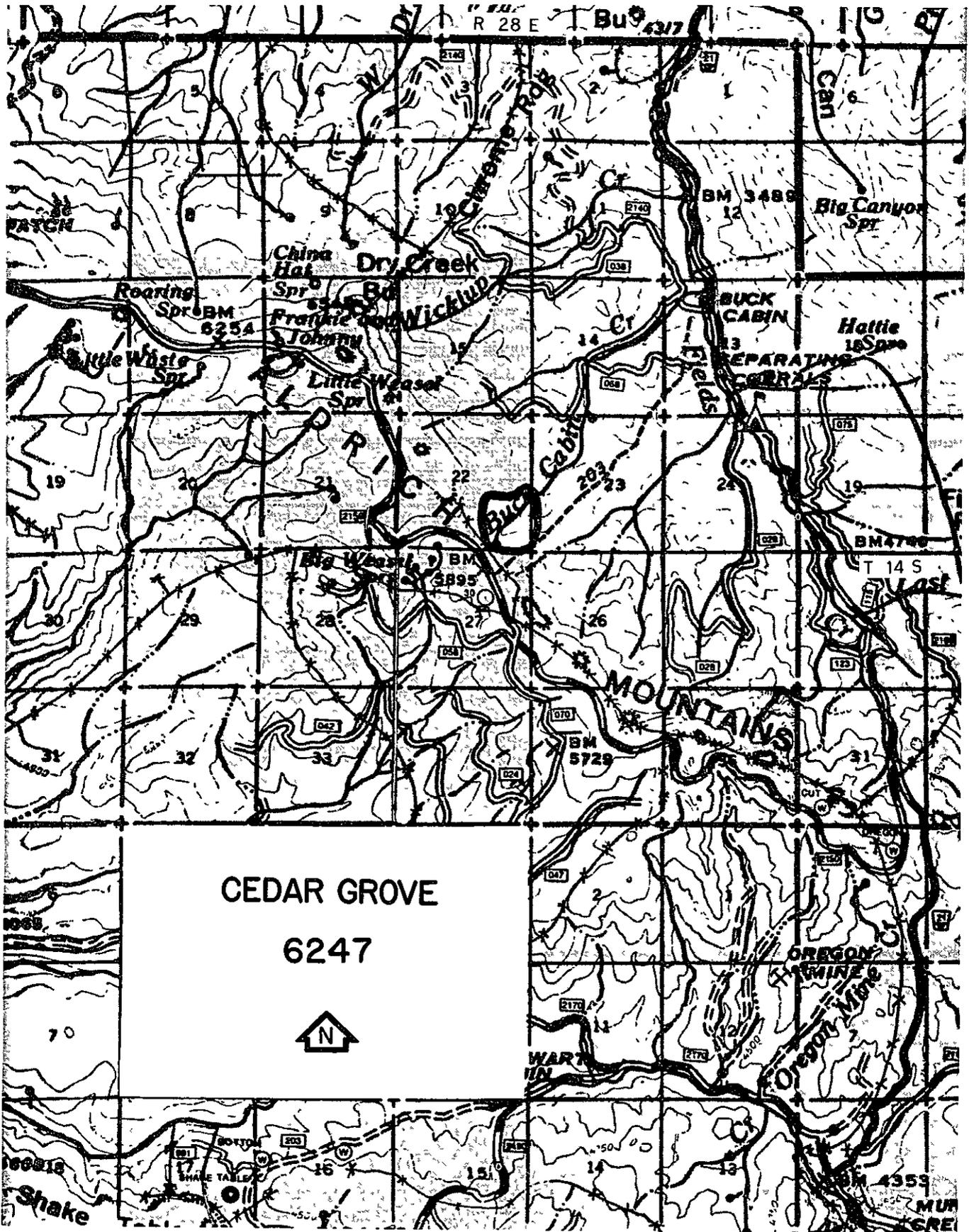


FIGURE C-4



E. CEDAR GROVE - 112 Acres
(RARE II No. 6247)

1. Description

- a **History** The RARE II inventory criteria allowed this area to be inventoried as a roadless area because of the uniqueness of a stand of Alaskan yellow cedar far from its native range. The John Day Planning Unit Plan designated it as a Special Interest (Botanical) Area. RARE II designated the area to nonwilderness uses.
- b **Location and Access** This area is located in the western portion of the Malheur National Forest about 12 miles southwest of Mt. Vernon, Oregon, in eastern Grant County, Oregon.
- c. **Geography and Topography** The area is on the northeast slope of Aldrich Mountain at the head of Buck Cabin Creek (T 14 S., R. 28 E., of the Willamette Meridian). It is confined to the steep narrow canyon formed by the creek, which is fed by a series of permanently flowing springs in the area. See Figure C-4.
- d. **Geology and Soils** The geology consists of bedrock formations covered with a thin mantle (15-25 inches) of volcanic ash from historic Mount Mazama (present-day Crater Lake). The bedrock is highly stratified and variable. The soils consist of 15-24 inches of silt loam textured ash over a variety of subsoil material. The area is covered by Eocene volcanic sediments and flows.
- e **Vegetation** Tree species, other than Alaska yellow cedar, in the area include Douglas-fir, western larch, and lodgepole pine. Ground vegetation consists of huckleberry, pinegrass, and Columbia brome. Mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, and other mammals include this area within their habitat. The area is 100 percent forested, 80 acres of which meet the Pacific Northwest Region's definition of old growth.
- f **Current Uses** Recreational uses are primarily day-hiking, viewing scenery, and enjoyment of a unique, pleasant spot. (See Table C-2.)
- There is no livestock grazing within this area; it is generally unsuitable for cattle grazing.
- The area is a steep, densely-vegetated grove with a stream through it. Users walk through open forest and open, grassy hillsides, with views of the rural, populated valley below, to reach this cool oasis. The main attractions of the area are the unique stand of trees and the quiet, peaceful, surroundings.

2. Wilderness Capability

- a **Manageability and Boundaries** The boundary of the area does not follow any particular topographic feature and is situated on a sideslope. There is little opportunity to modify the boundary.
- b **Natural Integrity** The natural integrity of the area is extremely high. The major impact is the presence of a high standard, well-maintained trail including constructed wooden bridges.
- c **Naturalness** The area appears to be very natural except for the trail and bridges.

d Opportunity for Solitude Vegetation and topography within the center of the area provide good opportunity for solitude; however, the trail tends to concentrate use and reduces this opportunity significantly. The remainder of the area is fairly open and easily accessible

e. Primitive Recreation and Challenge There is no opportunity for Primitive or challenging recreation.

f. Special Features While the views provide a feeling of spaciousness, they also indicate proximity to civilization. The area is only 1/4 mile from a road. The sounds of off-site activities would be heard. The trail is easily managed by an average hiker.

There are no Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive plant or animal species in the area. There are no opportunities for historical study.

The special nature of the area is the stand of Alaska yellow cedar, offering excellent opportunity for scientific study of a unique ecological feature.

3. Availability for Wilderness

a Resource Potentials The entire 112 acres of this area provide roaded natural recreation. It has a yearly capability of 80 Recreation Visitor Days.

The entire 112 acres are tentatively suitable for timber management activities. The stand is multistoried with an overstory age of 180 and an understory age of 80. There is a standing volume of 1.40 million board feet (.25 million cubic feet). With the use of intensive timber management techniques, 5 thousand cubic feet (29 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 6 thousand cubic feet per year. The area has no known locatable mineral potential and it contains no mining claims. The U.S. Geological Survey does not indicate a potential for oil and gas or geothermal resources.

b Management Considerations The disease, Indian paint fungus, is present and can probably be found in all size classes of the true fir. Due to high amounts of true fir and Douglas-fir in the review area, all the timber stands are highly susceptible to tussock moth and the western spruce budworm. Western spruce budworm is in the area now and, in some cases, is quite severe.

There are no water impoundments or other planned water developments in the area.

There are no non-Federal lands within the area.

4. Wilderness Evaluation

The Strawberry Mountain Wilderness lies 20 miles east, Monument Rock Wilderness lies 50 miles east, North Fork John Day Wilderness lies 55 miles northeast, and Black Canyon Wilderness lies 20 miles west. The ecosystem of this area is not represented by any of these wildernesses.

The nearest major metropolitan centers are Portland, Oregon (260 miles northwest), and Boise, Idaho (200 miles east).

This area does not have strong support as a wilderness area. There is consensus that the area should be protected under a special interest designation.

In the 1979 RARE II study, the area received 116 comments favoring wilderness, 20 comments favoring further planning, and 3,378 favoring nonwilderness management. In recent Forest planning public involvement activities, this area received a moderate level of interest. The comments were 2.7 to 1 opposed to wilderness designation. The main reason opposing wilderness was the small size of the area. There was overwhelming support for special designation to protect the unique ecosystem.

5. Environmental Consequences

Table C-8 displays the various management area assignments for this area by alternative.

- a. **Vegetation/Trees** All alternatives are alike in effects on trees. Little to no change in tree composition, size, and density is expected because all alternatives retain the area as a special interest area or semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation area.
- b. **Vegetation/Grass and Shrubs** Effects on grasses, forbs, and shrubs are similar for all alternatives. Composition and density are expected to remain similar to that now existing.
- c. **Wilderness** Wilderness consideration remains a possibility under all alternatives. There are no development activities in any alternative for this area.
- d. **Recreation** The recreation opportunity is the same under all alternatives. All alternatives protect the special character of the unique stand of Alaska yellow cedar.
- e. **Scenery** Effects on scenery are the same under all alternatives. The naturalness of the area will remain unchanged.
- f. **Wildlife** All alternatives retain existing wildlife habitat. The changes that occur would be a result of natural succession.
- g. **Water, Riparian, Fisheries** Dry Cabin Creek flows from the area and will remain unaffected by the alternatives.
- h. **Cultural Resources** There would be no effect on cultural resources in any alternative.
- i. **Soils** There would be no effect on soils as a result of the alternatives.

TABLE C-8
CEDAR GROVE MANAGEMENT BY ALTERNATIVE
(Acres)

Management Area	Alternatives					
	NC ^{1/}	A	B-Mod	C-Mod	F	I-Preferred
1. General Forest						
2. Rangeland						
3. Riparian Areas						
4A. Big-Game Winter Range						
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	N/A	112	112	112	112	112 ^{2/}
9. Research Natural Area						
10. Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized						
11. Semi-Primitive Motorized						
12. Developed Recreation						
13. Old Growth						
14. Visual Corridors						
15. Unit Plan Wildlife Emphasis Areas						
16. Minimum Level Management						
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						
22. Wild and Scenic River						
TOTAL ACRES	N/A	112	112	112	112	112

^{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.

^{2/}These acres are within the manageable boundary of Aldrich Mountain.