

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Hells Canyon Archaeological District

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number See continuation sheet N/A not for publication

city, town See continuation sheet N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state See continuation sheet code N/A county N/A code N/A

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: recreation

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership (see continuation sheet)

street & number N/A

city, town N/A N/A vicinity of state N/A

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. See continuation sheet

street & number N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Hells Canyon National Recreation Area Archaeological Survey AND  
title Idaho State Archaeological Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1972  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Idaho State Historical Society

city, town Boise state Idaho

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Hells Canyon Archaeological District  
Continuation sheet

Item number 2, 4, 5

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ITEM NUMBER 2 - LOCATION:

The Hells Canyon Archaeological District extends approximately seventy miles along both sides of Snake River from Hells Canyon Dam to one-half mile south of the Cougar Rapids or about four miles south of China Gardens.

State:	Idaho	Code:	16	Counties:	Adams County	Code:	003
					Idaho County	Code:	049
					Nez Perce County	Code:	069
State:	Oregon	Code:	41	County:	Wallowa	Code:	063

ITEM NUMBER 4 - OWNERS OF PROPERTY:

William H. Walters c/o Ronnie R. Legg 6800 Spring Creek Road Emmett, ID 83617	Grace Hollandsworth c/o Delos Robbins Route 5 Missoula, MT 59801	Don G. Tippet 706 South River Enterprise, OR 97828
Mary Johnson Cottonwood, Idaho 83522	M. G. Hitchcock White Swan, WA 98952	<del>XXXXXXXXXXXXXX</del> <del>XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</del> <del>XXXXXXXXXXXXXX</del>
U.S. Forest Service	Spencer Ranch, Inc. Route 2 Box 500 Grangeville, ID 83530	

out of  
date  
address

ITEM NUMBER 5 - LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Adams County Courthouse  
P.O. Box 46  
Council, ID 83612

Idaho County Courthouse  
Main Street  
Grangeville, ID 83530

Nez Perce County Courthouse  
1200 Main Street  
Lewiston, ID 83501

Wallowa County Courthouse  
Enterprise, OR 97828

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	N/A moved date <u>          N/A          </u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hells Canyon Archaeological District extends approximately 70 miles along both sides of the Snake River from Hells Canyon Dam to one-half mile south of the Cougar Rapids or about 4 miles south of China Gardens. A spectacular gorge cut by the Snake River in a basaltic plateau, Hells Canyon is known for its vertical extremity which reaches a depth of over 6000' in places and exceeds that of the Colorado Grand Canyon. It is the central feature of an area recognized and set aside as one of exceptional natural beauty and cultural resources. As the primary waterway of the region, Hells Canyon has been the focus of extensive activity beginning over 7,000 years ago with the aboriginal populations and extending through historic times when it became the interest of early explorers, miners and stockmen. Such exploitation has gradually lessened during the twentieth century with present activities in the Canyon almost totally limited to that of recreational use. Subject to virtually no recent development, Hells Canyon today contains a unique array of prehistoric and historic sites, many of which have been affected only by the passage of time and natural forces due to the ruggedness and isolation of the canyon.

All of the Hells Canyon Archaeological District is within the area designated by Congress in 1975 as the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. Also, the area from Pittsburg Landing south is Wild River and from Pittsburg Landing north is Scenic River in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems. The boundaries of the Hells Canyon Archaeological District are those of the Wild and Scenic Rivers portion of the NRA--an area which also encompasses that part of the NRA receiving the most intensive human use through time. These boundaries were chosen for the National Register nomination because of the intensive archaeological surveys that have been conducted in this area since the 1950's. Future nominations will include additional archaeological and historic properties located in the side canyons and the higher elevations of Hells Canyon.

The Snake River, which alternates between wide, deep pools and white-water rapids, carries a volume of water double that of the Colorado River. The canyon sometimes narrows to a base width of only 100 feet, while in other areas it measures several miles across at higher elevations. The fertile bars and alluvial terraces within the canyon provided the living spaces for prehistoric and historic peoples, while the semi-arid climate of the canyon provided some ecological contrast to the surrounding prairie lands and forested mountains.

### Historic Sites

There are 152 recorded historic sites in the district; a few of these represent several aspects of historic use. Placer mining locations, 63 of these sites, are typically represented by placer tailings and cairns or piles of waterworn cobbles. Hardrock mining has taken place at 25 of the sites. Structures such as walls, foundations, or ruins of a cabin still exist at 27 of the mining sites, while various pieces of mining equipment and other historic debris are found at 30 of the sites. The tailings range from single piles 2 to 3 meters in diameter and .5 to 1 meter high to U-shaped piles. One tailing remain measures 2 meters wide, 1 meter high, and 20 meters long and resembles a large rock wall.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) mining

Specific dates 5,000 B.P. to present Builder/Architect see individual sites

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

As the primary north-south waterway of the region, Hells Canyon has served as the focal point for much historic and prehistoric activity now evidenced by hundreds of archaeological sites in the Hells Canyon Archaeological District. The river corridor sites contain unique qualities arising as a result of the extreme ruggedness and isolation of the canyon. Along with these unique attributes, however, the Hells Canyon Archaeological District contains a full range of prehistoric and historic structures, artifacts, and alterations to the natural environment expressing events and time periods significant in the history of Idaho and the Pacific Northwest. A greater refinement of a prehistoric cultural chronology of the Hells Canyon area is needed before a full understanding of the culture prehistory of the canyon and uplands of the Hells Canyon area, and even adjacent portions of Northwestern Oregon, Southeastern Washington, and Central Idaho can be accomplished. Some test excavations that have been conducted in the Hells Canyon District, which is included in the southeastern sections of the Columbia Plateau culture area, suggest a long and continuous occupation of the canyon beginning over 7,000 years ago. The archaeological remains of Hells Canyon District could be instrumental in answering many questions related to chronology, population distribution, subsistence and settlement patterns, and environmental change.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property approximately 12,000 acres

Quadrangle name see continuation sheet

Quadrangle scale see continuation sheet

UMT References see continuation sheet

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	Idaho	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state	N/A Oregon	code	47 N/A	county	N/A Wallowa	code	N/A 063

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Glenda Torgeson, Curator

organization Idaho State Historical Society

date 16 June 1983

street & number 610 North Julia Davis Drive

telephone (208) 334-3356

city or town Boise

state Idaho 83702

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

OREGON

title State Historic Preservation Officer

IDAHO

date

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Homesteads or sites associated with agriculture and sheep ranching comprise most of the remaining historic sites. Fifteen of these include intact structures appearing to be dwellings, while various other structures such as barns, sheds, and root cellars exist at 8 of the sites. Nineteen of the sites include irrigation canals and forty-five contain various historic artifacts--typically farming implements. Thirty-four of the non-mining historic sites contain rock alignments, walls, or corrals.

Also present in the district and representative of the historic period are a number of cemeteries, roads, and trails. There is also an historic petroglyph, a unique irrigation flume, and a vertical test shaft for a dam proposed in the 1950's but never built.

Prehistoric Sites

There are 384 prehistoric sites recorded in the Hells Canyon Archaeological District: 151 rockshelter sites, 212 open sites, and 21 sites which include rockshelters and housepits or other features in the open.

Rockshelters

Most of the rockshelters are formed by overhangs at the base of vertical rock faces or lie at the base of and underneath large boulders. Shelters against boulders, and also vertical rock faces, often have a depressed area appearing to have been aboriginally excavated for greater head room. Deposits in the shelters range from shallow to several meters and are composed typically of sands and rocky gravels. The rockshelter sites, some of which consist of more than one shelter, are predominantly characterized by pictographs and red pigment staining--a cultural feature found at 100 of the shelter sites and the only indicator of aboriginal use in many of them. Some of the pictographs, which have been observed in green as well as red pigment, have been weathered, leached, or obscured by lichen growth, but many remain in excellent condition. Some of the forms observed include human stick and other anthropomorphic figures; geometric shapes such as lines, dots, circles, sunbursts, hachures, and zigzags; and zoomorphs resembling elk, deer, horses, and lizards.

Flakes are found on the surface of 78 of the rockshelter sites and stone tools at 37 sites. The lithic waste found include a variety of materials: basalt, obsidian, jasper, chert, chalcedony, and ignimbrite. Among the stone tools are points, hammerstones, spall tools, abrading stones, manos, and metates. Forty-one of the sites contain mussel shells and/or bone fragments--many of which are charred. Charcoal is evident in many sites along with some possible smoke stains on the shelter ceilings and heat spalls.

Rock walls, rock alignments, rock and earth berms, and depressions have been recorded in 37 of the rockshelter sites. Typically a depression has been made against a boulder or rock face and the excavated material has been used to form a

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semi-circular rim enclosing the depression and abutting the wall. Whether features like a wall are aboriginal in origin or reflect later historic activity cannot be determined without further investigation. Rockshelters with rock alignments in front suggest use as a hunting blind.

Rockshelters with no notable cultural indicators recorded have also been included in archaeological reconnaissance reports for the canyon. There are about 150 such shelter sites which would require testing to determine aboriginal use. The likelihood of these having been used prehistorically and thus containing significant deposits is very high since use of such formations throughout the district is abundantly demonstrated.

Open Sites

As pictographs are a primary element of rockshelters, house depressions are the most prevalent feature of the open sites located in the Hells Canyon District. These depressions, typically excavated in soft, sandy soil, are found in 158 sites, many of which have only one depression while as many as 17 are clustered in large sites. A total of about 550 house depressions have been recorded in the district. Often ill-defined or almost totally obscured by heavy vegetation or agricultural leveling activity, the depressions are usually circular or oval-shaped. Some are semi-circular and a few are rectangular. Rock rims or stone walls surrounding the depressions or on a downslope side also have been noted. The depressions are usually located on level benches or alluvial fans and are often associated with artificially leveled areas. The general shape of the depressions is usually that of a shallow saucer, but some are more conical in shape. Their size ranges from 2 to 10 meters in diameter and 10 to 100 cm. in depth. There are exceptional depressions up to 15 meters in diameter and 1.5 meters in depth. Flakes, bone, shell, and tools have been found within and adjacent to the depressions.

Small pits 1 to 2 meters in diameter and .5 to 1 meter in depth, sometimes lined with rocks, have also been observed at 34 sites. These are typically clustered around the larger house depressions or form a straight line. Field investigators have speculated that such pits were used for storage and have described them as cache pits. About 160 of these are included in the district.

Rock cairns have been observed at 15 of the sites. These are usually 1.5 meters in diameter and .5 meter in height, and are often located in lag deposits and associated with pits caused by removal of rocks. Both pits and cairns tend to be lichen covered. Although such features have been interpreted by some archaeologists as burials, superficial evidence associated with most of them is not sufficient enough to determine age or function.

Surface scatters of flakes are associated with 98 of the open sites; tools, including projectile points, bifaces, hammerstones, scrapers, milling stones, bone awls, and drills have been found at 42 sites. Faunal remains have been recorded

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for 27 of the sites. The rock art of the open sites usually consists of a field of boulders with pictographs and petroglyphs. As in the rockshelter sites, rock alignments found at 10 of the open sites may be of historic rather than prehistoric origin.

Reconnaissance and Excavation Projects

At least seven reconnaissance projects have been conducted in the Hells Canyon Archaeological District. The first one by George Coale in 1955 covered the area between the Imnaha River and Brush Creek. A total of 39 sites were recorded.

A one-day survey by Carl Hogge and Thomas Hearne in 1966 located five sites below Hells Canyon Dam. A more intensive reconnaissance from Brush Creek to Sheep Creek on the Idaho side by Joseph Randolph in 1974 resulted in the recording of 62 archaeological sites. Another reconnaissance that same year by Gordon Bransford, a student at Eastern Oregon State College, was conducted on the Oregon side between Battle Creek and Dug Bar. In 1974 and 1975, Keo Boreson surveyed parts of Hells Canyon specifically for rock art and recorded five sites. The most thorough investigation to date was carried out in 1978 as the initial phase in the inventory required by the legislation establishing Hells Canyon as National Recreation Area. The purpose of the project was to locate, record, assess the current condition, and evaluate the significance of all surficially visible cultural resources in the Snake River Corridor within the NRA. The survey resulted in the location of hundreds of previously unrecorded sites. In addition, those sites found in previous surveys were checked. The most recent survey, 1978 through 1980, was conducted by Harvey Rice, Glen Lindeman, Delbert Gilbow, and Zora Tammer on contract with the Hells Canyon NRA. The survey included Bernard Creek, Sluice Creek, and Upper Lightning Creek and resulted in the recording of 41 sites including a few sites at the mouth of Bernard and Sluice creeks. Surveys were conducted to the north and south of the district. Surveys of the Asotin Dam Reservoir (now in the Nez Perce Archaeological District) area occurred in 1964 and two surveys occurred in the Hells Canyon Dam Reservoir in 1951 and 1963.

Three excavation projects have been conducted in the district. In 1956 George Coale excavated four sites in the district: 10IH751, 850, 851, and 860. Four other sites were also excavated but the records of these excavations have been lost. A major excavation was conducted by Claude Warren and Max Pavesic in 1967 at the Hells Canyon Creek Village site and rockshelter.

In 1976, the Bernard Creek Rockshelter, severely endangered by pothunting activities, was test-excavated by Joseph Randolph. Although bedrock was not reached, radiocarbon dates--the first for Hells Canyon--established an initial occupation of over 7,000 years ago. Evidence of much Great Basin contact prior to 5,000 B.P. was noted. Preservation in the rockshelter was excellent allowing for the recovery of faunal material that elucidates a prehistory economy based on deer, elk, pronghorn, and freshwater mussel, as well as members of the sucker-minnow family in earlier occupations and salmon and trout in the later.

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Excavations to the south of the district include Smithsonian River Basin and Idaho State University field school projects in 1955, 1956, 1964, 1965, 1966, and 1967 at about ten different sites. Of these, the Switchback Site stands out, as it contains a significant early occupation with large side-notched points.

In general, materials recovered from sites in the Hells Canyon Archaeological District fall into a sequence beginning with Cascade-like points and large side-notched points which begin prior to the Mount Mazama eruption 6,700 years ago. This is followed by the small side and basal-notched points, housepits, and grinding tools attributed to later prehistoric peoples of the Plateau. The Hells Canyon area, as with other portions of the Snake, geographically provides a meeting ground for at least two cultural traditions--that of the Great Basin and the Plateau. An intermixing and influence between the two, as found at Hells Canyon Creek and Bernard Creek rockshelter, is an important attribute of the District.

Due to its isolation and ruggedness, much of the Hells Canyon Archaeological District remains pristine. Undisturbed archaeological deposits are still abundant. Historic structures are typically in relatively deteriorated condition, but most endure unaltered and retain sufficient integrity to provide information in the study of history and vernacular architecture. Both historic and modern activities such as stock grazing, mining, and agriculture as well as natural flooding and erosion have severely disturbed surface evidence of prehistoric sites. Still, many such deposits remain intact. The greatest danger to the cultural resources today is the disturbance by amateur collectors, tourists, and professional pot-hunters who reach Hells Canyon by boat or by the few roads into the area. The upper part of the Snake from Hells Canyon Dam downstream to Bernard Creek has been the most disturbed by such activities.

The following tables present a site specific outline of the archaeological and historic remains in the Hells Canyon Archaeological District. Unless otherwise indicated, all sites are contributory to the district.

Mining Sites Site Number	Hardrock	Placer	Historic Artifacts	Foundations*	Structures*	Comments
Idaho						
10IH481	-	X	X	X	X	Small rock foundation and stone wall
10IH619	-	X	-	-	-	Unique very large depressions, probably mining associated
10IH697	X	-	X	-	-	Possible location of Great Eastern Copper Mine, 1890's
10IH699	-	X	-	-	-	V-shaped cairn
10IH708	-	X	-	-	-	
10IH709	-	X	X	X	X	2 foundations, 2 cairns, dugout, 2 rock enclosures
10IH873	X	-	-	-	-	
10IH1013	-	X	-	-	-	
10IH1014	X	-	X	-	-	Livestock fencing; Russel Bar, mined by C. A. Russell in 1930's
10IH1016	-	X	-	-	-	
10IH1033	-	X	-	-	-	
10IH1068	-	X	-	-	-	
10IH1090	-	X	-	-	-	Warm Springs Creek Placer Mining site, possible late 1800's, Chinese
10IH1093	-	X	-	-	-	
10IH1096	-	X	-	-	-	
10IH1098	-	X	-	-	-	
10IH1099	-	X	-	-	-	
10IH1100	-	X	-	-	-	
10IH1112	X	-	X	-	X	3 rock walls
10IH1115	X	X	X	-	-	
10IH1123	-	X	-	-	-	
10IH1127	-	X	-	-	-	
10IH1140	-	X	-	X	-	1 foundation
10IH1142	X	-	X	-	-	
10IH1143	X	-	X	-	-	
10IH1145	-	X	-	-	-	
10IH1146	-	X	-	-	-	
10IH1147	-	X	-	-	-	
10IH1166	X	-	X	-	-	Bonanza Mine, 1926
10IH1167	-	X	X	-	-	Sunset #1 Mine, 1917
10IH1169	X	-	X	-	X	Rock structures for transporting water
10IH1170	-	X	X	X	X	Collapsed cabin, stone-lined trench, cairn in vicinity of mine
10IH1172	-	X	-	-	-	

Mining Sites Site Number	Hardrock	Placer	Historic Artifacts	Foundations*	Structures**	Comments
Idaho						
10IH1173	x	-	-	-	-	
10IH1174	x	-	x	-	-	
10TH1175	x	-	-	-	-	
10IH1176	x	-	x	-	-	
10IH1177	x	-	x	-	x	Copper mines at mouth of Salmon, 1900 to late 1920's; rock wall
10IH1178	x	-	-	-	-	
10NP153	-	x	x	x	x	1 foundation, rock wall, boiler possible from <u>Imnaha</u>
10NP180	-	x	x	x	x	2 foundations, rock wall, wood-lined box dug into hill
10NP183	-	x	-	-	x	Cairns, rock wall
10NP190	x	-	-	-	-	
10NP204	-	x	x	-	x	Rockshelter with rock wall
10NP213	-	x	-	-	-	
10NP217	x	-	-	-	-	
10NP221	x	-	-	-	-	

\* Or collapsed building (see individual comments)

\*\*Cairns, rock walls, subterranean features ditches (see individual comments)

Mining Sites Site Number	Hardrock	Placer	Historic Artifacts	Foundations*	Structures**	Comments
<u>Oregon</u>						
43	-	X	X	-	X	Rock alignment and stock enclosure
45	X	-	-	-	-	Exploratory tunnels of early 1900's
46-3	-	X	-	-	-	Warnock brothers did placer work in this vicinity in late 1800's
49-1	-	X	X	X	X	Rock alignment, subterranean feature, possible building remains
E-10	-	X	X	-	-	Artifacts, evidence across river suggest dam exploration
Ore-17-A	-	X	-	-	-	Water supply ditch
E-18-A	-	X	-	-	-	
E-24	-	X	-	-	-	
E-25	-	X	-	-	X	Excavation against outcrops with rock walls, water ditch
E-29	X	-	X	X	-	Electrolytic Copper Mine; early 1900's, foundation
E-34	-	X	X	-	-	
E-35	-	X	X	-	-	
E-42	-	X	X	-	-	
E-45	-	X	-	-	-	
E-46	-	X	-	-	-	
E-48	-	X	-	-	-	
E-50	-	X	-	-	-	
E-52	-	X	-	-	-	
E-58	-	X	-	-	-	
E-62	-	X	-	-	-	
E-101	-	X	-	-	-	
E-107	X	-	-	-	-	
E-108	X	-	X	-	-	
E-109	X	-	X	-	X	Fargo Group Claims, 1900's; stone walls; China Gulch Cabin (non-contributory)
E-110	X	-	-	X	X	Mountain Chief Mine, 1903-06; 1930's; rock wall against outcrop
E-114	X	-	-	-	-	
E-117	-	X	X	-	-	
E-123	-	X	-	-	-	
E-125	-	X	-	-	-	Eureka Bar Complex, 1902-05; mill and hotel foundations, rock wall



Mining Sites Site Number	Hardrock	Placer	Historic Artifacts	Foundations*	Structures**	Comments
Oregon						
E-126	-	X	X	-	-	
E-129	-	X	-	-	-	
E-155	-	X	-	X	X	Geneva Bar; stone wall, small foundation, cairns
E-171	-	X	-	X	-	1 foundation of rock structure built into hillside, cairns
E-175	-	X	-	-	-	
E-178	-	X	-	-	-	
E-186	-	X	-	-	-	Treasure Group Mining Camp area, early 1900's (non-contributory)
E-207	-	X	-	-	-	
35WA205	-	X	-	-	-	Historic grave; 5 frame buildings (non-contributory)
35WA208	-	X	-	-	-	
35WA385	-	X	X	-	-	

\* Or collapsed building (see individual comments)

\*\*Cairns, rock walls, subterranean features ditches (see individual comments)

Hells Canyon Archaeological District  
Continuation Sheet

Agricultural, Sheep Ranching, Homestead, and Other Historic Sites

Site Number	Intact Historic Dwelling	Intact Historic Outbuildings	Foundations or Structural	Rock Alignment	Canal	Historic Artifacts	Comments
Idaho							
Idaho 394	-	-	-	X	X	-	Irrigation ditch grade with rock retaining walls
10IH535	X	X	X	X	X	X	Sheep Creek Complex
10IH537	-	-	X	X	X	X	Bills Creek Stone Structure
10IH538	X	X	X	X	X	X	Bernard Creek
10IH539	X	X	X	-	-	X	Hibbs Place
10IH540	-	-	X	-	-	X	
10IH591	-	-	-	X	-	-	
10IH601	-	-	-	X	-	-	
10IH619	-	-	-	-	X	X	An historic petroglyph
10IH634	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH688	-	-	X	X	-	X	
10IH691	-	-	X	-	X	-	
10IH692	X	-	-	X	-	X	Caribou Creek Stone Structure
10IH693	-	-	-	-	-	-	Flume
10IH697	X	-	-	-	X	X	Big Bar Cabin
10IH699	X	X	-	X	X	X	Kirkwood Bar Complex
10IH703	X	X	-	-	-	-	Carter Mansion
10IH708	-	-	X	X	X	X	Johnson Bar Structure
10IH712	-	-	X	X	-	X	
10IH736	-	-	X	-	X	X	
10IH743	-	-	X	-	X	X	
10IH751	-	-	X	-	-	X	
10IH753	-	-	X	-	-	-	
10IH758	-	-	-	-	-	X	
10IH853	-	-	X	X	-	X	
10IH854	-	-	-	-	X	X	
10IH1018	-	-	X	-	-	-	
10IH1019	-	-	X	X	-	X	
10IH1032	-	-	-	X	-	X	
10IH1033	-	-	X	-	-	X	Large boulder cairn
10IH1087	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1119	-	-	-	X	-	X	
10IH1137	-	-	-	X	-	-	
10IH1151	-	-	X	X	X	X	

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Site Number	Intact Historic Dwelling	Intact Historic Outbuildings	Foundations or Structural	Rock Alignment	Canal	Historic Artifacts	Comments
Idaho							
10IH1155	-	-	x	-	-	x	
10IH1168	-	-	-	x	-	-	
1ONP181	x	-	-	-	-	-	
1ONP220	-	-	-	x	-	-	
1ONP222	-	-	x	-	-	-	
Pittsburg Landing	-	-	-	-	-	-	Location of Pittsburg Ferry operated in 1912

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Site Number	Intact Historic Dwelling	Intact Historic Outbuildings	Foundations or Structural	Rock Alignment	Canal	Historic Artifacts	Comments
Oregon							
24-C	-	-	X	X	X	X	Rectilinear feature of milled and unmilled lumber
32	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sluice Creek Cabin
34A	X	-	-	-	X	-	
34G	-	-	X	X	-	-	
34H	-	-	X	-	-	X	
39A	-	-	X	-	-	X	
44-3	-	-	X	-	-	X	Temperance Creek Ranch Complex
45	X	X	-	X	X	-	Salt Creek Double End Cabin
46-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
47	X	-	-	X	X	X	Vertical test shaft for proposed dam
E-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	
E-9	-	-	-	-	-	-	
E-10	-	-	-	-	-	X	
E-18	-	-	-	-	-	X	
E-21	-	-	-	X	-	X	
E-37	-	-	X	-	-	X	Cat Creek Complex
E-38	X	X	-	-	X	X	
E-45	-	-	-	X	-	X	
E-53	-	-	-	X	-	-	Christmas Creek Complex
E-55	X	X	-	-	-	-	
E-56	-	-	-	X	-	X	
E-67	-	-	X	-	-	X	
E-69	-	-	X	X	-	X	Dug Bar Complex
E-82	X	X	-	-	-	X	Hexagonal corral
E-87	-	-	-	-	-	-	
E-126	-	-	X	X	-	-	
E-155	-	-	X	-	-	-	
E-181	-	-	X	X	X	X	Barton Cabin
35A208	X	-	X	X	X	-	
35WA264	-	-	X	-	-	-	
35WA315	-	-	-	X	-	-	
35WA316	-	-	-	X	-	X	
35WA357	-	-	-	X	-	-	Stone chimney/fireplace
35WA380	-	-	-	-	-	X	

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Idaho

Idaho 394. Irrigation ditch grade with rock retaining walls.

10IH535. Sheep Creek Complex. Historic residence, barn, and blacksmith shop. Foundation. Remnant of dugout cabin constructed by William McLeod in 1884.

Residence. A four-room single story frame structure with a low, gabled, shaked roof. Screened-in porches occur on the south and east faces. Constructed between 1915 and 1925 by Bill McGaffee. Lenora Barton and her son Ace resided there from 1935 to 1952. They added a small, cinder-block root cellar to the southeast corner of the house and constructed the barn and blacksmith shop.

Barn. A frame structure constructed of both milled lumber and peeled poles. The poles occur as rafters supporting a corrugated metal roof. The walls are formed by 1" x 12" boards nailed to the underlying frame. The interior is divided into eight stalls and a storage area. A plank and pole corral surrounds the barn on three sides.

Blacksmith shop. Actually a small shed consisting of a pole frame to which 1" x 6" milled lumber has been nailed. The roof is covered with corrugated metal.

10IH537. Bills Creek Stone Structure. Remnants of a dwelling constructed of dressed native stone by Si Bullock, a bricklayer, sometime after 1919. Probable remnants of a stone corral. Dwelling ruin. Stone cabin with collapsed ceiling and walls. Locations of the windows and entry way are still discernible.

10IH538. Bernard Creek Cabin and Associated Outbuildings. House, root cellar, tool shed, and barn foundation. Constructed by Bill Hiltzley who occupied the site with his family from 1901 until 1915. Sold to Alfred McGaffee in 1915 and then Lenora Barton in 1935. Residence. A two-room frame structure with a loft that opens into the living room. The building frame consists of small poles over which are inch-thick board and batten siding. Magazine pages, circa 1920, have been pasted over the wall boards. It has a shake roof and a stone foundation. Root cellar. Located near the southeast corner of the cabin, the cellar is a dugout with stone walls and a sod roof. Tool shed. Located approximately 10 yards north of the cabin. Consists of a crude pole frame with a metal roof. The sides were once covered with hand-split shakes.

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- 10IH539. Hibbs Place. Cabin built by Earl Hibbs, son of Martin Hibbs, in 1936 after Martin was found shot to death near the smoldering ruins of the previous cabin. Collapsed pole frame barn.  
Residence. A small standing frame cabin consisting of vertically applied 1" x 6" and 1" x 4" milled lumber attached to a pole frame, and resting on a rubble-stone foundation. The roof consists of both shakes and corrugated aluminum over small pole rafters.  
Barn. Totally collapsed but the remnants indicate that it was a pole structure covered with long hand-split shakes.
- 10IH540. Bridge abutment.
- 10IH591. Wall that may be prehistoric.
- 10IH601. Wall that may be prehistoric.
- 10IH619. Location of Hiltisley Homestead, 1899-1912; remains of livestock enclosure.
- 10IH634. Historic petroglyph.
- 10IH688. Burned remnants of outfitters lodge, 1960's-1974.
- 10IH691. Gravesite, 1912; remnants of home and root cellar of Ernest Hutton, early 1900's.
- 10IH692. Caribou Creek Stone Structure. Structure which is the last surviving remnant of a complex of structures built by the Nez Perce Sheep Company ca. 1921. It was one of the largest in the nation, running up to 200,000 head of sheep.  
Structure. A small, one-room structure of stone indigenous to the site--large angular fragments of basalt held in place by mortar.
- 10IH693. Flume through tunnel drilled by Ace Duncan for irrigation water at Big Bar, 1929.
- 10IH697. Big Bar Cabin. Structure known to have been in existence in 1932 but of unknown origin. Site was occupied by the C. J. Halls beginning in 1914, then incorporated into the Len Jordan sheep operation in 1932. The building was moved and served as a residence for the hired hand. Bud Wilson purchased the site in 1943 and the structure became a cook shack. Also at this location is the Myers Creek Cabin (non-contributory) which is a one-room frame structure built about 1940.  
Cabin. A one-room frame structure with walls formed by one-inch thick, horizontally applied board and batten siding nailed directly to a 2 x 4 frame. The frame is exposed on the interior. The roof is formed by 1" x 12" boards which have in turn been covered by corrugated metal.

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The ceiling is open beamed with the rafters exposed. The floor consists of 2" x 12" planking laid parallel to the longitudinal axis of the building.

10IH699. Kirkwood Bar Complex. Len B. Jordan [former Idaho Governor and U.S. Senator] residence, Carl Hanna cabin, log bunkhouse built by Dick Sterling; a series of inter-connected shearing pens, and a series of inter-connected lambing sheds. Jay Kirkwood and his family settled on the bar around 1885. C. J. Hall then occupied the site as a cattle operation selling out to Leonard and Kenneth Johnson around 1930. The Johnsons conducted a sheep operation and built the frame house which was expanded by Len and Grace Jordan, who lived there from 1923 to 1943. While there Jordan disassembled and moved the cabin built by Carl Hanna sometime between 1910 and 1914. Jordan sold out to Bud Wilson in 1943. Wilson occupied the bar until 1973 constructing the shearing pens and lambing sheds. The Sterling cabin was built by Dick Sterling, Wilson's packer, about 1948.

Jordan residence. A five-room frame building resting on a cement foundation, half of which has been excavated to form a small basement divided into a kitchen, dining room area, bathroom, and sink. The bathroom contains a unique, cement bathtub and sink combination. The exterior of the house is covered by horizontally applied 1" x 4" shiplap siding.

Sterling bunkhouse. A three-room rectangular log building resting on a cement pad. The cabin is constructed of peeled pine logs, saddle-notched at the corners. Above the top, or plate logs, the roof and supporting structures are constructed of milled lumber. The roof is covered by long strips of reddish, orange composition roofing material.

Hanna cabin. A small, one-room building constructed of logs of unequal diameters which are saddle-notched at the corners. The exteriors of the logs have been adzed flat. The irregular nature of the logs suggest that they have been derived from large alder or cottonwood trees which grow in profusion along Kirkwood Creek. The structure rest on four stone pilings; the roof is covered with corrugated metal.

Shearing pens. Open frame structures, the tops of which would be covered by large tarpaulins while in use. The inter-connected pens are in a row approximately 75 yards in length.

Lambing sheds. Constructed of milled lumber, the sheds are approximately four feet high by four feet deep, and open along one face. The row of sheds is approximately 75 yards in length.

10IH703. Carter Mansion. House and barn constructed by Eliza Clarence Carter between 1920 and 1923. Carter was a moonshiner and was sentenced to a term in the Idaho State Penitentiary for failure to pay the tax on a keg of whiskey. The mansion was later used as a school house where Grace Jordan provided primary education for her three children.

Carter Mansion. A five-room house with exterior walls constructed of vertical logs approximately 7 to ten inches in diameter. The innerspaces

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are chinked with a light-colored, coarse textured mortar or mud. Large quantities of hair, probably deer, has been mixed with the chinking material. Metal flashing has been placed over the chinking between each vertical log. The roof is medium gabled, and is currently covered with corrugated metal. The cabin rests on a cement and coursed rubble-stone foundation. It possesses front and back covered verandas with poured cement floors. The interior walls and ceilings are covered with unpainted lath and plaster. Between the exterior walls and the lath and plaster is an interspace which has been filled with gravel. The interior is comparatively ornate with moulded kick boards and moulding surrounding the uppermost portions of the walls. The floors are composed of softwood planking. Light reaches the interior of the house through large rectangular windows with triple-hung sliding sashes.

Barn. Consists of a pole frame to which corrugated metal has been nailed. It has no floor.

10IH708. Kirby Creek. Foundations of a house and other buildings, root cellar, two wagon roads, extensive irrigational system, dam, and well. Site was the location of nthe Fred Reid homestead, 1907 to 1934. Site is the present location of the Snake River Outfitters excursion business and lodge (non-contributory).

10IH712. Johnson Bar Stone Structure. Remains of the Barton/Bullock cabin, two other foundations, and depressions. Structure was built by Ralph Barton and Si Bullock, a stone mason, during the winter of 1915. Barton and his family moved into a dwelling in February 1915. Barton became interested in the property when he learned of the Union Pacific Railroad survey. When the railroad didn't materialize, he sold his homestead rights to Glenn Hibbs in 1916.

Structure. Remnants of a stone dwelling constructed of random-sized fragments of basalt probably from the slopes just east of the structure. A fireplace was incorporated into the walls on the northwestern corner of the structure. The east wall, north wall, and fireplace are all that remain standing.

10IH736. Remains of cabin, open pit, dump, and irrigation ditch.

10IH743. Foundation and walls of cabin, irrigation ditch, location of Oscar Newkirk homestead, 1920.

10IH751. Foundation, reported dump, area of early squatter and homstead, 1920's.

10IH753. Foundation, area of early squatter and homstead, 1920's.

10IH758. Historic artifacts.



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- 10IH853. Two foundations, location of Brownlee Sheep Company sheep sheds, 1920's.
- 10IH854. Large modern house, 3 barns, several shops and storage buildings, etc. for modern Flying H cattle ranch (non-contributory); historic farm equipment and irrigation ditches.
- 10IH1018. Dugout or basement of historic structure.
- 10IH1019. Remains of dwelling dammed hot spring forming pond.
- 10IH1032. Two parallel stone walls, possible structure foundation.
- 10IH1033. Remains of dwelling.
- 10IH1087. Large boulder cairn, may be levee or breakwater; this is also the location of an unsuccessful drilling for petroleum by George Wood [homesteader there beginning in 1896]. Casing for steam drilling rig reported to still be there.
- 10IH1119. Rock wall, may be structure foundation or unusual placer cairn.
- 10IH1137. Rock wall, probable structure foundation.
- 10IH1151. House and two outbuilding foundations, hydroelectric system, ditch, and possible homestead of the depression era.
- 10IH1155. House foundation.
- 10IH1168. Retaining wall.
- 10NP181. Old wood and stone dwelling of unknown history, considerable alteration, and evidence of modern use.
- 10NP220. Rock wall.
- 10NP222. Small, deteriorated rock foundation.
- Pittsburg Landing. Location of Pittsburg Ferry operated in 1912.

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Agricultural, Sheep Ranching, Homestead, and Other Historic Sites

Oregon

- 24-C. Structural remnants, root cellars, a stone and earth pit, stone corral, homesteaded by Fred Jensen, 1895; became cattle ranch of Pete and Ethel Wilson, 1916; then sheep ranch of Kenneth Johnson after 1939.
32. Rectilinear feature constructed of milled and unmilled lumber, reported to be an historic sheep camp.
- 34A. Sluice Creek Cabin. Two log structures built by the Clem Marks family in 1914 and joined by a connecting breezeway by the Winniford brothers who bought the site around 1916 and remained there until 1924. Site was originally homesteaded by George Denney, one of the first stockmen in Hells Canyon in 1889.  
Cabin. A dogtrot-type log cabin of two small, one-room structures separated by a distance of approximately four meters and connected by a breezeway. The cabins appear to be constructed of fir and alder logs and poles indigenous to the site. The logs are rough hewn, and attached at the corners via double saddle notches. The north, or main cabin has a wooden plank floor. Both cabins at one time had shake roofs, but the roof of the north cabin has since been replaced by corrugated metal.
- 34G. Irrigation canals, rock alignments around cleared fields.
- 34H. Remnants of rectilinear structure; area of early 1880's cow camp.
- 39A. Stone reinforced wall impression, probably historic dugout.
- 44-3. Walls of earth with wood inner structure.
45. Temperance Creek Ranch Complex. Two cabins, blacksmith shop, bunkhouse, and barn. Originally settled in the mid-1880's by the Warnock brothers who raised cattle. The saddle-notched cabin was probably constructed then. The Walt Brockman family occupied the site from 1910 to 1916 and Herman Trappier owned it from 1916 to 1934 when he sold out to Kenneth Johnson. The second cabin, blacksmith shop, bunkhouse, and barn were probably built sometime between 1916 and 1934. There is also a mile-long irrigation ditch, partly cut through solid rock, constructed possibly by the Warnocks. Completing the site are three buildings (non-contributory) of modern derivation.  
Log cabin. One-room structure of logs somewhat irregular in both diameter and length which appear to be large cottonwood and/or alder trees. Both felling and notching appear to have been accomplished with an axe. Corner treatment consists of a crudely executed saddle notch. Chinking was accomplished with split poles. The building exhibits the remnants of a hand split shake roof.

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Log cabin. One-room structure of logs somewhat irregular in both diameter and length which also appear to be large cottonwood and/or alder trees indigenous to the site. Both notching and end trimming have been accomplished with a saw. The cabin has been chinked with both mud and split pole.

Blacksmith shop. Two-room rectangular frame structure with double, hinged doors on the north end. There is a small enclosed segment on the south end of the structure which can only be entered through another exterior door. The roof is covered with long segments of reddish tar paper.

Bunkhouse. A three-room frame structure, the majority of which rests on a stone foundation. A small, roofed porch occurs on the northwest corner. The exterior is treated with vertical board and batten siding; the roof is corrugated metal.

Barn or shearing plant. A large single-storied barn-like structure with a frame work of long, relatively straight pine poles to which milled lumber has been nailed. Supporting structural members rest on stone pilings or are partially buried. With the exception of the shearing areas along the north side, the building lacks a floor. The building is capped with a low gabled, corrugated metal roof.

46-1. Irrigation canal, possible one constructed by Warnocks of Temperance Creek.

47. Salt Creek Double End Cabin. Two log structures connected by a single roof, remnants of root cellar, irrigation canal. Cabin was built by Arnold Hiltzley sometime between 1890 and 1908. Hiltzley sold out to Jim Wisenor in 1908. The Wisenor family occupied the site until 1916 when it was sold to Jack Titus.

Cabin. Two, small, one-room single story, log structures connected by a breezeway. Both structures are constructed of peeled pine logs with corner treatment consisting of V-shaped saddle notching. The logs have been chinked with a coarse-grained mud. Both structures have plank floors, and rest on rubble-stone foundations. The inter-connecting roof, once covered by split shakes is now covered by corrugated aluminum sheeting.

E-5. Large rock alignment. Corral or structure foundation.

E-9. Vertical test shaft for the proposed Pleasant Valley dam, 1950's.

E-10. Artifacts, and corresponding evidence across river suggesting association with Pleasant Valley Dam exploration.

E-18. Somers Creek Miniature Cabin. A non-contributory building reported to have been constructed during the 1950's from scrap lumber recovered from a back eddy near the mouth of Somers Creek.

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E-21. Wall that may have been used to herd sheep.

E-37. Circular cement foundation.

E-38. Cat Creek Complex. Residence, bunkhouse, blacksmith shop, and hay barn; also root cellar and level terraces. All structures except the barn were constructed sometime between 1900 and 1927. The Blankenship brothers acquired the site in the late 1940's and ran sheep in the area until 1951. The construction of the hay barn and the addition of the bathroom and kitchen in the main house can be attributed to their occupation.

Residence. A five-room frame structure supported by a few stone piers. Exterior siding consists of a mix of plywood, vertical board and batten, shakes, and corrugated aluminum. The medium gabled roof of the house and porch are covered by corrugated aluminum sheeting. The interior walls have been panelled with unpainted 1/4-inch plywood sheets. The wood floors are covered with linoleum.

Bunkhouse. A two-story frame and stone building. The lower portion is built primarily of rubble stone and mortar, and acts as a foundation for the structure. The upper story consists of a one-room pole frame building. The outer walls are formed from vertically applied board and batten siding nailed directly to the pole frame. The medium gabled roof is covered by heavily patinized corrugated sheet metal. The interior walls are covered by plywood, cardboard, and newspaper.

Blacksmith shop. A one-room frame structure resting on a rubble stone foundation. The exterior walls are formed from vertically applied board and batten siding. The medium-gabled roof is covered by heavily patinized corrugated steel sheeting. The interior walls and ceilings have not been paneled, leaving the frame exposed.

Hay barn. A large two-story frame structure with walls constructed of 1" x 12" boards. The combination medium-gabled and shed-styled roof is covered with corrugated metal. The structure rests on both stone and cement piers.

E-45. Stone enclosure probably used for livestock, another stone fence.

E-53. Two stone fences perpendicular to a vertical rock face.

E-55. Christmas Creek Complex. House and two root cellars; several outbuildings (non-contributory) and sheep-shearing complex, fences, and stock run of unknown origin. Max and Oakley Johnson purchased the property from Homer Hayes in 1927. According to Oakley, only the house and two root cellars were in existence in 1927. They sold the property in 1951, having built no additional structures. The outbuildings and other later structures may have been built by the subsequent owners, B. B. Burrows, Ralph Longfellow, and Lem Wilson.

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House. A five-room frame structure with both a covered and enclosed porch. Approximately 2/3 of the structure rests on a stone foundation. The remainder is supported by stone piers. The exterior walls are covered by painted wooden shingles, and the roof by galvanized metal over wooden shingles.

Root cellar. A two-room semi-subterranean stone structure which has been excavated into the base of the slope directly behind the house. The walls are constructed of random-sized angular fragments of basalt held in place by mortar. The combination gabled and shed-styled roof is constructed of rough-cut lumber which appears to have been covered by sod.

Root cellar. A one-room semi-subterranean structure with thick walls formed from stone. The medium-gabled roof and gable ends are constructed entirely of wood. The roof is covered by wooden shingles.

E-56. U-shaped rock wall of unknown purpose.

E-67. Stone foundation.

E-69. Two concrete foundations reported to have been used as a sheep-shearing mill in 1910's and '20's, stone corral, and stone fence.

E-82. Dug Bar Complex. Cabin and blacksmith shop; dwelling and numerous out-buildings (non-contributory) are mostly of recent origin. The cabin and blacksmith shop appear to have been constructed by the Litch family sometime between 1910 and 1919. The Litch family sold the operation to Ivan and Josephine Simons in the early 1920's. The Tippett family acquired the property shortly thereafter and were responsible for the construction of the other buildings.

Cabin. A small one-room frame dwelling with an attached shed. The dwelling is entered via a covered porch. Other than stone piers, the building lacks a foundation. Vertically applied board and batten siding covers both the exterior of the dwelling and the shed. The low gabled roof is covered with corrugated aluminum. The cabin floor is formed with tongue and groove lumber. The walls and ceiling have been covered with 1/4-inch plywood sheeting.

Blacksmith shop. A small single room frame structure resting on cement blocks. The exterior walls consist of vertically applied board and batten siding. The medium gabled roof is covered by wooden shingles.

E-87. Hexagonal corral.

E-126. Sheep-shearing mounds, fencing, and debris.

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E-155. Stone wall enclosure and small foundation.

E-181. Foundation.

E-186. Small wood-frame storage building, 1920-1940, typical of storage depots along Snake River for ranches up tributary streams.

35WA208. Barton Cabin. Cabin, collapsed log barn, log root cellar, rock alignment. Site was first homesteaded in 1910 by Ralph Barton. The cabin was built on the site in 1931 and occupied by Ralph and Lenora Barton until 1938. The site changed ownership several times and was eventually purchased by Kenneth Johnson.

Cabin. A one-room frame structure with roof of corrugated metal and exterior sided with wooden shingles. The building rests on a rubble-stone foundation and pilings.

35WA264. Two modern structures: Fish and Game cabin and outhouse (non-contributory); five structural remnants, the largest reported to have been tourist lodge operated by Kyle McGrady in 1946.

35WA315. Excavated pit against boulder with rock wall that may be prehistoric or historic, possible association with massacre of Chinese miners nearby in 1887.

35WA316. Three rock walls parallel to each other and perpendicular to an outcrop.

35WA357. Wall that may be prehistoric.

35WA380. Stone Chimney/fireplace in rockshelter.

Rockshelter Sites

Site Number	Flakes	Tools	Faunal Remains	Rock Art or Stains	Rock Feature or Depression	Comments
Idaho						
Idaho 402.	-	-	-	-	X	Rock wall
Idaho 407	-	-	-	-	X	Rock wall
10IH461	X	X	X	X	1	Rockshelter, pictograph complex
10IH479	X	X	-	X	-	
10IH483	X	X	X	X	-	Tested by Randolph [Bernard Creek]
10IH537	X	X	X	X	X	Rock wall; rockshelter complex [Bills Creek]
10IH580	X	-	-	-	-	
10IH581	X	-	-	-	X	Rock wall
10IH594	X	X	-	-	-	
10IH596	X	X	-	X	-	
10IH597	X	-	-	X	-	
10IH599	X	-	-	X	-	
10IH603	X	X	X	X	1	
10IH604	-	-	-	X	-	
10IH607	-	-	-	X	-	
10IH608	-	-	-	X	X	Rock wall
10IH609	-	-	-	-	X	Rock ring around shelter
10IH611	-	-	-	-	X	Rock wall and depression
10IH613	-	-	-	-	X	Rock wall
10IH616	-	-	-	X	-	
10IH681	-	-	-	X	-	
10IH619	X	X	X	X	X	Depressions, one stone-lined
10IH623	X	-	X	X	-	
10IH625	-	-	-	X	-	
10IH632	-	-	-	X	-	
10IH633	-	-	-	X	-	
10IH635	-	-	X	X	-	
10IH636	-	-	-	X	-	
10IH684	-	-	-	X	-	
10IH685	X	-	-	X	-	
10IH686	-	-	-	-	X	Excavated area by rock wall
10IH708	-	-	-	-	X	Rock Wall
10IH713	X	-	-	X	-	
10IH714	-	-	-	X	-	
10IH715	-	-	-	X	-	
10IH736	-	-	-	-	X	Stone wall, stone-lined depression

Rockshelter Sites

Site Number	Flakes	Tools	Faunal Remains	Rock Art or Stains	Rock Feature or Depression	Comments
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Idaho

10IH756	x	x	-	x	-	Burial; tested by Coale [Somers Creek]
10IH850	x	x	x	-	-	
10IH1015	-	-	-	x	-	
10IH1019	-	-	-	x	-	
10IH1020	-	-	-	x	-	
10IH1021	-	-	-	x	-	
10IH1023	-	-	-	x	-	
10IH1024	-	-	-	x	-	
10IH1025	x	-	-	x	-	
10IH1026	-	-	-	x	-	
10IH1029	-	-	-	x	-	
10IH1034	-	-	-	x	-	
10IH1035	-	-	x	x	-	
10IH1036	-	-	-	x	-	
10IH1037	x	-	-	x	-	
10IH1038	-	-	-	x	-	
10IH1040	-	-	x	-	-	
10IH1065	x	-	x	-	-	
10IH1066	x	-	-	x	-	
10IH1067	x	-	-	-	-	
10IH1070	-	-	-	x	-	
10IH1071	-	-	-	x	-	
10IH1089	-	-	-	x	-	
10IH1094	x	-	x	x	-	
10IH1101	-	-	-	x	-	
10IH1102	-	-	-	x	-	
10IH1104	-	-	x	x	-	
10IH1105	-	-	x	-	-	
10IH1121	x	x	x	x	-	
10IH1122	-	-	-	x	-	
10IH1124	x	x	-	x	-	
10IH1125	x	-	-	x	-	
1ONP152	-	-	-	x	-	
1ONP156	-	-	-	x	-	
1ONP186	-	-	-	x	-	
1ONP188	-	-	-	x	-	

Rock wall against rock face



Rockshelter Sites

Site Number	Flakes	Tools	Faunal Remains	Rock Art or Stains	Rock Feature or Depression	Comments
<u>Idaho</u>						
1ONP191	x	x	-	x	-	
1ONP193	-	-	-	-	x	Rock-lined pit
1ONP194	-	-	-	-	x	Low rock wall
1ONP198	x	x	-	-	-	
1ONP200	-	-	-	-	x	Rock wall, rock-lined pit; may be historical
1ONP202	-	-	-	-	x	Low rock berm
1ONP205	-	-	-	x	-	
1ONP206	-	-	-	-	-	
1ONP207	x	-	x	x	-	
1ONP208	-	-	x	x	-	
1ONP209	-	-	-	x	-	
1ONP210	-	x	-	-	-	
1ONP211	-	-	-	x	-	
<u>Oregon</u>						
E-13	-	-	-	-	x	
35WA14	x	x	-	-	-	Wall that may be historic
35WA21	x	-	x	-	-	
35WA22	-	-	x	-	-	
35WA28	-	-	x	-	-	
35WA29	x	-	x	-	-	
35WA30	x	-	-	-	-	
35WA32	-	-	-	-	x	Rock wall
35WA40	x	x	x	-	-	
35WA43	x	x	x	-	-	
35WA44	x	-	-	-	-	
35WA49	x	-	-	x	-	
35WA50	x	-	-	-	-	
35WA55	x	x	x	-	-	
35WA59	x	-	-	-	-	
35WA71	x	x	-	-	-	
35WA78	x	x	x	-	-	Excavated by Pavesic [Hells Canyon Creek]
35WA201	x	x	x	x	-	

Rockshelter Sites

Site Number	Flakes	Tools	Faunal Remains	Rock Art or Stains	Rock Feature or Depression	Comments
Oregon						
35WA202	-	-	-	x	-	Depression
35WA204	-	-	-	-	x	
35WA207	x	x	-	x	-	
35WA209	-	-	-	x	-	Rock alignment suggesting blind
35WA210	-	-	-	-	x	
35WA211	x	-	-	-	-	
35WA218	x	x	x	-	-	
35WA220	x	-	-	-	-	
35WA222	x	-	-	x	-	
35WA35/229	x	x	x	-	-	
35WA36/230	x	x	x	x	-	
35WA232	-	x	-	x	-	
35WA238	x	-	x	-	-	Depression, lithic scatter nearby
35WA39/241	x	-	-	-	x	
35WA242	x	-	-	-	-	
35WA243	x	-	-	-	-	
35WA245	x	-	-	-	-	
35WA246	x	x	-	-	-	
35WA48/254	x	x	x	-	x	Rock wall
35WA48/255	x	x	x	x	-	
35WA51/258	x	-	-	-	-	
35WA259	x	-	-	x	-	
35WA52/260	-	-	-	x	-	
35WA53/261	x	-	-	-	-	
35WA53/262	x	-	x	x	-	
35WA265	x	x	x	-	-	
35WA56/267	x	-	-	-	-	
35WA277	x	-	-	x	-	
35WA294	-	-	-	x	-	
35WA297	x	-	-	x	-	
35WA305	-	x	x	x	-	
35WA311	x	-	-	-	-	
35WA314	-	-	-	x	-	
35WA316	x	x	x	x	x	With historic rock walls
35WA324	x	-	x	-	-	
35WA329	x	-	-	-	-	

Rockshelter Sites

Site Number	Flakes	Tools	Faunal Remains	Rock Art or Stains	Rock Feature or Depression	Comments
Oregon						
35WA343	-	-	-	X	-	
35WA345	-	-	-	X	-	
35WA347	X	-	X	X	X	Circular rock alignment
35WA348	-	-	-	X	-	
35WA349	-	-	X	-	-	
35WA352	X	-	-	X	-	
35WA356	-	-	-	X	-	
35WA357	-	-	-	X	X	Wall that may be historic
35WA361	X	-	-	-	-	
35WA367	-	-	-	X	-	
35WA370	X	X	X	X	-	
35WA371	-	-	-	-	X	Depression
35WA374	-	-	-	-	X	Well-developed berm of rock and earth
35WA375	-	-	-	X	X	Well-developed berm
35WA377	-	-	-	X	-	
35WA378	-	-	-	X	X	Stacked rock berm
35WA380	-	-	-	X	X	Historic stone fireplace
35WA382	-	-	-	-	X	Depression with berm
35WA384	X	-	-	-	-	
35WA387	-	-	-	-	X	Depression and rock pile
35WA388	-	-	-	X	-	
35WA389	-	-	-	X	-	
35WA391	-	-	-	X	-	
35WA392	-	-	-	-	X	Depression
35WA394	-	-	X	X	-	
35WA398	-	-	-	X	-	
35WA407	-	-	-	X	-	
35WA412	X	X	X	X	-	
35WA417	-	-	-	-	X	Depression with rock alignment
35WA418	-	-	-	-	X	Depression with rock alignment
35WA424	X	-	-	-	-	
35WA427	X	-	-	-	-	
35WA440	-	-	-	X	X	Depression

Prehistoric Open Sites

Site Number	House Depres- sions	Small Depres- sions	Flakes	Tools	Faunal Remains	Rock Art	Rock Align- ment	Rock Cairns	Comments
10IH384	3	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	
10IH459	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	
10IH477/639	-	-	X	X	-	X	-	-	
10IH478	12	12	X	-	-	X	-	X	White Horse Rapids pictograph Pittsburg Landing petroglyphs Chimney Bar pictographs, burial or cache site.
10IH480	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH481	16	6	-	-	X	-	-	X	
10IH482	13	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	
10IH580	2	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH582	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH583	7	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	
10IH584	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH585	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH587	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH591	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	Wall that may be historic
10IH594	6	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	
10IH599	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH601	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	Wall that may be historic
10IH602	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH610	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH614	-	-	X	-	X	X	-	-	Pictographs on rock wall
10IH619	9	1	X	X	-	X	X	-	Large stone-lined pit of unknown purpose
10IH624	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH624	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH626	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH629	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH630	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH631	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH635	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH688	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH689	1	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	On boulder
10IH690	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	
10IH691	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH699	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	
10IH700	1	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	

Prehistoric Open Sites

Site Number	House Depres- sions	Small Depres- sions	Flakes	Tools	Faunal Remains	Rock Art	Rock Align- ment	Rock Cairns	Comments
Idaho									
10IH701	10	-	x	x	x	-	-	-	Five housepits rectangular in shape
10IH702	2	-	x	-	x	-	-	-	
10IH704	6	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	
10IH708	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH709	6	21	x	-	x	-	-	-	One housepit 47' in diameter
10IH717	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH736	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH742	1	3	x	xz	-	-	-	x	Rectangular-shaped housepit
10IH744	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH745	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH751	17	-	x	x	x	-	-	-	Housepits tested by Coale [Divide Creek]
10IH754	11	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	
10IH757	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	
10IH847	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Campsite reported in 1956
10IH849	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Burial site reported in 1956
10IH851	5	-	x	x	x	-	-	x	Housepits tested by Coale [Dry Creek] 2 burials
10IH852	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	
10IH853	2	2	x	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH854	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	
10IH855	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	Quarry site
10IH858	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Campsite reported in 1956
10IH859	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	Hearth in cut-bank
10IH1013	-	-	x	-	x	-	-	-	
10IH1017	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1019	2	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	
10IH1020	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1022	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1030	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1031	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1036	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	Burial or cache site
10IH1069	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1095	3	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1097	4	-	x	-	x	-	-	-	
10IH1101	3	-	x	-	-	x	-	-	

Prehistoric Open Sites

Site Number	House Depres- sions	Small Depres- sions	Flakes	Tools	Faunal Remains	Rock Art	Rock Align- ment	Rock Cairns	Comments
10IH1103	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1106	2	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1113	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1116	1	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1117	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1120	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1126	6	26	x	-	x	-	-	-	
10IH1128	1	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1129	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1130	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	
10IH1131	4	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1132	1	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1134	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1135	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1136	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1138	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1139	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1144	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	
10IH1148	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	
10IH1150	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1151	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	
10IH1152	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1153	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1154	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1156	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1157	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1158	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1169	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1171	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10IH1179	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1ONP152	5	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1ONP155	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1ONP157	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	
1ONP158	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1ONP180	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1ONP182	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	x	

One housepit rectangular in shape

Prehistoric Open Sites

Site Number	House Depres- sions	Small Depres- sions	Flakes	Tools	Faunal Remains	Rock Art	Rock Align- ment	Rock Cairns	Comments
<b>Idaho</b>									
1ONP184	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1ONP187	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1ONP189	1	2	x	x	-	-	-	-	-
1ONP192	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1ONP196	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1ONP197	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1ONP199	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1ONP200	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1ONP201	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1ONP203	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1ONP205	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1ONP212	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1ONP214	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1ONP215	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1ONP216	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1ONP218	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1ONP219	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Oregon</b>									
47	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-
E-203	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-
35WA14	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-
35WA15	2	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-
35WA16	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35WA18	4	-	x	-	x	-	-	-	-
35WA19	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35WA21	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35WA41	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35WA42	2	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-
35WA57	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35WA63	3	-	x	-	x	-	-	-	-
35WA64	3	-	x	x	x	-	-	-	-
35WA65	6	-	x	x	x	-	-	-	-
35WA66	2	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-





Prehistoric Open Sites

Site Number	House Depres- sions	Small Depres- sions	Flakes	Tools	Faunal Remains	Rock Art	Rock Align- ment	Rock Cairns	Comments
Oregon									
35WA256	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	Quarry site
35WA257	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA263	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA54/264	5	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA266	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA268	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	Possible extremely large housepit
35WA269	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	
35WA58/270	-2	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	
35WA271	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA272	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	Possible burial site
35WA273	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA61/275	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	
35WA276	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA278	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA68/288	9	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	
35WA289	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA290	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	
35WA291	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA70/293	4	1	X	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA296	4	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	Burial or cache site
35WA298	-	1	X	-	-	-	-	-	Burial or cache site
35WA299	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA300	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA301	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA302	1	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA303	1	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	
35WA73/304	5	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	Small housepits; may be cache pits instead
35WA306	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA307	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA309	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA310	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	
35WA315	1	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	Rock wall that may be historic
35WA317	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA318	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA320	12	2	X	-	X	-	-	-	

Prehistoric Open Sites

Site Number	House Depres- sions	Small Depres- sions	Flakes	Tools	Faunal Remains	Rock Art	Rock Align- ment	Rock Cairns	Comments
Oregon									
35WA328	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA77/331	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA332	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	
35WA333	1	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA334	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA335	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	
35WA336	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	
35WA337	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	
35WA339	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA340	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA341	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA342	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA351	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	
35WA358	1	-	x	-	x	-	-	-	
35WA359	10	1	x	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA362	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA368	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	Burial or cache site
35WA369	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	x	Possible burial or cache site
35WA386	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	
35WA413	1	-	x	-	x	-	-	-	
35WA420	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	
35WA421	1	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA429	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA430	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA433	4	4	-	-	-	x	x	-	
35WA438	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
35WA439	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Very large depression

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Hells Canyon Archaeological District

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

Prehistory

A regional chronology for the Southeastern Plateau beginning in 11,000 B.P. with the Windust Phase and followed by a Cascade Phase around 8,500 B.P., a Tucannon Phase around 4,500 B.P., Harder Phase around 2,500 B.P. and Nimipu Phase historically, was developed by Leonhardy and Rice (1970) as an arbitrary definition based on the existing knowledge in 1970. Research in Hells Canyon indicates occupation there beginning in the early Cascade Phase and continuing up to historic times. Whether or not the Leonhardy and Rice chronology works for Hells Canyon has yet to be determined. However, research so far indicates the Cascade Phase will have to be redefined for that area of the Snake.

The Leonhardy and Rice chronology has generally been supported by work north of Hells Canyon, undergoing only a few refinements as a result of excavations at Alpowai (Brauner 1976 and Leonhardy 1975) and Hatwai (Ames, Green, and Pfoertner, 1981). The greatest recent elucidation of this chronology has focused on the Tucannon Phase, the period between 4,500 and 2,500 B.P. and now proposed to be marked by a population aggregation in winter villages especially in the Lewiston Basin north of the Hells Canyon District. This redistribution resulting in a decline in populations in the canyons, including Hells Canyon, has been attributed to a reduction in salmon productivity by Brauner (1976) and an intensification of plant exploitation by Ames and Marshall (1980). Pavesic (1971) had speculated that the decline he noted in aboriginal occupation of the Hells Canyon area in early historic times indicated a possible prehistoric movement upstream and concentration of populations along the Clearwater River and Middle Snake regions. He further suggested that the introduction of the horse and the subsequent equestrian lifestyle may have merely speeded up and masked an already existing process. Ames and Marshall propose that an abandonment of Hells Canyon and portions of the Salmon River may reflect intensification of plant resource utilization and agree with Pavesic that the phenomena probably began prior to the introduction of the horse. These theories as related to the subsistence pattern and population dynamics of the Southeastern Plateau groups during the Tucannon and later phases warrant testing at sites in the Hells Canyon District.

The preceding Cascade phase, from 8,500 to 4,500 B.P. and represented by lanceolate, leaf-shaped projectile points and the first grinding implements, has sparked the greatest interest and controversy for researchers interested in the prehistory of Hells Canyon and surrounding areas. Excavations at Hells Canyon Creek Rockshelter (Pavesic 1971) resulted in the redefinition of the geographic perimeters of the phase beyond southeastern Washington. Randolph (1976), in fact, theorizes that Hells Canyon and adjacent tributary canyons may have been the main development and dispersal area for the phase. Pavesic's research at Hells Canyon Creek Rockshelter also questions the temporal perimeters of the phase since elements of the Cascade assemblage exists there throughout the 6,000 year deposit. Pavesic ascribes this to the area's cultural marginality to the Plateau and to a

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lack of a shift in the economic pattern at the shelter because of its success as a subsistence adaptation. This economic pattern consisted of seasonal big-game hunting with the predominant prey being mountain sheep, a faunal type previously not associated with the Cascade phase.

The more recent test excavations at Bernard Creek Rockshelter (Randolph 1977) further complicates and unsettles the current interpretations of the Cascade Phase. In addition to mountain sheep, the faunal material, of outstanding volume, variety, and state of preservation, yielded two other archaeological elements unique to the phase--snails and fish. According to Rice (Randolph 1977), this association of mountain sheep, snails, and fish will necessitate some rethinking of the Cascade Phase subsistence patterns. As he points out, the bone barbs and leisters recovered at the shelter comprise the first direct evidence for a fishing economy in the Cascade Phase.

Perhaps the most intriguing prospect to come out of the Bernard Creek excavations is the association of Cascade, a phase characteristic of the Plateau, with the Great Basin. Large side-notched projectile points defined in the Plateau chronology as a late sub-phase (post Mazama Ash, 6,700 B.P.) characteristic of the Cascade assemblage, appears relatively early in the Bernard Creek deposit and in association with several diagnostic points which Randolph contends are predominantly Great Basin forms. Randolph believes this suggests a great deal of Great Basin contact and possibly a replacement, for a period of time, of the Cascade occupations--a shift in cultural boundaries, an idea originally forwarded by Pavesic and in need of much further testing. Randolph and Pavesic are not alone in their approach to Hells Canyon archaeology. Friedman and Sharrock (1978) have criticized the assumption that Hells Canyon is a Plateau territory and pointed out that cultural boundaries are a heuristic construct for anthropologists and unrelated to the Native American's response to the environment. A full understanding of the Cascade Phase can only come with research later in the canyon and in the uplands. Recent work in the Pilcher Creek drainage west of Hells Canyon (Brauner 1983) may change many of these ideas about the Cascade Phase.

As demonstrated by the excavations at Bernard Creek, archaeological sites in the Hells Canyon District contain tremendous potential for an examination of that aboriginal response to a canyon environment. The Bernard Creek deposits contain an abundance of materials in an excellent state of preservation despite the fact that over 80% of the site had been destroyed by relic collectors. In addition to a large volume and variety of faunal material, the site yielded approximately 1,000 cultural items of which 675 were diagnostic. Combined with a well-defined stratigraphy and radiocarbon dates, a 7,000-year occupation of the rockshelter has been outlined which includes changes in seasonal use, changes in cultural origins of the occupants, and changes in the resources utilized. Further research at Bernard Creek and other sites in Hells Canyon could also yield much environmental information related to river paleo-habitats such as fluctuations through time in the vegetation, local macro and micro fauna, fish and fresh-water mussels.

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Two prehistoric cultural features of special significance in the Hells Canyon Archaeological District are the house depressions and the rock art. Over 500 house depressions have been recorded in the district--an unusual documentation of an archaeological feature in one geographical unit. A report on housepit tests by Coale in 1956 at Divide Creek, Dry Creek, and Big Canyon Creek (Caldwell and Mallory 1967) describes built-in benches, possible post molds, metates or hopper-mortar bases set in the floors, clusters of fire-cracked rocks, pits extending into the house floor, and associated bone pendants, pestles, and points. This early work by Coale still leaves many questions and it is expected that current and future techniques of excavation, documentation, and analysis would produce more enlightening results. A study of surface housepit evidence such as size, location, and associated leveled areas and rock features would also assist in our understanding of the population dynamics, cultural affinity, and sociopolitical relations of the peoples of the Hells Canyon area.

The rock art of Hells Canyon consists of both naturalistic and abstract design in predominantly painted format. It is an aboriginal art form of unknown purpose or antiquity. However, there have been attempts in the Pacific Northwest, specifically by Boreson (1975), to understand just how this art form reflects on economic and social elements of the aboriginal culture. Nesbitt (1968) sought a correlation between rock art styles and ethnographic groups but was unable to isolate stylistic areas in his study of the rock art on the Snake River north of the Hells Canyon District. As in the case of the Hells Canyon District rock art, pictographs, as opposed to petroglyphs, are generally found along rivers and streams in or adjacent to mountainous areas. Rock art in general is found where there is some stability of population at least part of the year and therefore reflects a population's preferred habitat, according to Boreson. Present-day native Americans most often claim no knowledge of who created the paintings or carvings or why, but have associated them with puberty rites or the weather. The only apparent recourse that remains to the researcher seeking their understanding is investigation of the relationship rock art has with the environment and nearby archaeological remains. In addition, studies are needed to determine the composition of pigments used and the method of their applications. The preservation of rock art is not only a service to the future researcher who seeks the advancement of knowledge, it is also one of the few ways in Hells Canyon we can continue to provide an on-the-site visual experience of past lifeways to the general public.

Only limited archaeological reconnaissance has been conducted in the tributary drainages and the upland areas of the District. Though supporting smaller groups than the Snake River, the tributaries are expected to have received intensive occupation and therefore have the potential of yielding cultural and micro-environmental information similar to Bernard Creek Rockshelter. The higher elevations of steep slopes, mountain ridges, and plateaus, in accordance with present knowledge of the prehistoric settlement patterns of the area, will probably contain fewer, sporadic, and inconspicuous sites associated with hunting, plant gathering, quarrying, and vision quests. In contrast to the village sites at the lower elevations, each upland site will be more likely to focus on one rather than several of these activities. The opportunity to study in isolation the artifacts and floral and faunal remains specific to one particular type of activity give

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these sites as great a value as the larger and more complex sites in the canyons. All these expectations, of course, need to be tested. Nevertheless, activity-specific information and refinement of an area settlement pattern are most likely to be the significant contributions of research outside the Snake River corridor. And, these upland areas in combination with those of the corridor make the Hells Canyon Archaeological District a unique study area providing the full range of environments which was available to and used by the aboriginal people of the area.

Members of the Wallowa band and other Nez Perce bands also periodically inhabited the area of the Hells Canyon Archaeological District. Ethnographic accounts refer to aboriginal inhabitants of the Snake River area who depended heavily on salmon, trout, and sturgeon as well as many plant foods found in the canyon. Archaeological survey and tests also support a similar use of the riverine resources in prehistoric times. The milder climate as well as the availability of food suggests a substance pattern utilizing the river canyon as a main habitation center particularly in the winter. Indeed, ethnographic models describe a seasonal round with such villages in the canyons during winter and temporary camps in the uplands in association with root plants, game trails, and quarries in the summer.

#### History

The history of Hells Canyon begins with several strife-ridden exploration attempts—including those of Donald Mackenzie who sought a convenient route for the North West Company of Canada. It was also the scene of several unique historical events related to the history of the region's steamboats. The most outstanding visible cultural remains today document the mining and agricultural/homestead period of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The relatively undisturbed architectural and historical sites, containing such things as intact buildings, stone fences, irrigation ditches, farming and mining equipment, and timber reinforced mining tunnels, possess excellent potential for providing information regarding both material and behavioral aspects of prospecting, large-scale mining operations, and the farming and stock-raising of the pioneer homestead. The Hells Canyon Archaeological District is also an extremely rich and viable archaeological, historical, and folkloric research unit for the testing of numerous research problems related to prehistoric and historic chronology, typology, cultural ecology, settlement patterns, cultural element distribution, population distribution, cultural diffusion, and cultural change.

Explored by Donald Mackenzie in the spring of 1819, the area of the Hells Canyon District offered little attraction to beaver hunters during the fur trade period. Mackenzie hoped to use the river as a boat route when the fur trade expanded sufficiently to justify regular service. In a letter, April 19, he pronounced the stream navigable with slight difficulties in the deep canyon. Outside of that single trip up and down the canyon that spring, though, trappers normally avoided that stretch of the river. Captain B. L. E. Bonneville crossed from the

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Imnaha early in 1834, after traveling from Lower Powder River clear around to Grande Ronde Valley through the Wallowa country to avoid the worst part of the canyon of the Snake. Bonneville's exploration, publicized by Washington Irving in The Adventures of Captain Bonneville, brought Hells Canyon to the attention of Irving's many readers.

Serious exploration was not repeated in Hells Canyon until later when the gold rush brought miners to Salmon River and Boise Basin. Gold discoveries in Boise Basin in 1862 led to new interest in Snake River navigation from Lewiston to Fort Boise--this time for steamboat service. Captain A. P. Ankeny of the Oregon Steam Navigation Company sent a party of "three reliable men" from Lewiston, September 20, 1862, to ascertain if steamboats capable of ascending the Snake to Lewiston could proceed on to Fort Boise above the canyon. In a highly imaginative account the scouts reported the Snake River to offer a suitable route through the canyon. The next spring, Captain Leonard White set out in a steamer from Lewiston, April 10, bound for the confluence of the Salmon and the Snake. His findings apparently did not encourage any one to attempt the trip on up to the Boise. Miners who had joined the gold rush from Lewiston to Boise could take the Boise trail along the high ridge that forms the canyon wall just east of Hells Canyon.

Determined to provide service on the Snake above the canyon, the Oregon Steam Navigation Company built the Shoshone at Fort Boise in late 1866. When this venture failed, the Shoshone sailed down the Snake through the canyon. Upon reaching the difficult stretch of the canyon, a little ways above Hell's Canyon Creek, Captain Cy Smith decided he did not have enough rope to let the boat safely through rough water then known as Copper Creek Falls. So the Shoshone spent the winter of 1869-1870 tied up at Steamboat Landing. High water the next spring enabled another bold captain and a new crew to bring in enough rope and try again. At last the steamboat verified the navigational possibilities of Hells Canyon. Running upstream was impossible, but the right kind of steamer could get down if no one minded too much having the boat nearly demolished in the process.

With steamboat transportation out of the question, the possibility of railway service still remained. When the Oregon Short Line pushed through the valley of the Snake in southern Idaho in 1882-1883, an extension down to Lewiston was contemplated. Surveys of the canyon below Huntington (where the Oregon Short Line met the Oregon Railway and Navigation for trans-continental service to Portland) discouraged the enterprise. Although only a few Chinese miners and scattered ranchers occupied Hells Canyon, better transportation was badly needed--at least as far as the Seven Devils, the mountain region on the Idaho side of Hells Canyon, where some excellent copper prospects required development. Levi Allen had known of the Seven Devils possibilities ever since 1863, and Montana capitalists were trying to get large scale mining underway at the top of the canyon. Then still more copper discoveries in the spring of 1891--the Great Eastern, a few miles above Pittsburg Landing--extended the Seven Devils copper region further down the canyon.

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Another steamboat enterprise--the Norma--built at Huntington in 1891--was offered as an answer to the Seven Devils transportation problem. But the Norma got along no better than the Shoshone, and had to be sent down the canyon on another wild ride in 1895. Since then, no one has built a large steamboat on the Snake above the canyon.

By 1900, the Great Eastern was ready to resort to scows to haul ore to Lewiston. That system, though, really did not work either. Then, in 1902, an excitement at Eureka Bar, near the mouth of the Imnaha, brought the final brief era of steamboat transportation to the lower canyon. Steamers had gone above Eureka Bar forty years before, so this new venture was not folly. The steamer Imnaha, however, offered only a few months service to Eureka (a mining town of some consequence on the Oregon side) in 1903 before sinking above Mountain Sheep rapids on the fourteenth trip. Finally in place of the Imnaha came the Mountain Gem, which continued to operate to Eureka for about two years--as long as traffic justified steamer service. Eureka wound up a ghost town, and steamboats ceased to try to force their way to the lower canyon.

Partly because of the transportation problem, Snake River below the Seven Devils never realized its early promise as a mining empire. Attempts at placer mining in Hells Canyon, even with a variety of methods, produced unspectacular results as the gold was exceptionally fine and scattered in the alluvial deposits. Early miners did what they could to work some Snake river bars, which were better suited for intensive Chinese mining than for white operations. But a Deep Creek massacre of 31 Chinese miners in 1887 did not encourage work there. A few areas of the river were somewhat profitable and even stood reworking during the Depression after 1929. Today a great variety of rock piles, alignments, and ditches still present in Hells Canyon attest to the miners' efforts, and mining equipment relics remain to demonstrate typical and unique tools of the trade.

Of greater impact on the canyon were the hardrock mines, especially the Great Eastern, Fargo Group, Electrolytic, and Mountain Chief mines. Great Eastern Mine opposite Temperance Creek never became a steady producer of ore. Fraught with transportation problems, the mine fell short of its original promise. Little is known of this operation other than what can be ascertained from the physical remains. Claims recorded for the Fargo Group Mines indicate that they consisted of a collection of forty-one patented lode claims totaling 448 acres. Hardrock tunnels that were left in the Hells Canyon area include those of the unsuccessful Temperance Mines and a 600-foot hard rock timbered tunnel at the Electrolytic Mine site. Other mines include a cluster around the mouth of the Salmon River, where mining ventures extended from the turn of the century to the late 1920's and much money was spent to make the mines pay. The hardrock mine of most significance to the Hells Canyon District is the short-lived Mountain Chief, which resulted in the establishment of the community of 200 people at Eureka. A 600-foot tunnel and some vertical shafts serves today as a fine example of turn-of-the-century mining. Eureka Bar, which at one time included a hotel, office building, post office, saloon, and narrow-gauge ore car tracks for the length of the bar was nearly de-



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molished by fire soon after it became a ghost town in 1906. However, the remains include the foundations for a huge concentrating mill that apparently stood for many years. The mine never produced significant amounts of ore; investigations there during World War II indicated that no ore in the copper vein was of commercial grade.

Through time, agriculturalists and stock raisers have also attempted to use the natural resources of the canyon. At one time 100 families, compared with the 25 people today, lived in the 62 miles between the Imnaha River and Battle Creek. The early ranching pioneers arrived after General O. O. Howard completed his Nez Perce campaign in 1877, when Joseph and his Wallowa band crossed Snake River at Dug Bar on their way to Camas Prairie. Temperance Creek Ranch, which started as a cattle ranch in the 1880's and continues today as a sheep ranch, was one of the most significant livestock operations in the area. At one time the ranch included the whole range on the Oregon side from Pittsburg Landing to Saddle Creek. The cattlemen quickly discovered that the key to control of the upland grazing areas was the private ownership of specific spots on the river--especially those with sufficient grasslands for winter grazing and level ground for raising hay. Although less important to those raising sheep, a ranch on the river provided access to the river boats for shipping out wool. Following the stockmen came the homesteaders who filed claims after 1900. The extra cold winter of 1918-1919 and the livestock depression of the 1921-1922 resulted in many selling out to the more substantial livestock holdings. Consolidation continued for 40 years until the Forest Service began buying out private interests and forming what is now the Hells Canyon NRA. Cabins, barns, farming equipment, irrigation ditches, and numerous other historic structures and items remain in the NRA to document its settlement by the pioneers of Hells Canyon.

These valuable historic resources remain today largely because removal was too great a logistic problem in the remote and rugged terrain of the canyon. The typical Hells Canyon resident worked at a combination of farming, stock-raising, and prospecting in a sometimes desperate attempt to make a living. Prime spots on the river still contain evidence of this mixed-bag economy of the early white settlers. The Hells Canyon Archaeological District provides a rich and unique research field for the historic archaeologist in all aspects of early mining and pioneer life.

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QUADRANGLES in Hells Canyon Archaeological District:

Cuprum 15 minute  
He Devil 15 minute  
Kernan Point 15 minute  
Kirkwood Creek 7 1/2 minute  
Grave Point 7 1/2 minute  
Wolf Creek 7 1/2 minute  
Cactus Mountain 7 1/2 minute  
Deadhorse Ridge 7 1/2 minute  
Wapshilla Creek 7 1/2 minute  
Jim Creek Butte 7 1/2 minute

OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES for Hells Canyon Archaeological District:

State: Idaho	Code: 16	Counties: Adams County	Code: 003
		Idaho County	Code: 049
		Nez Perce County	Code: 069
State: Oregon	Code: 41	County: Wallowa	Code: 063





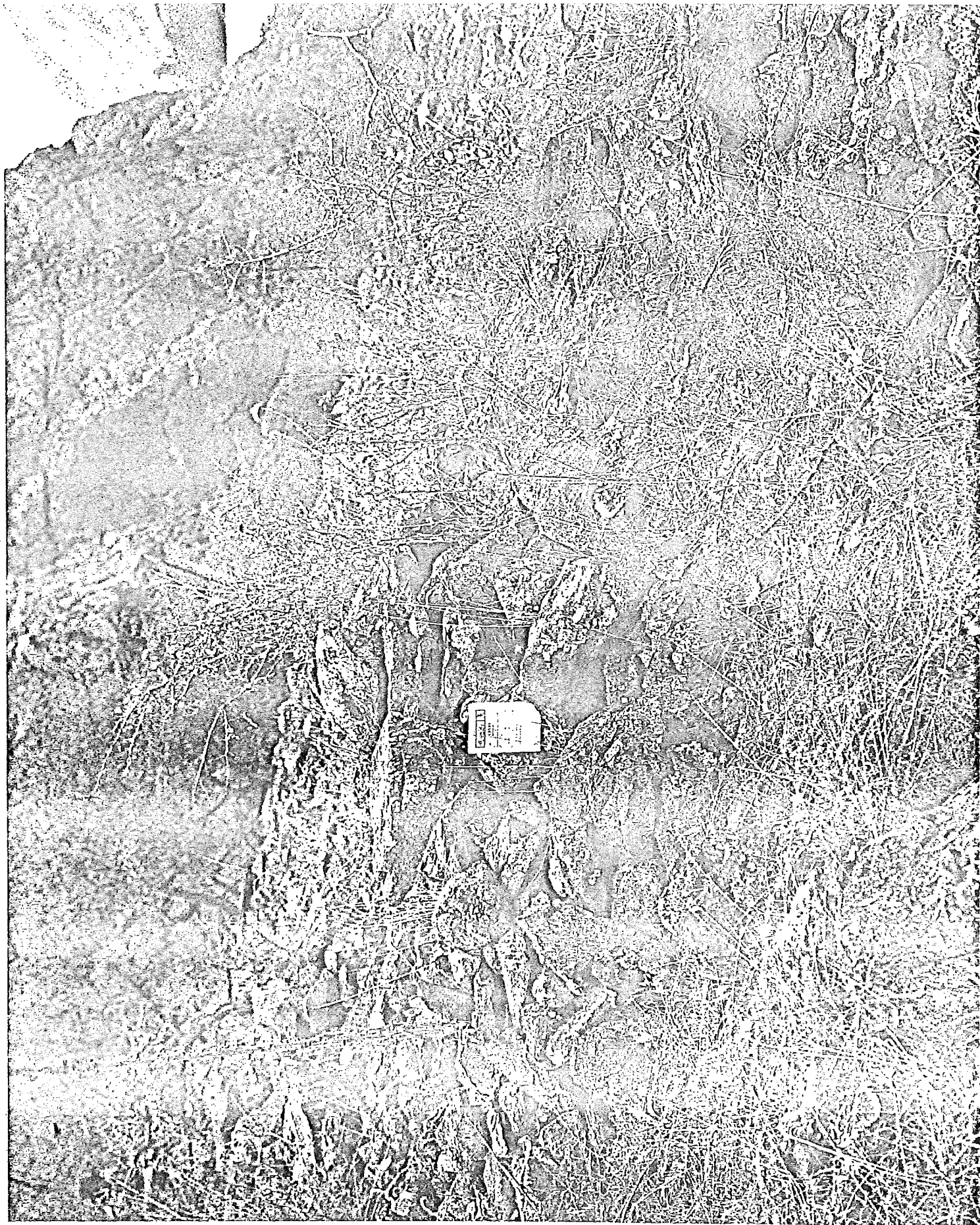
Hells Canyon Archaeological District  
10IH688 - Aboriginal housepit depression at  
Willow Creek  
Idaho County, Idaho

Photograph by Treva Womack, March 21, 1978

Negative on file at the Hells Canyon National  
Recreation Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest,  
Oregon

View from south

Photograph 1 of 15



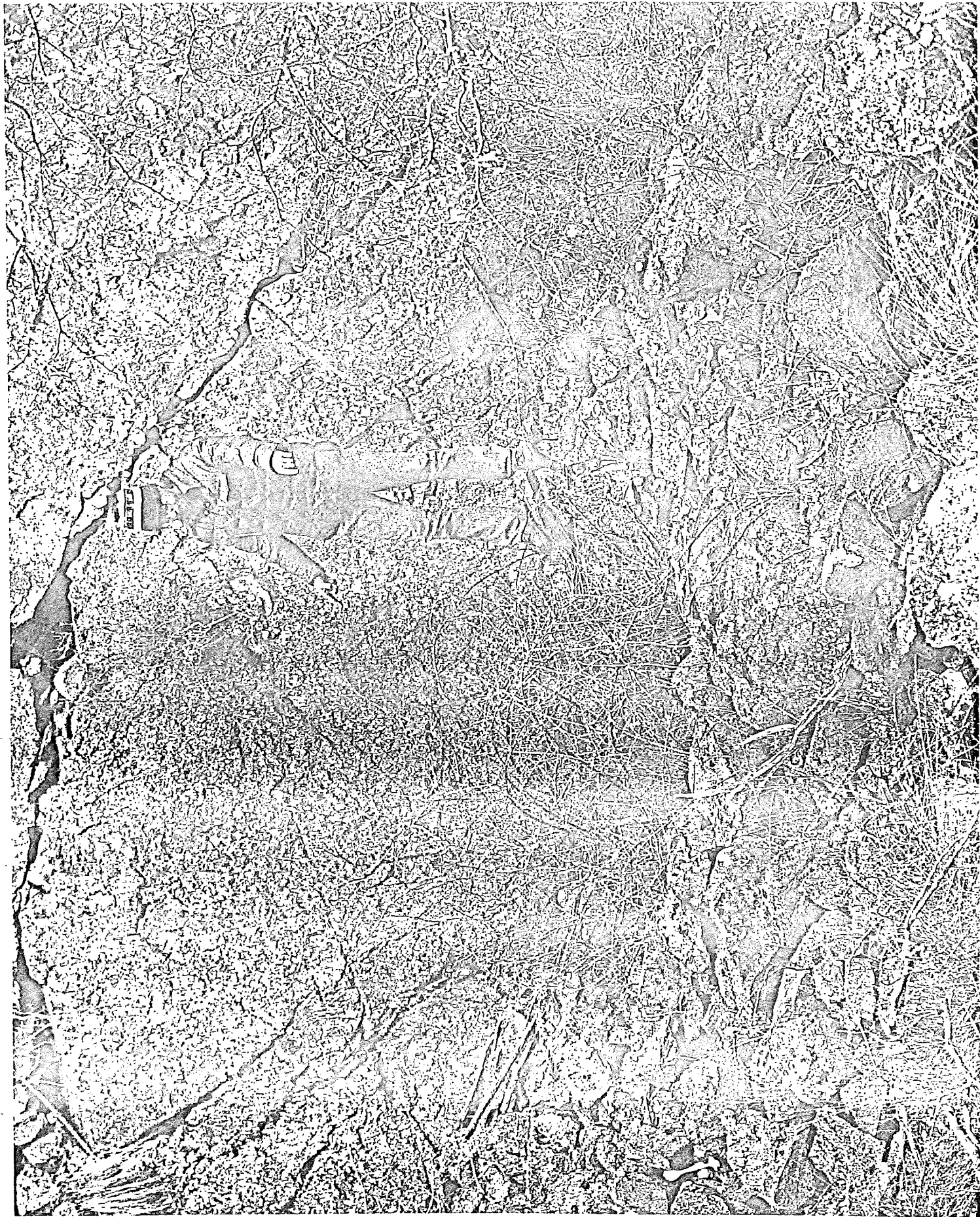
7-  
Hells Canyon Archaeological District  
35WA231 - Aboriginal burial cairn at Cache Creek  
Wallowa County, Oregon

Photograph by Bruce Womack, March 8, 1978

Negative on file at the Hells Canyon National  
Recreation Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest,  
Oregon

View from northwest

Photograph 2 of 15



Hells Canyon Archeological District  
35WA231 - Aboriginal hunting blind at Cache Creek  
Wallowa County, Oregon

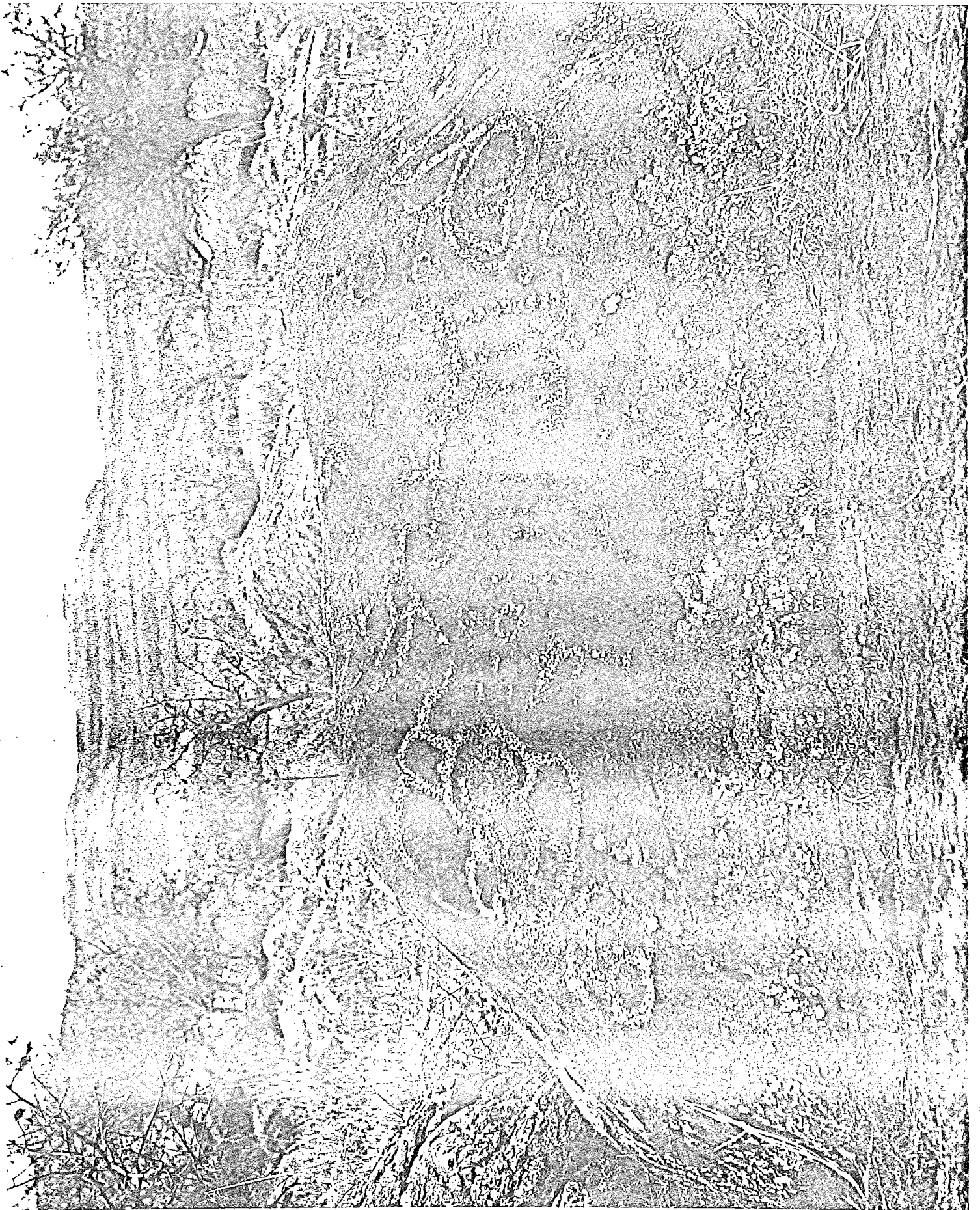
Photograph by Bruce Womack, March 8, 1978

Negative on file at the Hells Canyon National  
Recreation Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest,  
Oregon

View from northwest

Photograph 3 of 15





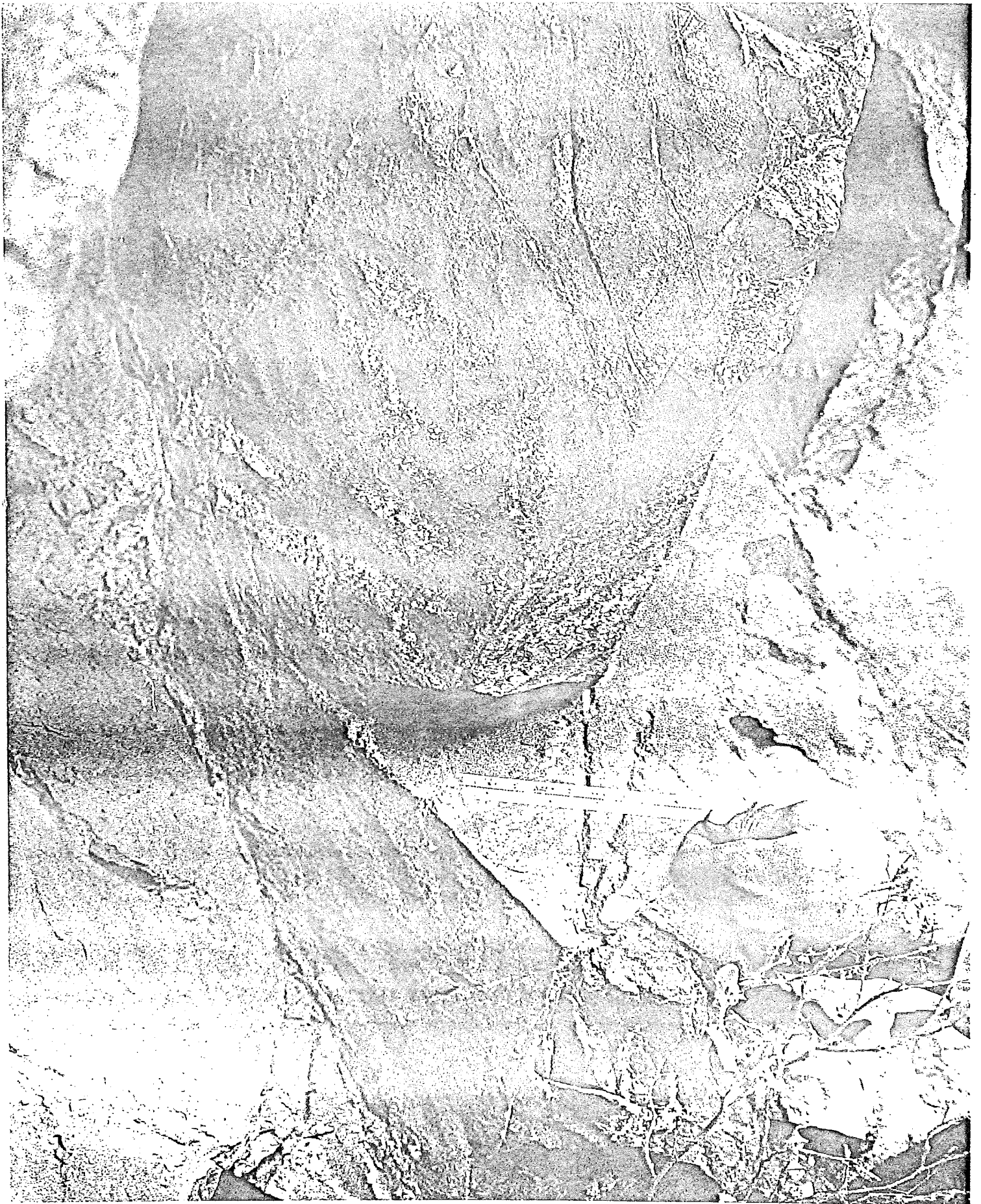
Hells Canyon Archaeological District  
10IH477/639 - Petroglyph site at Pittsburg Landing  
Idaho County, Idaho

Photographer unknown, October 1978

Negative on file at the Hells Canyon National  
Recreation Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest,  
Oregon

View from east

Photograph 4 of 15





Hells Canyon Archaeological District  
10IH537 - Pictograph site at Bills Creek  
Idaho County, Idaho

Photograph by Stan McDonald, March 28, 1979

Negative on file at the Hells Canyon National  
Recreation Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest,  
Oregon

View from east

Photograph 5 of 15



6

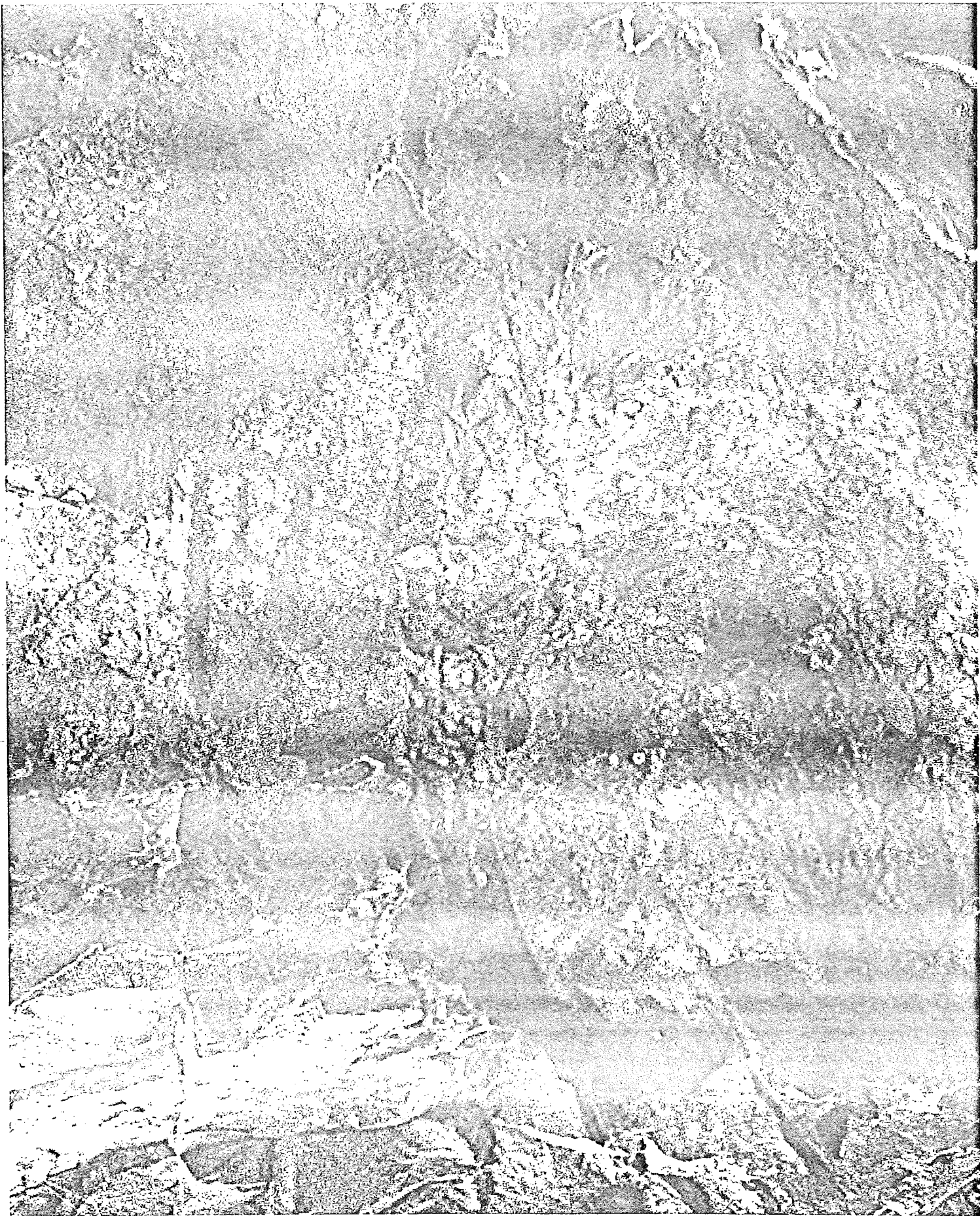
Hells Canyon Archaeological District  
10IH608 - Pictographs (painted over) at Granite Creek  
Idaho County, Idaho

Photograph by Stan McDonald, March 5, 1978

Negative on file at the Hells Canyon National  
Recreation Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest,  
Oregon

View from east

Photograph 6 of 15



Hells Canyon Archaeological District  
10IH1023 - Pictographs at Granite Creek  
Idaho County, Idaho

Photograph by Stan McDonald, March 5, 1978

Negative on file at the Hells Canyon National  
Recreation Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest,  
Oregon

View from east

Photograph 7 of 15





Hells Canyon Archaeological District  
10IH538 - McGaffee Cabin at Bernard Creek  
Idaho County, Idaho

Photograph by Treva Womack, March 23, 1978

Negative on file at the Hells Canyon National  
Recreation Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest,  
Oregon

View from east

Photograph 8 of 15





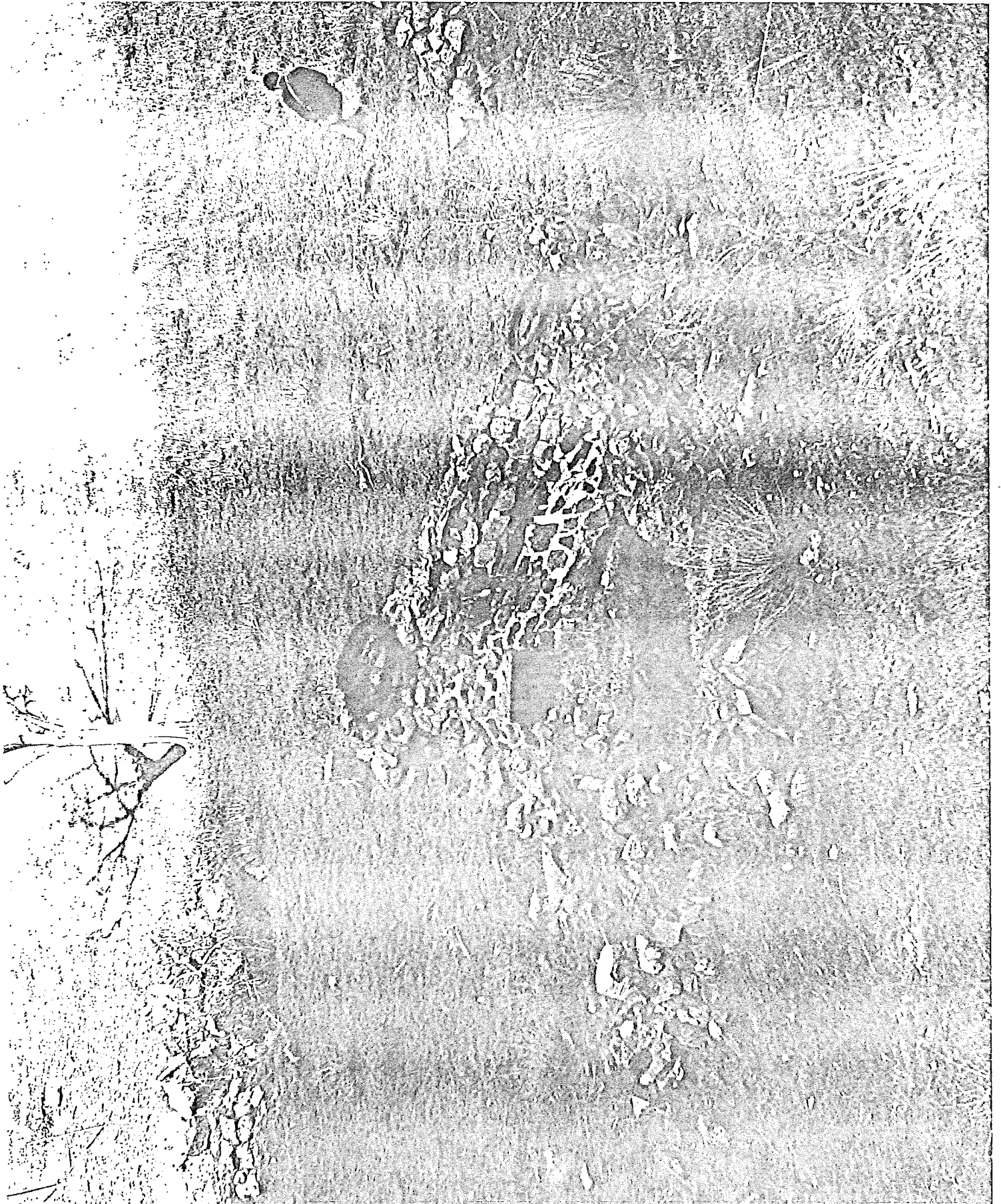
147  
Hells Canyon Archaeological District  
10IH537 - Stone wall cabin ruin at Bills Creek  
Idaho County, Idaho

Photograph by Stan McDonald, March 30, 1978

Negative on file at the Hells Canyon National  
Recreation Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest,  
Oregon

View from west

Photograph 9 of 15



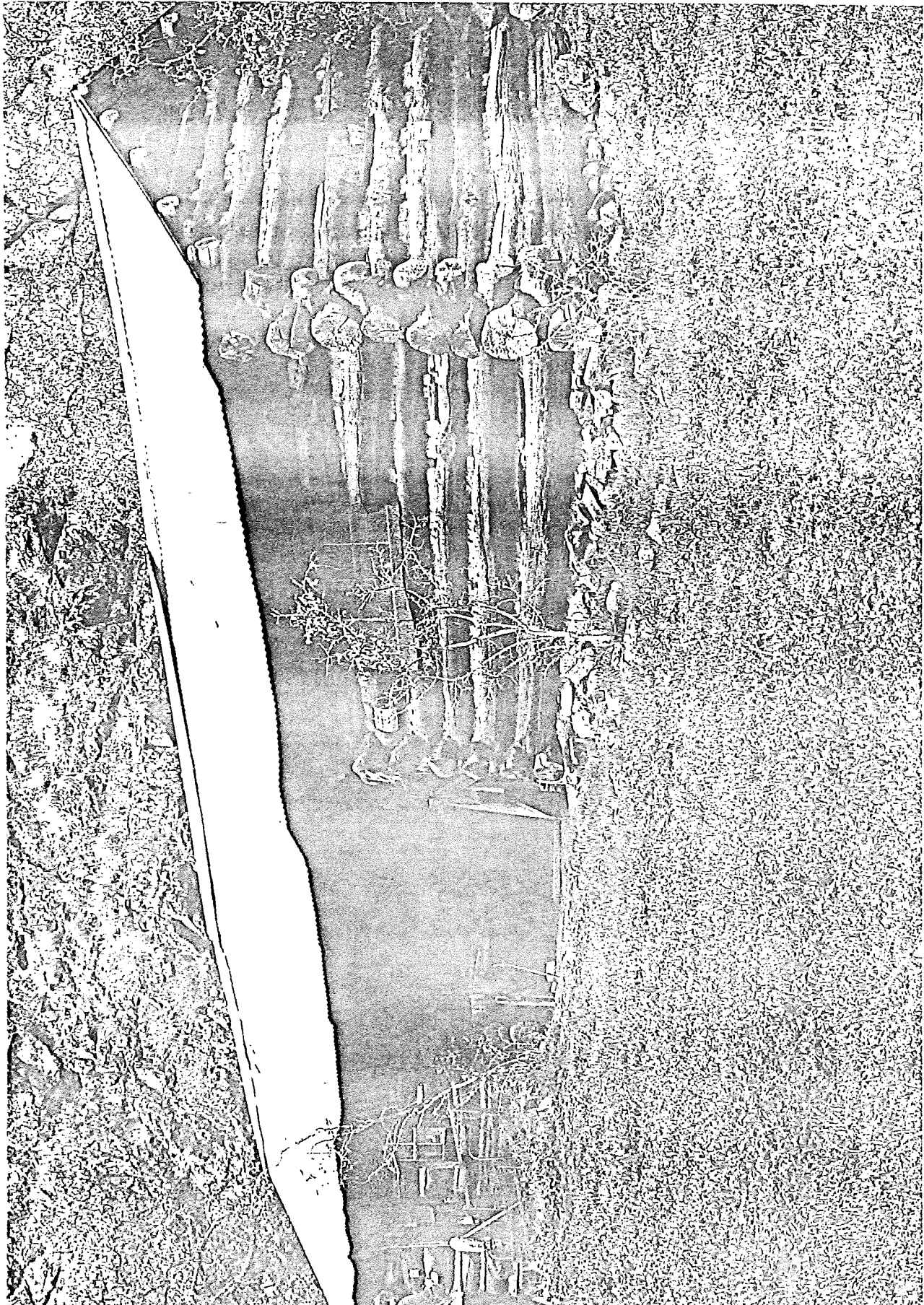
Hells Canyon Archaeological District  
10IH712 - Barton-Bullock house ruin at Johnson Bar  
Idaho County, Idaho

Photograph by Stan McDonald, March 19, 1978

Negative on file at the Hells Canyon National  
Recreation Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest,  
Oregon

View from northwest

Photograph 10 of 15



Hells Canyon Archaeological District  
47 - Salt Creek double-end cabin  
Wallowa County, Oregon

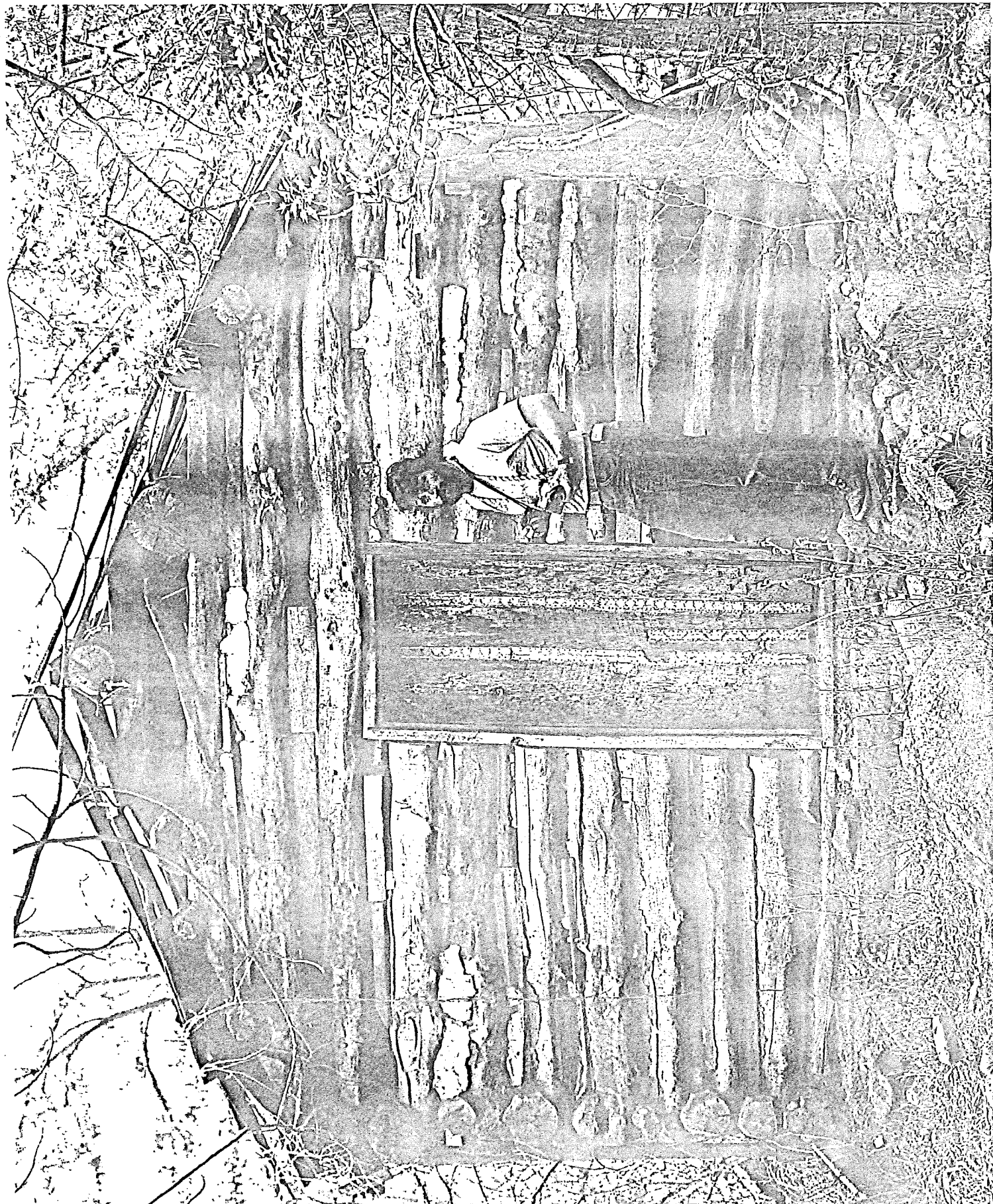
Photograph by Bruce Womack, March 1978

Negative on file at the Hells Canyon National  
Recreation Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest,  
Oregon

View from northwest

Photograph 11 of 15





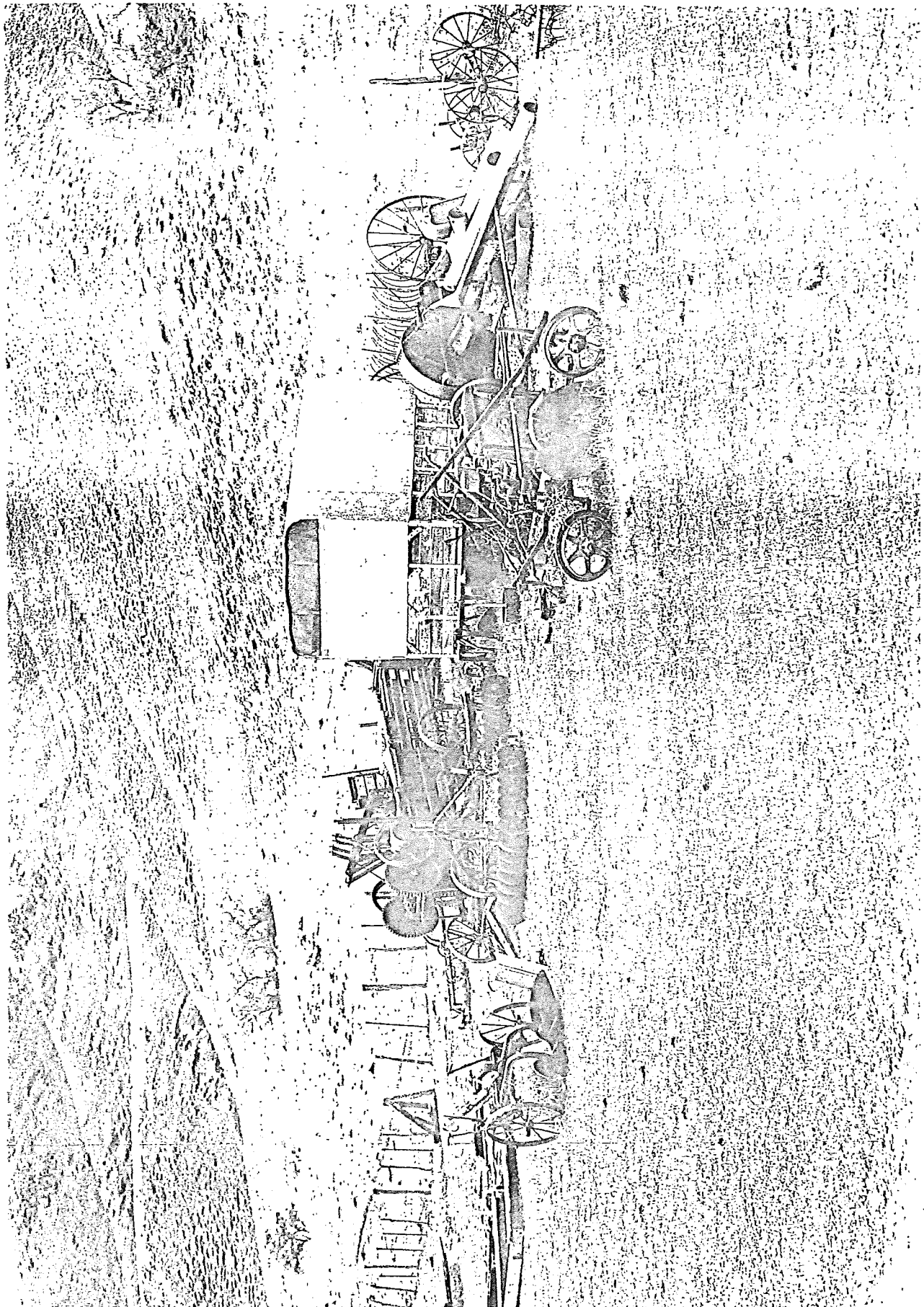
Hells Canyon Archaeological District  
45 - Johnson Ranch Log Cabin  
Wallowa County, Oregon

Photograph by Bruce Womack, March 1978

Negative on file at the Hells Canyon National  
Recreation Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest,  
Oregon

View from south

Photograph 12 of 15





Hells Canyon Archaeological District  
45 - Historic farm equipment, Johnson Ranch  
Wallowa County, Oregon

Photograph by Bruce Womack, March 1978

Negative on file at the Hells Canyon National  
Recreation Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest,  
Oregon

View from southwest

Photograph 13 of 15



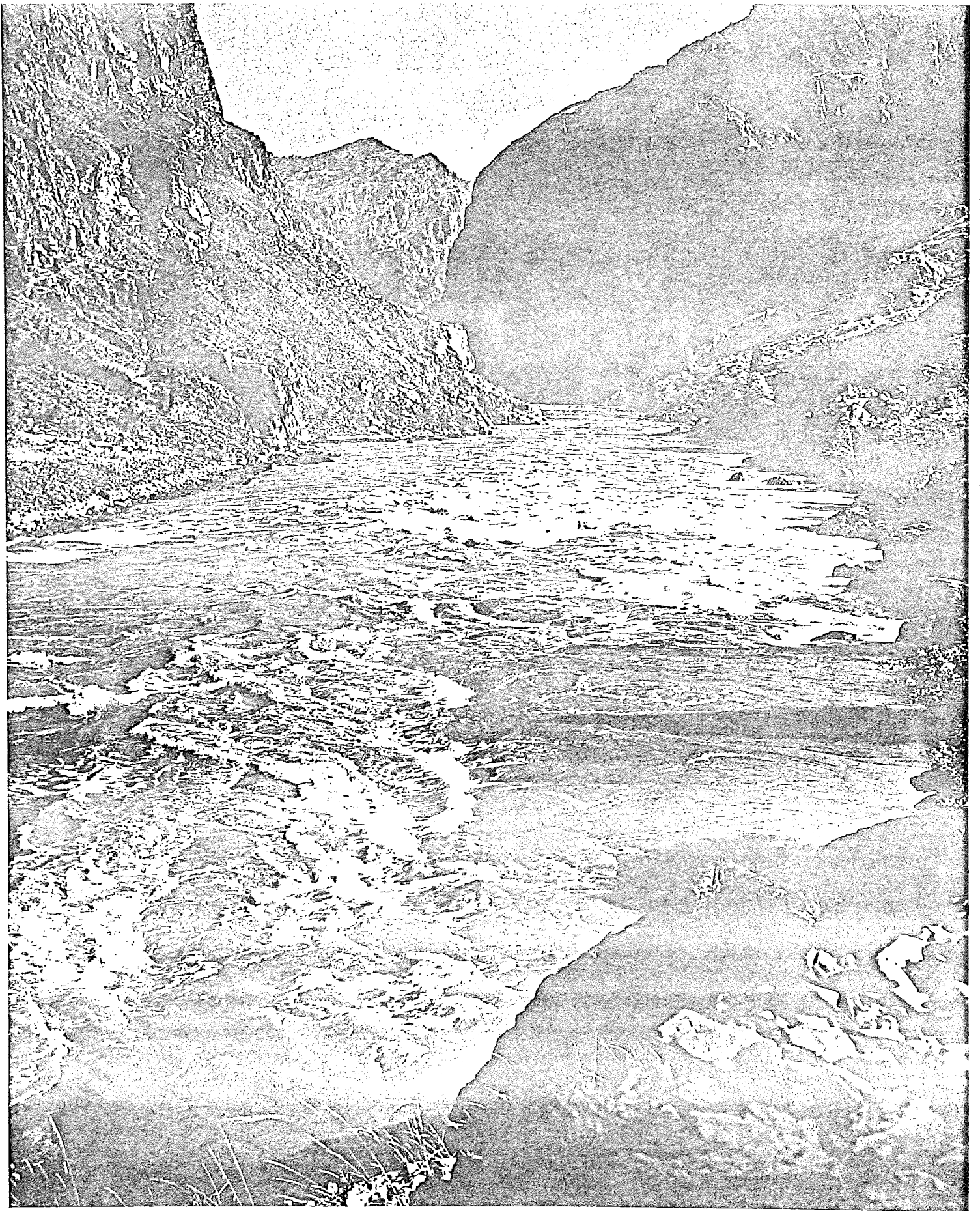
Hells Canyon Archaeological District  
10IH483 - Bernard Creek rockshelter  
Idaho County, Idaho

Photograph by Joe Randolph, October 1976

Negative on file: Joe Randolph, 1120 South Elm,  
Spokane, Washington 99204

View from southwest

Photograph 14 of 15



8.11  
Hells Canyon Archaeological District  
Idaho County, Idaho, and Wallowa County, Oregon

Photographer: Unknown, ca. 1951

Negative on file at the Idaho State Historical Society,  
610 North Julia Davis Drive, Boise, Idaho

View from south

Photograph 15 of 15

**Portions of this file have been redacted to  
meet Oregon State law (ORS 192.501(11)).**

**More information may be available upon request.  
Contact the Oregon State Archaeologist for details.**