

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF MINES

**Mineral investigation of the Wet Beaver Creek Rare II  
further planning area, Coconino and Yavapai Counties, Arizona**

U.S. Bureau of Mines Mineral Land Assessment  
MLA 134-82  
1982

By  
Bielski, A.M.

This open file report summarizes the results of a Bureau of Mines wilderness study and will be incorporated in a joint report with the U.S. Geological Survey. The report is preliminary and has not been edited or reviewed for conformity with the U.S. Bureau of Mines editorial standards. Work on this study was conducted by personnel from Intermountain Field Operations Center, Building 20, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225.

*Copy Sent to Tucson  
12/8/82*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF MINES

MINERAL INVESTIGATION OF THE WET BEAVER CREEK RARE II FURTHER  
PLANNING AREA, COCONINO AND YAVAPAI COUNTIES, ARIZONA

By  
Alan M. Bielski

MLA 134-82  
1982

This open file report summarizes the results of a Bureau of Mines wilderness study and will be incorporated in a joint report with the U.S. Geological Survey. The report is preliminary and has not been edited or reviewed for conformity with the U.S. Bureau of Mines editorial standards. Work on this study was conducted by personnel from Intermountain Field Operations Center, Building 20, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225.

## FOREWORD

The U.S. Bureau of Mines and U.S. Geological Survey jointly conduct mineral surveys of lands which in the U.S. Forest Service Second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) program have been designated for further planning. These evaluations are used in the RARE II program which conforms with the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (74 Stat. 215; 16 U.S.C. 528-531), the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (88 Stat. 476, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1601 note), and the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (90 Stat. 2949; 16 U.S.C. 1601 note). Reports on these surveys provide the President, Congress, the U.S. Forest Service, and the general public with information essential for determining the suitability of land for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

This report is on the Wet Beaver Creek RARE II Further Planning Area (3-045), Coconino and Yavapai Counties, Arizona.

CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction.....	1
Location, size, geographic setting, and access.....	1
Present investigation.....	3
Mining activity.....	3
Mining districts and mineralized areas.....	3
Conclusions.....	4
Selected References.....	5

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1. Location map of the Wet Beaver Creek RARE II Further Planning Area, Coconino and Yavapai Counties, Arizona.....	2
--	---

MINERAL INVESTIGATION OF THE WET BEAVER CREEK RARE II FURTHER  
PLANNING AREA, COCONINO AND YAVAPAI COUNTIES, ARIZONA

By Alan M. Bielski, U.S. Bureau of Mines

INTRODUCTION

Location, size, geographic setting, and access

The Wet Beaver Creek RARE II Further Planning Area includes 9,890 acres of the Coconino National Forest and is situated in T. 15 N., R. 6, 7, and 8 E., Yavapai and Coconino Counties, central Arizona (fig. 1). Camp Verde, the nearest major population center, is approximately 13 mi southwest of the RARE II area.

The RARE II area boundary closely follows the rim of the steep-walled canyon cut by the Wet Beaver Creek drainage system into the gently westward-sloping surface of the Colorado Plateau. The mouth of the canyon and the western boundary of the RARE II area are near the Mogollon Rim, an escarpment that marks the southwestern margin of the Colorado Plateau physiographic province. Here, the plateau surface falls off sharply to the Verde Valley, and Wet Beaver Creek eventually joins the Verde River, the master stream of the region.

The maximum elevation within the RARE II area, just east of Hog Hill, is 6,470 ft. The lowest point, at 4,000 ft, is the Wet Beaver Creek streambed near the western area boundary. Topographic relief within the area ranges from a maximum of 1,200 ft near the mouth of the canyon at Casner Butte, to a minimum of approximately 150 ft at the eastern area boundary.

Perennial springs, located below Hog Hill, discharge approximately 1,200-1,500 gallons of water per minute into Wet Beaver Creek (Twenter, 1963, p. 94).

The western boundary of the RARE II area and the mouth of Wet Beaver Creek Canyon are accessible by Forest Service roads from either Camp Verde or the Sedona Interchange on Interstate Highway 17. Various points along the

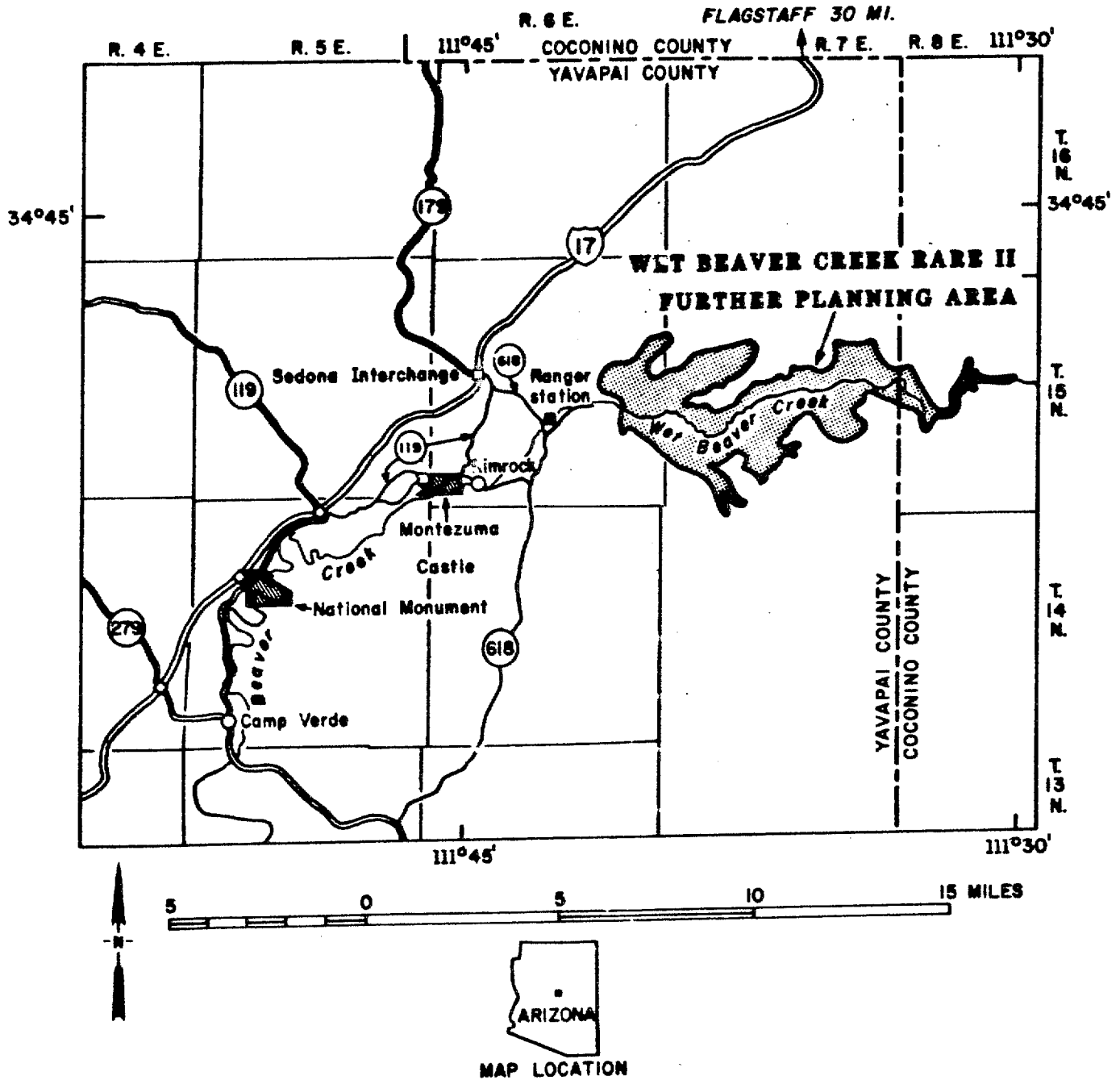


Figure 1.-Location map of the Wet Beaver Creek RARE II Further Planning Area, Coconino and Yavapai Counties, Arizona.

canyon rim and the area boundary can be reached by unimproved roads, jeep trails, and pack trails. The canyon floor is accessible on foot only.

#### Present investigation

This investigation by the U.S. Bureau of Mines, is part of a joint effort with the U.S. Geological Survey to access the mineral resources of the Wet Beaver Creek RARE II Further Planning Area. To evaluate the mineral resources of the RARE II area, the U.S. Bureau of Mines reviewed published literature and Bureau of Mines files to document mineral occurrences and mining activity and searched records at county courthouses and the Bureau of Land Management State Office to locate mining claims and mineral leases. A field investigation, to locate and define mineral occurrences and mining activity was completed in 1980. As the area did not contain mines, prospects or mineralized areas, no samples were taken.

#### Mining activity

There is no evidence of mining activity in the immediate vicinity of the RARE II area.

#### MINING DISTRICTS AND MINERALIZED AREAS

The Wet Beaver Creek RARE II Area is not part of an organized mining district. Records at the Yavapai and Coconino County Courthouses and the Bureau of Land Management State Office did not contain mining claims or mineral leases on lands located in or near the RARE II area. The literature review and field investigation did not indicate the presence of mines, prospects, or mineralized areas, in or near the RARE II area.

Mining activity has occurred, on a small scale, at various localities several miles distant from the RARE II area, where basalt, basaltic cinders, and sandstone have been quarried for construction purposes. Basalt and basaltic cinders may be used for road metal, concrete aggregate, riprap and

cinder blocks; the Coconino Sandstone may be used as building stone; and coarser, clastic material of the Supai Formation may be used as fill.

#### CONCLUSIONS

Basalt, basaltic cinders and sandstone occur in the RARE II area, for the most part, along the steep walls and rim of the canyon. Similar materials are more readily available in the area nearer to markets.



#### SELECTED REFERENCES

Thompson, J. R., 1968, Geology of Wet Beaver Creek Canyon, Yavapai County, Arizona. M.S. Thesis, Northern Arizona University.

Twenter, F. R., and Metzger, D. G., 1963, Geology and ground-water in the Verde Valley - the Mogollon Rim Region, Arizona: U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 117, 132 p.