

CALIFORNIA WILD TROUT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
YELLOW CREEK WILD TROUT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by

California Department of Fish and Game

with assistance from

and

in cooperation with

U.S. Forest Service
Plumas National Forest

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APPROVED BY:

John B. Jensen

Paul Jensen
Regional Manager, Region 2
California Department of Fish and Game

5/22/81
Date

L. Britton

Lloyd Britton
Forest Supervisor
Plumas National Forest

JUN 02 1981

Date

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PREFACE

In 1966, the Department of Fish and Game in the California Fish and Wildlife Plan recommended expansion of trout management activities to "protect and enhance wild trout fisheries". In response to this recommendation and to concerns expressed by the public, the California Wild Trout Program was established by the California Fish and Game Commission in 1971. The primary purpose of the program is to preserve attractive stream trout fisheries which are naturally sustained by wild strains of trout rather than artificially sustained by domesticated, catchable-sized trout stocked on a put-and-take basis. Emphasis is placed on protecting the aquatic environment to perpetuate natural production and on preserving the natural character of the streamside environment to provide a quality angling experience.

Since 1971, the Fish and Game Commission has designated eight backcountry^{1/} and nine roadside streams as wild trout streams (Martis Creek Lake, the only lake in the program, was added in 1974). Each wild trout stream is to have its own management plan and regulations which will emphasize individuality and diversity.

Management of backcountry streams such as much of the Yellow Creek will also emphasize maintenance of the remote secluded quality of the angling experience, which generally involves minimizing angler encounter with man-made alterations or activity.

This plan is an in-house document written to identify the Department of Fish and Game's activities on Yellow Creek including the management direction to be taken in coordinating with agencies responsible for environmental protection. All land use planning is the ultimate responsibility of the U. S. Forest Service. As per the Memorandum of Understanding between the

^{1/} Remote with access largely provided by trails.

Department and the Forest Service, the Department will identify management direction which is intended to preserve and protect wildlife resources in natural forests and the Forest Service will recognize the Department's responsibilities and concerns along with those of the other users of the forest in their multiple use planning.

Wild trout management of the Humbug Valley section of Yellow Creek is the subject of another management plan. This upper section is not presently in the California wild trout management program.

RESOURCE STATUS

General Setting

Yellow Creek is situated in northwestern Plumas County about 8 miles southwest of Lake Almanor (Figure 1). The stream flows east and south for 24 miles. It originates in Lost Lake near the 6,400 ft elevation and terminates at its confluence with the North Fork Feather River, near Belden Town (2,400 ft elevation) (Figure 2). The wild trout area encompasses the lowermost 8 miles of stream from Cottonwood Creek to the North Fork Feather River (Figure 3).

The Yellow Creek watershed encompasses 78.4 sq miles of high-plateau land, situated within a geologic merge zone of the older metamorphic rocks of the Sierra Nevada and the younger, volcanic rocks of Mt. Lassen and Cascade Mountains. The watershed is comprised of two geomorphically distinct areas: Humbug Basin (35.3 sq miles) and Yellow Creek Canyon (43.1 sq miles).

Humbug Basin is a large, hollow depression carved by glacial scouring into a mountain plateau. The mountains and small valleys in the basin slope in decreasing gradients and range in elevation from near 7,000 ft to 4,300 ft on the floor of Humbug Valley. The slopes are well drained, covered

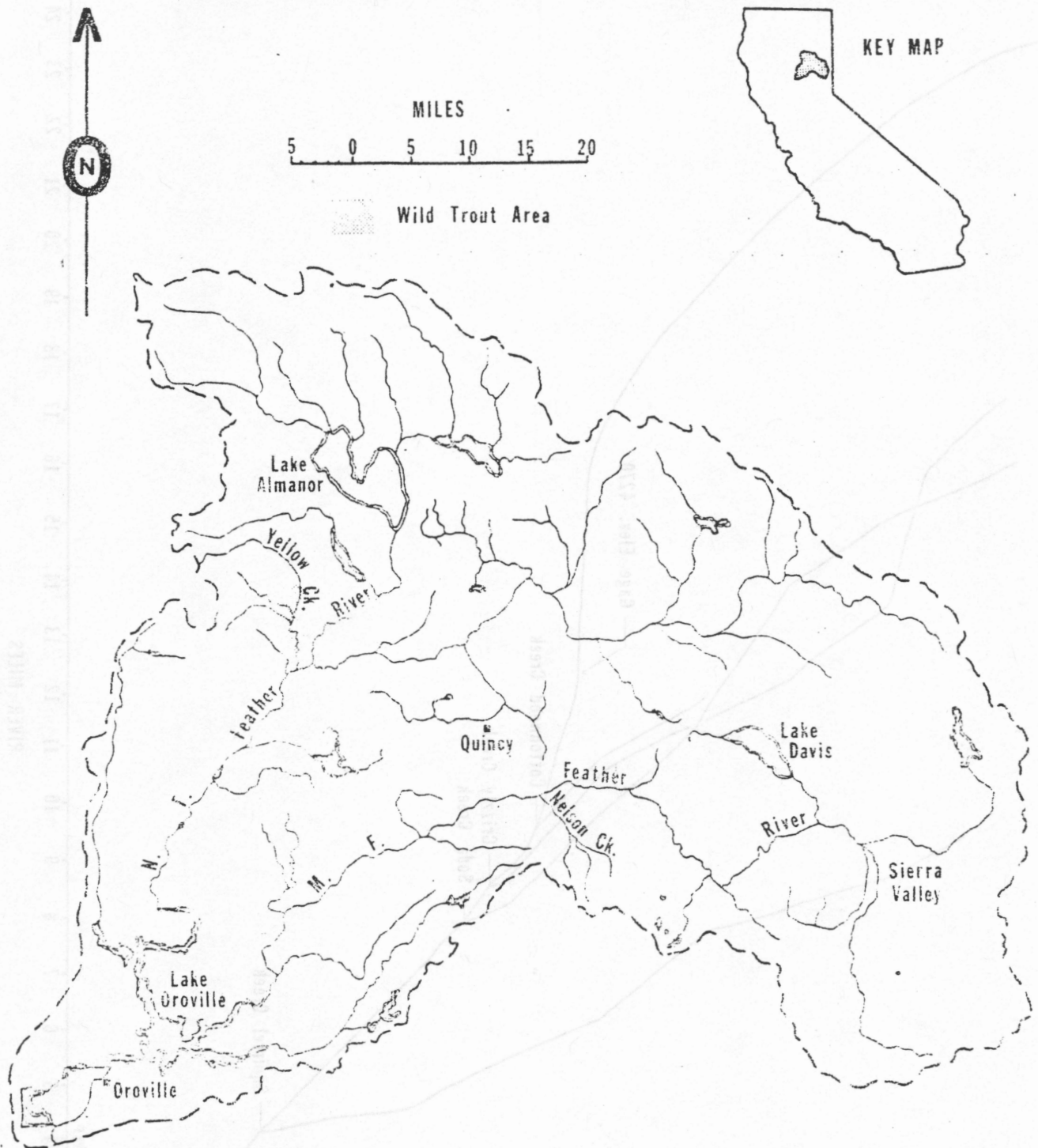


FIGURE 1. GENERAL LOCATION OF YELLOW CREEK .

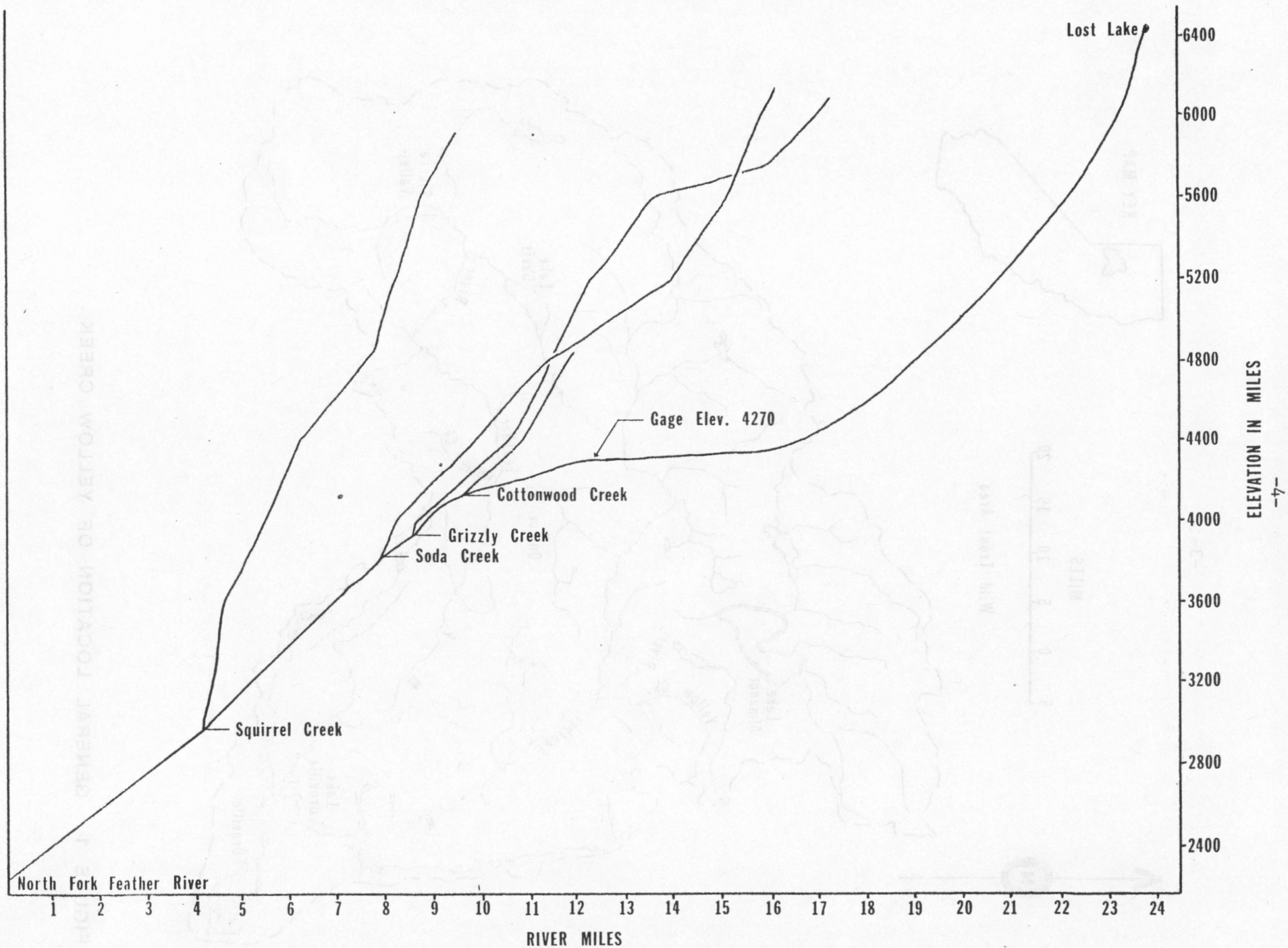


FIGURE 2. LONGITUDINAL STREAM PROFILE - YELLOW CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES

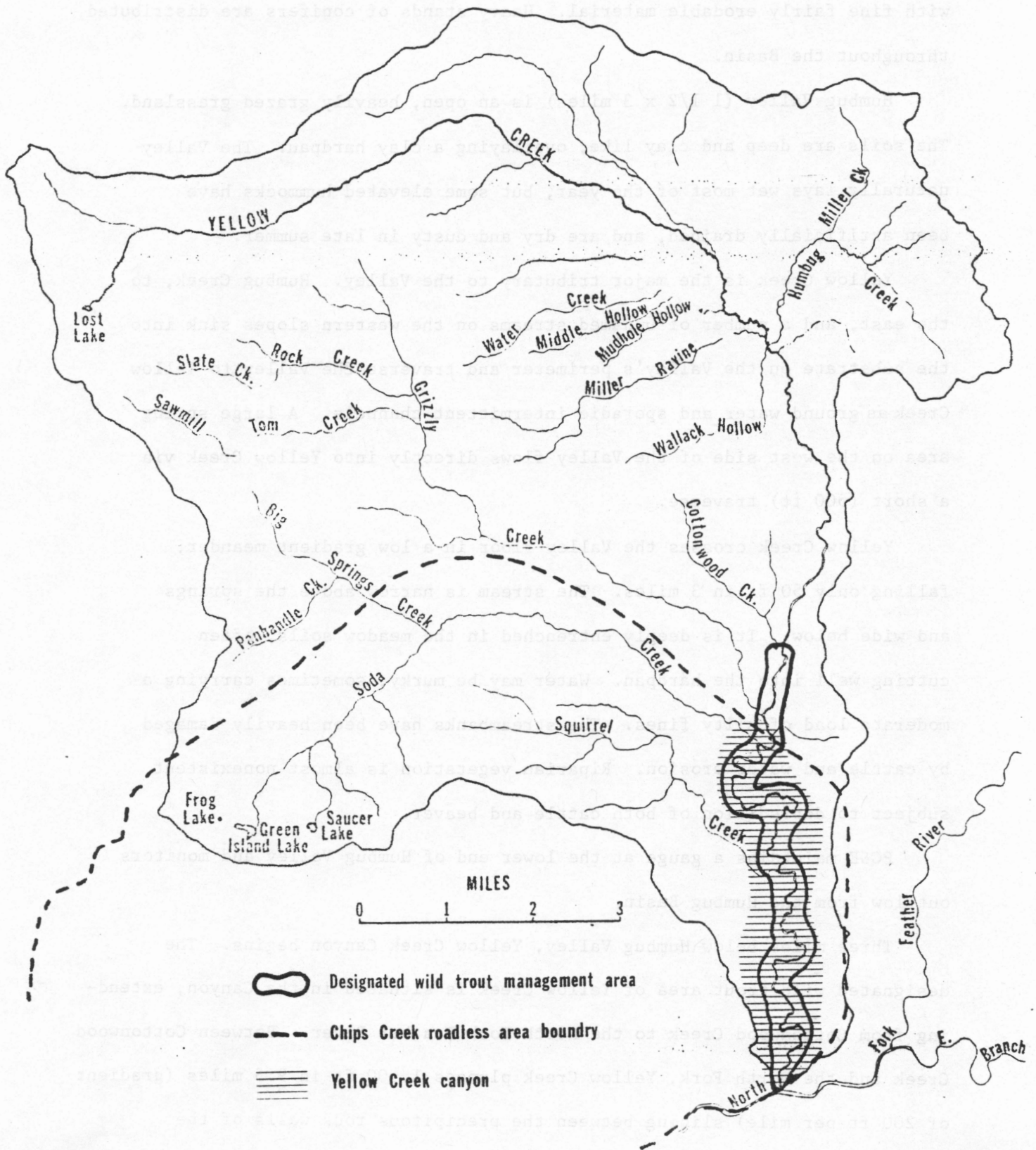


FIGURE 3. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS OF YELLOW CREEK CANYON

with fine fairly erodable material. Heavy stands of conifers are distributed throughout the Basin.

Humbug Valley (1 1/2 x 3 miles) is an open, heavily grazed grassland. The soils are deep and clay like, overlaying a clay hardpan. The Valley naturally lays wet most of the year, but some elevated hummocks have been artificially drained, and are dry and dusty in late summer.

Yellow Creek is the major tributary to the Valley. Humbug Creek, to the east, and a number of unnamed streams on the western slopes sink into the substrate on the Valley's perimeter and traverse the Valley to Yellow Creek as ground water and sporadic intermittent channels. A large spring area on the west side of the Valley flows directly into Yellow Creek via a short (500 ft) traverse.

Yellow Creek crosses the Valley floor in a low gradient meander, falling only 50 ft in 3 miles. The stream is narrow above the springs and wide below. It is deeply entrenched in the meadow soils, often cutting well into the hardpan. Water may be murky, sometimes carrying a moderate load of silty fines. The streambanks have been heavily damaged by cattle and water erosion. Riparian vegetation is almost nonexistent subject to depredation of both cattle and beaver.

PG&E maintains a gauge at the lower end of Humbug Valley and monitors outflow from the Humbug Basin.

Three miles below Humbug Valley, Yellow Creek Canyon begins. The designated wild trout area of Yellow Creek is situated in the Canyon, extending from Cottonwood Creek to the North Fork Feather River. Between Cottonwood Creek and the North Fork, Yellow Creek plunges 1,900 ft in 9.5 miles (gradient of 200 ft per mile) slicing between the precipitous rock walls of the Canyon. Tributaries to the Canyon encompass 35.62 sq miles of watershed:

Cottonwood Creek (3.08 sq miles), Grizzly Creek (12.96 sq miles), Soda Creek (14.41 sq miles), and Squirrel Creek (5.17 sq miles).

The Canyon area is largely a roadless, moderately timbered watershed. Slopes are from 30 to 90%, some are well drained, covered with fine, easily eroded soils, others are barren, rocky bluffs. Most of the Canyon area is fair to poor for timber growing and difficult for timber harvest.

Access

Yellow Creek is virtually inaccessible from Soda Creek to near its mouth. Foot trails follow portions of Soda and Grizzly creeks and provide access to Squirrel Creek. Roads reach sections of Cottonwood and Grizzly creeks. A trail leads upstream about half mile from Belden, to where precipitous canyon walls and deep, fast flows block further travel upstream. Vertical, overhanging walls of the Canyon hide the few benches that exist at stream level, making a descent to a bench from the Canyon rim extremely hazardous at best.

The flow from the Canyon is not monitored, but is estimated to normally range between 60 and 6,000 cfs. The high water mark in some of the Canyon narrows is 6 ft above the summer level.

Land Ownership

All of the Canyon area is publicly owned and managed by Plumas National Forest, while upper reaches of the watershed including portions of Grizzly and Cottonwood creeks are part of Lassen National Forest.

Fishery Description

Electrofishing in the upper end of the wild trout area (just below Cottonwood Creek) yielded few trout with rainbow trout predominating. Similarly, at the lower end of the Canyon only a few rainbow trout were caught along with a few suckers and some large sculpins. Both areas are

heavily fished in the spring each year. Good catches and an occasional large fish are reportedly made in the downstream end. Later in the season, fishing success falls rapidly. This section of the stream appears to receive constant angling pressure through the summer.

In the Canyon beyond the penetration of most anglers fish appear to be abundant. Many small rainbows, have been observed along with a few larger rainbow (to 13 in.) and large browns (to 15 in.)

Fishery Management

General trout regulations currently apply to the Yellow Creek trout fishery. The angling season extends from the last Saturday in April through November 15, the bag limit is 10 trout but not more than 10 lb and one fish.

The Canyon is subject to extremely light fishing pressure, rarely exceeding an estimated 100 angler days per year. The fishery in the Canyon bottom is apparently in a near climax condition, requiring no angling regulation changes.

Catchable trout are planted annually in Humbug Valley approximately 3 miles upstream from the wild trout section.

Land Use Management

Chips Creek Roadless Area, which encompasses Yellow Creek Canyon (Figure 3), was allocated to further planning through the USFS's RARE II process. RARE II considered areas with wilderness characteristics for recommended additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System. The RARE II status means that the future of the Chips Creek Roadless Area will result from the current forest planning process scheduled for completion in 1983. Until the forest plan is finalized, the USFS must maintain the wilderness characteristics of the Roadless area.

Timber Management

The majority of the Yellow Creek watershed is intensively managed for timber production. Logging which maintains water quality and quantity, precludes visual scarring, preserves the natural character of the stream-side environment, and precludes additional access to otherwise remote areas is compatible with wild trout management goals.

Mining

Mining activity in Yellow Creek Canyon below Cottonwood Creek has not occurred in the recent past due to the rugged terrain. Road construction in the Canyon could open the Canyon to both lode and placer mining.

Water Development

Humbug Valley has been identified as a potential hydroelectric development site (DWR 1974). A dam would be placed 1 mile below the mouth of Humbug Valley and water would be diverted via a conduit to a powerhouse near the confluence of Yellow Creek and North Fork Feather River. The project would inundate several miles of Yellow Creek including Humbug Valley and alter the flow regime of the wild trout area.

MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Management Objectives

Quantitative data are not presently available to define existing population and habitat parameters for Yellow Creek. The wild trout portion of the stream is in an essentially pristine condition with very light angling. An assumption has been made that existing population and habitat characteristics represent the best estimate of this stream segment's capability to produce wild trout. Baseline data on the fishery and habitat will be collected to evaluate and revise future management strategies.

The Wild Trout Program has three basic goals. Within this framework, each wild trout stream has specific management objectives which emphasize individuality and diversity. Program goals are listed below followed by the supportive management objective specific to Yellow Creek. It is anticipated that these objectives will be refined further as baseline data are obtained.

- A. Program Goal: Maintain wild trout populations at levels necessary to provide optimum recreational angling opportunities for wild trout.

Management Objective:

1. Through implementation of a fishery investigation plan: 1) define the optimum potential of the Yellow Creek fishery; 2) identify management changes needed to provide quality wild trout angling; and 3) identify fishery objectives in the following terms:

- a. Population size
- b. Trout size distribution
- c. Species composition

- B. Program Goal: Maintain and enhance where possible the habitat required for optimum trout production.

Management Objective:

2. Through development and implementation of a water quality monitoring plan, define "optimum" levels for the following habitat parameters:

- a. Temperature
- b. Stream flows
- c. Sedimentation

- C. Program Goal: Preserve the natural character of the streamside environment.

Management Objectives: Maintain existing characteristics of the area until the forest plan is selected, by:

3. Discouraging development of additional permanent vehicle access to Yellow Creek within the inner gorge area (Figure 3). Evaluate trail access needs to the portion of Yellow Creek identified in Figure 4.
4. In the foreground, as seen from the streamside, limit management activities to those which are not visually evident (Forest Service visual quality objective of Retention, see appendix).
5. In the middleground and background, as seen from the streamside, limit management activities to those which are visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape (Forest Service visual quality objective of Partial Retention, see appendix).

Management Direction

1. National Forest land management direction will be determined in the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan scheduled for completion in 1983. A variety of resource outputs and goals, including but not limited to those listed above, will be evaluated in the land management planning process. Objectives identified in the Yellow Creek Wild Trout Management Plan will be confirmed, revised, or rejected by the Forest Service during this process. Acceptable land management practices for Yellow Creek will be identified in the final forest plans for both Plumas and Lassen.
2. The Department will encourage the Forest Service to preserve the natural integrity of the Yellow Creek wild trout stream and to maintain or improve habitat quality.
3. The Department will oppose any water development proposed for Yellow Creek which would result in inundation or drastic flow regime changes in the wild trout area.
4. The Department will oppose mechanized or commercial placer gold recovery except on valid claims.

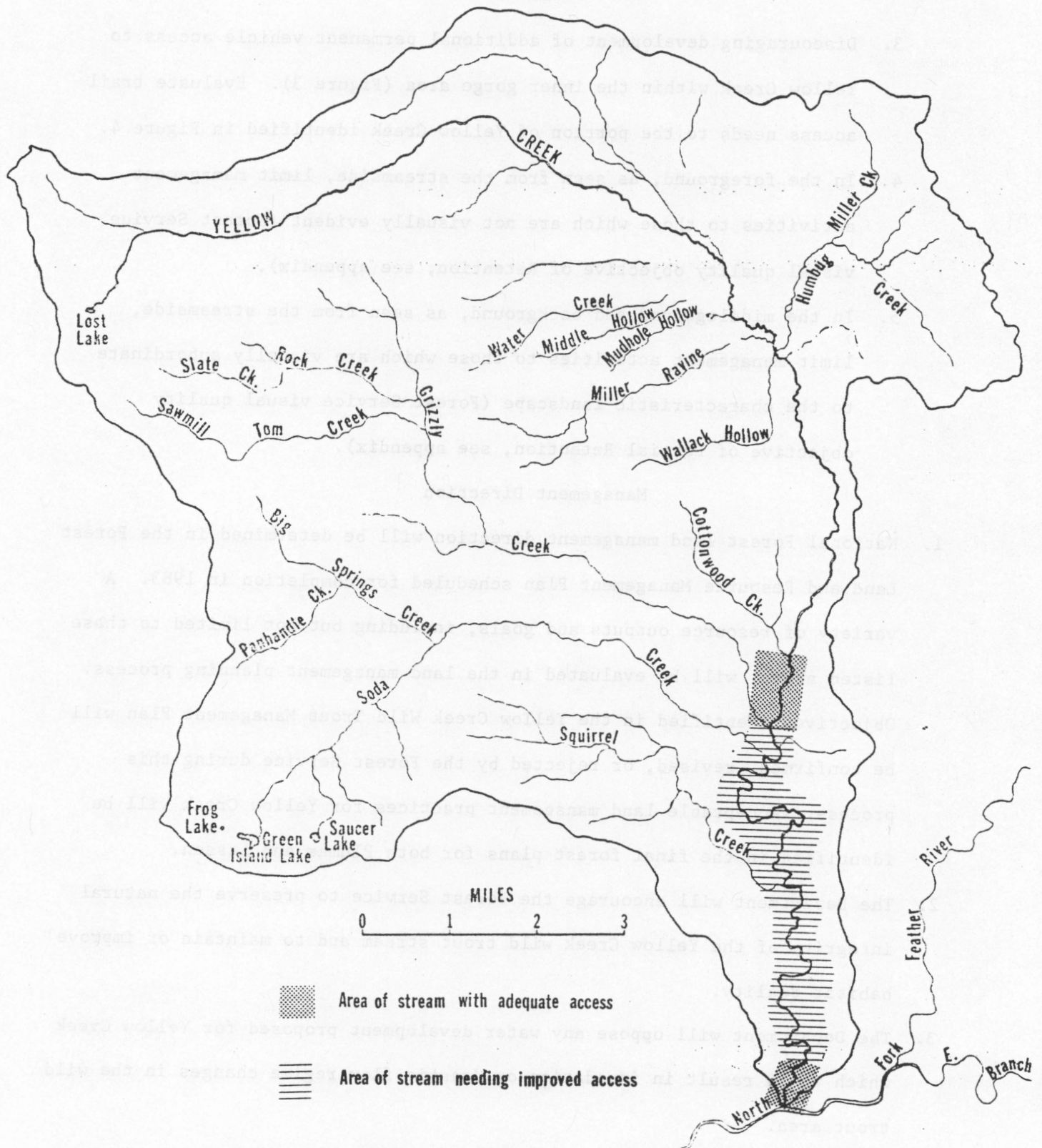


FIGURE 4. ACCESS TO DESIGNATED WILD TROUT MANAGEMENT AREA

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

- | | | | | |
|----|----|--|-----------|-------------|
| A. | 1. | Implement plan outlining procedures and time schedules for collecting baseline data on population characteristic and future monitoring (see appendix). | DFG | 1981 |
| B. | 1. | Develop a plan outlining procedures and time schedules for collecting baseline data on existing habitat characteristics and monitoring. | Plumas NF | 1982 |
| | 2. | Establish water quality monitoring station on lower reach of Yellow Creek. | Plumas NF | 1982 |
| | 3. | Collect baseline water quality data. | Plumas NF | 1982 |
| C. | 1. | Work with Plumas NF through input to Land Management Planning to achieve desired visual quality objectives. | DFG | immediately |

REFERENCES

- California Department of Water Resources. 1974. Hydroelectric energy potential in California. Bull. 194 - 62 pp.
- Flint, Richard. 1977. A wild trout management plan for Yellow Creek (draft).
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. 1977. Land use management plan, Feather River Unit (draft). Loose-leaf pub. m.p.

APPENDIX

Yellow Creek Wild Trout Management
Area Fishery Investigation Program

The Yellow Creek fishery possesses two distinct characters, each determined largely by accessibility. The lower reach of the canyon (from Belden upstream about 1/2 mile) and the upper reach of the canyon (from Cottonwood Creek downstream about 1/2 mile) are relatively accessible. Anglers use both these areas. The fishery is considered fair. The canyon (between the above defined areas) is nearly inaccessible. Fewer than 100 angler days per annum are estimated for the 7 mile long reach. The fish population is probably in a climax condition providing excellent angling for the very adventuresome angler.

Due to difference between the two areas, two different fish management programs have been established, pursuant to two distinct management objectives.

Program 1. Accessible areas of Yellow Creek Canyon

Program Objective: Determine status of fishery and identify management activities which will maintain or improve (if necessary) the quality of the wild trout fishery.

Program Direction

1. Determine status of fish population.
 - a. Population size (no./mile, lbs./acre, etc.).
 - b. Size (age) composition.
 - c. Species composition.
 - d. Growth.
2. Determine impact of anglers.
 - a. Tag about 50 (seven inch and longer) trout within a small, representative section of each portion (i.e., upper and lower canyon).
3. Use data obtained from the above activities to define the potential of the fishery.

4. Contrast existing fishery with potential fishery and determine appropriate objective angling quality in terms of population parameters.
5. Define management changes (e.g., regulation) required to provide objective trout population, as needed.

Procedures and Time Schedule

1. A. Establish two electrofishing stations in each of two accessible sections of the canyon. August 1981
- B. Collect fish population data. August 1981, 1982, 1983
2. Collect at least 50 trout in small area of each of the two accessible sections. Tag with \$5 reward tags. August 1981, March/April 1982. Repeat as needed in 1982.
3. Prepare report of data identifying status, potential and proposed future management of fishery. January 1984.

Program 2. Remote (Inaccessible) Areas of Yellow Creek Canyon.

Program Objective: Improve access to the remote section, and continue to provide quality wild trout angling (over a near climax trout population).

Program Direction

1. Work with Plumas N.F. to establish improved trail access; access intended to allow anglers the opportunity to safely reach essentially inaccessible sections of the canyon.
2. As soon as access is improved, determine status of fish population (as in Program 1) with the data to be used to define objectives for management and time schedule.

Procedures and Time Schedule

1. Meet with Plumas N.F. personnel to identify feasibility of improving trail access into remote reach of canyon. 1981
2. Implement population sampling program if and when access is improved.

"DEFINITION OF VISUAL STANDARDS"

BACKGROUND: The distant part of a landscape picture, etc.; surroundings, especially those behind something and providing harmony or contrast; surrounding area or surface area located from 3-5 miles to infinity from the viewer.

FOREGROUND: The detailed landscape found within 0 to 1/4 to 1/2 mile from the observer.

MAXIMUM MODIFICATION: A visual Quality Objective meaning man's activity may dominate the characteristic landscape but should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed as background.

MIDDLEGROUND: The space between the foreground and the background in a picture or landscape the area located from 1/4 to 1/2 to 3-5 miles from the viewer.

MODIFICATION: A Visual Quality Objective meaning man's activity may dominate the characteristic landscape but must at the same time utilize naturally established form, color, and texture. It should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed in foreground or middleground.

PARTIAL RETENTION: A Visual Quality Objective which in general means man's activities may be evident but must remain subordinate to the characteristic landscape.

RETENTION: A Visual Quality Objective which in general means man's activities are not evident to the casual forest visitor.

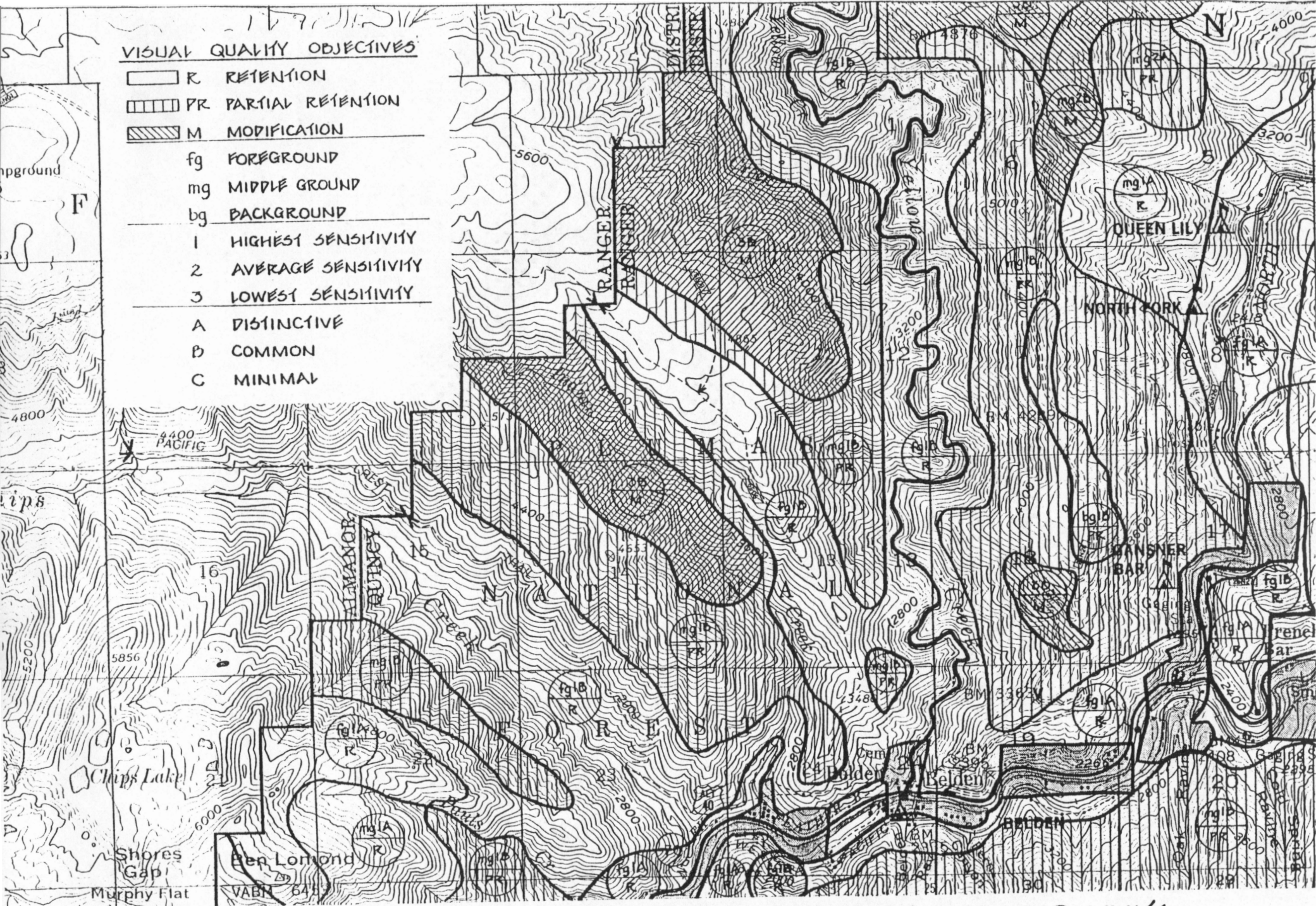
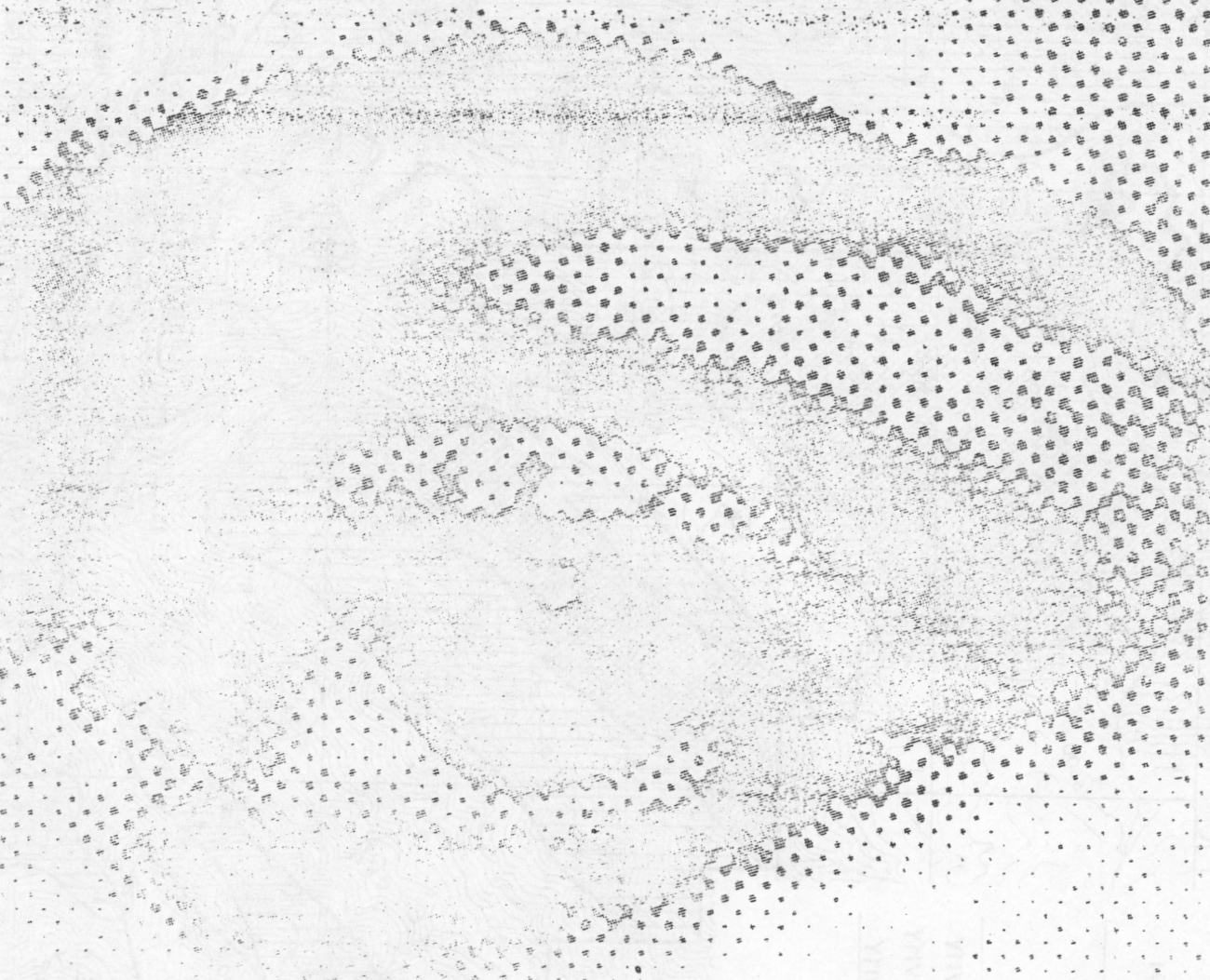


FIGURE 5 - LOCATION OF VISUAL QUALITY OBJECTIVE PLANNING UNITS

National Council

Landscape Management

Volume 2



Retention R

This visual quality objective provides for management activities which are *not* visually evident.

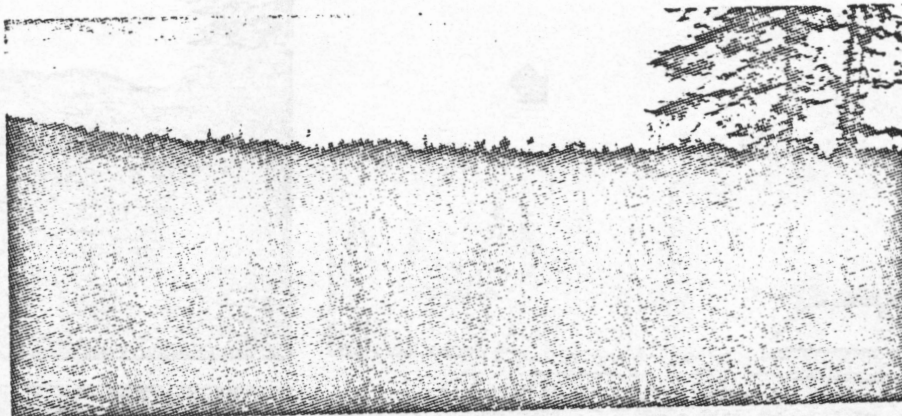
Under Retention activities may only repeat form, line, color, and texture which are frequently found in the characteristic landscape. Changes in their qualities of size, amount, intensity, direction, pattern, etc., should not be evident.

Duration of Visual Impact

Immediate reduction in form, line, color, and texture contrast in order to meet Retention should be accomplished either during operation or immediately after. It may be done by such means as seeding vegetative clearings and cut-or-fill slopes, hand planting of large stock, painting structures, etc.



The vegetative clearings for the ski runs and lifts above the parking area would not be visually evident to the casual Forest visitor. The clearings repeat form, line, and texture from the surrounding vegetative patterns to achieve the RETENTION quality objective.



The majority of the lineal clearings for log removal in this large tree removal sale are not evident even though located from top to bottom every 200 feet along the ridge. To achieve this quality objective, the clearing for the cable roads was kept to a minimum width of 10 to 12 feet rather than the normal 25 to 30 feet.



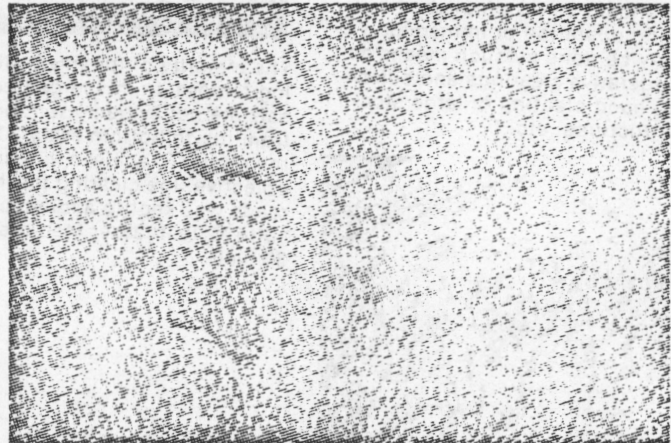
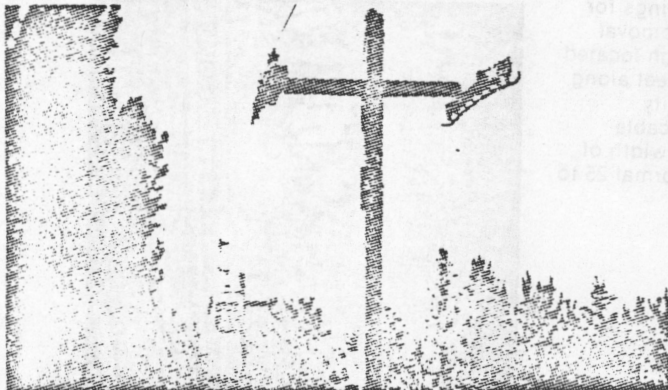
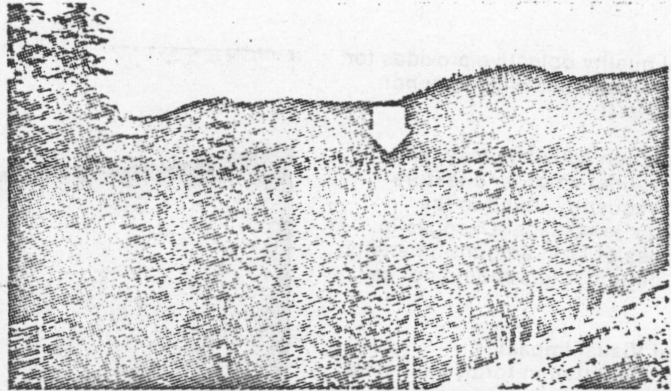
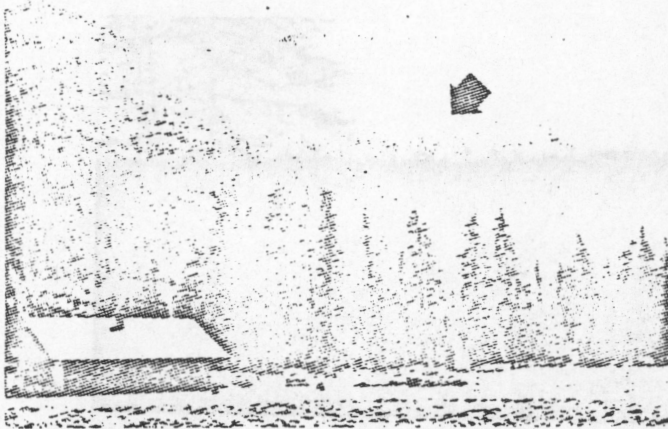
Forms resulting from this removal of large mature trees repeat natural openings frequently found in the characteristic landscape so completely that they are *not* evident. The form on the right side of the after photo appears too large compared to adjacent natural occurrences. However, just outside the area photographed are natural openings as large. Meeting RETENTION also includes spur and skid roads which exist physically, but are not evident.



Before



After

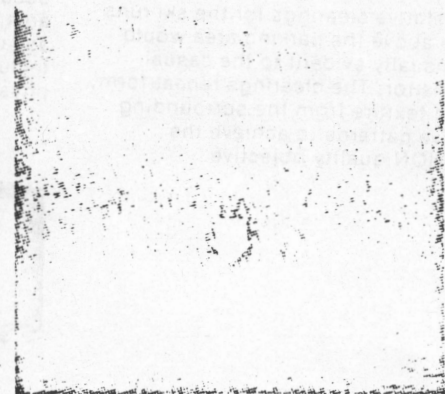


The aerial tramway which traverses the middle landform (A) from top to bottom does not introduce any evident form, line, color, or texture.

The detail photo (B) shows several reasons why. Trees were often topped instead of cleared to maintain natural color and texture. Any clearing widths are absolute minimums. Tram profile is low, corresponding to adjacent tree height. Color of cars and towers is well chosen to blend with adjacent vegetation as well as color in the background.

The clearcut in this photo (C), of which only a hint of the tree bole edge can be seen, would not be evident to the forest visitor. It does not introduce any evident form, line, color, or texture. The lower photo (D) shows how some of these harvest units look from the air.

The shelterwood cut in the lower portion of this photo illustrates RETENTION. From the observation point and under these lighting conditions, it does not introduce any evident form, line, color or texture.



Partial Retention PR

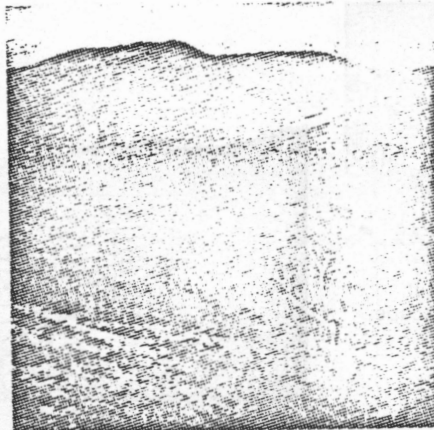
Management activities remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape when managed according to the partial retention visual quality objective.

Activities may repeat form, line, color, or texture common to the characteristic landscape but changes in their qualities of size, amount, intensity, direction, pattern, etc., remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape.

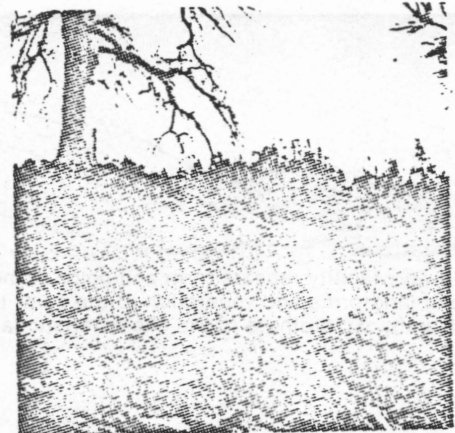
Activities may also introduce form, line, color, or texture which are found infrequently or not at all in the characteristic landscape, but they should remain subordinate to the visual strength of the characteristic landscape.

Duration of Visual Impact

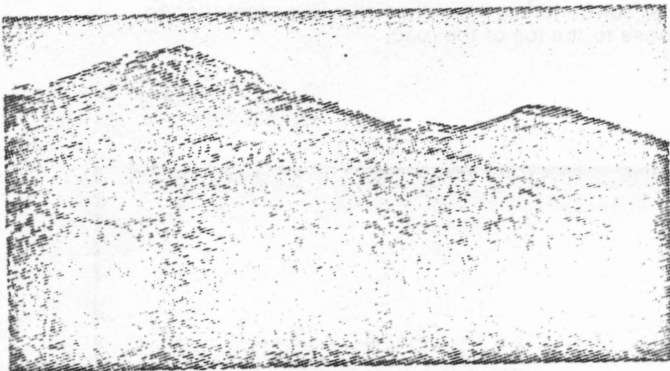
Reduction in form, line, color, and texture to meet partial retention should be accomplished as soon after project completion as possible or at a minimum within the first year.



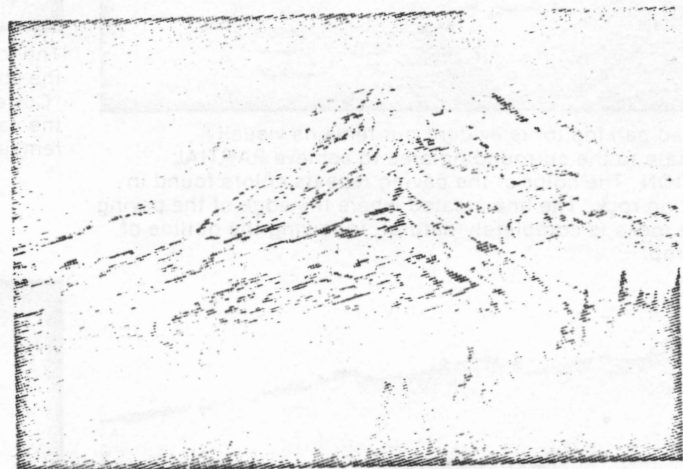
The irregularly-shaped clearcut at the junction of these two valleys is evident but remains subordinate to the characteristic landscape. Note the contrast with the rectangular unit to the right. Color and texture contrast is reduced by leaving a heavy concentration of whips in the unit. The shape is natural enough to be found in a valley such as this.



The path in this photo is evident but remains subordinate to the characteristic landscape. It was achieved by adding color to the paving material to repeat the darker grays in the rock formations. The path follows the natural rock formation resulting in minimal disruption of the site.



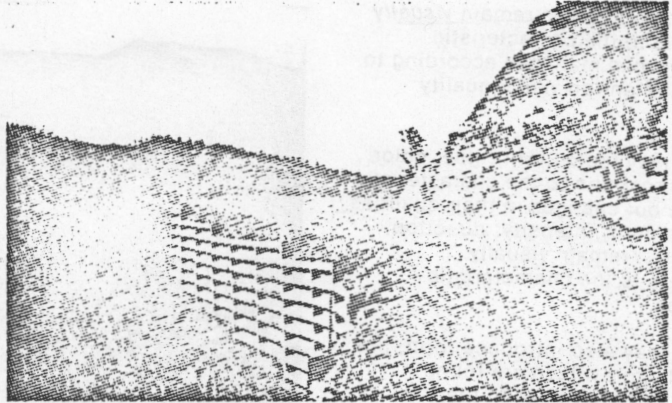
This regeneration partial cut on the right side of the photo remains subordinate to the characteristic landscape. This is because the shape, with the exception of being somewhat out of scale, repeats the form, line, color, and texture of the natural occurrences common to the surrounding area.



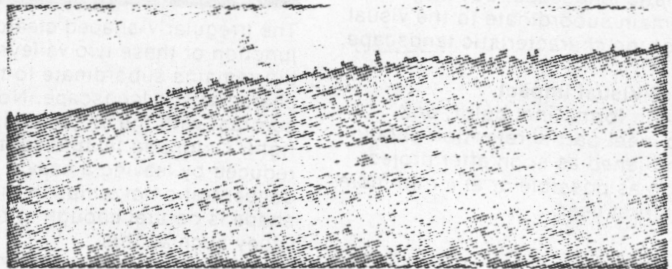
Forms resulting from construction of this winter sports site (left center) are evident, but remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape to achieve PARTIAL RETENTION. Form and line were repeated at the same scale as the natural openings common to the scene being viewed. Additional borrowing of color and texture by such techniques as established grass cover would have made the activity undiscernible and, thus, achieved the higher visual quality objective of RETENTION.



This microwave facility repeats form and color of the surrounding landforms and vegetation to the point that it remains visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape.



This paved parking lot is evident but remains visually subordinate to the surrounding area to achieve PARTIAL RETENTION. The color of the paving repeats colors found in the existing rock. The line created where the edge of the paving joins the rocks is completely natural, following the outline of the outcrop.



The road in this photo is evident but remains subordinate to the characteristic landscape. The detail photo shows why. "Corten Steel" bin walls were used which repeat the colors in the natural surroundings as well as allowing vegetation to remain close to the toe of the road.



The form introduced by the clearcut on the ridge remains visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape. The exposed soil color repeats enough color of the surrounding dormant vegetation to achieve this subordination. Also, the overall variety in vegetative patterns, texture, and color tends to draw the eye away from the activity.



This fish ladder is evident but remains visually subordinate to the natural stream to achieve PARTIAL RETENTION. The same concrete walls, if constructed to look like stream rock formations, might help achieve a higher Visual Quality Objective. Varying the pool size and their heights in the ladder might have completed this achievement of RETENTION.

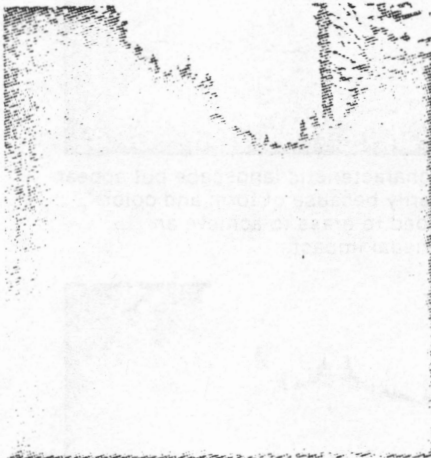
Modification M

Under the modification visual quality objective management activities may visually dominate the original characteristic landscape. However, activities of vegetative and land form alteration must borrow from naturally established form, line, color, or texture so completely and at such a scale that its visual characteristics are those of natural occurrences within the surrounding area or character type. Additional parts of these activities such as structures, roads, slash, root wads, etc., must remain visually subordinate to the proposed composition.

Activities which are predominately introduction of facilities such as buildings, signs, roads, etc., should borrow naturally established form, line, color and texture so completely and at such scale that its visual characteristics are compatible with the natural surroundings.

Duration of Visual Impact

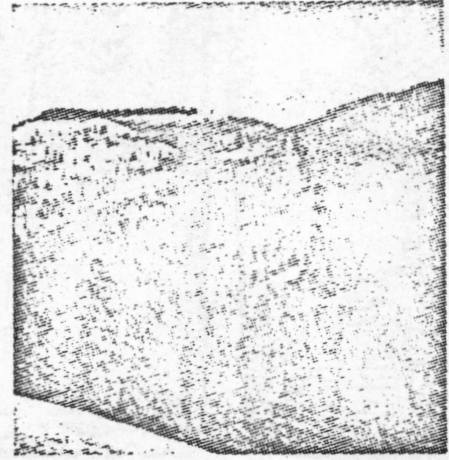
Reduction in form, line, color, and texture should be accomplished in the first year or at a minimum should meet existing regional guidelines.



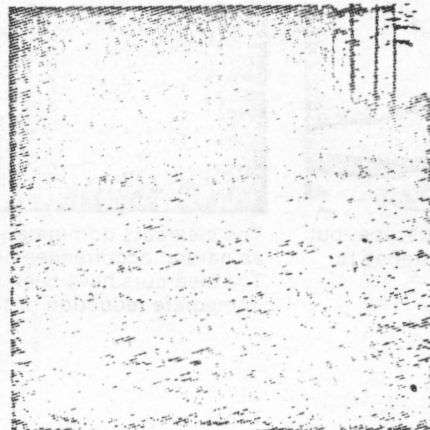
The road dominates the foreground but borrows enough of the form, line, color and texture from the landform upon which it lies to appear visually compatible. The Quality Objective was achieved by fitting the road alignment to the landforms. Cut banks were rounded back to appear as part of the existing landform. Vegetative clearing lines undulate including vegetation left in some places adjacent to the road's edge. This road seen in middle ground would likely meet RETENTION or PARTIAL RETENTION.



This sign dominates the characteristic landscape but borrows from naturally established form, line, and color so completely and at such scale that its visual characteristics are compatible with the natural surroundings.



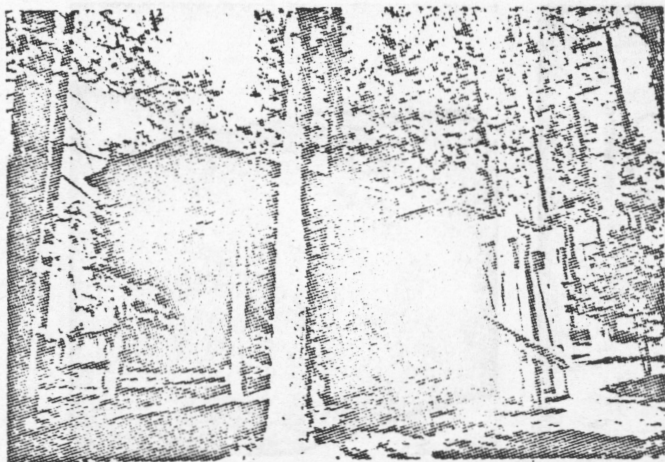
This powerline, with the exception of the bright towers exceeds the criteria for MODIFICATION. The design of the clearings has borrowed form and texture from vegetative patterns in the characteristic landscape. If the towers had borrowed color from the surrounding area, the activity would meet a higher quality objective.



The two photos illustrate vegetative alterations which dominate foregrounds. Such elements as skidroads, slash, cull logs, etc., should be subordinate to the opening. The photo on the right illustrates how planting of an annual grass cover plus achieving a natural appearing edge effect can complete the appearance of a natural opening though still dominant.



The clearcut in this photo dominates the characteristic landscape, but appears to be a natural occurrence. It is achieved primarily because of the groupings of the trees left within the form.



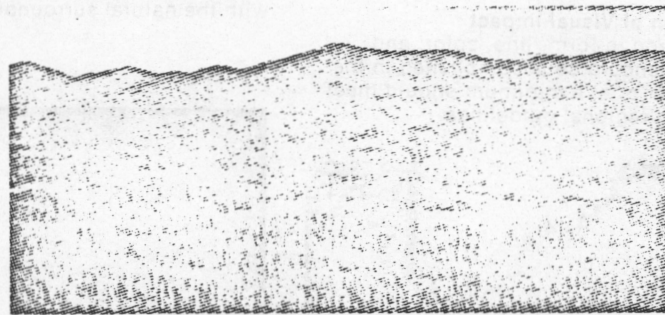
The ranger station in this photo dominates the characteristic landscape but repeats much of the line, color, and texture of the timbered site. The structure is well sited among the trees and easily meets the MODIFICATION visual quality objective.



This clearcut dominates the characteristic landscape, but with the exception of color, it appears as a natural occurrence. The quality objective is achieved primarily because of the natural form in scale with natural openings and the very loose, irregular edge effect caused by scattered tree groupings and undulating shape. The road is evident but remains subordinate to the natural appearing form.

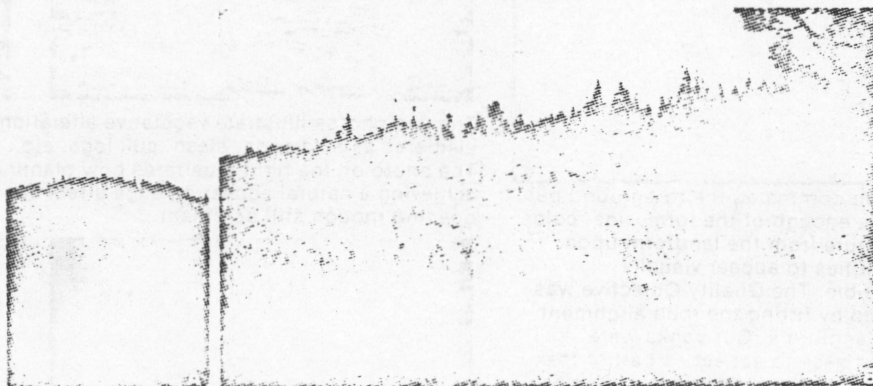


This visitor center dominates the characteristic landscape, but repeats enough form and color from the rugged shoreline to appear visually compatible.



The clearcuts dominate the characteristic landscape but appear as natural occurrences primarily because of form and color. The clearcuts have been seeded to grass to achieve an immediate reduction of the visual impact.

The regeneration cut dominates as a natural appearing composition in a characteristic landscape of continuous texture (A). Form is borrowed well from the natural openings infrequently found in the surrounding landscape. The natural-appearing edge (B) is achieved through using small natural openings as part of the edge and by leaving scattered trees just inside the boundary of the sale area. Color and texture appear natural because of scattered grass cover.



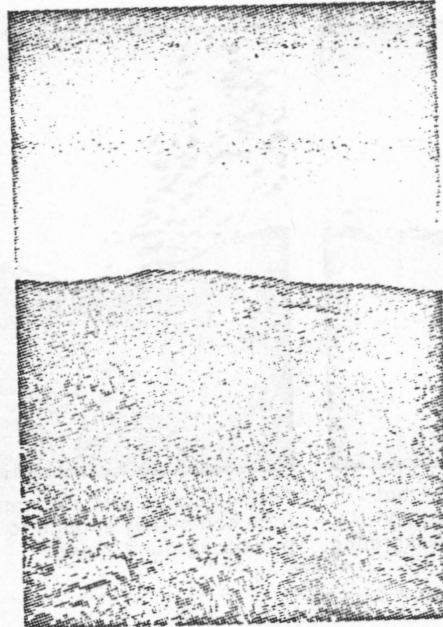
Maximum Modification MM

Management activities of vegetative and landform alterations may dominate the characteristic landscape. However, when viewed as background, the visual characteristics must be those of natural occurrences within the surrounding area or character type. When viewed as foreground or middle ground, they may not appear to completely borrow from naturally established form, line, color, or texture. Alterations may also be out of scale or contain detail which is incongruent with natural occurrences as seen in foreground or middle ground.

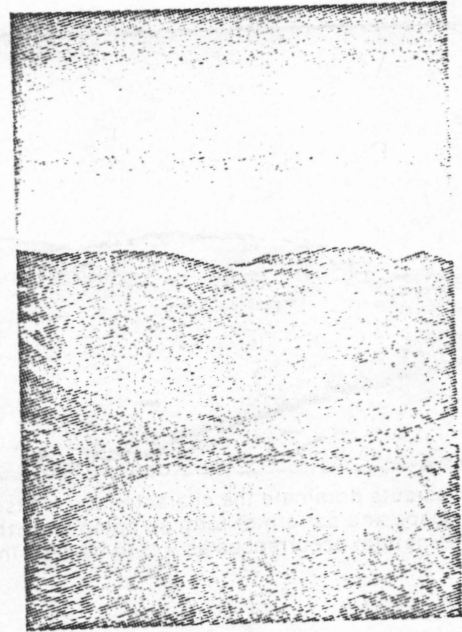
Introduction of additional parts of these activities such as structures, roads, slash, and root wads must remain visually subordinate to the proposed composition as viewed in background.

Duration of Visual Impact

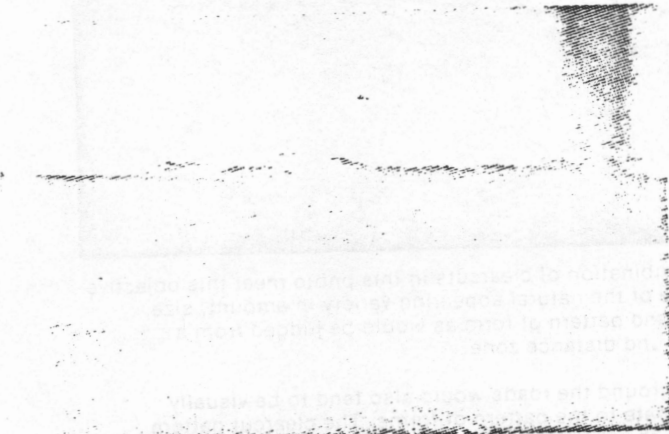
Reduction of contrast should be accomplished within five years.



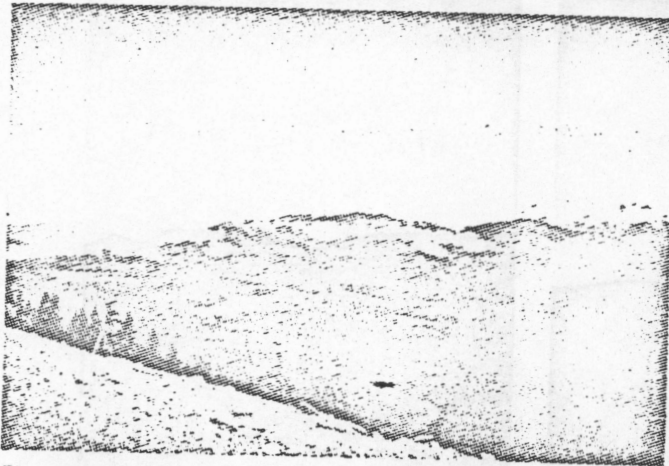
The middle ground clearcut is one of vertical emphasis in a part of the natural landscape which is primarily horizontal in direction. However, when viewed as background shape and pattern of form, it appears as a natural occurrence.



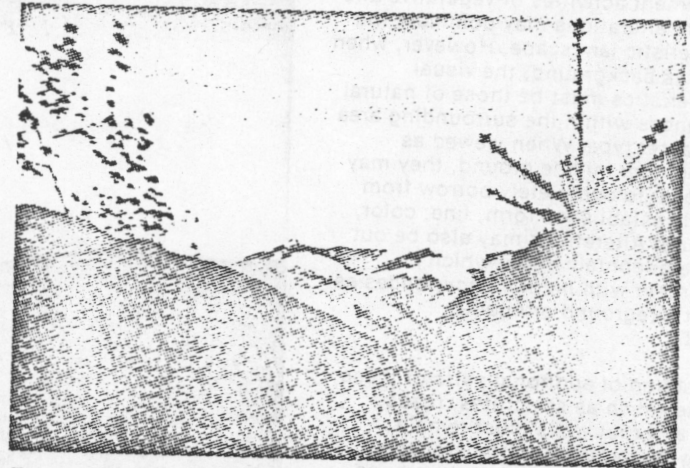
The clearcut in the background appears as a natural occurrence borrowing primarily form or shape from adjacent landforms. The scale of the unit appears to be larger than natural openings in the area.



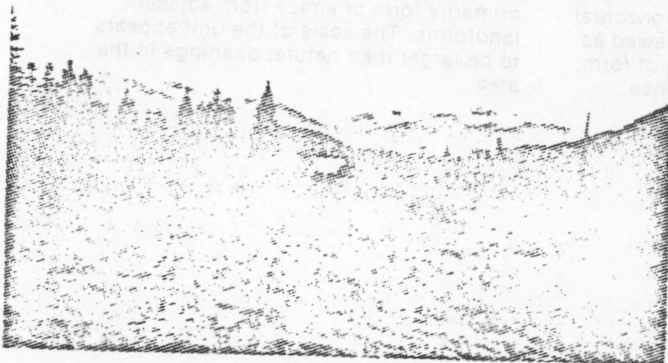
Shape and pattern of form are basically those of natural occurrences within the character type. The only exception involves the larger unit that exceeds the scale of the surrounding area.



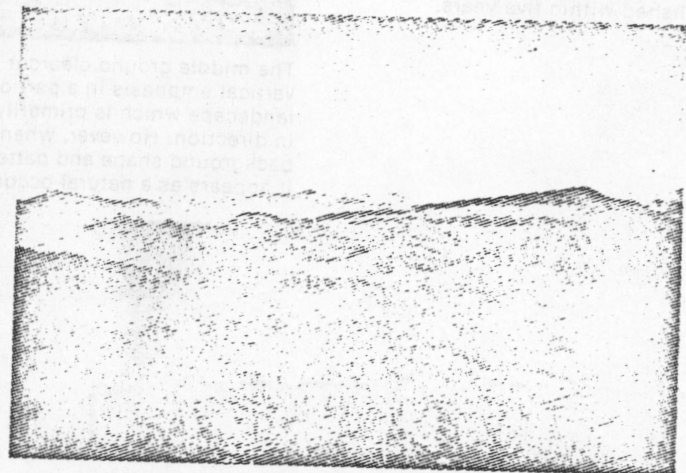
These clearcuts dominate the characteristic landscape but borrow shape and pattern of form so completely that they appear as natural occurrences as would be seen in background.



These clearcut forms dominate but borrow shape and pattern of form completely enough to appear as natural occurrences in this background scene.



The shape and pattern of clearcut form on the ridge top is dominant but appears as a natural occurrence in this background scene.



The combination of clearcuts in this photo meet this objective because of the natural appearing variety in amount, size, shape, and pattern of form as would be judged from a background distance zone.

In background the roads would also tend to be visually subordinate to the pattern of forms. The clearcut pattern exceeds the criteria for MAXIMUM MODIFICATION, because of the green color of the older units.

Inacceptable Modification

This section sets examples of excessive modification or what not to do to any landscape regardless of the distance from which the management activity may be observed.

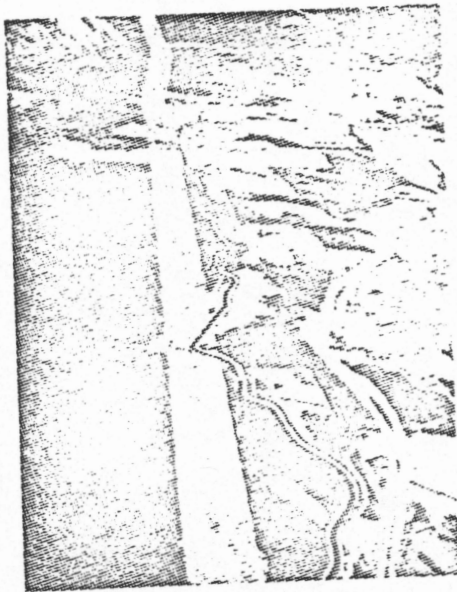
One or more of these characteristics are indicative of unacceptable modification:

- Size of activities is excessive or poorly related to scale of landform and vegetative patterns in characteristic landscape.
- Overall extent of management activities is excessive.
- Activities or facilities that contrast in form, line, color, or texture are excessive. All dominance elements in the management activity are visually unrelated to those in the characteristic landscape.

Duration of Visual Impact
Unacceptable Modification includes those visual impacts which exceed 10 years duration.



The road cut for this intersection is strong in form and visually unrelated to the flat site through which it passes.



This powerline clearing produces a strong line which is visually unrelated to the characteristic landscape. Location on the right side of the river through a landscape strong in form would have resulted in much less impact. Because of right-of-way maintenance, the impact will be visible for more than 10 years.



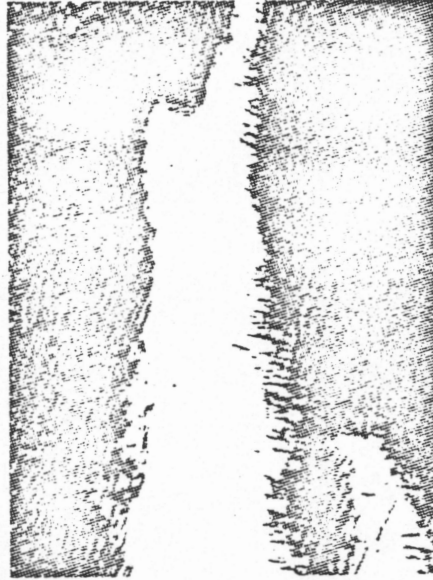
Most of the clearcuts are visually unrelated in shape and pattern of form to natural occurrences.



The size and extent of this activity is excessive. It is poorly related to shape and scale of landforms or vegetative openings within the characteristic landscape.



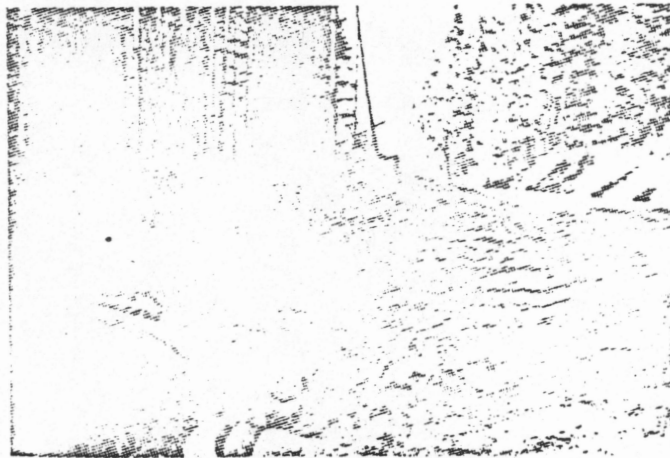
The visual impact of this road failure illustrates how attention is brought not only to the effect on the visual resource but also to the mis-management of the soil and water resource. As in many such cases, the impact will be of long duration, well beyond the 10-year period. In this instance, it is because the soil is moving continually, preventing revegetation of the slope.



This winter sports site produces a strong form visually unrelated to those found in natural occurrences.



The alignment of this road, being unrelated to the landform through which it passes, introduces strong contrasts of form, line, and color in the characteristic landscape. The geometrically perfect cut slopes do not borrow from the rounded earthforms or rock outcrops of this area. Often, the steepness of the slope and sterility of the soil will not allow any type of vegetation to grow and reduce the very apparent color contrast that has been created.



Any activity that leaves an excessive amount of slash, cull logs, and root wads is unacceptable regardless of the sensitivity level of the area from which it is seen. This particular pile is also unacceptable from the standpoint of fire management. Slash in these types of areas should meet, at a minimum, the NIM fire management standard meaning medium rate of spread and medium resistance to control.



The fish ladder in this photo may meet fisheries objectives and be structurally sound, but it is far too great a visual impact to be acceptable on most any stream. Very little, if any of its form, line, color or texture is borrowed from the natural streamside character.