried during RARE and continued during the RARE II inventory. The Umatilla National Forest manages a large part of this roadless area. The John Day Planning Unit Environmental Impact Statement and the RARE II Environmental Impact Statement designated this area to nonwilderness uses.

b. Location and Access This area is located on both sides of the northern boundary of the Malheur National Forest with the Umatilla National Forest in Grant County, Oregon (T. 8 S., R. 32 E., T. 8 S., R. 33 E., T. 9 S., R. 32 E., T. 9 S., R. 33 E., of the Willamette Meridian).

Access to the area consists of a Forest Service arterial road along the eastern edge of the area. Numerous secondary and local roads lead to the perimeter of the area.

c. Geography and Topography The portion of the area on the Malheur National Forest straddles the Big, Deadwood, and Swamp Gulch Creeks and is connected to the portion on the Umatilla National Forest by a narrow strip. The area does not have prominent geographic features and is a series of glacial troughs and outwashes, high elevation rolling ridges, and drainages. Sideslopes vary from moderately steep to gentle, primarily westerly facing. The most southerly portion of this area is immediately adjacent to the Susanville district of the Greenhorn Mountain area gold belt. This area is a continuation of the granitic intrusion which makes up the Greenhorn Mountain roadless area. See Figure C-11.

d. Geology and Soils Surface soil is a silt loam derived from volcanic ash and a cobbly clay loam derived from a variety of bedrock materials. The parent materials are basalt and andesite. Ash soils in this area share the characteristics of volcanic ash soils in the Greenhorn area. Jurassic-to-Cretaceous-age intrusive rocks are exposed over most of the northwesterly portion of the area. Miocene-age basalt flows cover most of the southern portion. Glacial till covers much of the northeasterly portion.

e. Vegetation This area is 97 percent forested. Of this, 1,300 acres meet the Pacific Northwest Region's definition of old growth. Ridgetops are forested with subalpine tree species. Lower elevations and drainages are heavily forested with white fir, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and western larch. Ground cover consists of huckleberry, pinegrass, and Columbia brome. Small, open areas support alpine sagebrush, elk sedge, and alpine fescue.

f. Current Uses The area provides summer and fall range for mule deer and Rocky Mountain elk. The area also provides habitat for bear, pine marten, and bobcat. Trout inhabit Jumpoff Joe Lake as well as portions of Big Creek and Deadwood Creek. These creeks also provide steelhead spawning and rearing habitat.

The area's principal recreation use is big-game hunting and associated camping. Hiking the trail system and snowmobiling in winter are also popular. Hiking to fish the tiny Jumpoff Joe Lake is an important experience in this area. Off-road vehicle use occurs in the area, as well; this use is highest in association with big-game hunting. (See Table C-2.)

The Malheur National Forest portion lies within one grazing allotment. Current use averages 150 Animal Unit Months by cattle each year.

2. Wilderness Capability

a. Manageability and Boundaries

The portion of this area on the Malheur National Forest is narrow and four miles long. At its boundary with the portion on the Umatilla National Forest, it is less than one mile wide, at its widest, it is approximately two miles wide. The shape of the area and terrain allow easy motorized access.

A small (1/2 section) adjustment in the boundary at the southeastern corner of the area would eliminate that portion with high minerals potential and activity.

b. Natural Integrity

The area shows some evidence of human use and activities, but these are not dominant over the substantially natural appearance of the area.

Impacts on the natural integrity of the area include undeveloped hunter camps. These impacts constitute little of the total area and natural integrity is quite high.

There are some impacts from grazing, primarily in the southern tip of the area. These consist of dust beds created by livestock in the thick lodgepole pine stands.

The history of fire suppression has had an impact on the vegetation of the area, by altering the succession of vegetative types in the area.

c. Naturalness

A boundary adjustment on the southern tip of the area, mentioned previously, separates most of the noticeable impacts from the remainder of the area. The effects of fire suppression are not noticeable to the average visitor.

d. Opportunity for Solitude

The size and shape of the portion of this area on the Malheur National Forest does not lend itself to a high degree of solitude. The gently rolling and sloping terrain does not add greatly to this opportunity. The very dense lodgepole pine and white fir stands do provide vegetative screening which offsets these other factors to some degree. During big-game hunting season, the use pattern would make opportunities for solitude very difficult.

e. Primitive Recreation and Challenge

There are many opportunities for outdoor recreation including camping, hiking, hunting, and snowmobiling. However, the opportunities for a primitive recreation experience are limited by the size and shape of the area, the access to the perimeter, and the use pattern.

This area does not present any uniquely challenging experiences to the average user.

If combined with the adjacent Greenhorn RARE II area, which ties into the North Fork John Day wilderness, the opportunity exists for increased primitive recreation experiences.

f. Special Features

There are no known Threatened or Endangered plant or animal species within this area. There is one Sensitive plant which occurs in this area.

There are no known cultural resources within the area.

3. Availability for Wilderness

a. Resource Potentials

The area currently provides roaded natural recreational opportunities. This area is capable of providing 14,141 Recreation Visitor Days (See Table C-4.)

Of the Forested acres in this area, 4,000 are tentatively suitable for timber management activities. These trees consist predominantly of mixed conifers with some lodgepole pine, growing in multistoried stands. The average overstory age is 150 and the average understory age 60. There is a standing volume of 43.2 million board feet (7.64 million cubic feet). With the use of intensive timber management techniques, 192 thousand cubic feet (1,098 thousand board feet) would be contributed to the annual allowable sale quantity in the first decade. The long-term sustained yield capacity from this area would be 228 thousand cubic feet per year.

The area has a moderate potential for placer gold and vein-type deposits of gold and silver. There are approximately 15 mining claims within the boundaries. The U. S. Geological Survey does not indicate a potential for oil and gas or geothermal resources.

b. Management Considerations

Indian paint fungus is present and can probably be found in all size classes of true firs. Much of the Douglas-fir (especially that found on the rockier, drier soils) is infected with dwarf-mistletoe. Mistletoe patches of varying severity can be found, from fairly light to quite severe. Root rots can be found to varying degrees but at this point are not considered a problem.

Due to the high amounts of true fir and Douglas-fir in the area, all the timber stands are highly susceptible to tussock moth and the western spruce budworm. A western spruce budworm infestation of varying severity presently exists in the area. Western pine beetle can be found in the area but is generally confined to a few old-growth ponderosa pine trees of low vigor. Mountain pine beetle outbreaks are now occurring in the old growth and/or overstocked lodgepole pine stands.

4. Wilderness Evaluation

The Strawberry Mountain Wilderness is 30 miles south, Monument Rock Wilderness is 40 miles southeast, North Fork John Day Wilderness is 6 miles north and east, and Black Canyon Wilderness is 65 miles southwest. The ecosystems present in the Jumpoff Joe roadless area are well represented in these wildernesses.

The nearest major metropolitan centers are Portland, Oregon (280 miles northwest), and Boise, Idaho (180 miles east).

The Jumpoff Joe roadless area has fairly strong support as an addition to the North Fork John Day Wilderness complex. In the 1979 RARE II study, this area received 2,780 comments favoring wilderness designation, 24 favoring further planning, and 5,292 favoring nonwilderness management. In recent Forest planning public involvement activities, this area received a moderate level of response which showed a lack of consensus about the best use of this area. The comments received were equally balanced (1-1), for and against wilderness designation.

The primary reasons favoring wilderness for this area were the opportunities for Primitive, solitary recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and watershed protection. The natural character of the area and its size, especially combined

with Greenhorn as suggested, were also strongly supported. It was also suggested that the road between these two areas be closed.

The primary reasons opposing wilderness were the mineral resource potential, evidence of mining activity, and the value of the timber resource.

There was some support for managing the area as "roadless" with restrictions on consumptive uses.

5. Environmental Consequences

Table C-15 displays the various management area assignments for this area by alternative.

a. Vegetation/Trees

Significant changes in tree sizes, and stand density and composition are expected on forested areas in Alternatives A, B-Modified, F, I, and NC, changing to a managed forest. The actual acres affected by timber management activities will vary between alternatives. In Alternative F, approximately 1,490 acres would be affected in the first decade. Some old growth will be retained in all alternatives, and these areas would remain unchanged

Under Alternative I, timber harvests would be on a non-scheduled basis and would be used only to meet fish and/or wildlife habitat objectives. When timber harvesting is warranted, silvicultural prescriptions will be designed to meet these objectives utilizing both even-aged and uneven-aged management techniques. The environmental changes, although similar to those in Alternatives A, B-Modified, F, and NC, as expressed in the above paragraph, would not occur as rapidly as in these other alternatives.

In Alternative C-Modified little change in the trees is expected; present characteristics would be retained and naturalness overall would be unchanged, except for the effects of naturally occurring wildfires.

b. Vegetation/Grass and Shrubs

In Alternatives A, B-Modified, F, I, and NC, forage for wildlife and livestock is expected to increase in forested areas where the trees are harvested and thinned. The long-term effect on transitory areas should be a gradual decrease in forage production as tree canopies again close and shade the understory. Seeding of introduced forage species will provide higher quality and quantity of palatable plants and change the present composition of forage plants. Native forage species of elk sedge, pinegrass, and brome are also expected to increase in vigor and density as tree canopies are opened and thinning occurs in harvest areas.

Forage production is expected to remain at present levels in Alternative C-Modified

c. Wilderness

In Alternative C-Modified future wilderness consideration would remain a possibility, wilderness experience expectations would be met, and the area would continue to appear very natural to users.

In Alternatives A, B-Modified, F, I, and NC, the area would eventually have a managed forest appearance with human activities evident in forested areas. Motorized vehicles would be permitted and future wilderness consideration would be foregone by the end of the first decade.

- d. Recreation In Alternatives A, B-Modified, F, and NC, the recreational opportunity would be roaded modified with increased vehicle use. The recreational opportunity would be roaded natural under Alternative I. Big-game hunter success is expected to increase due to reduced hiding cover in harvested areas and easier access. The opportunity for remote, nonmotorized hunting will decrease as additional access roads are traveled by more hunters.
- In Alternative C-Modified the effect would be a semiprimitive nonmotorized recreational opportunity which would provide the most natural setting to users. Eventually, more trails may be constructed to access new areas, while maintaining semiprimitive conditions in a nonmotorized setting
- e Scenery The scenery would be most affected by Alternatives A, B-Modified, F, and NC, where timber harvest activities would alter the natural appearance to that of a managed forest. Long-term effects on scenery in the forested areas which are harvested would be less old growth, more access roads, and less naturalness.
- With Alternative I, harvests would be limited in size to 10 acres or less and shaped to provide for a natural appearing setting
- In Alternative C-Modified the present forest scenery is expected to remain; no changes are anticipated, barring a major outbreak of insects, diseases, or catastrophic fire.
- f. Wildlife Alternative C-Modified would retain the largest acreages of old growth and the most wildlife snags. Management standards would adequately protect key habitat of all wildlife under all alternatives
- Moreover, some old growth in all alternatives will be retained to meet requirements for habitat needs of pileated woodpecker, pine marten, and other wildlife. Alternative B-Modified should affect wildlife to the greatest extent, followed by Alternatives A, F, and NC, which would retain more snags. Alternative I would provide for greatest quality of wildlife habitat of all the alternatives.
- g Water, Riparian, Riparian vegetation, anadromous fish habitat, and water quality of
Fisheries streamflow into the Middle Fork John Day River would be affected most by Alternatives A, B-Modified, F, I, and NC, and least affected by Alternative C-Modified. Management standards would adequately protect these resources under all alternatives; however, there would be increased accessibility and use as a result of timber harvest and access roads.
- h Cultural Resources All alternatives will protect cultural resources through application of laws and management standards. Alternatives which allow timber harvest (Alternatives A, B-Modified, F, I, and NC) have greatest risk of inadvertent damage to the resource as well as the greatest opportunity for discovery of the resource.
- i. Soils All alternatives will protect the soil resource through application of management standards. Alternatives which allow timber harvest (Alternatives A, B-Modified, F, I, and NC) have the greatest risk of inadvertent damage to the resource.

TABLE C-15

JUMPOFF JOE MANAGEMENT BY ALTERNATIVE

(Acres)

Management Area	NC ^{1/}	Alternatives					I-Preferred
		A	B-Mod	C-Mod	F		
1 General Forest	N/A	2,649	2,613			2,627	
2. Rangeland		134	149			140	
3. Riparian Areas		549	557			519	
4A. Big game Winter Range			136			137	
4B Big game Winter Range Enhancement							
5. Bald Eagle Winter Roost							
6A. Strawberry Mountain Wilderness							
6B. Monument Rock Wilderness							
6C. Pine Creek							
7. Scenic Area							
8 Special Interest Area							
9. Research Natural Area							
10. Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized					4,006		
11 Semi-Primitive Motorized							
12 Developed Recreation							
13. Old Growth	N/A	300	300			300	
14. Visual Corridors		126					
15. Unit Plan Wildlife Emphasis Areas							
16 Minimum Level Management		248	251			283	
17 Byram Gulch Municipal Supply Watershed							
18 Long Creek Municipal Supply Watershed							
19 Administrative Sites							
20. Wildlife Emphasis Areas with Scheduled Harvest							
21 Wildlife Emphasis Area, Non-Scheduled Harvest							4,006
22. Wild and Scenic River							
TOTAL ACRES	N/A	4,006	4,006	4,006	4,006	4,006	4,006

^{1/}The Timber Management Plan, upon which the No Change Alternative is based, was developed in 1979. The plan was not an integrated plan and, consequently, did not address all resource uses and outputs in an integrated manner. As a result, these acreages are not available.