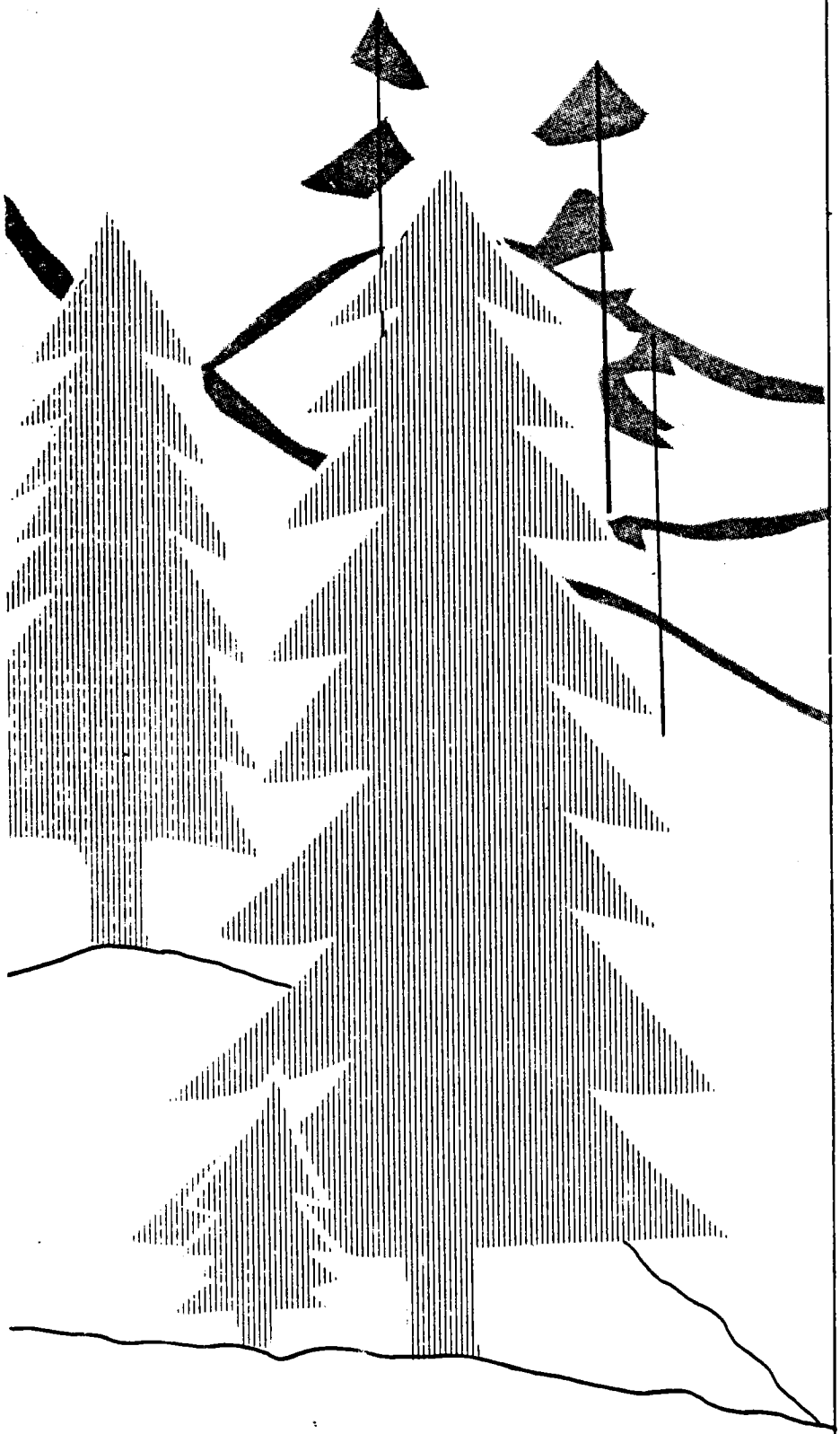


# NORTH IDAHO

# MFP Amendment & Environmental Impact Statement

## Final

**PRELIMINARY**
**For Information Only**

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
COEUR D'ALENE DISTRICT

JUL 1983

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

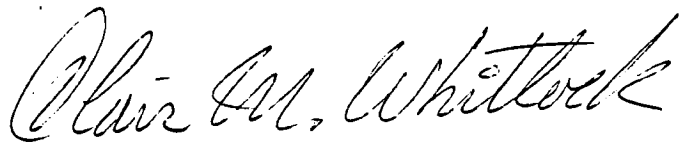
# NORTH IDAHO MFP AMENDMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

FINAL

Prepared by

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

COEUR D'ALENE DISTRICT OFFICE



STATE DIRECTOR, IDAHO STATE OFFICE

IN REPLY REFER TO

# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
1808 North Third
Coeur d' Alene, Idaho 83814

Enclosed is the Final Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement for lands in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Coeur d'Alene District. The document analyzes alternative land use allocations, including wilderness suitability, for four Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) located in the panhandle of northern Idaho.

This Amendment/EIS is part of the decision process but is not a decision document. It satisfies a requirement of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) which directs the Secretary of the Interior to review those public lands which have wilderness characteristics and report to the President recommendations as to the suitability or nonsuitability of the lands for preservation as wilderness. This document contains information upon which the Secretary of the Interior will base his recommendations.

On December 30, 1982, the Selkirk Crest WSA was eliminated from further consideration as a Wilderness Study Area through a wilderness inventory decision amendment made by the Secretary of the Interior. This change occurred after the draft EIS was published and its review period had closed. Discussions pertaining to Selkirk Crest do not appear in this final document.

We appreciate the time and effort spent by those who commented on the draft Amendment/EIS and/or attended our public meetings and hearing. Many of the comments resulted in a better assessment of the various alternatives.

Thank you for your interest and participation.

Sincerely yours,

Wayne Zinne,
District Manager

CONSERVE AMERICA'S ENERGY

*Save Energy and You Serve America!*

NORTH IDAHO MFP AMENDMENT
AND
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

( ) Draft (X) Final Environmental Impact Statement

1. Type of Action: ( ) Administrative (X) Legislative

2. Responsible Agencies:

   a. Lead Agency: Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

   b. Cooperating Agencies: None

3. Abstract: This document analyzes multiple use land allocations, including wilderness suitability for four Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in northern Idaho. These WSAs contain a total of 37,748 acres and range in size from 5,068 acres to 17,129 acres.

   For each WSA, a number of alternatives have been developed. These alternatives consider allocations, use, and management options ranging from resource protection, including wilderness designation, to commodity resource production.

4. Comments have been requested and received from the following:
   See Chapter 8 for a list of agencies, organizations, and individuals who commented on the draft Amendment/EIS.

5. Date draft statement made available to EPA and the public:
   June 18, 1982.

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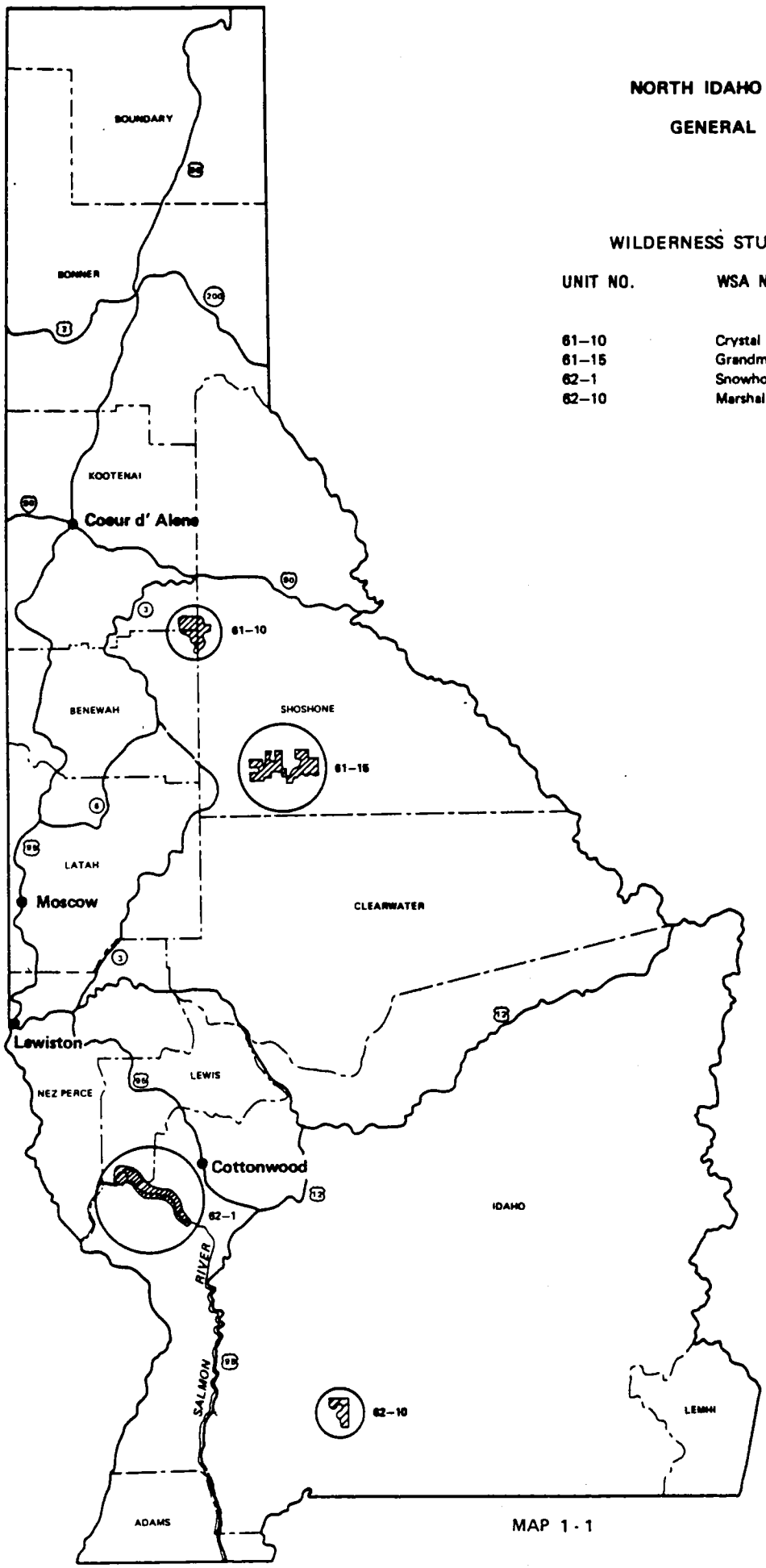
## NORTH IDAHO AMENDMENT / E.I.S.

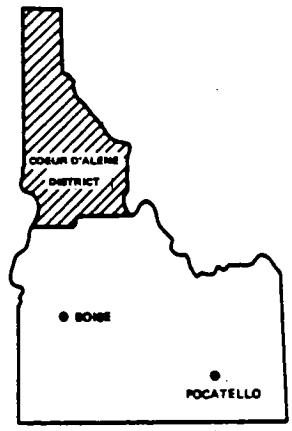
## GENERAL LOCATION MAP

### WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (WSA) UNITS

| UNIT NO. | WSA NAME | ACRES |
|---|---|---|
| 61–10 | Crystal Lake | 9,027 |
| 61–15 | Grandmother Mountain | 17,129 |
| 62–1 | Snowhole Rapids | 5,068 |
| 62–10 | Marshall Mountain | 6,524 |
| | TOTAL | 37,748 |




WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS
INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
U.S. HIGHWAY
STATE HIGHWAY
COUNTY BOUNDARY




IDAHO KEY

MAP 1 - 1

# SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

This document was prepared to fulfill two purposes. First, previously completed land use plans for the Coeur d'Alene District (Management Framework Plans) did not include certain areas found to be roadless during initial wilderness inventories. Since no land use allocations were made on these areas, an amendment to the land use plans is necessary. Secondly, the BLM is required to review public lands that contain wilderness characteristics and make recommendations as to their suitability for preservation as wilderness. This study assesses the environmental impacts of alternative land use allocations including wilderness.

It is important to note that this amendment EIS is different from those currently being prepared by other BLM offices since it assesses a full range of multiple use allocations, not just wilderness. As such, more alternatives are necessary to cover the full spectrum of land use allocations.

## ISSUES AND PLANNING CRITERIA

Through the public participation scoping process, issues have been identified. These issues, some of which are environmental concerns and some of which are land use planning concerns, were used to formulate planning criteria -- the basic foundation upon which the amendment was developed. The major issues identified are listed in Chapter 2.

The planning criteria used to guide the development of the amendment and to provide parameters for analysis are listed in Chapters 2 and 5. Two of these criteria were required by the BLM Wilderness Study Policy and formed the basis for consideration of an area as suitable or nonsuitable for wilderness designation. These two criteria are:

1. Evaluation of wilderness values - the extent to which an area has wilderness value as determined by mandatory wilderness characteristics (size, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation), special features, multiple resource benefits, and diversity.

2. Manageability - the capability for an area to be effectively managed to preserve its wilderness character.

## ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Using issues, criteria, and policy as a basis, a number of alternatives were developed for each Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The following general range of alternatives was considered for each WSA: All Wilderness, No Action, No Wilderness, and Partial Wilderness. In addition, since the previously completed land use plans did not make any allocations for lands within the WSAs, the No Wilderness alternative consists of a number of subalternatives which consider a range of allocation, use, and management from commodity production emphasis to resource protection.

## PROPOSED ACTION/PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The following is a list of preferred alternatives for each WSA which forms the proposed action:

| WSA | Preferred Alternative |
|---|---|
| Crystal Lake | Alternative 3C, No Wilderness, Outstanding Natural Area designation |
| Grandmother Mountain | Alternative 3C, No Wilderness, Outstanding Natural Area and Research Natural Area designations on portions with Timber Emphasis on remainder. |
| Snowhole Rapids | Alternative 3A, No Wilderness, Recreation Emphasis |
| Marshall Mountain | Alternative 3B, No Wilderness, Mineral Potential (This is a change from the draft document. It recognizes the current and historic use of this area.) |

Descriptions of these alternatives and the others considered for each WSA are in Chapter 3. The rationale for the selection of the preferred alternatives is in Chapter 1.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The analysis documented in Chapter 6 of this amendment and EIS revealed that no individual or cumulative significant impacts would result from implementation of any alternative. Although timber values would be foregone under those alternatives with special designations (Wilderness, ONA, RNA) and wilderness values would be degraded as a result of those alternatives favoring commodity production, none of these impacts were deemed significant within the context of the region. Due to the small amount of land under BLM administration in the EIS area, no community or social value dependency on BLM lands or programs was found to exist.

# CHAPTER 1
# INTRODUCTION

## PURPOSE AND NEED

This amendment has been prepared for two main reasons. First, the Management Framework Plans (MFPs) prepared for the Coeur d'Alene District in 1981 (Emerald Empire MFP and Chief Joseph MFP) did not include the lands designated as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). It is necessary, therefore, to amend the MFPs to include the WSA units in the district land use plans. Secondly, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) requires that public lands with wilderness characteristics be reviewed and recommendations made as to their suitability or nonsuitability for preservation as wilderness. This amendment and environmental impact statement (EIS) will satisfy this requirement.

## LOCATION

The General Location Map, located on page v, shows the geographic distribution of the WSAs and the acreages each contains. The four WSAs are located in the panhandle of northern Idaho, an area extending from the Canadian border on the north to the Payette National Forest on the south. Maps 1-2 through 1-5 show the specific locations of each WSA.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR WILDERNESS STUDY

In accordance with FLPMA the Secretary of the Interior is required to review areas of the public lands that have been determined to have wilderness characteristics (WSAs) and to report to the President the recommendations as to the suitability or nonsuitability of each WSA for preservation as wilderness. The President must report the recommendations to Congress. A mineral survey to determine minerals values, if any, will be conducted by the U. S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines for any area recommended as suitable. Congress makes the final decisions concerning wilderness since only they can designate an area as wilderness.

During the period of this review and until Congress acts on the President's recommendations, the Secretary is required to manage the WSAs so as not to impair their suitability for preservation as wilderness, subject to certain exceptions and conditions. Each WSA has been studied through the BLM multiple-use planning process to analyze all values, resources, and uses within the area. The findings of the wilderness study, including public participation, determined whether these areas were recommended as suitable or nonsuitable for designation as wilderness. Determining an area's suitability or nonsuitability for preservation as wilderness means determining whether the area is more suitable for wilderness designation or more suitable for other uses.

## PLANNING PROCESS

This amendment supplements the Management Framework Plans for the Coeur d'Alene District. It has been prepared using the Bureau's Resource Management Planning process.

Initial steps of the Resource Management Planning process include identification of issues and development of planning criteria. Issues were identified through the receipt of public comments. The primary issues identified were published in the Federal Register on December 17, 1981. Planning criteria was developed from the issues. A more detailed discussion of issues and criteria is contained in Chapters 2 and 5.

## CONFORMANCE STATEMENT

The alternatives including the proposed action assessed in this amendment and EIS are not in conformance with existing land use plans (MFPs) because wilderness suitability was not considered in their multiple use analyses.

## RATIONALE FOR SELECTION OF PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

Selection of the preferred alternative for each WSA was based on environmental analysis, public input, and application of planning criteria and quality standards. Following is a summary of the rationale for selection of the preferred alternative for each WSA:

### CRYSTAL LAKE WSA

This WSA is recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation for the following reasons:

1. Its ecosystem (Columbia Forest Province; western spruce-fir forest) is currently represented in nine designated wilderness areas and twenty-three administratively endorsed areas.

2. Designation of this WSA as wilderness would increase the concentration of wilderness in the Rocky Mountain region rather than balance the distribution on a national or regional basis.

3. Long-term management as wilderness would be impractical due to anticipated degradation of naturalness and solitude resulting from increased visitor use, lack of sufficient vegetation and topographic screening, and increased incompatible uses of adjacent non-BLM lands.

The proposed designation of this WSA as an Outstanding Natural Area (ONA) would protect the area's special wildlife and ecological features and provide a diversity of recreational opportunities. Most wilderness values would be protected under an ONA designation.

### GRANDMOTHER MOUNTAIN WSA

This WSA is recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation for the following reasons:

1. Its ecosystem (Columbia Forest Province; cedar-hemlock-pine forest) does not need additional representation within the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). Inclusion of this WSA in the NWPS would not expand the diversity of natural systems and features.

2. Inclusion of this WSA in the NWPS would increase the concentration of wilderness in the Rocky Mountain region rather than balance the distribution of wilderness throughout the United States.

The preferred alternative for this WSA would protect those areas with high wilderness values. This would be accomplished through ONA and Research Natural Area (RNA) designations. Those areas with lesser wilderness values would be allocated for other uses, including timber management.

### SNOWHOLE RAPIDS WSA

For the following reasons, the Snowhole Rapids WSA is recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation:

1. The addition of this WSA to the NWPS would increase rather than balance the geographic distribution of wilderness areas.

2. Management of this WSA as wilderness would not be feasible in the long-term because solitude and naturalness would be adversely affected by activities on adjacent lands; anticipated increases in river use and the concentration of this use in areas with inadequate screening would degrade opportunities for solitude; and, management controls to preserve the wilderness values of the WSA would be impractical due to the uncontrollable (by BLM) nature of boat use, including power boats, on the navigable river flowing through this WSA.

The preferred alternative would protect most wilderness values and special features of the area. These special features include cultural resources and anadromous fish habitat.

MARSHALL MOUTNAIN WSA

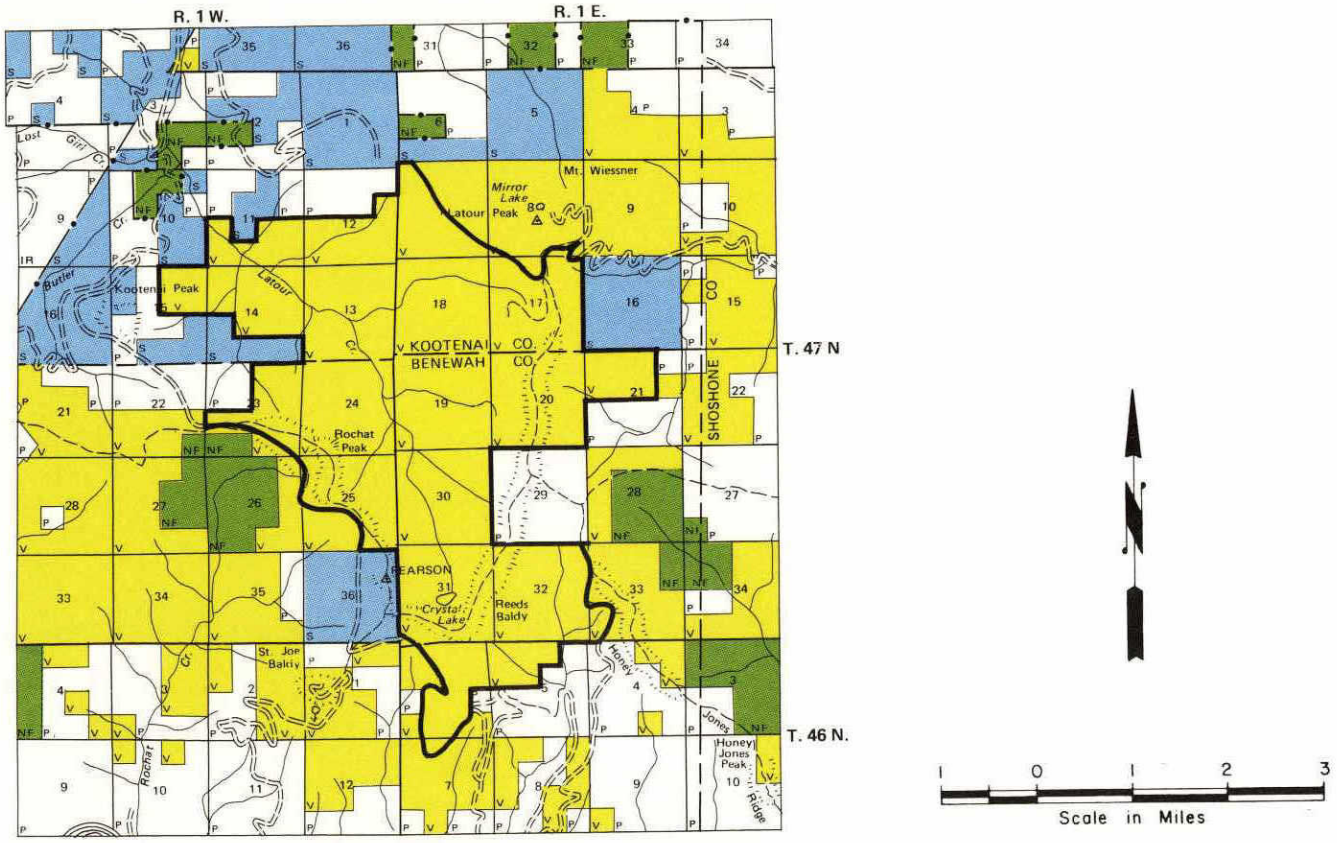
This WSA is recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation for two main reasons:

1. Inclusion in the NWPS would not expand the diversity of natural systems and features. The ecosystem represented by this WSA is currently found in four designated wilderness areas and two administratively endorsed areas.

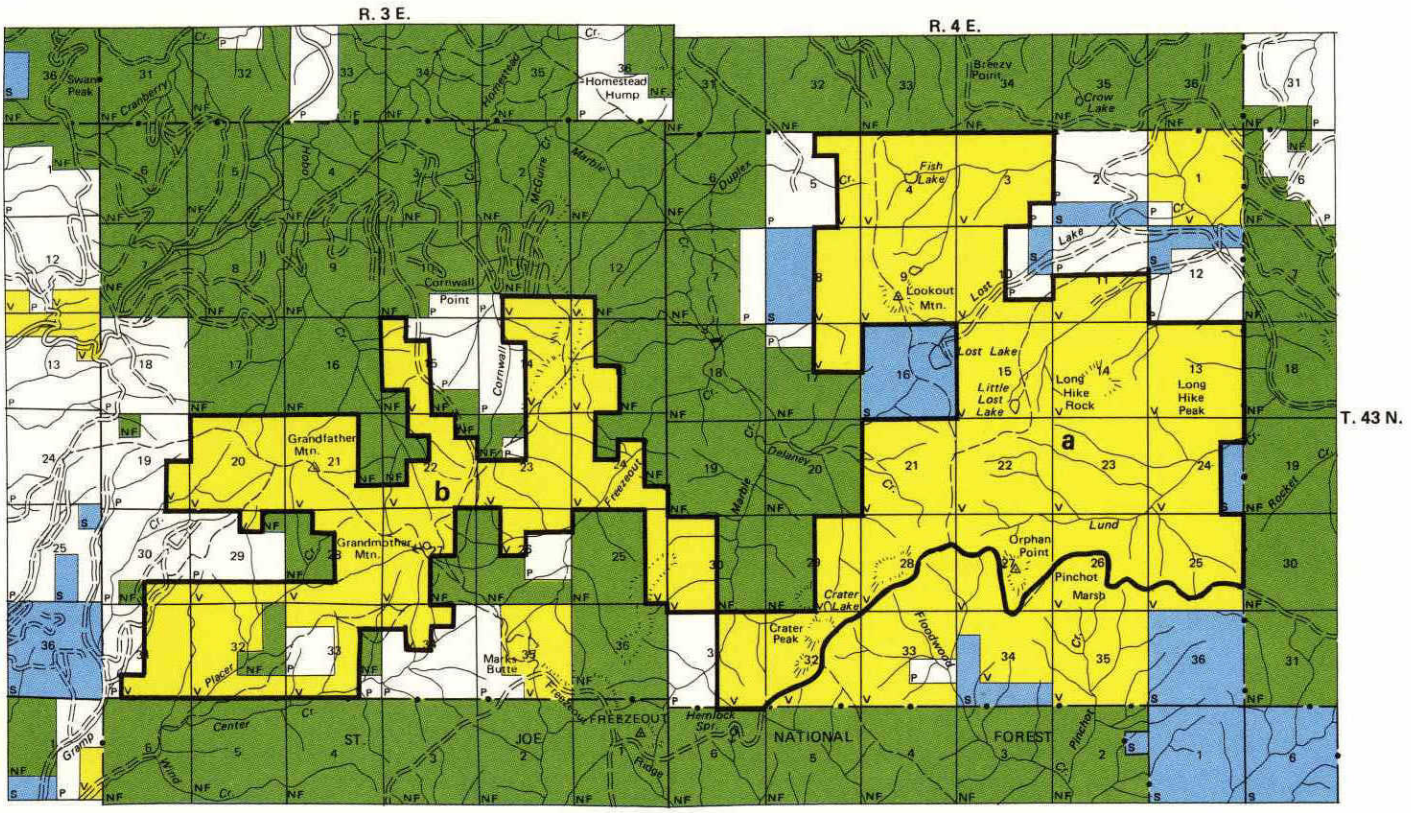
2. Designation of this WSA as wilderness would increase the geographic imbalance of wilderness areas throughout the country.

The preferred alternative would provide a diversity of recreational opportunities while recognizing the mineral potential of the area as evidenced by its current and historic use.

Public.....
State.....
Patented.....
National Forest.....



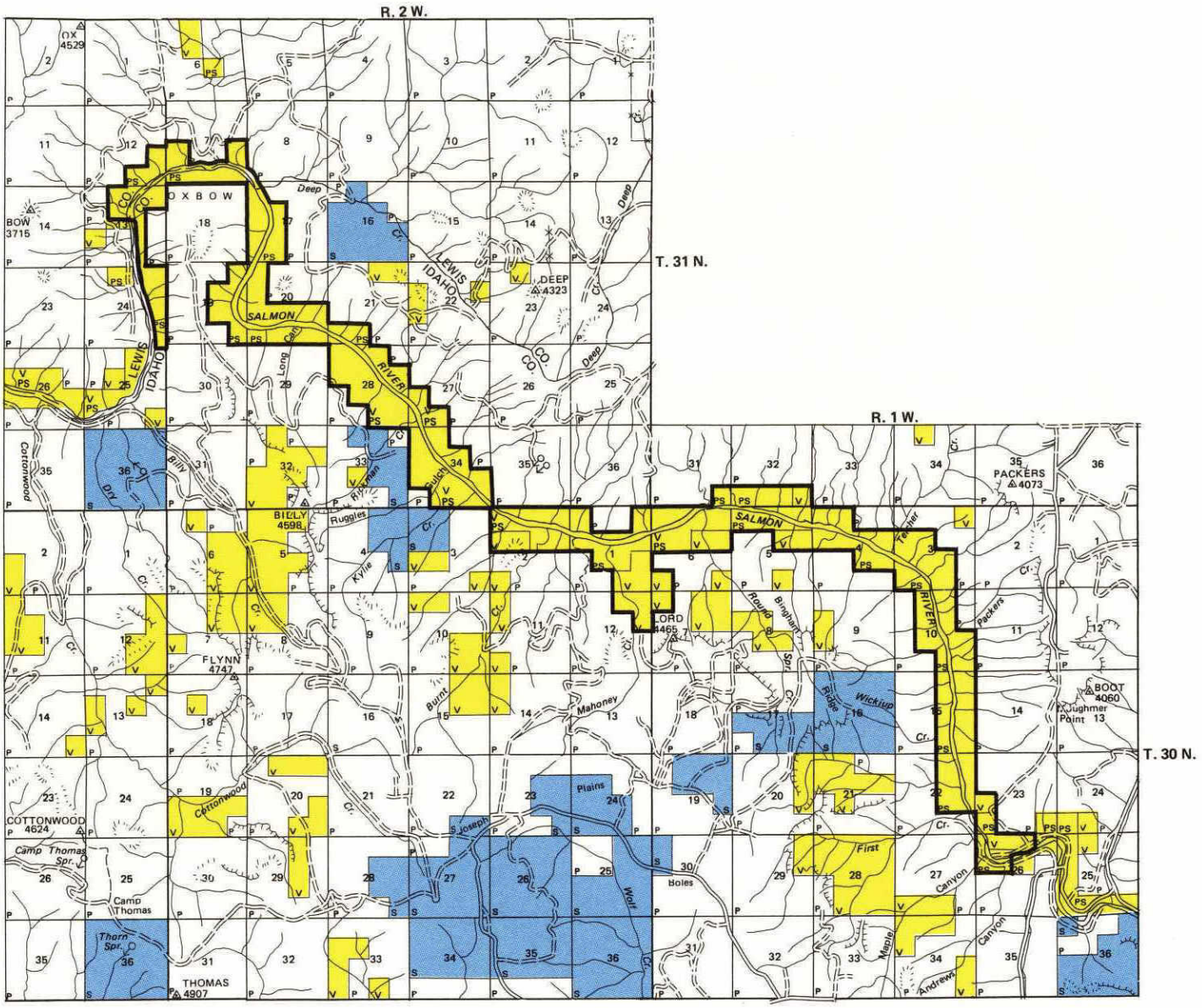

MAP 1–2 CRYSTAL LAKE WSA (61 –10, 9027 Acres)




MAP 1–3 GRANDMOTHER MOUNTAIN WSA (61–15, 17,129 Acres)

Public.....
State.....
Patented.....
National Forest.....

1 0 1 2 3
Scale in Miles

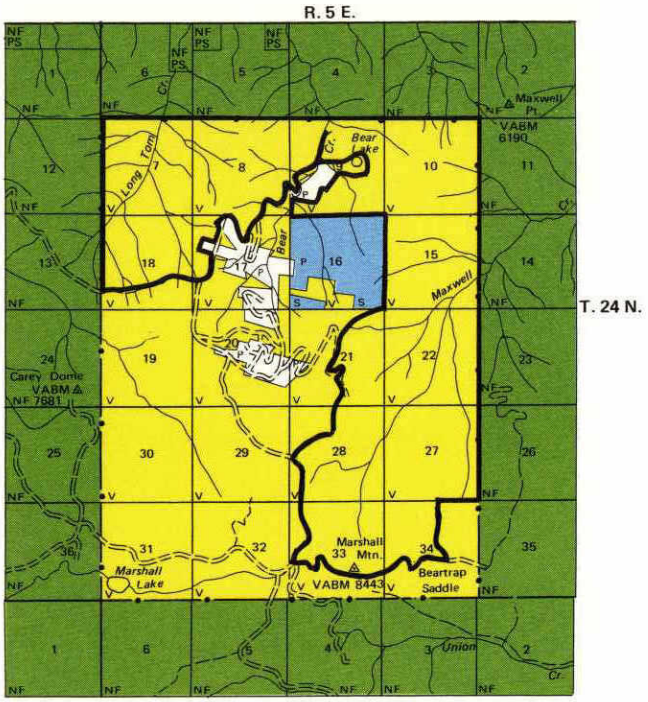



**MAP 1–4 SNOWHOLE RAPIDS WSA (62–1, 5068 Acres)**

Public.....
State.....
Patented.....

0 1 2 3
Scale in Miles

N




## MAP 1–5 MARSHALL MOUNTAIN WSA (62–10, 6524 Acres)

Public.....
State.....
Patented.....
National Forest.....

1 0 1 2 3
Scale in Miles

# CHAPTER 2
# ISSUES AND CRITERIA

## MAJOR ISSUES

The process of identifying issues began in March 1981 when comments concerning land uses, resource needs, and resource development were solicited from the public, other federal agencies, state and local governments, and interest groups. Using this input, along with information supplied by district resource specialists, a list of issues was developed. The major issues were published in the Federal Register on December 17, 1981. The following is a summary of the major issues identified to date:

1. How would wilderness designation affect the potential for energy and mineral resource development?

2. Would livestock grazing be affected by wilderness designation?

3. How would wilderness designation affect current social and economic conditions of local communities?

4. What effects would timber management activities have on other resource values such as, air, soil, water, vegetation, wildlife, cultural, visual, recreation, grazing, and wilderness?

5. How would timber values be affected by the alternatives?

## PLANNING CRITERIA

Following the identification of major issues, planning criteria were developed to help define the general scope of the planning process. They guide amendment development and provide parameters for analysis and decision making.

The BLM Wilderness Study Policy requires that two primary planning criteria be used in all amendment/EISs which consider wilderness suitability. These are, "evaluation of wilderness values," and "manageability." In addition to these criteria, six quality standards are used for analysis. These criteria and quality standards are discussed in Chapter 5.

Besides the two planning criteria required by the Wilderness Study Policy, additional criteria were developed for this amendment and EIS due to its multiple use nature. These additional criteria include:

1. The study should consider a wide range of protective designations for areas requiring protection.

2. Social and economic effects of all land use allocations should be considered.

3. The amendment and EIS should consider commodity resource values (timber, minerals) which could be foregone due to restrictive land use allocations.

4. Wildlife, both terrestrial and aquatic, should be maintained at reasonable levels.

5. Threatened or endangered species of plants and wildlife should be protected under all alternatives. Protection of unique vegetative types should be considered.

6. Cultural resources should be protected under all alternatives.

7. The effects of the alternatives on scenic quality should be considered.

A complete list of the issues and planning criteria used in the development of this document can be obtained from the BLM, Coeur d'Alene District Office.

# CHAPTER 3
# ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

The four Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) described and analyzed in this document are scattered over a large geographic area. In addition, the sizes of the WSAs vary considerably, ranging from 5,068 acres to 17,129 acres. These differences in location and size have made it appropriate to develop specific alternatives for each WSA. Detailed descriptions of these alternatives for each WSA follow the general alternative assumptions outlined below.

## ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT

For all BLM resource management planning, alternatives are to provide a range of choices, from those favoring resource protection to those favoring resource production. There must also be a "no-action" alternative which proposes continuation of present levels of resource use and management. The following general range of alternatives has been considered for each WSA and is reflected in this document.

1. All Wilderness. All lands within the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

2. No Action. Resource use and management would be in accordance with existing Management Framework Plans (where completed plans exist) or management decisions on surrounding lands when these lands are similar to those in the WSA.

3. No Wilderness. None of the lands within the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. Since recently completed Management Framework Plans (MFP) did not include any of the lands within the WSAs, the No Wilderness alternative consists of a number of subalternatives which consider a wide range of resource allocations, use, and management. The subalternatives have been individually designed for each WSA and consider a range of management from an emphasis on resource protection to an emphasis on resource production.

Analysis of the No Wilderness alternative for each WSA will assess the probable impacts to wilderness values which could result from a nonsuitable recommendation.

4. Partial Wilderness. A portion (or portions) of the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation while the remainder would be allocated for other uses.

## PROPOSED ACTION DEVELOPMENT

The proposed action for this study is a combination of individual WSA preferred alternatives. The preferred alternative for each WSA was selected after reviewing the issues and selection criteria (described in Chapter 2) and following an analysis of environmental, including social and economic, impacts. Figure 3-1 shows individual WSA alternatives and the resulting proposed action. Individual WSA preferred alternatives are also identified in the next section of this chapter.

Figure 3-1
ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED FOR EACH WSA, PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES AND RESULTING PROPOSED ACTION

| WSA | ALTERNATIVES | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CRYSTAL LAKE 61-10 | 1 All Wilderness | 2 No Action | 3A No Wilderness (Timber) | 3B No Wilderness (Timber/Wildlife) | **3C No Wilderness (ONA[1/])** | | | |
| GRANDMOTHER MOUNTAIN 61-15 | 1 All Wilderness | 2 No Action | 3A No Wilderness (Timber) | 3B No Wilderness (Timber/RNA[2/]) | **3C No Wilderness (Timber/ONA/RNA)** | 3D No Wilderness (ONA/RNA) | 3E No Wilderness (Wildlife) | 4 Partial Wilderness |
| SNOWHOLE RAPIDS 62-1 | 1 All Wilderness | 2 No Action | **3A No Wilderness (Recreation)** | 3B No Wilderness (Wildlife) | | | | |
| MARSHALL MOUNTAIN 62-10 | 1 All Wilderness | 2 No Action | 3A No Wilderness (Timber) | **3B No Wilderness (Mineral)** | 3C No Wilderness (Wildlife) | 4 Partial Wilderness | | |

Boxes with heavy borders contain Preferred Alternatives for each WSA.
Proposed Action for this study is the resulting combination of Preferred Alternatives (Crystal Lake-3C, Grandmother Mountain-3C, Snowhole Rapids-3A, Marshall Mountain-3B)

1/ ONA - Outstanding Natural Area
2/ RNA - Research Natural Area

## DESCRIPTIONS OF SPECIFIC ALTERNATIVES BY WSA

This section describes the alternatives considered for each WSA. Included with the written descriptions is a table showing resource allocations and, where applicable, resource outputs for each alternative. Descriptions of activities which would occur under various allocations (wilderness, timber management, etc.) follow the WSA alternative descriptions.

### CRYSTAL LAKE WSA (Unit 61-10)

#### Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Under this alternative 9,027 acres would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation (see Table 3-1 and Map 3-1). The entire area would be managed according to the BLM's Wilderness Management Policy described in the next section of this chapter. In addition, this alternative includes the continued leasing of 1,320 acres for domestic livestock grazing.

#### Alternative 2 - No Action

Under Alternative 2 the area would be managed under the directions prescribed in the Rochat MFP (BLM 1971). Major provisions include:

1. Intensively manage timber on 4,931 acres.
2. Continue leasing 1,320 acres for domestic livestock grazing.
3. Develop areas for winter recreation, including cross country ski trails, snowmobile staging areas, parking areas, etc.
4. Allow vehicle use, including off-road recreation vehicles, throughout the unit.

#### Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

Under Alternative 3A the area would be managed to maximize commodity resource production. Environmental constraints would be applied; however, the major thrust would be the enhancement of commodity resources, in this case timber. Major provisions of this alternative include:

1. Intensively manage all 4,931 acres of productive forest lands for timber production.
2. Continue leasing 1,320 acres for domestic livestock grazing.
3. Manage for Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classes III and IV.
4. Allow vehicle use, including off-road recreational vehicles, throughout the unit.

#### Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Timber and Wildlife Emphasis)

Under Alternative 3B some portions of the unit would be allocated for timber management while other portions would be reserved for wildlife habitat enhancement purposes. Major provisions include:

1. Intensively manage 3,700 acres of productive forest lands for timber production.

2. Continue leasing 1,320 acres for domestic livestock grazing.

3. Manage for VRM Classes III and IV.

4. Allow vehicle use, including off-road recreational vehicles, on 5,507 acres. Close 3,520 acres to vehicle access to protect wildlife habitat values.

5. Manage the upper portions of the Latour Creek drainage to enhance wildlife habitat.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness - (Outstanding Natural Area)(Preferred Alternative)

An ONA is an area of unusual natural characteristics where special management is necessary to preserve those characteristics. The management objectives of an ONA are to provide the maximum amount of recreation use without damage to the area's natural features. The area may not be used in any way that would unnecessarily detract from the quality of its natural features.

The headwaters of Latour Creek, including Crystal Lake, and the elevation change within the area (3,000 feet), provide an ecological and recreational diversity that has been almost untouched by man's influence. These features would qualify for an ONA designation. The major provisions of Alternative 3C include:

1. Prepare a detailed management plan for the ONA.

2. Establish parking areas and trailhead facilities at Sheep Springs, near Latour Peak and near Kootenai Peak, on the boundary of the area.

3. Close the area to ORV use.

4. Develop plans for a hiking trail along Latour Creek.

5. Prohibit timber harvest.

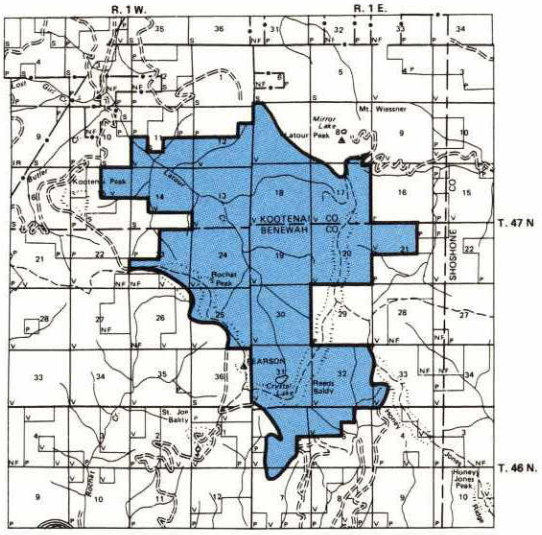
6. Allow recreation facilities only when use of the area was affecting natural values. At that time, consider minimum facilities (pit toilets, primitive campsites, etc.).

7. Allow mineral entry. Mining activities would not be allowed to unnecessarily detract from the area's natural features. Mining activities would be regulated by 43 CFR 3809.

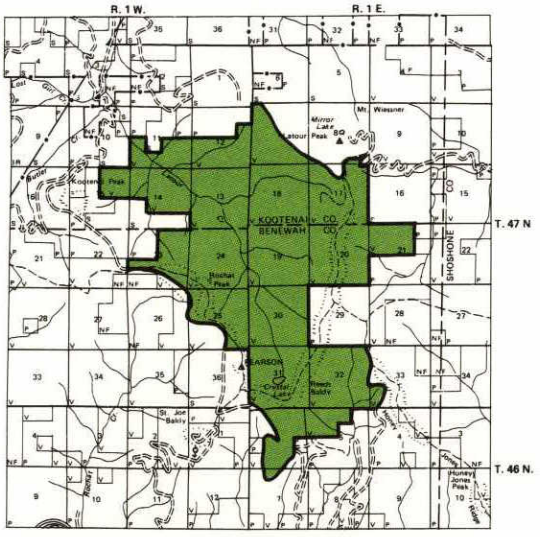
8. Continue grazing of livestock.

Table 3-1
ALLOCATIONS/OUTPUTS FOR
CRYSTAL LAKE WSA ALTERNATIVES

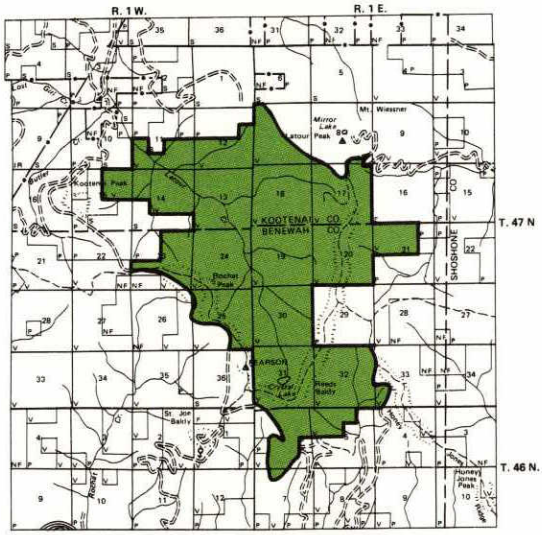
| RESOURCE ACTIVITY (Units) | Alt 1 All Wilderness | Alt 2 No Action | Alt 3A No Wilderness Timber | Alt 3B No Wilderness Timber/ Wildlife | Alt 3C No Wilderness ONA (Preferred Alternative) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wilderness | | | | | |
| Suitable (acres) | 9,027 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nonsuitable (acres) | 0 | 9,027 | 9,027 | 9,027 | 9,027 |
| Timber Management | | | | | |
| Intensive-Extensive (acres) | 0 | 4,931 | 4,931 | 3,700 | 0 |
| Custodial (acres) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,231 | 4,931 |
| Annual harvest (mbf) | 0 | 830 | 830 | 622 | 0 |
| Livestock Grazing (acres leased) | 1,320 | 1,320 | 1,320 | 1,320 | 1,320 |
| AUMs | 36 | 36 | 36 | 36 | 36 |
| Recreation Opportunity Setting | | | | | |
| Primitive (acres) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Semi-primitive Nonmotorized (acres) | 9,027 | 0 | 0 | 3,520 | 9,027 |
| Semi-primitive Motorized (acres) | 0 | 7,132 | 3,612 | 3,612 | 0 |
| Roaded Natural (acres) | 0 | 1,895 | 5,415 | 1,895 | 0 |
| Semi-urban and Urban (acres) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Visual Resource Management | | | | | |
| Class I (acres) | 9,027 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Class II (acres) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,947 | 9,027 |
| Class III (acres) | 0 | 9,027 | 7,132 | 4,080 | 0 |
| Class IV (acres) | 0 | 0 | 1,895 | 0 | 0 |
| Vehicle Management | | | | | |
| Open to all vehicles (acres) | 0 | 9,027 | 9,027 | 5,507 | 0 |
| Restricted use (acres) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Closed to all vehicles (acres) | 9,027 | 0 | 0 | 3,520 | 9,027 |



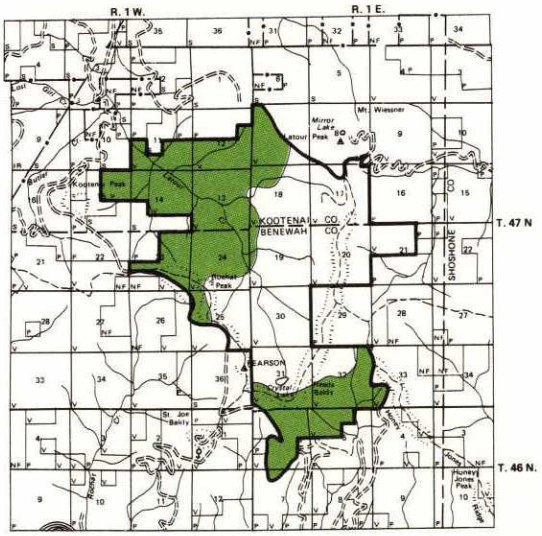

Alternative 1: All Wilderness



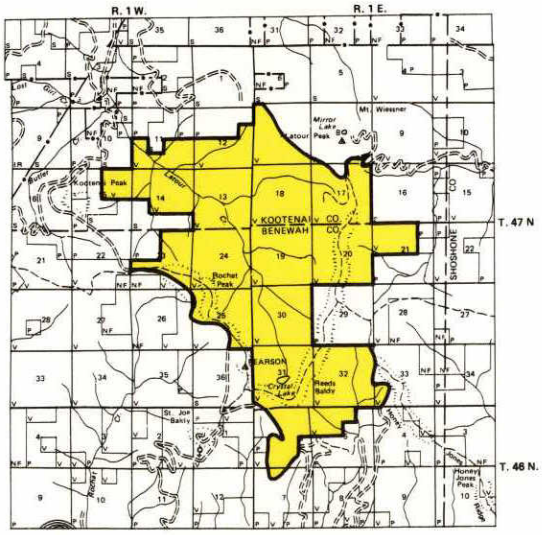

Alternative 2: No Action




Alternative 3A: No Wilderness, Timber Emphasis




Alternative 3B: No Wilderness, Timber/Wildlife Emphasis




Alternative 3C: No Wilderness, ONA (Preferred Alternative)

Wilderness.....
Intensive Timber Management.....
Wildlife Management.....
ONA.....



MAP 3 - 1 CRYSTAL LAKE ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Under this alternative 17,129 acres would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation (see Table 3-2 and Map 3-2). The entire area would be managed in accordance with the BLM Wilderness Management Policy. Major provisions of this policy are summarized on pages 3-20 and 3-21.

Alternative 2 - No Action

Under Alternative 2 the area would be managed under the directions prescribed in the Ben-Sho MFP (BLM 1973). Major provisions include:

1. Management of 15,329 acres as "backcountry" for its primitive characteristics and mountain lake alpine scenic qualities.

2. Management of 1,800 acres in the Orphan Point-Lund Creek area as a Research Natural Area (RNA). The vegetative habitats of climax mountain hemlock and wetland ecosystems would be preserved for scientific observation and study.

3. Development of two recreation sites along the Freezout Saddle Road and recreation sites at Fish Lake, Lost Lake, and Little Lost Lake.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

Under Alternative 3A the area would be managed to maximize commodity resource production. Environmental constraints would be applied; however, the major emphasis would be the enhancement of commodity resources, in this case timber. Major provisions include:

1. Intensive management of 10,000 acres of productive forest lands.

2. Allow vehicle use, including off-road vehicles, on most of the area. Only areas of critical big game winter range or important watershed protection areas would have vehicle restrictions.

3. Manage for VRM Classes III and IV.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Timber and RNA)

Under Alternative 3B one level of balance between resource production and resource protection would be achieved. A portion of the area would be designated as an RNA while the remainder would be allocated for intensive timber management. Major provisions of this alternative include:

1. Intensively manage timber on approximately 8,480 acres.

2. Designate 2,905 acres in the Orphan Point - Lund Creek area as an RNA. An RNA is an area that is established and maintained primarily for research purposes. The Lund Creek area, in the Grandmother Mountain WSA, contains old growth stands of mountain hemlock and subalpine fir. The area also contains aquatic areas of lakes, bogs, wet meadows, marshes, and streams. These natural features and the diversity of the area qualify it as an RNA.

Lund Creek has been endorsed as an RNA by the Idaho Natural Areas Coordinating Committee. This group, made up of respected experts from academic institutions and private industry, has worked with BLM since 1974 in the development of inventories, study procedures, and land use allocations to ensure the protection of the unique floral and faunal populations of the area. The Ben-Sho Management Framework Plan recommended an RNA designation for this area in 1975.

If Lund Creek is designated as an RNA, a plan would be prepared detailing the management activities in the area. The major provisions of this plan would be as follows:

a. Close the RNA to vehicle use.

b. Prohibit vegetative manipulation, including timber harvest.

c. Allow trail construction only when the natural values for which the RNA was designated are unaffected.

d. Encourage scientists and educators to use the area for study purposes. Such use would be of a nondestructive manner.

e. Buffer the RNA with a zone containing approximately 400 acres. The 280 acres of productive forest lands within this buffer would be managed in a custodial manner.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Timber, ONA and RNA)( Preferred Alternative)

Under Alternative 3C another level of balance between resource production and resource protection would be achieved. Portions of the area would be allocated for intensive timber management while other portions would be designated as an Outstanding Natural Area (ONA) and a Research Natural Area (RNA). Major provisions of this alternative include:

1. Intensively manage 2,941 acres of productive forest lands in the western portion of the unit.

2. Designate 9,684 acres as an ONA to protect wildlife values and the wetland ecosystem while providing recreation opportunities for the appreciation of those natural values. The Grandmother Mountain WSA contains a wide variety of ecological features. The alpine-type country consists of mountain hemlock forests and talus slopes. Steep brushy slopes receive heavy summer use by big game wildlife species, primarily deer and elk. The topography is broken by a variety of pothole lakes, streams, and bogs. The outstanding diversity of the area qualifies it as an ONA. A management plan would be prepared detailing the management activities in the area. Major provisions of this plan would be as follows:

   a. Restrict ORV use during critical wildlife seasons. The Grandmother Mountain Trail would be closed until trail erosion was stabilized.

   b. Establish recreation facilities only when use of the area was affecting natural values. At that time, minimum facilities (pit toilets, primitive campsites, etc.) would be considered.

   c. Allow livestock grazing.

d. Prohibit commercial timber harvest.

e. Manage the scenic quality of the area under VRM Class II constraints. Similar management on adjacent National Forest land in the upper Marble Creek area would be necessary to optimize ONA values.

f. Allow mineral entry. Mining activities would not be allowed to unnecessarily detract from the area's natural features. Mining activities would be regulated by 43 CFR 3809.

g. Implement wildlife habitat projects, including brush cutting and controlled burns, under strict constraints.

3. Designate 2,905 acres in the Orphan Point-Lund Creek area as an RNA as described in Alternative 3B.

4. Manage the RNA and ONA under VRM Class I and Class II constraints, respectively. Manage the intensive timber management areas under VRM Classes III and IV.

5. Allow vehicle use, including off-road recreational vehicles, in most sections of the intensive timber management areas and the ONA. Some restrictions would be applied in critical watershed and big game winter range areas. Vehicles would not be permitted in the RNA.

Alternative 3D - No Wilderness (ONA and RNA)

Under Alternative 3D one portion of the area would be designated as an RNA while the remainder would be designated an ONA. Major provisions of this alternative include:

1. Designate 2,905 acres in the Orphan Point-Lund Creek area as an RNA as described in Alternative 3B.

2. Designate 14,224 acres as an ONA to protect wildlife values and preserve the diversity of the wetland ecosystems. Provisions of ONA management are contained in Alternative 3C.

3. Prohibit vehicle use in the RNA but allow it in most of the ONA. Some restrictions would be applied in critical watershed and big game winter range areas.

Alternative 3E - No Wilderness (Wildlife Emphasis)

Under Alternative 3E the area would be managed for the enhancement of big game wildlife habitat. Major provisions of this alternative include:

1. Maintain the area in a roadless condition.

2. Implement controlled burning and brush cutting projects to increase big game forage.

3. Harvest timber in some areas by helicopter or other methods which would not require roaded access.

4. Follow VRM Class II constraints.

5. Restrict vehicle use in the area during critical seasons.

Alternative 4 - Partial Wilderness

Under this alternative 12,589 acres would be designated as suitable for wilderness. The remaining 4,540 acres of land on the west side of the Freezeout Saddle-Cornwall Point ridgeline would be allocated to intensive timber management. Major provisions of this alternative include:

1. Manage the wilderness area in a manner consistent with the BLM Wilderness Management Policy. See pages 3-20 and 3-21 for details.

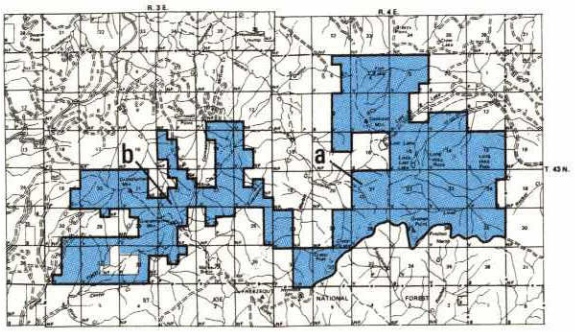
2. Manage the area recommended as suitable for wilderness under VRM Class I constraints and provide a semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation setting.

3. Manage the 2,941 acres allocated for intensive timber management in accordance with VRM Classes III and IV.

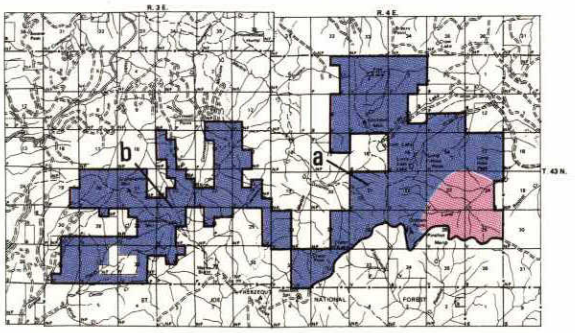
4. Prohibit vehicles in the wilderness area.

Table 3-2
ALLOCATIONS/OUTPUTS FOR GRANDMOTHER
MOUNTAIN WSA ALTERNATIVES

| RESOURCE ACTIVITY (Units) | Alt 1 All Wilderness | Alt 2 No Action | Alt 3A No Wilderness Timber | Alt 3B No Wilderness Timber/RNA | Alt 3C No Wilderness Timber/ONA/RNA (Preferred Alternative) | Alt 3D No Wilderness ONA & RNA | Alt 3 E No Wilderness Wildlife | Alt 4 Partial Wilderness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wilderness | | | | | | | | |
| Suitable (acres) | 17,129 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12,589 |
| Nonsuitable (acres) | 0 | 17,129 | 17,129 | 17,129 | 17,129 | 17,129 | 17,129 | 4,540 |
| Timber Management | | | | | | | | |
| Intensive-Extensive (acres) | 0 | 0 | 10,000 | 8,480 | 2,941 | 0 | 0 | 2,941 |
| Custodial (acres) | 0 | 10,000 | 0 | 280 | 0 | 8,760 | 10,000 | 0 |
| Annual harvest (mbf) | 0 | 0 | 2,100 | 1,780 | 617 | 0 | 0 | 617 |
| Livestock Grazing (acres leased) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| AUMs | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Recreation Opportunity Setting | | | | | | | | |
| Primitive (acres) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Semi-primitive Nonmotorized (acres) | 17,129 | 16,029 | 0 | 2,905 | 2,905 | 2,905 | 0 | 12,589 |
| Semi-primitive Motorized (acres) | 0 | 740 | 0 | 9,684 | 9,684 | 14,224 | 17,129 | 0 |
| Roaded Natural (acres) | 0 | 360 | 17,129 | 4,540 | 4,540 | 0 | 0 | 4,540 |
| Semi-urban and Urban (acres) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Visual Resource Management | | | | | | | | |
| Class I (acres) | 17,129 | 0 | 0 | 2,905 | 2,905 | 2,905 | 0 | 12,589 |
| Class II (acres) | 0 | 15,969 | 0 | 0 | 9,684 | 14,224 | 15,969 | 0 |
| Class III (acres) | 0 | 1,160 | 14,569 | 11,664 | 1,980 | 0 | 1,160 | 1,980 |
| Class IV (acres) | 0 | 0 | 2,560 | 2,560 | 2,560 | 0 | 0 | 2,560 |
| Vehicle Management | | | | | | | | |
| Open to all vehicles (acres) | 0 | 17,129 | 17,129 | 14,224 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,540 |
| Restricted use (acres) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14,224 | 14,224 | 17,129 | 0 |
| Closed to all vehicles (acres) | 17,129 | 0 | 0 | 2,905 | 2,905 | 2,905 | 0 | 12,589 |




Alternative 1: All Wilderness

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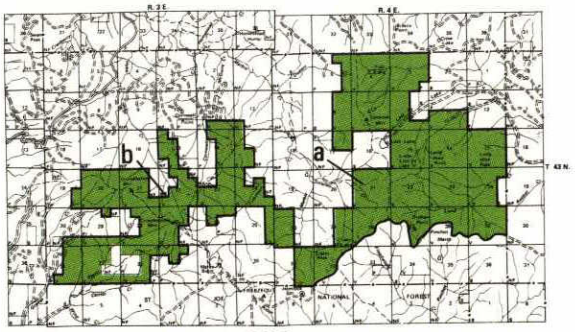
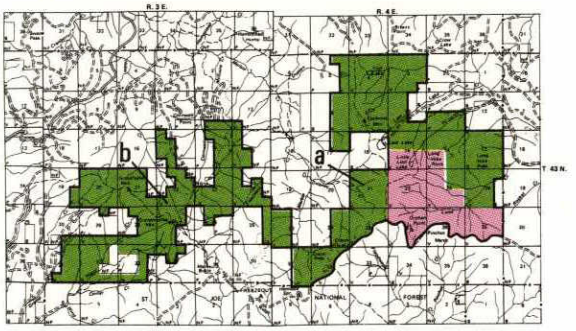
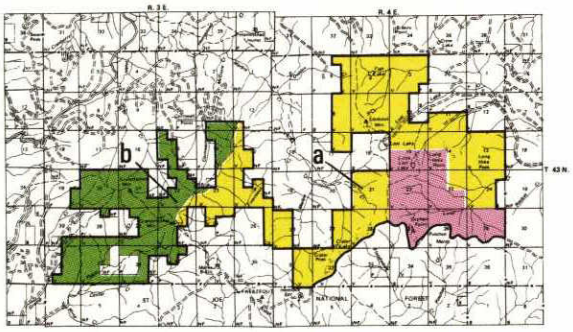


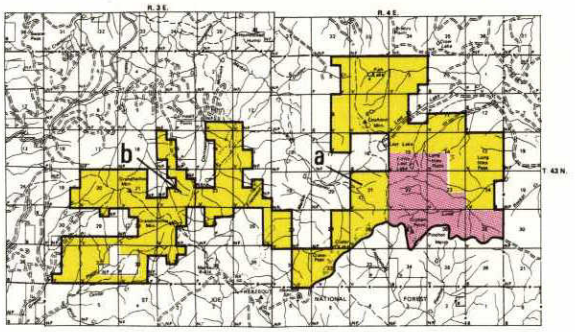

Alternative 3A: No Wilderness, Timber Emphasis



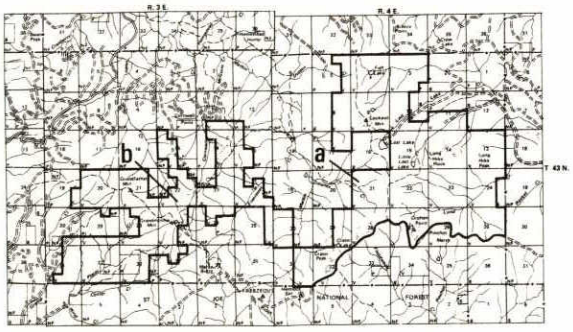

Alternative 3B: No Wilderness, Timber/RNA Emphasis



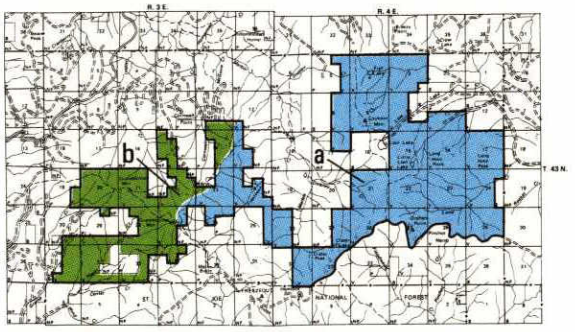

Alternative 3C: No Wilderness, Timber/ ONA/RNA Emphasis (Preferred Alternative)




Alternative 3D: No Wilderness, ONA/RNA Emphasis




Alternative 3E: No Wilderness, Wildlife Emphasis




Alternative 4: Partial Wilderness

Wilderness.....
ONA.....
RNA.....
Intensive Timber Management.....
Wildlife Management.....
"Backcountry" Management.....

0 1 2 3
Scale in Miles

MAP 3 - 2 GRANDMOTHER MOUNTAIN ALTERNATIVES

SNOWHOLE RAPIDS WSA (Unit 62-1)

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Under Alternative 1 all 5,068 acres would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation (see Table 3-3 and Map 3-3). The entire area would be managed in accordance with the BLM Wilderness Management Policy. Major provisions of this policy are summarized on pages 3-20 and 3-21.

Alternative 2 - No Action

Under Alternative 2 the area would continue to be managed under the direction of the Salmon/Snake MFP completed in 1973 to primarily provide semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation opportunities. Major provisions of this alternative include:

1. Restrict recreational vehicles to established trails.

2. Continue leasing for livestock grazing on the entire unit (356 AUMs).

3. Manage the area in a manner to protect scenic quality similar to current VRM Class II constraints.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Recreation Emphasis)(Preferred Alternative)

Under Alternative 3A the recreational opportunities of the area would be managed in a manner which would conform with management of the river corridor above and below the unit. Major provisions of this alternative include:

1. Manage the river corridor for semi-primitive motorized recreation opportunities.

2. Permit domestic livestock grazing of 299 AUMs in the unit in accordance with the Northern Idaho Livestock Grazing EIS (BLM 1981).

3. Manage the area under VRM Class II constraints.

4. Restrict recreational vehicle use to existing trails.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Wildlife Emphasis)

Under Alternative 3B primary emphasis would be placed upon protection of aquatic wildlife values. Major provisions of this alternative include:

1. Manage the unit to protect anadromous fisheries habitat.

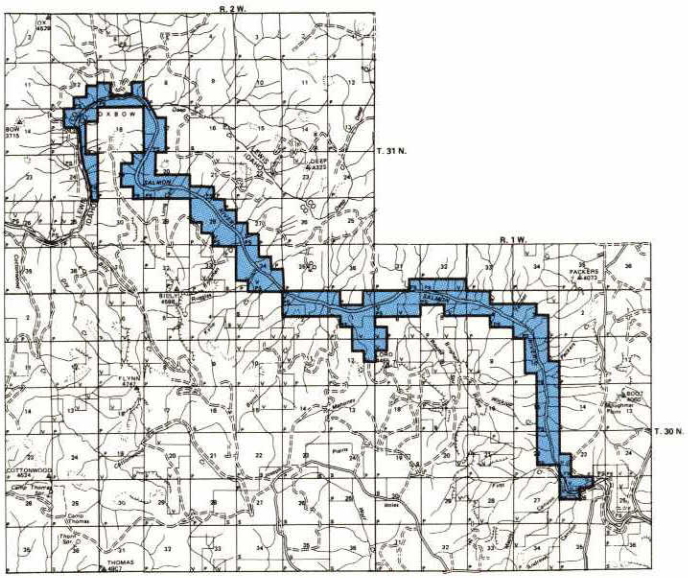
2. Permit livestock grazing (299 AUMs).

3. Manage the area for semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation opportunities.The area would be closed to motorized land vehicles. Motorboats would be permitted on the river.

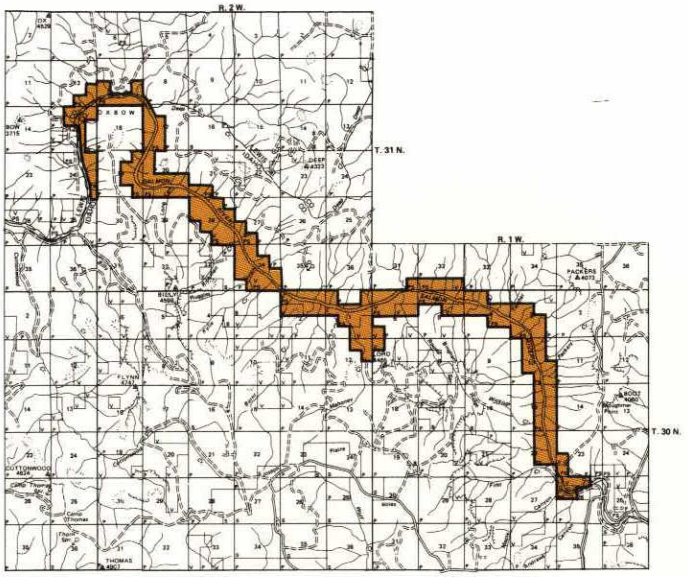
4. Manage the area under Class II VRM constraints.

Table 3-3
ALLOCATION/OUTPUTS FOR
SNOWHOLE RAPIDS WSA ALTERNATIVES

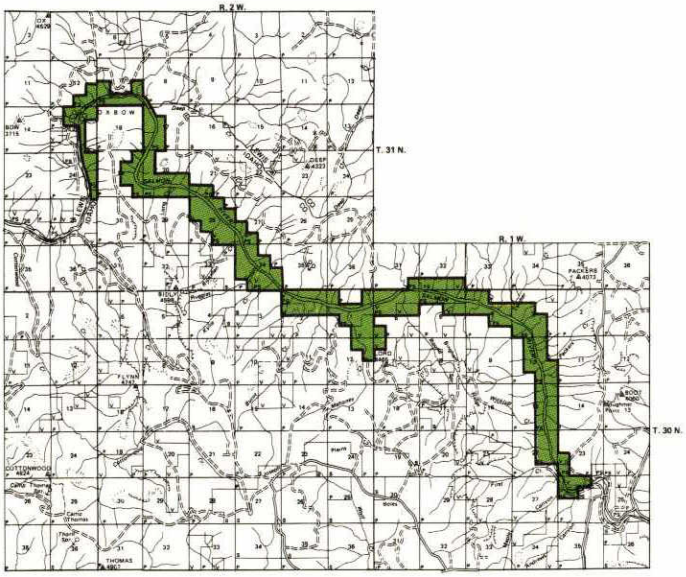
| RESOURCE ACTIVITY (Units) | Alt 1 All Wilderness | Alt 2 No Action | Alt 3A No Wilderness -Recreation (Preferred Alternative) | Alt 3B No Wilderness Wildlife |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wilderness | | | | |
| Suitable (acres) | 5,068 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nonsuitable (acres) | 0 | 5,068 | 5,068 | 5,068 |
| Timber Management | | | | |
| Intensive-Extensive (acres) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Custodial (acres) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Annual harvest (mbf) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Livestock Grazing (acres leased) | 5,068 | 5,068 | 5,068 | 5,068 |
| AUMs | 299 | 356 | 299 | 299 |
| Recreation Opportunity Classes | | | | |
| Primitive (acres) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Semi-primitive Nonmotorized (acres) | 5,068 | 4,568 | 0 | 4,898 |
| Semi-primitive Motorized (acres) | 0 | 330 | 4,898 | 0 |
| Roaded Natural (acres) | 0 | 170 | 170 | 170 |
| Semi-urban and Urban (acres) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Visual Resource Management | | | | |
| Class I (acres) | 5,068 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Class II (acres) | 0 | 5,068 | 5,068 | 5,068 |
| Class III (acres) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Class IV (acres) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Vehicle Management (land based) | | | | |
| Open to all vehicles (acres) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Restricted use (acres) | 0 | 5,068 | 5,068 | 0 |
| Closed to all vehicles (acres) | 5,068 | 0 | 0 | 5,068 |




Alternative 1: All Wilderness

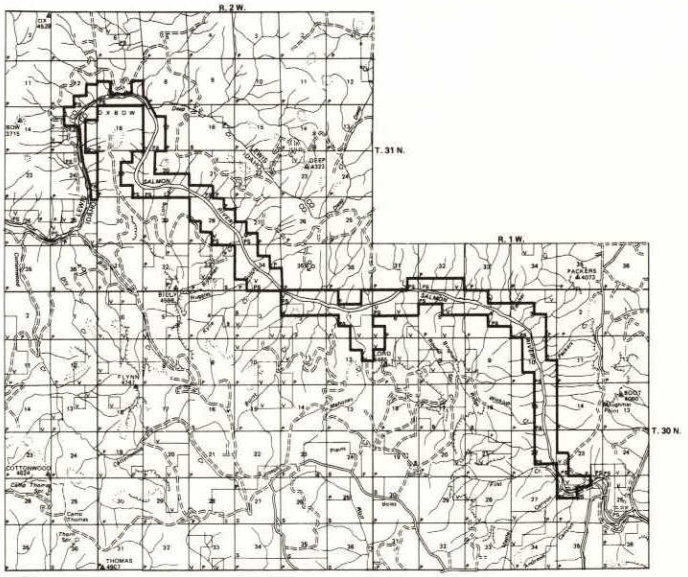



Alternative 2: No Action




Alternative 3A: No Wilderness,
Recreation Emphasis

(Preferred Alternative)




Alternative 3B: No Wilderness,
Wildlife Emphasis

Wilderness.....
Wildlife Management.....
Semi-primitive Non-motorized Recreation.....
Semi-primitive Motorized Recreation.....

Scale in Miles

MAP 3 - 3 SNOWHOLE RAPIDS ALTERNATIVES

Note: This WSA contains 6,524 acres of BLM administered land within its boundaries. When Congress established the River of No Return Wilderness area in 1979, 720 acres of the Marshall Mountain WSA were included within the borders of the wilderness area. Further descriptions and analysis of this WSA will exclude the 720 acres already designated as wilderness.

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Under this alternative, 5,804 acres would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation (see Table 3-4 and Map 3-4). The area would be managed in accordance with the BLM Wilderness Management Policy. Major provisions of this policy are described on pages 3-20 and 3-21.

Alternative 2 - No Action

Under Alternative 2 the area would continue to be managed in the same manner as existed before the wilderness review. A comprehensive land use plan has not been previously completed for the area; however, the emphasis of past management includes:

1. Custodial management of 3,920 acres of productive forest land due to lack of access.
2. Continue "post and pole" salvage logging operations.
3. Continue livestock grazing on 150 acres.
4. Provide semi-primitive motorized recreation opportunities.
5. Allow vehicle use in the entire area.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

Under Alternative 3A the area would be managed to emphasize commodity resource production. Major provisions of this alternative include:

1. Intensively manage all 3,920 acres of productive forest land for timber production.
2. Continue livestock grazing on 150 acres (8 AUMs).
3. Provide roaded natural recreation opportunities.
4. Manage scenic quality under VRM Class III constraints.
5. Allow vehicle use in the entire area.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Mineral Potential) (Preferred Alternative)

The major provisions of Alternative 3B include:

1. Recognize the mineral potential of the area and encourage legal exploration and development of minerals.

2. Manage productive timber lands in a custodial manner due to the lack of economically sound access. Continue "post and pole" salvage logging operations.

3. Continue livestock grazing on 150 acres (8 AUMs).

4. Manage about one-half of the area for semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation opportunities and the other half for semi-primitive motorized opportunities.

5. Manage the area under VRM Class III constraints.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Wildlife Emphasis)

Under Alternative 3C the primary emphasis would be on the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat. Major provisions of this alternative include:

1. Maintain the area in a roadless condition.

2. Manage productive forest lands in a custodial manner.

3. Prohibit livestock grazing.

4. Manage the entire area for semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation opportunities.

5. Maintain scenic quality under VRM Class II constraints.

Alternative 4 - Partial Wilderness

Under this alternative, 1,680 acres in the northern portion of the unit adjacent to the River of No Return Wilderness area would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. Major provisions of this alternative include:

1. Manage the area recommended for wilderness designation (1,680 acres) in accordance with the BLM Wilderness Management Policy.

2. Intensively manage timber on 2,280 acres as access becomes available.

3. Continue livestock grazing as currently authorized.

4. Manage the area designated as wilderness for semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation opportunities and protect scenic quality under VRM Class I constraints.

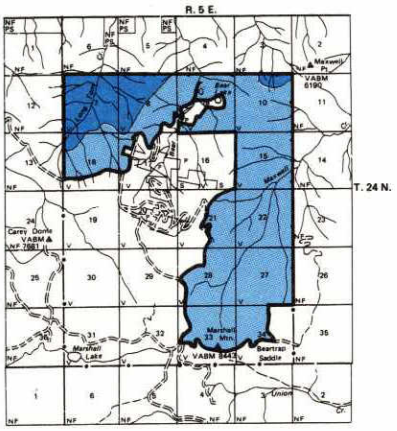
5. Manage the area outside the wilderness for semi-primitive nonmotorized and motorized recreation opportunities.

6. Protect scenic quality in the area outside the wilderness area with VRM Class III constraints.

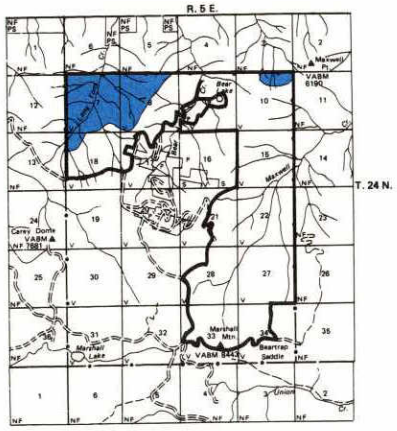
7. Close about one-half of the unit to recreational vehicle use and allow the other half to be open to vehicle use.

Table 3-4
ALLOCATIONS/OUTPUTS FOR
MARSHALL MOUNTAIN WSA ALTERNATIVES

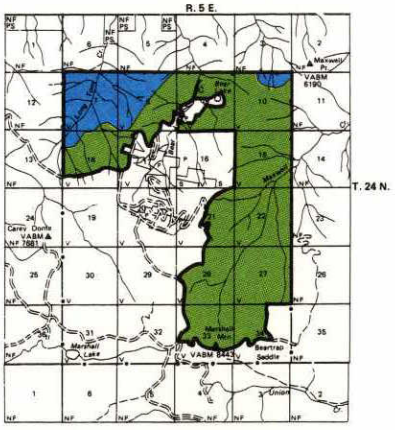
| RESOURCE ACTIVITY (Units) | Alt 1 All Wilderness | Alt 2 No Action | Alt 3A No Wilderness Timber | Alt 3B No Wilderness Mineral Potential (Preferred Alternative) | Alt 3C No Wilderness Wildlife | Alt 4 Partial Wilderness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wilderness | | | | | | |
| Suitable (acres) | 5,804 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,680 |
| Nonsuitable (acres) | 0 | 5,804 | 5,804 | 5,804 | 5,804 | 4,124 |
| Timber Management | | | | | | |
| Intensive-Extensive (acres) | 0 | 0 | 3,920 | 0 | 0 | 2,280 |
| Custodial (acres) | 0 | 3,920 | 0 | 3,920 | 3,920 | 0 |
| Annual harvest (mbf) | 0 | 0 | 724 | 0 | 0 | 421 |
| Livestock Grazing (acres leased) | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 0 | 150 |
| AUMs | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| Recreation Opportunity Classes | | | | | | |
| Primitive (acres) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Semi-primitive Nonmotorized (acres) | 5,804 | 0 | 0 | 2,790 | 5,804 | 2,790 |
| Semi-primitive Motorized (acres) | 0 | 5,804 | 0 | 3,014 | 0 | 3,014 |
| Roaded Natural (acres) | 0 | 0 | 5,804 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Semi-urban and Urban (acres) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Visual Resource Management | | | | | | |
| Class I (acres) | 5,804 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,680 |
| Class II (acres) | 0 | 5,804 | 0 | 0 | 5,804 | 0 |
| Class III (acres) | 0 | 0 | 5,804 | 5,804 | 0 | 4,124 |
| Class IV (acres) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Vehicle Management | | | | | | |
| Open to all vehicles (acres) | 0 | 5,804 | 5,804 | 3,014 | 0 | 3,014 |
| Restricted use (acres) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Closed to all vehicles (acres) | 5,804 | 0 | 0 | 2,790 | 5,804 | 2,790 |



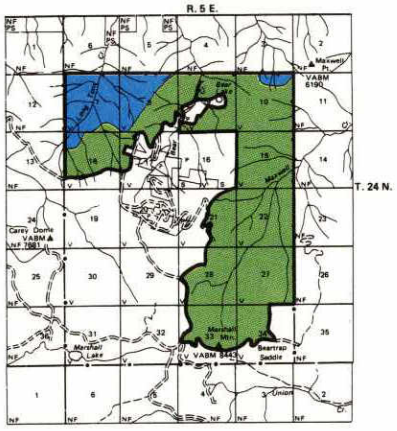

Alternative 1:
All Wilderness



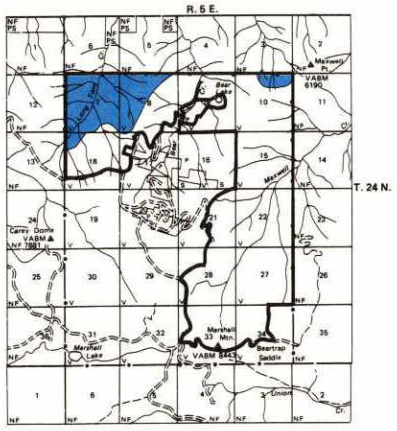

Alternative 2:
No Action



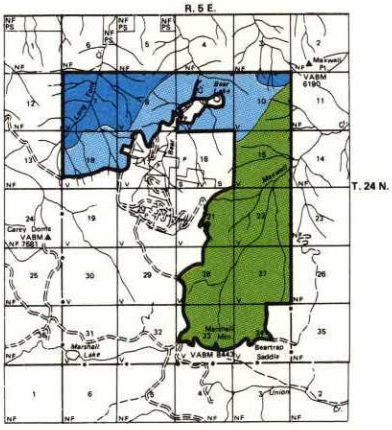

Alternative 3A:
No Wilderness,
Timber Emphasis




Alternative 3B:
No Wilderness
Mineral Potential
(Preferred Alternative)

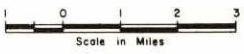



Alternative 3C;
No Wilderness,
Wildlife Emphasis




Alternative 4:
Partial Wilderness

Wilderness.....
Intensive Timber Management.....
Wildlife Management.....
Mineral Potential.....
River-Of-No-Return Wilderness.....




MAP 3 - 4 MARSHALL MOUNTAIN ALTERNATIVES

## DESCRIPTIONS OF ALLOCATIONS

This section describes the actions or constraints which would occur under various land use alternatives. For example, the actions and/or constraints detailed for wilderness designation, timber management, etc., would apply to any alternative where lands would be designated for these uses.

### WILDERNESS DESIGNATION

A Wilderness Study Area (WSA) designated as "Wilderness" by Congress would be managed according to the Bureau's Wilderness Management Policy, published in September, 1981. A copy of the full policy is available from any BLM office. The following is a brief summary of the management policy.

#### General Policy

1. BLM wilderness areas would be managed so as to preserve their wilderness character in a manner that would leave them unimpaired for future generations.

2. Some uses of wilderness, such as mining, grazing, and motorized travel, do not conform to the philosphy of wilderness but are specifically permitted by the Wilderness Act of 1964. These nonconforming but accepted uses would be managed in a manner that would prevent unnecessary and undue degradation of the area's wilderness character.

#### Specific Policy Guidance

##### Preservation of Wilderness Character

BLM would foster a natural distribution of native flora and fauna. Fire, insects, and diseases would be allowed to play a natural role in the ecosystem except where those activities endanger human life, property, or high value resources on adjacent nonwilderness lands.

##### Visitor Use

If visitor use threatens to impair the area's wilderness character, action would be taken to prevent impairment through direct or indirect methods. There are instances where visitor use would be curtailed or eliminated to protect the wilderness resource. Management would favor those types of visitor uses that depend on a wilderness setting.

##### Non-Conforming Uses

Valid Existing Rights. Private rights existing before the date an area was designated as wilderness would be recognized.

Aircraft and Motorboats. Use of aircraft and motorboats may be permitted to continue where such uses were established before designation.

Mining Law Administration. Holders of unpatented mining claims validly established before wilderness designation would be given the rights established by the U.S. mining laws. Holders of unpatented mining claims validly established after wilderness designation would be given similar rights subject to provisions of the Wilderness Act. All claimants must comply with reasonable conditions for protection of the wilderness resource. Mining activities would be regulated by 43 CFR 3809.

Timber on mining claims may be cut only for the actual development of the claim. All timber harvest would be designed to minimize adverse effects to the wilderness resource.

A bond may be required to ensure that all reasonable measures have been taken to reclaim disturbed lands as soon as possible after operations cease.

Withdrawal. Subject to valid existing rights effective January 1, 1984, the minerals in a designated wilderness are withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. All mineral activities would be guided by the Interim Management Policy (BLM 1980) and 43 CFR 3809 regulations until a wilderness determination was made.

Access to Non-Federal Land. Owners of non-federal land completely surrounded by wilderness shall be given reasonable access to their land. If that access would be detrimental to wilderness values, BLM would attempt to acquire the inholding by purchase or exchange before granting access.

Existing Structures. Existing structures would be removed unless they have historic significance or are necessary for management of resources within the wilderness area.

Buffer Zones. No buffer zones would be created around wilderness areas to protect them from the influence of activities on adjacent lands.

Grazing. Grazing of livestock would be permitted to continue when established before wilderness designation if it is in compliance with the wilderness management policy.

Forestry. No commercial cutting of trees would be permitted. If campsite or cooking fires are permitted, fuelwood cutting would be limited to dead and down material.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Intensive-Extensive Timber Management

Lands allocated for intensive-extensive timber management would be managed to maximize timber production on a sustained yield basis. Timber harvest would be the primary goal of management activities on these lands.

Timberlands placed in the intensive-extensive category are suitable for continuous timber production with reasonable assurance of successful results from the application of timber management practices. Generally, these lands are Timber Production Capability Classification (TPCC) rated "non-problem" or "restricted productive" and would satisfactorily respond to thinning, fertilization and planting. (TPCC is an intensive timber inventory which classifies timber production sites.)

Any harvest method, including clearcutting (removal of the entire stand in one cut), would be permitted on northeast, north, and northwest aspects, where not restricted by TPCC. On all other aspects (west, south, and east), only partial or selective cutting methods would be used. Seed tree and shelterwood systems would be the most common harvest methods on these aspects.

Individual tree selection would be used as required on TPCC restricted areas. Individual tree selection removes only selected trees from the stand providing for continuous regeneration of the forest.

Mortality salvage (removal of individual dead or dying trees while they still have commercial value) would usually be done in conjunction with a timber sale or sold under a timber sale contract where merchantable quantities of material are present.

On non-problem and problem reforestation sites, as determined by TPCC, with slopes less than 35 percent, any acceptable yarding system, site preparation method, and slash disposal method would be permitted.

Where slopes exceed 35 percent or on TPCC identified problem sites, any acceptable yarding system except ground based (i.e., tractors and rubber tired skidders) would be used. Slash would be disposed of by lopping and scattering, hand piling, burning, or yarding. Site preparation would be done by hand or controlled burns.

All final harvest and reforestation planting projects would be designed to meet stocking standards. Species to be favored would be based on factors such as habitat type, elevation, industry preferences, and ability to obtain quality seedling stock. Species diversity would be encouraged on all areas where possible.

All clearcut areas would be planted. Partial or selectively cut areas would rely on natural regeneration when acceptable and desirable seed sources exist; otherwise, they would be planted.

Fertilizer would be applied according to soil tests which would determine if application of phosphorus, potassium, or other trace elements are needed and the rate at which they would be applied.

Custodial Management

Lands classified for custodial management would not be managed for timber production and would not be included in allowable cut computations. Timber would be removed when necessary to protect or enhance adjacent forest lands or other resource values. Any timber removal would be done in such a way as to afford maximum protection to the site or to accomplish other resource objectives.

For detailed descriptions of timber management operational components, please refer to the North Idaho Timber Management EIS (BLM 1981).

DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Livestock grazing currently occurs within the Crystal Lake WSA, Snowhole Rapids WSA, and Marshall Mountain WSA. This use would continue under most alternatives. Levels of use (AUMs) for each alternative are based on the analysis presented in the Northern Idaho Grazing Management EIS (NIGMEIS) (BLM 1981). No significant changes in current use are proposed. See the Individual WSA Allocations/Outputs Tables 3-1 through 3-4 for the acreage and AUMs proposed for domestic livestock use under each alternative. For information on grazing systems, seasons of use, and other details concerning livestock grazing, refer to the NIGMEIS.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The goal of the following guidelines is to mitigate adverse environmental impacts to the lowest possible level. They were developed during the MFP preparation process and have been adopted as standard operating procedures for the Coeur d'Alene District. These guidelines would be applied, where appropriate, to any actions proposed under the alternatives.

THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES

In accordance with law (Endangered Species Act of 1973), no actions would be taken which would adversely affect the continued existence of any federally-listed threatened or endangered animal or plant species. The BLM also complies with Idaho laws pertaining to state-listed species including "sensitive" species. A threatened/endangered species clearance would be part of the site-specific environmental assessment (EA) prepared for any activity. If any listed threatened/endangered species or critical habitats are located that would be affected, formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would be initiated by BLM as prescribed by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Special surveys and clearances are required to protect cultural resources. A Class III (complete survey) cultural resources inventory is required of all areas to be subjected to ground manipulation activities. The results of this inventory are used to generate a cultural clearance. In addition to the clearance procedure, the cultural review provides cultural resource input for consideration in a site-specific EA.

Bureau projects possibly affecting areas of historical value will be preceded by a search through the cultural and historical site listings currently on file with the State Historic Preservation Officer. The BLM will consult with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office concerning the eligibility of any site located and the possible effects on it from any proposed actions. Such consultations have occurred for the Skitswish Monuments in the Crystal Lake WSA and numerous sites in the Snowhole Rapids WSA. In cases where there may be an effect from proposed activities, BLM will comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (BLM policy, National Historic Preservation Act, NEPA, Executive Order 11593, 36 CFR Part 800).

If any archaeological resources are encountered during ground disturbing activities, operations will cease at the discovery site and a professional archaeologist will be consulted to determine the significance of the material. Depending on this determination, activities would be resumed, modified, or curtailed.

WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Big game (deer, elk) habitat would be protected by road closure in critical and important winter range from December 1 to March 30 each year. Roads would be closed through the use of vehicle barriers or gates.

The guidelines of the Elk Habitat Coordinating Requirements will be followed for all actions. See Appendix 2-3 of the North Idaho Timber EIS (BLM 1981) for a summary of the requirements.

The district snag management guidelines would be followed in timber management areas to provide habitat for certain wildlife species.

Cutting units where more than 60 percent of the cover is to be removed would be shaped so that adequate hiding cover is available within the cutting unit.

All dead-end roads and roads with an expected duration of BLM management use of 5 years or less would be closed. New roads remaining open following harvest would be buffered by vegetation.

BUFFERS

The district buffer guidelines would be followed to provide stream and streamside vegetation buffers to protect water quality, aquatic habitat, and wildlife habitat in the district. The guidelines have been developed from various sources based on protection needs and effects by particular actions. The proposed revisions of the Idaho Forest Practices Rules developed by the State 208 Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (IDHW 1979) are considered as the minimal guidelines. Specific widths must be established on a case-by-case basis. Table 3-5 itemizes buffer locations, widths, and types.

Within the buffer strips, management activities would minimize wildlife and stream habitat disturbance and protect the soil and vegetative cover to reduce introduction of sediment into the streams. Soil disturbance and removal of undergrowth vegetation would be kept to a minimum within the buffer zones. Yarding within buffer zones would be kept to a minimum and yarding through stream channels would be avoided.

VISUAL (SCENIC) RESOURCE VALUES

A visual resource contrast rating would be conducted for all proposed activities. Projects which would reduce scenic quality below established Visual Resource Management (VRM) guidelines would be modified, relocated, or abandoned, if necessary (BLM Manual 8430).

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SETTINGS AND CLASSES

All acreage in the WSAs has been categorized into various recreation settings through the recreation inventory. Areas where recreation needs have been identified require explicit recreation management. These needs are based upon indicators such as use conflicts or resource degradation.

In those areas where there is a need to manage for recreation, such as in the Snowhole Rapids WSA, various "recreation opportunity classes" are established under the alternatives. Management activities which would alter an established opportunity class would be modified, relocated, or abandoned to meet identified demands for specific recreation opportunities.

For those areas where no recreation needs are identified, BLM does not specifically manage for recreation, but provides only opportunities for recreation to take place.

WATER QUALITY

Water quality on BLM administered lands would be maintained equal to or above any federal or State of Idaho legal water quality criteria.

FLOODPLAINS

To the extent practicable adverse impacts associated with floodplains would be avoided (BLM Manual 7221; Floodplain Management Guidelines for Implementing Executive Order 11988, Federal Register, Volume 43, No. 29, February 10, 1978).

WETLAND-RIPARIAN AREA PROTECTION

Practical measures to minimize adverse impacts to wetland-riparian areas shall be incorporated into all actions which could affect these areas (BLM Final Guidelines to Implement Executive Order 11990, Federal Register, Volume 45, No. 25, February 5, 1980, and BLM Manual 6740).

TABLE 3-5
BUFFER GUIDELINES

| Location | Width | Type |
|---|---|---|
| Lakes | 500 ft. (min.) | Wildlife and scenic improvement |
| Major rivers | 500 ft. (min.) | Wildlife and scenic improvement |
| Class I Streams- | | |
| a. Thermal zone | Tallest tree height or 75 ft. (min.) | Wildlife, thermal and scenic improvement |
| b. Sediment zone outside thermal zone | 4 X slope (%) + 50 ft. or tallest tree height + 25% (min.) | Soil protection |
| Selected Class II Streams- | | |
| a. Thermal zone | Tallest tree height or 50 ft (min.) | Wildlife thermal cover |
| b. Sediment zone- outside thermal zone | 2 X slope (%) + 25 ft. | Soil protection |
| Class II Streams- | | |
| General protection | 75 ft. (37 1/2 ft. each side of stream) | Wildlife and thermal cover |

BURNING

All burning would be done to meet specific goals and objectives. Constraints would be prescribed to assure maximum protection of site quality. All burning would be planned in conjunction with the local Forest Protection Districts. Prior to burning, weather conditions would be checked; the Division of Environment, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, would be informed of the planned burn; and a burning permit would be obtained from the local Forest Protection District.

FIRE PROTECTION

Fire protection activities in the district are currently under contract with both the Idaho Department of Lands and the Forest Service. Current fire planning provides adequate resource protection for most areas of the district. In those areas where a special designation is recommended (wilderness, ONA, RNA), fire plans would be amended to protect the values for which the areas were designated.

ROADS

See Appendix 2-4 of the North Idaho Timber Management EIS (NITMEIS)(BLM 1981).

## INTERRELATIONSHIPS

WITH BLM PLANNING

This amendment is an outgrowth of the BLM's land use planning process which seeks to fulfill BLM's obligations to manage public lands to serve a variety of purposes. Federal policy directs that the following resource values receive consideration: watershed, wildlife, recreation, scenic quality, wilderness, range, and forests.

The planning process begins with an inventory of basic resources known as Unit Resource Analysis (URA) and progresses through the management decisions developed in the Management Framework Plan (MFP). As discussed in the Introduction, the recently completed MFPs for the Coeur d'Alene District did not include the areas designated as "roadless" during initial wilderness inventories. This Amendment/EIS covers those roadless areas which became Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). All planning documents may be reviewed in their entirety at the BLM Couer d'Alene District Office.

WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Cooperative wildlife study projects and threatened/endangered species (Endangered Species Act of 1973) consultations are coordinated through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### U.S. Forest Service

The U.S. Forest Service administers approximately 57 percent of the land within the region. Since most of this land borders BLM administered lands, mutual cooperation benefits both agencies. The Forest Service also provides fire protection for some BLM administered lands.

Planning goals and objectives are coordinated between the agencies since both have the same basic management goals.

National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) has been assigned responsibilities for conducting studies of most proposed wild and scenic rivers relative to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. NPS also reviews environmental documents for adequacy in regard to impacts on proposed and designated wild and scenic rivers.

In addition, NPS is responsible for inventorying the best remaining rivers and river segments still in a relatively natural, undeveloped condition. This inventory serves several purposes, including recommendations for additions to the lists of study rivers [Section 5(a)] and potential rivers [Section 5(d)] under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Probable impacts to these rivers are documented in management plans and environmental statements after consultation with the National Park Service.

Environmental Protection Agency

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been given initial responsibility for implementing Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendment of 1972. Under this act and Executive Order 12088, BLM is required to control water pollution that originates from large areas of public land (non-point source pollution). The EPA is working through area-wide water quality management agencies and local Soil Conservation Service offices to complete plans for controlling water pollution in problem areas. Once these plans are finalized, BLM will take whatever measures necessary to comply with their requirements.

Soil Conservation Service

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) is contacted during the development of coordinated grazing plans on intermingled public and private lands. They also provide valuable soils inventory information.

WITH STATE ORGANIZATIONS

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

The fish and wildlife program and vegetative manipulation projects are coordinated with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Idaho Department of Water Resources

The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) sets minimum standards for protecting waterways where culvert, bridge, or channel relocation is contemplated. Coordination of these activities is maintained. In addition, all water rights, including those on BLM administered lands, come under the purview of IDWR.

Idaho Department of Lands

The Idaho Department of Lands is involved with BLM for land use planning on adjacent state lands. The BLM adheres to the provisions of the Idaho Forest Practices Act which was developed by the Department of Lands.

State Fire Protection Districts provide fire protection for much of the BLM-administered land. Slash work on some timber sale areas is also completed by the Fire Protection Districts.

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

The BLM entered into a cooperative agreement in September, 1979 with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare with a common objective of protecting water and air resources within the state. The agreement provides for information exchange and agency coordination in solving state water and air quality problems.

Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)

The BLM consults with SHPO to determine the significance of cultural/historical sites and the eligibility of any site for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

REQUIREMENTS FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

Site-specific environmental assessments (EA) will be prepared for all proposed management activities. These assessments will be tiered to this EIS to ensure that all pertinent actions and probable environmental impacts are assessed. Should an EA disclose significant adverse impacts which cannot be readily mitigated or which involve sensitive issues, a recommendation to prepare an EIS on the project may be appropriate.

RELATIONSHIPS OF ALTERNATIVES TO NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) GOALS

The alternatives (including the proposed action) considered in this amendment and EIS all achieve the requirements of NEPA and other environmental laws and policies. Each of the alternatives is designed to use practicable means to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony. In this context there are no significant differences among the alternatives being considered.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The environmental impacts summarized on Table 3-6 and discussed in Chapter 6 of this document are presented for each WSA. The cumulative impacts of implementing various alternatives have been analyzed on a regional basis. It has been determined that no significant cumulative impacts would result from any combination of alternatives. This is due mainly to the widely scattered geographic distribution of the WSAs and the limited influence any individual WSA has on the localized environment, including economic and social conditions.

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

See Table 3-6.

TABLE 3-6
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE
(Refer to Chapter 6 for detailed discussions of impacts)

CRYSTAL LAKE WSA

| ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENTS | Alternative 1<br>All Wilderness | Alternative 2<br>No Action | Alternative 3A<br>No Wilderness<br>(Timber) | Alternative 3B<br>No Wilderness<br>(Timber/Wildlife) | Alternative 3C<br>No Wilderness<br>(ONA) Preferred Alt. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Air Quality | Negligible | Slight short-term increases in particulate levels. | Same as Alt. 2 | Same as Alt. 2 | Negligible |
| Soil: | | | | | |
| Loss (tons over a 10-year period) | Negligible | 844 | 844 | 630 | Negligible |
| Compaction (acres over a 10-year period) | Negligible | 68 | 68 | 47 | Negligible |
| Water: | | | | | |
| Water Yield Increase (acre feet/year) | Negligible | 25 | 25 | 19 | Negligible |
| Sediment Yield Increase (tons/10-years) | Negligible | 576 | 576 | 432 | Negligible |
| Vegetation: | | | | | |
| Eliminate Productivity (acres/10-years) | No Impact | 46 | 46 | 34 | No Impact |
| Damage/Destruction (acres/10-years) | No Impact | 114 | 114 | 85 | No Impact |
| Increased Growth (acres fertilized/10-years) | No Impact | 153 | 153 | 114 | No Impact |
| Wildlife: | | | | | |
| Loss of Habitat (acres/10-years) | | | | | |
| Elk | No change, roadless | 34 | 34 | 26 | Same as Alt. 1 |
| White-tailed Deer | nature would keep | 24 | 24 | 18 | |
| Mule Deer | human pressure low. | 29 | 29 | 22 | |
| Black Bear | | 35 | 35 | 27 | |
| Snag-dependent Species | | 118 | 118 | 89 | |
| Cultural Resources: | | | | | |
| Potential for Damage/Destruction | Negligible | Soil disturbing activities would increase potential for damage/destruction. | Same as Alt. 2 | Same as Alt. 2 | Negligible |
| Visual Resources | Maintain scenic quality. | Level of quality reduced on 4,931 acres. | Same as Alt. 2 | Level of quality reduced on 3,700 acres. | Maintain scenic quality. |
| Recreation | Favor primitive recreation throughout WSA. | Favor motorized recreation on entire WSA. | Same as Alt. 2 | Primitive recreation favored on 3,520 acres; motorized on 3,507 acres. | Same as Alt. 1 |
| Grazing | No Impact | No Impact | No Impact | No Impact | No Impact |
| Energy and Minerals | New exploration/development foregone. | No Impact | No Impact | No Impact | No Impact |
| Timber Management | All harvest/development opportunities foregone. | Sustained annual harvest of 830 MBF. | Same as Alt. 2 | Sustained annual harvest of 622 MBF. | Same as Alt. 1 |
| Wilderness Values | Values maintained. | Values lost on 4,931 acres. | Same as Alt. 2 | Values lost on 3,700 acres. | Values maintained. |
| Economics | Negligible | Potential increase of 6 jobs and $113,400 in wages. | Same as Alt. 2 | Potential increase of 5 jobs and $94,500 in wages. | Negligible |
| Social Values | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible |

TABLE 3-6, Continued
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE
(Refer to Chapter 6 for detailed discussions of impacts)

GRANDMOTHER MOUNTAIN WSA

| NVIRONMENTAL COMPONENTS | Alternative 1 All Wilderness | Alternative 2 No Action | Alternative 3A No Wilderness (Timber) | Alternative 3B No Wilderness (Timber/RNA) | Alternative 3C No Wilderness (Timber/ONA/RNA) Preferred Alt. | Alternative 3D No Wilderness (ONA/RNA) | Alternative 3E No Wilderness (Wildlife) | Alternative 4 Partial Wilderness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ir Quality | Negligible | Negligible | Slight short-term increase in particulate levels. | Same as Alt. 3A | Same as Alt. 3A | Negligible | Negligible | Same as Alt. 3A |
| Soil: | | | | | | | | |
| Loss (tons over a 10-year period) | Negligible | Negligible | 1,707 | 1,446 | 509 | Negligible | Negligible | 509 |
| Compaction (acres/10-yrs) | Negligible | Negligible | 128 | 108 | 38 | Negligible | Negligible | 38 |
| ater: | | | | | | | | |
| Water Yield Increase (ac. ft./yr) | Negligible | Negligible | 50 | 43 | 15 | Negligible | Negligible | 15 |
| Sediment Yield Increase (tons/10-years) | Negligible | Negligible | 1,166 | 987 | 348 | Negligible | Negligible | 348 |
| egetation: | | | | | | | | |
| Eliminate Productivity (ac./10-years) | No Impact | No Impact | 92 | 78 | 28 | No Impact | No Impact | 28 |
| Damage/Destruction (ac./10-years) | No Impact | No Impact | 231 | 196 | 69 | No Impact | Short-term to 346 acres. | 69 |
| Increased Growth (ac. fertilized/10-years) | No Impact | No Impact | 309 | 261 | 92 | No Impact | No Impact | 92 |
| Wildlife: | | | | | | | | |
| Loss of Habitat (ac./10-yrs) | | | | | | | | |
| Elk | No change, roadless nature would keep human pressure low. | Same as Alt. 1 | 70 | 59 | 21 | Same as Alt. 1 | Forage increase on 346 acres. | 21 |
| White-tailed Deer | | | 49 | 41 | 15 | | | 15 |
| Mule Deer | | | 58 | 49 | 17 | | | 17 |
| Black Bear | | | 72 | 61 | 21 | | | 21 |
| Snag-dependent Species | | | 239 | 202 | 71 | | | 71 |
| ultural Resources: | | | | | | | | |
| Potential for Damage/ Destruction | Negligible | Negligible | Soil disturbing activities would increase potential for damage/ destruction. | Same as Alt. 3A | Same as Alt. 3A | Negligible | Negligible | Same as Alt. 3A |
| Isual Resources | Maintain scenic quality on entire WSA. | Same as Alt. 1 | Level of quality reduced on 10,000 acres. | Level of quality reduced on 8,480 acres. | Maintain scenic quality on 12,589 acres. | Same as Alt. 1 | Temporary change on 346 acres. | Same as Alt. 3C |
| Recreation | Favor primitive recreation on entire WSA. | Same as Alt. 1 | Motorized recreation favored on 10,000 acres. | Motorized recreation favored on most of WSA (14,224 acres). | Same as Alt. 3B | Same as Alt. 3B | Potential for slight benefit to hunting opportunities. | Favor primitive recreation on 12,589 acres. |
| razing | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Energy and Minerals | New exploration/ development foregone on entire WSA. | No Impact | No Impact | No Impact | No Impact | No Impact | No Impact | New exploration/ development foregone on 12,589 acres. |
| imber Management | All harvest/ development opportunities foregone. | Same as Alt. 1 | Sustained annual harvest of 2,100 MBF. | Sustained annual harvest of 1,780 MBF. | Sustained annual harvest of 617 MBF. | Same as Alt. 1 | Same as Alt. 1 | Same as Alt. 3C |
| Wilderness Values | Values maintained. Solitude enhanced by vehicle closure. | No change from present. | All values lost. | All values lost on 14,224 acres. | All values lost on 4,540, most maintained on 12,589 acres. | Same as Alt. 2 | Values maintained except for temporary degradation of naturalness on 346 acres. | All values maintained on 12,589 acres, lost on remainder of WSA. |
| Economics | Negligible | No Impact | Potential increase of 18 jobs and $302,400 in wages. | Potential increase of 13 jobs and $248,950 in wages. | Potential increase of 5 jobs and $94,500 in wages. | Negligible | Negligible | Same as Alt. 3C |
| ocial Values | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible |

TABLE 3-6, Continued
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE
(Refer to Chapter 6 for detailed discussions of impacts)

SNOWHOLE RAPIDS WSA

| ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENTS | Alternative 1<br>All Wilderness | Alternative 2<br>No Action | Alternative 3A<br>No Wilderness<br>(Recreation)<br>Preferred Alt. | Alternative 3B<br>No Wilderness<br>(Wildlife) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Air Quality | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible |
| Soil | Slight benefit from reduced livestock usage. | No impact | Same as Alt. 1 | Same as Alt. 1 |
| Water | Slight benefit corresponding to soil condition improvement. | No impact | Slight water quality degradation from shoreline disturbance. | Same as Alt. 1 |
| Vegetation | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible |
| Wildlife | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible |
| Cultural Resources | No change anticipated. | Same as Alt. 1 | Same as Alt. 1 | Same as Alt. 1 |
| Visual Resources | No impact. | No impact. | No impact. | No impact. |
| Recreation | Favor primitive forms of recreation. | No impact. | Slight adverse impact on primitive forms of recreation. | Same as Alt. 1 |
| Grazing | Reduction of 57 AUMs would cause slight improvement in range condition. | No impact. | Same as Alt. 1 | Same as Alt. 1 |
| Energy and Minerals | No impact | No impact | No impact | No impact |
| Timber Management | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Wilderness Values | Values maintained. | Negligible | Negligible | Values maintained. |
| Economics | Negligible | No impact. | Negligible | Negligible |
| Social Values | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible |

MARSHALL MOUNTAIN WSA

| ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENTS | Alternative 1<br>All Wilderness | Alternative 2<br>No Action | Alternative 3A<br>No Wilderness<br>(Timber) | Alternative 3B<br>No Wilderness<br>(Mineral Potential)<br>Preferred Alt. | Alternative 3C<br>No Wilderness<br>(Wildlife) | Alternative 4<br>Partial<br>Wilderness |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Air Quality | Negligible | Negligible | Slight short-term increase in particulate level. | Negligible | Negligible | Same as Alt. 3A. |
| Soil: | | | | | | |
| Loss (tons over a 10-year period) | Negligible | Negligible | 675 | Negligible | Negligible | 385 |
| Compaction (acres/10-years) | Negligible | Negligible | 50 | Negligible | Negligible | 29 |
| Water: | | | | | | |
| Water Yield Increase (ac. ft./year) | Negligible | Negligible | 20 | Negligible | Negligible | 11 |
| Sediment Yield Increase (tons/10-years) | Negligible | Negligible | 461 | Negligible | Negligible | 263 |
| Vegetation: | | | | | | |
| Eliminate Productivity (ac./10-yrs.) | No Impact | No Impact | 37 | Negligible | No Impact | 21 |
| Damage/Destruction (ac./10-yrs.) | No Impact | No Impact | 91 | Negligible | No Impact | 52 |
| Increased Growth (ac. fertilized/10-yrs.) | No Impact | No Impact | 122 | Negligible | No Impact | 70 |
| Wildlife: | | | | | | |
| Loss of Habitat (acres/10-yrs.) | | | | | | |
| Elk | No change, roadless | No Impact | 27 | Negligible | Slight benefit to | 16 |
| Mule Deer | nature would keep | No Impact | 23 | Negligible | wildlife popula- | 13 |
| Black Bear | human pressure low. | No Impact | 28 | Negligible | tions and habitat. | 16 |
| Snag-dependent Species | | No Impact | 94 | Negligible | | 54 |
| Cultural Resources: | | | | | | |
| Potential for Damage/Destruction | Negligible | Negligible | Soil disturbing activities would increase potential for damage/destruction. | Negligible | Negligible | Same as Alt. 3A |
| Visual Resources | Maintain scenic quality on entire WSA. | Same as Alt. 1 | Level of quality reduced on 3,920 acres. | Negligible | Same as Alt. 1 | Level of quality reduced on 2,280 acres. |
| Recreation | Favor primitive recreation opportunities. | Favor motorized recreation. | Same as Alt. 2 | Negligible | Same as Alt. 1 | Negligible |
| Grazing | No impact | No impact | No impact | No impact | Negligible - 8 AUM reduction. | No impact |
| Energy and Minerals | New exploration/ development foregone on entire WSA. | No impact | No impact | No impact | No impact | No impact |
| Timber Management | All harvest/develop- ment opportunities foregone. | Same as Alt. 1 | Sustained annual harvest of 724 MBF. | Same as Alt. 1 | Same as Alt. 1 | Sustained annual harvest of 421 MBF. |
| Wilderness Values | Values maintained. | Solitude reduced by motorized vehicles. Potential mining activity increase would degrade naturalness and solitude. | All values lost. | Same as Alt. 2 | Potential mineral development increase would degrade values. | Values maintained on 1,680 acres, lost o remainder of WSA. |
| Economics | Negligible | Negligible | Potential increase of 5 jobs and $90,900 in wages. | Negligible | Negligible | Potential increase 3 jobs and $54,600 in wages. |
| Social Values | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible |

# CHAPTER 4
# AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

## INTRODUCTION

The Amendment/EIS area is basically the northern panhandle of Idaho, extending from the Canadian border on the north to the Payette National Forest on the south. This area contains a topographic profile ranging from river canyon areas with elevations less than 1,000 feet above sea level to mountain peaks with elevations exceeding 8,400 feet. The region includes some of the most varied geology in Idaho. North of Coeur d'Alene, the area is dominated by the Kaniksu Batholith to the west and the Precambrian Belt Supergroup to the east. Much of this northern area has been heavily affected by glaciation. South to Lewiston, the geology consists primarily of the Precambrian Belt Supergroup with some Columbia River basalt along the western part of the state. Further south, the Columbia River basalt flows have covered most of the area.

The majority of land in the EIS area, 77.3 percent, is in forest use; 11.3 percent is in range-land use; 9.5 percent is in agricultural use; and the remaining 1.9 percent is in urban use. Despite the large federal ownership of land in the area (61 percent), the WSAs contain less than .3 percent of the total land area. These WSAs are widely scattered throughout the area. Because of the intermingling with private, state, and National Forest lands and due to the absence of large blocks of land under BLM management, it is unlikely that any particular social system or lifestyle is primarily dependent on BLM land for survival.

The climate of the Coeur d'Alene District is associated with the southerly and easterly drift of weather systems that develop in the northern and central Pacific Ocean. In the winter, storms pass over the region causing a distinctly wet climate. During summer, however, storms pass farther north causing a relatively dry climate. In general, the eastward movement of the marine air keeps temperatures moderate except when continental high pressures reverse the general flow to a westerly direction. This bring periods of hot, dry air in the summer and cold weather in the winter.

Topographic features create localized microclimates through the district. The widely ranging elevations, the rapidly changing orientation of the mountains and rivers, and the invervening topographic barriers all add to the climatic variations. The Clearwater River basin, for example is so oriented that moist Pacitic air enters the lower basin and is subjected to vertical lifting. As the air moves over the mountains, considerable precipitation is produced. Another example is the highly variable surface winds caused by the differing topography.

Due to the scattered nature of the WSAs within the EIS area, the affected environment will be discussed individually for each WSA with the exception of air quality. This component can be generalized over the entire area.

## AIR QUALITY

In general, the air quality within the district meets ambient air quality standards. Northern Idaho is part of two federal Air Quality Control Regions (AQCR), Regions 62 and 63. Within these regions, there are two non-attainment areas, the Silver Valley and Lewiston. A non-attainment area is a designated area that does not meet air quality standards. None of the alternatives for any WSA within the EIS area would affect either non-attainment areas.

In the Idaho State Implementation Plan for air quality (IDHW 1980), the statewide emissions inventory identifies the principal air pollution emission sources and estimates their contributions. Primary impacts of management activities would be included in the inventory's "miscellaneous area sources" group under the categories of prescribed burning and unpaved roads. Only particulate emissions are estimated under these categories. Statewide, miscellaneous area sources account for 99.6 percent of the particulates with unpaved roads the major source (60.2%) followed by wildfire (20.0%), agriculture (17.7%), and prescribed fires including slash burning (1.7%) (IDHW 1980). Activities on BLM adminstered lands acocunt for less than one-half percent of total statewide particulate emissions.

SOCIAL VALUES

In a statewide survey of Idaho households (Card and Carlson 1979) respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement, "We have enough area legally designated as wilderness in Idaho." Of the 1,410 responses received 67% agreed that there is enough legally designated wilderness in Idaho, with 15% neutral and 18% disagreeing with the statement. Further analysis shows that those respondents living in the area from Idaho County to the Canadian border, responded to this same question as follows:

70% agree there is enough wilderness;
11% neither agree nor disagree; and
19% disagree that there is enough wilderness.

The regional opinions are almost exactly the same as those held statewide and are felt to be representative of Idahoans living in the study area.

Based on this information it appears that in spite of polarity of opinion between those favoring or opposing additional wilderness designations, that the majority does not favor additional wilderness designation. Further, livestock operators are concerned that livestock grazing may be curtailed or halted under a wilderness designation, or at best, more difficult because of the exclusion of most motorized operations within the wilderness area normally associated with ranching operations. Ranchers are also concerned about how wilderness designation would affect the implementation of future range improvements within the areas. Recreation users feel that the quality of outdoor experience now available should be protected for future use.

It is unlikely that the proposed action or any of the alternatives would measurably effect the social systems of the area. In view of this, there will be no further discussion of social impacts.

## CRYSTAL LAKE

### INTRODUCTION

The Crystal Lake WSA (refer to Map 1-2) is located 10 miles northeast of St. Maries. The WSA contains approximately 9,027 acres of public land.

The northern border of the unit is formed by private land and a portion of the Twin Crags Road. An irregular pattern of private land and portions of the Rochat Road define the western and southern borders. Portions of the Reeds Gulch and Pine Creek roads, and private land constitute the eastern boundary.

The Rochat Road is a good quality, gravel surfaced route. The remaining roads are of lesser quality with natural surface.

The unit contains a landscape of varied character. Bare talus peaks descend sharply to Latour Creek some 3,000 feet below Reeds Baldy, the highest peak in the unit. The slopes in the upper drainages are predominately vegetated with a thin to moderately stocked mixed coniferous stand. Toward the lower end of the unit the density of this stand steadily increases.

The unit contains the major portion of the Latour Creek drainage including its headwaters at Crystal Lake. Bare areas of talus material are common in the upper end of the drainage. The basin below Crystal Lake contains the site of a past fire and now supports a dense brush cover.

### SOILS

There are three major soil associations in the WSA. The Divers-Brickel Association makes up about 45 percent of the area. This is a deep, well-drained soil that occurs on 45 to 75 percent slopes. It has moderate permeability with low to very low water capacity. Surface runoff is very rapid and the erosion potential is very high.

The Huckleberry-Ardenvoir Association covers about 30 percent of the area and occurs on 35 to 60 percent slopes. This soil is moderately deep and well drained with moderate permeability. Surface runoff is rapid and its erosion potential is very high.

The Brickel-Rubble Land Association covers about 25 percent of the WSA. This association consists of shallow soils on ridge tops along with areas of stones and boulders. The soils have moderate permeability. The available water capacity is very low with rapid runoff. The erosion potential is very high.

### WATER RESOURCES

The WSA contains the headwaters area of Latour Creek and adjoining areas of Pine Creek, Reeds Gulch, Ahrs Gulch, and Rochat Creek. Annual precipitation ranges from 40 to 60 inches with water yields of 20 to 30 inches.

Watershed conditions vary greatly in the unit due to the variety of topography and land treatments (both natural and man-made). The upper portion of the WSA was extensively damaged by the 1910 fire and has been slow to recover. The water quality of the unit is considered to be very good. A small portion (less than 50 acres) is included in the Rochat municipal watershed.

Being headwaters, the streams are very small except for Latour Creek, and stream stability is rated good to fair. Latour Creek originates from Crystal Lake. The upper part of the stream is of good stability. At 3,500 feet the stream enters a meadow area. This area has a great deal of aggregation and stream migration with active beaver dams, resulting in a fair stability rating.

VEGETATION

Table 4-1 summarizes the vegetation for this unit. There are no known state-listed rare, or federally-listed threatened or endangered plant species in the WSA.

TABLE 4-1
CRYSTAL LAKE VEGETATON

| Habitat Type Series | Acres | Seral tree species | Primary brush, grasses, and forbs |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grand fir | 2,570 | Douglas-fir, western larch, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine | pachistima, western meadowrue, Columbia brome |
| Subalpine fir | 410 | white pine, Englemann spruce | menziesia, pachistima, beargrass, honeysuckle |
| Mountain hemlock | 4,757 | white pine, subalpine fir, Englemann spruce | beargrass, menziesia, elk sedge, shodendron, honeysuckle |
| Douglas fir | 660 | ponderosa pine, western larch | ninebark, oceanspray, ceanothus, bluegrass, aster |
| Western hemlock | 630 | white pine, western larch, grand fir | pachistima, blueberry, western meadowrue, Columbia brome |

WILDLIFE

Major terrestrial wildlife species that occupy the WSA are elk, mule deer, black bear, songbirds, cavity (snag) dwellers, forest grouse, and small mammals. Bobcat, a sensitive species, may also occur in the area. No other sensitive, threatened, or endangered wildlife species are known to inhabit the area.

The WSA contains about 500 acres of important elk summer range and nearly 1,500 acres of important deer summer range. Areas designated as important range are necessary for the maintenance of viable populations. Approximately 12 fawning/calving and rutting areas have been found in the WSA.

No data is available regarding density of current wildlife populations in the area but habitat is in good condition. The roadless nature of the area makes it valuable for wildlife because of reduced human pressure.

Latour Creek, which originates at Crystal Lake, drains the unit. Both the creek and the lake are fish habitat. A 1977 inventory of Latour Creek found the stream to be habitat for brook trout, cutthroat trout, and sculpin. The stream was classified in good to excellent habitat condition.

Crystal Lake is about 12 acres in size. It is planted with about 5,000 one-inch cutthroat trout on a biannual basis by Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The lake is in a near-pristine condition. Both Crystal Lake and Latour Creek are of local importance in terms of fishery habitat.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Only a very limited Class III cultural resource inventory has been conducted on the WSA; however, nationally significant cultural resources are known to exist. The major cultural resource which has been identified is the Skitswish Monuments, a group of pits and rock structures used in religious practices of the Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe. These monuments have been determined to be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Cultural activities which are known or speculated to have taken place in the WSA are plant collection, camp sites, mineral collection, and religious activities.

VISUAL RESOURCES

The visual resources inventory for this WSA indicates that it contains scenic values which are rated high when compared to other aras in northern Idaho.

RECREATION

Roaded natural (20%), semi-primitive motorized (40%), and semi-primitive nonmotorized (40%) recreation settings are available within the unit. A high diversity of landscape elements exist in the entire area, as evidenced by the "A" class scenic quality rating.

The only special attraction in the area is Crystal Lake. There are no developed recreation facilities within the unit that would serve to attract use. The unit's ability to sustain semi-primitive opportunities is low due to the lack of roads and trails in the area to disperse use and its small size. Current recreation use is estimated to be 690 visitor days annually.

GRAZING

The current grazing lease in the unit provides for 36 AUMS between June 15 and October 1 each year. The area leased (1,320 acres) is in good range condition.

ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

No energy resources are known to exist in the area. There are no known mineral values for either locatable or leasable minerals. Fault zones within the unit and favorable host rocks on the lower Belt Supergroup are similar to those in the Coeur d'Alene Mining District. These conditions will probably lead to greater demand by exploration companies as new techniques are developed.

There are no leases or pending applications for leasable minerals. There are no mining claims located within the unit but there are abandoned adits located west and north of the WSA that were explored in the 1930s.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

The approximate average age of the timber in the area is 70 years. The standing volume of the 4,931 acres of productive forest land is 45.8 million board feet. For the timber production capability of the area, refer to Table 4-2.

WILDERNESS VALUES

During the wilderness inventory, the WSA was found to exhibit the wilderness characteristics of size, naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreation. It also contains special values of educational and historical interest. For an evaluation of these wilderness characteristics refer to Chapter 5.

ECONOMICS

The primary counties which would be affected by any activities within this WSA are Benewah and Kootenai. Total 1980 employment in these counties was 18,190 with lumber related employment accounting for 2,905. Total wages in the counties for that year were $217,134,700 of which $57,176,000 were lumber sector related (Idaho Department of Employment 1981).

An annual harvest of 392.6 million board feet of timber is necessary to maintain current (1980) levels of lumber related employment.

TABLE 4-2
TIMBER PRODUCTION CAPABILITY CLASSIFICATION - 1979
WSA (Acres)

| Category | Crystal Lake (61-10) | Grandmother Mtn. (61-15) | Snowhole Rapids (62-1) | Marshall Mtn. (62-10) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Productive forest lands available for management | | | | |
| Non-problem sites[1] | 2,062 | 7,414 | 67 | 3,920 |
| Restricted use sites[2] | 2,869 | 4,830 | 0 | 0 |
| | 4,931 | 12,244 | 67 | 3,920 |
| Productive forest lands excluded from management[3] | 756 | 1,856 | 0 | 0 |
| Non-productive forest lands[4] | 0 | 1,483 | 219 | 1,884 |
| Non-forest lands[5] | 3,340 | 1,546 | 4,782 | 0 |
| Total lands administered by BLM | 9,027 | 17,129 | 5,068 | 5,804 |



[1] Non-problem sites are productive forest sites characterized by stable soils and bedrock. They can be logged by normal ground based and cable practices, and reforestation can be established within 5 years after final harvest using normal techniques.

[2] Restricted use sites are productive forest sites that need special logging practices or reforestation techniques to preserve soil productivity or ensure reforestation of the site within 5 years after final harvest.

[3] Productive forest lands excluded from management are productive forest lands where the application of special logging practices or reforestation techniques would still result in degradation of the site or failure of the areas to reforest within five years after harvest. These lands are not included in the allowable cut base.

[4] Non-productive forest land is not capable of producing 20 cubic feet of wood per acre per year or is only capable of producing non-commercial species of trees.

[5] Non-forest lands are incapable of being 16.7 percent stocked with forest trees or are lands developed for nontimber uses.

## GRANDMOTHER MOUNTAIN

### INTRODUCTION

The Grandmother Mountain WSA (refer to Map 1-3) is located 12 miles east of Clarkia. The WSA contains a total of 17,129 acres of public land with 10,339 acres in unit 61-15a and 6,790 acres in unit 61-15b. These two units are separated by the USFS administered Marble Creek drainage. There are an additional 160 acres of private land and 160 acres of land administered by the Forest Service within 61-15b.

Area 61-15a is bordered by a combination of National Forest, private, and state lands. The Freezeout Saddle Road forms the southern boundary of this portion of the WSA. Area 61-15b is bordered by a more intermingled pattern of National Forest, private, and State lands on all sides. This intermingled pattern results in a narrow and irregular configuration.

The terrain within 61-15a varies from heavily forested drainages to bare peaks. There are numerous small drainages and several high mountain lakes located throughout. Elevation ranges from 6,800 feet on Widow Mountain to 4,600 feet in the Lund Creek drainage.

The terrain and vegetation of 61-15b is similar to that of 61-15a. This area, however, does not contain the variety of features found in 61-15a. In the Placer Creek drainage, elevation ranges from 4,800 feet to over 6,300 feet.

There are several hiking trails which cross both portions of the WSA. All are administered by the Forest Service or BLM.

### SOILS

There are three major soil associations within the WSA. The Huckleberry-Ardenvoir Association makes up about 10 percent of the area. The Divers-Brickel Association covers about 60 percent of the area, and the remaining 30 percent of the WSA is covered by the Brickel-Rubble Land Association. For a general description of these soils, refer to the previous soils discussion for the Crystal Lake unit.

### WATER RESOURCES

The WSA is located along the major hydrologic divide of the Clearwater and Spokane River drainages and contains many headwater streams. The annual precipitation averages about 50 inches per year and water yield ranges between 20 and 50 inches.

Stream conditions vary greatly in the unit. The watershed of the entire WSA is rated as good (1978 stream survey) with one exception. The rocky area below Lookout Mountain (approximately 200 acres) is rated as fair.

The lands in the unit are hydrologically important because they are in very high water yield zones. The elevation of the area provides high stream flows for an extended period due to the large snowpack. Water quality is rated as very good throughout the unit.

### VEGETATION

Table 4-3 summarizes the vegetation of this WSA. There are no known state-listed rare, or federally-listed threatened or endangered plant species in the WSA.

TABLE 4-3
GRANDMOTHER MOUNTAIN VEGETATION

| Habitat Type Series | Acres | Seral tree species | Primary brush, grasses, and forbs |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grand fir | 1,220 | Douglas-fir, western larch, ponderosa pine, | pachistima, western meadowrue, Columbia brome |
| Western red cedar | 320 | western white pine, western larch, grand fir | pachistima, blueberry, queencup beardslilly, Columbia brome |
| Subalpine fir | 10,359 | western white pine, Englemann spruce, lodgepole pine | menziesia, sitka alder, honeysuckle, pachistima, beargrass |
| Mountain hemlock | 5,230 | subalpine fir, white pine, Englemann spruce | beargrass, menziesia, elk sedge, honeysuckle, shodendron |

WILDLIFE

Major terrestrial wildlife species that occupy the WSA include elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, moose, black bear, songbirds, cavity dwellers, forest grouse, and small mammals. Wolverine and Canada lynx, both sensitive species, may also occur in the area.

The entire WSA is classified as elk summer range. Approximately 9,600 acres have been identified as important summer range. About 500 acres in the Placer Creek portion of the unit are elk winter range. Mule deer and black bear occupy the entire Grandmother unit. Moose habitat, totaling about 1,000 acres, occurs in the Little North Fork and Little Lost Lake drainages of the unit. This habitat is primarily summer/fall range.

The roadless nature of the unit makes it valuable for wildlife because of reduced human intrusion. Despite the lack of specific inventory data, BLM wildlife biologists believe that this WSA contains high quality habitat and supports a large number of animals.

The WSA contains two lakes and eight streams that support fisheries.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Class III cultural inventories have been conducted on 3,300 acres (19%) of this WSA. Based on these inventories, professional archaeologists believe that temporary camp sites exist near the springs, lakes, and streams in this unit. Thick underbrush prohibits the determination of the precise location of these sites. Because of the distance of this unit from major rivers, it is not expected to contain a major settlement.

VISUAL RESOURCES

The visual resources inventory rates the scenic values of this WSA as high with 92% of the unit rated as A class scenery and 8% as B class.

RECREATION RESOURCES

The WSA primarily provides a semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation opportunity setting (93% of the area). Roaded natural (3%) and semi-primitive motorized (4%) settings exist primarily around the roaded boundary on the southern portion of the unit. Although most of the trail systems within the WSA are suitable for motorized uses, they are presently little used for this activity.

A high diversity of landscape elements exist in the area. Special features that attract recreation use include the extensive trail system, Fish Lake, Lost Lake, and Crater Lake.

Recreation use of the area is estimated to be 2,500 visitor days annually. The recreation opportunity setting available within the unit can also be found in other areas. The lack of recreation conflicts indicates that there is no current need for recreation management.

GRAZING

There are no current grazing leases within the unit; however, a cooperative grazing management plan for 3,250 acres in the southwest portion of the WSA is being considered by the BLM, Forest Service, and private landowners.

ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

There are no known energy resources in the unit. In addition, no known mineral values for leasable minerals exist in the area. Subeconomic resources of aluminum in anorthosite have been identified, but the mineral is classified as a submarginal resource. The entire unit has identified undiscovered resources for garnet, asbestos, and refractories. There are no mining claims within the unit.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

The approximate age of timber in the area is 120 years. The standing volume in the 12,244 acres of productive forest land is approximately 157 million board feet. For the timber production capability of the area, refer to Table 4-2.

WILDERNESS VALUES

During the wilderness inventory, the WSA was found to exhibit the wilderness characteristics of size, naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreation. It also contains special values of ecological interest. For an evaluation of these wilderness characteristics, please refer to Chapter 5.

ECONOMICS

Shoshone County would be the county primarily affected by actions in this WSA. Total 1980 employment was 7,439 with lumber related employment accounting for 194. Total wages were $131,010,900 (Idaho Department of Employment 1981).

An annual timber harvest of 26.6 million board feet is necessary to maintain current (1980) levels of lumber related employment.

## SNOWHOLE RAPIDS

### INTRODUCTION

The Snowhole Rapids WSA (refer to Map 1-4) is located 8 miles southwest of Cottonwood. The WSA contains 5,068 acres.

Private land forms the border around the majority of the unit. Approximately 2.5 miles of natural surface roads form small portions of the border at both ends of the WSA. The unit is approximately 20 miles in length but averages only 0.5 mile in width. Within this configuration, the Salmon River and the steep canyon walls which surround it are found. The majority of the unit is confined to these walls. Only at Mahoney Creek, approximately midway through the area, does the unit extend any appreciable distance from the river. At this point the boundary extends one mile south of the river. In contrast, the unit narrows to approximately 330 feet 1.5 miles downstream.

The canyon walls within the unit are steep and highly broken due to erosional forces. Numerous perennial and intermittent drainages further diversify the terrain. Elevation ranges from 3,800 feet in the Mahoney Creek drainage to 1,200 feet at the Salmon River.

The vegetation within the unit is more uniform in nature than the topography. Grasses dominate the landscape where adequate soil is present. However, scattered locations throughout the unit do support trees, shrubs, and herbaceous species. Most of these locations are along the drainages that flow into the Salmon River. The most extensively vegetated area is found in the Mahoney Creek drainage.

### SOILS

There are two major soil associations within the WSA. The Bluespring-Rock Outcrop Association covers about 80 percent of the unit. This is a moderately deep and well drained soil that occurs on 40 to 90 percent slopes. The soil has moderately low permeability and low water capacity. Runoff is very rapid. The hazard of erosion is very high.

The Bluespring-Klickson-Rock Outcrop Association covers about 20 percent of the unit. This association is also moderately deep and well drained with 40 to 90 percent slopes. It has moderate permeability and moderate water capacity. Runoff is very rapid and the erosion hazard is very high.

### WATER RESOURCES

The steep canyon walls in the unit limit watershed capability but watershed conditions are generally good. The streams emptying into the Salmon River have a stability rating of fair to good. The larger streams with a more moderate gradient have the better stream stability ratings. The water quality in the streams sampled has been found to be relatively good. The water quality of the Salmon River is rated good and has not changed for several years.

The canyon area has a mean annual precipitation of 10 to 15 inches. The average annual water yield is very low (5 inches or less) although occasionally heavy rains can result in a very high yield due to the steep topography.

### VEGETATION

The high variability in soils, slope, aspect, and past use has resulted in a mosaic of plant communities within the study area. The vegetation is composed almost entirely of grasslands.

Timbered sites occupy only 286 acres in the Snowhole Rapids unit. The grasslands are comprised of three habitat types: Idaho Fescue/Bluebunch Wheatgrass, Bluebunch Wheatgrass/Sandberg Bluegrass, and Bluebunch Wheatgrass/Plains Prickly pear.

The timbered areas are classified as a Douglas-fir/Ninebark habitat type. This type is found in pockets on north and east facing slopes with moderate to well developed soils. Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine form the upper canopy layer with ninebark dominating the understory vegetation. Grasses and forbs increase where openings in the timber canopy occur.

There are no known state-listed rare, or federally-listed threatened or endangered plant species in the WSA.

WILDLIFE

Mule deer are the dominate big game species in the area. About 250 deer use the area as part of their winter/spring range. About 100 deer use the area for part of their summer/fall range. White-tailed deer totaling about 125 head winter near Wicklup Creek.

The chukar partridge is the most abundant upland game species and has a preferred habitat of canyon grasslands; populations are high; habitat condition is good. Other upland species include Hungarian partridge, grouse, mourning doves, mountain quail, and valley quail.

A few Bald Eagles (an endangered species) may winter in the area, but the habitat is not good due to a natural scarcity of food.

Six sensitive species occur in the area -- Columbia tiger beetle, bobcat, osprey, mountain quail, river otter, and white sturgeon. Tiger beetles were once thought to be extinct due to dam construction which flooded their known range downstream. Their preferred habitat is sand bars along the river. Bobcats and otters are common in the area; osprey and mountain quail are not.

One river and two creeks in the unit have fisheries value -- the Salmon River, Teicher Creek, and Burnt Creek. The Salmon River is affected only in a very minor way by BLM management activities in the Snowhole area and will not be discussed further.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The lower Salmon River, including the WSA, contains abundant evidence of prehistoric and historic activity. The earliest evidence of occupation dates back to the Windust phase (9,000 B.C. to 6,000 B.C.) for the general Salmon-Snake River area. Until approximately 2,500 B.C. there were no permanent villages established along the river, so habitation is characterized by evidence of small, temporary camps. Early inhabitants were dependent upon salmon runs, a lifestyle that continued through 1800 A.D. The river was heavily utilized by miners in the 1880s to early 1900s. Evidence of their activity is still visible at many points along the river corridor.

There are many prehistoric and historic sites of National Register quality along the river. The river corridor is being considered for nomination as an Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places.

VISUAL RESOURCES

The visual resources inventory for this WSA indicates that it contains scenic values which are rated high when compared to other areas in northern Idaho.

RECREATION RESOURCES

The unit provides a semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation setting. Although powerboats do use the river, their contact with other floatboaters is infrequent or for a short period of time. The lower Salmon River provides nationally recognized whitewater rafting opportunities. Based upon a percentage of the WSA area to the total river corridor, recreation use for 1980 within the WSA is estimated at 1,732 user days. Commercial outfitters account for 56 percent of the user days.

GRAZING

All 5,068 acres of the WSA are leased for livestock grazing. Refer to Table 4-4 for a summary of range condition. There are 11 allotments within the unit with a total of 356 AUMs authorized. Livestock operators with public grazing leases in the unit receive 1.5 percent of their annual forage requirements from these lands. For a complete description of allotments, range trend, and current production for the area, please refer to the Northern Idaho Grazing Management EIS (NIGMEIS) (BLM 1981).

TABLE 4-4
SNOWHOLE RAPIDS WSA
RANGE CONDITION

| Range Condition | Acres |
|---|---|
| Excellent | 1,621 |
| Good | 1,667 |
| Fair | 1,182 |
| Poor | 51 |
| Timber | 286 |
| Rock (waste) | 261 |
| Total | 5,068 |

ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

There are no identified energy resources within the WSA and no known mineral values for locatable or leasable minerals. Saleable minerals in the area such as sand and gravel are found in terrace deposits in a few locations along the river. Due to limited access, these deposits are not currently economically significant.

Gold-bearing gravels are reported to occur along the Salmon River; however, the most productive deposits are many miles from the WSA.

There is no current production of locatable, leasable, or saleable minerals. There are no mining claims located within this unit.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

The standing volume of timber in the 286 acres of forest land is approximately 536,000 board feet. For the timber production capability of the area, refer to Table 4-2.

WILDERNESS VALUES

During the inventory, the WSA was found to exhibit the wilderness characteristics of size, naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreation. It also contains special values of ecological and historic interest. For an evaluation of these wilderness characteristics, refer to Chapter 5.

ECONOMICS

Any impacts which would result from actions in this WSA would affect Lewis and Idaho counties. Total 1980 employment in these counties was 3,925. Commercial river guiding and outfitting operations comprise a small portion of this total.

## MARSHALL MOUNTAIN

### INTRODUCTION

The Marshall Mountain WSA (refer to Map 1-5) is located 22 miles east of Riggins. The WSA originally contained 6,524 acres of public land, but approximately 720 acres of the WSA have been designated as wilderness as part of the River of No Return Wilderness Area.

The Payette National Forest forms the boundary along the north and east side of the WSA. Natural surface roads, an Idaho State section, and other parcels of public land form the remaining borders. This intermingled pattern results in the WSA's narrow and irregular configuration.

The topography of the area is mountainous and frequently broken by perennial and intermittent drainages. The land is heavily covered by a mixed-conifer forest. This forest cover is occasionally broken by talus slopes and rock outcrops. Elevation ranges from over 8,400 feet at the summit of Marshall Mountain to 3,600 feet in Long Tom Creek.

### SOILS

There are two major soil associations within the WSA. The Jughandle-Suttler Association covers about 70 percent of the unit. It is a deep and excessively drained soil with moderately rapid permeability. The available water capacity is moderate. Runoff is very rapid, and the erosion hazard is very high.

The Nazaton-Suttler Association covers about 30 percent of the unit. The soil is very deep and well-drained with a moderate water capacity. Runoff is very rapid and the erosion hazard is very high.

### WATER RESOURCES

All streams in the unit eventually flow through the River of No Return Wilderness and drain into the Salmon River, a designated Wild and Scenic River system component. The mean annual precipitation is about 27 inches per year with a water yield averaging about 10 inches. The watershed condition of the WSA is rated as good to fair. Water quality in the unit is considered to be good.

### VEGETATION

Table 4-5 summarizes the vegetation in the Marshall Mountain WSA. No state-listed rare, or federally-listed threatened or endangered plant species have been identified in the unit.

TABLE 4-5
MARSHALL MOUNTAIN WSA VEGETATION

| Habitat Type Series | Acres | Seral Tree Species | Primary Brush, Grasses, Forbes |
|---|---|---|---|
| Douglas-fir | 414 | ponderosa pine, western larch | ninebark, oceanspray, bluegrass, ceanothus |
| Grand fir | 1,400 | Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, western larch | western meadowrue, Columbia brome, sweet scented bedstraw |
| Subalpine fir | 3,990 | white pine, Englemann spruce | beargrass, menziesia, elk sedge, shodendron |

WILDLIFE

Elk and mule deer use of the area is light. An estimated total of 100 animals occasionally use the area as summer and fall habitat. The unit provides good black bear habitat, but numbers are not known.

Both spruce and blue grouse are found in the conifer habitats.

No endangered or threatened wildlife species are known to occur in the area. Sensitive species including wolverine, Canada lynx and bobcat may use the unit as part of their habitat.

The primary fish habitat values in the Marshall Mountain area are associated with the lakes. Upper Twin Lake has no potential for natural spawning. It is in good condition and contains suitable unoccupied trout habitat. Lower Twin Lake does not contain spawning habitat but is stocked with rainbow trout. Debbie Lake also contains rainbow trout.

Because of the lack of natural spawning potential in the lakes, fish populations would experience a downward trend without supplemental fish planting. Because of high gradient and migration barriers, the streams in the area do not provide fish habitat.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

This unit has not been included in a Class III cultural resource inventory. Some limited inventories have been conducted in the adjoining areas and cultural resources are known to be present on the edges of the unit.

The known cultural resources in the Marshall Mountain area are related to historic prospecting and mining operations. At the present time, very little is known about the prehistoric utilization of the unit.

VISUAL RESOURCES

According to the visual resources inventory, this WSA contains Class A scenic quality.

RECREATION RESOURCES

The unit primarily provides semi-primitive motorized recreation opportunity settings.

Specific recreation attractions in the area include the various historic mining structures and mountain lakes. There are no developed recreation facilities to attract use. Existing use is estimated at less than 30 user days per year. It is assumed any recreation that does occur is in conjunction with use of adjacent lands.

GRAZING

There is one permit for grazing sheep in the unit. The lease covers 150 acres for 8 AUMs.

ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

A 1977 USGS map titled "Land Valuable for Geothermal Resources" indicates this area may be valuable for geothermal resources. The Department of Energy's "Energy-Resource Evaluation of Wilderness Study Areas" (USDOE 1981) mentions that numerous hot springs occur in the vicinity of the WSA with temperatures ranging from 30°C to 60°C. In order to use low-temperature thermal waters (less than 90°C) they must be available from a spring or a shallow well, neither of which exist within the WSA. There are no known mineral values for either leasable or saleable minerals.

The area has been classified as having identified undiscovered resources for base metals, gold, and silver. There are over 15 mine sites within 10 miles of the WSA.

There are no leases or pending applications for leasable minerals. According to BLM's mining claim records there are approximately 150 lode mining claims and 2 mill sites within the unit. There are no permits or pending applications for saleable minerals. There is a large inferred demand for mineral production or exploration within the unit based upon the number of mining claims.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

The average age of timber in the area is 95 years. The standing volume on the 3,920 acres of productive forest land is estimated at 57 million board feet. For the timber production capability of the area, refer to Table 4-2.

WILDERNESS VALUES

During the wilderness inventory, the unit was found to exhibit the wilderness characteristics of size, naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreation. For an evaluation of these wilderness characteristics, refer to Chapter 5.

ECONOMICS

The primary county of impact related to this WSA would be Idaho County. Total 1980 employment was 3,086 with the lumber industry accounting for 969. Wages in the county totalled $38,155,400 with $17,635,400 related to the lumber industry (Idaho Department of Employment 1981).

A total annual timber harvest of 130.9 million board feet would be necessary to maintain current (1980) levels of lumber industry related employment.

# CHAPTER 5
# OTHER DATA OR ANALYSIS REQUIRED - WILDERNESS CRITERIA AND QUALITY STANDARDS

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Wilderness Study Policy establishes two criteria to be considered in determining whether a WSA is more suitable for wilderness or more suitable for other uses. They are 1) evaluation of wilderness values, and 2) manageability. In addition, six quality standards are to be used for analysis.

## CRITERION 1 - EVALUATION OF WILDERNESS VALUES

The amendment and EIS must consider the extent to which each of the following components contributes to the overall value of an area for wilderness purposes:

1. Mandatory Wilderness Characteristics: The quality of the area's size, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

2. Special Features: The presence or absence, and the quality of the following optional wilderness characteristics -- ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

3. Multiple Resource Benefits: The benefits to other multiple resource values and uses which only wilderness designation of the area could ensure.

4. Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System: Considers the extent to which wilderness designation of the area under study would contribute to expanding the diversity of the National Wilderness Preservation System from the standpoint of each of the factors listed below:

   a. Expanding the diversity of natural systems and features, as represented by ecosystems and landforms.

   b. Assessing the opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation within one day's driving time (5 hours) of major population centers.

   c. Balancing the geographic distribution of wilderness areas.

## CRITERION 2 - MANAGEABILITY

The capability for an area to be effectively managed to preserve its wilderness character must be considered.

## QUALITY STANDARDS

The Wilderness Study Policy also directs that the following six quality standards be used for analysis and documentation.

1. Energy and Mineral Resource Values: Recommendations as to an area's suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation will reflect a thorough consideration of any identified or potential energy and mineral resource values.

2. Impacts on Other Resources: Consider the extent to which other resource values or uses of the area would be foregone or adversely affected as a result of wilderness designation.

3. Impacts of Nondesignation on Wilderness Values: Consider the alternative use of land under study if the area is not designated as wilderness, and the extent to which the wilderness values of the area would be foregone or adversely affected as a result of this use.

4. Public Comment: In determing whether an area is suitable or nonsuitable for wilderness designation, considerations will be given to comments received from interested and affected publics at all levels--local, state, regional, and national. The BLM will develop its recommendations by considering public comment in conjunction with a full analysis of a wilderness study area's multiple resource and social and economic values and uses.

5. Local Social and Economic Effects: In determining whether an area is suitable or nonsuitable for wilderness designation, the BLM will give special attention to any significant social and economic effects, as identified through the wilderness study process, which designation of the area would have on local areas.

6. Consistency With Other Plans: In determining whether an area is suitable or nonsuitable for wilderness designation, the BLM will fully consider and document the extent to which the recommendation is consistent with officially approved and adopted resource-related plans of other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Indian tribes (and the policies and programs contained in such plans).

The remainder of this chapter will discuss wilderness criteria and quality standards specifically applied to each WSA.

CRYSTAL LAKE (61-10, 9,027 acres)

CRITERION 1 - EVALUATION OF WILDERNESS VALUES

Mandatory Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness: While the unit is in an essentially natural state, there is one human imprint which may reduce the subjective quality of this natural appearance. This imprint is a "way" which stretches for 1.5 miles in the extreme eastern portion of the WSA. The way is now overgrown and impassable. Natural revegetation has reduced the visual impacts of the road cut, though it does not significantly limit the way's visibility.

The way is visible only from certain areas within the southern portion of the WSA. This area encompasses approximately 2,000 acres and contains Crystal Lake. Crystal Lake receives most of the use within the WSA. Reeds Baldy, a prominent peak, is also located here. These two features, along with ease of access, serve to make this area the focal point of use in the Crystal Lake WSA.

There is one other way within the WSA, a 1/2-mile route in the northeast corner of the unit. This way would not significantly affect the perceived quality of naturalness since it is difficult to see as it is well screened by topography and forest.

This WSA is vulnerable to management practices on adjacent non-BLM land. This is particularly significant outside of the northwest portion of the area where an intermingled pattern of state and private land exists. Timber harvest and other land-altering activities are visible from many portions of the WSA. Depending upon the intensity of future actions, the effect may be significant upon user perceptions of naturalness. This same situation exists to the south and west of the WSA. Actions within this area are visible from fewer locations within the WSA and will therefore constitute a less significant impact.

Solitude: Under conditions of moderate and dispersed use, the heavily forested areas (approximately 3,700 acres) within the WSA provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude due to vegetative screening. The trend of increased visitor use would make it more difficult to isolate oneself from the sights and sounds of other users due to the relative small size of the WSA and limited vegetative and topographic screening.

Activities on adjacent lands (see naturalness discussion) could diminish outstanding opportunities for solitude available to users in the Crystal Lake WSA.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: The Crystal Lake WSA offers a diversity of possible activities. The more prominent among these are fishing, cross-country skiing, hiking, hunting, and nature study.

The range of landform and vegetation, from bare peaks to heavily forested creek bottoms, provides a broad base which can meet the needs of these varied activities. Fishing opportunities include both stream and lake. Cross-country skiing within the WSA accommodates a wide range of skill levels. The variety of environments maintain visual interest for both the hiker and those involved in nature study.

Special Features

The Crystal Lake WSA contains features which have both cultural and educational values. These features consist of the Skitswish Monuments located along the ridges surrounding the majority of the area. The Skitswish Monuments are associated with the religious ceremonies of the Coeur d'Alene Indians.

Multiple Resource Benefits (benefits to other multiple resource values which only wilderness designation of the area would ensure)

After considering all the management alternatives for this WSA, no multiple resource benefits which depend solely on wilderness designation have been identified.

Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Expanding the diversity of natural systems and features, as represented by ecosystems and landforms: The Crystal Lake WSA is located within the Columbia Forest Province; western spruce-fir forest. The ecosystem is currently represented in nine designated wilderness areas, twenty-three areas which have been administratively endorsed as wilderness, and seven areas which are under study.

Expanding the opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation within one day's driving time (five hours) of major population centers: Consideration must be given to the opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation within one day's driving time (5 hours) of major population centers. The population centers used in this analysis are Spokane, Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Moscow-Pullman, and Lewiston-Clarkston. All of these cities are within one day's drive of at least one of the four WSAs. Spokane and Boise are Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). An MSA is defined as a population center of at least 50,000 inhabitants.

A figure of 200 miles is being used to represent a day's drive of 5 hours. Distances used are air miles with the assumption that in most cases this figure will equate to approximately 5 hours of driving time.

Table 5-1 depicts the opportunities available within 200 miles of each population center. Areas considered were those currently in the NWPS, those administratively endorsed as wilderness, and those areas under study for inclusion within the NWPS. The number of areas and an approximation of the total acreage are shown for each category.

TABLE 5-1

SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES NEAR POPULATION CENTERS

| | NWPS areas/acres | Endorsed areas/acres | Study areas/acres |
|---|---|---|---|
| Boise (MSA) | 10/4.3 Million | 26/1.5 million | 147/5.1 million |
| Spokane (MSA) | 14/4.6 million | 30/2.6 million | 25/400,000 |
| Coeur d'Alene | 18/6.8 million | 34/2 million | 36/800,000 |
| Moscow-Pullman | 16/5.9 million | 37/2.3 million | 39/1 million |
| Lewiston-Clarkston | 12/4.3 million | 36/1.4 million | 48/1.4 million |

Opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation are currently prevalent within one day's drive from all the major population centers considered. The potential exists for more than a threefold increase in these opportunities as a result of those areas already administratively endorsed as wilderness. Considering the existing and potential supply, there is no need to increase opportunities within one day's drive of these population centers.

Balancing the geographic distribution of wilderness areas: Inclusion of the Crystal Lake WSA within the NWPS will not serve to further the objective of this factor. The Northern Rocky Mountain region contains one of the largest concentrations of designated and proposed wilderness areas within the country. The addition of this WSA to the NWPS will increase this concentration instead of balancing the distribution of wilderness.

CRITERION 2 - MANAGEABILITY

If the current levels of use within this WSA were maintained and if current levels of activity on adjacent non-BLM lands were to continue, the Crystal Lake WSA could be effectively managed as a wilderness area. However, two factors would adversely affect BLM's ability to effectively manage this WSA as wilderness in the long-term. First, usage of this WSA is increasing each year. These increases will reduce user perceptions of naturalness and affect outstanding opportunities for solitude since adequate topographic and vegetative screening is not available to isolate users from the sights and sounds of other users. Secondly, activity on adjacent non-BLM lands is increasing. This increase in activity is most evident on those state and private lands northwest of the WSA where timber harvesting activities are occurring. Long range plans for these adjacent lands indicate that non-complimentary activities will increase in the future.

Management activities could be designed to ameliorate the problems associated with increased usage, however, actions on adjacent lands are not under the control of BLM even though they adversely affect the maintenance of wilderness characteristics in this WSA.

QUALITY STANDARDS

Energy and Mineral Resource Values

No known energy or mineral resource values exist in this WSA. There are no mining claims, leases, or pending applications for leasable minerals. Undiscovered resources of mineral-bearing material (silver, lead, zinc, copper, etc.) are surmised to exist in this WSA on the basis of broad geologic knowledge and theory. The fault zones within the unit and favorable host rocks of the lower Belt Supergroup are similar to those in the Coeur d'Alene Mining District. These conditions

will probably lead to a greater demand by exploration companies as new techniques are developed. Exploration and potential development opportunities would be foregone as of January 1, 1984, or the date of designation (whichever is later), should this WSA be designated a wilderness area. However, development may continue on existing valid claims.

Impacts on Other Resources

Wilderness designation of this WSA would cause no significant adverse impacts to air quality, soil, water quality, vegetation, wildlife, cultural resources, scenic values, or recreation.

Livestock grazing: Wilderness designation of this WSA would cause no adverse impacts on livestock grazing.

Timber management: Wilderness designation of this WSA would eliminate all opportunities for timber management. This WSA contains 4,931 acres of productive forest land supporting a standing volume of 45.8 million board feet.

Impacts of Nondesignation on Wilderness Values

The preferred alternative (No Wilderness - Outstanding Natural Area) would not adversely affect wilderness values. Under ONA management, the area would be managed so that no actions which would detract from the quality of its natural features would be permitted. The area would be closed to motorized vehicles and timber management activities would not be allowed.

Under the other No Wilderness alternatives considered for this WSA, all wilderness values would be lost on those areas allocated for intensive timber management.

Public Comment

Written comments relative to this WSA were received in response to review of the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS. Oral comments were received at the public meetings and formal public hearing. Of the 66 respondents who specifically commented on this WSA (either in writing or orally), 33 favor wilderness designation while 33 prefer no wilderness for this area. Six other commenters oppose any wilderness designations regardless of the area. Three people mentioned this WSA in testimony at the public hearing. All three favored no wilderness.

Three government agencies submitted written comments concerning this WSA. The Bureau of Indian Affairs urged continued coordination with local Indian tribes and the State of Idaho Department of Lands expressed an opinion concerning future land use allocations within this WSA. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game supports our preferred alternative for this WSA.

Letters of comment and our responses to them are located in Chapter 8 of this document.

Local Social and Economic Effects

Designation of this WSA as wilderness would not cause any significant social and economic effects on the local area. A potential annual harvest of 830 thousand board feet of timber from 4,931 acres of commercial forest land would be foregone.

Consistency With Other Plans

The preferred alternative is consistent with other officially approved and adopted resource-related plans.

SUITABILITY/NONSUITABILITY SUMMARY

Our evaluation indicates that the Crystal Lake WSA is nonsuitable for wilderness designation for three reasons:

1. Although this area does contain wilderness characteristics, its ecosystem is currently represented in nine designated areas in the NWPS and in twenty-three areas which have been administratively endorsed as wilderness.

2. The addition of this WSA to the NWPS would increase the concentration of wilderness in the Rocky Mountain region rather than balance the distribution of wilderness on a national or regional basis.

3. Under current conditions, wilderness management of this WSA would be feasible. However, effective long-term management as wilderness would be impractical, largely due to increasing levels of man's activities on adjacent non-BLM lands which adversely affect user perceptions of naturalness and solitude.

GRANDMOTHER MOUNTAIN (61-15, 17,129 acres)

CRITERION 1 - EVALUATION OF WILDERNESS VALUES

Mandatory Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness: Evidence of human activity from limited timber harvest is found in several locations within the WSA. Stumps are scattered throughout the area with no major concentrations in any one location, and harvest activity is hardly noticeable due to overgrowth. Snow-covered skid trails are visible from higher elevations due to the contrast from the more heavily forested areas. Under any circumstances, these skid trails have insignificant impact upon the natural character of the area.

Evidence of human activity outside of the WSA boundary is plentiful. The location of this evidence ranges from near the border to several miles away. These activities consist primarily of past and on-going timber sales. Clearcuts offer the most significant visual evidence. Numerous roads are also visible.

Whether or not these impacts are visible will depend upon the user's location within the area and the extent to which screening is present. At least some of these impacts will be visible near the WSA boundaries and from most peaks and ridges. Views of outside impacts are more widely available in the westernmost portion of the unit. This is largely a result of this area's narrow configuration.

Established trails within the Grandmother Mountain area are predominately found along ridgelines. Use of these trails will therefore expose users to the presence of outside impacts. Destinations within the WSA are more likely to be located off the ridges where these impacts are largely unnoticeable.

Visitors to this WSA spend more time at destinations than on travel routes. This would indicate that outside impacts, though at times visible, may not play a significant role in shaping user perceptions of naturalness in the majority of the WSA. Within the westernmost portion of the unit, these impacts may be more significant. This is due to the widespread presence of outside impacts and few features which serve as destination points.

Solitude: An outstanding opportunity for solitude exists in Unit 61-15a. The area is heavily vegetated, and the terrain is frequently broken by small drainages. The resultant screening affords an almost unlimited opportunity for users to isolate themselves from one another. Unlike 61-15b, the opportunities within 61-15a are not dependent upon adjoining land to be considered outstanding. The effect of outside impacts upon the perception of solitude within 61-15a is minimal.

Unit 61-15b (see Map 1-3) is split by the ridgeline which runs northeast from Grandmother Mountain and passes through sections 22, 23, 14, and 11.

The configuration of Unit 61-15b, which contains 4,540 acres, is extremely irregular and narrow as a result of an intermingled land ownership pattern. This situation confines users to a narrow corridor, increasing the chance of encountering other users. The screening available from both topography and vegetation cannot offset the inherent limitation of this configuration.

Evidence of human imprints outside of the WSA plays a significant role in the perception of solitude in 61-15b. This evidence consists primarily of timber harvests. Clearcuts offer the most visual evidence of man's occupation, though numerous roads are also visible from this area. Much of the land bordering the area has been used for timber production. This pattern of development is expected to continue and spread. The amount of existing visible evidence is sufficient to preclude the perception of this area as a lonely or secluded place. Additional impacts can only intensify this feeling.

Continued outstanding opportunities for solitude on those portions of this WSA which border National Forest lands are dependent upon the management of those lands. This is especially true for the 2,250 acres of 61-15b east of the primary ridgeline. A final management plan has not been completed for the National Forest lands in this area which essentially separate units 61-15a and 61-15b. The draft plan contains an alternative which would protect the naturalness and opportunities for solitude in this area.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Unit 61-15a offers a diversity of possible activities. The more prominent among these are hiking, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, primitive camping, and nature and wildlife observation. The range of landform and vegetation, from bare peaks to dense forest, provides a broad base which can meet the needs of these varied activities.

The variety of environments maintain visual interest for both the hiker and those involved in nature study. Hunting opportunities exist for elk, deer, moose, bear, and upland game. Fishing is available in the area's eight lakes and numerous small streams. The large amount of snow and the relatively inaccessible nature of the area during the winter provide a challenging setting for the cross-country skier.

The opportunities available in 61-15b are comparatively less than those in 61-15a. While the same activities may be pursued in each area, the quality of the experience is less than that in 61-15a. Those factors which limit the quality of experience are a lack of features which would enhance primitive recreation activities, the confining configuration of the area, and the exposure of outside impacts.

Opportunities within the 2,250 acres east of the ridge and trail running northeast from Grandmother Mountain are dependent upon the adjacent National Forest.

Special Features

The Lund Creek drainage, 2,905 acres in the southeastern portion of the WSA, is important because of its vegetative diversity. Old growth hemlock and subalpine fir forests constitute the major interest, but equally important are the aquatic environments of wet meadows, marshes, sphagnum bogs, and streams. In recognition of this diversity of vegetative communities, this area has been proposed for Research Natural Area designation for over ten years by BLM, the University of Idaho, and the Idaho Natural Areas Coordinating Committee.

Another special feature of this WSA is the Little North Fork of the Clearwater River, one and one-half miles of which, including its headwaters at Fish Lake, are within the Grandmother Mountain WSA. This river is currently under study for inclusion in the National River System. These special features would be protected under the preferred alternative.

Multiple Resource Benefits (benefits to other multiple resource values which only wilderness designation of the area would ensure)

After considering all the management alternatives for this WSA, no multiple resource benefits which depend solely on wilderness designation have been identified.

Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Expanding the diversity of natural systems and features, as represented by ecosystems and landforms: The Grandmother Mountain WSA is located within the Columbia Forest Province, cedar-hemlock-pine forest. This ecosystem is currently represented in one designated wilderness area and seven areas which have been administratively endorsed as wilderness. This ecosystem is not in need of additional representation within the NWPS.

Expanding the opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation within one day's driving time (five hours) of major population centers: Within a five hour drive (200 air miles) of the closest major population center, the Spokane area, opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation currently exist in 14 designated wilderness areas encompassing 4.6 million acres of land. Considering the existing supply, there is no need to increase opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. Refer to Table 5-1, page 5-4, and the accompanying narrative.

Balancing the geographic distribution of wilderness areas: Inclusion of this WSA in the NWPS would tend to add to the geographic imbalance of wilderness areas in the United States.

CRITERION 2 - MANAGEABILITY

Most of the Grandmother Mountain WSA could be managed as wilderness. The primary exception would be the western portion of unit 61-15b (4,540 acres) which is very vulnerable to the adverse influences of land-altering activities on adjacent non-BLM lands. The irregular, narrow configuration of this unit forces visitors to use areas from which activities outside the WSA are visible. The pattern of development on the adjacent non-BLM lands is expected to continue and spread. This trend, when combined with the configuration of the western portion of the WSA, would make long-term preservation of opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation impractical.

A small portion of 61-15b (2,250 acres east of the Grandmother Mountain trail) would be dependent upon wilderness-compatible management of the adjacent National Forest lands in the Marble Creek drainage to ensure effective long-term management as wilderness.

The remainder of the WSA (10,339 acres) could be managed as wilderness without consideration of actions on adjacent lands. Compatible management of these adjacent lands would, however, enhance long-term wilderness management. Although the National Forest lands in the Marble Creek drainage have been designated non-wilderness through the RARE II process, the draft plan for the area contains at least one alternative which proposes wilderness-compatible management.

QUALITY STANDARDS

Energy and Mineral Resource Values

No known energy or mineral resource values exist in this WSA. There are no mining claims, leases, or pending applications for leasable minerals. The entire WSA has identified undiscovered resources for garnet, asbestos, refractories, and anorthosite.

At the present time there is an increased emphasis toward U.S. production of strategic and critical minerals. Some of these minerals have been identified within the unit, and as new exploration techniques are developed and other deposits are depleted or become uneconomic, there will be a greater demand for exploration.

Exploration and potential development opportunities would be foregone as of January 1, 1984, or the date of designation (whichever is later), should this WSA be designated a wilderness area. However, development may continue on existing valid claims.

Impacts on Other Resources

Wilderness designation of the Grandmother Mountain WSA would cause no significant adverse impacts to air quality, soil, water quality, vegetation, wildlife, cultural resources, scenic values, recreation, or livestock grazing.

Timber management: Wilderness designation of this WSA would eliminate all opportunities for timber management. This WSA contains 12,244 acres of productive forest land supporting a standing volume of 157 million board feet.

Impacts of Nondesignation on Wilderness Values

The preferred alternative (No Wilderness - Timber, ONA, and RNA) would adversely affect wilderness values on the 4,540 acres allocated for intensive timber management. Timber management would impair the naturalness of the area and the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. These impacts would be compounded by the timber management related impacts on the adjacent non-BLM lands. Most wilderness values would be maintained on the remaining 12,589 acres, however, naturalness and opportunities for solitude could be slightly affected by mineral exploration activities. In addition, opportunities for solitude could be adversely affected on the 9,684 acres designated as an ONA since motorized vehicles would be permitted in most areas. Current mineral exploration and motorized vehicle usage of this WSA is very limited.

All wilderness values would be lost under the other No Wilderness alternatives considered for this WSA on those lands allocated for intensive timber management.

Public Comment

Written comments relative to this WSA were received in response to review of the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS. Oral comments were received at the public meetings and formal public hearing. From the comments received, this WSA appears to be the most controversial of the four studied.

Timber companies and related interest groups are totally opposed to any further wilderness designations or any other forms of restrictive designations for this WSA. Environmental groups feel the Grandmother Mountain WSA is the last vestige of wilderness in a sea of clearcuts and destruction. They feel the only real protection for this area is through wilderness designation. These two factions are very determined and vocal.

Of the 89 respondents who specifically commented on this WSA (either in writing or orally), 47 favor wilderness designation, 38 prefer no wilderness for this area, and 4 prefer partial wilderness for this WSA. Six other commenters oppose any further wilderness designations regardless of the area. All six of the speakers at the public hearing favored wilderness designation. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game supports our preferred alternative for this WSA.

Public input received throughout the study process was considered during the development of the preferred alternative.

Letters of comment on the Draft EIS and our responses to them are located in Chapter 8 of this document.

Local Social and Economic Effects

Designation of this WSA as wilderness would eliminate the potential for economic gains which would occur if the entire area was managed for timber production. A potential annual harvest of 2.1 million board feet would be foregone. Designation would not cause any significant social effects on the local area.

Consistency With Other Plans

The preferred alternative is consistent with proposed plans on non-BLM lands. There are no officially approved and adopted resource-related plans in place.

SUITABILITY/NONSUITABILITY SUMMARY

Our evaluation indicates that the Grandmother Mountain WSA is nonsuitable for wilderness designation for the following reasons:

1. The ecosystem present in the Grandmother Mountain WSA is not in need of additional representation within the NWPS. It is currently represented in one designated wilderness area and seven administratively endorsed areas. Inclusion of this WSA in the NWPS would not expand the diversity of natural systems and features.

2. The addition of this WSA to the NWPS would increase the concentration of wilderness in the Northern Rocky Mountain region rather than balance the distribution of wilderness throughout the United States. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are currently prevalent within a one day's drive from all major population centers in the area. Additional wilderness designations are not necessary to ensure continued opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation within a reasonable distance from major population centers.

3. While the above listed reasons are the primary reasons for a nonsuitable determination for this WSA, long-term manageability of wilderness values would be impractical on the western 4,540 acres of this WSA. Refer to the Manageability discussion for further details.

SNOWHOLE RAPIDS (62-1, 5,068 acres)

CRITERION 1 - EVALUATION OF WILDERNESS VALUES

Mandatory Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness: Evidence of human activity is present throughout the WSA. This evidence is largely the result of mining and domestic livestock grazing activities.

Within the WSA, there are no heavy concentrations of impacts which might impair the feeling of being in a natural environment. Whitehouse Bar contains most of the impacts within the WSA. Several old cabins are found along either side of the river. An old road, suitable only as a pack trail, extends down to the river on the south bank. None of these features constitutes a significant impact upon naturalness.

Other intrusions within the WSA consist of widely scattered, small tailings piles and small rock structures. These impacts are the result of Chinese mining activity which occurred between 1860 and 1880.

Visitor use is centered around the river and its immediate banks. Infrequent use occurs beyond this narrow corridor. From certain locations along the river, outside impacts along the rim of the canyon can be seen. Activities which occur on land adjacent to the WSA have had little effect on users within the area. However, anticipated increases in activity on adjacent lands could adversely impact user perceptions of naturalness within the WSA.

Solitude: At current use levels, an outstanding opportunity for solitude exists within the Snowhole Rapids WSA. Primary use of the WSA is recreational activity centered around boating on the Salmon River. The river banks, where suitable, are only used for campsites or for short stops. Since visitor use is generally limited to a narrow corridor, opportunities for encountering other users increase.

The outstanding opportunity for solitude can be maintained under conditions of low and evenly distributed use. However, use on the lower Salmon River has more than tripled within the past five years. A continuation of this trend would result in diminished opportunities for solitude.

Power boat use of the river within the WSA detracts from user perceptions of solitude. To date this use has not played a significant role in reducing the overall opportunities for solitude in this WSA; however, trends of increased use indicate that significant reductions in opportunities for solitude could result.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: The Salmon River is widely recognized as an outstanding whitewater rafting river. Activities associated with river rafting may include fishing, sightseeing, and hiking.

Special Features

Historic evidence of man's periodic occupation of the area is prevelant.

The Salmon River is also an important passage route for anadromous fish.

Multiple Resource Benefits (benefits to other multiple resource values which only wilderness designation of the area would ensure)

After considering all the management alternatives for this WSA, no multiple resource benefits which depend solely on wilderness designation have been identified.

Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Expanding the diversity of natural systems and features, as represented by ecosystems and landforms: The Snowhole Rapids WSA is located within the Palouse Grassland Province; wheatgrass-bluegrass. This ecosystem is not represented by a designated or administratively endorsed wilderness. There are five other areas under study for wilderness which contain this ecosystem. The WSA can meet the objective of this criteria by representing this ecosystem in NWPS.

Expanding the opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation within one day's driving time (five hours) of major population centers: Table 5-1, page 5-4, depicts the availability of opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation near population centers. Considering the existing supply, there is no need to increase such opportunities.

Balancing the geographic distribution of wilderness areas: Inclusion of the Snowhole Rapids WSA within the NWPS will not serve to further the objective of this factor. The Northern Rocky Mountain region contains one of the largest concentrations of designated and proposed wilderness areas within the country. The addition of this WSA to the NWPS will increase this concentration instead of balancing the distribution of wilderness.

CRITERION 2 - MANAGEABILITY

Long-term management of this WSA as wilderness would not be feasible. Increased activity on adjacent non-BLM lands would reduce the naturalness quality of this area. The opportunities for solitude would be reduced significantly if the trend of increased use of the Salmon River continues as it has since 1975.

While effective means to control wilderness value degradation through visitor use management are available for most upland wilderness areas, techniques (both indirect and direct) to minimize visitor encounters and interaction would not be practical for this WSA. This is due to a number of factors: 1) the river canyon configuration of this WSA concentrates users in a narrow corridor; 2) use of this WSA is centered around one major activity (boating and rafting); 3) topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient in the corridor of high use; 4) use of this navigable river is basically unmanaged both upstream and downstream of the WSA; and 5) power boat use of the river is an established nonconforming use that, by its very nature, intrudes upon opportunities for solitude.

QUALITY STANDARDS

Energy and Mineral Resource Values

No significant energy or mineral values exist in this WSA. There are no mining claims, leases, or pending applications for leasable minerals.

At the present time there is an increased emphasis toward U.S. production of strategic and critical minerals. The area is identified as an undiscovered resource for base metals, namely gold and silver. With these conditions there will be a greater demand for exploration as new technologies are developed and when other deposits are depleted or become uneconomic.

Exploration and potential development opportunities would be foregone as of January 1, 1984, or the date of designation (whichever is later), should this WSA be designated a wilderness area.

Impacts on Other Resources

Wilderness designation of the Snowhole Rapids WSA would cause no significant adverse impacts on other resource values.

Impacts of Nondesignation on Wilderness Values

Under the preferred alternative (No Wilderness - Recreation Emphasis), and the other No Wilderness alternatives considered for this WSA, wilderness values would be susceptible to the same degradation potential as would likely occur under the All Wilderness alternative. Opportunities for solitude would be diminished to a slightly greater extent through implementation of either the Preferred Alternative or the No Action Alternative since motorized vehicle use would be permitted.

Public Comment

Written comments relative to this WSA were received in response to the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS. Oral comments were received at the public meetings. No comments specifically directed to this WSA were made at the public hearing.

Of the 31 respondents who specifically commented on this WSA (either in writing or orally), 19 favor wilderness designation while 12 prefer no wilderness for this area. Six commenters oppose any further wilderness designations regardless of the area. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game submitted a letter supporting our recommendation for this WSA. No other government agencies commented specifically about this WSA. The Nez Perce Indian Tribe commented that they had all rights to the waters of the Salmon River and that this WSA should be returned to their control.

Public input received throughout the study process was considered during the development of the preferred alternative.

Letters of comment on the Draft EIS and our responses to them are located in Chapter 8 of this document.

Local Social and Economic Effect

Designation of this WSA as wilderness would not cause any significant social and economic effects on the local area.

Consistency With Other Plans

The preferred alternative is consistent with other officially approved and adopted resource-related plans.

SUITABILITY/NONSUITABILITY SUMMARY

Our evaluation indicates that the Snowhole Rapids WSA is nonsuitable for wilderness designation for the following reasons:

1. The addition of this WSA to the NWPS would increase the concentration of wilderness in the Rocky Mountain region rather than balance the distribution of wilderness on a national or regional basis.

2. Long-term management of this WSA as wilderness would not be feasible. This conclusion is based on three major factors:

A. Increasing activity on adjacent non-BLM lands is visible from the river and many other points in the WSA and tends to reduce user perceptions of naturalness and solitude. The incidence of these visual intrusions will increase over the long-term.

B. Since 1975, use of the Salmon River by recreationists has tripled. This trend is continuing and results in reduced opportunities for solitude since almost all the use of this WSA is concentrated in the narrow river corridor where topographic and vegetative screening is insufficient to isolate users from one another.

C. Indirect or direct management techniques designed to disperse visitor use and minimize user encounters with each other would not be practical since use of the navigable river which flows through the WSA could not be controlled to a point where wilderness values would not be adversely impacted by increased use. This is compounded by the concentration of visitor use along the river, unmanaged segments of the river both upstream and downstream of the WSA, and the nonconforming allowable use of power boats. It would be impractical to stop river users at the boundary of the WSA simply because the carrying capacity necessary to ensure the preservation of wilderness values has been exceeded.

MARSHALL MOUNTAIN (62-10, 5,804 acres)

CRITERION 1 - EVALUATION OF WILDERNESS VALUES

Mandatory Wilderness Characteristics

Naturalness: The Marshall Mountain area appears to be in an essentially natural condition. There has been extensive prospecting in the area, much of it occurring 30 to 50 years ago. However, most prospecting involved small test holes or other activities that left very little impact on naturalness.

There are a few abandoned mines and prospects scattered throughout the area, most of which have a tailings pile in the vicinity of the entrance. These have been found in sections 18 and 22. The impact on naturalness from these mines and prospects is very localized due to the heavy forest cover that screen them. They are definitely safety hazards.

Solitude: There is a cherrystemmed area (see Glossary) in the Bear Creek drainage containing several active mining operations. Frequent truck travel occurs along the Bear Creek road. Heavy equipment and air compressors often accompany these mining operations. The noise of this equipment is loud and inescapable in much of the Bear Creek drainage. When in range of these noises, it is impossible for a visitor to feel alone or removed from habitations. The loss of opportunities for solitude in Bear Creek occurs in portions of sections 8, 9, and 10 and encompasses about 450 acres.

There is another active mining operation in the Southwest Quarter of section 23. This operation is just outside the WSA boundary on National Forest land. The loss of opportunities for solitude as a result of this mine occurs in section 22 and encompasses about 50 acres.

The remaining 5,304 acres of the WSA currently contain outstanding opportunities for solitude. The broken, mountainous landscape offers many opportunities for visitors to isolate themselves from others. Dense forests that cover much of the area effectively screen visitors from each other.

Increased mining activity, both within and outside the WSA, would adversely affect naturalness and solitude values.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: The outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined types of recreation is centered around the unit's suitability for backcountry camping activities. Recreation opportunities include hiking, backpacking, hunting, wildlife observation, photography, and sightseeing. The diversity of these activities is considered outstanding.

Special Features

This WSA is part of the historic Marshall Mountain Mining District. According to BLM records, there are two mill sites and over 150 lode mining claims within the WSA. This area also contains valuable anadromous fish habitat.

Multiple Resource Benefits (benefits to other multiple resource values which only wilderness designation of the area would ensure)

Wilderness designation of this WSA would benefit soil, water quality, wildlife, and visual quality by preventing potential adverse impacts resulting from possible increased mining activity.

Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Expanding the diversity of natural systems and features, as represented by ecosystems and landforms: The Marshall Mountain WSA is located within the Columbia Forest Province; grand fir-Douglas fir forest. This ecosystem is currently represented in four designated wilderness areas and two areas which have been administratively endorsed as wilderness. This ecosystem is not in need of additional representation within the NWPS.

Expanding the opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation within one day's driving time (five hours) of major population centers: Table 5-1, on page 5-4, depicts the availability of opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation near population centers. Considering the existing supply, there is no need to increase such opportunities.

Balancing the geographic distribution of wilderness areas: Inclusion of the Marshall Mountain WSA within the NWPS will not serve to further the objective of this factor. The Northern Rocky Mountain region contains one of the largest concentrations of designated and proposed wilderness areas within the country. The addition of this WSA to the NWPS will increase this concentration instead of balancing the distribution of wilderness.

CRITERION 2 - MANAGEABILITY

With the exception of those areas discussed in the Solitude section, this WSA could currently be managed as a wilderness area. The ability to manage this area for wilderness in the long-term is questionable. In the Marshall Mountain area, gold and other minerals have been economically mined in the past. For this reason, the WSA is saturated with mining claims (over 150). Should the price of these minerals escalate and/or new cost-effective technologies become available, it will become economically feasible for many claimants to actively pursue or resume mining operations in this WSA. The impacts associated with numerous active mining operations would degrade wildeness values. The severity of this degradation would be dependent upon the magnitude, intensity, and incidence of new or resumed mining operations.

Mining activity in the vicinity of the WSA is currently depressed due to the high costs of production relative to the market value of the minerals. Should this WSA be designated a wilderness area during this time of depressed mineral development, the potential for further degradation of wilderness values would be eliminated and the area would be manageable in the long-term as wilderness.

QUALITY STANDARDS

Energy and Mineral Resource Values

According to the USGS map, "Land Valuable for Geothermal Resources", this area may be valuable for geothermal resources. There are no known mineral values for leasable or saleable minerals; however, this area has been classified as having identified undiscovered resources for base metals, gold, and silver. There are numerous active mines near or adjacent to the WSA. There is a large inferred demand for mineral production or exploration within the WSA based upon the number of mining claims.

Exploration and new development resulting from that exploration would be foregone as of January 1, 1984, or the date of designation (whichever is later), should this WSA be designated a wilderness area. However, development work, extraction, and claim patenting will be allowed to continue on valid claims.

Impacts on Other Resources

Wilderness designation of the Marshall Mountain WSA would cause no significant adverse impacts to air quality, soil, water quality, vegetation, wildlife, cultural resources, scenic values, recreation, or livestock grazing.

Timber management: Wilderness designation of this WSA would eliminate all opportunities for timber management. This WSA contains 3,920 acres of productive forest land suppoorting a standing volume of 44 million board feet.

Impacts of Nondesignation on Wilderness Values

The preferred alternative (No Wilderness - Mineral Potential), as well as the other No Wilderness alternatives, would allow mineral development throughout the WSA. The potential exists for significant adverse impacts to wilderness values (naturalness and solitude) resulting from mining and associated activities. In addition, opportunities for solitude could be adversely affected on 3,014 acres where motorized vehicles would be permitted under the preferred alternative.

Wilderness values would be lost on those lands allocated for intensive timber management under Alternative 3A, No Wilderness (Timber).

Public Comment

Written comments relative to this WSA were received in response to the Draft MFP Amendment/EIS. Oral comments were received at the public meetings. No comments specifically directed to this WSA were made at the public hearing.

Of the 31 respondents who specifically commented on this WSA (either in writing or orally), the majority, 27, favored no wilderness for this WSA while 4 indicated a preference for wilderness designation. Six commenters oppose any further wilderness designations regardless of the area. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game submitted a letter supporting our preferred alternative for this WSA. No other government agencies commented specifically about this WSA. The Nez Perce Indian Tribe commented that they had all rights to the waters of the Salmon River and that this WSA should be returned to their control.

Public input received throughout the study process was considered during the development of the preferred alternative.

Letters of comment on the Draft EIS and our responses to them are located in Chapter 8 of this document.

Local Social and Economic Effects

Designation of this WSA as wilderness would eliminate the potential for economic gains which would occur if the 3,920 acres of productive forest lands were managed for timber production. A potential annual harvest of 724 thousand board feet would be foregone. In addition, potential revenues from mineral production would also be foregone.

Designation would not cause any significant social effects on the local area.

Consistency With Other Plans

The preferred alternative is consistent with local, state, and federal plans.

SUITABILITY/NONSUITABILITY SUMMARY

Our evaluation indicates that the Marshall Mountain WSA is nonsuitable for wilderness designation for the following reasons:

1. Although this WSA does contain wilderness characteristics, its ecosystem currently is represented in four designated wilderness areas and two administratively endorsed areas. Inclusion of this WSA in the NWPS would not expand the diversity of natural systems and features.

2. The addition of this WSA to the NWPS would increase the concentration of wilderness in the Northern Rocky Mountain region rather than balance the distribution of wilderness throughout the United States. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are currently prevalent within a one day's drive from all the major population centers in the area. Additional wilderness designations are not necessary to ensure continued opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation within a reasonable distance from major population centers. Exceptional opportunities to enjoy wilderness experiences are currently available in close proximity to this WSA as it adjoins the River of No Return Wilderness Area.

The question of manageability was not considered as a rationale for the nonsuitable recommendation for this WSA since any loss of wilderness management capabilities would result only if certain uncontrollable variables interacted at the proper time to renew interest in mineral production activities. There is no way to assess the probability of this occurring.

# CHAPTER 6
# ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes and analyzes the probable environmental impacts of the alternatives including the proposed action. The analysis is designed to be commensurate with the expected magnitude, intensity, duration, and incidence of impacts. The quantification of impacts resulting from timber management activities is based on historic averages and accepted methodologies. Supplemental information regarding the impacts resulting from timber management practices, including associated road construction, is available in the North Idaho Timber Management EIS (BLM 1981).

This chapter also portrays the relationship between the short-term use of man's environment and long-term productivity and identifies any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources involved in implementing the alternatives. A comparative summary of impacts is presented in Table 3-6 in Chapter 3.

## AIR QUALITY

The Silver Valley and Lewiston areas, the only two non-attainment areas within the EIS area, would not be affected under any alternative. The BLM Wilderness Management Policy specifies a Class II Air Quality Standard for wilderness areas. None of the actions proposed under any alternative would exceed this threshold.

Alternatives which prescribe intensive timber management practices and/or wildlife habitat improvements would result in short-term increases in particulate levels due to road construction, vehicle exhaust emissions, and burning. These particulate levels would be insignificant when compared to the totals developed in the Idaho Health and Welfare State Implementation Plan (IDHW 1980).

## MINERAL RESOURCES

There is a possibility of mineral entry and mineral leasing activities occurring in any of the units except Snowhole Rapids, which is currently withdrawn from mineral entry. Such activities are usually initiated by public demand, which is totally beyond Bureau control. A discussion or prediction of impacts resulting from mining or mineral leasing would be purely speculative since there is no way to predict the number and nature of future claimants or lease applications.

Locatable mineral mining activities on public lands are authorized by the United States mining laws. Surface management is administered under regulations contained in 43 CFR 3802 and 3809. These regulations provide for mineral entry in a manner so as to prevent unnecessary degradation of other resource values which may result from operations authorized by the mining laws and also provide for reclamation of disturbed lands. Mineral leasing proposals would be analyzed in regional and/or site-specific environmental assessments.

For any alternative not involving a wilderness recommendation, there would be no impact to mineral resources except when an area is withdrawn from mineral entry. For those alternatives that contain a suitable wilderness recommendation, mineral resources would be impacted since new

exploration for locatable minerals would be foregone after 1983 and no mineral leases would be issued after that date. However, development may continue on existing valid claims.

ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Implementation of any alternative which proposes intensive timber management would be considered an intensive energy investment because of the types and amounts of equipment involved. The actual energy investments required under any alternative cannot be determined until site-specific activity plans are developed. It is assumed that all energy consumed would be in the form of fossil fuels.

An energy conservation credit for residual fuel (bark and sawdust) resulting from the conversion of sawtimber to wood products would be yielded. The amount of this conservation credit is unknown since BLM has no control over private mill practices and because practices with respect to the disposition of residuals are varied. Some credit would also result from use of slash for fuel wood.

NATURAL/DEPLETABLE RESOURCES

Natural resources would be conserved under all alternatives. Likewise, conservation would occur through the application of district management guidelines. No depletable resources would be affected by the implementation of any alternative.

CRYSTAL LAKE WSA

SOILS

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

No change to the soils resource would be anticipated under management for wilderness.

Wildfires, should they occur, would be more intense in areas where the vegetation is allowed to attain climax condition (self sustaining plant community). This situation would create a potential for erosion. Conversely, the likelihood of wildfires starting in areas managed for wilderness would be less than under other management prescriptions where more access and human use would occur.

Livestock grazing would continue on 1,320 acres of this WSA. Overall impacts from grazing to soils would be of such a small scale they would be negligible. For further details concerning these impacts, refer to the Northern Idaho Grazing Management Environmental Impact Statement (NIGMEIS)(BLM 1981).

Alternative 2 - No Action

Under this alternative 4,931 acres would be intensively managed for timber. The primary impacts to the soils resource resulting from timber harvest practices are soil loss and compaction. Both these factors affect soil productivity.

Over a 10-year period, approximately 844 tons of soil would be lost as a result of road construction and maintenance, ground based and cable yarding, slash disposal, and debris burning. Of this total, 799 tons would be lost due to road construction and maintenance.

The estimated erosion rate for undisturbed land in the Coeur d'Alene District is .033 tons per acre per year (21 tons per square mile per year). Construction of logging roads would increase erosion 220 times (Megahan 1972) to 7 tons per acre per year (about 28 tons per mile of road). This rate would diminish to the approximate rate for undisturbed land in 4 years.

Under this alternative, approximately 68 acres would be compacted by yarding and heavy equipment operation.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

Impacts to soils within the 4,931 acres of productive forest lands slated for intensive timber management would be the same as those discussed for Alternative 2.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Timber and Wildlife Emphasis)

Under Alternative 3B, 3,700 acres of the productive forest lands would be managed intensively for timber. The remaining 1,231 acres of productive forest lands would be allocated to custodial management.

Approximately 630 tons of soil would be lost over a 10-year period as a result of road construction and maintenance, ground-based and cable yarding, slash disposal, and debris burning. Of this total, about 600 tons would be lost due to road construction and maintenance.

On about 47 acres, soil compaction would occur as a result of yarding and heavy equipment operation.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Outstanding Natural Area) (Preferred Alternative)

Under Alternative 3C, the entire WSA would be designated and managed as an Outstanding Natural Area (ONA). The timber lands would be managed in a custodial manner. Soil loss and compaction resulting from permitted activities under custodial management would be minimal. Big game habitat improvement actions would be expected to result in some soil loss, though insignificant.

As the vegetation attains climax condition, there would be a greater potential for erosion should wildfires occur.

Conclusion: The implementation of either Alternative 1 or 3C would result in the least adverse impacts to the soil resource since intensive timber management activities are not prescribed and the entire WSA would be closed to vehicles. Alternatives 2 and 3A would result in adverse impacts of the greatest magnitude and intensity. Livestock grazing (all alternatives) would result in negligible impacts. No significant beneficial or adverse impacts to the soil resource would occur through implementation of any alternative.

WATER RESOURCES

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Management of this WSA under wilderness designation would do little to alter the water resource conditions of the area. Water yield would decrease slightly as vegetation progresses toward climax condition, at which stage it would stabilize. Increases in water yield and sedimentation and a decrease in water quality would occur in the event of wildfires.

Alternative 2 - No Action

The primary impacts of intensive timber management practices on water resources would be increased water yield due to vegetation manipulation and increased sediment yield (soil reaching a water channel) due to land disturbances. Increased sedimentation results in turbidity. It also has adverse effects on fisheries and other water-related resources. Other water quality impacts such as changes in nutrient and chemical constituents are caused by vegetation changes, burning, and introduction of fertilizers.

Water yield would increase from those lands disturbed by road construction, timber harvest, yarding, and slash disposal and would be reduced by fertilization and planting. Increases in water yield decrease exponentially with time, and the rates vary by habitat types. Under this alternative, water yield would increase an estimated 25 acre feet per year.

Increased sedimentation would result from surface erosion caused by road construction, yarding, slash disposal, and mechanical scarification. Roads are the major source of soil erosion and subsequent sedimentation in forested areas. Implementation of this alternative would result in a sediment yield increase of approximately 576 tons (reaching streams and rivers) over a 10-year period.

Road construction, timber harvest, yarding, site preparation, and slash disposal would affect the quality of runoff water through increased erosion and leaching of nutrients and chemicals from the exposed soils and plant residues. Burning of plant residue would accelerate the introduction of nutrients and chemicals by changing the form of the residual material. Fertilization could indirectly introduce nutrients and chemicals into water courses.

Vehicle use could create additional water quality impacts by causing soil erosion and compaction with a corresponding increase in surface runoff. These impacts are currently minor and are expected to remain so.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

Under Alternative 3A, the impacts to water resources from 4,931 acres of productive forest lands prescribed for intensive timber management would be the same as those described in Alternative 2.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Timber and Wildlife Emphasis)

Intensive timber management on 3,700 acres would produce impacts on water resources in the same types as those described under Alternative 2. Under this alternative, water yield would increase approximately 19 acre feet per year. Sediment yield would increase an estimated 432 tons over a 10-year period.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Outstanding Natural Area)(Preferred Alternative)

Designation and management of the entire area as an Outstanding Natural Area would yield only slight water quality impacts since the forested lands would be allocated for custodial management and the entire area would be closed to vehicular use.

Water yield would decrease slightly as vegetation progresses toward climax condition, at which stage it would stabilize.

Increases in water yield and sedimentation and a decrease in water quality would occur in the event of wildfires.

Conclusion: The least adverse impacts to water resources would occur under Alternatives 1 and 3C. Alternatives 2 and 3A would result in adverse impacts of the greatest magnitude and intensity. Livestock grazing (all alternatives) would result in negligible water related impacts. No significant impacts to water resources would result from implementation of any alternative.

VEGETATION

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Wilderness designation and management would maintain the status quo of the vegetation existing in the WSA. No impacts would be anticipated.

Alternative 2 - No Action

On the 4,931 acres of productive timber lands slated for intensive timber management, the following general impacts would be expected to result from timber harvest and development practices:

Road construction would eliminate biological productivity (including timber production) on any newly constructed running surface. Approximately 46 acres would be affected. Subsequent maintenance of these roads would temporarily eliminate any early successional plant development.

New roads would provide opportunities for additional public access. This could result in removal or damage of vegetative material through firewood harvest, unauthorized cedar removal, or off-road vehicle use. Additional access would improve capabilities for fire protection, insect and disease abatement, and other vegetative management activities.

Ground-based yarding would damage and destroy vegetation on about 79 acres. Cable yarding would be less destructive affecting approximately 35 acres.

The removal of trees creates openings in the forest canopy, which allows more light to penetrate to lower forest strata. Timber harvesting initiates secondary plant succession similar to that caused by natural disturbances. Different cutting practices open the forest canopy to different degrees, thereby influencing the plant composition and duration of the plant communities differently.

Forest development practices such as precommercial and sanitation thinnings would remove selected trees from the stand canopy, releasing the remaining trees from competition for light, moisture, and nutrients, thereby increasing growth on the remaining trees. Understory plants would

be damaged during these operations. The resultant change in light, water, and nutrient availability would alter the composition of the understory. Fertilization would increase the growth of all vegetation within the treatment area of approximately 153 acres.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

Intensive timber management of 4,931 acres would yield the same impacts to vegetation as those for Alternative 2.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Timber and Wildlife Emphasis)

Impacts to vegetation would be reduced from those discussed in Alternative 2 corresponding to the reduction of acres under intensive timber management. Under this alternative, approximately 34 acres would be eliminated from biological productivity due to road construction. Timber yarding would damage and destroy vegetation on about 85 acres.

Fertilization would increase vegetation growth on approximately 114 acres.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Outstanding Natural Area)(Preferred Alternative)

No impacts would be anticipated.

Conclusion: Vegetation would be affected the least under Alternatives 1 and 3C. Alternatives 2 and 3A, which prescribe high levels of intensive timber management, would cause the most impacts to vegetation. However, none of the impacts from any alternative are deemed significant.

WILDLIFE

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Management of the Crystal Lake WSA under Alternative 1 would benefit terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species by maintaining the roadless nature of the area, thereby limiting human pressure.

Because the vegetation would be allowed to maintain its natural succession in the ecosystem without timber management activities occurring, those species favored by a climax vegetative state would benefit. On the other hand, opportunities to enhance wildlife habitat through vegetative manipulation would largely be foregone.

The current water quality conditions would be protected to ensure the continuation of aquatic wildlife habitat.

Alternative 2 - No Action

Of the 9,027 total acres in the WSA, 4,931 would be intensively managed for timber production. Timber harvest and development practices would be expected to affect the wildlife in the WSA as follows:

Road construction would alter wildlife habitat, and road use would decrease habitat quality through disturbance. Some destruction or quality degradation of big game habitat, riparian areas, old growth habitat, habitat for cavity-dependent species and aquatic habitat could result, but this would be substantially reduced through implementation of district management guidelines.

Possible increased use of vehicles in the WSA could adversely affect terrestrial and aquatic wildlife through habitat degradation and increased human pressure. Vehicular use could influence stress levels, distribution, and abundance of wildlife in addition to their habitat.

Implementation of this alternative would result in the following losses of wildlife habitat (estimated acres over a 10-year period): elk, 34; white-tailed deer, 24; mule deer, 29; black bear, 35; and snag dependent species, 118.

Continued livestock grazing on 1,320 acres of the WSA (all alternatives) would not represent a change and would, therefore, not impact wildlife beyond current conditions.

No significant adverse impacts to the bobcat, a sensitive species, are anticipated.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

Impacts to wildlife resulting from management activities and land use allocations would be substantially the same as those discussed in Alternative 2.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Timber and Wildlife Emphasis)

Reduction in intensive forest management acres would result in a corresponding decrease in impact magnitude and incidence to wildlife. The following estimated habitat losses would result from implementation (acres/10 years): elk, 26; white-tailed deer, 18; mule deer, 22; black bear, 27; and snag dependent species, 89.

Reduction of about 3,500 acres open to vehicular use would also decrease impacts to wildlife to levels below those in Alternative 2.

The upper reaches of Latour Creek would be managed to enhance wildlife opportunities under this alternative, benefiting elk and deer.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Outstanding Natural Area)(Preferred Alternative)

Impacts to wildlife would be the same as under Alternative 1 with the exception that forested lands would be allocated for custodial management. While timber harvest activities are not expected to be intense or large in magnitude and probably would be very infrequent, the possibility does exist that they could occur in reaction to other resource needs. Under this allocation, one of the primary reasons for conducting timber harvest activities would be to enhance other resources (such as wildlife) or to protect these resources from damage or destruction. In these cases custodial management activities could result in both beneficial and adverse impacts to wildlife but not at significant levels in either case.

Conclusion: Wildlife populations and habitat would be affected the least through implementation of Alternatives 1 and 3C. Insignificant losses of habitat would occur under Alternatives 2, 3A, and 3B.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Alternatives 1 through 3C

The Skitswish Monuments, a nationally significant cultural resource discussed in Chapter 4, would be protected under any alternative. The potential for damage or destruction to cultural

resources varies between alternatives. Soil disturbing activities resulting from intensive timber management, livestock grazing, and vehicular use would increase this potential. No significant impacts are anticipated.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Under wilderness designation and management, the high quality scenic values of the WSA would be preserved.

Alternative 2 - No Action

Scenic quality would be adversely affected on the 4,931 acres of productive forest lands slated for intensive timber management due to landform and vegetation modifications. These impacts would not exceed the visual resource management thresholds established for lands allocated to intensive timber management.

Other management activities in the WSA prescribed under this alternative are not expected to significantly impact the visual resources.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

The impacts to the visual quality of the WSA resulting from intensive timber management would be the same as those discussed under Alternative 2.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Timber and Wildlife Emphasis)

Scenic quality would be adversely affected on the 3,700 acres of productive forest lands slated for intensive timber management.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Outstanding Natural Area)(Preferred Alternative)

Custodial management and closure of the area to vehicular use would result in minimal impacts to visual quality.

Conclusion: The outstanding scenic quality of this unit would be protected and preserved under either Alternative 1 or 3C. Scenic quality would suffer degradation on areas allocated for intensive timber management under Alternatives 2, 3A, and 3B. However, this degradation would not exceed established visual resource management thresholds developed for each alternative. No significant impacts are anticipated.

RECREATION

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Management of the Crystal Lake WSA as wilderness would close the entire area to motorized vehicle use. This would favor primitive forms of recreation. Vehicle dependent activity opportunities would be foregone.

Alternative 2 - No Action

This alternative would maintain the current recreation opportunity settings, thus there would be no impacts.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

Under Alternative 3A, about 60 percent of the WSA would be managed for a roaded natural recreation opportunity setting. This would adversely affect existing opportunities for primitive forms of recreation. Conversely, motorized recreation would be enhanced.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Timber and Wildlife Emphasis)

Since 3,520 acres would be closed to all vehicles, those recreation activities dependent on vehicles would be eliminated.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Outstanding Natural Area)(Preferred Alternative)

Impacts to recreation under this alternative would be the same as those under Alternative 1.

Conclusion: Recreation opportunities would not be significantly enhanced or degraded by implementation of any alternative. Primitive forms of recreation would be favored by Alternatives 1 and 3C, whereas, motorized recreation pursuits would be favored under Alternatives 2 and 3A.

GRAZING

Alternatives 1 through 3C

There would be no impacts to livestock grazing under any alternative because no change in the current grazing lease is anticipated.

ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

Alternatives 1 through 3C

No impacts in addition to those described in the introduction section of this chapter are anticipated from any of these alternatives.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Under this alternative all timber harvest and development opportunities would be foregone.

Alternatives 2 and 3A

Under these alternatives, intensive timber management would sustain 830 MBF of annual harvest from the 4,931 acres of productive timber lands. In addition to harvest, forest development treatments could enhance timber production for long-term gains in productivity.

CRYSTAL LAKE

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Timber and Wildlife Emphasis)

Under this alternative, 3,700 acres of productive forest land would be managed under intensive timber management with the balance of 1,231 acres allocated for custodial management. There would be an annual harvest yield of 622 MBF.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Outstanding Natural Area)(Preferred Alternative)

All of the productive timber lands would fall under custodial management. Timber management activities would be limited to those described for custodial management in Chapter 3. There would be no commercial timber production under this alternative.

Conclusion: A potential annual sustained yield harvest of 830 MBF would be foregone under Alternatives 1 and 3C. This potential could be realized under Alternatives 2 and 3A. In a regional context, these impacts would be insignificant.

WILDERNESS VALUES

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

All wilderness values would be maintained under this alternative. Solitude and primitive recreation opportunities would be enhanced by the closure of the WSA to off-road recreational vehicles.

Alternatives 2 and 3A

The wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreation would eventually be lost in 4,931 acres of the unit due to the gradual encroachment of timber management activities. About 4,000 acres of the unit would retain their wilderness values, although the sights and sounds of timber management activities would lessen the feeling of naturalness.

The ecological and historical values would be unaffected.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Timber and Wildlife Emphasis)

Impacts to wilderness values would be substantially the same as those in Alternative 2. Closure of 3,520 acres to all vehicles would enhance the values of solitude and primitive recreation.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Outstanding Natural Area)(Preferred Alternative)

All wilderness values would be maintained under this alternative.

Conclusion: Obviously, wilderness values would be maintained under Alternative 1. They would also be preserved under Alternative 3C. Timber management activities prescribed under Alternatives 2, 3A, and 3B would significantly affect wilderness values within the WSA in the long-term. However, these impacts would be insignificant in a regional context.

ECONOMICS

Alternatives 1 through 3C

This WSA could support a potential annual timber harvest of 830 thousand board feet with a corresponding potential gain of 6 jobs. This increase would represent 0.03 percent of the total employment and 0.005 percent of the total wages in Benewah and Kootenai counties.

These potential economic gains would be foregone under Alternatives 1 and 3C. The effects would be insignificant to the economies of the two counties or the region.

GRANDMOTHER MOUNTAIN WSA

SOILS

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Impacts to soils under Alternative 1 would be minimal.

Wildfires, should they occur, would be more intense in areas where the vegetation is allowed to attain climax condition. This situation would create a potential for erosion. Conversely, the likelihood of wildfires starting in areas managed for wilderness would be less than under other management alternatives where more access and human use would occur.

Alternative 2 - No Action

Allowing vehicular use would result in a negligible increase of impacts to soils over those levels resulting from Alternative 1.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

Under this alternative, 10,000 acres of productive forest lands would be allocated for intensive timber management.

The primary impact to soils from timber harvest activities would be soil loss and soil compaction. Both these factors affect soil productivity. Of the actions that would occur in conjunction with timber harvest, road construction and maintenance would be the major cause of erosion and subsequent stream siltation.

Over a 10-year period, approximately 1,707 tons of soil would be lost as a result of road construction and maintenance, ground-based and cable yarding, slash disposal, and debris burning. Of this total, 1,617 tons would be lost due to road construction and maintenance.

Under this alternative, approximately 128 acres would be compacted by yarding and heavy equipment operation.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Timber and Research Natural Area)

The types of impacts to soils resulting from intensive timber management would be the same as those discussed under Alternative 3A; however, the magnitude and incidence of impacts would be proportionately less since 1,520 fewer acres are proposed for intensive timber management. Approximately 1,446 tons of soil would be lost over a 10-year period due to timber management activities, 1,369 tons of which would be attributable to road construction and maintenance.

On about 108 acres, soil compaction would occur as a result of yarding and heavy equipment operation.

Impacts to soils within the Research Natural Area (2,905 acres) would be the same as those described for Alternative 1.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Timber, ONA, RNA)(Preferred Alternative)

Types of impacts resulting from intensive timber management would remain the same as Alternative 3A; however, 7,059 fewer acres would be managed for timber production. The estimated soil loss from timber management activities would be 509 tons for the decade. Of this total, 482 tons would result from road construction and maintenance. Yarding and heavy equipment operation would compact soil on about 38 acres.

Impacts for those areas designated as ONA and RNA would be substantially the same as those discussed under Alternative 1.

Alternative 3D - No Wilderness (ONA, RNA)

Impacts to soils under Alternative 3D would be substantially the same as those under Alternative 1 except for a negligible soil loss attributable to vehicular use of established trails.

Alternative 3E - No Wilderness (Wildlife Emphasis)

A negligible amount of soil loss would result from brush cutting and burning (wildlife habitat improvement activities) on about 346 acres.

Alternative 4 - Partial Wilderness

On the 12,589 acres recommended for wilderness, impacts to soils would be the same as those discussed for Alternative 1. On the 2,941 acres proposed for intensive timber management, impacts would be the same as under Alternative 3C.

Conclusion: Considering the magnitude, intensity, and incidence of adverse impacts to soils, the alternatives would rank as follows (in order of least to greatest impacts): 1, 3D, 3E, 2, 4, 3C, 3B, 3A. None of the alternatives would result in significant impacts.

WATER RESOURCES

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Impacts to water resources would be minor due to the protective aspects of management under this alternative.

Water yield would decrease slightly as vegetation progresses toward climax condition, at which stage it would stabilize. Increases in water yield and sedimentation and a decrease in water quality would occur in the event of wildfires.

Alternative 2 - No Action

Impacts to soil (erosion and compaction) resulting from vehicle use could impact water quality through increased runoff and subsequent sedimentation. This impact would be negligible.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

Water yield would increase from those lands disturbed by road construction, timber harvest, yarding, and slash disposal and would be reduced by scarification, fertilization, and planting. Increases in water yield decrease exponentially with time, and the rates vary by habitat types. It is estimated water yield would increase approximately 50 acre feet per year through implementation of this alternative.

Increased sedimentation would result from surface erosion caused by road construction, yarding, and slash disposal. In forested areas roads have been found to be the major source of soil erosion and subsequent sedimentation. Under this alternative, an estimated increase in sediment yield of 1,166 tons would result in a 10-year period.

Road construction, timber harvest, yarding, site preparation, and slash disposal would affect the quality of runoff water through increased erosion and leaching of nutrients and chemicals from the exposed soils and plant residues. Burning of the plant residues would accelerate the introduction of nutrients and chemicals by changing the form of the residual material. Fertilization could indirectly introduce nutrients and chemicals into water courses.

Vehicle use could create some minor additional water quality impacts by causing soil erosion and compaction with a corresponding increase in surface runoff. These effects would be negligible.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Timber and RNA)

The types of impacts to water resources from timber management would be the same as those discussed under Alternative 3A; however, the magnitude and incidence of impacts would be proportionately less since 1,520 fewer acres are proposed for intensive timber management. Under this alternative, water yield would increase approximately 43 acre feet per year. Sediment yield would increase an estimated 987 tons over a 10-year period.

On the 2,905 acres proposed for Research Natural Area designation, impacts to water resources would be inconsequential due to the protective nature of RNA management.

GRANDMOTHER MOUNTAIN

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Timber, ONA, RNA)(Preferred Alternative)

The types of impacts from timber management would remain the same as Alternative 3A; however, 7,059 fewer acres would be managed intensively for timber production. It is estimated that water yield would increase about 15-acre feet per year through implementation of this alternative. Sediment yield would increase an estimated 348 tons over a decade.

On the areas proposed for ONA and RNA designation (a total of 12,589 acres) impacts to water resources would be negligible.

Alternative 3D - No Wilderness (ONA, RNA)

Impacts to water resources would be negligible.

Alterantive 3E - No Wilderness (Wildlife Emphasis)

Impacts to water resources would be negligible.

Alternative 4 - Partial Wilderness

On the 12,589 acres recommended for wilderness, impacts to water resources would be the same as portrayed for Alternative 1. On the 2,941 acres proposed for intensive timber management, impacts would be the same as Alternative 3C: 15 acre feet per year water yield increase and 348 ton decadal sediment yield increase.

Conclusion: Impacts to water resources of the greatest magnitude would occur with the implementation of Alternative 3A. These impacts, however, would be insignificant in the context of the study area. Alternative 1 would produce the lowest levels of water resource related impacts.

VEGETATION

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Impacts to vegetation resulting from primitive recreation activities would be negligible. The vegetative communities would continue to develop toward their natural climax condition. In the event of fire, old growth timber communities have a greater potential for destruction due to higher fire intensity and the increased difficulty of suppression.

Alternative 2 - No Action

Since timber harvest under custodial management is extremely unlikely, no impacts are anticipated.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

Intensive timber management of 10,000 acres would result in the following impacts:

Road construction would eliminate biological productivity (including timber production) on any newly constructed running surface. Approximately 92 acres would be affected. Subsequent maintenance of these roads would temporarily eliminate any early successional plant development.

New roads would provide opportunities for additional public access. This could result in removal or damage of vegetative material through firewood harvest, unauthorized cedar removal, or off-road vehicle use. Additional access would improve capabilities for fire protection, insect and disease abatement, and other vegetative management activities.

Ground-based yarding would damage and destroy vegetation on about 160 acres. Cable yarding would be less destructive affecting approximately 71 acres.

Forest development practices such as precommercial and sanitation thinnings would remove selected trees from the stand canopy, releasing the remaining trees from competition for light, moisture, and nutrients, thereby increasing growth on the remaining trees. Understory plants would be damaged during these operations. The resultant change in light, water, and nutrient availability would alter the composition of the understory to some degree. Fertilization would increase the growth of all the vegetation within the treatment area of approximately 309 acres.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Timber, Research Natural Area)

Impacts to vegetation on the 2,905 acres proposed for RNA designation would be negligible.

Timber management of 8,480 acres would produce the same types of impacts described in Alternative 3A with a corresponding decrease in magnitude. Approximately 78 acres would be eliminated from biological productivity due to road construction. Timber yarding would damage and destroy vegetation on about 196 acres. Fertilization would increase vegetation growth on approximately 261 acres.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Timber, ONA, RNA)(Preferred Alternative)

The vegetation within the ONA and RNA would be allowed to progress toward climax condition with impacts the same as those for Alternative 1.

The impacts to vegetation on 2,941 acres allocated for intensive timber management would be similar to those discussed under Alternative 3A. Approximately 28 acres would be eliminated from biological productivity due to road construction. Timber yarding would damage and destroy vegetation on about 69 acres. Fertilization would accelerate growth on 92 acres.

Alternative 3D - No Wilderness (ONA, RNA)

Impacts to vegetation would be negligible.

Alternative 3E - No Wilderness (Wildlife Emphasis)

Vegetation on about 346 acres prescribed for wildlife habitat improvement would be damaged through cutting or burning. This would temporarily interrupt the affected plant communities' progression towards climax (self sustaining plant community).

Alternative 4 - Partial Wilderness

Impacts to vegetation on 12,589 acres managed for wilderness would be the same as those described in Alternative 1. Impacts on 2,941 acres subjected to intensive timber management practices would be the same as those described in Alternative 3C.

Conclusion: Alternatives which prescribe high levels of timber production (3A and 3B) would produce greatest adverse impact magnitudes, though not significant. Negligible impacts would occur under Alternative 1.

WILDLIFE

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Maintaining the roadless nature of the area through wilderness designation would benefit resident game species, namely deer and elk, by limiting human pressure and maintaining security areas. Populations from adjacent roaded areas would also benefit from the security this island of roadless habitat would offer. Reduced opportunities for human intrusion would particularly benefit two sensitive species, the wolverine and Canada lynx.

Preserving the undisturbed nature of this area would benefit resident populations of black bear, songbirds, cavity dwellers (such as squirrels, bats, owls, and woodpeckers), forest grouse, and small mammals. On the other hand, opportunities to enhance wildlife habitat through vegetative manipulation would be foregone.

Not allowing ground disturbing activities would benefit high quality fish habitat.

Alternative 2 - No Action

Impacts would be the same as described for Alternative 1.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

Timber harvest and development practices on 10,000 acres of productive forest lands would be expected to affect wildlife in the WSA as follows:

Road construction would alter wildlife habitat, and road use would decrease habitat quality through disturbance. Some destruction or quality degradation of big game habitat, riparian areas, old growth habitat, habitat for cavity-dependent species, and aquatic habitat could result. In addition, wildlife stress levels, distribution, and abundance could be affected. These impacts would be substantially reduced through implementation of district management guidelines.

Implementation of this alternative would result in the following losses of wildlife habitat (estimated acres over a 10-year period): elk, 70; white-tailed deer, 49; mule deer, 58; black bear, 72; and snag dependent species, 239.

No significant adverse impacts are expected to affect bobcat and Canada lynx, two sensitive species.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Timber, Research Natural Area)

The roadless and undisturbed nature of the 2,905 acres proposed for RNA designation would benefit terrestrial and aquatic wildlife in a manner similar to that described for Alternative 1.

Impacts to wildlife caused by intensive timber management of 8,480 acres would be similar to those discussed under Alternative 3A. The following losses of wildlife habitat would result (estimated acres over a 10-year period): elk, 59; white-tailed deer, 41; mule deer, 49; black bear, 61; and snag dependent species, 202.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Timber, ONA, RNA)(Preferred Alternative)

On the 12,589 acres proposed for ONA and RNA designations, the impacts to wildlife would be the same as those under Alternative 1.

Intensive timber management of 2,941 acres would result in adverse impacts of the types described for Alternative 3A with a corresponding reduction in magnitude. Estimated habitat losses over a decade would be: elk, 21; white-tailed deer, 15; mule deer, 17; black bear, 21; and snag dependent species, 71.

Alternative 3D - No Wilderness (ONA, RNA)

Impacts to wildlife would be similar to those under Alternative 1.

Alternative 3E - No Wilderness (Wildlife Emphasis)

Impacts to wildlife would be largely the same as those under Alternative 1; however, additional benefits to big game would occur as prescribed habitat improvement actions are implemented.

Alternative 4 - Partial Wilderness

Impacts to wildlife on 12,589 acres to be managed as wilderness would be the same as those described in Alternative 1. Intensive timber management practices on 2,941 acres would yield the same impacts described under Alternative 3C.

Conclusion: Wildlife populations and habitat would be favored through implementation of Alternatives 1, 2, 3D, and 3E. Net adverse impacts would result from Alternatives 3A and 3B. Beneficial and adverse impacts would balance under Alternatives 3C and 4.

The impacts which would result from implementation of any alternative would not be significant in the context of the study area.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Alternatives 1 through 4

The potential for damage or destruction to cultural resources varies between alternatives. Soil disturbing activities resulting from intensive timber management and vehicular use would increase this potential. No significant impacts are anticipated.

GRANDMOTHER MOUNTAIN

VISUAL RESOURCES

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Management for wilderness would preserve the high quality scenic values of the WSA.

Alternative 2 - No Action

Due to the management emphasis of this alternative (backcountry recreation and custodial management of the forested lands) only negligible impacts are anticipated.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

Intensive timber harvest and development practices would occur on 10,000 acres. Clearcutting, road construction, and most other timber management practices change vegetative patterns, alter species composition, and disrupt the land surface, thereby causing visual impacts. These impacts would not exceed the visual resource management thresholds established for lands allocated to intensive timber management.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Timber, Research Natural Area)

Impacts to visual resources would be the same as under Alternative 3A for 8,480 acres subjected to intensive timber management. High scenic quality would be preserved on the 2,905 acres prescribed for RNA designation.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Timber, ONA, RNA)(Preferred Alternative)

The current scenic values of the ONA and RNA would be preserved (12,589 acres).

Impacts described under Alternative 3A resulting from intensive timber management would be applicable to 2,941 acres of this WSA under Alternative 3C.

Alternative 3D - No Wilderness (ONA, RNA)

No adverse impacts are anticipated.

Alternative 3E - No Wilderness (Wildlife Emphasis)

Scenic quality on and around the 346 acres slated for wildlife habitat improvement would be adversely affected by the vegetative modifications resulting from brush cutting and burning. This short term impact would be insignificant.

Alternative 4 - Partial Wilderness

The high quality scenic values of the 12,589 acres proposed for wilderness designation would be preserved.

Scenic quality would be adversely affected on the 2,941 acres slated for intensive timber management due to landform and vegetation modifications. These impacts would not exceed visual resource management thresholds established for lands allocated for intensive timber management.

Conclusion: The outstanding scenic quality of this WSA would be protected and preserved under Alternatives 1, 2, and 3E. Scenic quality would suffer degradation on areas allocated for intensive timber management under Alternatives 3A, 3B, 3C, and 4. However, this degradation would not exceed established visual resource thresholds developed for each alternative. No significant impacts are anticipated.

RECREATION

Alternative 1 - No Wilderness

Management of the Grandmother Mountain WSA as wilderness would prohibit the use of vehicles in a semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation setting. This setting would favor primitive forms of recreation while eliminating opportunities for motorized forms of recreation.

Alternative 2 - No Action

Management under Alternative 2 would largely maintain the current recreation setting. Impacts would be similar to those under Alternative 1.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

The entire WSA would be managed for roaded natural recreation setting. This would favor vehicle dependent activities and adversely affect existing primitive recreation opportunities on about 58% of the WSA over a 10-year period.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Timber, Research Natural Area)

Impacts from management of the 2,905 acres slated for RNA designation would be the same as those under Alternative 1. Impacts from management of 4,540 acres for a roaded natural setting would adversely affect primitive recreation opportunities on 26% of the WSA. The remaining 9,684 acres would be managed for a semi-primitive motorized recreation setting, largely maintaining the status quo.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Timber, ONA, RNA)(Preferred Alternative)

Impacts to recreation would be the same as those described under Alternative 3B.

Alternative 3D - No Wilderness (ONA, RNA)

Management of the 2,905 acres within the proposed RNA would favor primitive forms of recreation. Management of the remaining 14,224 acres, under this alternative, would result in no appreciable change in existing recreational opportunities.

Alternative 3E - No Wilderness (Wildlife)

No adverse impacts are anticipated. Beneficial impacts to big game populations resulting from habitat improvement projects would slightly benefit hunting opportunities in the area.

GRANDMOTHER MOUNTAIN

Alternative 4 - Partial Wilderness

Impacts to recreation in those portions of the WSA managed as wilderness (12,589 acres) would be the same as those given for Alternative 1. The remaining 4,540 acres would be managed in a roaded natural recreation setting which would adversely affect primitive recreation opportunities on 26% of the WSA.

Conclusion: Recreation opportunities would not be significantly enhanced or degraded by implementation of any of the alternatives. Primitive recreation opportunities would be favored in Alternatives 1, 2, 3D, and 3E. Motorized recreational pursuits would be favored under Alternatives 3A and 3B. Alternatives 3C and 4 would maintain opportunities for both primitive and motorized forms of recreation.

GRAZING

Alternatives 1 through 4

Livestock grazing is not currently authorized in the WSA. Should livestock grazing be allowed in the future, there would be no significant impacts to it under any of the alternatives.

ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

Alternatives 1 through 4

Please refer to introduction of this chapter.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Alternatives 1, 2, 3D, and 3E

Under these alternatives, all timber harvest and development opportunities would be foregone. A potential annual harvest of 2,100 MBF would not be realized.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

Under Alternative 3A, intensive timber management would sustain an annual harvest of 2,100 MBF of timber. In addition to harvest, forest development treatments could enhance timber production for long term gains in productivity.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Timber, Research Natural Area)

Impacts to timber management would be the same as those given for Alternative 3A except that the annual harvest would be reduced to 1,780 MBF due to a reduction in acres managed intensively for timber. This would be 85% of the sustained yield potential for this WSA.

Alternatives 3C and 4

Annual timber harvest would be 617 MBF, 29% of full sustained yield potential for this WSA.

Conclusion: Timber production would benefit most from Alternative 3A. Management opportunities would be foregone under Alternatives 1, 2, 3D, and 3E. Regionally, these impacts would be insignificant.

WILDERNESS VALUES

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

All wilderness values would be maintained under Alternative 1. Solitude values would be enhanced due to the elimination of recreational off-road vehicles. This enhancement would be minimal due to the current and projected low levels of ORV use in the unit.

Alternative 2 - No Action

Opportunities for solitude would be adversely affected by continued low levels of vehicle use on established trails.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

All wilderness values would eventually be eliminated under Alternative 3A as forest management activities are initiated.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Timber, Research Natural Area)

Wilderness values would eventually be lost on 14,224 acres as forest management activities are initiated. In the 2,905-acre RNA, the values of solitude, primitive recreation, and naturalness would be maintained. The special ecological values would also be maintained.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Timber, ONA, RNA)(Preferred Alternative)

Wilderness values would be eventually lost on 4,540 acres as timber management activities are initiated. Most wilderness values would be maintained on the remaining 12,589 acres, however, opportunities for solitude could be adversely affected on the 9,684 acres designated as an ONA since motorized vehicles would be permitted in most areas.

Alternative 3D - No Wilderness (ONA, RNA)

With the exception of the adverse effects motorized vehicles could have on opportunities for solitude in the ONA, this alternative would preserve most wilderness values.

Alternative 3E - No Wilderness (Wildlife)

Solitude, primitive recreation, and special ecological values would be maintained. Naturalness would be moderately impacted from habitat improvement projects including controlled burns and brush cutting. These impacts would be localized on about 346 acres.

Alternative 4 - Partial Wilderness

All wilderness values would be maintained on the 12,589 acres recommended for wilderness. All wilderness values would eventually be lost on 4,540 acres as timber management activities are initiated.

Conclusion: Wilderness values would be maintained throughout the WSA by implementation of Alternative 1. The most degradation to wilderness values would result from implementation of Alternative 3A. This degradation would not be significant in a regional context.

ECONOMICS

Alternatives 1 through 4

The potential annual harvest of timber in this WSA would range from 0 to 2.1 million board feet. The highest potential economic gain would occur under Alternative 3A where the potential annual harvest of 2.1 million board feet would support 16 lumber related jobs with $302,400 in corresponding wages. This would represent 0.2 percent of the total employment and wages for Shoshone County.

The preferred alternative, Alternative 3C, would produce a potential increase of 5 lumber related jobs with $94,500 in corresponding wages. This would represent 0.06 percent of the total employment and 0.07 percent of the total wages in the county.

Any potential economic gains would be foregone under Alternative 1, 2, 3D, and 3E. Regionally and within the county's economic context, these impacts would be insignificant.

SNOWHOLE RAPIDS WSA

SOILS

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Under Alternative 1 a slight beneficial impact to soils is anticipated to result from the downward adjustment of 57 AUMs for livestock grazing as prescribed in the Northern Idaho Grazing Management EIS (NIGMEIS)(BLM 1981). Other than this negligible impact, no changes resulting from management under this alternative are anticipated. For a complete discussion of the impacts of livestock grazing to soils, refer to NIGMEIS (BLM 1981).

Alternative 2 - No Action

Management under Alternative 2 would essentially maintain the status quo with no impacts expected.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Recreation Emphasis)(Preferred Alternative)

Impacts to soils would be substantially the same as those under Alternative 1.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Wildlife Emphasis)

Impacts to soils would be substantially the same as those discussed under Alternative 1.

Conclusion: A slight beneficial impact to soils would result from the downward adjustment of 57 AUMs for livestock grazing prescribed under Alternatives 1, 3A, and 3B.

WATER RESOURCES

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Under Alternative 1, slight beneficial impacts to water quality would correspond to improved soil conditions. There would be a slight improvement to watershed conditions resulting from reduced livestock grazing.

Alternative 2 - No Action

No change is expected in water quality. No impacts are anticipated.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Recreation Emphasis)(Preferred Alternative)

Impacts under Alternative 3A would not substantially differ from those discussed under Alternative 1; however, increased recreational use of the Salmon River could cause slight adverse impacts to water quality resulting from shoreline disturbance.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Wildlife Emphasis)

Impacts to water resources would be substantially the same as those described under Alternative 1.

Conclusion: Beneficial and adverse impacts resulting from any alternative would be negligible.

VEGETATION

Alternatives 1 through 3B

Actions under any of these alternatives are not expected to result in significant adverse or beneficial impacts to vegetation. In addition, impacts to vegetation between alternatives would not be substantially different. For detailed descriptions of impacts resulting from livestock grazing, please refer to NIGMEIS (BLM 1981).

WILDLIFE

Alternatives 1 through 3B

Impacts to both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife would not be substantially different between alternatives. Actions under any of the alternatives are not anticipated to result in any significant beneficial or adverse impacts to wildlife or wildlife habitat. For detailed descriptions of impacts to wildlife resulting from livestock grazing, please refer to NIGMEIS (BLM 1981).

Sensitive, endangered, or threatened species would be protectively managed by application of district management guidelines contained in Chapter 3. No significant impacts are anticipated under any alternative.

SNOWHOLE RAPIDS

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Alternatives 1 through 3B

The potential for damage or destruction of prehistoric or historic cultural sites or materials would not change substantially between alternatives. Actions under any alternative would not significantly impact cultural resources of the WSA given the application of district management guidelines and other policies discussed in Chapter 3.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Alternatives 1 through 3B

Scenic quality would not be affected by the implementation of any alternative.

RECREATION

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Management as wilderness would favor primitive forms of recreation except that the use of powerboats on the river would be allowed to the extent previously established. The area would be managed for semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation opportunities. This would adversely affect land-based motorized recreation pursuits. These impacts would be insignificant.

Alternative 2 - No Action

No impacts are anticipated.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Recreation Emphasis)(Preferred Alternative)

Under Alternative 3A, the area would be managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation opportunities. Primitive forms of recreation would be adversely affected by the use of motorized vehicles, however, these impacts would be negligible since motorized vehicle use would be limited to existing trails.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Wildlife Emphasis)

Impacts would be substantially the same as those described under Alternative 1.

Conclusion: Alternatives 1 and 3B would favor primitive forms of recreation while Alternatives 2 and 3A would allow limited motorized vehicle use. Implementation of any alternative would not result in significant impacts to recreation.

GRAZING

Alternatives 1, 3A, and 3B

Under these alternatives, a downward adjustment from 356 AUMs of livestock forage authorized to 299 AUMs would occur as prescribed in NIGMEIS (BLM 1981). This reduction of livestock grazing use is not considered significant. Range condition would be enhanced, though not significantly.

Alternative 2 - No Action

No changes are anticipated. The current allocation of 356 AUMs of livestock forage would continue.

ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

Alternatives 1 through 3B

Refer to introduction of this chapter for a statement concerning impacts to locatable and leasable mineral resources. Impacts to saleable mineral materials such as sand and gravel would be negligible under any alternative because their current sub-economic insignificance, largely due to limited access and low demand, is not anticipated to change in the foreseeable future.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Alternatives 1 through 3B

Of the 286 acres of forest lands, 67 are classified by the Timber Production Capability Classification (TPCC) as productive forest lands excluded from management and the remaining 219 acres as non-productive forest lands. In keeping with the criteria of TPCC, no harvest or development practices would occur under any alternative. This would represent no change and, therefore, no impacts.

WILDERNESS VALUES

Alternatives 1 and 3B

Wilderness values would be preserved under these alternatives.

Alternatives 2 and 3A

Under these alternatives solitude would be affected by the limited use of motorized vehicles. This impact would be localized in effect and negligible to solitude values in the area as a whole.

ECONOMICS

None of the alternatives considered for this WSA would effect the economies of Lewis and Idaho counties or the region.

MARSHALL MOUNTAIN WSA

SOILS

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Impacts to soils under wilderness management of this WSA would be minimal and, due to the prescribed closure to ORV use, long-term soil conditions would probably improve.

Wildfires, should they occur, would be more intense in areas where the vegetation is allowed to attain climax condition. This situation would create a potential for erosion. Conversely, the likelihood of wildfires starting in areas managed for wilderness would be less than under other management alternatives where more access and human use would occur.

Alternative 2 - No Action

Slight adverse impacts to soils, in terms of soil loss, would continue at current rates should mineral prospecting and mining activity remain at existing levels. The potential exists, however, for increased mineral related activity predicated on favorable market conditions and/or new technological developments. Should they occur, an increase in soil loss would be anticipated. Adherence to management guidelines and regulations would prevent these impacts from reaching a significant level. Other management activities and land uses prescribed under this alternative would result in minimal impacts to soils.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

Under this alternative, 3,920 acres of productive forest lands would be managed under intensive timber management guidelines.

The primary impacts to soils from timber harvest practices are soil loss and compaction. Both these factors affect soil productivity. Of the actions that would occur in conjunction with timber harvest, road construction and maintenance would be the major cause of erosion and subsequent stream siltation.

Over a 10-year period, approximately 675 tons of soil would be lost as a result of road construction and maintenance, ground-based and cable yarding, slash disposal, and debris burning. Of this total, 639 tons would be lost due to road construction and maintenance.

Under this alternative, approximately 50 acres would be compacted by yarding and heavy equipment operation.

Other management activities and land uses occurring on the WSA such as continued livestock grazing and vehicle use are not anticipated to result in significant impacts in the foreseeable future.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Mineral Potential)(Preferred Alternative)

Impacts resulting to soils under Alternative 3B would be substantially the same as those under Alternative 2.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Wildlife Emphasis)

Impacts would be substantially the same as those under Alternative 2. Closure of the area to vehicular use would have a minor beneficial impact to soils.

Alternative 4 - Partial Wilderness

Under this alternative, 1,680 acres would be managed as wilderness. Impacts to soils within this acreage would be the same as those under Alternative 1.

Impacts to soils within the 2,280 acres allocated for intensive timber management would be essentially the same as those under Alternative 3A except that their magnitude and incidence would be proportionately less due to the acreage difference. Approximately 385 tons of soil would be lost over a decade due to timber management activities, 365 tons of which would be attributable to road construction and maintenance. On about 29 acres, soil compaction would occur as a result of yarding and heavy equipment operation.

Conclusion: For this WSA, the soil resource would benefit from wilderness management under Alternative 1. The greatest magnitude of impacts would occur through implementation of Alternative 3A. Significant impacts to the soil resource are not anticipated from any alternative.

WATER RESOURCES

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Wilderness management of the entire WSA would result in negligible impacts to the water resources.

Water yield would decrease slightly as vegetation progresses toward climax condition at which stage it would stabilize.

Increases in water yield and sedimentation and a decrease in water quality would occur in the event of wildfires.

Alternative 2 - No Action

Should mineral related activity accelerate in response to more favorable market conditions, a corresponding increase in adverse impacts to water resources (water yield and sedimentation) would occur. Application of management guidelines and regulatory requirements would prevent these impacts from reaching significant levels.

If the existing trend of limited mineral related activity were to continue, adverse impacts to water resources would remain at a negligible level.

Other land uses and management practices under this alternative would cause minimal impacts to the water resources.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

Under this alternative, 3,920 acres would be intensively managed for sustained timber production. The primary impacts of intensive timber management practices on water resources would be increased water yield due to vegetative manipulation and increased sediment yield (soil reaching a water channel) due to land disturbance. It is estimated water yield would increase approximately 20 acre feet per year through implementation of this alternative. Sediment yield is estimated to increase 461 tons over a 10-year period.

Possible increased vehicle use could cause some minor additional water quality impacts by causing soil erosion and compaction with a corresponding increase in surface runoff. These effects would be inconsequential.

MARSHALL MOUNTAIN

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Mineral Potential)(Preferred Alternative)

Impacts under Alternative 3B would be substantially the same as those under Alternative 2.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Wildlife Emphasis)

Impacts to water resources under Alternative 3C would be essentially the same as those under Alternative 2. Closure of the area to vehicles would have a minor beneficial effect.

Alternative 4 - Partial Wilderness

Management of the 1,680 acres as wilderness would result in the same impacts as those described under Alternative 1.

Intensive timber management of 2,280 acres would result in an estimated water yield increase of about 11 acre feet per year and an increase in sediment yield of approximately 263 tons of soil over a 10-year period.

Other land uses and management practices on the 4,124 acres not managed as wilderness would cause minimal adverse affects to water resources.

Conclusion: Impacts to water resources of the greatest magnitude would occur with the implementation of Alternative 3A. These impacts would be insignificant in the context of the study area, however. Alternative 1 would yield the lowest levels of impacts to water resources.

VEGETATION

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Management of this area as wilderness would allow the vegetative communities to progress through natural succession to a climax condition. In the event of fire, old growth timber communities have a greater potential for destruction due to higher fire intensity, and the increased difficulty of suppression.

Alternative 2 - No Action

Management activities and land uses prescribed in this alternative would result in negligible impacts to vegetation.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

Intensive timber management on 3,920 acres of productive forest lands would result in the following impacts:

Road construction would eliminate biological productivity (including timber production) on any newly constructed running surface. Approximately 37 acres would be affected. Subsequent maintenance of these roads would temporarily eliminate any early successional plant development.

New roads would provide opportunities for additional public access. This could result in removal or damage of vegetative material through firewood harvest or vehicle use. Additional access would improve capabilities for fire protection, insect and disease abatement, and other vegetative management activities.

Ground-based yarding would damage and destroy vegetation on about 63 acres. Cable yarding would be less destructive affecting approximately 28 acres.

Forest development practices such as precommercial and sanitation thinnings would remove selected trees from the stand canopy, releasing the remaining trees from competition for light, moisture, and nutrients, thereby increasing growth on the remaining trees. Understory plants would be damaged during these operations. The resultant change in light, water, and nutrient availability would alter the composition of the understory to some degree. Fertilization would increase the growth of all the vegetation within the treatment area of approximately 122 acres.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Mineral Potential)(Preferred Alternative)

Negligible impacts would result from implementation of this alternative.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Wildlife Emphasis)

No impacts are anticipated.

Alternative 4 - Partial Wilderness

Wilderness management on 1,680 acres would result in impacts the same as those under Alternative 1.

Timber management of 2,280 acres would produce the same types of impacts described in Alternative 3A with a corresponding decrease in magnitude. Approximately 21 acres would be eliminated from biological productivity due to road construction. Timber yarding would damage and destroy vegetation on about 52 acres. Fertilization would increase vegetation growth on approximately 70 acres.

Conclusion: Adverse effects of the greatest magnitudes would occur under Alternative 3A. Implementation of Alternatives 1 and 3C would impact vegetation the least. No significant impacts are anticipated.

WILDLIFE

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Maintaining the roadless nature of the area through wilderness designation would benefit elk and mule deer by limiting human pressure, providing travel corridors, and maintaining security areas. Populations from adjacent roaded areas would also benefit from the security this island of roadless habitat would offer. Reduced opportunities for human intrusion would particularly benefit three sensitive species, the bobcat, wolverine, and Canada lynx.

Preserving the undisturbed nature of this area would benefit resident populations of black bear, songbirds, cavity dwellers (such as squirrels, bats, owls, and woodpeckers) forest grouse, and small mammals. On the other hand, opportunities to enhance wildlife habitat through vegetative manipulation would be foregone.

MARSHALL MOUNTAIN

Alternative 2 - No Action

Management activities and land uses under this alternative are not anticipated to result in significant impacts to wildlife.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

Of the 5,804 total acres in the WSA, 3,920 would be intensively managed for timber production. Timber harvest and development practices would be expected to affect the wildlife in the WSA as follows:

Road construction would destroy wildlife habitat, and road use would decrease habitat quality through disturbance. Some destruction or quality degradation of big game habitat, riparian areas, old growth habitat, habitat for cavity-dependent species, and aquatic habitat could result, but this would be substantially reduced through implementation of district management guidelines.

Implementation of this alternative would result in the following losses of wildlife habitat (estimated acres over a 10-year period): elk, 27; mule deer, 23; black bear, 28; and snag dependent species, 94.

No significant adverse impacts are expected to affect the bobcat, wolverine, and Canada lynx which are listed as sensitive species.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Mineral Potential)(Preferred Alternative)

Impacts to wildlife would be negligible under this alternative.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Wildlife Emphasis)

Impacts to wildlife would be essentially the same as those described for Alternative 1 with an additional slight benefit resulting from the elimination of competition for forage on the 150 acres excluded from livestock grazing.

Alternative 4 - Partial Wilderness

Impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat in the 1,680 acres proposed for wilderness management would be the same as those described under Alternative 1.

Intensive timber management of 2,280 acres would result in adverse impacts of the types described for Alternative 3A with a corresponding reduction in magnitude. Estimated habitat losses (in acres) over a decade would be: elk, 16; mule deer, 13; black bear, 16; and snag dependent species, 54.

Conclusion: Wildlife populations and habitat would be favored through implementation of Alternatives 1 and 3C. Impacts of greatest magnitude would occur under Alternative 3A. No significant impacts are expected to result to wildlife, including sensitive species, from any alternative.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Alternatives 1 through 4

The potential for damage or destruction to cultural resources varies between alternatives. Soil disturbing activities resulting from intensive timber management and vehicular use would increase this potential. No significant impacts are anticipated.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Under wilderness designation and management, the high quality scenic values of the WSA would be preserved.

Alternative 2 - No Action

No adverse impacts to scenic quality are anticipated.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

Scenic quality would be adversely affected on the 3,920 acres of productive forest lands slated for intensive timber management due to landform and vegetation modifications. These impacts would not exceed the visual resource management thresholds established for lands allocated to intensive timber management.

Other management activities in the WSA prescribed under this alternative are not expected to significantly impact the visual resources.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Mineral Potential)(Preferred Alternative)

Impacts to visual resources under Alternative 3B would be the same as those under Alternative 2.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Wildlife Emphasis)

Wildlife habitat improvement projects could alter the visual quality of the WSA for a relatively short duration (1 to 5 years). Impacts from other management practices would be negligible.

Alternative 4 - Partial Wilderness

High quality scenic values would be preserved on the 1,680 acres proposed for wilderness designation.

Scenic quality would be adversely affected on the 2,280 acres of productive forest lands slated for intensive timber management due to landform and vegetation modifications. These impacts would not exceed the visual resource management thresholds established for lands allocated to intensive timber management.

Other management activities in the WSA prescribed under this alternative are not expected to significantly impact the visual resources.

Conclusion: The outstanding scenic quality of this WSA would be protected and preserved under Alternatives 1, 2, and 3B. Scenic quality would suffer degradation, though not significant, on areas allocated for intensive timber management under Alternatives 3A and 4.

RECREATION

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Management of the entire WSA in a semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation setting would favor primitive forms of recreation and prohibit the use of vehicles.

Alternative 2 - No Action

Under this alternative a semi-primitive motorized recreation setting would be provided. Primitive forms of recreation would be adversely affected by motorized vehicle use.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

The entire WSA would be managed for a roaded natural recreation setting. An essentially natural setting would exist. Primitive forms of recreation would be adversely affected by motorized vehicle use.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Mineral Potential)(Preferred Alternative)

Impacts resulting from the management of 2,790 acres for a semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation setting would be the same as those under Alternative 1.

Impacts to recreation on the remainder of the WSA would be the same as those under Alternative 2.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Wildlife Emphasis)

Impacts to recreation under Alternative 3C would be the same as those described for Alternative 1.

Alternative 4 - Partial Wilderness

Impacts to recreation on those lands to be managed as wilderness would be the same as under Alternative 1. In the remainder of the unit, impacts would be essentially the same as those under Alternative 2.

Conclusion: Primitive forms of recreation would be favored in Alternatives 1 and 3C, and to some extent in Alternative 4. Motorized recreational pursuits would be favored in Alternatives 2 and 3A. Recreation opportunities would not be significantly enhanced or degraded by implementation of any alternative.

GRAZING

Alternatives 1, 2, 3A, 3B, and 4

No change in grazing use of 150 acres of the WSA would result from implementation of any alternative.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Wildlife Emphasis)

Under Alternative 3C, the current grazing use of 8 AUMs on 150 acres would not be allowed. This would be a negligible adverse impact.

ENERGY AND MINERALS RESOURCES

Alternatives 1 through 4

Refer to the introduction of this chapter.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

Timber production opportunities from 3,920 acres of productive timberland would be foregone as a result of implementation of Alternative 1. A potential annual harvest of 724 MBF would not be realized.

Alternative 2 - No Action

The impacts described under Alternative 1 would apply to Alternative 2.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

Intensive timber harvest and development practices on 3,920 acres would provide a sustained annual yield of 724 MBF.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Mineral Potential)(Preferred Alternative)

Impacts would be the same as those described under Alternative 1.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Wildlife Emphasis)

Impacts would be the same as those for Alternative 1.

Alternative 4 - Partial Wilderness

Under this alternative, 2,280 acres of productive timberland would provide a sustained annual yield of 421 MBF, 58% of full sustained yield potential for this WSA.

Conclusion: Timber production would benefit most from Alternative 3A. Management opportunities would be foregone under Alternatives 1, 2, 3B, and 3C. These impacts would not be significant, regionally.

MARSHALL MOUNTAIN

WILDERNESS VALUES

Alternative 1 - All Wilderness

All wilderness values would be maintained under Alternative 1.

Alternative 2 - No Action

Opportunities for solitude would be adversely affected by vehicle use of the WSA. Increased mining activity, both within and outside the WSA, would adversely affect naturalness and solitude values.

Alternative 3A - No Wilderness (Timber Emphasis)

All wilderness values would eventually be eliminated as forest management activities are initiated.

Alternative 3B - No Wilderness (Mineral Potential)(Preferred Alternative)

Impacts to wilderness values would be substantially similar to those in Alternative 2.

Alternative 3C - No Wilderness (Wildlife Emphasis)

Impacts would be substantially the same as in Alternative 2 with one exception. Solitude values would be enhanced due to the elimination of recreational off-road vehicles. However, this effect would be minimal due to the current and projected low level of ORV use.

Alternative 4 - Partial Wilderness

All wilderness values would be maintained on 1,680 acres under this alternative. Wilderness values on the remaining 4,124 acres would eventually be eliminated as forest management activities are initiated.

Conclusion: The most degradation to wilderness values, though insignificant on a regional basis, would result from implementation of Alternative 3A. Wilderness values would be maintained by Alternative 1.

ECONOMICS

The potential annual harvest of timber in this WSA would range from 0 to 724 thousand board feet. The highest potential economic gain would occur under Alternative 3A where the potential annual harvest of 724 thousand board feet would support 5 lumber related jobs with $90,900 in corresponding wages. Alternative 4, with a potential annual harvest of 421 thousand board feet would support 3 lumber related jobs with $54,600 in wages. These potential economic benefits, although insignificant in the context of the Idaho County and regional economies, would be foregone under all other alternatives, including the preferred alternative.

TABLE 6-1

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USES OF MAN'S ENVIRONMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY AND THE IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES

| Alternative Consideration | Short-term Use (Within 10 Years) | Long-term Productivity[1] (10+ Years) | Irreversible Commitments | Irretrievable Commitments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| All Wilderness | Optimize protection and preservation of public lands in their natural condition. | Wilderness values would be preserved for future generations | None | Short-term timber harvest potentials would be foregone. |
| No Action | Maintain status quo. | Maintain wood fiber productivity. Maintain livestock forage and wildlife habitat. | None | Loss of soil which would reach rivers in the form of fine sediments. Potential destruction of cultural sites. Potential destruction of threatened/endangered plants. Investment of energy. |
| No Wilderness | | | | |
| Commodity Emphasis | Emphasize production of timber. | Increase wood fiber productivity. Alter wildlife habitat. Decrease visual quality. Increase motorized recreation opportunities. | None | Loss of soil. Potential destruction of cultural sites. Potential destruction of threatened/endangered plants. Investment of energy. Some wilderness values would be foregone. |
| Protection Emphasis | Optimize protection and enhancement of natural environment. | Decrease wood fiber productivity. Enhance wildlife habitat. Decrease motorized recreation opportunities. Maintain visual quality. Some wilderness values would be maintained. | None | Loss of soil. Potential destruction of cultural sites. Potential destruction of threatened/endangered plants. Investment of energy. |
| Partial Wilderness | Discussions pertinent to All Wilderness alternative apply to those lands so designated, while appropriate discussions from other alternatives would apply to the remaining area. | | | |

[1] As compared to present situation or trend.

# CHAPTER 7
# COORDINATION, CONSISTENCY, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

## COORDINATION PRIOR TO THE AMENDMENT AND EIS PREPARATION

Prior to the preparation of this amendment and EIS, the Coeur d' Alene District conducted extensive consultation and coordination with the public during the Management Framework Plan process and the inventory phase of the Bureau's wilderness review program. These early efforts were widely advertised in an attempt to reach the affected publics and establish Involved and Informed public contacts.

As part of this consultation and coordination process, public planning workshops were held to identify significant problems and issues to be addressed during the planning process. These workshops were conducted at Grangeville, Riggins, Lewiston, Elk City, Wallace, Sandpoint, St. Maries, and Coeur d'Alene during 1980.

During this same period of time, meetings were held to gather input concerning the District's wilderness inventory program at Coeur d'Alene, Moscow, Lewiston, Grangeville, and St. Maries. These meetings also identified issues and public concerns.

Prior to the commencement of the amendment and EIS, small group meetings were held with industry representatives, public officials, and public land user interest groups to discuss land use allocations and related topics.

## CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION DURING THE PREPARATION OF THE AMENDMENT AND EIS

With the previous public involvement effort as a foundation, the Coeur d'Alene District continued its consultation and coordination efforts as outlined in the MFP Amendment Public Participation Plan. As part of the continuing EIS scoping process, approximately 800 letters were sent to a wide variety of interest groups, agencies, and individuals in March, 1981 to solicit comments, suggestions, and opinions concerning issues to be discussed and analyzed in this amendment and EIS. In addition, a Federal Register notice and news releases were issued requesting that anyone with information pertinent to the amendment/EIS contact the Coeur d'Alene District Office. The input received was used to develop the issues and planning criteria discussed in Chapter 2 of this document. Follow-up letters were sent to all those who responded to requests for information in July 1981.

## CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER RESOURCE PLANS

Consultation with other agencies and governments, including Indian Tribes, indicates that this proposed MFP amendment is consistent with their officially approved or adopted resource related plans. Land use plans for most of the National Forest lands which border the WSAs have not been completed. Ongoing coordination is continuing with Forest Service planners to ensure that compatible land use alternatives are developed.

# CHAPTER 8
# RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

During the preparation of the draft Amendment/EIS the Coeur d'Alene District issued news releases, sent out information packets, and made personal contacts to describe the process and request the contribution of interested individuals and groups. Prior to this, the district conducted numerous wilderness inventory meetings and land use planning meetings with individuals and agencies to gather information, opinions, and suggestions.

The draft Amendment/EIS was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency on June 18, 1982 and approximately 650 copies were distributed for public review. The review period ran from June 18 to August 30, 1982.

During this review period, three public meetings were held: July 20 in Grangeville, July 22 in St. Maries, and July 27 in Moscow. On July 29 a formal public hearing was held in Coeur d'Alene. Of the 52 people who attended the public meetings, 25 presented oral comments. Almost all of these commenters submitted written comments also. At the public hearing, 14 people were in attendance with 6 presenting oral testimony. During the review period 79 written comment letters were received.

On December 30, 1982, the Selkirk Crest WSA was eliminated from further consideration as a Wilderness Study Area through a wilderness inventory decision amendment made by the Secretary of the Interior. This change occurred after the draft EIS was published and its review period had closed. References to the Selkirk Crest WSA and comment letters addressing it have, therefore, been eliminated from the document.

## Comments From the Public Meetings and Hearing

Grangeville - There were 12 people in attendance at this meeting. Those who presented oral comments were mainly concerned with the Marshall Mountain and Snowhole Rapids WSAs. A number of speakers stated that they were miners and opposed any attempts to constrain the pursuit of their occupation, especially in the Marshall Mountain area. They indicated that this area is a mining district and should be left alone. Those who spoke favored the No Action (nonsuitable) alternative for Marshall Mountain. One speaker supported the No Wilderness alternative for Snowhole Rapids.

St. Maries - This meeting was attended by 13 people, mainly loggers or representatives of timber companies. Those who spoke indicated a strong desire to see the Crystal Lake and Grandmother Mountain WSAs allocated for nonwilderness uses. While supporting our No Wilderness recommendation most opposed any attempts by BLM or the Forest Service to constrain intensive timber management of these areas through scenic area, natural area, or research area allocations.

Two speakers expressed a desire to see more nonmotorized recreation areas developed and one speaker expressed concern about the protection of the Skitswish Monuments in the Crystal Lake WSA without wilderness designation.

Moscow - Twenty-seven people attended this meeting. Most of the people who spoke at this meeting favored wilderness designation for the Crystal Lake and Grandmother Mountain WSAs. They felt that these areas were important since they contained some of the last unspoiled federal lands in an area of intense timber harvesting and associated road construction. A few speakers favored natural and research area designations for these WSAs.

Two speakers represented timber interests and opposed any timber management constraints in the Crystal Lake and Grandmother Mountain WSAs.

Coeur d'Alene (Public hearing) - Six people testified at this hearing. One speaker requested wilderness designation for the Grandmother Mountain WSA. The other five speakers favored no further wilderness designations and no further constraints on timber management for the WSAs.

## Written Comments

Letters of comment were received from 79 agencies, groups, or individuals during the review period and have been divided into three groups: those requiring a response, those not requiring a response, and those received after the close of the comment period (having a postmark after August 30, 1982). Those requiring a response questioned a statement made in the Draft document, asked for clarification, or offered new information. These letters and BLM's responses are presented on the following pages of this chapter. The pertinent comments within the letters are identified by a vertical line in the left margin of each letter and a comment number corresponding to that letter number. BLM's response to each comment immediately follows each letter.

Letters not requiring a response generally offered opinions about the wilderness issue or BLM's proposals. They did not question the data or analysis contained in the draft document, nor did they offer new information which would necessitate modification of the document.

Five letters were received after the close of the comment period. These letters did not provide information which would require modification of the analysis or raise concerns not expressed in other letters of comment.

The letters not requiring response and those received after the close of the comment period are available for review at the Coeur d'Alene District Office.

The following is a list of comment letters received on the draft Amendment/EIS. They are listed in the order in which they were received. An asterisk identifies those letters for which responses appear in this document.

| | Letter Number | Commenter |
|---|---|---|
| | 1 | Olin W. Rose Jr. |
| * | 2 | Idaho Environmental Council |
| * | 3 | Bureau of Indian Affairs |
| * | 4 | George and Anita Davis |
| | 5 | State of Idaho, Department of Lands |
| * | 6 | Don L. Crawford |
| | 7 | Kenneth M. Goldsmith |
| | 8 | Dan Cook |
| | 9 | Terry Eckwright |
| | 10 | Gail Z. Eckwright |
| | 11 | Earth First |
| | 12 | R. M. Gormley |
| | 13 | Federal Highway Administration |
| | 14 | Cynthia M. Glassford |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| * | 15 | Steven W. Koehler |
| | 16 | James Gehring |
| * | 17 | LeRoy Shaw |
| * | 18 | St. Joe Valley Association |
| | 19 | Dennis Lightfield |
| * | 20 | Lynn C. Norris |
| | 21 | Charles A. Weiner |
| | 22 | Karen Buxton |
| | 23 | Murray A. Gibas |
| | 24 | Eric L. Jensen |
| | 25 | Paul Chandler |
| | 26 | Bob Kulp |
| | 27 | Mary Kirkwood |
| | 28 | Forest D. Kreisher |
| | 29 | James A. Bull |
| | 30 | Cheryl Kolbeck |
| | 31 | William A. Warren |
| * | 32 | Bill Cord |
| | 33 | Henry J. Fabian |
| | 34 | Fred W. Rabe |
| | 35 | Donald R. Johnson |
| | 36 | J. B. Sowell |
| * | 37 | HAVLAH Group |
| | 38 | Craig D. Rabe |
| | 39 | Jerry Wegman |
| * | 40 | POTLATCH Corp. |
| | 41 | E. L. Williams |
| | 42 | Margaret Dibble |
| | 43 | Bernard Romain |
| | 44 | David A. Kudrna |
| | 45 | R. C. Hackett |
| | 46 | Shirley Horning Sturts |
| | 47 | Ruth E. Bull |
| | 48 | Lawson C. LeGate |
| | 49 | Ben E. Cummings |
| | 50 | Gladys Romain |
| | 51 | St. Maries Chamber of Commerce |
| | 52 | I.W.A. Local 3-361 |
| | 53 | William H. Bailey |
| | 54 | Mrs. Henry Sindt |
| | 55 | F. Bradford Rabe |
| | 56 | Ronald E. Young |
| | 57 | Mary E. Reed |
| * | 58 | Donald C. Yost |
| * | 59 | BN Timberlands Inc. |
| * | 60 | National Park Service |
| * | 61 | Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho |
| | 62 | Morton R. Brigham |

Written Comments (Cont'd)

| Letter Number | Commenter |
|---|---|
| 63 | Nancy Savage |
| * 64 | Robert D. Hanson |
| * 65 | Leonard J. Jungert |
| 66 | Garfield Hansen |
| * 67 | Idaho Department of Fish and Game |
| 68 | Barnes, Inc. |
| 69 | Mrs. Charles F. Scott |
| 70 | Walter B. Scott and Sons, Inc. |
| 71 | Jerry Jayne |
| 72 | Kelly F. Scott |
| 73 | Mardell J. Edwards |
| 74 | Wildlife Resources, Inc. |
| 75 | Everett R. Hagen |
| 76 | Ron, Mimsl, Jennifer, and Dan Wise |
| 77 | Marcella J. Hanson |
| * 78 | V. David Welch Associates, Inc. |
| 79 | John B. Sutherland |

Received after the close of the comment period

Gary A. Medley
Caroline A. Bailey
Meg Weesner
Committee for Idaho's High Desert
Kootenai Environmental Alliance

# LETTERS WITH RESPONSES

Idaho Environmental Council

P.O. Box 1708

Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

28 June 1982

Ted Graf, BLM
1808 North 3rd Street
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

NORTH IDAHO WILDERNESS DRAFT EIS COMMENTS

Dear Mr. Graf:

2.1 On behalf of IEC, I wish to comment on the North Idaho Wilderness EIS, but before I do that, I trust that the final EIS will eliminate an error on page 1-3 of the draft. An area cannot be allocated "for multiple use" as opposed to Wilderness, for they are one and the same, both in law as well as in reality. Wilderness is merely one form of multiple use, and is in fact often more "multiple" that many of the timber operations seen on public land. In any event, what is at issue here is not in any way wilderness vs. multiple use, and this unfortunate turn of phrase needs elimination from this page.

I wish to object most strongly to two of your recommendations--that for Snowhole Rapids and especially, that for Grandmother Mountain.

2.2 In the case of Snowhole, it is unclear why, on page 1-3, a conclusion is reached that this area would be unmanageable as wilderness. There is no doubt at all that it is suitable, and there is equally no doubt that the public would strongly oppose road building or any form of change in this stretch of the lower Salmon. The Cottonwood office of BLM maintains a fine river patrol on the lower Salmon, and when Wild River classification finally comes to this reach of the river, it will have to enforce that particular law. At the least, the final EIS must include details on just why this acreage cannot be managed as Wilderness. It has always looked wild to me on my trips with John Barker in the area and I doubt that much money or effort would be needed to "manage" it as it now is.

2.3 It is in the case of Grandmother, however, that your arguments are weakest of all. They omit any discussion of the great rarity of the values now present there. The BLM staff has, I know, looked many times from this area on the misery and destruction painfully visible on nearby USFS and private land. Grandmother Mtn. is a tiny little remnant in a vast sea of plunder and pillage, and puny remnant of natural values long eliminated on adjacent holdings. It is a rare and valuable place, attributes only mentioned in passing in the EIS. It is also popular as it now is. Your estimate of 2500 visitor days is far too low. As many people as that

2.4 drive by its every year on the Freezeout Road, looking to the left at its treasures after buzzing for miles through the destruction caused by other land owners.

While ONA designation for at least part of it appears to offer respite from the bulldozer, the history of the BLM and other federal agencies in offering permanent protection administratively to such areas is a dark one, not designed to offer much hope for the future. Someone, somewhere, always has a plan in hand to do something to such places. While Administrator A may in fact say NO to such people, what of Administrator B, or C, let alone X, Y, AND Z. It is no surprise that Potlatch and other firms often favor this type of "protection" instead of Wilderness--they made much of their money in the toilet paper business, and kind of paper about as flimsy and permanent as ONA designation. In fact, only fools and the hopelessly naieve would have any faith at all in this scheme, especially when the foxes back in Washington have already opened the door of the hen house. James Watt administratively "protecting" any place? You've got to be kidding?

2

2.5 There are also some real problems with the alternatives developed for Grandmother Mountain. None offers any protection at all for the popular trail system that runs to the top of both Grandmother and Grandfather Mountains. Even if this quite high country were to erroneously (as you propose) be allocated to timber harvest, something at least ought to be done to keep loggers and roads off this trail system, or even from crossing it. By allocating this whole ridge, rather than just its west slopes, to development, you are needlessly assaulting the finest single and most popular feature of the west end of the roadless area--its trail system. At the least, the boundary of the area not recommended for Wilderness (or to the miserable ONA status being proposed) ought to be downslope from the ridge line. The current proposal invites stronger opposition that might otherwise be expected in its useless and gratuitous attack on this trail system.

2.6 The EA is also defective in that it contains no economic analysis at all. Since I have seen such analyses in other BLM documents, I am confident not only that the agency has heard of such a thing, but has even proven itself able to complete one. Since trees are somewhat scarce in the Grandmother Mtn. area, but primitive values there represent an extremely rare commodity, a scholarly economic analysis that fully considered irreversibly changing and eliminating scarce resources would prove interesting. I am sure that the final EIS will include one, as is required by law.

2.7 The decision concerning Grandmother Mtn. is also is error in yet another way. It appears that the authors of the document believe that there is other wilderness geographically close at hand. Where? Grandmother Mtn. is only 1½-2 hours from its numerous users in Lewiston, Moscow, Pullman and St. Maries. To the east lies a maybe wilderness along the St. Joe-Clearwater Divide, but it takes 5-7 hours of hard and expensive driving to reach that area, and the USFS is of course already hard at work reducing their pitiful recommendations there. The facts are just the opposite. Unless you have a timber company helicopter to fly around in, this would be the closest wilderness of all to much of North Idaho and would offer a rare and popular resource to a populace devoid of the same. Your logic in not recommending this area for Wilderness is sad and specious and makes about as much sense as calling rain sunshine.

In short, this EIS is a flawed document unwisely recommending that the citizens trust the Interior Department to do what is best. I trust them all right--trust them to pander to corporate greed and probably to even offer the whole of BLM land in north Idaho to private companies, or worse, to the Forest Service . What a wretched fate that would be for these little wild jewels.

Sincerely,

Ken Baird

Dennis Baird
Director, IEC
P.O. Box 8787
Moscow, ID 83843

## Response to letter No. 2

2.1 Text has been changed.

2.2 Although this area possesses wilderness characteristics and its ecosystem is currently not represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System, management of this WSA as a wilderness is not readily achievable. The continuing trend of increased use of this area may lead to a situation where solitude would only be possible during times of low use unless management intervened to limit access to this unit. This would be very difficult since a navigable river flows the full length of this WSA. In addition, the use of motorized jet boats in this WSA is an historic and continuing use which does not complement a wilderness-type experience.

2.3 Information on pages 3-7, 3-8, 4-8, 4-10, 5-6, 5-7, 5-8, and 6-21 recognizes the rare values of the WSA.

2.4 The estimate of visitor use for this area is based on available data including field observation and staff estimates as documented in the Management Situation Analysis for this WSA.

2.5 The majority of trails in this WSA lie within the proposed ONA and RNA areas. The proposed boundary between the ONA and the timber management area is west of the Marble Creek trail, thereby including it within the ONA.

We regard the trail system in this WSA to be quite valuable for recreational use. Should timber management activities be prescribed for the western portion of the WSA, appropriate consideration of these values would be made through site specific environmental assessments.

2.6 Discussions of economic impacts are found in chapter 6 for each WSA. The economic analysis of each WSA found that there were no significant impacts associated with any of the alternatives.

2.7 Using the established criteria for "nearness to populations centers", there currently exists 16 designated wilderness areas encompassing 5.9 million acres of land within a day's drive of the Moscow-Pullman area. These include the Selway Bitterroot, Gospel Hump, Hells Canyon and other wilderness areas.

3

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# memorandum

DATE: JUN 25 1982

REPLY TO ATTN OF: Branch of Land Services - Portland Area Office

SUBJECT: Review of North Idaho MFP Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement Draft

TO: Bureau of Land Management, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
Attention: Ted Graf

As requested we have reviewed the subject statement and offer the following comment:

We recommend direct consultation with representatives of the Nez Perce and Coeur d'Alene Tribes of Indians and the Bureau of Indian Affairs at the Northern Idaho Agency for information on cultural use of the lands under consideration. Wilderness designation of lands and water support the intent of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-341) in that additional protection to the natural environment occurs. The subject plan should contain information on consultation with tribal representatives to determine application of the Religious Freedom Act to the proposed action.

3.1

Acting Assistant Area Director
(Economic Development)

cc: Superintendent, Northern Idaho Agency
Environmental Quality, Code 204
Chairman, Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee
Chairman, Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council
Ted Graf, N. Id. MFP Amendment EIS Team Leader

4 NO. 10
FPI) 101-11-8
0 - 341-526 (7000)

Response to letter No. 3

3.1 Consultation and coordination with these tribes will continue.

4

Rural Route
Clark's Road
Essex, New York 12936
June 30, 1982


Wayne Zinne, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management, USDI
1808 North 3rd Street
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

Dear Wayne:

We have reviewed the draft "North Idaho MFP Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement."

As you know, we are personally familiar with the Selkirk Crest, Crystal Lake, Grandmother Mountain and Snowhole Rapids WSAs. We are not familiar with the Marshall Mountain WSA and will not comment on it. Our comments on your preferred alternatives for the four areas we are familiar with follow:

Selkirk Crest

We support your recommendation for wilderness designation (alternative 1) and sincerely hope the Forest Service sees fit to follow through with a wilderness recommendation on the remainder of Long Canyon.

Crystal Lake and Grandmother Mountain

We believe all of the Crystal Lake WSA and the eastern two-thirds of the Grandmother Mountain WSA should be recommended for wilderness designation. In other words, we prefer alternative 1 for Crystal Lake and alternative 4 for Grandmother Mountain. We can find no physical or biological resource justification for recommending otherwise whereas the case for such designations could be made very strongly - particularly if the Forest Service would reconsider its non-wilderness recommendation for upper Marble Creek at some future time. The reasons for your preferred alternatives must, therefore, be strictly political. We can accept your compromise providing the ONAs and the RNA are not further compromised.

Snowhole Rapids

We are troubled by your recommendation here for three primary reasons. First, it contradicts the recommendation of your BLM advisory board. Second, and more important, we desperately need the Palouse Province: Wheatgrass-Bluegrass ecosystem represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Recently the Forest Service

4.1



dropped further wilderness consideration of the only candidates they had in this ecosystem. And third, river corridor wilderness designations will provide future generations with a particularly unique educational, scientific and recreational resource. Although we recognize the management challenges it might create for you, we urge you to reconsider and support alternative 1, wilderness designation for Snowhole Rapids.

Even though just last week we asked to be removed from the District's mailing list (!) would you be sure we get this final EIS.

We've only been here 10 days and greatly miss Coeur d'Alene but we are in a beautiful corner of the world and look forward to getting settled in. Hope all's well with you and your family.

Best personal regards,

Anita L. Davis
Former BLM Advisory Board Member

George D. Davis
Land Use Consultant

cc: Clair M. Whitlock

Response to letter No. 4

4.1 Please refer to page 5-14 for a summary of the rationale upon which the consultable recommendation for the Snowhole Rapids WSA was based.

Ted Graf 7-14-1982

Bureau of Land Management
1808 N. 3rd St.
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

Dear Mr. Graf:

I will not be able to attend the Moscow, Ida. hearing on the DEIS with Idaho Wilderness Study. I am, therefore, submitting my comments in writing and ask that they be included in the public record and addressed in the final EIS.

I wish to discuss three areas specifically, the Selkirk Crest, Crystal Mountain and Grandmother Mountain. I support your wilderness recommendation for the Selkirk Crest (72[illegible] acres). However, I believe your recommendations for Crystal Mtn. and Lake (9027 acres) and Grandmother Mtn. (13,129 acres) are inadequate to protect these areas.

You have recognized the outstanding nature of Crystal Mtn. by recommending the entire area as an ONA (Outstanding Natural Area) closed to all motor vehicles. I support the motor closure and protection of the entire area. But, ONA is inadequate - it is an administrative protection that can disappear when BLM changes its attitude. Statutory protection as wilderness should be given Crystal Mtn. ONA designation recognizes the wilderness quality; so, don't use it as a cop-out to political pressure from your boss - Mr. Watt!

There are major problems with your inadequate recommendation for Grandmother Mtn; although there are some good points as well. I fully support your recommendation for a 2905 acre research natural area. I have been to this high elevation marsh area and feel that it will be an excellent site for scientific studies. Now for the problems. Your ONA recommendation is an "administrative" protection is not sufficient to protect the wilderness values of Grandmother Mtn. This area should be wilderness and closed to motorized vehicles. There is already too much damage to this fragile area caused by overuse by ORV's, etc. Second, the line you have drawn between the ONA and the area to be roaded and logged is poorly conceived. I'd leave the summit of both Grandmother and Grandfather Mtns, including the trail from there to Freezeout Saddle out of the

6.1 protected area. This recommendation is absolutely wrong. The ONA should, therefore, be enlarged to the west and its recommendation changed to "wilderness". Finally, you mention upper [redacted] Marble creek only in passing, although it is a vital component of the Grandmother Mtn Wilderness. This past weekend I hiked the Marble creek trail and found it a quiet, wilderness experience from the bridge across the creek upstream. The creek runs clear and cold even in spring. You state in the Draft EIS that this area (administered by the Forest Service) must be managed appropriately if the integrity of the ONA is to be maintained. Yet, you do not detail what appropriate management practices must be used, and you do not discuss any arrangements which have been made or discussed with the Forest Service. The final EIS must state clearly

6.2 that the Forest Service will include the roadless section of Marble creek within the protected area (and I mean from the bridge upstream). A gentleman's agreement with the Forest Supervisor which is not

6

even mentioned in the Draft EIS is not sufficient. Gentlemens' agreements last about as long as the stay of a District Ranger or Supervisor. You must resolve this very important question in writing in the final EIS.

Without the changes discussed above, I cannot support your recommendations for ONA designation. I urge you to reconsider your short-sighted choice of administrative protection (inadequate in boundaries for Grandmother Mtn.) when both areas are clearly deserving of wilderness designation. I have found Grandmother Mtn., in particular, to be an area rich in fisheries, clean water and wildlife. It's that way because it is a wilderness surrounded by networks of roads and timber harvest. It deserves statutory protection if it is to stay that way, and environmentally minded conservationalists such as I will continue to push for Congressional action to designate an adequately large Grandmother Mtn. Wilderness.

Sincerely,

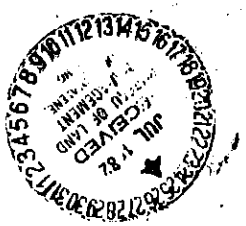
Don L. Crawford
825 Camas
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Response to letter No. 6

6.1 Please see response 2.5.

6.2 The BLM and Forest Service coordinate land use plans wherever possible. This EIS does not contain details of the Forest Service land use plan for this area since that plan is still in the preparation stage.

PLEASE IDENTIFY ANY SPECIFIC UNITS THAT YOU MAY BE COMMENTING ON.




NAME Steven W. Koehler

ADDRESS P. O. Box 41

Grangeville, Idaho 83530

*Below are my comments on the draft North Idaho Plan Amendment/EIS for five wilderness study areas in the Coeur d'Alene District.*

These comments are directed at the draft of the North Idaho MFP Amendment & Environmental Impact Statement put out by the USDI-BLM, Coeur d' Alene District and dated 1982.

My comments are about the Marshall Mountain Area only.

In general, a large amount of readily available information about this area has not been utilized in evaluating this WSA.

The section titled Naturalness on page 5-9 is an example of what I am talking about. This section states that the Marshall Mountain area appears to be in essentially natural condition and that mine adits have been found in sections 18 and 22. By merely looking at the U. S. Geological Survey's topographic map of the Burgdorf Quadrangle you would see that such statements are grossly absurd. This maps shows there are mine workings in sections 8, 9, 17, 20, 21, 28, 29, and 34. In addition the map shows there are 30 buildings and 20 miles of roads in this WSA.

15.1 The Naturalness section also states that there has been extensive prospecting in the area, however, most prospecting involved small test holes. In reality there has been mining in this area (as opposed to just prospecting). If you need a reference on this matter you should consult: Lorain, S.H., 1938, Gold mining and milling in Idaho County, Idaho: U. S. Bureau of Mines Information Circular 7039, 90 p. The Golden Anchor was an important mine in this area and is the subject of another government report: Lorain, S. H. and Davis, W. Buford, 1938, Mining and milling methods and costs of the Golden Anchor Mining Co., Burgdorf, Idaho: U. S. Bureau of Mines Information Circular 7024, 15 p.

In the Primitive and Unconfined Recreation section on page 5-10 it states that recreational opportunities include hiking, backpacking, hunting, wildlife observation, photography, and sightseeing and that the diversity of these activities is considered outstanding. I admit that you can do these activities in this WSA but they certainly are not outstanding. These kind of activities can be carried on just about anywhere in Idaho County. Again, by simply looking at the Burgdorf Quadrangle topographic map and airphotos of this area you could see that much of this area has 30 - 40 percent slopes which are not very conducive to your stated activities. There is about 5 miles worth of trails in the entire area (not counting roads) and these trails are nowhere near streams where one could get drinking water. Dense vegetation along streams does not make them desireable places to go hiking.

15.2 With regard to Special Features on page 5-10 I question if anadramous fish migrate up the streams into the WSA. Do they?

With regard to the managment alternatives on pages 3-18 and 3-19 there is nothing mentioned about mining or mineral potential in any of the 6 alternatives. The obvious lack of consideration for mining as a use of public lands has contributed greatly to the faulty analysis of this draft EIS. 15.3 The section on Energy and Mineral Resources on page 4-24 is very inadequate. There is nothing mentioned about Marshall Mountain being

cont.

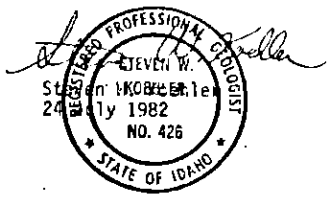


15

Steven W. Koehler
P. O. Box 41
Grangeville, Idaho 83530


a recognized mining district as indicated in Idaho County courthouse records or U.S.B.M. Inf. Cir. 7039 mentioned on page 1. There is nothing mentioned about Marshall Mountain mining district being on the Florence - Stibnite mineral belt, the largest mineral belt in north-central Idaho (Reference: Green, William R., 1972, Delineation of Mineral Belts of Northern and Central Idaho: Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology Information Circular No. 22, 8 p.). In addition there are many unpatented and numerous patented mining claims in this WSA. A map showing the location of the privately held ground in the WSA would be helpful in your analysis of this area and such a map is already available from the BLM office 15.3 in Boise. Also the computer printout of the unpatented mining claims in the WSA (also available from the BLM in Boise) would give you some idea of the extent of mineralization in the area. In addition to base metals, gold, and silver, the mineral scheelite (an ore of tungsten) has been found in the WSA. I think by stating the minerals (and the ores they represent) that occur in the study area and listing the number of claims that occur in each section of the WSA would help put the mineral resources of this area in proper perspective. Such information represents simple hard facts without any speculation or complicated calculations or formulas.

In summary, I feel that you would have a more thorough and better quality EIS of this WSA if you used readily available published information in your report.




Steven W. Koehler
24 July 1982

## Response to letter No. 17

15.1 The mine workings in sections 8, 9, 17, 20, 21, 28, 29, and 34 including associated buildings and roads are not within the boundaries of the WSA. These areas were dropped from WSA consideration in 1980. The intensive inventory makes the following statements regarding naturalness:

"There are three places in the roadless area that have had major impacts on naturalness and have been deleted from the inventory. One that contains 14 acres was deleted due to recently expanded mining activities on Bear Creek. Another area of 781 acres was deleted because the cumulative impacts of mining activities were judged to significantly impact the area's naturalness. The impacts include three mining camps, mine-associated machinery, tailings piles, and two access routes cut into the mountain side that obviously are the result of man's activities in the area. Neither access route meets the Bureau's "road" definition, but they are impacts on naturalness that would not be overlooked. Almost half of the deleted area overlooks the Kimberly, Golden Anchor, and Sherman Howe mines. While these mines lie outside the roadless area, they significantly impact naturalness when viewed from within the area.

A third area of 171 acres was deleted in the southeastern corner of the roadless area because of the cumulative impact of mining activities on the area's naturalness. Mining impacts include the Tuttle mining operations, several mine shafts, tailings piles, buildings, and abandoned roads. There is a substantial imprint of man's work on the deleted area."

15.2 Our field investigations indicate that steep gradients, low flows, and migration barriers currently prevent fish migration into the WSA.

15.3 The Amendment/EIS recognizes the importance and historic use of this area for mining. The preferred alternative will not adversely affect this use. In recognition of this current and historic use the name of the preferred alternative for this WSA has been changed to No Wilderness-Mineral Potential.



17

Gentlemen:

I am responding to your Environmental Impact Statement on WSA Study Area Unit #62-1 Snowhole Rapids and #62-10 Marshall Mountain. Let me address each area individually.

Snowhole Rapids. I agree with the BLM recommendation of a recreational designation. In view of the fact of current and future whitewater rafting and powerboating opportunities on the Lower Salmon and the need for moderate motorized vehicle use, I feel that any type of wilderness designation will have a adverse effect on the economic and social well being of the area. Also to be considered is the fact that even with the most liberal restrictions on the river area, the use of motorized vehicles except on the river itself will always be very limited because of the lack of roads and potentials for the same.

Rafting companies by nature are very interested in the wilderness aspect of the river. While being realistic, I do not feel the use of powerboats have any real adverse effect on the semi-wilderness experience and they can be a real asset in case of an emergency. Again I agree that this area should be managed for recreation.

Marshall Mountain. I disagree with the recommendation to manage this area for recreation and recommend the alternative of either mining or multiple use.

17.1 This area has been an established mining district for many years and by all means should remain so. Several individuals and small mining companies have established claims in this area which employs several people. Also there are numerous other mines in the same area which also help the economic and social stability of the surrounding towns. Having lived in the Riggins area all my life, I am very much aware of the importance of a realistic management plan and the tremendous effect a misdesignated or mismanaged plan can have on a small town such as Riggins.

As a designated mining area the timber industry would also have more opportunities as well as livestock grazing while there are still many recreational opportunities with fishing in the lakes and hunting of which neither mining nor logging has any tremenndous effect upon.

17

As stated on page 1-3 of the Impact Draft, this area is not suitable for a wilderness designation. ~~We~~ I feel that the recreational opportunities in this area are somewhat limited and would not be adversely effected with a plan designed to accommodate mining and logging.

In closing, may I commend you on your realistic approach to these areas. Just because an area is to be studied does not mean it should be a wilderness. In these times as I'm sure you're very much aware of, we need to be very careful not to cut our throat for the sake of one more wilderness area. There are many resources to be considered besides solitude.

In Rissins with the sawmill burnt down and maybe not economically feasible to rebuild and the economy in general so poor there are very few other jobs in the area, I feel any area which has a proven resource with economic value should be carefully considered or we may find we can't even afford to enjoy the wilderness we have.

Thank you.

LeRoy Shaw

B-14

Response to letter No. 17

17.1 Plese refer to response 15.3.

18

*"Working for environmental quality and economic security"*

St. Maries, Idaho 83861

ST. JOE VALLEY ASSN.

P.O. Box 163
St. Maries, ID 83861

July 27, 1982

Mr. Ted Graf
North Idaho MFP Amendment EIS Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
1808 North 3rd Street
Coeur d' Alene, ID 83814

Subject: BLM Wilderness Study Areas

Grandmother Mountain - 17,129 Acres
Crystal Peak - 9,027 Acres

Dear Mr. Graf:

The Board of Directors of the St. Joe Valley Association, meeting on July 27 with quorum present, unanimously oppose the BLM preferred alternatives.

The Association, believing that "environmental quality is possible with economic security" supports the timber alternative in both areas. We are of the opinion that the ability to administratively create "Outstanding Natural Areas" and "Research Natural Areas", thereby avoiding the legitimate process of creating wilderness, is an abuse of authority by the BLM.

18.1

The creation of further wilderness in Idaho, either defacto or congressionally mandated, is unacceptable to the St. Joe Valley Association and the people it represents. The Association will openly oppose any effort to further lock-up our public timber in this area.

18.2

Additionally, what about private land involved in the area, and will the area be enlarged to include U.S.F.S. Land? If so, we would be strongly opposed to such action on the part of the U.S.F.S.

For the Board of Directors of the St. Joe Valley Association

Don Green

Don Green
President

cc: Senator Symms
Senator McClure
B.N.I.
Diamond International
Potlatch Corp.
Harold Wadley

Response to letter No. 18

18.1 Outstanding Natural Area and Research Natural Area designations are legitimate land use allocations. The BLM does not consider management under these designations as defacto wilderness management. Early land use plans for these areas, prepared prior to any wilderness inventories, recommended protective status for these units.

18.2 With the exception of one parcel of private land which is totally surrounded by federal land, management activities on BLM lands within the WSAs should not adversely affect activities on private lands. Wherever practical, BLM and the USFS strive to coordinate their land use plans. It is anticipated that the plans for the subject areas will be compatible.

20

PLEASE IDENTIFY ANY SPECIFIC UNITS THAT YOU MAY BE COMMENTING ON.

NAME Lynn C. Norris

ADDRESS Univ. of Idaho Library

Moscow, ID 83843

*Below are my comments on the draft North Idaho Plan Amendment/EIS for five wilderness study areas in the Coeur d'Alene District.*

Grandmother

All 17,000 acres should be recommended for wilderness. Marble Creek and environs have already been wrecked too much. The little remnant that is left now should be permanently be kept as it is. Your ONA area is too small and offers no permanency. This whole area has some nice trails and other recreational features that deserve protect ion.

Crystal Lake

A good proposal, but should also be wilderness. Why put places like this under the continuous jeopardy of administrative whim.

Selkirks

A fine idea. Ralph Kizer needs this kind of heat. It will build some character in him.

Marshall Mtn.

A good plan. Too many miners here to do much else.

Snowhole

There is not a single resource conflict in this area and therefore no reason why it should not be wilderness. There are also periodic plans to put a dam on the lower Salmon and wilderness classification might at least slow up such insanity.

20.1

B-18

Response to letter No. 20

20.1 Resource conflicts exist in this area mainly involving motorized vs nonmotorized recreation. Wilderness designation would not resolve these conflicts since both types of recreation are accepted historic uses and would continue. The continuing trend of increased use of this WSA may lead to a situation where solitude would only be possible during times of low use unless management intervened to limit access. Such management intervention would be very difficult to implement. Management of this WSA as wilderness is not readily achievable.

32

PLEASE IDENTIFY ANY SPECIFIC UNITS THAT YOU MAY BE COMMENTING ON.

NAME Bill Coro

ADDRESS 913 Center
St Maries
Idaho

Below are my comments on the draft North Idaho Plan Amendment/EIS for five wilderness study areas in the Coeur d'Alene District.

CRYSTAL LAKE
GRAND MOTHER MOUNTAIN -

32.1 YOUR E.I.S. DID NOT LIST ECONOMIC/SOCIAL VALUES OF RECREATIONAL AREAS WITCH I BELIEVE ARE CONSIDERABLE AND OFFSET THE LOSS OF 2500 ACRES OF "PRODUCTIVE" LAND TO TIMBER HARVEST- A GOOD BALANCED ANALYSIS -

THANKS -

I SUPPORT THE ONA/RNA ALLOCATIONS THERE



Response to letter No. 32

32.1 Please refer to response 2.6.

August 2, 1982

Bureau of Land Management
1808 North Third Street
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

Gentlemen:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide input to your public comment on the Draft EIS. My comments pertain to the Marshall Mountain section.

First, your EIS statement ignors the fact that the Marshall Lake Mining District was not included in the Forest Service Lands set aside for National Forests when the Forest Service was created. The Marshall Mountain lands would not even be under the control of the BLM if it was not a mining district at the inception of the Forest Service.

When you attempt to establish the appropriate use for these lands for planning purposes, why not keep it as a MINING DISTRICT and let miners do their thing?

8-18

37.1 The Marshall Mountain lands do not qualify as a Wilderness Study area. Qualification criteria states that WSA lands must be areas where man has been a visitor and not a permanent resident. The Marshall Lake Mining District has had large numbers of permanent inhabitants from its discovery (late 1890s) until the 1950s when the price of gold became low relative to the cost of mining it. Even then, the Johnsons were permanent residents at Bear Lake for four years in the 1970s.

37.2 I highly recommend your 'do nothing' option and that the BLM manage the area for mining purposes! It is an area that has historically been a mining area and has proven deposits of gold, silver, and scheelite and potential deposits of zirconium and stibnite.

P.O. Box 1269
Rigaus, Idaho 83549
Telephone (208) 628-3270

HAVLAH GROUP

26011 Todd Lane
Los Altos Hills, Calif 94022
Telephone (415) 948-3496

37

All that is needed is for the price of gold to go to $1,000 per ounce and the district would become very active. I would think the BLM would prefer to avoid all the potential conflicts with the public and miners by managing the area for mining.

Sincerely,

Gerald P. Koovers

Gerald P. Koovers
General Partner

GPK/lb

Response to letter No. 37

37.1 Areas with evidence of extensive mining activities, such as the dwellings, roads, etc. in the Bear Lake area, were excluded from the WSA. Please see response 15.1.

37.2 Please see response 15.3.






**Potlatch**

**Potlatch Corporation**
**Wood Products Western Division**

Northern Idaho Logging
PO Box 386
St Maries Idaho 83861 0386
Telephone (208) 245 4548 245 4632

August 4, 1982

Mr. Ted Graf
North Idaho MFP Amendment EIS Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
1808 North 3rd Street
Coeur d' Alene, ID 83814

Subject: BLM Wilderness Study Areas

Dear Mr. Graf:

The intent of this letter is to verify and reemphasize oral testimony presented by myself for Potlatch Corporation at the Coeur d' Alene meeting of July 29, 1982 concerning the above referenced subject.

In review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement we are in disagreement that the selection of the preferred alternatives for the Grandmother Mtn. and Crystal Lake areas by the BLM are representative of the input we witnessed at previous public hearings. We are of the opinion that by far the majority of people in North Idaho are against any further withdrawal of acres from the timber management land base. By classifying areas "Outstanding Natural Areas" and "Research Natural Areas" you are effectively administratively removing areas from the land base as surely as if Congress had designated these areas "Wilderness".

40.1 Further, the affect of your coordination with the Idaho Panhandle National Forest has jeopardized timber management on some 5,600 acres in the Marble Cr. drainage near your Grandmother Mtn. proposal. This Forest Service area has an old history of log production, and was allocated to timber management during their RARE II review. Your preferred alternative lists this area as not suitable for wilderness, and we were surprised that you did not follow the Forest Service lead and develop a timber management plan complimentary to the Forest Service RARE II decision.

40.2 Potlatch Corporation recommends that in the Final Environmental Impact Statement the preferred alternative for Crystal Lake be changed to Alternative 3A: No Wilderness, Timber Emphasis; and the preferred alternative for Grandmother Mtn. be changed to Alternative 3A: No Wilderness, Timber Emphasis. In both areas, the color coding on the maps should be revised so that green is used on only the acres allocated to Intensive-Extensive Timber Management. In Crystal Lake this would amount to only 4,931 acres; and in Grandmother Mtn. it would be 10,000 acres. The balance should contain a different color code and explanation.

We further would oppose classification of any acreage in the Grandmother Mtn. area as "Research Natural Area" without a much better justification then

exists in the Draft EIS. The description of the area and its characteristics do not warrant withdrawal. Most certainly the referenced endorsement by the Idaho Natural Areas Coordinating Committee must be placed in proper perspective with confirmed analysis that there is truly unique habitat requiring 2,905 acres in a set aside category. 40.3

The economical impact analysis is virtually non-existent for both areas. The references on pages 4-12, 4-17, 6-14, and 6-25 are inadequate. In Grandmother Mtn. the employment distribution of Shoshone County is unimportant. The majority of workers that would be effected by non-timber management alternatives originate, or are located in Benewah, Kootenai, and Latah counties. The economical effect of withdrawal alternatives must be clearly shown in your Final EIS. 40.4

We cannot agree with your analysis of Timber Alternatives in Chapter 6, Environmental Consequences. The entire section leaves one with the impression that timber management would have disastrous effects on soils, water resources, vegetation, wildlife, visual resources, and wilderness values. We disagree with many of your statements when considering the present state of the art in road construction, logging systems, and access management. Given good management, there would be minimal effects on all the resource values. 40.5

We are quite concerned about the direction the BLM has taken in the Draft Statement. We were surprised to find that only one small area out of the five study areas was recommended for timber management. This does not seem consistent with your statement on page 4-3 concerning more wilderness in Idaho. We must point out that since 1979, considerable additional acreage has already been designated wilderness in this State. You may find far more than 70% would say we have enough wilderness today. 40.6

8120

Potlatch Corporation appreciates the opportunity to make comment. We will remain involved in the process through final determination of land management alternatives.

Sincerely,

Bill Mulligan
Logging Manager

BM:sh

xc:. Jim McAdoo
Carl Deward

Response to letter No. 40

40.1 Specific land use allocations were not made for this area following the RARE II review process. Specific allocations will be made in the Forest Plan which is yet to be published.

40.2 The color coded maps in the EIS are generalized to show program emphasis. The scope of this document does not require site specific delineation of timber stands suitable for intensive or extensive timber management. Detailed maps with this information shown are available for review at the district office.

40.3 Sufficient analysis of this area has been made to support a Research Natural Area designation.

40.4 Since these areas have not been allocated previously for intensive or extensive timber management the economic impacts from allocations to non-timber uses are expressed in terms of potential increases which would be foregone. The amount of acreage currently allocated for timber management would not be reduced.

Factoring the potential increases in timber related employment and income which could be generated by intensive or extensive timber management of these two WSAs into the current employment and income data available for Benewah, Kootenai, and Latah counties shows an insignificant beneficial effect.

40.5 Page S-2 states that impacts from alteratives favoring commodity production would be insignificant within a regional context. Numerous statements throughout Chapter 6 conclude that the adverse impacts from timber management would be insignificant assuming the use of district management guidelines and current state of the art methods for timber harvest and associated activities. The North Idaho Timber Management EIS (1981) is referenced in Chapter 6 and contains a more detailed discussion of impacts, both adverse and beneficial, which could result from timber management.

40.6 This study is an amendment to previously completed land use plans for the Coeur d'Alene District. The majority of commercial forest lands in the district have been allocated for timber management.

58

Donald C. Yost
301 Wall St.
Spokane, WA 99201
August 19,1982



Dear Messrs. Zinne and Graf,

I was unable to attend the public meetings and hearing you held concerning the management of public lands in five wilderness study areas. I have, however, thoroughly read your EIS and visited each of the WSAs and would like to offer my comments. Before I do that, I'd like to share with you my views on public meetings. Although I was out of the state when you held yours in July I have attended numerous BLM planning and wilderness public meetings in Idaho, Oregon, and Colorado--and despite different geographic locations and different faces in the crowd, the dialogues are all the same. BLM planners usually present an overview of the planning or wilderness study then open up the meeting to receive "public comments". That's when you can't tell one meeting from another and where I often wonder what good all the rhetoric does you as public land managers. I know that BLM tries to notify everyone that a meeting will take place but only a certain core of individuals show up to make a comment. Where is everyone else? I sincerely hope that you don't put alot of weight on what is said at these public meetings because I really don't think you ever hear from the average citizen in that type of forum.

There always seems to be two distinct factions at land use planning meetings: the development oriented public land user (usually a miner, livestock grazer, or timber industry type) who rant and rave about over-regulation, economic failure, too much wilderness, communistic plots, and generally try to give the impression that everything and everyone would be better off if the feds would stay out of their way and let them manage the lands because they "know what's right for America." Commenters from this group always fail to state that they are often times heavily subsidized by the rest of us taxpayers so that they can continue living the lifestyle they want. Instead of blaming their woes on the current poor economic climate of the U.S., elected officials, the low value of gold and silver, the low return on livestock investments due to oversupply, the high unemployment in the timber



58

industry due to the depressed building industry, and just possibly their own mismanagement, they try to convince us that the BLM or the Forest Service is once again driving them to the brink of bankruptcy. I've talked with some of these individuals privately and have learned that they know exactly what they're doing--using federal land managers as scapegoats. A neo-miner in Colorado mentioned to me one time that the worse thing the BLM could do would be to let him do whatever he wanted-no control over roads, tailing pile locations or anything. He said that if that happened he would no longer have anyone to blame for his inability to make money and he couldn't milk his California investors anymore. He also admitted that a number of so called 'miners' only use their claims as summer homes and fight any BLM management actions because they are afraid their good deal will be closed down should their claim be examined. A logging manager for Weyerhauser Corp. in Oregon told me after a Forest Service meeting that his company may become interested in federal timber sales because his company had so badly mismanaged their own lands that it would take 50 years before they could cut timber from much of their holdings.

The other faction at public meetings is the hard line environmentalists (or so they think of themselves). Often times this group is represented by idealistic students or other academic members who see their cause as a devine mission. They extoll the values of solitude and wilderness designeation yet don't have an understanding of the total subject past what they read in Sierra Club environmental alert mailers. They blame anything they can on the current administration, evidently forgetting that the administration didn't get to Washington by magic. Anyone who is so naive to think federal land managers can ignore the desires of the administration that is running the show needs to wake up to reality.

I once asked a self-proclaimed environmentalist why he was so interested in seeing a certain portion of central Colorado made a wilderness area. He told me that although he had never set foot in the area he felt an obligation to support what his local club president wanted. It turned out that the local president had never seen the area either but felt that he needed to fight for wilderness protection anywhere he could.

58

I guess I'm trying to illustrate the fallicy of using the input you receive at public meetings for any substantial land use decisions. The motives of the commenters are many times selfish at best and down right subversive at worse.

I'll get off my soap box now and give you my comments on your EIS.

58.1 1. The map on page vi shows 38,468 acres in your study yet I remember a mail out from you showing about 54,000 acres under study. What happened to the other 15,000 acres?

58.2 2. In chapter 2 you mention that protective designations were recommended by respondents to your request for input regarding issues. Did a high percentage of those who responded feel these areas need some sort of protection?

0-22 3. Your preferred alternative for Selkirk seems appropriate in light of the USFS study of that area. I don't think there is much you can do with that ground, anyway.

4. The Crystal Lake area is truly outstanding for scenic and recreational values. Why would this area not contribute to

58.3 diversity in the wilderness system? Although this area contains some excellent timber in the western portions I don't think the slight increase you would accrue in your allowable cut outweighs the impacts that would result from road building in the watersheds.

58.4 I seem to recall that most of this area contains highly erodible soils and ORV use should not be permitted.

5. The Grandmother Mountain area seem to be a real problem for a land manager. I had thought it should be designated as wilderness for a long time but I recently hiked the area extensively and now don't think wilderness designation is appropriate. From a clinical viewpoint, it won't add to the ecosystem diversity of the system and further designations would actually skew the geographic diversity of wilderness areas even more toward the Northwest. However, this is a very unique area from and ecological, scenic, and historical standpoint. The Lund Creek area has been proposed as a study area since the late 60's and the upper Marble Creek area was at one time being considered for Historic District designation. These, along with your own wilderness inventory and WSA designation point out the high quality of this area. I agree with your ONA



58

58.5 and RNA proposals as long as the trail that runs through the area where the proposed timber management area meets the ONA is on the ONA side. I cannot tell where it is from your small map.

From an economic standpoint I feel that protection of the ONA and RNA areas definitely outweighs intensive timber management for these areas. Your analysis shows your preferred alternative increases local employment potential by 5 jobs, whereas the timber alternative would increase employment by 16 jobs. With economic conditions the way they are, I seriously doubt any increased job potentials could be utilized by the timber industry in the foreseeable future. I do economic consulting for a number of large lumber and timber organizations and our projections indicate a six year recovery period for the timber industry to get back to 1980 employment levels. Jobs are vitally important to community stability and the local economy but searching for potential jobs which would result from allocating more lands for timber management is not only impractical but is economically inappropriate. All future economic projections clearly show that the country's lumber needs will never surpass the levels of 1979-80. Obviously we don't need more land for timber management, we need the federal government, state government, and private timber companies to better manage what they have now.

58.6 I do question your estimate of 2500 annual visitor days for the area (page 4-16). A state recreation/tourist survey completed a few years back showed that over 7200 visitor days were used in the Grandmother area. Although this included quite a bit of state and FS land I'm sure the majority of visitors spent some time in your WSA. If 5000 visitor days are spent in the WSA each year, you're looking at a direct annual income of between $300,000 and $500,000 (depending on the use, of course). Applying the standard multiplier effect you come up with a million dollar a year industry. Plus you avoid most aspects of environmental degradation. This is <u>very important</u> - the facts just don't support a need for more land devoted for timber management. As Thomas Jefferson said, "More does not always mean better, in fact it usually doesn't even mean more."

6. I've floated through your Snowhole Rapids area at least a dozen times. I have never understood why it was considered a WSA. Sure, it is a neat area but the terrain and

river will always limit access and development. Solidtude is only found in those stretches where canyon walls obscure one's peripheral view. In the open areas you could easily think you were floating down portions of the Spokane River- not wilderness quality by a long shot. Even though there appears to be no conflicts which would prevent this from being designated a wilderness, such a designation would smack of tokenism. Since powerboats have a preexisting right, they would be permitted in a wilderness. I personally can't visualize a wilderness setting that includes jet boats. Let's be practical and go along with your preferred alternative.

58.7 7. I question your "recreation emphasis" name for your preferred alternative for Marshall Mountain. Why not admit that mining claims would hamper any serious recreation management and call the alternative "mining emphasis" or something similar. Since miners are permitted access to their claims at all times, would your proposed semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation prevent a miner from crossing that ground in a jeep or whatever to work his claim? I think that miners have a lawful right to pursue thier trade on public lands. However, I would hope that the BLM would start an aggressive drive to ensure that claim agreements are being maintained. The purpose of a mining claim is not to provide a home site or recreational property to someone who simply files a claim. Alot of that goes on the the Marshall Mountain area.

I apologize for the length of this letter. A couple of other minor points. I'm glad you recognized the needs for protection of amenity resource values but didn't try the fantasy of attaching dollar values to them. I've seen over 50 different methodologies that try to show how one acre of wilderness is worth anywhere from $100 to $19,000. None of these studies has stood up to careful scrutiny. I'm happy to see that both BLM and the FS have dropped these phony economic analyses.

All in all, I think you did a very good job in your analysis and its documentation. Chapters 3 and 4, and 6 are easy to follow and contain alot of pertinent information. It is evident that you considered all available information before you selected the preferred alternatives.

I will be in Brazil until November but I will look forward to seeing your final EIS when I return to Spokane.

Sincerely, Donald C. Yost
Economic Consultant

8-23

Response to letter No. 58

58.1 In March 1981 we sent out a mailer requesting public input regarding planning issues for 53,452 acres of roadless public lands. This Amendment/EIS document addresses the 37,748 acres which were classified as Wilderness Study Areas. Land use allocations for the remaining 15,704 acres of roadless land will be made and analyzed through an environmental assessment in 1983.

58.2 A high percentage of those who responded felt that truly unique or outstanding areas need some form of protection, either by designation or through application of appropriate management constraints.

58.3 Although this area does contain wilderness characteristics, its ecosystem is currently represented in numerous areas of the NWPS. Also, the addition of this WSA to the NWPS would increase the concentration of wilderness in the Rocky Mountain region rather than balance the distribution of wilderness on a national or regional basis.

58.4 The preferred alternative, if implemented, would not permit road building or ORV use. Please refer to page 3-4.

58.5 Please see response 2.5.

58.6 Please see response 2.4.

58.7 Please see response 15.3.

BNTimberlands INC

Rocky Mountain District

August 24, 1982

Mr. Wayne Zinne
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1808 North 3rd Street
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

RE: North Idaho Management Framework Plan Amendment (Plan)
and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

Dear Mr. Zinne:

BN Timberlands Inc. (BNTI) is interested in the above document because we manage approximately 2,200 acres of land bordering two of the study areas analyzed in the DEIS, i.e., Grandmother Mountain and Crystal Lake. We have reviewed the Plan and DEIS and offer the following comments for your consideration.

0-124

59.1 On numerous occasions, we have requested in writing that BLM, in its planning process, respond to the plans and needs of adjacent private landowners especially regarding access. Unfortunately, the BLM has failed to address our concerns in this Plan. We believe the goals in the Plan will not be achievable unless BLM examines and seeks to resolve the impacts which its proposal could have on adjacent landowners.

59.2 BLM's land planning is directed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). This statute states that the BLM's land use plan shall "assist in resolving to the extent practical, inconsistencies between Federal and non-Federal government plans..." and the process shall provide "early public notice of proposed decisions which may have a significant impact on non-Federal lands." [P.L. 94-574 Section 202 C(9)]. These requirements have not been met in the BLM planning process.

Our comments and recommendations specific to the Plan and DEIS are listed below:

1) Pages 3-27 & 3-28. Under the proposed alternative for the Grandmother Mountain and Crystal Lake areas, BLM proposes to limit or restrict vehicle use and prohibit timber harvesting within these two areas. BLM also encourages the U.S. Forest Service to manage its land adjacent to Grandmother Mountain similar to the BLM proposal. This restrictive management is inconsistent with BNTI's plan to access and intensively manage its

700 South Avenue West Missoula, Montana 59801-8099 406 721-6550



59.3 adjacent timberlands. According to a conversation with the EIS team leader, Mr. Ted Graf, it is not the BLM's intent to restrict access to private lands. We request the Plan clearly state this intent.

59.4 The BLM will not be able to effectively preserve the character of the proposed Grandmother Mountain and Crystal Lake Outstanding Natural Area (ONA) unless it acquires, through exchange, BNTI's adjacent lands. FLPMA, section 206, provides for land exchange where the public interest will be served. Since the BLM intends to manage the ONA exclusively for recreation while restricting forest management, we believe a land exchange is in the public interest and should be supported in the Plan.

59.5 Listed below are the BNTI lands we desire to exchange out of:

| | |
|---|---|
| Portion of Section 1, T43N, R4E | Portion of Section 17, T43N, R4E |
| " " " 3, " " | " " " 31, " " |
| " " " 5, " " | " " " 33, " " |
| " " " 7, " " | " " " 21, T47N, R1E |
| " " " 11, " " | " " " 27, " " |
| | Section 29, " " |

We are not familiar enough with the BLM lands available for acquisition but are prepared to meet with your agency for the purpose of developing a land exchange plan. This plan should then be incorporated into the final EIS for public review.

59.6 2) Page 3-28. The visual management criteria should be defined so the public is informed as to what effects the Visual Resource Management Class II will have on timber management. The BLM should also make it clear to the public that private landowners are not required to manage their lands under the BLM visual guidelines.

59.7 3) Page 3-30. Under wildlife protection, the DEIS should state that the BLM road closures will not preclude administrative use of the road by anyone with valid rights.

59.8 4) Page 3-33. Under roads, we request that the BLM state its intent to coordinate transportation planning with affected private landowners.

5) Page 3-33. Under interrelationships, the BLM does not address the need to coordinate its planning with adjacent private landowners. We recommend the BLM give adequate consideration to these landowners in the Plan. This effort will attempt to resolve conflicts which result because of landowners' different management objectives.

59.9 In conclusion, we believe implementation of the BLM Plan is possible only if the BLM addresses the objectives and needs of adjacent private landowners, especially in regard to access in mixed ownership situations. Only then will the BLM be capable of meeting its own land management objectives.

59

Mr. Wayne Zinns
August 24, 1982
Page three

Please let us know when and where it is convenient for you and your staff to meet with us to discuss land exchange.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Judy A. Barker

Judy A. Barker
District Supervisor
Land Planning

JAB/mc

cc: Ralph D. Kizer

8-25

Response to letter No. 59

59.1 The general issue of the need for access by adjacent land owners was considered during alternative development and analysis. In this context, no significant beneficial or adverse impacts to adjacent land owners were anticipated to result from implementation of the preferred alternative. Site specific access plans from adjacent landowners were not available for analysis.

59.2 While the preferred alternatives for the Crystal Lake and Grandmother Mountain WSAs may differ in emphasis from the general management intent of adjacent non-federal lands, these alternatives are not inconsistent nor incompatible with the expressed management emphasis for these non-federal lands.

59.3 It is neither the intent nor policy of BLM to restrict access to private lands.

59.4 The outstanding natural character of the Crystal Lake and Grandmother Mountain WSAs can effectively be maintained through implementation of the preferred alternative for these areas regardless of management activities on adjacent private lands.

59.5 Exchange proposals and negotiations are not within the scope of this Amendment/EIS. Such proposals can be initiated through the standard application process. Prior to decisions on such actions, the proposal would be analyzed through the development of a lands report and site specific environmental assessment. Recent budget cuts have severely constrained the processing of any exchange proposals.

59.6 Management of public lands under Visual Resource Management Class II precludes most aspects of intensive timber management. Activities such as road construction and timber harvesting would be substantially constrained. Please refer to the North Idaho Timber Management EIS (1981). Private landowners are not required to manage their lands under BLM visual guidelines.

59.7 Valid rights would be honored.

59.8 No transportation plans are being developed for these WSAs. Should such plans be deemed necessary, BLM policy would require coordination with effected private landowners.

59.9 Please see responses 59.1 and 59.2. Attempts to obtain detailed land use plans which outline the objectives and needs of adjacent private landowners have been largely unproductive to date.

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pacific Northwest Region
Westin Building, Room 1920
2001 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98121

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7619(PNR-RE)
x1202-03
DES 82/39

August 24, 1982



Memorandum

To: District Manager, Coeur d'Alene District, Bureau of Land Management

From: Acting Associate Regional Director, Recreation Resources and Professional Services, Pacific Northwest Region

Subject: Draft North Idaho Management Framework Plans (MFP) Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement (DES 82/39)

We have reviewed the subject document and have the following comments:

Impacts to Units of the National Park System

It appears, on the basis of the material provided, that no existing or presently proposed units of the National Park System will be affected either directly or indirectly by the proposed action.

Cultural Resources

It appears that the proposal is in compliance with the requirements outlined in 36 CFR 800, "Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties."

Recreational Resources

60.1 The Idaho Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) should be completed to determine potential effects of the alternatives on recreational resources. The State Liaison Officer (SLO) maintains the SCORP and can assist in its interpretation and application. The SLO for Idaho is: Mr. Dale R. Christiansen, Director, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Statehouse, Boise, Idaho 83707.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

The fifth paragraph on page 3-34 should be revised to read:

60.2 The National Park Service (NPS) has been assigned responsibilities for conducting studies of most proposed







wild and scenic rivers relative to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. NPS also reviews environmental documents for adequacy in regard to impacts on proposed and designated wild and scenic rivers.

60.2 In addition, NPS is responsible for inventorying the best remaining rivers and river segments still in a relatively natural, undeveloped condition. This inventory serves several purposes, including recommendations for additions to the lists of study rivers [Section 5(a)] and potential rivers [Section 5(d)] under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Probable impacts to these rivers are documented in management plans and environmental statements after consultation with the National Park Service.

A summary report of the Nationwide Rivers Inventory is available from the National Park Service upon request. The contact for the inventory is Kelly Cash. He may be reached at 206-442-5366.

The alternatives described in the North Idaho MFP Amendment and EIS would not impact any rivers currently listed in the inventory.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this document.

Donald R. Field

Response to letter No. 60

60.1 The SCORP was consulted.

60.2 Text has been revised (page 3-27).

61

NEZ PERCE TREATY JUNE 11, 1855

Nez Perce

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Box 365
LAPWAI, IDAHO
83540

(208) 843-2253

24 August 1982

Wayne Zinne, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1808 N. 3rd Street
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Re: MFPAEIS-1792
North Idaho MFP Amendment & Environmental Impact Statement draft

Dear Wayne:

I would like to thank you for the trip on the Lower Salmon River to address Cultural Resource Management concerns. Another major duty assigned to me on the 1st of July is the coordination of the tribes activities with respect to the National Environmental Policy Act. Documents that guide my actions are the Act itself and 40 CFR, Parts 1500-1508, the regulations for implementation by federal agencies of the NEPA (Reprint 43 FR 55978-56007). Unfortunately, I did not review your draft EIS prior to our float so I could not take advantage of the outstanding opportunity to respond to the EIS. As the NEPA is a conflict-resolving document, I would recommend a cooperating agency agreement with the Nez Perce Tribe (40 CFR 1508.5) to prepare in the EIS the Nez Perce tribal treaty rights concerns in 2 WSA; specifically, the Snowhole Rapids WSA and the Marshall Mountain WSA (40 CFR 1501.6(b)(3)). The preparation (and my present comment) would be in the following nature:

1. The United States Courts has ruled that the treaty rights of Indian tribes are not a grant of rights but a reservation of rights already possessed (United States vs. Winans, 198 U.S.371 (1905)). Since the rights are established by treaty between the United States and the Nez Perce Tribe (12 Stats. 957; 14 Stats. 647; 15 Stats. 693), they are protected by the 6th Article of the Constitution of the United States. The EIS should address the statutory obligations of the United States as to how these obligations affect on 40 CFR 1500.3.



0-27





2. Water Rights as discussed under Idaho Department of Water Resources, page 3-34. The United States court has ruled, that for the United States words not to be without meaning in treating with Indian tribes, the possession of water rights by the Indians to fulfill their Rights and success in their industries.

   History of this ruling: In the United States District Court for the District of Oregon, Civil No. 75-914, the court ruled that the Klamath Indian (a terminated tribe) possessed water rights to protect their hunting and fishing rights. To preserve the rights the use of the water was to maintain the Klamath National Wildlife Refuge as a wetland and the Winema National Forest on a sustained yield basis. The water rights of those two entities were not determined as the Indians water rights fulfilled their purposes.

   Since the Nez Perce Tribe has hunting and fishing rights along the Salmon River not limited to the 2 WSA the Nez Perce Tribe possesses the water rights on the Salmon River to protect these rights. Since by your discussion on page 5-9 that the anadromous fishes are depleted and the mention that this depletion is the Fish and Wildlife Service most important national problem, the emphasis of the Nez Perce possession of water rights with a priority of time immemorial should be most critical.

3. Since this is an legislative EIS the Nez Perce Tribe finds an outstanding opportunity with regard to alternatives not within the jurisdiction of the lead agency (40 CFR 1502.12(c)). This unique opportunity would allow a petition of redress against the United States per Article 1 of the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States as well as a resolution of an issue of Human Rights. The Salmon River country, especially along the Salmon River in the Snowhole WSA, has been a homeland for untold generations of the Nez Perce Tribe. This country was established as that homeland by the Treaty of 1855 between the Nez Perce Tribe and the United States. Subsequent to the treaty gold was discovered in the Nez Perce country. The United States called the Nez Perce Tribe again to renegotiate so that small areas where gold was located would be removed from the reserved Nez Perce lands. Once in treaty council the United States contrary to the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 (1 Stat. 51, Note a) to act in good faith removed 90% of the reserved lands with indications that for the Nez Perce not to negotiate would result in dire consequences to the tribe. The specific redress that could be effected as a legislative alternate would be the return to the ownership of the Nez Perce Tribe the 2 WSA in the 1855 Treaty area.

3. (continued) The Nez Perce Tribe is a growing tribe and needs new areas to expand into and it would be ideal to expand into some of their original homeland. This alternate would still allow limited recreation reducing environmental degradation. Cooperative agreements could be effected for river enforcement. Economic impacts would be insignificant as with the other alternatives.

In terms of the rights expressed they probably would have been covered under Valid Existing Rights, page 3-22. A listing of those rights would be of good benefit from a tribal point of view. That is to know what they are and that they are recognized. If it is possible I would like to receive a copy of both the North Idaho Timber and Grazing Management EIS. Again, Wayne, thanks for the trip we bad and allowing this comment to be made.

Thank you

James Lawyer
Research Data Planner
Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho

cc: Clair Whitlock, State Director, BLM, Boise
Lanny Wilson, Area Manager, BLM, Cottonwood
Ted Graf, EIS Team Leader, BLM, Coeur d'Alene
Gordon Higheagle, NPTEC Member

JL:jg

8-28

Response to letter No. 61

The BLM is cognizant of the rights and interest of the Nez Perce tribe in the area of the Snowhole Rapids and Marshall Mountain WSAs. Since the Nez Perce tribe holds these rights and interests we requested and obtained comments from tribal officials. During the scoping process certain concerns such as hunting and fishing rights, water rights, and land jurisdiction issues were identified. It was determined that these concerns were not within the scope of the Amendment/EIS and were, therefore, not specifically addressed in the document.

64

Robert D. Hanson
Rt. 1, Box 46
Medimont, ID 83842
August 27, 1982

Wayne Zinne, District Manager
Coeur d'Alene District Office, BLM
1808 North Third Street
P. O. Box 1889
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

I have reviewed the "North Idaho MFP Amendment & Environmental Impact Statement draft" of the BLM Coeur d'Alene District, 1982.

The perspective presented in this letter is that of a person who owns land in a popular motorized-recreation area who likes to occasionally get away to the quiet beauty of mountain lakes, ridges, and creeks. At home, I mile from a National Forest campground and closer to a sportsmens' access to the Coeur d'Alene River, we get a lot of tourist traffic. We permit camping on our land along the Coeur d'Alene River as long as campers clean up and don't abuse the privilege, and we estimate there is between 300 and 600 recreational visitor days use of our land by campers, per year, and about as many others just driving back and forth on the dead-end road. People need places to go camping. On the other hand, we who prefer our recreation without the sounds of motorcycles, outboard motors, radios, and chainsaws need places to go too, and there should be scattered motorless areas not prohibitively distant where people can go for wilderness-type experience, even if it is only on a small scale.

I believe that much of the public demand for wilderness for recreation could be accomodated by administrative means, primarily by keeping motorized recreation out of certain areas and being careful about roadbuilding and logging. Take for instance the typical mountain lake, headwater of usually a north or east-flowing creek, maybe with pockets of old timber scattered around it. Many such lakes are already accessible by road or jeep trail. Where there is no road, let's keep it that way, and keep the motorcycles out too so that visitors can have tranquility even if the other side of the ridge and the neighboring basins are roaded and logged. Where feasible, leave some timber along trails. On rocky ridges, the timber is often of low value or too scattered anyway. Along creeks, for which the MFP has buffer guidelines, the corridor should be extended to include the trail plus 25 feet, particularly if the pattern of logging roads or slope steepness would make it difficult for hikers and fishermen to use the road instead of the trail. Where trail corridors are not left across logged areas, trails should be restored or realigned through or around the logged area, and marked well so that hikers need not spend hours exploring logging roads looking for the continuation of their trail. There is no need for many logged areas to remain open to off-road-vehicle use, or to recreational vehicle use at all. Some buffer areas near roadless areas could be logged and, after woodcutters have picked over it for a few years, then close the area to non-official vehicles and manage the buffer as part of the roadless area until the next logging.

The MFP does not show how special designations for wilderness, ONA, RNA, intensive timber management, or recreation would be coor-



64.1 dinated with adjacent private lands. I believe owners of adjacent land of greatest significance to the MFP should be consulted and attempts made to assure compatibility of land use plans. For example, management of Crystal Lake WSA would be enhanced if the owner(s) of Section 29 along the east side of the WSA would agree to manage the land in coordination with the BLM. There may be tax advantages to such coordination. One precedent for such coordinated management is the Grouse Lakes Off-Road-Motor-Vehicle-Control Area in California, a 19,000 acre area of checkerboard ownership, about half Tahoe National Forest and half private land, owned mostly by Southern Pacific Land Company with the remainder Michigan-California Lumber Company, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and various small parcels, if memory is correct. Federal and private owners in the Grouse Lakes "Motorless Area" agreed to close that popular recreation area to off-road vehicles mainly because of damage being done by such vehicles to young trees, soils and water quality.

Of the wilderness study areas discussed in the report, I am personally only familiar with the Crystal Lake WSA. While I would rather see Wilderness designation for the Crystal Lake WSA than the BLM-recommended Outstanding Natural Area designation, ONA designation would be the next best alternative. For the other study areas, I generally support the BLM recommendations, except that Timber emphasis for the west side of the Grandmother Mountain WSA should be moderated to protect recreation values in a corridor along the Grandmother Mountain-Grandfather Mountain ridge if this trail receiv much use.

Robert D Hanson
Robert D. Hanson

64

**Response to letter No. 64**

64.1 Our analysis indicates that the preferred alternatives for these WSAs are generally compatible with adjacent land uses. Where appropriate, consultation and coordination with adjacent owners will occur prior to alternative implementation to ensure compatability.

65

August 27, 1982

Mr. Wayne Zinne
Bureau of Land Management
Box 1889
Coeurd'Alene, Idaho 83814

Re: Marshall Mountain WSA

Dear sir:

65.1 Through our rather extensive mineral surveys it is a well know fact that the potential of a large mineral area exists in this area under consideration. This could very well be Idaho's largest Gold reserve, and should not be put under BLM management control to exclude mining. This area should not be managed in a way to discourage or hinder any way, the development of mining. The roads have been constructed by miring people and aceess roads should be permited as needed. For the most part this area is very steep, gradients being better that 60%.

Sections 21 and 22 and 27 and 28 all have the same vein characteristic mineral content as that of Section 20, the location of the Golden Anchor, the Kimbely, the Sherman-Howe dnd other mines that were good gold producers and at present considerable exploration work is being done or in the planning.

I see no reason why this should not be considered for a multi-use area, thus assuring unknown future needs for the sake of the economy for the State of Idaho.

Thank you for the opportinity of receiving my opinion on this Area.

Respectfully
Leonard J. Jungert

B-30

Response to letter No. 65

65.1 Please refer to response 15.3.

67

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
600 South Walnut • Box 25
Boise • Idaho • 83707

August 27, 1982

Mr. Wayne Zinne, District Manager
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
1808 North 3rd Street
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Dear Mr. Zinne:

We have completed our review of the North Idaho MFP amendment and draft Environmental Impact Statement, and wish to make the following comments:

This Department is supportive of the BLM's proposed action and selection of preferred alternatives for the following areas:

1. Selkirk Crest - recommended for wilderness, but contingent upon Forest Service making a similar recommendation for their adjacent RARE II unit. The official position of the Fish and Game Commission is that the USFS RARE II unit not be designated as wilderness. If the Selkirk Crest area is not designated as wilderness, we would then recommend it be managed as an outstanding recreation area in order to provide a diversity of recreational opportunity.

2. Crystal Lake - to be designated as an outstanding natural area.

3. Grandmother Mountain - to be designated as an outstanding natural area and research natural area on designated portions of the unit with timber emphasis on the remainder of the area.

4. Snowhole Rapids - to be managed with recreational emphasis.

5. Marshall Mountain - to be managed with recreation emphasis. (We had originally recommended that the unroaded portion of this area be included in the River of No Return Wilderness Area, but it was omitted when the wilderness boundaries were finalized.)

67.1 On page 3-23, paragraph 10, line 2, you indicate in the fish and wildlife activities section that no commercial trapping would be permitted in any area designated as wilderness. Inasmuch as the BLM would be providing for the opportunity to hunt and fish within the wilderness area, it does not appear logical that trapping should be excluded. Other wilderness areas in the state that have been designated by the U.S. Forest Service do not prohibit trapping, which is a permitted activity under the Wilderness Act.

Our support of your proposed action is predicated on hunting, fishing and trapping being permitted in all areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this document.

Sincerely,

Jerry M. Conley
Director

cc: Regions 1, 2 & 3
Bur. Fisheries
Bur. Wildlife



Response to letter No. 67

67.1 The BLM Wilderness Management Policy of September 1981 states in Chapter III.D.5: "Trapping of furbearers, such as mink, marten, beaver, and muskrat, is a compatible wilderness use and will be allowed under State laws and regulations. Commercial trapping will not be permitted. Incidental trapping, if it is not the trapper's sole source of livelihood, is permitted."

V. David Welch Associates, Inc.
ENGINEERING & SURVEYING
P. O. BOX 934 | SANDPOINT, IDAHO 83864
Ph. (208) 263-6581

SANDPOINT OFFICE
DOVER HIGHWAY
P.O. Box 934
SANDPOINT, IDAHO 83864
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COEUR D'ALENE OFFICE
LIBERTY BUILDING
118 North Seventh St.
COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO 83814
Ph. (208) 664-9382

August 27, 1982

Mr. Ted Graf
North Idaho MFP Amendment EIS Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
1808 North Third Street
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

Re: BLM Wilderness Study Areas - Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Graf:

I am writing this letter to emphasize my personal and my companys' opposition to any further withdrawal of timber producing acreage from the current timber management land base. I believe my sentiments are those of the vast, although probably quite silent, majority of permanent North Idaho residents.

Areas of specific concern include:

Making defacto wilderness areas through reclassification to "Outstanding Natural Areas" and "Research Natural Areas".

The inconsistancy in your Draft Statement (page 4-3) concerning wilderness in Idaho and your recommendations that only one area out of the five study areas we recommended for timber management.

**78.1** Your failure to coordinate with the Idaho Panhandle National Forest; particularly concerning your failure to develop a timber management plan in the Grandmother Mountain Proposal consistant with the Forest Service RARE II decision for the area.

**78.2** Your analysis of Timber Alternatives in the chapter on Environmental Consequences (Chapter 6). The chapter has erroneously given the reader the impression that timber management would produce severely adverse impacts on flora, fauna, visual impact and "wilderness values". I believe you are either unfamiliar with, or have chosen to ignore, state of the art road construction and timber harvesting techniques.





78



My closing pleas would be for you to reconsider the preferred alternatives for Crystal Lake and Grandmother Mountain. By changing the alternative to "No Wilderness, Timber Emphasis" the areas can be successfully managed to produce timber, provide jobs, and with the support of the timber industry produce minimal visual, aesthetic and environmental impact.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft.

Sincerely,
V. DAVID WELCH ASSOC., INC.

V. David Welch, P.E.
President

VDW/kc

Response to letter No. 78

78.1 Please refer to responses 6.2 and 40.1.

78.2 Please refer to response 40.5.

# STATE OF IDAHO

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS
STATEHOUSE, BOISE, IDAHO 83720
GORDON C. TROMBLEY
DIRECTOR



July 14, 1982

Mr. Ted Graf
North Idaho MFP Amendment
& EIS Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
Coeur d'Alene District Office
P.O. Box 1339
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

Dear Mr. Graf:

The State of Idaho, through the State Board of Land Commissioners, made application on December 20, 1978 for 1,880 acres of what is now part of the Crystal Lake Wilderness Study Area as part of the State's in-lieu land selection (State Selection List No. 956; Your I-15037). (See map and legal description.)

Your recent North Idaho MFP Amendment & Environmental Impact Statement draft recommends as the preferred alternative that the Crystal Lake Wilderness Study Area (including the 1,880 acres under lieu land application) be classified as an Outstanding Natural Area. The 1,880 acres the State wishes to acquire is valuable timber producing land, as pointed out in the EIS draft. This land should be left in multiple use management and managed, among other things, for timber production. This would be done under State ownership. Approximately four miles of the selected parcels exterior boundary is bordered by State land. It ties in well with our present ownership and would form a good management unit for the State.

We request that the 1,880 acres under lieu land application not be classified as an Outstanding Natural Area and that it be made available for State acquisition through lieu selection.

Sincerely,

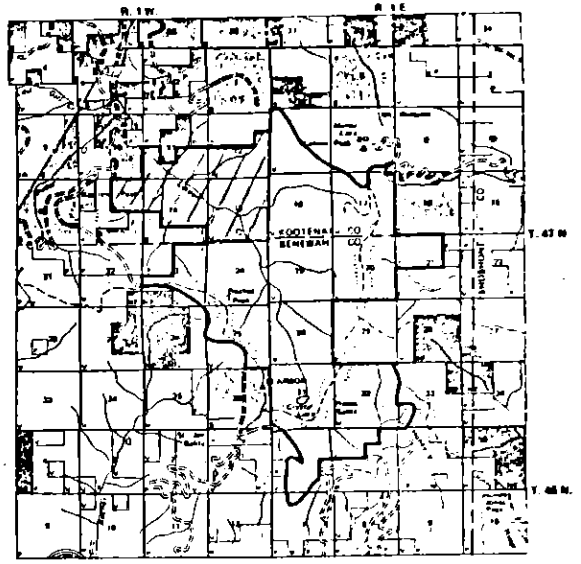
GORDON C. TROMBLEY
Director

GCT:fb
Attachment (1)
cc: Land Board Members

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

LANDS WITHIN CRYSTAL LAKE WSA
UNDER LIEU LAND APPLICATION

| Legal Description | | Acres |
|---|---|---|
| Township 47 North, Range 1 West | | |
| Section 11: | W½SW¼, SE¼SW¼, SE¼ | 280.00 |
| Section 12: | SE¼NE¼, S½ | 360.00 |
| Section 13: | All | 640.00 |
| Section 14: | N½, NE¼SW¼, N½SE¼ | 440.00 |
| Section 15: | NE¼ | 160.00 |
| | TOTAL: | 1,880.00 |



MAP 1–3 CRYSTAL LAKE WSA (61–10, 9027 Acres)

5

LETTER FROM STATE AGENCY — NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

CHAPTER 9
LIST OF PREPARERS

This document was prepared utilizing a Core Team approach consistent with CEQ Regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Core Team, a small group of writers, generated the document using information supplied by the public, BLM resource specialists including a sociologist and economist, and management.

| Name | EIS Responsibility | Education | Experience |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ted Graf | Core Team Leader | B. S. Public Administration | 4 years BLM, Natural Resource Specialist; 2 years BLM, Writer-Editor; 1 year Private Industry, EIS Technical Coordinator. |
| Dave Murray | Core Team Technical Coordinator | B. S. Range Management | 5 years BLM, Environmental Coordinator; 6 years BLM, Natural Resource Specialist; 4 years BLM, Range Conservationst. |
| Scott Forssell | Core Team Wilderness Specialist | M. S. Natural Resource Administration; B.S. Park Administration | 5 years BLM, Outdoor Recreation Planner. |
| Kris Long | Core Team Writer-Editor | B. A. Journalistic Communications | 2 years BLM, Public Affairs; 2 years BLM, Writer-Editor. |
| Wayne Zinne | District Manager; Preferred Alternative Development | B.S. Forestry | 1 year BLM, District Manager; 10 years BLM Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist; 5 years BLM, Area Manager; 4 years BLM, Range Conservationist. |
| Lynn Sheldan | Area Manager; Preferred Alternative Development | B. S. Forestry | 15 years BLM, Area Manager; 15 years BLM, Forester. |
| Duane Edvenson | Acting Area Manager; Preferred Alternative Development | B. S. Forest Management | 20 years BLM, Forester; 2 years USFS, Forester. |
| Ron Leedy | Vegetation | B. S. Forest Management | 10 years BLM, Silviculturist; 15 years BLM, Forester. |
| Dick Prather | Timber Management | B. S. Forestry | 4 years BLM, Supervisory Forester; 6 years BLM, Forester. |
| Gus Vitolins | Timber Management | M. F. Forestry | 16 years BLM, Staff Forester; 8 years BLM, Forester. |
| Lew Brown | Wildlife | B. S. Wildlife Habitat Management | 8 years BLM, Wildlife Biologist. |
| Vern Webb | Soils | B. S. Agriculture (Soil Science) | 14 years BLM, Soils Scientist; 14 years SCS, Soils Scientist. |
| David Fortier | Air and Water Resources | M. S. Civil Engineering (Water Resource Planning) | 2 years BLM, Hydrologist; 1 year Ada/Canyon 208 Area-wide Planning Group; 4 years postgraduate water resources work. |
| Dan Hutchison | Cultural Resources | B. A. Anthropology | 9 years BLM, Archaeologist. |
| Jim Robbins | Energy & Minerals | E. M. Mining Engineering | 10 years BLM, Mining Engineer. |
| Terry Kincaid | Recreation and Visual Resources | B. S. Park and Recreation; Resources Administration | 6 years BLM, Outdoor Recreation Planner. |
| Dick Todd | Cottonwood Resource Area Coordinator | B. S. Forest Resources | 4 years BLM, Forester/Area Environmental Coordinator. |
| Tom Rinkes | Grazing | B. S. Wildlife Biology | 3 years BLM, Range Conservationist. |
| Craig Johnson | Wildlife | B. S. Wildlife Management Range Management Graduate Work | 2 years BLM, Area Biologist; 5 years BLM, Range Conservationist; 1 year FS, Range Technician. |
| LuVerne Grussing | Recreation and Visual Resources | M. Ed. Recreation and Park Administration; B. A. Recreation | 3 years BLM, Outdoor Recreation Planner. |
| Paul Card | Social Values | Baccalaurette in Sociology and Math | 2 years BLM, Sociologist; 2 years Executive Office of the Governor (Idaho); 5 years Idaho Dept. of Transportation. |
| Stan Frazier | Economics | B. S. Agricultural Economics | 6 years BLM, Economist. |
| Maxine Hullck | Word Processing | Associate Arts Degree, 3 years Business undergraduate | 3 years BLM, Editorial Clerk. |
| Keo Brighton | Word Processing | B. A. Sociology | 1 year BLM, Editorial Clerk; 2 years IRS, Legal Documents Clerk. |
| Patty Hardin | Word Processing | Business Secretarial Degree | 3 years BLM, Editorial Clerk; 1 year USFS, Clerk Typist. |

# CHAPTER 10
# AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PERSONS SENT THE DRAFT/FINAL EIS

## ELECTED OFFICIALS, FEDERAL

Senator James A. McClure
Senator Steven D. Symms
Representative Larry E. Craig
Representative George Hansen

## ELECTED OFFICIALS, STATE

Governor John V. Evans
Lieutenant Governor Phillip E. Batt
Secretary of State Pete T. Cenarrusa
Attorney General David H. Leroy
Senator Kermit V. Klebert
Senator William E. (Bill) Moore
Senator Terry Sverdsten
Senator Vernon T. Lannen
Senator Norma Dobler
Senator Mike P. Mitchell
Senator Lester V. Clemm
Senator Ronald J. Beitelspacher
Senator David Little
Representative Marion Davidson
Representative James F. Stoicheff
Representative Morgan Munger
Representative E. Cameron Fullmer
Representative Robert M. (Bob) Scates
Representative Emery E. Hedlund
Representative B. E. (Bud) Lewis
Representative Louis J. Horvath, Jr.
Representative William F. Lytle
Representative Tom Boyd
Representative James Lucas
Representative George F. Johnson
Representative Paul C. Keeton
Representative Carl P. Braun
Representative Marguerite P. McLaughlin
Representative Harold W. Reid
Representative Richard L. Adams
Representative Jim S. Higgins

## FEDERAL AGENCIES

National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Department of Agriculture
- Forest Service
- Soil Conservation Service

U. S. Attorney
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Federal Highway Administration
Rural Electrification Administration
Department of the Interior
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Mines
- Bureau of Reclamation
- National Park Service
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U. S. Geological Survey

Environmental Protection Agency
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

## STATE AGENCIES

Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology
Idaho Fish and Game Department
Idaho Department of Water Resources
Idaho Department of Lands
Idaho Outfitters and Guide Board
Idaho State Clearing House
Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Panhandle Area Council
Clearwater Economic Development Association
Benewah County Joint City/Council Planning Commission
Bonner County Planning and Zoning Commission
Priest River Planning & Zoning Commission
Clearwater County Planning and Zoning Commission
Orofino Planning Commission
Idaho County Planning Commission
Cottonwood Planning and Zoning Commission
Kootenai County Planning Commission
Coeur d'Alene Planning and Zoning Commission
Dalton Gardens Planning and Zoning Commission
Fernan Lake Planning and Zoning Commission
Hauser Planning and Zoning Commission
Hayden Citizen Advisory Committee
Hayden Lake Planning Committee
Kamiah Planning and Zoning Commission
Winchester Planning and Zoning Commission
Nez Perce County Planning and Zoning Commission
Potlatch Planning and Zoning Commission
Lemhi County Planning and Zoning Commission
Salmon Planning Commission
Lewis County Planning and Zoning Commission
Craigmont Planning and Zoning Commission
Deary Zoning Commission
Genesee Planning and Zoning Commission
Juliaetta Planning Commission
Moscow Planning and Zoning Commission
Post Falls Planning and Zoning Commission
Rathdrum Planning and Zoning Commission
Spirit Lake Planning and Zoning Commission
Latah County Planning and Zoning Commission
Lapwai Planning and Zoning Commission
Lewiston Planning and Zoning Commission
Shoshone County Planning and Zoning Commission
Kellogg Planning and Zoning Commission
Mullan Planning and Zoning Commission
Osburn Planning and Zoning Commission
Pinehurst Planning and Zoning Commission
Smelterville Planning and Zoning Commission
Wallace Planning and Zoning Commission
McCall Planning and Zoning Commission
Adams County Commissioners
Benewah County Commissioners
Bonners County Commissioners
Boundary County Commissioners
Clearwater County Commissioners
Idaho County Commissioners
Kootenai County Commissioners
Latah County Commissioners
Lewis County Commissioners
Nez Perce County Commissioners
Shoshone County Commissioners

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Burlington Northern Inc.
Channel Lumber Co.
Diamond International
Evergreen Forest Products
Potlatch Corporation
Northwest Pine Association
Idaho Cedar
Idaho Veneer Company
Inland Forest Resource Council
Kamiah Mills
Louisiana-Pacific Corporation
North Idaho Forestry Association
Scott Paper Company
W-I Forest Products
Western Forest Industries Association
Conoco, Inc.
American Mining Congress
Anaconda Copper Company
ASARCO Incorporated
Atlantic Richfield Co.
Callahan Mining Corp.
Canyon Silver Mines, Inc.
Coeur d'Alene Mines Corp.
Cominco American Inc.
Golconda Mining Corp.
The Bunker Hill Company
GRC Exploration Co.
Idaho Mining Association
Morbeck Mining Co.
Northwest Mining Association

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, Continued

Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association
Royal Apex Silver, Inc.
Texaco Inc.
Union Oil Company of California
Meridian Land and Mineral Company
Coeur d'Alene Wildlife Federation
Idaho Wildlife Federation
Inland Empire Big Game Council
The Wildlife Society
The Committee for Idaho's High Desert
Friends of the Earth
Greater Snake River Land Use Congress
Hell's Canyon Preservation Council
The Institute of Ecology
National Council of Public Land Users
Sierra Club
Kootenai Environmental Alliance
Idaho Gem Club
Idaho State Rifle and Pistol Assocation
North Idaho Mineral Club
Northwest Power Boaters
Salmon River R. D.
Shoshone Council Camp Fire
Pocatello Trail Machine Association, Inc.
Bonner County Historical Society
Idaho Archaeological Society
Idaho State Historical Society
Nez Perce Economic and Community Development
American Wilderness Alliance
The Wilderness Society
Idaho County Cowbelles
AREA
Citizens Utilities Co.
Spokane "Hobnailer"
Pacific Power and Light Company
Citizens for Environmental Quality
Boise State University
University of Idaho
University of Montana
Washington State University
Northern Idaho Chambers of Commerce
Northern Idaho Public Libraries
Northern Idaho News Media
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nez Perce Tribal Executive Council
Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council

Copies of this EIS are available for public inspection at the following locations:

Bureau of Land Management
Washington Office of Public Affairs
18th and C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240
Phone: (202) 343-4151

Bureau of Land Management
Coeur d'Alene District Office
1808 North Third Street
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

Bureau of Land Management
Idaho State Office
3380 Americana Terrace
Boise, Idaho 83706

Bureau of Land Management
Cottonwood Area Office
Route 3, Box 181
Cottonwood, Idaho 83522

# GLOSSARY

Administratively Endorsed Areas: Areas recommended for wilderness designation through the U.S. Forest Service RARE II process.

Aesthetics: Dealing with the nature of the beautiful and with judgements concerning beauty.

Air Quality Classes: Classes established by the Environmental Protection Agency that define the amount of pollution considered significant within an area. Class I applies to areas where almost any change in air quality would be considered significant; Class II applies to areas where the deterioration normally accompanying moderate well-controlled growth would be considered insignificant; and Class III applies to areas where deterioration up to the national standards would be considered insignificant.

Air Quality Standard: An established concentration, exposure time, or frequency of occurrence of a contaminant or multiple contaminants in the ambient air which shall not be exceeded.

Allotment: An area of land where one or more individuals graze their livestock. It generally consists of public land but may include parcels of private or state owned lands. An allotment may consist of several pastures.

Allotment Management Plan (AMP): A documented program which applies to livestock operators on the public lands, which is prepared in consultation with the lessee(s) involved and conducted in order to meet the multiple-use, sustained-yield, economic, and other needs and objectives as determined for the public lands through land use planning.

Allowable Cut: The amount of forest products that may be harvested annually or periodically from a specified area over a stated period in accordance with the objectives of management.

Anadromous Fish: Fish which migrate from the sea to breed in fresh water. Their offspring return to the sea.

Animal Unit Month (AUM): The amount of forage required to sustain one cow (1,000 lbs.) with one calf under 6 months of age or their equivalent for one month. For this EIS an AUM represents 800 pounds (air dried) of palatable forage.

Annual Cut: Amount of timber, usually measured in board feet, harvested annually.

Aquatic Vegetation: Plants which grow in water.

Archaeological Resources: The physical evidence of past human occupation which can be used to reconstruct the culture of past peoples. The archaeological record is usually expressed in the form of districts, sites, structures, and objects.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): An area within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used, or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Artifact: Any object made, modified, or used by man, usually movable.

Aspect: The direction a slope faces.

Board Foot: A unit of solid wood, 1 foot square and 1 inch thick.

Buffer Strip: A protected area that separates the timber cutting unit from the object or thing to be preserved.

Bureau Planning System: A process used in the BLM to establish land use allocations, constraints, and objectives for various categories of public land use.

Cable Yarding: Using a steel cable to transport logs from where they are cut to a stationary machine on the landing. Yarding can be done in uphill or downhill directions with the logs being dragged or lifted partially or completely above the ground.

Canopy: The more or less continuous cover of branches and foliage formed collectively by the crowns of adjacent trees and other woody growth.

Canopy Cover: The aerial foliage in a vegetation layer shading vegetation in lower layers.

Cavity Dwellers: Birds and animals that live in holes or openings in trees, snags, or cliffs.

Cherrystem: A dead-end road that protrudes into a WSA. The WSA boundary is formed around this road.

Clearcutting: A method of timber harvesting in which all trees, merchantable or unmerchantable, are cut from an area at one time.

Climax: When plants of the existing vegetative community are the only ones which can perpetuate themselves given indefinite time without disturbance.

Commercial Thinning: Removal of merchantable surplus trees.

Commodity Emphasis: Would emphasize the management, production, and use of resources such as minerals, timber, and domestic livestock AUMs.

Community Type: Groups of plants (usually grasses/forbs and shrubs) which grow together in recognizable associations.

Contrast Rating: A method for determining the extent of visual impact for an existing or proposed activity that will modify any landscape feature.

Control of Competing Vegetation: This practice is done to increase light, water, and nutrients available to desirable coniferous trees by damaging or killing other vegetation. This practice can be accomplished using chemical herbicides or hand slashing (cutting).

Critical Habitat: That habitat considered by the Secretary of the Interior to be necessary to the normal needs or survival and recovery of listed Threatened or Endangered Species. It may also include habitat not currently occupied into which a listed species could expand.

Cultural Resources: Those fragile and nonrenewable remains of human activity, occupation, or endeavor, reflected in districts, sites, structures, buildings, objects, artifacts, ruins, works of art, architecture, and natural features, that were of importance in human events. These resources consist of 1) physical remains, 2) areas where significant human events occurred--even though evidence of the event no longer remains, and 3) the environment immediately surrounding the actual resource. Cultural resources, including both prehistoric and historic remains, represent a part of the continuum of events from the earliest evidences of man to the present day.

Custodial Management: Lands in this class would not be managed for timber production and are not included in allowable cut computations. These lands are usually managed for other resource values, i.e., wildlife, range, recreation, etc. Timber would be removed when necessary to protect or enhance adjacent forest or other resource values.

Distance Zone: The area that can be seen as foreground, middleground, background, or seldom seen.

Ecosystem: An ecological unit consisting of both living and nonliving components which interact to produce a natural, stable system.

Endangered Species: Those species officially designated by the Fish and Wildlife Service through publication in the Federal Register as being in danger of extinction throughout a significant portion of their range. The Endangered Species Act of 1973 requires that critical habitat for endangered species be delineated and enjoins Federal agencies from taking actions within such designated critical habitat that would have a significant adverse impact on the endangered species.

Environmental Assessment (EA): A systematic environmental analysis of site-specific BLM activities. Used to determine whether such activities have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment and whether a formal environmental statement is required.

Erosion (Soil): Removal of soil from its place of origin to a point of deposition other than a stream channel.

Even-Aged Stand: All trees are the "same" age or at least of the same age class.

Falling/Felling: Cutting down trees.

Flow: The volume of water passing a given point in a specified period of time.

Forage: All browse and herbaceous foods that are available to grazing animals.

Forest Land: Land that is now, or is capable of becoming, at least 16.7 percent stocked with forest trees and that has not been developed for nontimber use.

Full Suspension Logging: Transporting logs from where they are cut to the landing with both ends lifted above the ground.

Ground Based Yarding: The process of dragging logs behind a moving machine or animal from where they are felled to the landing. Ground based yarding is normally done in a downhill direction.

Habitat: The environment in which an organism occurs.

Habitat Type: An area of land potentially capable of producing similar plant communities at climax.

Hiding Cover (Elk): Includes coniferous vegetation, and in specific instances, can include deciduous vegetation capable of hiding 90 percent of an elk from a human's view at a distance equal to or less than 200 feet (61 m).

Historical Resources: All evidences of human activity that date from historic, i.e., recorded history periods. Historic resources are cultural resources and may be considered archaeological resources when archaeological work is involved in their identification and interpretation.

Individual Tree Selection: A form of partial cutting that removes selected individual trees from the stand.

Intensive-Extensive Timber Management Lands: Lands in this class would be managed using practices such as thinnings, site preparation, planting, fertilization, etc., to maximize timber production on a sustained yield basis. Generally, these lands are TPCC rated Non-Problem or Restricted Productive which would respond to thinning, fertilization, and planting.

Landing: Any place on or adjacent to the logging site where logs are assembled for further transport.

Lop and Scatter: Cutting branches, tops, and small trees after felling so that the resultant slash will lie close to the ground; to cut limbs from felled trees.

Lower Gradient Stream: Streams in which the slope of the channel approaches zero.

Management Framework Plan (MFP): Land use plan for public lands which provides a set of goals, objectives, and constraints for a specific planning area to guide the development of detailed plans for the management of each resource.

Mean Annual Increment: The total growth of the tree divided by the total age.

Mortality/Salvage Cutting: Removal of individual trees killed or injured by fire, insects, disease, etc., and the removal of those trees likely to die prior to final harvest cut so as to utilize merchantable material.

Multiple Use: Management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people.

National Register of Historic Places (National Register): Established by the Historic Preservation Act of 1966. A listing maintained by the National Park Service of architectural, historical, archaeological, and cultural sites of local, state, or national significance. Sites are nominated to the Register by the states and by Federal agencies. Copies of the National Register are available from the Superintendent of Documents, USGPO, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Naturalness: Refers to an area which "generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable." (From section 2(c), Wilderness Act).

Non-attainment Area: A designated area that does not meet ambient air quality standards.

Non-forest Land: Land that has been developed for non-timber uses or land that is incapable of being 16.7 percent stocked with forest trees.

Non-problem Sites: Productive forest sites characterized by stable soils and bedrock. They can be logged by normal ground based and cable practices, and reforestation can be established within 5 years after final harvest using normal techniques.

Non-productive Forest Land: Land which is not capable of yielding at least 20 cubic feet of wood per acre per year from commercial species, or land which is capable of producing only non-commercial tree species.

Off-Road Vehicle (ORV): Any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, i.e., marsh, swamp land, or other terrain.

Old-growth Dependent: An animal species so adapted that it can exist only in old-growth forests.

Overstory: The uppermost vegetative "layer" of a forest (usually trees).

Partial Cutting or Selective Cutting: Tree removal other than by clearcutting.

Particulates: Finely divided solid or liquid particles in the air or in an emission; includes dust, smoke fumes, mist, spray, and fog.

Plant Community: An association of plants of various species found growing together in areas with similar site characteristics.

Precommercial Thinning: Removal of surplus trees in a stand prior to their reaching merchantable size.

Prehistoric Resources: All evidences of human activity that pre-date recorded history and can be used to reconstruct lifeways and cultural history of past peoples. These include sites; artifacts; environmental data; and all other relevant information and the contexts in which they occur.

Prescribed Burning: Skillful application of fire to natural fuels under conditions of weather; fuel moisture; soil moisture; and other conditions that will produce the intensity of heat and rate of spread required to accomplish certain planned benefits to one or more objectives of silviculture, wildlife management, grazing, and hazard reduction.

Primitive Recreation Opportunity : Opportunity for isolation from the sights and sounds of man. Opportunity to feel a part of the natural environment; to have a high degree of challenge and risk; and to use outdoor skills.

Productive Forest Land: Forest land that is now producing or is capable of producing at least 20 cubic feet per acre per yer of commercial coniferous tree species.

Productive Forest Land Excluded From the Base: Productive forest lands where the use of special logging practices or reforestation techniques would still result in degradation of the site or failure of the area to reforest within 5 yers after harvest. These lands are not included in the allowable cut base.

Public Land: Historically, the public domain administered by the Bureau of Land Management for the purpose of providing forage, wood products, and minerals for public users. The uses and resources of these public lands have been expanded in recent years to provide open space, recreation resources, protection of cultural resources, and other commodities.

Range Condition: The current productivity of a range relative to what that range is naturally capable of producing.

RARE II: The roadless area review and evaluation used by the U. S. Forest Service to determine wilderness suitability of National Forest lands.

Recreation Opportunities: The opportunity to participate in an intrinsically, or self-rewarding experience that finds its source in voluntary engagements (mental and/or physical) during non-obligated time.

: The renewal of a tree crop whether by natural or artificial means; also, the young crop itself.

Restricted Use Sites: Productive forest sites that need special logging practices or reforestation techniques to preserve soil productivity or reforest the site within 5 years after final harvest.

Riparian: Areas adjacent to streams and other bodies of water; wet meadows; springs; wells; and other sources.

Riparian Vegetation: Plants growing in close proximity to a watercourse, lake, or wet areas, and often the plants depend on their roots reaching the water table.

Roaded Natural Recreation Opportunity: About equal opportunities for affiliation with user groups and opportunities for isolation from sights and sounds of man. Opportunity to have a high degree of interaction with the natural environment. Challenge and risk opportunities are not very important. Practice and testing of outdoor skills may be important. Opportunities for both motorized and non-motorized forms of recreation are possible.

Sanitation Thinning: Removal of surplus trees from a stand. The trees may be of merchantable or unmerchantable size. A commercial thinning would not necessarily follow.

Scarification: Disturbance of the upper soil layer by mechanical means in preparing a site for seeding or planting.

Scenic Quality: The degree of harmony, contrast, and variety within the landscape.

Sediment Yield: Eroded soil reaching a water system.

Semi-Primitive Motorized Recreation Opportunity: Some opportunity for isolation from the sights and sounds of man, but not as important as for primitive opportunities. Opportunity to have a high degree of interaction with the natural environment, to have moderate challenge and risk, and to use outdoor skills. Explicit opportunity to use motorized equipment while in the area.

Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized Recreation Opportunity: Some opportunity for isolation from the sights and sounds of man, but not as important as for primitive opportunities. Opportunity to have a high degree of interaction with the natural environment, to have moderate challenge and risk, and to use outdoor skills.

Semi-Urban Recreation Opportunity: Opportunities are prevalent to experience affiliation with individuals and groups at sites with convenience facilities. These factors are generally more important than the physical environment.

Sensitive Animals: Animals classified by the BLM and Idaho Fish and Game Department are those:

--not yet officially listed but which are undergoing a status review or are proposed for listing according to Federal Register notices published by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce, or according to comparable State documents published by State officials;

--whose populations are consistently small and widely dispersed, or whose ranges are restricted to a few localities, such that any appreciable reduction in numbers, habitat availability, or habitat condition might lead toward extinction; and

--whose numbers are declining so rapidly that official listing may become necessary as a conservation measure. Declines may be the cause of one or more of several factors including destruction, modification, or curtailment of the species' habitat or range; overutilization for commercial, sporting, scientific, or educational purposes; disease or predation; the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; and/or other natural or manmade factors adversely affecting the species' continued existence.

Seral Stages: Communities of plants that occupy an area as succession progresses toward climax.

Series: A group of habitat types with the same climax tree species.

Shelterwood Cutting: A series of two partial cuttings designed to establish a new crop of trees under the protection of the old.

Sight Distance (Elk): The distance at which an elk is hidden from view within any cover type. This varies according to the size and spacing of coniferous trees. Deciduous vegetation can be considered in sight distance measurements only when in dormant condition (without leaves).

Silviculture: The art of producing and tending a forest; application of the knowledge of the life history and general characteristic of forest trees and stands for controlling the establishment, composition, and growth of a forest.

Site Preparation: This practice is done to reduce competition between newly established trees and other vegetation, and to expose mineral soil to encourage the establishment of natural regeneration.

Skidding: A loose term for hauling logs by sliding from stump to roadside.

Skid Trail or Road: Any way, more or less prepared, over which logs are dragged.

Slash: The residue left on the ground after felling timber.

Snag: A standing dead tree from which the leaves and most of the branches have fallen.

Snag Dependent Animals: Animals that depend on dead trees for all or part of their life cycles.

Solitude: The state of being alone, isolated, or remote from habitations.

State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO): The official within each State, authorized by the State at the request of the Secretary of the Interior, to act as a liaison for purposes of implementing the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Substantially Unnoticeable: Refers to something that either is so insignificant as to be only a very minor feature of the overall area or is not distinctly recognizable by the average visitor as being manmade or man-caused because of age, weathering or biological change.

Succession: The orderly process of community change. Process by which one plant community will succeed another over time given the same climatic conditions.

Suitability: As used in the Wilderness Act and in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, refers to a recommendation by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture that certain Federal lands satisfy the definition of wilderness in the Wilderness Act and have been found appropriate for designation as wilderness on the basis of an analysis of the existing and potential uses of the land.

Sustained Yield: The yield that a forest can produce continuously at a given intensity of management.

Thermal Cover: Defined as a stand of coniferous trees which is 40 feet or more in height, has at least 70 percent average crown cover, and which moderates extremes of ambient temperature. (Pederson, personal communication as cited in Black et al. 1976; and Keay, J. A., 1977).

Threatened Species: Those species which are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their range. Critical habitat can also be designated for threatened species (see endangered species).

Threshold: A point (value) on a continuum that when exceeded causes a significant impact.

Timber Production Capability Classification (TPCC): A classification system that identifies the commercial forest base which is capable of producing timber on a sustained yield basis.

Timber Stand: A group of trees occupying an area and sufficiently uniform in composition (species), age, size, and condition to be recognized from other groups of vegetation.

Understory Species: Shade-tolerant plant species which characteristically grow beneath the forest canopy.

Unit Resource Analysis (URA): A BLM planning document which contains a comprehensive inventory and analysis of the physical resources and an analysis of their potential for development within a specified geographic area.

Urban Recreation Opportunity: Opportunity to experience affiliation with individuals and groups is prevalent as is the convenience of sites and opportunities. Experiencing natural environments, having challenges and risks afforded by the natural environment, and the use of outdoor skills are relatively unimportant.

Visual Contrast: The effect of a striking difference in the form, line, color, or texture of an area being viewed.

Visual Resource: The land, water, vegetation, animals, and other features that are visible on all public lands.

Visual Resource Management Class: The degree of alteration that is acceptable within the characteristic landscape. It is based upon the physical and sociological characteristics of any given homogenous area.

Visual Sensitivity: The degree of concern expressed by the user toward the scenic quality and existing or proposed visual change in a particular characteristic landscape.

Water Yield: Precipitation minus losses for evaporation and transpiration. Usually expressed in equivalent inches or acre feet.

Wild and Scenic River: Any free-flowing stream designated and authorized for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as provided by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of October 1968 (P.L. 90-542).

Wilderness Area: An area formally designated by Act of Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Study Area: An area of Public Land which has undergone BLM's initial and intensive wilderness inventories, including public involvement, and has been determined to have wilderness characteristics as defined in Sec. 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Yarding: The initial haul to a loading point, i.e., transporting timber from the stump to a landing.

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