

SUWA

X-2

UNIT NO. UT-020-087UNIT NAME: NORTH CEDAR MOUNTAINSUNIT ACREAGE: 16,089

1. AREA DESCRIPTION: Unit 087 is located in the north-central portion of Tooele County, Utah, approximately 58 miles east of Wendover and 60 miles west of Salt Lake City, via Interstate-80. Located at the northern end of the Cedar Mountain Range, Unit 087 is basically polygonal in shape. Dimensions vary, depending on directions measured, but approximates for general description are 5.5 miles wide and 7.0 miles long.

2. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. SIZE: The unit contains 16,089 acres of public land and encloses approximately 1,920 acres of private land. State land is not found in the unit.

B. NATURALNESS: The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable in the North Cedar Mountains. The cumulative effect of many minor and some large impacts are considerably evident within the relatively small unit.

Some interior hillsides are untrammelled by man and affected by the forces of nature. However, because of the openness and exposure to other imprints, a feeling of sublime naturalness is lacking.

Twenty-seven impacts or activities were identified; a cumulative network of over 11 miles of "ways" were recorded within the unit's boundaries. Lee's Canyon "way" follows a drainage and cuts a six-mile path through the southeast end of the North Cedars, impacting in its course the 5,000 acre parcel making up that end of the unit. Other activity along this access route includes quarries, livestock trails, motorcycle paths, heavy sheep grazing, and other minor extensions of "ways" used primarily by 4 X 4 wheeled vehicles. Other imprints of man's work are demonstrated mainly around the perimeter of the unit. These are impacts that may be relatively small in scale, but considerably large in effecting the quality of a once untouched ecosystem. "Ways", sheep pens, man made dikes for water improvements and storage, borrow pits, and much off-road vehicle traffic is quite noticeable from unit borders and adjacent unit hillsides.

Topographic features do conceal spots of naturalness from these affected areas within more centralized locations of the unit. However, even from within this screened environment, man's works are often evident due to outside influences and activities that occasionally penetrate into the unit.

C. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

(1) SOLITUDE: The upper elevations and inner portion of the unit provide scattered opportunities for solitude. Occasional vegetative covering, mountainous topography, and lack of penetrating roads, are evident. The lower, outside portions of the unit lack outstanding

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2003 FEB 25 PM 2: 23

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Docket No. _____ Official Exh. No. 5
In the matter of PFS
Staff _____ IDENTIFIED ✓
Applicant _____ RECEIVED ✓
Intervenor _____ REJECTED _____
Other SUWA WITHDRAWN _____
DATE 4-23-02 Witness _____
Clerk pmp

opportunities for solitude due to the sparse vegetative cover, relative open terrain and the cumulative effect of many impacts in the unit.

The entire unit is located by a major aircraft route, a railroad track, on the northern boundary, and Interstate freeway (I-80). Noise pollution from aircraft and trains is frequent (approximately every 20 minutes to 60 minutes).

Feelings of isolation are seldom complimented by winding canyons. Vegetation canopies and screening are lacking, and therefore do not aid in an outstanding feeling of solitude.

(2) PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation which exist in the North Cedars are hunting, horseback riding, hiking, wildlife observation and sightseeing. However, in and of themselves, these opportunities are not considered "outstanding" by the wilderness inventory teams. Wildlife populations and numbers are few. Terrain for hiking and horseback riding is not unique in nature and does not provide outstanding potentialities for these recreation types. Sightseeing is encumbered by many outside activities and interior impacts of man.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Rock windows, sawtooth ridges and small caves carved in cliffs and terraces are common throughout the northern section of the unit. These are all Lake remnants, displays cut by either the Bonneville or Provo levels of ancient Lake Bonneville, and are considered to be typical geological formations, common to the Bonneville Basin, and characteristic to all 14 units undergoing intensive inventory on the Salt Lake District.

Modern history, too, has left its imprint upon the unit. Hastings Pass, today dividing the two Cedar Mountains units, was once the route taken by a number of pioneers attempting to shorten their journey to California. Those interested in historical trail interpretation might find this portion of the Hastings Cutoff somewhat intriguing.

Mining operations have been digging Aragonite along the south end of the unit since 1895. Old buildings, pits and assorted prospects remain as a legacy to past ambitions.

3. RECOMMENDATION: The North Cedar Mountains Unit does not qualify for Wilderness Study Area designation.

4. RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION: Size, and naturalness, to a degree, have placed this unit into the intensive inventory phase of the wilderness review. The lack of "outstanding" potential, or opportunity for solitude and/or a primitive and unconfined recreational experience should drop it from further wilderness inventory consideration. Man's imprints are substantially noticeable, both within and without the unit. Natural screening contributes little to hide or enclose man and his contrasting influences. Recreation opportunities exist but all are encumbered by man's developments.

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WILDERNESS INTENSIVE INVENTORY

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NORTH CEDAR MOUNTAINS

1. SIZE 16,089 acres of contiguous BLM administered land.

Location and Setting:

Unit UT-020-087 is located in the north-central portion of Tooele County, Utah, approximately 58 miles east of Wendover and 60 miles west of Salt Lake City, via Interstate-80. Located at the northern end of the Cedar Mountain Range, Unit 087 is basically polygonal in shape. Dimensions vary, depending on directions measured, but approximates for general description are 5.5 miles wide and 7.0 miles long.

For those who wish to visit 087, access is probably best from either the Delle off ramp, approximately 52 miles west of Salt Lake City, or from Eagle Range off ramp, approximately 60 miles west of Salt Lake City. Dirt roads from both provide good, rapid ingress to numerous locations along the unit boundary.

Intensive Inventory Unit Boundaries:

Maintained county roads comprise the entire boundary of the unit.

Ownership:

Publically owned, BLM administered lands encompass the North Cedar Unit on all sides.

Inholdings:

Three sections of land are privately owned by Dan Freed who runs a major livestock operation in Skull Valley. This total of 1,920 acres

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is recognized as a private entity that will not be assessed or inventoried for wilderness potential. These areas include Section 36 of Township 1 North, Range 10 West; Section 32 of T. 1 N., R. 9W.; and Section 16 of T. 1S., R. 9W., all of the Salt Lake Meridian.

For reference see maps for unit 087.

Summary: 1. Does the area have at least 5,000 acres of contiguous land and is it of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition?

☒ YES

NO

(Circle One)

SIGNATURE: _____

Therese B. Morgan
(Who did analysis and when)

DATE: _____

5/30/79

2. NATURALNESS

The imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable in the North Cedar Mountains. The cumulative effect of many minor and some large impacts are considerably evident within the relatively small unit.

Some vast, interior hillsides are untrammelled by man and affected by the sole forces of nature; however because of the openness and exposure to other imprints, a feeling of sublime naturalness is lacking.

Twenty seven impacts or activities were identified, a cumulative network of over 11 miles of "ways" were identified within the units boundaries. Lee's Canyon "way" follows a drainage and cuts a six mile path through the North Cedar unit. This bisects the unit into a third. Other activity along this access route includes quarries, livestock trails, motorcycle paths, heavy sheep grazing, and other minor extensions of ways used primarily by 4 X 4 wheeled vehicles. Other imprints of man's work are demonstrated mainly around the perimeter of the unit. These are impacts that may be relatively small in scale, but considerably large in effecting the quality of a once untouched ecosystem.

"Ways", sheep pens, man made dikes for water improvements and storage, borrow pits, and much off road vehicle traffic is quite noticeable from unit borders and adjacent unit hillsides.

Topographic features do conceal spots of naturalness from these affected areas within a more centralized location of the unit. However, even from within this screened environment, man's works are often evident due to outside influences and activities that occasionally penetrate into the

interior portion of the North Cedars.

An active aragonite quarry lies in Hastings' Pass and is immediately adjacent to the unit on the southern boundary. Dust and noise pollution occur from time to time.

North of the unit lies the Western Pacific Railroad and Interstate-80 from Salt Lake to Wendover. Active travel on these routes creates a "hum" of noise pollution.

Air travel is also frequent by both small aircraft and higher altitude jets which inflict noise disturbances on the unit below. Even though these outside effects do not, in themselves, disqualify the unit for further wilderness study, they do have a negative impact on the natural ecosystem within the unit itself and should hereby be recognized.

Summary: Does the area of island generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable?

YES ☒ NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: _____

Gregg B. Morgan

DATE: _____

5/30/79

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3. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITY FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION ANALYSIS

A. SOLITUDE

The upper elevations and inner portion of the unit provide opportunities for solitude. Occasional protective vegetative covering, mountainous topography, and lack of penetrating roads, are evident. The lower, outside portions of the unit lack outstanding opportunities for solitude due to the sparse vegetative cover, relative open terrain and the cumulative effect of many impacts in the unit.

The entire unit is located by a major aircraft route, a railroad track, on the northern boundary, and Interstate freeway (I-80). Noise pollution from aircraft and trains is frequent (approximately every 20 minutes to 60 minutes).

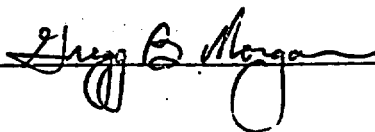
The area as a whole, excluding external factors, does offer limited opportunities for solitude.

Feelings of isolation are complimented by winding canyons. However, vegetation canopies and screening are lacking; and therefore does not aid in an outstanding feeling of solitude.

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

YES ☒ NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: _____



DATE: _____

5/30/79

B. PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION

Opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation that exist in the North Cedars are hunting, horseback riding, hiking, wildlife observation and sightseeing.

Opportunities for hang gliding are possible but no evidence of such use was noticed during the late spring, 1979 inventory.

Wildlife observed included a variety of reptiles, birds, and small mammals, namely: gopher snakes, great basin rattlesnakes, lizards, scorpions, jackrabbits, badgers, and several species of raptors.

However, in and of themselves, these opportunities of a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are not considered "outstanding" by the wilderness inventory teams. Wildlife populations and numbers are few. Terrain for hiking and horseback riding is not unique in nature and does not provide outstanding potentialities for these recreation types. Sightseeing is encumbered by many outside activities and impacts by man.

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?

YES

☒ NO

(circle one)

SIGNATURE:

Larry B. Morgan

DATE:

5/30/79

4. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES

Rock windows, sawtooth ridges and small caves in cliff terraces are common throughout the northern section of the unit. These are considered typical geological formations in the area and provide no special values to the unit in the intensive inventory assessments.

No supplemental values were found in unit 087.

Summary: Does the area contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value?

YES ☒ NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: Gregg B. Morgan DATE: 5/30/79

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5. POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION

The major impacts on unit 087 are vegetative and soil depletions caused by livestock grazing and off road vehicle activity.

An attempt to restore the unit to a natural state, free from man's imprint, would require a lengthy cycle characterized by hand labor, reseeding and protective restriction of the unit.

Summary: If the area or island were to become a wilderness area, could the imprint of man's work be reduced by either natural processes or by hand labor to a level judged to be substantially unnoticeable?

☒ YES NO (circle one)

SIGNATURE: Diego B. Morgan

DATE: 5/30/79