

EASTERN IDAHO

PROPOSED MFP AMENDMENT

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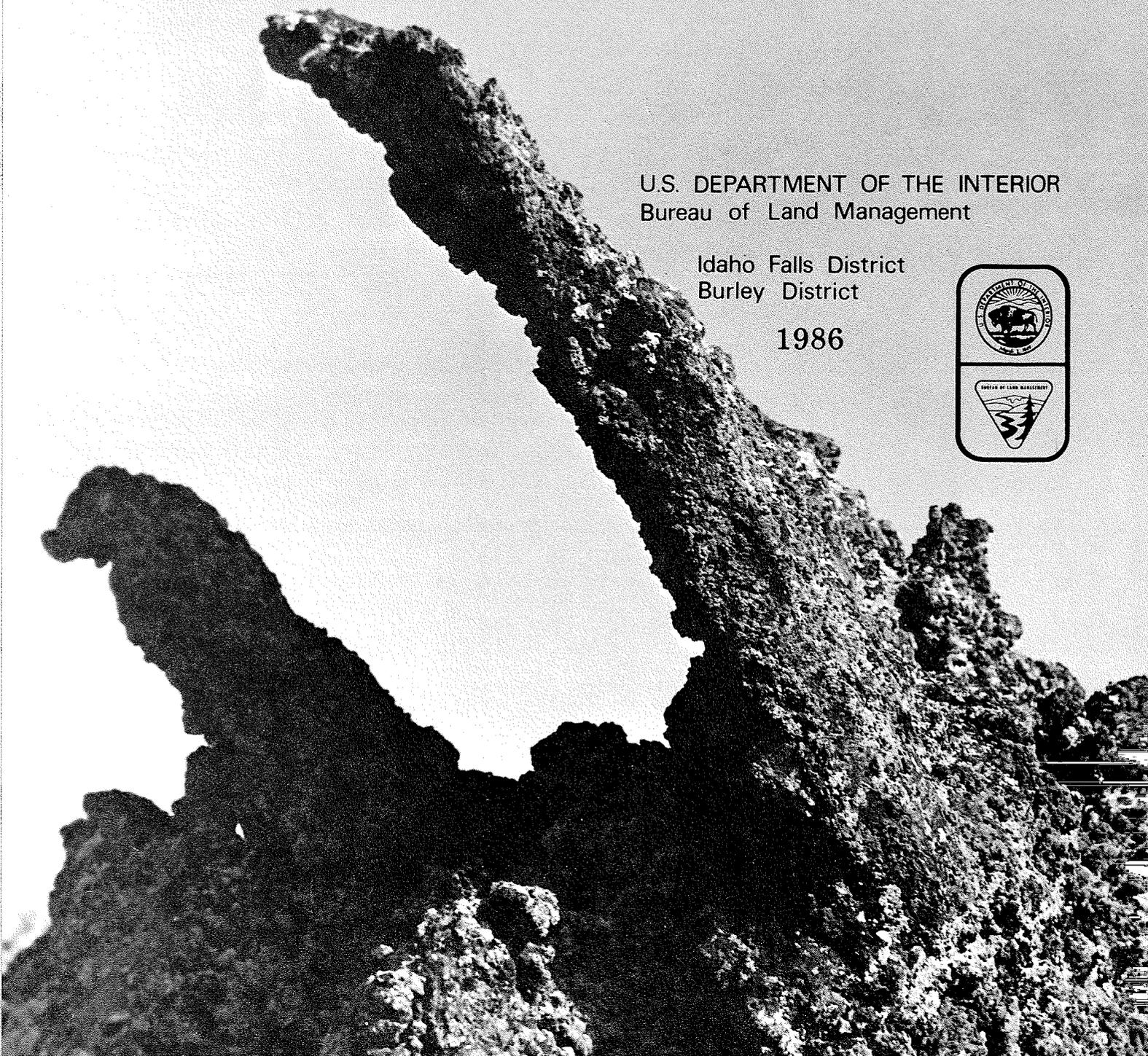
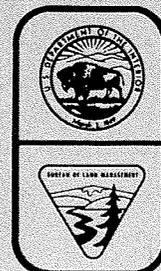
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

WILDERNESS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

Idaho Falls District
Burley District

1986



FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
EASTERN IDAHO WILDERNESS STUDY

Prepared by

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
IDAHO FALLS DISTRICT

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry L. Woodard". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Larry L. Woodard
Associate State Director

EASTERN IDAHO

WILDERNESS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

() Draft EIS

(X) Final EIS

1. Type of Action: () Administrative

(X) Legislative

2. Responsible Agencies:

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

b. Cooperating Agencies: None

3. Abstract: The Eastern Idaho Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement analyzes the environmental consequences of designating five wilderness study areas (WSAs) wilderness, not designating them, and designating part of one WSA. An All Wilderness Alternative and a No Wilderness Alternative are analyzed for each WSA, and a Partial Alternative is analyzed for the Hawley Mountain WSA. The five WSAs are listed below showing their size and proposed action.

| WSA Name/Number | Size | Proposed Action |
|-----------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Hell's Half Acre (ID-33-15) | 66,200 | All Wilderness |
| Hawley Mountain (ID-32-3) | 15,510 | No Wilderness |
| Black Canyon (ID-32-9) | 5,400 | No Wilderness |
| Cedar Butte (ID-33-4) | 35,700 | No Wilderness |
| Petticoat Peak (ID-28-1) | 11,298 | No Wilderness |

4. Comments have been requested and received from the following:

See Reviewers and Respondents Section, Chapter 5

5. Date Draft EIS made available to the Environmental Protection Agency and the Public:

Draft EIS: Filed March 1, 1983

Final EIS:

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SUMMARY

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to manage and preserve the wilderness characteristics on 66,200 acres in one wilderness study area (WSA), and continue to manage 67,908 acres in four WSAs for uses other than wilderness. This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) assesses the environmental consequences of managing the five WSAs as wilderness and nonwilderness, and of managing a portion of one WSA as wilderness. The Proposed Action is to designate and manage as wilderness the Hell's Half Acre WSA (66,200 acres) and not to designate the Hawley Mountain (15,510 acres), Black Canyon (5,400 acres), Cedar Butte (35,700 acres), and the Petticoat Peak (11,298 acres) WSAs. The U.S. Congress will make the final decision on which WSAs will or will not be designated.

The Proposed Action is the result of land use decisions made in the Big Desert Management Framework Plan (MFP) (for Hell's Half Acre and Cedar Butte), the Little Lost-Birch Creek MFP (for Hawley Mountain and Black Canyon), and the Pocatello MFP (for Petticoat Peak). Alternatives analyzed for each WSA are No Wilderness/No Action and All Wilderness. A Partial Wilderness Alternative is included for Hawley Mountain.

The significant environmental issues developed during the scoping process common to all WSAs are impacts to wilderness values, impacts to energy and mineral development, and impacts to motorized recreation use. Impacts to timber harvest and management are analyzed for Hawley Mountain and Petticoat Peak, and impacts to mule deer habitat are analyzed for Hawley Mountain.

ALTERNATIVES AND IMPACT CONCLUSIONS BY WSA

HELL'S HALF ACRE (ID-33-15)

Proposed Action (All Wilderness Alternative)

All 66,200 acres of the Hell's Half Acre WSA are recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to ORV closure in designated wilderness and the protection of wilderness values. The closing of the lava flow would eliminate approximately 150 visitor days annually. This motorized recreation use foregone in the WSA would be absorbed on surrounding public lands without significant impacts to those lands.

No Wilderness Alternative

The entire WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation. However, naturalness, solitude, primitive recreation and the area's special features would not be significantly impacted since little development activity and use is anticipated.

In the long term, a slight increase in motorized recreation use is expected. However, the rugged terrain and the inaccessible landscape of the WSA will limit motorized use to the existing 25 miles of trails. Anticipated use would remain below 150 visitor days annually.

Although all potential mineral resources would be available for leasing and disposal development, it is unlikely that there would be any development proposals because of the low potential for energy and other mineral occurrences.

HAWLEY MOUNTAIN (ID-32-3)

Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative)

All 15,510 acres of the Hawley Mountain WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the loss of wilderness values and improvement of mule deer winter range from mountain mahogany thinning. The natural character of the WSA would be lost on 2,724 acres of timber harvest and 300 acres of mountain mahogany thinning. Solitude would be disturbed over the short term by logging and mahogany thinning operations. Mule deer habitat would be improved and increase winter carrying capacity by 45 animals.

All Wilderness Alternative

All of the 15,510 acres of the Hawley Mountain WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the protection of wilderness values, motorized recreation use, timber harvest and management and mule deer habitat improvement. The wilderness values throughout the WSA would receive long term Congressional protection and be slightly enhanced by eliminating motorized recreation use. Annually, 150 visitor days of motorized use would be foregone. Timber resources on 2,724 acres would not be harvested and a loss of potential timber products from 10 MMBF would result. Mule deer habitat on 300 acres would not be improved and the present herd would not be increased by 45 animals.

Although all potential mineral resources would be available for leasing and disposal development, it is unlikely that there would be any development proposals because of the low potential for energy and other mineral occurrences.

Partial Wilderness Alternative

A portion of the upper slopes of the Hawley Mountain WSA, containing 10,400 acres, would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation. The remaining 5,100 acres, located around the lower slopes of the mountain, would be recommended nonsuitable.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the protection of wilderness values on 10,400 acres and loss of wilderness values on 5,100 acres, and impacts on timber harvest and management, and mule deer winter habitat improvement. Wilderness values on the upper slopes of Hawley Mountain would receive long term Congressional protection. The WSAs natural character and solitude would be degraded slightly by continued vehicle use of existing roads and trails on 5,100 acres of the WSA's lower slopes. Timber resources on 2,714 acres would not be harvested and a loss of potential timber products from 10 MMBF would result. Mule deer habitat on 300 acres would not be improved and the present herd would not be increased by 45 animals.

Although all potential mineral resources would be available for leasing and disposal development on 5,100 acres of the mountain's lower slopes, it is unlikely that there would be any development proposals because of the low potential for energy and mineral occurrences.

BLACK CANYON (ID-32-9)

Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative)

All 5,400 acres of the Black Canyon WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the degradation of wilderness values. Naturalness and solitude would continue to be degraded by motorized recreation use amounting to 90 visitor days annually. Motorized use is confined to four miles of vehicle trails that extend into the WSA's two major canyons.

All Wilderness Alternative

All 5,400 acres of the Black Canyon WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the protection of wilderness values and loss of motorized recreation use. The wilderness values throughout the WSA would receive long term Congressional protection. Naturalness and solitude would be enhanced by eliminating 90 visitor days of motorized recreation use annually. The motorized recreation use would be foregone, but impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

Although all potential mineral resources would be available for leasing and disposal development, it is unlikely that there would be any development proposals because of the low potential for energy and mineral occurrences.

CEDAR BUTTE (ID-31-4)

Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative)

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the development of locatable and saleable deposits of building stone and the resulting impacts to wilderness values in the long run.

Development of three to six mining claims for locatable variety of building stone is anticipated within the WSA. This action would involve the removal of lava building stone on 25 acres, improvement of one mile of access road, and the possibility of patenting of up to 100 acres of the WSA surrounding the stone deposits. Development of the locatable deposits will adversely impact the natural character of the lava surface on 50 acres where stone is removed, an access road is improved, and where rock is stored. In addition, solitude near the operation would be disturbed from transport vehicles and mining activities.

Overall, the naturalness, solitude, primitive recreation and the area's special features would not be significantly impacted by the mining of the building stone resource. This is due to the large expanse of the rugged, inaccessible lava beds which limits physical impacts to only 50 acres near the northwestern edge of the WSA.

All Wilderness Alternative

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, all 35,700 acres of the Cedar Butte WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the development of locatable and saleable mining claims for building quality lava stone and the protection of wilderness values through wilderness designation.

Wilderness designation would permanently withdraw up to 35,700 acres of public lands from appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. Validity examinations would be conducted on all six existing building stone placer claims. Should the claims prove to be valid then mining development would occur, and wilderness values would be adversely impacted on 50 acres surrounding the mining activity.

It is unlikely that energy mineral activity will be impacted by wilderness designation due to the low oil and gas potential of the area and the extremely thick volcanic cover which limits access into the area and indicates the lack of sedimentary layers at lower depths.

PETTICOAT PEAK (ID-28-1)

Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative)

All 11,298 acres of the Petticoat Peak WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the loss of wilderness values from oil and gas exploration, motorized recreation use and timber harvest and management. The natural character of the WSA would be lost on four to ten acres from oil and gas exploration and on 1,524 acres from timber harvest. Solitude would be disturbed in the short term near two miles of temporary roads from logging and drilling operations.

All Wilderness Alternative

All 11,298 acres of the Petticoat Peak WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the protection of wilderness values, oil and gas exploration, motorized recreation use and timber harvest. The wilderness values throughout the WSA would receive long term Congressional protection and be slightly enhanced by eliminating motorized recreation use. Opportunity to explore for potential oil and gas deposits by drilling one well would be foregone. Annually, 100 visitor days of motorized use would be foregone. Timber resources on 1,524 acres would not be harvested and a loss of potential timber products from 2.5 MMBF would result.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | <u>Page</u> |
|---|-------------|
| SUMMARY | i |
| LIST OF TABLES | ix |
| LIST OF MAPS | ix |
| CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION AND PLANNING PROCESS | 1 |
| Purpose and Need | 1 |
| Location | 2 |
| Environmental Issue Identification/Scoping | 2 |
| The Planning Process and Selection of the Proposed Action | 9 |
| Alternatives to the Proposed Action Selected for Analysis | 9 |
| Alternatives Considered but Dropped from Analysis | 9 |
| CHAPTER 2 - PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES | 11 |
| Hell's Half Acre WSA | 11 |
| Proposed Action (All Wilderness Alternative) | 11 |
| No Wilderness Alternative | 13 |
| Hawley Mountain WSA | 15 |
| Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative) | 15 |
| All Wilderness Alternative | 17 |
| Partial Wilderness Alternative | 18 |
| Black Canyon WSA | 23 |
| Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative) | 23 |
| All Wilderness Alternative | 25 |
| Cedar Butte WSA | 28 |
| Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative) | 28 |
| All Wilderness Alternative | 30 |
| Petticoat Peak WSA | 32 |
| Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative) | 32 |
| All Wilderness Alternative | 34 |

| | <u>Page</u> |
|--|-------------|
| CHAPTER 3 - AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT | 37 |
| Hell's Half Acre WSA | 37 |
| General Characteristics | 37 |
| Land Status | 37 |
| Wilderness Values | 37 |
| Energy and Mineral Resources | 38 |
| Motorized Recreation | 39 |
| Hawley Mountain WSA | 39 |
| General Characteristics | 39 |
| Land Status | 39 |
| Wilderness Values | 39 |
| Energy and Mineral Resources | 40 |
| Motorized Recreation | 41 |
| Timber Resources | 41 |
| Mule Deer Habitat | 41 |
| Black Canyon WSA | 41 |
| General Characteristics | 41 |
| Land Status | 41 |
| Wilderness Values | 42 |
| Energy and Mineral Resources | 42 |
| Motorized Recreation | 43 |
| Cedar Butte WSA | 43 |
| General Characteristics | 43 |
| Land Status | 44 |
| Wilderness Values | 44 |
| Energy and Mineral Resources | 45 |
| Motorized Recreation | 45 |
| Petticoat Peak WSA | 45 |
| General Characteristics | 45 |
| Land Status | 45 |
| Wilderness Values | 46 |
| Energy and Mineral Resources | 46 |
| Motorized Recreation | 47 |
| Timber Resources | 47 |

| | <u>Page</u> |
|---|-------------|
| CHAPTER 4 - ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES | 53 |
| Hell's Half Acre WSA | 53 |
| Proposed Action (All Wilderness Alternative) | 53 |
| No Wilderness Alternative | 54 |
| Hawley Mountain WSA | 56 |
| Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative) | 56 |
| All Wilderness Alternative | 58 |
| Partial Wilderness Alternative | 60 |
| Black Canyon WSA | 63 |
| Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative) | 63 |
| All Wilderness Alternative | 64 |
| Cedar Butte WSA | 66 |
| Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative) | 66 |
| All Wilderness Alternative | 68 |
| Petticoat Peak WSA | 71 |
| Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative) | 71 |
| All Wilderness Alternative | 72 |
| Relationship Between Short-Term Use of the Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity . . | 74 |
| Irreversible or Irretrievable Commitment of Resources | 74 |
| CHAPTER 5 - CONSULTATION, COORDINATION, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION | 75 |
| List of Preparers | 76 |
| EIS Review | 77 |
| Reviewers and Respondents | 78 |
| Comments and Responses To Letters | 82 |
| Public Hearing Comments and Responses | 135 |
| REFERENCES | 141 |
| GLOSSARY | 143 |
| INDEX | 146 |

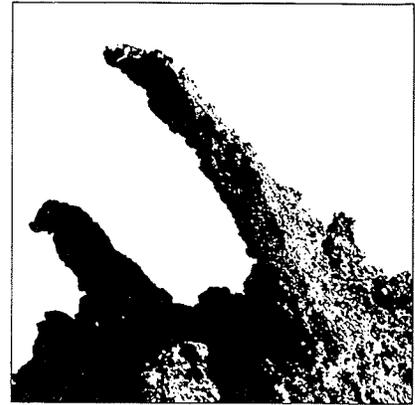
LIST OF TABLES

| | <u>Page</u> |
|---------|---|
| Table 1 | List of Wilderness Study Areas 1 |
| Table 2 | Summary of Impacts, Hell's Half Acre 14 |
| Table 3 | Summary of Impacts, Hawley Mountain 21/22 |
| Table 4 | Summary of Impacts, Black Canyon 27 |
| Table 5 | Summary of Impacts, Cedar Butte 31 |
| Table 6 | Summary of Impacts, Petticoat Peak 36 |
| Table 7 | Reviewers and Respondents 78 |

LIST OF MAPS

| | |
|-------|--|
| Map 1 | Eastern Idaho General Location Map 3 |
| Map 2 | Proposed Action, Hell's Half Acre WSA 12 |
| Map 3 | Proposed Action, Hawley Mountain WSA 16 |
| Map 4 | Partial Wilderness Alternative, Hawley Mountain WSA . 19 |
| Map 5 | Proposed Action, Black Canyon WSA 24 |
| Map 6 | Proposed Action, Cedar Butte WSA 29 |
| Map 7 | Proposed Action, Petticoat Peak WSA 33 |

CHAPTER 1



Purpose and Need for Action

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND PLANNING PROCESS

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to manage and preserve the wilderness characteristics on 66,200 acres in one wilderness study area (WSA) and continue to manage 67,908 acres in four WSAs for uses other than wilderness. This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) assesses the environmental consequences of managing these areas as wilderness and nonwilderness, and of managing a portion of one WSA as wilderness.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) mandates BLM to manage the public lands and their resources under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. Wilderness values are identified as part of the spectrum of multiple land use values to be considered in BLM inventory, planning, and management. Section 603 of FLPMA requires a wilderness review of BLM roadless areas of 5,000 or more acres and roadless islands. The BLM inventory process identified wilderness study areas which have the mandatory wilderness characteristics (size; naturalness; solitude and/or primitive recreation opportunities). Suitable or unsuitable wilderness recommendations for each WSA will be presented to the President by the Secretary of the Interior. The President will then make recommendations to the Congress. Areas can be designated wilderness only by an act of the Congress. If designated as wilderness an area would be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964.

All five WSAs are in BLM planning units where a management framework plan (MFP), the BLM's land use plan, has been completed. However, these plans were done without considering wilderness management for any of the five WSAs. In order to incorporate wilderness decisions into the plan, an amendment must be made. The alternatives included in this EIS for all, none or partial wilderness, represent possible MFP amendments.

The following table lists the MFPs and study areas included in this analysis.

TABLE 1

| <u>WSA NAME</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>ACREAGE</u> | <u>COUNTY</u> | <u>MFP NAME</u> |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Hell's Half Acre | ID-33-15 | 66,200 | Jefferson and Bingham | Big Desert |
| Hawley Mountain | ID-32-3 | 15,510 | Butte | Little Lost-Birch Creek |
| Black Canyon | ID-32-9 | 5,400 | Butte | Little Lost-Birch Creek |
| Cedar Butte | ID-33-4 | 35,700 | Bingham | Big Desert |
| Petticoat Peak | ID-28-1 | 11,298 | Caribou and Bannock | Pocatello |

LOCATION

The five WSAs are scattered throughout southeastern Idaho. The Petticoat Peak WSA is 1 mile northeast of Lava Hot Springs. This WSA was in the Burley District, until October of 1983, when a special merger placed it in the Idaho Falls District. Now all five WSAs are within the Idaho Falls District. Hawley Mountain lies at the upper end of the Little Lost Valley, while Black Canyon is at the valley's lower end, at the base of the Lemhi Mountains. Cedar Butte and Hell's Half Acre are located between Idaho Falls and Big Southern Butte. See Map 1 for WSA locations.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE IDENTIFICATION AND SCOPING

Scoping for this EIS has been an on-going process throughout the wilderness review. Issues have been identified through a variety of scoping efforts. They included public comment periods, meetings and hearings on the wilderness inventory and draft EIS. Federal, State and local agencies were asked to provide information that would help identify issues. BLM staff input was also part of the scoping process.

In late January 1982, BLM sent information letters to 450 individuals, organizations and government representatives. The letter offered an opportunity for people to give the BLM their ideas on what concerns and issues should be addressed in the EIS. Thirty-eight people expressed their concerns and suggested issues to be considered. Most of the issues suggested were related to planning rather than environmental concerns.

During the scoping process consultation occurred with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concerning threatened and endangered species, the State Historic Preservation Officer about cultural resources and the Committee for Idaho's High Desert on the protection of cultural sites in the Black Canyon WSA.

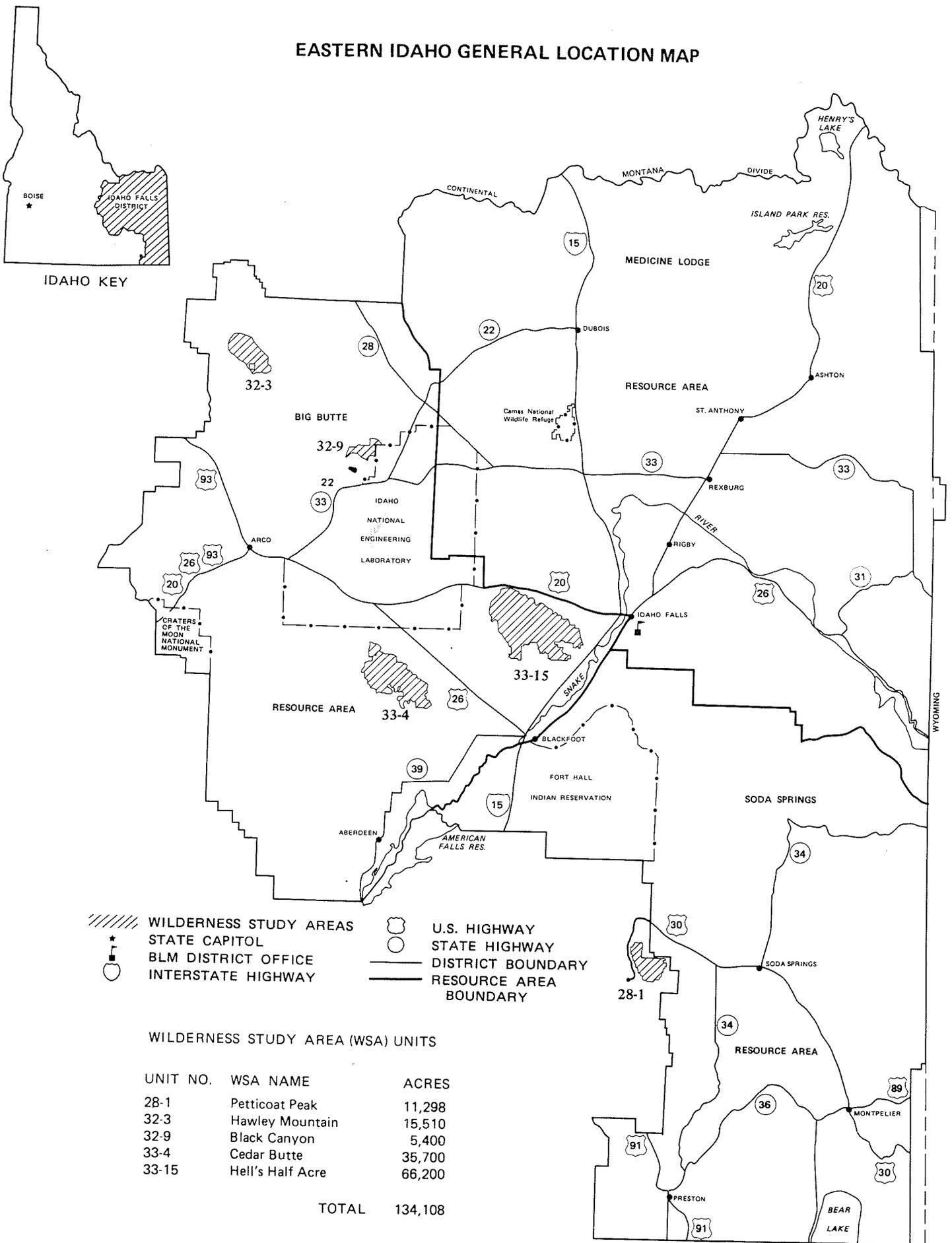
Several new environmental issues were identified from testimony and letters received during the public comment period on the draft EIS. These have been included in the following discussion of issues, and those that are significant are analyzed throughout the document. Those that are not significant are discussed under issues dropped from detailed analysis.

The environmental issues selected for analysis follow. They are divided into those that are common to all WSAs and ones that are WSA specific.

Environmental Issues Common to All WSAs

1. Impacts on Wilderness Values - The benefits of designation to the WSA's wilderness values. These values include naturalness, solitude, primitive recreation and special wilderness features (such as, cultural and geologic resources, plants and animals of special interest, and others). The same values may be affected by uses and actions that could occur if the areas were not designated.

EASTERN IDAHO GENERAL LOCATION MAP



- | | | | |
|---|------------------------|---|------------------------|
|  | WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS |  | U.S. HIGHWAY |
|  | STATE CAPITOL |  | STATE HIGHWAY |
|  | BLM DISTRICT OFFICE |  | DISTRICT BOUNDARY |
|  | INTERSTATE HIGHWAY |  | RESOURCE AREA BOUNDARY |

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (WSA) UNITS

| UNIT NO. | WSA NAME | ACRES |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| 28-1 | Petticoat Peak | 11,298 |
| 32-3 | Hawley Mountain | 15,510 |
| 32-9 | Black Canyon | 5,400 |
| 33-4 | Cedar Butte | 35,700 |
| 33-15 | Hell's Half Acre | 66,200 |
| TOTAL | | 134,108 |

MAP 1

2. Impacts to Energy and Mineral Development - This issue involves concerns over the effects of wilderness designation on opportunities for energy and mineral exploration and development. Wilderness designation would withdraw lands from new energy and mineral exploration and development, resulting in a potential adverse impact to the mineral industry.
3. Impacts to Motorized Recreation Use - Wilderness designation of an area would prohibit the use of motorized recreational vehicles. Eliminating this use could affect the availability of recreational use associated with motorized vehicle travel, and shift that use to adjacent lands.

WSA Specific Environmental Issues

1. Impacts to Timber Harvest and Management - The Petticoat Peak and Hawley Mountain WSAs contain timber resources that have the potential for commercial harvest. They also have timber stands that are insect and disease infested and may benefit from timber management practices. Wilderness designation and management would not allow harvest nor extensive timber stand improvement projects.
2. Impacts to Mule Deer Habitat - The Hawley Mountain WSA contains Mountain Mahogany stands that provide the key forage species for wintering mule deer. These mahogany stands are overmature and could be thinned and pruned to increase winter forage available to the growing deer population. Wilderness designation would not allow treatment of the Mountain Mahogany because it would degrade the wilderness character.

Issues Dropped from Detailed Analysis

1. Impacts to Threatened and Endangered Species - All of the WSAs contain suitable habitat for one or more threatened or endangered species. Threatened, endangered or sensitive species would be protected under a variety of federal laws, regulations and policy with or without wilderness designation. Also, wildlife and vegetation inventories and consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service did not identify any threatened or endangered species in the five WSAs. Therefore, impacts on threatened or endangered species are not analyzed in this document.
2. Impacts to Wildlife - This impact topic from the draft EIS has been narrowed for better analysis to impacts on mule deer. Effects to mule deer in the Hawley Mountain WSA were the only significant impacts to wildlife populations.
3. Impacts of the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL) on the WSAs - The Black Canyon, Cedar Butte and Hell's Half Acre WSAs were of specific concern. The Hell's Half Acre and Cedar Butte WSAs are far enough removed from the INEL that no impacts to their wilderness character result. The distant view of the INEL's facilities is the only impact to the Black Canyon WSA. Therefore, this situation is not analyzed in detail.

4. Impacts on Reintroduction of Bighorn Sheep - The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is attempting to reestablish bighorn sheep in the Lemhi Mountains near the Black Canyon WSA, and it is possible that habitat could be provided in the area. The Petticoat Peak WSA has also been identified as a reintroduction site, but is low priority because of the area's small size, and domestic sheep that are grazed there could transmit harmful parasites. The successful reintroduction of bighorn sheep would not be dependent on the designation of these WSAs as wilderness. Since the use of the Black Canyon WSA by bighorn sheep has not been established and reintroduction to the Petticoat Peak WSA is only speculative, this issue is not analyzed in detail.
5. Impacts on State and Private Inholdings - Inholdings are present in the Hell's Half acre, Hawley Mountain and Cedar Butte WSAs. This issue has been dropped from further consideration because the uses on these lands would not change as a result of designation or nondesignation. It is also the intention of the BLM, at the request of the Idaho Department of Lands, to exchange any State lands that are within designated wilderness. Exchanges or purchase of private lands would also be pursued in the Hell's Half Acre WSA.
6. Impacts to Predator Control - Some public comments have raised the concern that wilderness designation could inhibit efforts to control predators. Unchecked predator populations may cause losses of livestock making livestock operations less profitable. This issue is not analyzed in detail because the BLM's wilderness management policy provides for predator control within designated wilderness areas. Control would be directed at offending animals.
7. Economic Impacts to Livestock Operations - Concerns were raised that livestock operators in the Hawley Mountain and Petticoat Peak WSAs could be required to modify their operations within designated wilderness areas in a manner that would have significant economic impacts on their business. This issue is not analyzed in detail because the BLM's Wilderness Management Policy provides for the continued use of wilderness areas for livestock operations at historic levels. Although the management practices of livestock operators in both WSAs would be more closely regulated, they would continue as they did prior to wilderness designation subject to reasonable regulations.
8. Impacts to Cultural Resources - A significant degree of concern has been generated over the cultural resources in the Black Canyon WSA. These concerns were brought up by special interest groups and individuals who believe the WSA's cultural resources are being damaged at an alarming rate by vandals and looters. They also feel that the cultural resources are of high significance, and the best protection for the cultural sites is to designate the WSA wilderness.

Since the issue was originally generated, BLM archaeologists and staff specialists have conducted extensive inventories and investigations of the cultural resources in the WSA. The conclusion reached is that artifact collectors had damaged every rockshelter by 1963, and further damage has not resulted since 1976. Patrols and site checks from 1983 to 1985 have not revealed any recent signs of looting or vandalism.

Consultation in 1983 with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), was done to establish the significance of the cultural resources. The SHPO visited the WSA and provided BLM with a written statement. (See letter #70, Chapter 5). The conclusion reached is that the cultural sites in the WSA are no more significant than others in the Little Lost-Birch Creek valleys. Since the significance of the cultural values is not exceptional, and the remaining cultural sites and artifacts would be protected with or without wilderness designation, the issue of impact to cultural resources from wilderness designation is not analyzed in detail.

A cultural resource management plan will be prepared between 1988 and 1989 for the Little Lost-Birch Creek valleys. It will include the Black Canyon WSA and other BLM-administered lands in the two valleys. Six major objectives will be addressed in the plan and actions will be developed to achieve these objectives. They are as follows:

--Provide appropriate physical protection to cultural sites that includes site stabilization, protective barriers and artifact and data recovery.

--Monitor and document the condition of cultural sites and what sources may be causing deterioration.

--Provide public awareness of the laws governing cultural resources and the reasons and need to protect them.

--Encourage appropriate scientific research and studies while maintaining the integrity of cultural sites.

--Monitor recreation use to determine where administrative or physical controls are needed to protect cultural sites.

--Provide interpretation and other public information consistent with maintaining cultural values.

Until Congress decides whether or not to designate the Black Canyon WSA it will be managed under BLM's Interim Management Policy (IMP). A specific plan has been developed and implemented to protect the WSA's wilderness values and supplements the IMP. This plan is available in the Idaho Falls District Office for public inspection.

9. Economic Impacts to Local Communities from Wilderness Designation

The primary economic outputs from public lands in Southeastern Idaho are recreation and livestock grazing. Other outputs of much lesser importance are sand and gravel, phosphate, and wood products.

It is estimated that current recreational use of the five WSAs amounts to 670 visitor days annually. Although no study has been done in Idaho to estimate expenditures of wilderness users, a study in Colorado found that wilderness users spent \$15.30 per visitor day during their trip (Walsh and Loomis 1982). Using this value the total expenditures associated with recreational use of the five WSAs would amount to \$10,251. In order to determine the impact this has on the counties in which the WSAs are located this expenditure data must be converted to earnings. This was done using the U.S. Water Resources Council's gross output multipliers and earnings to gross output ratios (WRC 1977). This resulted in total earnings of \$8,984. Data from the 1980 Hunting and Fishing survey (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1980) show that 99-100% of hunting and fishing expenditures occur in the retail trade sector of the economy. It is assumed that this is also true of wilderness expenditures. In 1983 the retail trade earnings in the five affected counties (Bannock, Bingham, Butte, Caribou, Jefferson) was \$75,982,000 (Bureau of Economic Analysis 1985). This means that recreational use of the five WSAs accounted for only 0.0012% of the five county retail trade earnings. Even if use in the WSAs doubled it would not account for even 1/2 of 1% of the retail trade earnings in the affected counties. Thus, recreation use of the WSAs is clearly not a significant portion of the local economics.

Livestock grazing on the five WSAs is very limited. Hell's Half Acre and Cedar Butte are not part of a grazing allotment because adequate forage is not available for livestock use. Very limited grazing occurs on the lower slopes of Hawley Mountain and Black Canyon. An estimated 1,573 AUMs (Animal, Unit, Months) of grazing use is made on Petticoat Peak. Ranch budgets prepared for other planning efforts in Eastern Idaho indicate that each AUM generates sales of \$20.27. This means that the AUMs in the WSAs generate sales of \$31,885. Using the gross output multipliers and earnings to gross output ratios for the livestock industry, this level of sales would translate into earnings of \$19,872. The meat animal sector of the affected counties generate earnings of \$23,706,000 (Bureau of Economic Analysis 1985). This means that livestock grazing in the WSAs amounted to only 0.0008% of the five county meat animal earnings. This is clearly not a significant portion of the local economics.

Because there appears to be no significant impacts on population, personal income, employment, and other demographic factors, the issue of impacts to local communities from wilderness designation is not discussed in detail.

10. Economic Impacts Related to the Benefits and Costs of Wilderness Designation

While grazing and recreation use can be quantified, such factors as wilderness values and pristine ecological sites cannot be quantified and given a monetary value. Because of the significant qualitative issues involved, a benefit-cost analysis has not been included in this EIS (see 40 CFR Part 1502.23).

11. What type, condition and amount of road access does the area contain, and what is the need for roaded access?

This item was identified as an issue in the draft EIS, but has been dropped from detailed analysis. It relates more closely to a question that is answered in the planning effort, rather than in an environmental analysis.

12. What is the present land ownership in the WSA? What is the opportunity for acquisition on non-federal lands or the potential to manage inholdings as wilderness?

This item was identified as an issue in the draft EIS, but has been dropped from detailed analysis. The land ownership status of the WSAs was determined during the wilderness inventory. The acquisition of non-federal lands and the potential to manage inholdings are planning considerations rather than environmental.

13. What would it cost to manage the WSA as wilderness?

This item was identified as an issue in the draft EIS, but has been dropped from detailed analysis. Costs of managing a WSA would be addressed in a management plan once an area is designated. Estimating the cost of managing an area once designated would not serve as a useful analysis of environmental impacts, and are planning considerations rather than environmental.

14. How much of Idaho's public land should be wilderness? Some people believe more land should be preserved to offset lands being developed, while others feel that Idaho has enough or too much wilderness.

This item was identified as an issue in the draft EIS, but has been dropped from detailed analysis. The question of how much of Idaho's undeveloped land should be wilderness is a planning consideration beyond the scope of this EIS. The analytical purpose of this EIS is to show what environmental impacts will result if an area is designated or not designated.

THE PLANNING PROCESS, SELECTION OF THE PROPOSED
ACTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

The Planning Process and Selection of the Proposed Action

Development of the proposed action is guided by requirements of the Bureau's Planning Regulations, 43 CFR, part 1600. The BLM's Wilderness Study Policy (published February 3, 1982, in the Federal Register) supplements the planning regulations by providing the specific factors to be considered during the planning sequence in developing suitability recommendations.

The proposed action recommends as suitable for wilderness designation all of the Hell's Half Acre WSA (66,200 acres). The other four WSAs, considered in this document, are recommended as nonsuitable. They are Hawley Mountain (15,510 acres), Black Canyon (5,400 acres), Cedar Butte (35,700 acres), and Petticoat Peak (11,298 acres).

Alternatives to the Proposed Action Selected for Analysis

The BLM Wilderness Study Policy calls for the formulation and evaluation of alternatives ranging from resource protection to resource production. Therefore, the alternatives assessed in this EIS include: (1) a no wilderness alternative for each WSA; (2) the all wilderness alternative for each WSA; and (3) a partial wilderness alternative for the Hawley Mountain WSA.

A partial wilderness alternative was suggested by the public for the Hawley Mountain WSA, and has been adopted with a minor modification from the proposal. Lands that are not within the WSA boundary on the western edge were included in the partial alternative suggestion. These lands are separated from the WSA by a maintained road and have been trimmed from the Partial Wilderness Alternative analyzed in this final EIS.

In this document, the no action, as required by NEPA, and no wilderness alternatives are equivalent. Both advocate a continuation of the present resource management plan and the recommendation of the lands as nonsuitable for wilderness.

The all wilderness alternative represents the maximum possible acreage that could be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

Partial wilderness alternatives may include part of a WSA as suitable and the remaining portion as nonsuitable.

Alternatives Considered but Dropped from Analysis

A partial alternative was considered for Hell's Half Acre, Cedar Butte and Black Canyon that would recommend less than the entire acreage of each WSA as wilderness. However, adjusting boundaries and thereby reducing the size of the WSAs, was not considered a reasonable method of establishing a partial alternative. Adjustments would not significantly improve wilderness manageability, balance resource uses and reduce conflicts, or make the areas more suitable for wilderness.

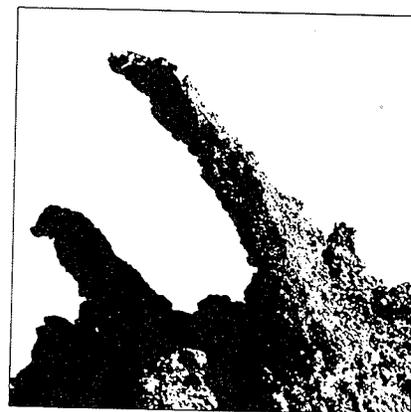
A representative of the Wilderness Society suggested an alternative that would combine adjacent Forest Service land with the Black Canyon WSA. This alternative was dropped because the Forest Service has allocated the adjacent roadless area to uses other than wilderness through their roadless area reevaluation process.

An energy and minerals alternative was suggested by a representative of a major energy company. They asked that this alternative emphasize the exploration, development and transportation of energy and other critical mineral resources. The No Wilderness Alternative provides this analysis, and is considered adequate to address their concerns.

A partial wilderness alternative was suggested for the Petticoat Peak WSA that would remove lands that are within the Fort Hall Indian Treaty of 1900. It was originally thought that rights given to the Indians under the treaty would limit BLM's ability to manage 3,200 acres in the northern portion of the area as wilderness. However, communications with the Fort Hall agency and Tribe have revealed that they see no conflict with their treaty rights and management of Petticoat Peak as wilderness. Therefore, the suggested alternative to trim the 3,200-acre northern portion from the WSA is not analyzed in this EIS.

Another type of alternative that has been considered for analysis and dropped are aggregate alternatives that include one or more WSAs as possible wilderness and the rest for other uses. Several combinations have been suggested. Because this approach does not change the WSA specific analysis for the all wilderness, no wilderness or partial wilderness alternatives, it does not provide any further reasonable options. The lack of statewide and regional issues or resource conflicts make an aggregate alternative unnecessary.

CHAPTER 2



Proposed Action and Alternatives

CHAPTER 2

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

The pattern and extent of future actions in WSAs over the long-term cannot be predicted with certainty and accuracy. However, assumptions and estimates must be made so an analysis of impacts can be performed for the proposed action and alternatives. These assumptions and estimates of what actions will occur under different alternatives are the basis for the analysis of impacts.

The following is a discussion of actions both planned and anticipated that could occur for each WSA under the proposed action and alternatives.

HELL'S HALF ACRE

PROPOSED ACTION (ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE)

All 66,200 acres of the Hell's Half Acre WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation (See Map 2).

Energy and Mineral Resource Actions

Subject to valid existing rights on 4,707 acres of oil and gas leases, 66,200 acres of the Hell's Half Acre WSA would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws.

No mineral exploration or development is expected to occur in the WSA because of lack of known deposits, the low potential for oil and gas occurrence in the area, and the abundance of saleable mineral commodities closer to regional markets.

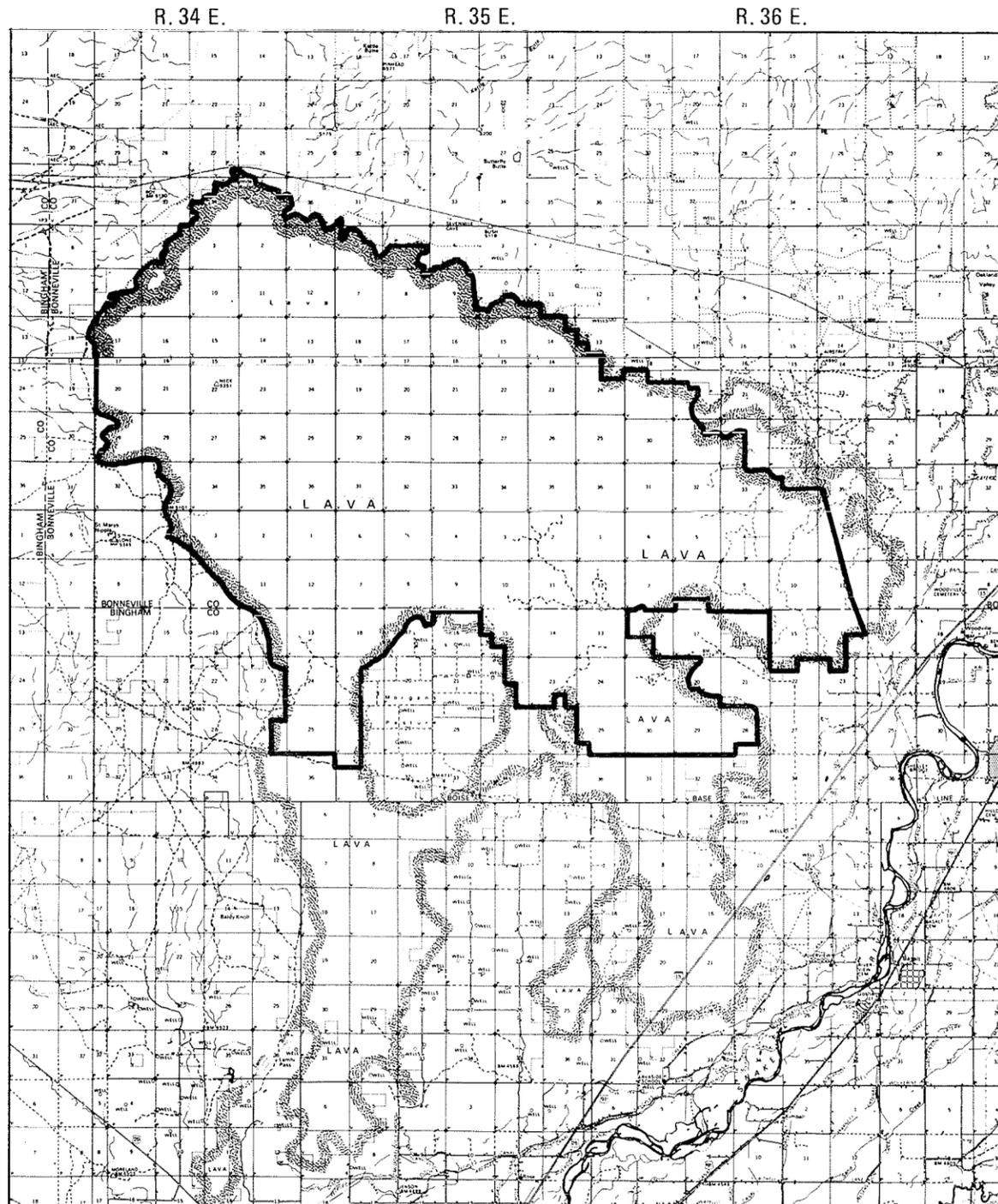
Motorized Recreation Use

The entire WSA would be closed to motorized use. This action would eliminate approximately 150 visitor days of recreational vehicle use which occurs primarily near the lava's edge. The rugged lava landscape prevents most motorized travel except for specially designed trail bikes, and where short trails into the flow allow access. These include 18 faint vehicle trails totaling 25 miles that are traveled infrequently.

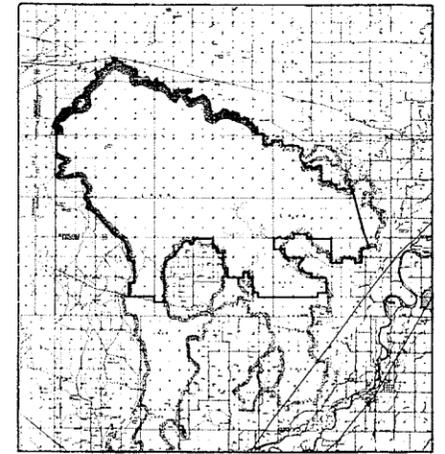
Other Recreation Use

The area would remain open for recreation activities that do not require motorized transportation. These include hunting, hiking, nature study, spelunking, photography, and others. Recreation facilities have not been developed in the area. Nonmotorized recreation use would remain below 50 visitor days for the next ten years. Projections beyond existing planning estimated (10-15 years) show that a slight increase in use could occur, but would remain below 50 visitor days annually.

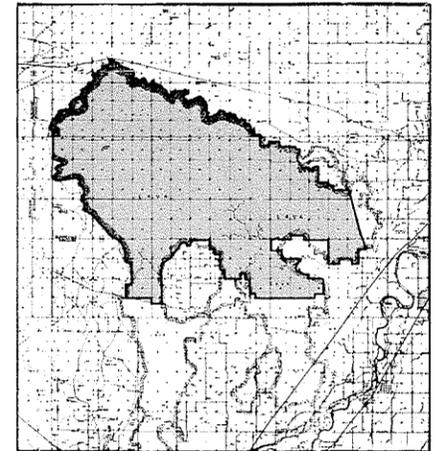
HELL'S HALF ACRE WSA ID - 33 - 15



T. 3 N.
T. 2 N.
T. 1 N.
T. 1 S.
T. 2 S.



**NO WILDERNESS (NO ACTION)
ALTERNATIVE**



**ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE
PROPOSED ACTION**

**MAP 2
HELL'S HALF ACRE WSA ID - 33 - 15
ALTERNATIVES**



- V Public Land
- S State Land
- P Private Land
- NF National Forest Land
- WSA Boundary
- █ Recommended Suitable
- █ Recommended Nonsuitable

Livestock Grazing and Management Actions

The WSA is not allotted for livestock grazing and grazing does not occur.

Management Actions to Exchange State and Private Inholdings

Action would be initiated to acquire 2560 acres of State land and 160 acres of private land through voluntary exchange.

NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

All 66,200 acres of the Hell's Half Acre WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation (See Map 2; Boundaries for the No Wilderness Alternative are the same as the Proposed Action, All Wilderness Alternative).

Energy and Minerals Actions

The WSA is classified as having low potential for metallic and non-metallic mineral resources. Although the lands would be open to location, exploration for these resources is not anticipated. Although the area will again be open to leasing and is classified as being prospectively valuable for oil and gas and low to moderate potential for having low temperature geothermal resources, mineral exploration or development is not anticipated. The 10,000 to 20,000 foot sequence of volcanic rocks that cover the sedimentary rocks in the area diminishes the interest and potential of the area for oil and gas. There has also been no interest in or manifestations of a geothermal resource in the area.

The Geology, Energy and Mineral Resource Assessment (GEM) report identifies small isolated tracts of building quality stone scattered throughout the WSA, however, it is anticipated that no development of this resource is likely to occur because of better potential and higher demand in more accessible locations throughout the Snake River Plain.

Motorized Recreation Use

The lands within the WSA would be open to motorized recreation use. Use would remain below 150 visitor days annually for the next ten years. A slight increase could be expected beyond ten years, but would not exceed 150 visitor days in the foreseeable future. The rugged lava flow prevents most motorized travel except for specially designed trail bikes, and where short trails into the flow allow access. These include 18 faint vehicle trails totaling 25 miles that are traveled infrequently.

Other Recreation Use

The area would be available for nonmotorized recreation activities. They include hunting, hiking, nature study, spelunking, photography and others. Recreation facilities have not been developed in the area. Nonmotorized

recreation use would remain below 50 visitor days for the next ten years. Projections beyond existing planning estimates (10-15 year planning cycle) show that a slight increase in use could occur, but would remain below 50 visitor days annually.

Livestock Grazing and Management Actions

The WSA is not allotted for livestock grazing, and grazing does not occur.

TABLE 2

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

Hell's Half Acre

| Environmental Issues | Proposed Action All Wilderness Alternative | No Wilderness Alternative |
|---|--|---|
| Impacts on Wilderness Values | Wilderness values and special features of scenic 4,100-year-old pahoehoe and AA lava formations, pioneering plant communities and a 44,000 acre National Natural Landmark would be preserved on 66,200 acres. Natural character would be rehabilitated along 18 miles of vehicle trails by removing the surface-disturbance of motor vehicle use. Solitude would not be disturbed near the trails because visitors would not see or hear motor vehicles. | Continued presence of motor vehicles on 18 miles of vehicle trails would slightly degrade naturalness. Solitude would be disturbed by the infrequent presence of vehicles on the fringes of the area. |
| Impacts to Energy and Mineral Development | Subject to valid existing rights on oil and gas leases, the WSA would be withdrawn from mineral entry. Because of low potential for occurrence of energy or mineral commodities, no impacts anticipated. | No Impact |
| Impacts to Motorized Recreation Use | Motorized recreation use, amounting to 150 visitor days would be foregone annually both in the short and long-term. Impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible. | No Impact |

HAWLEY MOUNTAIN

NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE (PROPOSED ACTION)

All 15,510 acres of the Hawley Mountain WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation (See Map 3).

Energy and Mineral Resource Actions

The WSA is classified as having low potential for oil and gas and for all metallic minerals. The majority of the WSA is covered by non-competitive oil and gas leases. However, no exploration activities have been conducted within or near the WSA. Although leasing would again be allowed, exploration for these resources is not anticipated because of the absence of the Triassic and Jurassic age sedimentary rocks which are major oil and gas producers in the Overthrust Belt.

Sand and gravel deposits have been identified which are scattered throughout the lower elevations of the WSA. However, it is not anticipated that this resource will be developed because of the abundance of similar deposited located closer to existing markets.

Motorized Recreation Use

The lands within the WSA would be open to motorized recreation use. Use would remain below 100 visitor days annually for the next ten years. A slight increase could be expected beyond ten years, but would not exceed 100 visitor days annually. The remote location of the WSA, and the inaccessible nature of two thirds of the mountain, prevents most motorized travel. There are 14 vehicle trails totaling 13 miles that are used mostly by hunters in the fall and sightseers for access to the area's canyons and lower slopes.

Other Recreation Use

The Hawley Mountain WSA would be open for other recreation activities that do not require motorized transportation. They include hunting, hiking, sightseeing and others. Recreation use for these activities would remain below 75 visitor days for the next ten years. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the area, and none are planned nor anticipated in the foreseeable future. A slight increase in use may occur, but would not exceed 75 visitor days.

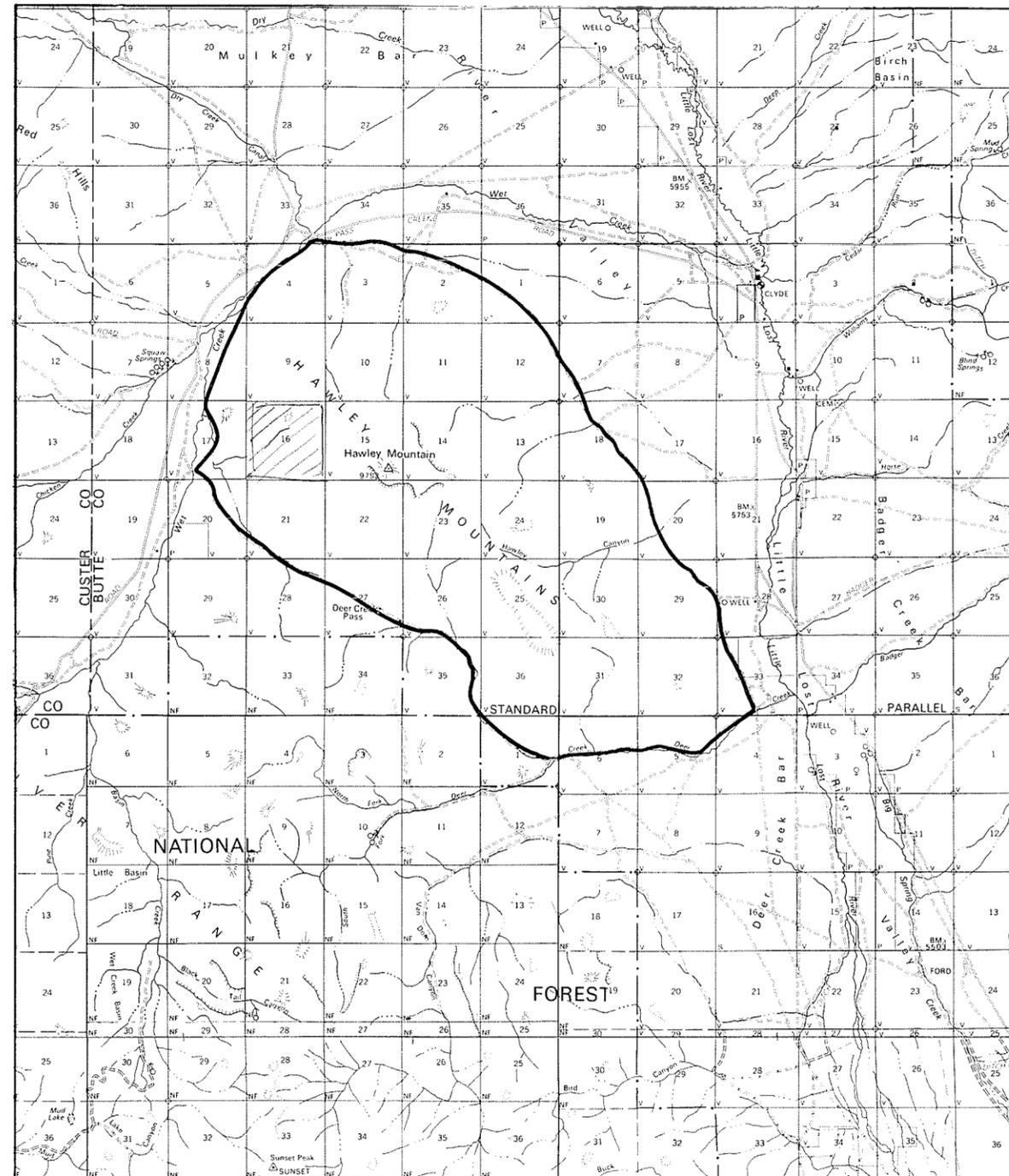
Timber Harvest and Management Actions

Under the No Wilderness Alternative, timber harvest and management actions would not occur for the next 10-15 years. Beyond this period, timber harvest is anticipated on 2,724 acres of commercial forest land located throughout the northern slopes of Hawley Mountain. Timber sales and precommercial thinning projects would be initiated. Douglas-fir would be the primary species harvested, and would yield approximately 10 MMBF of timber. Cutting methods

HAWLEY MOUNTAIN WSA ID - 32 - 3

R. 26 E.

R. 27 E.



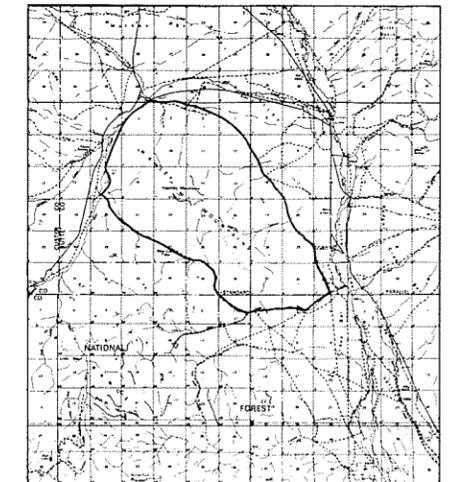
MAP 3
HAWLEY MOUNTAIN WSA ID - 32 - 3
ALTERNATIVES

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|-----|-------------------------|
| V | Public Land | — | WSA Boundary |
| S | State Land | ▨ | Recommended Suitable |
| P | Private Land | --- | Recommended Nonsuitable |
| NF | National Forest Land | | |

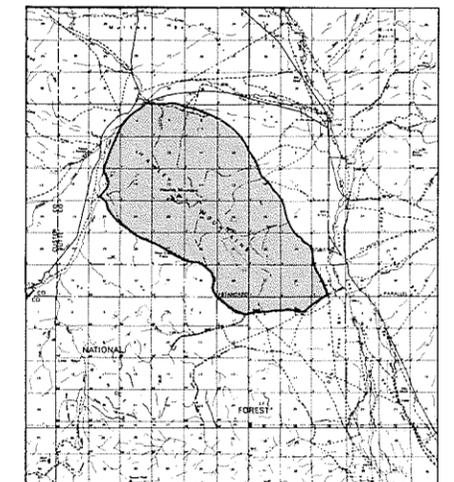
T. 10 N.

T. 9 N.

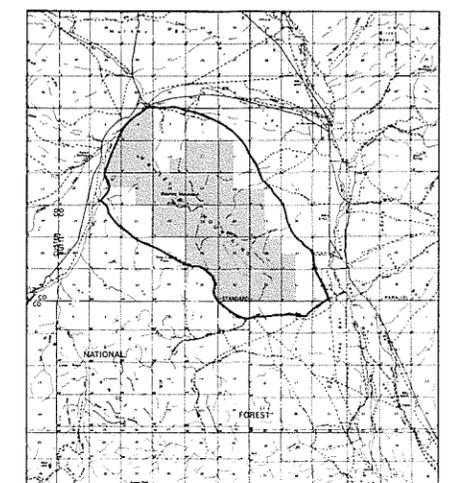
T. 8 N.



NO WILDERNESS (NO ACTION)
ALTERNATIVE
PROPOSED ACTION



ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE



PARTIAL WILDERNESS
ALTERNATIVE

would be limited to selection and shelterwood techniques. Aerial logging systems would be used, and about twenty-five percent of each stand of trees would be removed. Roads would not be constructed to support any of the logging operations.

Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

About one third of the Hawley Mountain WSA would continue to be allotted for livestock grazing at 400 AUMs annually. No changes in livestock use are planned or expected in the foreseeable future. Stocking rates will remain at current low levels and grazing patterns will not change. No range improvement projects or vegetative treatments are planned or anticipated.

Mule Deer Habitat Improvement Actions

Mule deer winter range habitat on about 300 acres would be improved by thinning overmature mountain mahogany thickets. Thinning would involve removing one third to one half of the mature shrubs. Cutting would occur on the lower north and south slopes of Hawley Mountain. Cut branches and shrubs would be left on the ground to stimulate seedling establishment and protect new plants from browsing.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

All 15,510 acres of the Hawley Mountain WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation (See Map 3; Boundaries for the All Wilderness Alternative are the same as the Proposed Action, No Wilderness Alternative).

Energy and Mineral Resource Actions

Subject to valid existing rights on 3,850 acres of oil and gas leases, 15,510 acres of the Hawley Mountain WSA will be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws.

The majority of the WSA is covered by non-competitive oil and gas leases, and no exploration activities have been conducted within or near the WSA.

No mineral exploration or development is expected to occur in the WSA because of lack of known mineral deposits, the lack of oil and gas potential, and the abundance of known mineral material sources closer to regional markets.

Motorized Recreation Use

The entire WSA would be closed to motorized use. This action would eliminate approximately 100 visitor days of recreation vehicle use.

Other Recreation Use

The area would remain open for recreation activities that do not require motorized transportation. These include hunting, hiking, sightseeing and

others. Recreation use for these activities could increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 75 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the area, and none are planned or anticipated.

Timber Harvest and Management Actions

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, 2,724 acres of commercial forest land in the WSA would not be harvested or be managed to produce commercial timber products. Approximately 10 MMBF of potential timber would be lost.

Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

About one third of the Hawley Mountain WSA would continue to be allotted for livestock grazing at 400 AUMs annually. No changes in livestock use are planned or expected in the foreseeable future. Stocking rates will remain at current low levels and grazing patterns will not change. No range improvement projects or vegetative treatments are planned or anticipated.

Mule Deer Habitat Improvement Actions

Mule deer winter range habitat on about 300 acres would not be improved by thinning overmature mountain mahogany thickets.

Management Actions to Exchange State Inholdings

Action would be initiated to acquire 1,280 acres of State land through voluntary exchange.

PARTIAL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

A portion of the Hawley Mountain WSA, with 10,400 acres, would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. The remaining 5,110 acres, located around the lower slopes of the mountain, would be recommended as nonsuitable for designation (See Map 4).

Energy and Mineral Resource Actions

Subject to valid existing rights on 3,850 acres of oil and gas leases, 10,400 acres of the Hawley Mountain WSA will be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws.

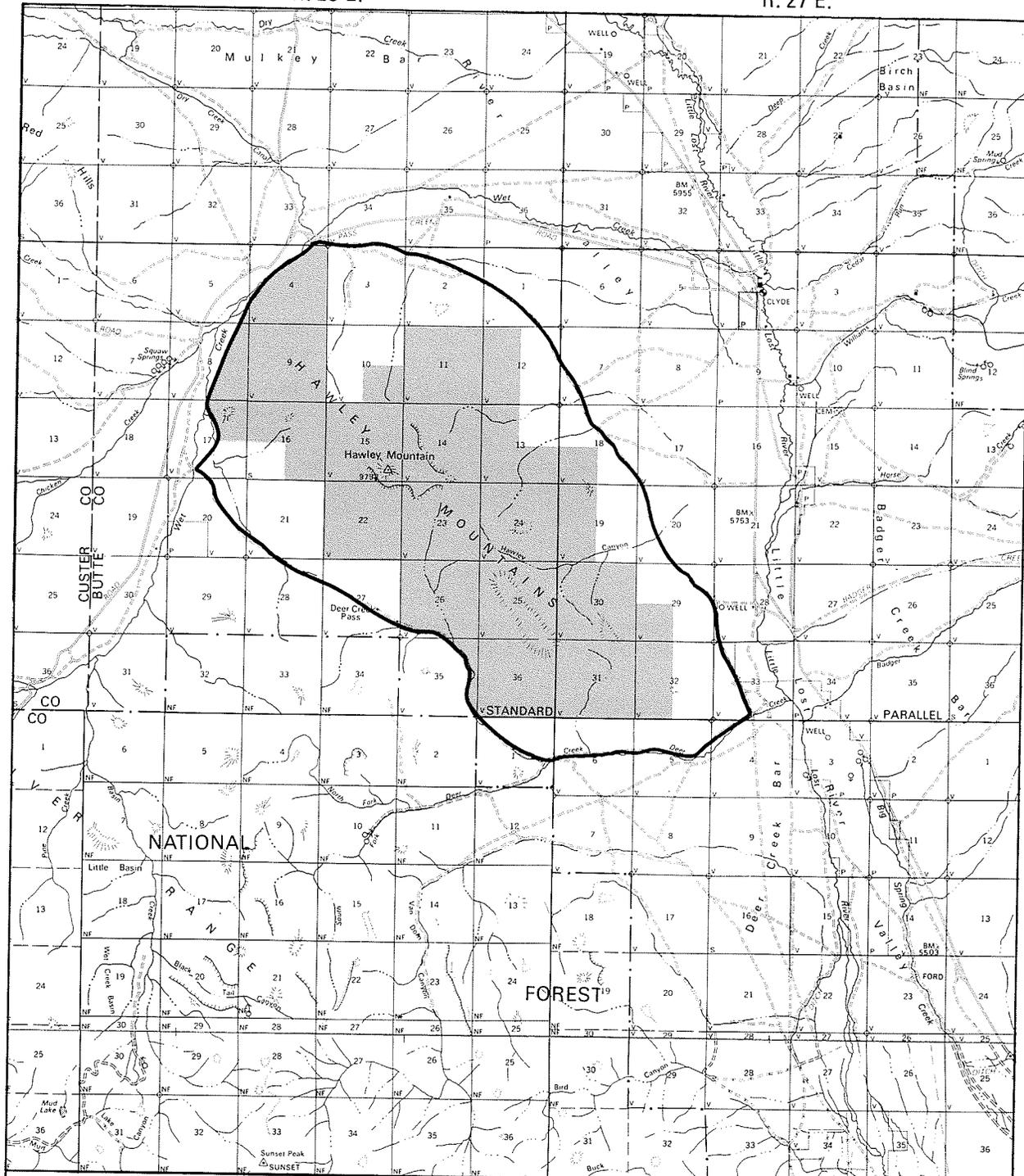
The majority of the WSA is covered by non-competitive oil and gas leases. However, no exploration activities have been conducted within or near the WSA.

No mineral exploration or development is expected to occur in the WSA because of lack of known mineral deposits, the low oil and gas potential, and the abundance of known mineral material sources closer to regional markets.

HAWLEY MOUNTAIN WSA ID - 32 - 3

R. 26 E.

R. 27 E.



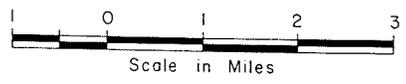
T. 10 N.

T. 9 N.

T. 8 N.

MAP 4

HAWLEY MOUNTAIN WSA ID - 32 - 3 PARTIAL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE



- V Public Land
- S State Land
- P Private Land
- NF National Forest Land
- WSA Boundary
- Recommended Suitable
- Recommended Nonsuitable



Motorized Recreation Use

The 10,400-acre parcel recommended as suitable for wilderness designation would be closed to motorized recreational use. There are no roads or trails in this portion of the WSA. Visitor use associated with motorized travel would not be affected under this alternative.

The 5,110-acre parcel recommended nonsuitable would remain open for motorized use. Projections beyond existing planning estimates indicate the motorized recreation use could increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 100 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future.

Other Recreation Use

The area would remain open for recreation activities that do not require motorized transportation. These include hunting, hiking, sightseeing and others. Recreation use for these activities could increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 75 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the area, and none are planned or anticipated.

Timber Harvest and Management Actions

Under the Partial Wilderness Alternative, 2,724 acres of commercial forest land in the WSA would not be harvested or managed to produce commercial timber products. Approximately 10 MMBF of potential timber would be lost.

Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

About one third of the Hawley Mountain WSA would continue to be allotted for livestock grazing at 400 AUMs annually. Grazing would occur in the 5,110-acre parcel recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. No changes in livestock use are planned or expected in the foreseeable future. Stocking rates will remain at current low levels and grazing patterns will not change. No range improvement projects or vegetative treatments are planned or anticipated.

Mule Deer Habitat Improvement Actions

Mule deer winter range habitat on about 300 acres would not be improved by thinning overmature mountain mahogany thickets.

Management Actions to Exchange State Inholdings

Action to acquire, through exchange, 1,280 acres of State land would be undertaken.

TABLE 3

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

Hawley Mountain

| Environmental Issues | Proposed Action No Wilderness Alt. | All Wilderness Alternative | Partial Wilderness Alternative |
|--|--|---|---|
| Impacts on Wilderness Values | Naturalness and solitude would be lost on 3,024 acres from timber cutting, mule deer habitat improvement and motorized recreation use. | Wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, primitive recreation and special features would be preserved on 15,510 acres, and enhanced slightly by eliminating motorized recreation use. | Wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, primitive recreation and special features would be preserved on 10,400 acres. Naturalness and solitude would be degraded slightly on 5,100 acres of the WSAs lower slopes by continued motor vehicle use. |
| Impacts to Energy and Mineral Development | No Impact | Subject to valid existing rights on 3,850 acres of oil and gas leases, the WSA would be withdrawn for location and leasing. Because of low potential for occurrence of energy or mineral resources, no impacts are anticipated. | Subject to valid existing rights on 3,850 acres of oil and gas leases, the WSA would be withdrawn for location and leasing. Because of low potential for occurrence of energy or mineral resources, no impacts are anticipated. |
| Impacts to Motorized Recreation Use | No Impact | Motorized recreation use, amounting to 150 visitor days would be foregone annually. | No Impact |
| Impacts to Timber Harvest and Management | No Impact | Timber resources totaling 10 MMBF on 2,724 acres of the WSA would not be harvested. | Timber resources totaling 10 MMBF on 2,724 acres of the WSA would not be harvested. |

TABLE 3 continued

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

Hawley Mountain

| Environmental Issues | Proposed Action No Wilderness Alt. | All Wilderness Alternative | Partial Wilderness Alternative |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Impacts to Mule Deer Habitat Improvement | No Impact | Mule deer habitat on 300 acres would not be improved and the present herd's health and condition would decline. The po- tential of 45 more animals would be lost. | Mule deer habitat on 300 acres would not be improved and the present herd's health and condition would decline. The po- tential of 45 more animals would be lost. |

BLACK CANYON

NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE (PROPOSED ACTION)

All 5,400 acres of the Black Canyon WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation (See Map 5).

Energy and Mineral Resource Actions

The WSA is classified as having low to moderate potential for oil and gas occurrence. Therefore, seismic exploration may occur throughout the area. Past exploration methods utilized in similar areas near the WSA would indicate that any potential seismic exploration will be conducted by helicopter and that no surface disturbance activities would occur. Although the area would be available for leasing and has been classified as being prospectively valuable for oil and gas, exploration for these resources is not anticipated because the WSA is not underlain by the Triassic and Jurassic formations which are the major producers in the Overthrust Belt.

No unpatented mining claims exist within the Black Canyon WSA. However, two mining districts do exist three miles northwest of the WSA. In the past metallic metals including lead, silver and copper deposits have been mined within the two mining districts. However, no mining activity is currently being conducted. It is not anticipated that development of metallic metals will occur in the WSA. Mineral fractures that contain metallic ore bodies are located three miles to the northwest but do not extend into the WSA. Also, an exploratory drilling operation adjacent to the WSA yielded no evidence of mineralization, and the claim was abandoned.

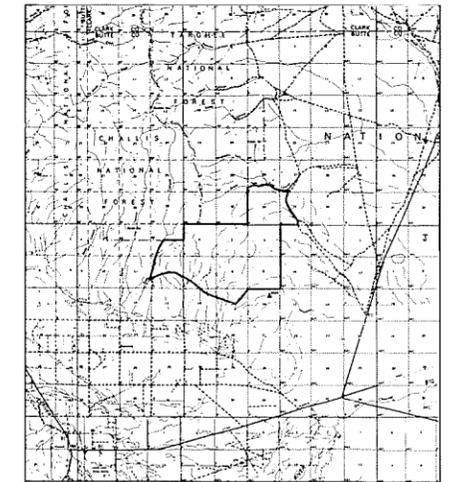
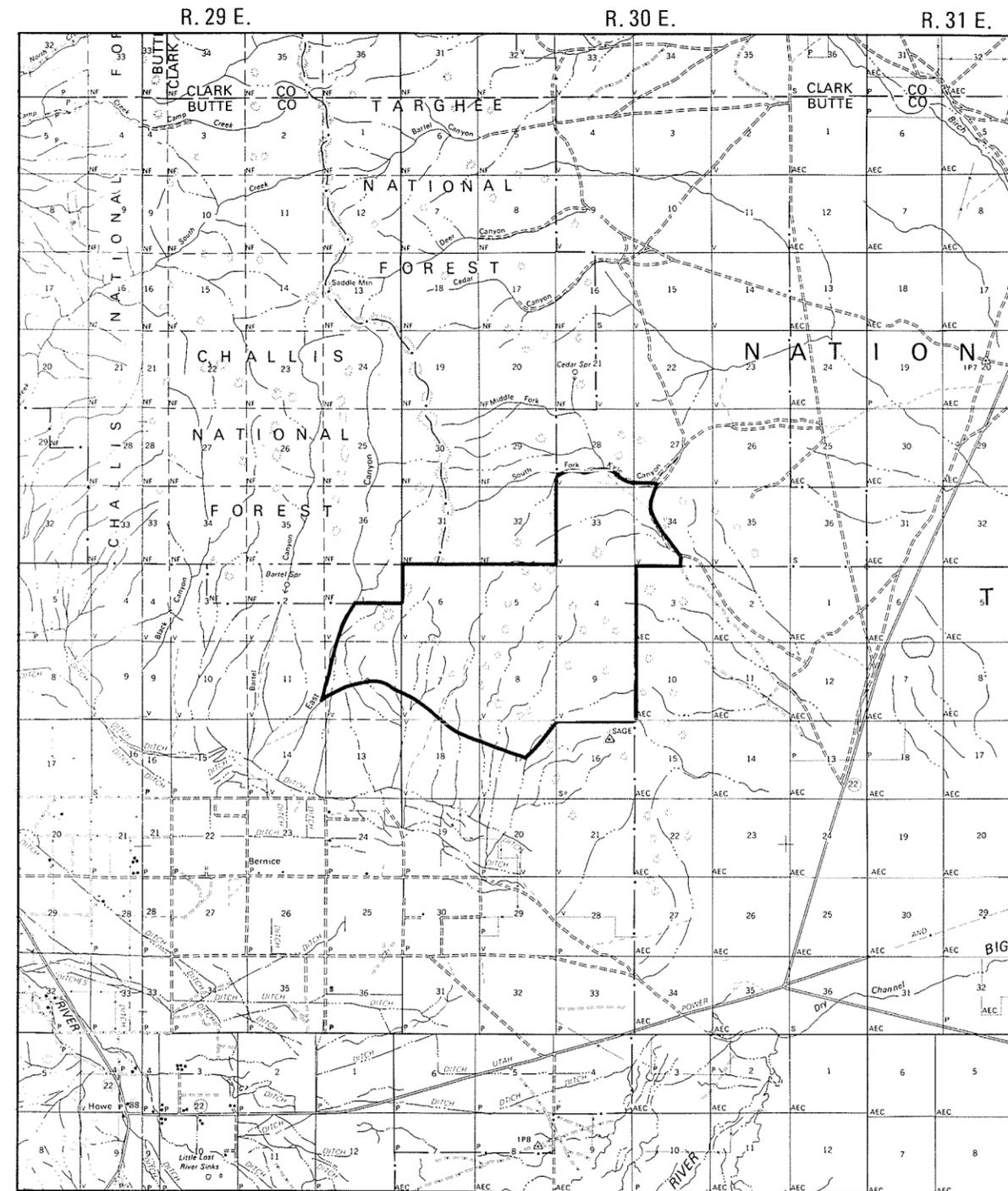
The southern twenty-seven percent of the area is withdrawn from mineral entry to protect cultural resources from possible mining impacts. However, no development of mineral resources is expected because of lack of known deposits.

Lands at lower elevations in the WSA are underlain by considerable quantities of sand and gravel. It is not anticipated that these deposits will be developed because similar deposits are located much closer to areas of consumption.

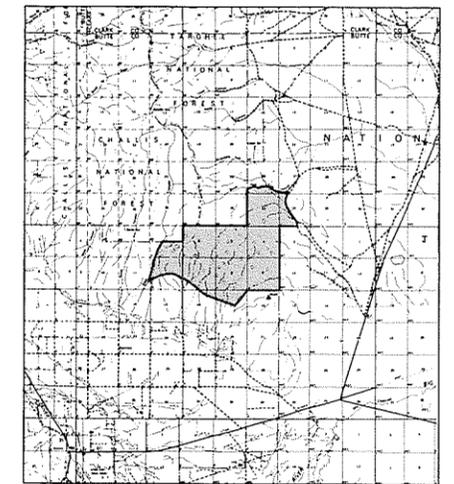
Although deposits of limestone and dolomite have been identified throughout the WSA, it is anticipated that demand and distance to market will preclude any development.

The WSA is classified as having low potential for low temperature geothermal resources, therefore no exploration and development is expected.

BLACK CANYON WSA ID - 32 - 9

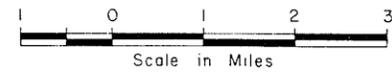


**NO WILDERNESS (NO ACTION)
ALTERNATIVE
PROPOSED ACTION**



ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

**MAP 5
BLACK CANYON WSA ID - 32 - 9
ALTERNATIVES**



- V Public Land
- S State Land
- P Private Land
- NF National Forest Land
- WSA Boundary
- Recommended Suitable
- Recommended Nonsuitable



Motorized Recreation Use

The entire WSA would be open for motorized recreation use. A slight increase in use could be expected, but would remain below 90 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. There are 5 vehicle ways that extend in two canyons from the southern towards the northern boundary for a total of 4 miles. Further improvement of these ways is not planned or anticipated.

Other Recreation Use

The Black Canyon WSA would remain open for recreation activities that do not require motorized transportation. These include hunting, hiking, sightseeing, nature study and others. Recreation use for these activities could increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 40 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the area, and none are planned or anticipated.

Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

About one fourth of the Black Canyon WSA would continue to be allotted for livestock grazing at 308 AUMs. This grazing use is limited to the southern and northeastern edges of the WSA, and takes place on about 3,200 acres. No grazing occurs on the remaining 2,200 acres because of the steep terrain and lack of water.

During the next 10 years or foreseeable future, stocking rates will remain constant and grazing patterns will be unchanged. No range improvement projects or vegetation treatments are planned.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

All 5,400 acres of the Black Canyon WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation (See Map 5; Boundaries for the All Wilderness Alternative are the same as the Proposed Action, No Wilderness Alternative).

Energy and Minerals Resource Actions

The 5,400 acre Black Canyon WSA would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mineral leasing and mining laws. Seismic exploration which may occur throughout the WSA will be foregone. However, impacts to oil and gas development are not anticipated because oil producing formations are absent in the WSA.

The area is classified as having low potential for metallic and nonmetallic mineral resources. Therefore, locatable mineral development is not anticipated.

Lands at lower elevations in the WSA are underlain by considerable quantities of sand and gravel. It is not anticipated that these deposits will be developed because similar deposits are located much closer to areas of consumption.

Although deposits of limestone and dolomite have been identified throughout the WSA, it is anticipated that demand and distance to market will preclude any development.

The WSA is classified as having low potential for low temperature geothermal resources, therefore no exploration and development is expected.

Motorized Recreation Use

The entire WSA would be closed to motorized use. This action would eliminate approximately 90 visitor days annually.

Other Recreation Use

The Black Canyon WSA would remain open for recreation activities that do not require motorized transportation. These include hunting, hiking, nature study, and others. Recreation use for these activities would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 40 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future.

Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

About one fourth of the Black Canyon WSA would continue to be allotted for livestock grazing at 308 AUMs. This grazing use is limited to the southern and northeastern edges of the WSA, and takes place on about 3,200 acres. No grazing occurs on the remaining 2,200 acres because of the steep terrain and lack of water.

During the next 10 years or foreseeable future, stocking rates will remain constant and grazing patterns will be unchanged. No range improvement projects or vegetation treatments are planned.

TABLE 4

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

Black Canyon

| Environmental Issues | Proposed Action No Wilderness Alternative | All Wilderness Alternative |
|---|--|---|
| Impacts on Wilderness Values | Motorized use would slightly degrade naturalness and solitude. Low use vehicle trails would be maintained by travel with the possibility of being expanded slightly by cross-country use. However, no increase in visitor use is projected above current levels and new impacts will be confined to the existing trails. Solitude would be disrupted slightly by the presence of vehicles, particularly during the hunting seasons. Over the long-term, the WSA would retain the natural character and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation because of the anticipated low use by recreationists. | Wilderness values and special features would be preserved on 5,400 acres, and enhanced slightly by eliminating motorized use. The values include deep winding canyons with caves and vertical rock formations, a variety of raptors and signs of early inhabitants such as pictographs and lithic scatters. |
| Impacts to Energy and Mineral Development | No Impact | No valid existing rights. Lands would be withdrawn from location and leasing. Because of low potential for mineral occurrence, no exploration or development is anticipated. |
| Impacts to Motorized Recreation Use | No Impact | Motorized recreation use, amounting to 90 visitor days, would be foregone. |

CEDAR BUTTE

No Wilderness Alternative (Proposed Action)

All 35,700 acres of the Cedar Butte WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation (See Map 6).

Energy and Mineral Resource Actions

The WSA has been classified by BLM as having low potential for oil and gas and geothermal resources. However, industry feels that a rating of medium would be more appropriate. Based on BLM's review of all available mineral information, a low potential rating is assigned. Industry has been unable to provide information to the contrary. The thick sequence of Snake River basalts underlying the area and the presence of volcanic vents makes the area a low interest area for oil and gas exploration. Leasing is anticipated to continue in the area, but exploration activity is not anticipated.

The WSA is classified as having low potential for metallic and non-metallic mineral resources. Therefore, exploration of these resources is not anticipated.

Six building stone placer mining claims, covering 454 acres, are located near the northwestern boundary of the WSA. Analysis of the quality of the material on each of these claims indicated that 25 acres of the total 454 acres contain locatable quality stone. It is anticipated that development is highly likely to occur on these 25 acres. Based on similar developments in the Snake River Plain it is estimated that 25 acres of surface disturbance would occur from the actual removal of the slab plates, 3 acres of disturbance would occur from road construction, and 2 acres of disturbance would occur from rock storage.

Motorized Recreation Use

The lands within the WSA would be open to motorized recreation use. There are four faint vehicle trails totaling 4 miles that are traveled infrequently. Use would remain below 50 visitor days annually for the next ten years. A slight increase could be expected beyond ten years, but would not exceed 50 visitor days in the foreseeable future. The lava landscape prevents most motorized travel because of its rugged surface and remote location away from population centers.

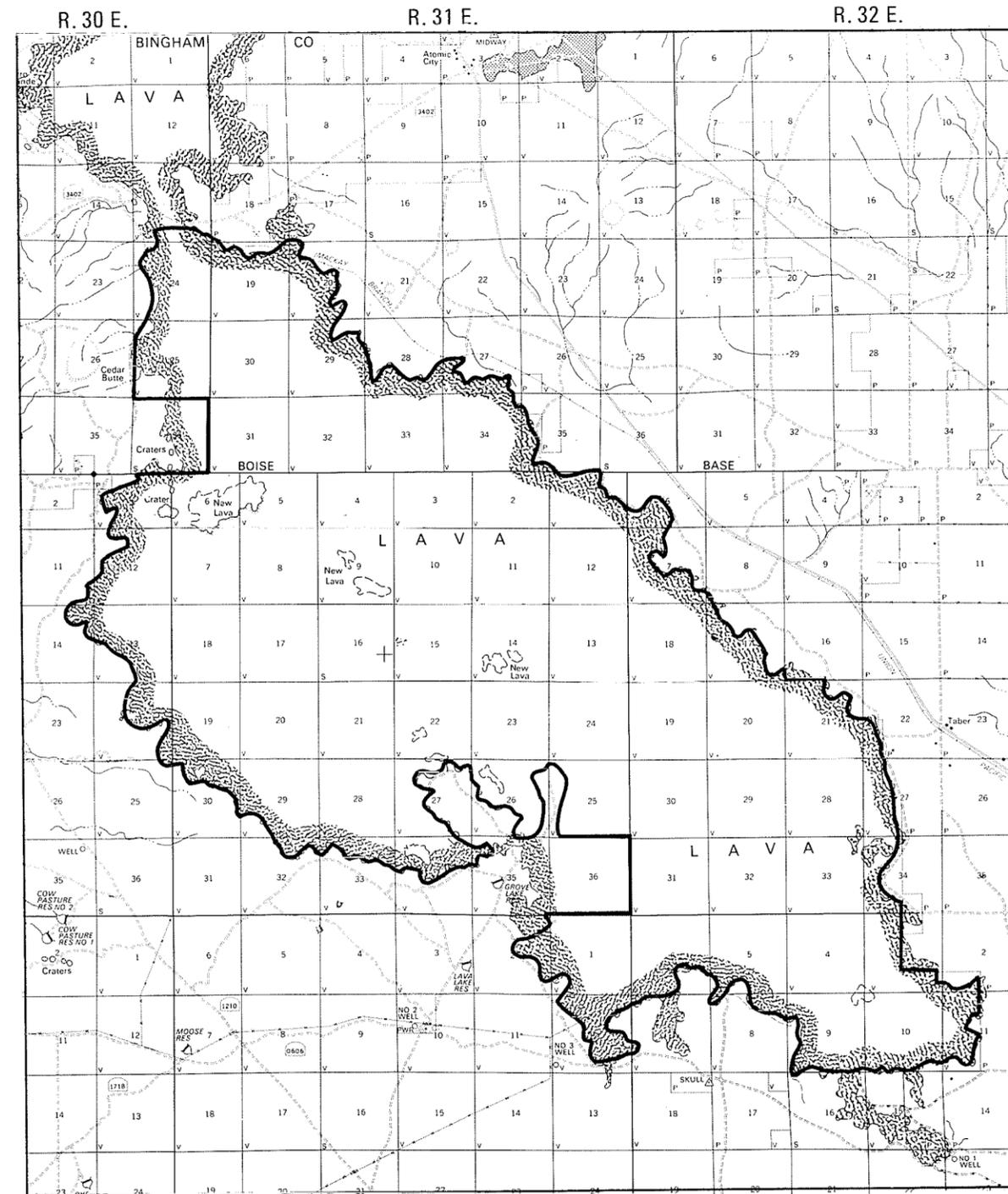
Other Recreation Use

The area would be available for nonmotorized recreation activities. They include hunting, hiking, nature study, and others. Recreation facilities have not been developed in the area or are they planned. Nonmotorized recreation use would remain below 50 visitor days for the next ten years. Projections beyond existing planning estimated (10-15 year planning cycle) show that a slight increase in use could occur, but would remain below 50 visitor days annually.

Livestock Grazing and Management Actions

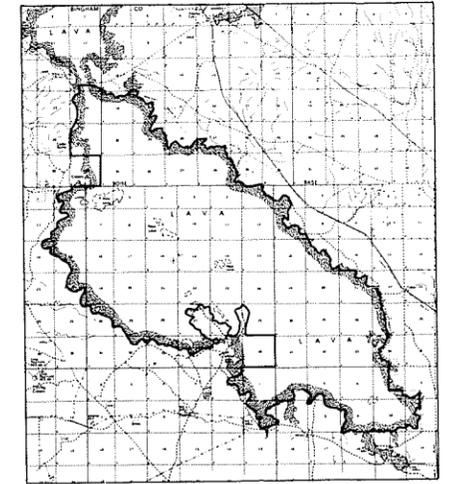
No livestock grazing occurs on the WSA and none has been allotted.

CEDAR BUTTE WSA ID - 33 - 4

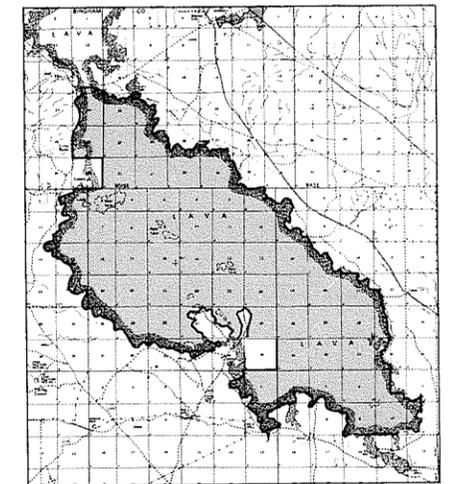


MAP 6
CEDAR BUTTE WSA ID - 33 - 4
ALTERNATIVES

- V | Public Land
- S | State Land
- P | Private Land
- NF | National Forest Land
- | WSA Boundary
- ▨ | Recommended Suitable
- | Recommended Nonsuitable



NO WILDERNESS (NO ACTION)
ALTERNATIVE
PROPOSED ACTION



ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

T. 1 N.

T. 1 S.

T. 2 S.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

All 35,700 acres of the Cedar Butte WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation (See Map 6; Boundaries for the All Wilderness Alternative are the same as the Proposed Action, No Wilderness Alternative).

Energy and Minerals Resource Actions

The WSA has been classified as having low potential for oil and gas and geothermal resources. The thick sequence of Snake River basalts underlying the area and the presence of volcanic vents makes the area a low interest area for oil and gas exploration. Geothermal potential is low because of the lack of increasing heat gradients with depth.

The WSA is classified as having low potential for metallic and non-metallic mineral resources. Therefore, exploration of these resources is not anticipated.

Subject to valid existing rights on 17,026 acres of oil and gas leases, 35,700 acres of the Cedar Butte WSA would be withdrawn from all appropriations under the mining and mineral leasing laws. Validity exams would be conducted on the six post-FLPMA unpatented mining claims. It is anticipated that three of the claims will be proven invalid, and three claims valid. Within the three valid claims, locatable lava building stone occurs on about 25 acres. The stone would be removed from the surface on 25 acres. One mile of access road would be built, and a two-acre rock storage area would be established. Up to 100 acres surrounding the locatable stone could be patented by the claimant.

Motorized Recreation Use

The entire WSA would be closed to motorized use. This action would eliminate approximately 50 visitor days annually. The lava landscape prevents most motorized travel.

Other Recreation Use

The area would remain open for recreation activities that do not require motorized transportation. These include hunting, hiking, nature study, and others. Recreation facilities have not been developed in the area, and none are planned. Nonmotorized recreation use would remain below 50 visitor days annually for the next ten years. Projections beyond existing planning estimated (10-15 years) show that a slight increase in use could occur, but would remain below 50 visitor days annually.

Livestock Grazing and Management Actions

No livestock grazing occurs on the WSA.

Management Actions to Exchange State Inholdings

Action would be initiated to acquire 640 acres of State land through voluntary exchange.

TABLE 5

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

Cedar Butte

| Environmental Issues | Proposed Action No Wilderness Alternative | All Wilderness Alternative |
|---|---|--|
| Impacts on Wilderness Values | <p>Naturalness, solitude, primitive recreation and special features would be lost on up to 100 acres of lava building stone claims and 20 acres of building stone sale area. Views of the stone removal activities could be seen from only about 1/2 mile radius of the mine because the lava terrain would screen most views. This would be a short term impact (3-5 yrs) because mining activity would cease after the stone supply is depleted. Over the long term, views of the material area would have an insignificant impact because only a thin layer of surface rock would have been removed. Over the long term, 35,580 acres of the WSA would retain wilderness values.</p> | <p>Wilderness values and special features of pristine pahoehoe formations and pioneering plant communities would be preserved on 35,600 acres, and degraded on lava building stone mining claims involving up to 100 acres. Four miles of peripheral vehicle trails would rehabilitate by eliminating 50 visitor days of motorized recreation use.</p> |
| Impacts to Energy and Mineral Development | <p>No Impact</p> | <p>Subject to valid existing rights on 17,026 acres of oil and gas leases, the WSA would be withdrawn from leasing and location. Withdrawal will not impact exploration because of low potential. Wilderness designation would require validity exam on building stone claims.</p> |
| Impacts to Motor- ized Recreation Use | <p>No Impact</p> | <p>Motorized recreation use, amounting to 50 visitor days would be foregone annually both in the short and long-term. Impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.</p> |

PETTICOAT PEAK

NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE (PROPOSED ACTION)

All 11,298 acres of the Petticoat Peak WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation (See Map 7).

Energy and Mineral Resource Actions

The WSA is classified as having low to moderate potential for oil and gas occurrence. Therefore, seismic exploration may occur throughout the area. Past exploration methods utilized in similar areas near the WSA, would indicate that any potential seismic exploration will be conducted by helicopter, and that no surface disturbance activities would occur. Should these geophysical operations indicate the presence of subsurface structures, an exploratory well could be proposed. Although the location of such a well cannot be determined at this time, topography of the WSA dictates that any exploratory drilling be limited to easier accessed fringe areas and would disturb 4 to 10 acres. A drill pad would be cleared, and drill cuttings stored adjacent to the hole.

Although the area is classified as low to moderate potential for low temperature geothermal resources, exploration is not anticipated because of better potential in areas outside the WSA. No unpatented mining claims exist within the WSA and no locatable type mineral deposits are known to occur within the WSA. Therefore, no exploration or development of the mineral resource is anticipated.

Low grade manganese has been mined near the town of Lava Hot Springs four miles southwest of the WSA. Although the highly faulted Petticoat Peak WSA may contain such deposits, it is anticipated that such deposits will not be developed because of their extremely low grade and widely dispersed nature.

Although sand and gravel occurs along the Portneuf River Valley, very little occurs within the WSA. This resource is not expected to be developed because higher quality and quantities of material exist in numerous areas outside the WSA.

Motorized Recreation Use

The lands within the WSA would be limited to motorized recreation use on 2 miles of roads and trails. Use would remain below 100 visitor days annually for the next ten years. A slight increase could be expected beyond ten years, but would not exceed 100 visitor days annually.

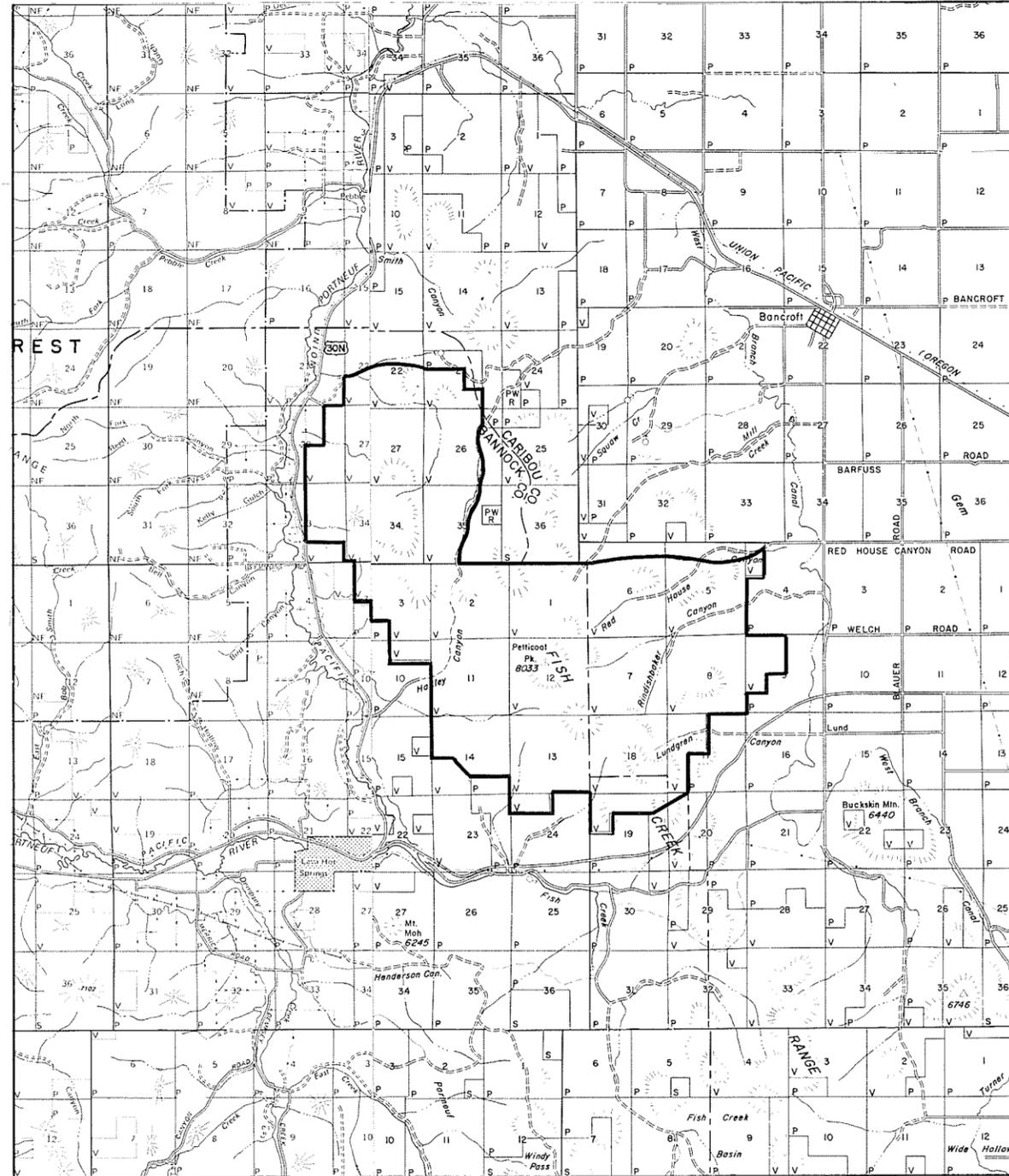
Other Recreation Use

The area would be available for nonmotorized recreation activities. They include hunting, hiking, nature study, and others. Recreation use for these activities would remain below 75 visitor days annually for the next ten years or within the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities are planned or anticipated.

PETTICOAT PEAK WSA ID - 28 - 1

R. 38 E.

R. 39 E.



T. 8 S.

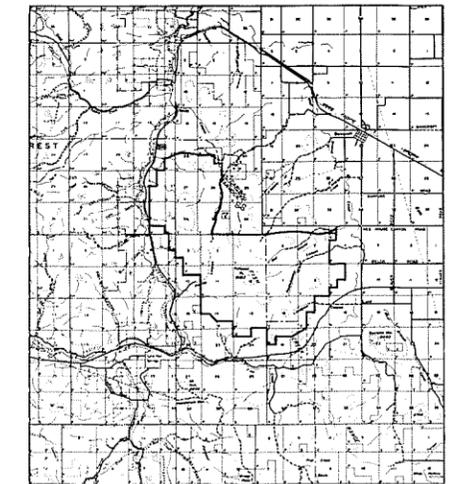
T. 9 S.

T. 10 S.

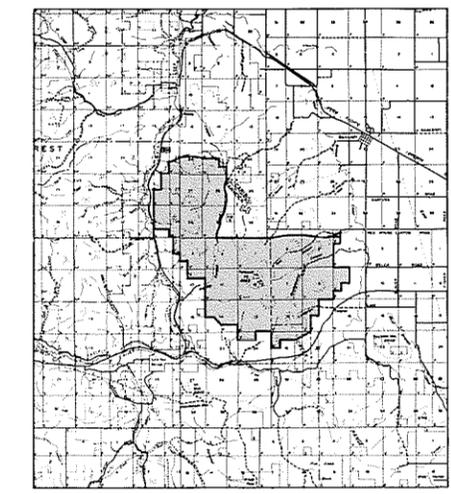
MAP 7
PETTICOAT PEAK WSA ID - 28 - 1
ALTERNATIVES



- V Public Land
- S State Land
- P Private Land
- NF National Forest Land
- WSA Boundary
- █ Recommended Suitable
- Recommended Nonsuitable



NO WILDERNESS (NO ACTION)
ALTERNATIVE
PROPOSED ACTION



ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

Timber Harvest and Management Actions

Under the No Wilderness Alternative, timber harvest and management actions would not occur for the next 10-15 years. Beyond this period timber sales are anticipated on 994 acres in Rindlishbaker, Red and North canyons, and precommercial thinning on 530 acres in Rindlishbaker Canyon. Lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir would be the primary species harvested, and would yield approximately 2.5 MMBF of timber. Cutting methods would be limited to selection-techniques along existing roads for the commercial timber. About forty percent of the 15-20 year-old trees would be removed under the precommercial thinning projects. No new road construction would be necessary to support timber harvest and management actions.

Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

All of the Petticoat Peak WSA would continue to be allotted for livestock grazing at 1,282 AUMs annually. Sheep grazing occurs in the southern half of the WSA and cattle grazing in the northern half. No changes in livestock use are planned or expected in the foreseeable future. Stocking rates will remain at current levels and grazing patterns will not change significantly. No range improvement projects or vegetative treatments are planned or anticipated.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

All 11,298 acres of the Petticoat Peak WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation (See Map 7; Boundaries for the All Wilderness Alternative are the same as the Proposed Action, No Wilderness Alternative).

Energy and Minerals Actions

Subject to valid and existing rights on 9,946 acres of oil and gas leases, 11,298 acres of the Petticoat Peak WSA would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mineral leasing and mining laws. Seismic exploration which could occur throughout the WSA will not take place. Wilderness designation would discourage exploration on any leases that may exist at the time of designation. The inability to obtain additional leases and the environmental restraints that would be imposed would prohibit drilling activity.

Although the area is classified as low to moderate potential for low temperature geothermal resources, resource development is not anticipated because of better potential outside the WSA. No unpatented mining claims exist within the WSA and no locatable type mineral deposits are known to occur within the WSA. Therefore, no exploration or development of the mineral resource is anticipated.

Low grade manganese has been mined near the town of Lava Hot Springs four miles southwest of the WSA. Although the highly faulted Petticoat Peak WSA may contain such deposits, it is anticipated that such deposits will not be developed because of their extremely low grade and widely dispersed nature.

Motorized Recreation Use

The entire WSA would be closed to motorized use. This action would eliminate approximately 90 visitor days annually throughout the WSA. Two miles of road in Red House and Rindlishbaker Canyon would be closed.

Other Recreation Use

The Petticoat Peak WSA would be open for other recreation activities that do not require motorized transportation. They include hunting, hiking, sightseeing, nature study, and others. Recreation use for these activities would remain below 75 visitor days annually for the next ten years or within the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities are planned or anticipated.

Timber Harvest and Management Actions

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, 1,524 acres of commercial forest land in the WSA would not be harvested or managed to produce commercial timber products. Approximately 2.5 MMBF of potential timber would be lost.

Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

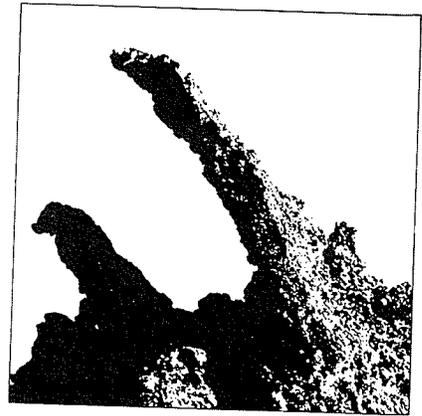
All of the Petticoat Peak WSA would continue to be allotted for livestock grazing at 1,282 AUMs annually. Sheep grazing occurs in the southern half of the WSA and cattle grazing in the northern half. No changes in livestock use are planned or expected in the foreseeable future. Stocking rates will remain at current levels and grazing patterns will not change significantly. No range improvement projects or vegetative treatments are planned or anticipated.

TABLE 6
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

Petticoat Peak

| Environmental Issues | Proposed Action No Wilderness Alternative | All Wilderness Alternative |
|--|--|---|
| Impacts on Wilderness Values | <p>The natural character will be destroyed on 1,524 acres where timber is cut, limbs and other waste are scattered and logs are skidded. Opportunities for solitude, during the 2-3 year logging operation, will be lost. Over the long term, the cut area will be visible from approximately 10-15 percent of the WSA. The natural character will be destroyed on 4-10 acres where an exploratory oil and gas well is drilled, a pad cleared and drill cuttings stored. Opportunities for solitude will be lost for about one year while drilling takes place. Over the long term, the abandoned drill pad will be visible from about 2 percent of the WSA.</p> | <p>Wilderness values and special features of scenic mountain terrain, limber and lodgepole pine forests and important wildlife habitat would be preserved on 11,298 acres. Closing 2 miles of road to motorized vehicle use would allow tracks to revegetate and eliminate conflicts between solitude and motorized recreation.</p> |
| Impacts to Energy and Mineral | <p>No Impact.</p> | <p>Subject to valid existing rights on 9,946 acres of oil and gas leases, the WSA would be withdrawn from leasing and location. Withdrawal would discourage exploration and development of moderate potential areas for oil and gas.</p> |
| Impacts to Motorized Recreation Use | <p>No Impact</p> | <p>Motorized recreation use, amounting to 100 visitor days, would be foregone annually both in the short and long-term. Impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.</p> |
| Impacts to Timber Harvest and Management | <p>No Impact</p> | <p>Timber resources totaling 2.5 MMBF on 1,524 acres of the WSA would not be harvested.</p> |

CHAPTER 3



Affected Environment

CHAPTER 3

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

HELL'S HALF ACRE

General Characteristics

The Hell's Half Acre WSA is characterized as a series of overlying lava flows. The most recent flows are approximately 4,100 years old. The large area resembles a flat moonscape that is interrupted by deep crevices, fissures, ridges, depressions and sparse vegetation. Vegetation type and density vary widely depending on where soils have accumulated. Elevation varies from 4,700 feet to 5,351 feet, illustrating the generally flat topography. Pioneer plants such as lichens and mosses inhabit the barren lava surfaces, while more diverse plant communities have developed on the older lava and on kipukas. (Kipuka is the Hawaiian word for "window", meaning here, an island of older lava that has vegetated and been surrounded by a newer lava flow). The kipukas and older lava flows contain dense stands of juniper trees and a wide variety of high desert shrubs, forbs and grasses.

Mule deer, antelope, coyotes and rabbits are the most frequently sighted mammals on Hell's Half Acre. Sage grouse and mourning doves inhabit the lava flows and kipukas and are hunted to a limited extent near the WSA's boundary. No threatened, endangered or sensitive animals or plants are known to occur in the area.

Land Status

The Hell's Half Acre WSA contains 66,200 acres of public land. Inholdings consist of 2,560 acres of State land and 160 acres of private land.

Wilderness Values

Naturalness

Impacts on the natural appearance of the WSA consist of 18 faintly visible vehicle trails totaling 25 miles and six small border dump sites. These impacts are minor and do not detract from the naturalness of this large area.

From the edges and higher points of Hell's Half Acre, a visitor can view cultivated land, rural traffic on farm roads and highways and the towns of Idaho Falls and Shelley. Farming occurs up to the area's lava borders along the north, south and southeast. The overall impact on naturalness of these influences is minor.

Solitude

The WSA offers outstanding opportunities for solitude because of its large size and rugged topography. A visitor can find a secluded spot and

easily avoid others in the area. The sharp relief in the lava provides adequate screening for reducing encounters with other visitors. The nearby farming activity and other human influences could detract from a feeling of solitude for some visitors. Others who venture into this rugged landscape, may find that the nearness of civilization heightens their awareness of being easily removed from human activity.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Hell's Half Acre offers outstanding recreational activities rarely found in this country. Volcanic forces have created lava tunnels that can be explored as well as a myriad of volcanic features that provide excellent subjects for photographers and geology buffs. Sightseeing is outstanding for botanical and zoological features. Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing offer physical and mental challenge to winter explorers. Similarly, for those willing to brave the rough portions of lava, hiking the area allows the visitor to discover its unique beauty. The many lava features offer travel destinations of interest to explorers and enhance the quality of each expedition into the lavas. Camping is another activity for the enthusiast willing to pack in water. The rugged terrain and harsh conditions provide a significant challenge to those who find this aspect of primitive recreation rewarding.

Special Features

The scientific, educational and scenic values of this area are important. A large portion, 44,000 acres, has been designated a National Natural Landmark because of its unusual occurrence within the Snake River Plain. It includes excellent examples of pahoehoe lava features of geologic importance. The ecology of the lavas is a prime illustration of pioneering plant communities. The ferns in the deep cracks are a botanical anomaly. Prehistoric and historic sites of archaeological value are present.

Energy and Mineral Resources

Most of southern Idaho, including the Hell's Half Acre WSA, has been identified by the U.S. Geological Survey as prospectively valuable for oil and gas. The thick sequence of Snake River Basalt (estimated to be 10,000 to 20,000 feet thick) masks the untested underlying sedimentary rocks, and makes the lands within and surrounding the WSA a low interest area for oil and gas exploration. The current BLM policy of not issuing oil and gas leases within WSAs has reduced the acreage currently under lease to less than half of the WSA acreage. The nearest oil and gas exploratory drilling is occurring 60 miles to the east.

Potential for geothermal energy occurrence or development in the WSA are unfavorable. There are no geothermal leases in the WSA, no manifestations of geothermal energy have been observed, and no interest in the area has been expressed by industry.

Lava building stone is the only known locatable or salable mineral that occurs in the WSA. There are currently no mining claims or building stone disposal permits which authorize the removal of building stone in the WSA. Concentrations of the building stone are scattered throughout the WSA. According to the Bureau of Mines, there are no pumice or cinder deposits within the WSA of sufficient size or quality to attract commercial interest.

Motorized Recreation

Motorized recreation use is estimated to be about 150 visitor days annually. Most use is associated with bird hunting near the lava's edge. A limited amount (less than 20 visitor days annually) of trail bike riding takes place within the WSA, but is restricted to highly skilled riders with specialized equipment. The rugged lava surfaces prevent most off-road vehicle use.

HAWLEY MOUNTAIN

General Characteristics

The Hawley Mountain WSA includes Hawley Mountain and five other unnamed peaks. The area's physical character is steep and mountainous, with well-defined drainages fanning out in all directions toward the WSA's border. The higher peaks and ridges are dominated by rock cliffs and talus slopes. Elevations range from 6,000 to 9,752 feet. Douglas-fir and mountain mahogany blanket areas at the higher elevations. The lower slopes are covered with sagebrush, grasses and forbs. Perennial drainage bottoms support a semi-wet meadow community of grasses and sedges.

Several species of wildlife are found in the WSA. The most prominent include pronghorn antelope, mule deer and sage grouse.

Land Status

The Hawley Mountain WSA contains 15,510 acres of public land. There are two 640-acre State inholdings within the WSA totaling 1,280 acres.

Wilderness Values

Naturalness

Impacts on naturalness in the WSA consists of 14 vehicle trails totaling 13 miles, a small border dump, 2 miles of fence and a 480-acre crested wheatgrass seeding. Views outside the area include traffic on rural roads and nearby farming activities. All impacts have a minor affect on the overall natural appearance of the area.

Solitude

Within Hawley Mountain there exist outstanding opportunities for experiencing solitude. The rugged terrain and timber on the upper slopes provide excellent topographic and vegetative screening. Views of the Little Lost Valley from within the area enhance these feeling of

isolation. The valley is sparsely populated and human activities appear to be remote. Sufficient size and good screening would allow a visitor to find a secluded place and avoid others.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Hunting is an outstanding recreational activity within the WSA. Deer, antelope, elk and sage grouse can be hunted. Hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are other possible activities. The diversity of terrain and rugged landscape offer challenge and recreational attractions to visitors.

Special Features

The WSA contains important habitat for a variety of wildlife. Pronghorn antelope use the southwestern portion as a migration route and the northern and western portions as fawning grounds. The lower slopes have been identified as sage grouse nesting and brood-rearing areas along with mule deer winter range. Views to the west of the proposed Forest Service Borah Peak Wilderness provide striking vistas from Hawley Mountain's summit. This is also true of the view of the Lemhi Range and jagged Diamond Peak to the east. This area is also of archaeological importance. Hunting blinds, surface lithic scatters and rock shelters are located throughout the area. These cultural values are not any more significant or important that can be found on other public lands nearby.

Energy and Mineral Resources

The Hawley Mountain WSA is considered to have low potential for oil and gas occurrence. The majority of the WSA is covered by non-competitive oil and gas leases, however, no exploration activities have been conducted within or near the WSA. The area is underlain by stratigraphic equivalents of some rock units present in the Utah-Wyoming-Idaho Overthrust Belt, however, the Triassic and Jurassic age sedimentary rocks which are major oil and gas producers elsewhere in the Overthrust Belt are absent.

No mining claims exist within or adjacent to the WSA. Metallic mineralization found from 6 to 20 miles west of the WSA, occurs as isolated prospects. Although the rock units which contain this mineralization are found within the WSA, there is no indication that the units contain mineralization. Thus, the area is considered to have a low potential for the occurrence of locatable metallic minerals.

The Hawley Mountain WSA is underlain by Quaternary glacial and alluvial deposits which probably contain abundant sand and gravel resources. The deposits have little value because similar deposits are abundant and located much closer to areas of consumption.

Motorized Recreation

Motorized recreation use is estimated to be about 100 visitor days annually. Deer and antelope hunting occurs during the short big game season and accounts for eighty percent of the use. A limited amount of camping takes place in the area, and is usually associated with hunting. A few visitors ride motorcycles or drive other off-road vehicles to the WSA's canyons and slopes that are accessible to motorized travel, usually for the purpose of sightseeing.

Timber Resources

The WSA contains 2,724 acres of commercial forest land located on the northern slopes of Hawley Mountain. The commercial timber species is primarily Douglas-fir and amounts to approximately 30 MMBF of which 10 MMBF could be harvested. Heavy mistletoe infestations occur throughout the timber stands where numerous standing and downed dead trees can be found.

Mule Deer Habitat

The Hawley Mountain WSA includes about 2,380 acres of curl-leaf mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*). The older age composition (and past) deer browsing on most of these stands is limiting the available forage from these shrubs. Fecal analysis from deer on similar habitat in the area shows a high preference for mountain mahogany. Potential exists for improving deer winter range by thinning out these older shrubs to promote seedling growth and provide additional forage to wintering deer.

Mule deer winter range occurs in the Hawley Mountain WSA. A winter helicopter survey in 1978 revealed 199 mule deer on Hawley Mountain in January. Population goals from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game include increasing deer populations in this area. They feel that deer populations are currently below potential and habitat is available to support these increases.

BLACK CANYON

General Characteristics

The Black Canyon WSA includes steep foothills and rocky canyons of the southwestern toe of the Lemhi Mountain range. Several deep canyons cut through the area where vertical limestone cliffs dominate the landscape. Elevations change quickly from 5,100 feet in the southwest to 8,000 feet in the northwest. The lower slopes and canyon bottoms contain sagebrush, forbs and grasses typical of this low moisture, high desert environment. Patches of juniper trees are found throughout the area and small stands of Douglas-fir grow at the higher elevations.

Land Status

The Black Canyon WSA contains 5,400 acres of public land. There are no inholdings.

Wilderness Values

Naturalness

Impacts on naturalness in the WSA consist of five vehicle trails totaling 4 miles, 1 mile of fence and a gray steel door covering a dynamited cave. Views outside the area include traffic on rural roads, farming activities and facilities on the Idaho Nuclear Engineering Laboratory site. Views are distant and not imposing. All impacts have a minor affect on the overall natural appearance of the area.

Solitude

Extensive topographic variation combined with some vegetative screening make opportunities for solitude outstanding. The deep, winding canyons, caves and rock formations offer places where a visitor could find a secluded place and avoid the sights of others. Views outside the area would have little influence on a visitor's chances for solitude. Visitation would have to be limited to a few people in this small area to maintain quality opportunities.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Primitive recreation opportunities include rock climbing, hiking, wildlife viewing and spelunking. The many rock formations, caves and bird life are natural features that provide a good recreational attraction to visitors.

Special Features

The WSA's landscape is dominated by vertical-walled canyons, caves and other rock formations of geologic interest. These formations are picturesque and provide important habitat for golden eagles, kestrels, great horned owls, hawks and falcons. The caves and rock formations have also been used for shelters and hunting blinds by prehistoric inhabitants, as long as 10,000 years ago. Pictographs and other signs of early inhabitants can be found in the area.

Energy and Mineral Resources

The Black Canyon WSA is considered to have low to moderate potential for oil and gas occurrence. The WSA is covered with non-competitive oil and gas leases, however, the lessees have not conducted any exploration within or near the WSA. The WSA is underlain by stratigraphic equivalents of some rock units present in the Utah-Wyoming-Idaho Overthrust Belt, however, the Triassic and Jurassic age sedimentary rocks which are the major oil and gas producers elsewhere in the Overthrust Belt, are absent. Little is known of the existence of other source or reservoir rocks in the area.

The Black Canyon WSA lies along the boundary between the Snake River Plain geothermal region, an area with moderate geothermal potential and the Central Idaho Basin and Range geothermal region, an area with low geothermal potential. Unlike the Snake River Plain, that lies immediately to the east, the Black Canyon WSA is underlain by Paleozoic carbonate rock, a factor which greatly diminishes the potential for geothermal resource occurrence.

No unpatented mining claims exist within the Black Canyon WSA. Lead, silver and copper deposits have been mined in two mining districts that are located some three miles northwest of the WSA. The mineralization occurred in fractures of rock units which are not known to underlie the WSA. No metallic mineral prospects are known to occur within the WSA. Exploratory drilling on unpatented claims, formerly located just northeast of the WSA boundary, yielded no evidence of mineralization and the claims were subsequently abandoned.

Lands at lower elevations in the WSA are comprised of alluvial fans underlain by considerable quantities of sand and gravel. These deposits have little value because of the abundance of similar deposits located much closer to areas of consumption. No tests are known to have been conducted on the quality of the immense volumes of limestone and dolomite that outcrop in the WSA and to determine if they have chemical or metallurgical uses. Distances to market would also limit their use.

Motorized Recreation

Motorized recreation is estimated at approximately 90 visitor days annually. The major activities that take place in the WSA are sightseeing and hunting. Upland game birds attract a few sportsmen to the area for a short period in the fall. Other visitors come to view the good scenery and cultural sites in the WSA. Most people who visit the area ride motorcycles or drive pickups on the vehicle trails in the WSA's canyons. Hot Shot Cave and Jackknife Cave are two popular destination points.

CEDAR BUTTE

General Characteristics

The terrain in the Cedar Butte WSA is slightly undulating where sparsely vegetated basalt rock dominates the landscape. Elevations range from 4,600 feet to 5,235 feet. The most recent lava flows in the area are estimated to be 10,800 years old. Vegetation varies throughout the lava flow. More diverse and advanced plant communities exist in kipukas, older lava flows and surrounding rangelands where soil depth is greater. Where soils have accumulated, high desert sagebrush, grasses and forbs are abundant. Juniper trees are found scattered throughout the flow where soil and moisture conditions have allowed them to survive.

Several species of mammals live in the WSA, including numerous rodents. The larger animals more frequently seen are mule deer, antelope, coyotes and rabbits. Over 100 species of birds have been identified on the lava plains.

Sage grouse and mourning doves are of particular interest and are hunted to a limited extent near the lava's edge. A variety of raptors are often seen circling above the flows.

Land Status

The Cedar Butte WSA contains 35,700 acres of public land. Inholdings consist of 640 acres of State land.

Wilderness Values

Naturalness

Impacts to the natural appearance of the WSA consist of four vehicle trails totaling 4 miles in length, two small rock dumps, an 80-acre building stone collection site and a 6,100-acre crested wheatgrass seeding. The seeds were broadcast from the air and grass now grows in scattered soil pockets within the flow. Although this grass species is exotic, the average visitor would not consider it unnatural. Outside influences include some views of traffic along nearby rural roads, agricultural activities and an infrequently traveled railroad line. All impacts to the natural character of the WSA are minor. The naturalness of Cedar Butte compares favorably with other designated wilderness both in Idaho and throughout the country.

Solitude

The WSA offers outstanding opportunities for solitude because of its large size. The area's open and generally flat landscape with little vegetative cover does not provide screening that would separate visitors. However, the large size, numerous depressions and swells in the lava beds and expected low use would offer solitude. Other than the occasional passing of a train to the northeast, external influences are non-existent.

Primitive Recreation

The rugged nature of the WSA offers outstanding opportunities for various recreational activities in an uncommon environment. Collapsed lava tubes, fissures and craters provide excellent exploratory possibilities for hikers, photographers and geologists. Camping on the lava flow constitutes another unusual yet rewarding recreational activity for the enthusiast willing to pack water. Similarly, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing could provide risk and challenge for the winter recreationist.

Special Features

This lava landscape has scientific and educational significance. It is one of the older exposed lava flows, dating back about 10,800 years. The lava beds are an example of pahoehoe lava features of geologic importance. Ecological relationships are illustrated by the pioneering plants and other characteristics of developing plant communities.

Energy and Mineral Resources

The Cedar Butte WSA is considered to have low potential for oil and gas occurrence. Although the majority of the WSA is covered with non-competitive oil and gas leases, no exploration activities have been conducted. The thick sequence of Snake River Basalt masks the underlying sedimentary rock units making the area a low interest area for oil and gas exploration. The presence of volcanic vents throughout the area gives further evidence of the lack of oil and gas bearing sedimentary rock formations.

Geothermal potential in the WSA is also considered low. Geothermal data from holes drilled surrounding the WSA show that typical heat gradients in the holes were very low. The low heat gradients are probably due to the fact that water moves quickly through the subsurface, removing the earth's heat.

Lava building stone is the only known locatable or salable mineral that occurs in the WSA. Six unpatented mining claims have been filed on 454 acres in the WSA for building stone. Twenty-five acres of the claim group contains stone that is considered an uncommon variety and therefore subject to location under the mining laws. The mining claimant could apply for patent on up to 100 acres within the WSA for the locatable building stone deposits found on three of the six claims.

Motorized Recreation

Motorized recreation use is estimated at approximately 50 visitor days annually. Most use is associated with bird hunting near the edge of the lava flow where motorized access is possible. A limited amount of trail bike and snowmobile use occurs within the WSA but is less than twenty percent of the total.

PETTICOAT PEAK

General Characteristics

The Petticoat Peak WSA lies within the Fish Creek Mountain Range. Its topography is steep and mountainous with Petticoat Peak being the highest point at over 8,000 feet. Many canyons and ridges radiate from the mountain peak. Dominant vegetation on the western slopes consists of junipers, mountain shrubs and sagebrush. Thick stands of Douglas-fir intermingled with lodgepole and limber pine cover the WSA's east side. A wide variety of shrubs, forbs and grasses are found throughout, and aspen groves blanket moist sites in the area.

Land Status

The Petticoat Peak WSA contains 11,298 acres of public land. There are no inholdings of other land ownership.

Wilderness Values

Naturalness

Impacts on the natural appearance are located along the boundaries and at the ends of roads and vehicle trails in the WSA. They include vehicle trails, drift fences, livestock reservoirs, corrals and firewood cutting areas. Five dead-end roads enter or approach the boundary of the area, and vehicle travel on these routes would likely decrease a visitor's perception of the natural appearance. Outside influences included views of agricultural activity and the town of Lava Hot Springs.

Solitude

Within Petticoat Peak there exists outstanding opportunities for solitude. The steep topography, numerous canyons and variety of tall vegetation screen visitors from each other. Outside influences include vehicle travel on the dead-end roads, and nearness to a major railroad line, highways, and agricultural activities. They have their greatest effect on solitude near the WSA's boundaries. A whistle from trains can be heard frequently throughout the day and night. The whistle is a reminder that developed lands and human activity are near.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The wilderness inventory listed a variety of recreation opportunities for the WSA but none as outstanding.

Special Features

Special features of the WSA include large limber pine and lodgepole pine, high scenic value and important wildlife habitat. Unconfirmed sightings have been noted for peregrine falcons, and bald eagles, both on the endangered species list, and for bobcat and merlin, both on the sensitive species list. A portion of the WSA is critical winter range for mule deer. These values are not any more significant or important than can be found on other public lands nearby.

Energy and Minerals Resources

The Petticoat Peak WSA is considered to have low to moderate potential for oil and gas occurrence. The entire WSA is covered by non-competitive oil and gas leases and seismic lines have been run through the area. The Petticoat Peak WSA lies within the northern extension of the Utah-Wyoming-Idaho Overthrust Belt. The major stratigraphic difference between the Overthrust Belt and the Petticoat Peak area is that the Nugget Sandstone, Thaynes Formation, Dinwoody Formation and some Cretaceous sandstones, all major producers in the Overthrust Belt, are not present in the Petticoat Peak area. However, because of the WSAs location at the western limit of the Overthrust Belt, continued geophysical exploration can be expected.

Geothermal potential of the Petticoat Peak WSA is low to moderate for low temperature occurrences. The hot springs at Lava Hot Springs southeast of the WSA occur at the intersection of faults in the area, and similar thermal waters may be present in the highly faulted WSA. However, it is not anticipated that this resource will be developed because of better potential in more accessible locations outside the WSA.

No unpatented mining claims exist within the WSA and no locatable type mineral deposits are known to occur. Low grade manganese has been mined near the town of Lava Hot Springs. The manganese oxide was probably deposited by spring waters rising along fault zones. Although the highly faulted Petticoat Peak WSA may contain other such deposits, reserves are expected to be small and widely dispersed.

Deposits of silica and limestone have been developed around the Lava Hot Springs along the northwestern edge of the WSA. Although sand and gravel occurs along the Portneuf River Valley, one mile west, very little occurs within the WSA.

Motorized Recreation

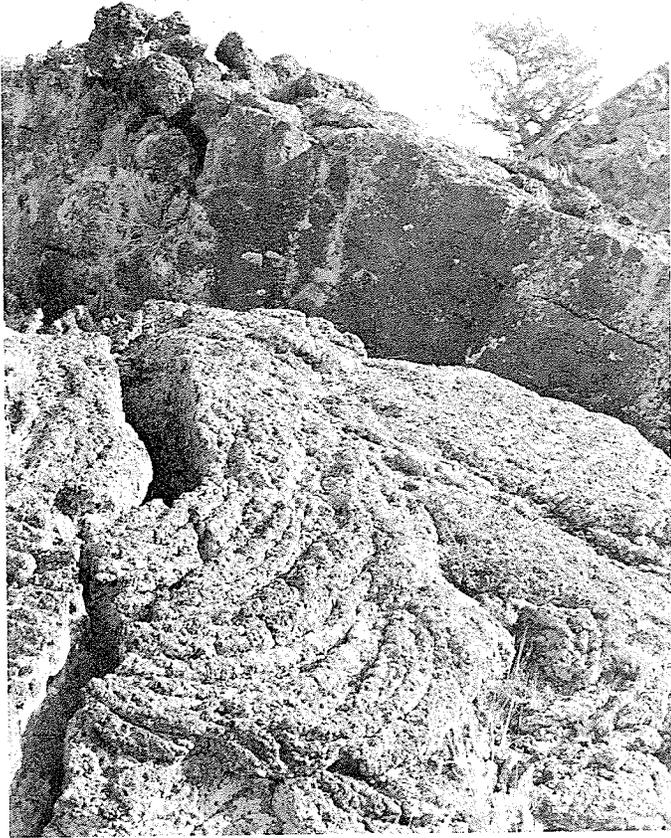
Most recreation use in the WSA is associated with deer and grouse hunting in the fall by local residents. Other activities include hiking, horseback riding, nature study and camping. Few people use the WSA for these activities because there is poor public access.

Motorized vehicle use has been restricted in the WSA. The Off-Road Vehicle Road Plan for the Pocatello Planning Unit designated the area as "limited" to off-road use. The limited classification restricts vehicles to designated routes only. Most recreational vehicle travel is by hunters during the fall hunting seasons and accounts for about 100 visitor days annually.

Recreation use is expected to increase slightly because of the area's close proximity to the resort community of Lava Hot Springs. Two new subdivisions are planned near the WSA, and should attract new residents who would use the area for recreation. Commercial use by outfitters for hunting, camping, sightseeing and horseback riding is also expected to grow.

Timber Resources

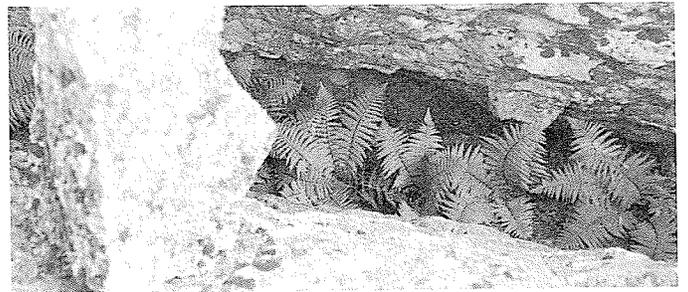
The Petticoat Peak WSA contains 2,520 acres of commercial forest land. The commercial timber species are Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. Dwarf mistletoe and spruce budworm have infected timber on 994 acres in Rindlishbaker, Red and North canyons. Harvesting the infected trees could be accomplished from existing roads, and produce 2.5 MMBF of timber. An additional 530 acres of dense Douglas-fir stands in Rindlishbaker Canyon could be precommercially thinned to reduce competition and encourage a more healthy and productive forest.



Hell's Half Acre

Clockwise from below:

1. Ferns grow in a protected crack in the lava. 2. Typical lava landscape with juniper in foreground. 3. Uplifted and cracked slab of pahoehoe, a type of ropey lava.





Hawley Mountain

Above: Hawley Mountain in the Little Lost River Valley, the Lost River Range in the distance. Below: Looking south from the Pass Creek Road towards Hawley Mountain.





Black Canyon

Clockwise from below:

1. Pictograph (see glossary) on cave wall.
2. Rox Canyon, one of the canyons in the Black Canyon WSA.
3. Mountain mahogany is typical of the canyon vegetation.

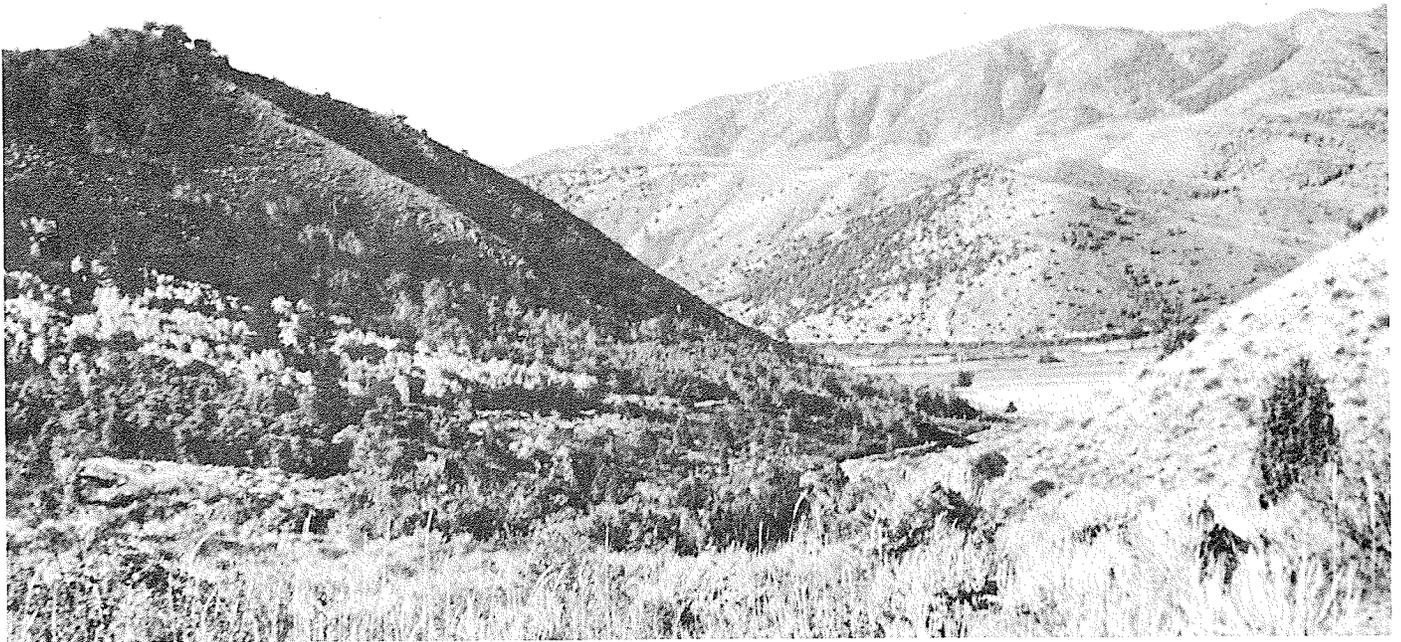




Cedar Butte

Above: Looking east across the WSA with Middle and East Buttes in the distance. Below: Cedar Butte WSA represents an older, more vegetated lava flow.



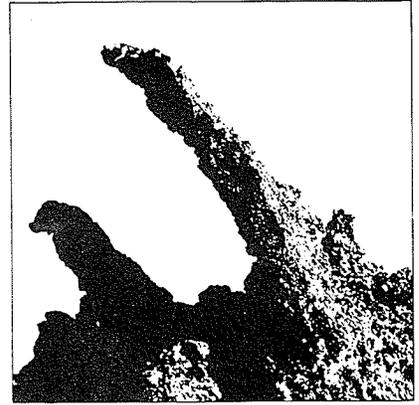


Petticoat Peak

Above: Hadley Canyon in the southwestern edge of the WSA looking down into the Portneuf River Valley. Below: In the southern edge of the WSA looking south.



CHAPTER 4



Environmental Consequences

CHAPTER 4

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

HELL'S HALF ACRE

PROPOSED ACTION (ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE)

Under the proposed action, all 66,200 acres of the Hell's Half Acre WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Including the 66,200-acres Hell's Half Acre WSA in the National Wilderness Preservation System would protect, preserve and enhance the wilderness values and supplemental features of this 4,100-year-old lava flow through legislative mandate. The area's natural appearance and wild character would remain unchanged. Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation activities in a lava flow setting would be maintained and enhanced. Wilderness designation would further preserve and protect the 44,000-acre National Natural Landmark contained within the area, along with the scientific, educational and scenic values. The lava landscape is a contrasting and unusual element within the Snake River Plain and includes excellent examples of pahoehoe (ropey) lava features of geologic interest. The ecology of the lava flow is a prime illustration of pioneering plant communities. Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites are present.

Eighteen faintly visible vehicle trails totaling 25 miles would be closed to motorized travel and 150 visitor days of motorized recreation use would be eliminated. These actions would slightly benefit the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude because surface disturbances would be eliminated and visitors would not encounter or hear motorized vehicles within the area.

Exploration and development of energy and mineral resources would not impact wilderness values because wilderness designation would withdraw the WSA from mining and mineral leasing activities.

Acquisition of the 160 acres of private land inholding would slightly improve the wilderness values of naturalness and solitude. If the parcel of land is acquired the vehicle access trail would be closed. If not, the trail would remain open so the owner would be provided access to the land.

Conclusion: Wilderness values would be preserved on 66,200 acres, and enhanced slightly by eliminating motorized vehicle use and acquiring a 160-acre parcel of private land.

Impacts to Energy and Mineral Exploration and Development

Wilderness designation would permanently withdraw all 66,200 acres of public lands from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. The only valid existing rights that would exist would be 4,707 acres of oil and gas leases that have not expired prior to designation. (All leases

will have expired on December 7, 1991). Because of the low oil and gas potential of the area and the extremely thick volcanic cover, it is unlikely that a well would ever be proposed in the Hell's Half Acre WSA.

Opportunities to mine slab veneer stone would be foregone. However, the loss of this material would not be significant because of the availability of material from other lava flow sources along the Snake River Plain.

Conclusion: There would no impact on the development of energy and mineral resources.

Impacts to Motorized Recreation Use

Wilderness designation would close the entire 66,200-acre Hell's Half Acre WSA to all forms of motorized recreation use. This action would eliminate approximately 150 visitor days annually. Most use is associated with bird hunting near the lava's edge and general sightseeing on the 18 vehicle trails totaling 25 miles. A limited amount (less than 20 visitor days annually) of trail bike riding takes place within the WSA and is restricted to highly skilled riders with specialized equipment. The rugged lava surfaces prevent most off-road vehicle use, while attracting a few hardy individuals.

Closing the lava flow to motorized recreation would result in slight impacts because of the small amount of use occurring now and expected in the future. Recreationists who travel by motorized vehicle to hunt could do so by walking a short distance farther. Public lands that offer similar or better opportunities for motorized recreation are located throughout the region. Therefore, motorized recreation use foregone in the WSA would be absorbed on surrounding public lands without significant impacts to those lands or recreationists.

Conclusion: Motorized recreation use amounting to 150 visitor days would be foregone annually. Impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Wilderness Alternative, all 66,200 acres of the Hell's Half Acre WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The entire WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation, and none of the wilderness values on 66,200 acres would receive special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. However, naturalness, solitude, primitive recreation and the area's special features would not be significantly impacted since little development activity and use is anticipated in the short or long-term. This is because of the WSA's rugged and inaccessible landscape and lack of commodity resources.

Exploration and development of energy and mineral resources would not impact wilderness values because exploration or development activities are not anticipated.

In the long term, a slight increase in motorized recreation use is expected. Anticipated use would remain below 150 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. Eighteen vehicle trails totaling 25 miles would be maintained by use, but no new trails would be developed. The perception of naturalness and opportunities for solitude would be slightly reduced by the infrequent use and presence of vehicles on the fringes of the WSA.

Conclusion: Over the long term the Hell's Half Acre WSA would retain its wilderness values. Slight degradation of naturalness and solitude would result from motorized recreation use.

Impacts to Energy and Mineral Exploration and Development

Once Congress releases the lands from wilderness study, the lands would again be open for geothermal leasing and would be made available on the simultaneous oil and gas list. Mining claims could continue to be located on the lands for any potential locatable minerals. Disposal permits could be issued for any building stone, pumice or cinders, when requested by members of the public. Although all potential mineral resources would be available for leasing and disposal development it is unlikely that there would be any development proposals because of the low potential for energy and other mineral occurrences.

Conclusion: Potential energy and mineral resources would be available for development, and there would be no impact.

Impacts to Motorized Recreation Use

The lands within the WSA would be open to motorized recreation use. Use would remain below 150 visitor days annually for the next ten years. A slight increase could be expected beyond ten years, but would not exceed 150 visitor days in the foreseeable future. The rugged lava flow prevents most motorized travel except for specially designed trail bikes, and where short trails into the flow allow access. These include 18 faint vehicle trails totaling 25 miles that are traveled infrequently.

Conclusion: There would be no impacts to motorized recreation use.

HAWLEY MOUNTAIN

PROPOSED ACTION (NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE)

Under the No Wilderness Alternative, all 15,510 acres of the Hawley Mountain WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The entire WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation, and none of the wilderness values would receive special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. These values include naturalness, solitude, primitive recreation, and special features of wildlife habitat, scenic views and archaeological sites.

Exploration for energy and mineral resources would not impact wilderness values because those exploration activities are not surface disturbing in nature. Exploration for energy resources may involve the running of helicopter supported seismic lines across the lands. Also, production is not expected to impact wilderness values because the major reservoir rocks that are productive in the Overthrust Belt are not found beneath the WSA. It is doubtful that the WSA lands would ever be drilled.

In the long-term, a slight increase in motorized recreation use is expected. Anticipated use would remain below 100 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. Fourteen vehicle trails totaling 13 miles would be maintained by use, but no new trails would be developed. The perception of naturalness and opportunities for solitude would slightly be reduced by continued use.

Impacts to the WSA's wilderness values would result from timber harvest on 2,724 acres of commercial forest land located on the northern slopes of Hawley Mountain. Cutting methods would remove approximately twenty-five percent of the Douglas-fir trees by selection and shelterwood harvest techniques. New roads would not be built, but aerial systems would be employed to remove the timber. Surface and vegetative disturbance caused by tree cutting, scattering of limbs and other waste, and log skidding would have considerable adverse effects on the natural character of the 2,724 acres. The presence and noise associated with the aerial logging operation would adversely affect opportunities for solitude. Impacts on solitude would be present from three to four years while logging takes place. Naturalness would be impacted over the long term because stumps and other signs would be left; a reminder that logging had taken place. The selective logging practices would have a slight impact on the WSA's scenic value, but would be unnoticeable from the normal viewing distance to the average visitor.

Impacts to naturalness and opportunities for solitude would result from mountain mahogany thinning on 300 acres of the lower north and south slopes of Hawley Mountain. Thinning would involve removing one third to one half of the mature shrubs. Cut branches and shrubs would be left on the ground to

stimulate seedling establishment and protect new plants from browsing by deer. Surface and vegetative disturbance caused by shrub and branch removal and scattering of waste material would have a moderate impact on the natural character of 300 acres. Naturalness would be impacted over the long term because cut branches and stumps from the mahogany would remain noticeable up to 50 years due to slow decomposition. The presence and noise associated with the thinning operation would impact solitude for the estimated three months the project would take to complete. Insignificant impacts to the scenic value of WSA would result because overall composition of the vegetative pattern would not be changed and would not be seen from a distance.

Conclusion: Over the long term, the natural character of the Hawley Mountain WSA would be degraded by timber harvest on 2,724 acres, mountain mahogany thinning on 300 acres, and continued use of motorized vehicles on existing trails. Solitude would be disturbed slightly by motorized use over the short term by logging operations and mahogany thinning.

Impacts to Energy and Mineral Exploration and Development

Once Congress releases the lands from wilderness study, the lands would again be made available for leasing under the simultaneous oil and gas leasing system. Although leases may continue to be issued, it is doubtful that the lands within the WSA would ever be drilled. The low oil and gas potential of the area and the topographic relief would make drilling prohibitive unless production is established on adjacent lands. The lands would continue to be open to mining claim location and exploration. Issuance of material disposal permits would be allowed. All potential mineral resources would be available for development.

Conclusion: There would be no impact on the development of energy and mineral resources.

Impacts to Motorized Recreation Use

The lands within the WSA would be open to motorized recreation use. Use would remain below 100 visitor days annually for the next ten years. A slight increase could be expected beyond ten years, and would not exceed 100 visitor days in the foreseeable future. Most of the motorized travel in the WSA is confined to 14 vehicle trails totaling 13 miles. These trails are used by hunters in the fall and sightseers May through November.

Conclusion: There would be no impacts to motorized recreation use.

Impacts to Timber Harvest and Management

Timber harvest and management activities would occur on 2,724 acres of commercial forest land in the WSA. Selection and shelterwood harvest systems would be used, and twenty-five percent of the timber in each stand would be cut by aerial logging methods. Anticipated yield would be approximately 10MMBF of timber. Roads would not be constructed to support the logging operations.

Conclusion: There would be no impact to timber harvest and management.

Impacts to Mule Deer Habitat

Mule deer winter range habitat on about 300 acres would be improved by thinning overmature mountain mahogany thickets. Thinning would involve removing one third to one half of the mature shrubs. Cutting would occur on the lower north and south slopes of Hawley Mountain. Cut branches and shrubs would be left on the ground to stimulate seedling establishment and protect new plants from browsing by deer.

Carrying capacity of the winter range would be increased on 300 acres. Populations of mule deer would increase up to 45 animals over what the range is currently able to support. More nutritious forage would maintain deer herds in better physical condition during the winter, and higher quality habitat would support Idaho Fish and Game population goals.

Conclusion: Mule deer habitat on 300 acres would be improved and increase winter carrying capacity by 45 animals.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, all 15,510 acres of the Hawley Mountain WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Including the 15,510-acre Hawley Mountain WSA in the National Wilderness Preservation System would protect, preserve and enhance the wilderness values and supplemental features on this isolated series of mountain peaks through legislative mandate. The area's natural appearance and wild character would remain unchanged. Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation would be enhanced. Wilderness designation would further preserve and protect the area's scenic values by preventing timber harvest and other surface disturbing activities.

Valid existing rights on 3,850 acres of oil and gas leases existing at the time of designation could be exercised. (All leases will have expired on December 7, 1991).

Because of the area's low potential, it is doubtful whether anything more than non-surface disturbing geophysical work would be conducted. Since wilderness designation would withdraw the area from mining and mineral leasing activities, no exploration would be conducted.

Fourteen vehicle trails totaling 13 miles would be closed to motorized travel and 100 visitor days of motorized recreation use would be eliminated. These actions would slightly benefit the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude because surface disturbances would be eliminated, and visitors would not encounter or hear motorized vehicles within the area.

Conclusion: Wilderness values would be preserved on 15,510 acres and enhanced slightly by eliminating motorized vehicle use.

Impacts to Energy and Mineral Exploration and Development

Wilderness designation would permanently withdraw the lands from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. The only valid existing rights that would exist would be those 3,850 acres of oil and gas leases that have not expired prior to designation. (All leases will have expired on December 7, 1991). Because of the low potential of the area, the steep topographic relief, and the absence of Triassic and Jurassic age rocks which are the major producers in the Overthrust Belt, it is doubtful that the area would ever be drilled. Continued availability of sand and gravel in the area would not be affected by wilderness designation because of the abundance of material that lies outside of the WSA.

Conclusion: Because of the low potential of the area there will be no impact to the development of energy and mineral resources.

Impacts to Motorized Recreation Use

Wilderness designation would close the entire 15,510-acre Hawley Mountain WSA to all forms of motorized recreation use. This action would eliminate approximately 100 visitor days annually. Most use is associated with hunting and general sightseeing.

Closing the WSA to motorized recreation would result in slight impacts because the current use is low. Recreationists who travel by motorized vehicle to hunt could do so by walking a short distance further. Public lands that offer similar or better opportunities for motorized recreation are located throughout the region. Therefore, motorized recreation use foregone in the WSA would be absorbed on surrounding public lands without significant impacts to those lands or recreationists.

Conclusion: Motorized recreation use amounting to 150 visitor days annually would be foregone. Impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

Impacts to Timber Harvest and Management

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, intensive forest management activities would not occur on 2,724 acres of commercial forest land in the WSA. This would result in the loss of forest products from 10 MMBF of commercial timber.

Conclusion: Timber resources on 2,724 acres of the WSA would not be harvested and a loss of timber products from 10 MMBF would result.

Impacts to Mule Deer Habitat

Mule deer winter habitat would not be improved on 300 acres in the WSA. Habitat treatment would involve cutting one third to one half of the over mature mountain mahogany shrubs on selected lower north and south slopes of Hawley Mountain. Cut branches and shrubs would be left on the ground to stimulate seedling establishment and protect new plants from browsing from deer. This action would alter the natural processes on the 300 acres, and would not be consistent with management of the WSA as wilderness. The natural character of the WSA in the two cutting locations would be degraded.

Carrying capacity of the winter range would not be increased, conflicting with goals set by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Mule deer populations would remain static. Wintering deer would continue to use mountain mahogany as the preferred forage until it became scarce, then switch to sagebrush. Sagebrush is a lower quality forage and would not provide the nutrients available in mountain mahogany. The physical condition and health of the deer herd would decline over the long term resulting in a decline in the herd's population by five percent.

Conclusion: Mule deer habitat on 300 acres would not be improved and the present herd's physical condition and health would decline.

PARTIAL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

Under the Partial Wilderness Alternative, 10,400 acres of the upper slopes of the Hawley Mountain WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and 5,110 acres of the lower surrounding lands would be recommended nonsuitable.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

A portion of the upper slopes of the Hawley Mountain WSA, with 10,400 acres, would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation. The remaining 5,100 acres, located around the lower slopes of the mountain, would be recommended nonsuitable for designation.

Including a 10,400 acre portion of the Hawley Mountain WSA in the National Wilderness Preservation System would protect, preserve and enhance the wilderness values on this isolated series of mountain peaks through legislative mandate. The natural appearance and wild character of the mountain's higher peaks would remain unchanged. Opportunities for people seeking solitude or primitive recreation would be enhanced. Wilderness designation would further preserve and protect the area's scenic values by preventing timber harvest and other surface disturbing activities.

Exploration for energy and mineral resources would not impact wilderness values on the 10,400-acre portion because exploration would likely be limited to non-surface disturbing geophysical operations.

Motorized recreation use does not occur on the 10,400-acre portion that would be designated wilderness. Therefore, eliminating motorized travel would not enhance wilderness values.

Wilderness designation of the 10,400-acre portion of the WSA would preclude timber harvest and mountain mahogany thinning. Therefore, there would be no impact on wilderness values on part of the WSA.

The 5,100-acre portion around the lower slopes of Hawley Mountain would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation, and none of the wilderness values would receive special legislative protection provided by designation. Naturalness and opportunities for solitude would slightly be degraded by continued use of motorized vehicles on the lower slopes around the mountain's base.

Exploration for energy and mineral resources would not impact wilderness values because exploration or development activities are not anticipated. Because of the low oil and gas potential of the area and the steep inaccessible topography that is involved, it is doubtful that exploration or development would occur in the area. As such, wilderness values would not be impacted.

In the long-term, a slight increase in motorized recreation use is expected. Anticipated use would remain below 100 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. Fourteen vehicle trails totaling 13 miles would be maintained by use, but no new trails would be developed. The perception of naturalness and opportunities for solitude would slightly be reduced by continued use.

Conclusion: Wilderness values on 10,400 acres of the upper slopes of Hawley Mountain would be preserved through designation. Naturalness and opportunities for solitude would slightly be degraded by the continued use of motorized vehicles on the lower slopes around the mountain.

Impacts to Energy and Mineral Exploration and Development

Wilderness designation would permanently withdraw the lands from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. The only valid existing rights that would exist would be that portion of the 3,850 acres of oil and gas leases that lie at the higher elevations and have not expired prior to designation. (All leases will have expired on December 7, 1991). Because of the low potential of the area, and the steep topographic relief, it is doubtful that the area would ever be drilled. Continued availability of sand and gravel in the area would not be affected by Wilderness designation because of the abundance of material that lies outside of the WSA.

Conclusion: There will be no impact to the development of energy and mineral resources.

Impacts to Motorized Recreation Use

The lands within the WSA would be open to motorized recreation use. Use would remain below 100 visitor days annually for the next ten years. A slight increase could be expected beyond ten years, and would not exceed 100 visitor days in the foreseeable future. Most of the motorized travel in the WSA is confined to 14 vehicle trails totaling 13 miles. These trails are used by hunters in the fall and sightseers during the accessible months.

Conclusion: There would be no impacts to motorized recreation use.

Impacts to Timber Harvest and Management

Under the Partial Wilderness Alternative, intensive forest management activities would not occur on 2,724 acres of commercial forest land in the WSA. This would result in the loss of forest products from 10 MMBF of commercial timber.

Conclusion: Timber resources on 2,724 acres of the WSA would not be harvested and a loss of timber products from 10 MMBF would result.

Impacts to Mule Deer Habitat

Mule deer winter habitat would not be improved on 300 acres in the WSA. Habitat treatment would involve cutting one third to one half of the over mature mountain mahogany shrubs on selected lower north and south sloped of Hawley Mountain. Cut branches and shrubs would be left on the ground to stimulate seedling establishment and protect new plants from browsing from deer. This action would alter the natural character of the WSA in the tow cutting locations would be degraded.

Carrying capacity of the winter range would not be increased, which is a goal set by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Mule deer populations would remain static and available forage would not support an estimated 45 additional animals. Wintering deer would continue to use mountain mahogany as the preferred forage until it became scarce, then switch to sagebrush. Sagebrush is a lower quality forage and would not provide the nutrients available in mountain mahogany. The physical condition and health of the deer herd would decline over the long term resulting in a decline of the herd's population by five percent.

Conclusion: Mule deer habitat on 300 acres would not be improved and the present herd's physical condition and health would decline.

BLACK CANYON

PROPOSED ACTION (NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE)

Under the proposed action, all 5,400 acres of the Black Canyon WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The entire WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation. None of the wilderness values would receive special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation.

Exploration for energy and mineral resources would not impact wilderness values. This is because the level of exploration activities would be limited to geophysical survey techniques that would not disturb the surface, and development is not anticipated.

Motor vehicle use would slightly degrade naturalness and solitude. Low use vehicle trails would be maintained by travel with the possibility of being expanded slightly by cross-country use. However, no increase in visitor use is projected above current levels and new impacts will be confined to the existing trails. Solitude would be disrupted slightly by the presence of vehicles, particularly during the hunting seasons. Over the long-term, the WSA would retain the natural character and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation because of the anticipated low use by recreationists.

Conclusion: Over the long term the Black Canyon WSA would retain its wilderness values. Slight degradation of naturalness and solitude would result from motorized recreation use.

Impacts to Energy and Mineral Exploration and Development

With the exception of the 1,477 acres of the WSA that are currently withdrawn from mineral entry, all potential mineral resources would be available for development. Once Congress releases the lands from wilderness study, the lands would again be available for geothermal and oil and gas leasing under the simultaneous oil and gas leasing system. Although leases may continue to be issued, it is doubtful that the lands within the WSA will ever be drilled because of the absence of source reservoir rocks in the area. Seismic activities are likely to be conducted. The lands would continue to be open to mining claim location. The lands would be subject to the issuance of material sales or permits, however, development is not anticipated because of better potential in more accessible location outside the WSA.

Conclusion: There would be no impacts on the exploration or development of energy and mineral resources.

The lands within the WSA would be open to motorized recreation use. Use would remain below 90 visitor days annually for the next ten years. A slight increase could be expected beyond ten years, and would not exceed 90 visitor

days in the foreseeable future. Most of the motorized travel in the WSA is confined to five vehicle trails that extend into two major canyons and total four miles. These trails are used by hunters in the fall and sightseers during the accessible months.

Conclusion: There would be no impacts to motorized recreation use.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, all 5,400 acres of the Black Canyon WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Including the 5,400-acre Black Canyon WSA in the National Wilderness Preservation System would protect, preserve and enhance the area's wilderness values. The area's natural appearance and wild character would remain unchanged. Opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation activities would be maintained and enhanced. Wilderness designation would further preserve and protect the wildlife, scenic and cultural values within the area. Habitat for a variety of birds, including several species of raptors, is present. Picturesque rock formations and geologic features offer interesting scenery, and shelters and hunting blinds are provided for prehistoric inhabitants. Pictographs and other signs of early habitation exists in the area.

Exploration and development of energy and mineral resources would not impact wilderness values because wilderness designation would withdraw the WSA from mining and mineral leasing activities.

Conclusion: Wilderness values would be preserved on 5,400 acres, and enhanced moderately by eliminating motorized vehicle use.

Impacts to Energy and Mineral Exploration and Development

Wilderness designation would permanently withdraw the lands from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. No valid existing rights would exist at the time of designation because all existing oil and gas leases would have expired. Oil and gas or geothermal resources under unleased tracks would be foregone, as would any currently undiscovered deposits of metallic minerals. Based on adjacent mining areas, such deposits are not expected to be significant, even if they do exist. Opportunities for the development of sand and gravel deposits at lower elevations in the WSA would also be foregone. Because of the widespread occurrence of such deposits in the area, loss of deposits in the WSA are not significant. Because of the abundance of limestone and dolomite in the area, loss of the deposits in the WSA would not be significant.

Conclusion: Because of the absence of petroleum sources or reservoir rocks in the area, it is doubtful the WSA lands will ever be drilled. Thus, there would be no impact on the exploration and development of energy and mineral resources.

Impacts to Motorized Recreation Use

Wilderness designation would close the entire 5,400-acre Black Canyon WSA to all forms of motorized recreation use. This action would eliminate approximately 90 visitor days annually. Most use is associated with hunting and general sightseeing.

Closing the WSA to motorized recreation use would result in impacts that would be slight because the current use is low. Recreationists who travel by motorized vehicle to hunt and see the area could do so by walking a short distance further. Public lands that offer similar or better opportunities for motorized recreation are located throughout the region. Therefore, motorized recreation use forgone in the WSA would be absorbed on surrounding public lands without significant impacts to those lands or recreationists.

Conclusion: Motorized recreation use amounting to 90 visitor days annually would be foregone. Impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

CEDAR BUTTE

PROPOSED ACTION (NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE)

Under the proposed action, all 35,700 acres of the Cedar Butte WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The entire WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation, and none of the wilderness values on 35,700 acres would receive special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. However, naturalness, solitude, primitive recreation and the area's special features would not be significantly impacted since little development activity and use is anticipated in the short or long-term. This is because of the WSA's rugged and inaccessible landscape and lack of commodity resources. An exception to this would be the 100 acres of mining claims on lava building stone that could be patented. This small area near the WSA's western edge could have the wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, primitive recreation and special features degraded.

Development of three of the six mining claims is anticipated within the WSA. The claims total 454 acres and are located along the WSA's northwestern boundary. Although the six claims cover 454 acres of the WSA, the locatable variety of stone occurs on only 25 acres within three of the claims. This stone would be mined, and 25 acres of surface disturbance would result from the removal of slab lava plates. One mile of access road would be improved, and a two acre parcel would be disturbed where stone would be staged. The mining claimant could patent up to 100 acres of the WSA surrounding the locatable building stone deposits.

A community sale pit area would be established on about 20 acres along the WSA's northwestern boundary to sell lava building stone. This stone would be sold and mined, and a maximum of 20 acres of surface disturbance would result from the removal of slab lava plates and access road.

Development of the locatable and saleable deposits of building stone would adversely impact the wilderness values of naturalness, solitude and primitive recreation. The natural character of the lava surface on 50 acres would be altered where stone is removed, an access road is improved and rock is stored. Solitude near the operation would be disturbed from transport vehicles and mining activities, but would only last until the stone supply was depleted, and the mining operation is completed. Primitive recreation opportunities would be degraded both during the mining operation and after completion. The locatable and saleable stone is near the source vent for the lava flow and contains interesting features that would be of interest to people who visit the lava landscape.

Overall, a slight impact would result to the wilderness values from lava building stone mining. The mining operation would be relatively small in

comparison to the large WSA and direct impacts would be localized near the northwestern edge of the lava flow. Views of the stone removal activities could be seen from only about 1/2 mile radius of the mine because the lava terrain would screen most views. This would be a short term impact (3-5 years) because mining activity would cease after the stone supply is depleted. Over the long term, views of the material area would have an insignificant impact because only a thin layer of surface rock would be removed.

Exploration for energy mineral resources would not impact wilderness values, because geophysical exploration operations would be conducted with little or no surface disturbance. The thick volcanic sequence covering the area and the presence of volcanic rock vents indicates the area has little or no potential, thus drilling proposals are not anticipated.

In the long-term a slight increase in motorized recreation use is expected. Four vehicle trails totaling 4 miles would be maintained by use, but no new trails would be developed. These low use vehicle trails could possibly be expanded slightly be cross-country use. However, with the projected small increase in visitor use, new impacts will be confined to existing trails. The perception of naturalness and opportunities for solitude would be slightly reduced by continued use.

Conclusion: Over the long term, most of the Cedar Butte WSA would retain its wilderness values. Naturalness, solitude and primitive recreation would be degraded where lava building stone is mined, and could involve up to 100 acres of locateable claims and 20 acres of a saleable pit area. Slight degradation of naturalness and solitude would result from motorized recreation use.

Impacts to Energy and Mineral Exploration and Development

Once Congress releases the lands from wilderness study, the lands would again be open for geothermal leasing and would be made available on the simultaneous oil and gas list. It is not anticipated that exploratory drilling will occur on any of the leased lands in the foreseeable future. Mining claims could continue to be located on the lands for minerals that are locatable under the mining laws. Lava slabs could be sold for building stone when requested by the general public. Although all potential mineral resources would be available for leasing and disposal development it is unlikely that there would be any development proposals because of the low potential for oil and gas deposits. Slab lava mining would not be impacted on up to 50 acres.

Conclusion: There would be no impact on the exploration and development of energy and mineral resources.

Impacts to Motorized Recreation Use

The lands within the WSA would be open to motorized recreation use. Use would remain below 50 visitor days annually for the next ten years. A slight increase could be expected beyond ten years, but would not exceed 50 visitor

days in the foreseeable future. The rugged lava flow prevents most motorized travel except for specially designed trail bikes and where short trails into the flow allow access. These include three faint vehicle trails totaling three miles that are traveled infrequently.

Conclusion: There would be no impacts to motorized vehicle use.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, all 35,700 acres of the Cedar Butte WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Including the 35,700-acre Cedar Butte WSA in the National Wilderness System would protect, preserve and enhance the wilderness values of the 10,780-year-old lava flow through legislative mandate. The area's natural appearance and wild character would remain unchanged. Opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation activities in a lava flow setting would be maintained and enhanced. Wilderness designation would further preserve and protect scientific, educational and scenic values within the area. The lava landscape is a contrasting unusual element within the Snake River Plain, and includes excellent examples of pahoehoe (ropey) lava features of geologic interest. The ecology of the lava flow illustrates pioneering plants and other characteristics of developing plant communities.

Development of three of the six mining claims is anticipated within the WSA. The claims total 454 acres and are located along the WSA's northwestern boundary. Although the six claims cover 454 acres of the WSA, the locatable variety of stone occurs on only 25 acres within three of the claims. This stone could be mined, and 25 acres of surface disturbance would result from the removal of slab lava plates. One mile of access road would be improved, and a two acre parcel would be disturbed where stone would be staged. The mining claimant could patent up to 100 acres of the WSA surrounding the locatable building stone deposits.

Development of the locatable deposits of building stone would adversely impact the wilderness values of naturalness, solitude and primitive recreation. The natural character of the lava surface on 30 acres would be altered where stone is removed, an access road is improved and rock is stored. Solitude near the operation would be disturbed from transport vehicles and mining activities, but would only last until the stone supply was depleted, and the mining operation is completed. Primitive recreation opportunities would be degraded both during the mining operation and after completion. The locatable stone is near the source vent for the lava flow and contains interesting features that would be of interest to people who visit the lava landscape.

Overall, a slight impact would result to the wilderness values from lava building stone mining. The mining operation would be relatively small in comparison to the large WSA and direct impacts would be localized near the northwestern edge of the lava.

Wilderness designation would permanently withdraw up to 35,600 acres of the WSA from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. Valid existing rights on 17,026 acres of oil and gas leases would remain in effect until December 7, 1991. Because of the low oil and gas potential of the area and the extremely thick volcanic cover, it is unlikely that a well would ever be proposed in the WSA. Therefore, exploration for energy mineral resources would not impact wilderness values, because exploration activities are not anticipated.

Four faintly visible vehicle trails totaling 4 miles would be closed to motorized travel, and 50 visitor days of motorized recreation use would be eliminated. These actions would slightly benefit the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude because surface disturbances would be eliminated and visitors would not encounter or hear motorized vehicles within the area.

Conclusion: Wilderness values would be maintained and enhanced on 35,600 acres, and degraded on lava building stone mining claims involving as much as 100 acres.

Impacts to Energy and Mineral Exploration and Development

Wilderness designation would permanently withdraw all 35,700 acres of public lands from appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. Validity examinations would be conducted on all six existing building stone placer claims. Should the claims prove to be valid then mining development would continue. However, should the claims be proven invalid then the opportunity to develop this resource would be lost.

Wilderness designation would permanently withdraw up to 35,600 acres of public lands from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. The only valid existing rights that would exist would be 17,026 acres of oil and gas leases that have not expired prior to designation. (All leases will become invalid on December 7, 1991). Because of the low oil and gas potential of the area and the extremely thick volcanic cover, it is unlikely that a well would ever be proposed in the Cedar Butte WSA.

Opportunities to mine saleable slab veneer stone on about 20 acres in the WSA would be foregone. However, the loss of this material would not be significant because of the availability of material from other lava flow sources along the Snake River Plain.

Conclusion: The opportunity to develop the saleable or common variety grade of building stone on about 20 acres in the WSA would be foregone. There would not be any significant impacts to locateable and leaseable minerals.

Impacts to Motorized Recreation Use

Wilderness designation would close the entire 35,700-acre Cedar Butte WSA to all forms of motorized recreation use. This action would eliminate approximately 50 visitor days annually. Most use is associated with game bird

hunting near the lava's edge and general sightseeing on the three vehicle trails totaling three miles. A limited amount (less than twenty percent of the total) of trail bike riding takes place in the WSA, and is restricted to highly skilled riders with specialized equipment. The rugged lava flow prevents most off-road vehicle use.

Closing the lava flow to motorized recreation would result in impacts that would be slight because the current use is low. Recreationists who travel by motorized vehicle to hunt could do so by walking a short distance further. Public lands that offer similar or better opportunities for motorized recreation are located throughout the region. Therefore, motorized recreation use foregone in the WSA would be absorbed on surrounding public lands without significant impacts to those lands or recreationists.

Conclusion: Motorized Recreation use amounting to 50 visitor days would be foregone annually. Impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

PETTICOAT PEAK

PROPOSED ACTION (NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE)

Under the No Wilderness Alternative, all 11,298 acres of the Petticoat Peak WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The entire WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation, and none of the wilderness values would receive special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. These values include naturalness, solitude and special features such as wildlife habitat, scenic vistas and vegetation.

Exploration for energy and mineral resources could impact wilderness values because of the low to moderate potential that exists for these resources. Exploration for oil and gas could involve non-surface disturbing geophysical operations. Should these geophysical operations show the presence of subsurface structures, an exploratory well could be proposed.

Four to ten acres would be disturbed at the well site and along an access road. The surface and vegetative disturbance would have considerable adverse effects on the natural character, and the presence and noise of machinery associated with the operation would effect solitude. Impacts on solitude would be present from one to two years while the well is drilled, but only along the fringe areas of the WSA where access to heavy machinery is possible. Naturalness would be impacted over the long-term where surface disturbance from the drill pad and road would remain.

In the long-term, a slight increase in motorized recreation use is expected. Low use vehicle trails could possibly be expanded slightly to cross-country use. However, with the projected small increase in visitor use and ORV designation, new impacts will be confined to existing routes. Motorized recreation use would be limited to designated routes in Rindlishbaker, Red and North canyons that total 2 miles. The perception of naturalness and opportunities for solitude would slightly be reduced by continued use.

Impacts to the WSA's wilderness values would result from timber harvest and management activities on 1,524 acres in Rindlishbaker, Red and North canyons. Timber sales on 994 acres in the three canyons would yield 2.5 MMBF, and commercial thinning would be done on 530 acres in Rindlishbaker Canyon. Thinning would involve removing forty percent of the 15-20-year-old trees. Surface and vegetative disturbance caused by tree cutting, scattering of limbs and other waste, and log skidding would have considerable adverse effects on the natural character of the 2,724 acres. The presence and noise associated with the aerial logging operation would adversely affect opportunities for solitude. Impacts on solitude would be present from one to two years while logging takes place. Naturalness would be impacted, over the long term, because stumps and other signs would be left as a reminder that logging has taken place. The selective logging practices would have a slight impact on the WSA's scenic value, but would be unnoticeable from the normal viewing distance to the average visitor.

Conclusion: Over the long-term, the natural character of the Petticoat Peak WSA would be degraded by oil and gas exploration on four to ten acres and timber harvest and management actions on 1,524 acres. Solitude would be disturbed in the short term near two miles of temporary roads by logging and drilling operations.

Impacts to Energy and Mineral Exploration and Development

Once Congress releases the lands from wilderness study, the lands would again be available for geothermal leasing and leasing for oil and gas under the simultaneous oil and gas leasing system. It is likely that as the search for oil and gas continues in the Idaho portion of the Overthrust Belt, a well could be drilled within or adjacent to the WSA. Depending on the location of the well, the pad and road would disturb from four to ten acres. It is unlikely that additional wells would be drilled unless a discovery is made in the initial drilling. Although additional geothermal leases may be issued, it is not likely that anything more than shallow temperature gradient holes will be drilled. Mining claims could continue to be located on lands within the WSA. All potential mineral resources would be available for development.

Conclusion: There would be no impacts on the exploration and development of energy and mineral resources.

Impacts to Motorized Recreation Use

The lands within the WSA would remain closed to motorized recreation use except on designated routes. The Pocatello Off-Road Vehicle Plan limits motorized travel to designated routes in Red House, Rindlishbaker and North canyon that total 2 miles. Use on these routes will remain below 100 visitor days annually for the next ten years, and will not exceed 100 visitor days in the foreseeable future. These routes are used by hunters in the fall and sightseers during the accessible months.

Conclusion: There would be no impacts to motorized recreation use.

Impacts to Timber Harvest and Management

Timber harvest and management actions would occur on 1,524 acres of commercial forest land in the WSA. Lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir would be the primary species harvested and would yield approximately 2.5 MMBF of timber from 994 acres. Precommercial thinning would occur on 530 acres. Existing roads would not be constructed to support timber harvest and management.

Conclusion: There would be no impact to timber harvest and management.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, all 11,298 acres of the Petticoat Peak WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Including the 15,510-acres Petticoat Peak WSA in the National Wilderness Preservation System would protect, preserve and enhance the wilderness values and supplemental features on this area through legislative mandate. The area's natural appearance and wild character would remain unchanged. Opportunities for solitude and unconfined primitive recreation would be enhanced. Wilderness designation would further preserve and protect the area's wildlife and scenic values by providing timber harvest and other surface disturbing activities.

Exploration and development of energy and mineral resources would not impact wilderness values because wilderness designation would withdraw the WSA from mining and mineral leasing activities.

Motorized vehicle use would be eliminated in Rindlishbaker, Red and North canyons where two miles of road deadend. About 100 visitor days annually would also be eliminated. These actions would slightly benefit the area's opportunities for solitude by removing the presence and noise of motor vehicles.

Conclusion: Wilderness values would be preserved on 11,298 acres and enhanced slightly by eliminating motorized vehicles on 2 miles of road.

Impacts to Energy and Mineral Exploration and Development

Wilderness designation would permanently withdraw the lands from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral laws. The only valid existing rights that would exist would be those 9,946 acres of oil and gas leases that have not expired prior to designation. (All leases will have expired on December 7, 1991). Unless oil or gas were discovered adjacent to the WSA, it is doubtful that drilling would be proposed on pre-designation leases in the WSA. The inability of a company to obtain additional leases and the environmental restrictions imposed on drilling activities would prohibit the investment of drilling.

Wilderness designation would preclude the development of any low temperature geothermal resources that may be present. However, it is not anticipated that there will be any demand for this resource because of better potential for development outside the WSA.

Low grade deposits of manganese may exist along highly faulted areas within the WSA, however, it is not anticipated that such deposits will be developed because of their low grade properties and widely dispersed nature.

Conclusion: Wilderness designation would discourage exploration on leases that may exist at the time of designation. The inability to obtain additional leases and the imposition of environmental restraints would discourage exploration. Should oil and gas be discovered outside of the WSA after designation, that resource underlying the WSA would be precluded from development. However, the potential for resource development is limited because oil bearing rock strata are not known to occur in the WSA.

Because of the low potential for geothermal and locatable type deposits, their development would not be impacted by wilderness designation.

Impacts to Motorized Recreation Use

Wilderness designation would close the entire 11,298-acre Petticoat Peak WSA to all forms of motorized recreation use. Roads in Red House, Rindlishbaker and North canyons would be closed to motorized travel. This action would eliminate approximately 100 visitor days annually. Most use is associated with big game and bird hunting and general sightseeing.

Closing the entire WSA to motorized recreation use would result in impacts that would be slight because use is low. Recreationists who travel by motorized vehicle to hunt or see the area could do so by walking a short distance further. Public lands that offer similar or better opportunities for motorized recreation are located throughout the region. Therefore, motorized recreation use foregone in the WSA would be absorbed on surrounding public lands without significant impacts to those lands or recreationists.

Conclusion: Motorized recreation use amounting to 100 visitor days annually would be foregone. Impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

Impacts to Timber Harvest and Management

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, intensive forest management activities would not occur on 1,524 acres of commercial forest land in the WSA. This would result in the loss of potential forest products from 2.5 MMBF of commercial timber.

Conclusion: Timber resources on 1,524 acres of the WSA would not be harvested and a loss of potential timber products from 2.5 MMBF would result.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT TERM USE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG TERM PRODUCTIVITY

If a WSA is not designated wilderness, all present, short-term uses would continue. Off-road vehicle use, mining and mineral leasing activities, and removal of construction and building materials could reduce the wilderness values over the long term.

IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

Activities such as mining, mineral leasing, material sales and logging could create an irreversible commitment of the wilderness resource in part or all of a WSA, if not designated. Wilderness designation would not create an irretrievable or irreversible commitment of resources within a WSA. It would restrict or stop development activities to maintain an area's natural condition. If in the future, Congress decides resources in a wilderness need to be developed in the national interest, they can modify the law to allow it.

CHAPTER 5



Coordination, Consistency and Public Participation

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION, COORDINATION, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Development of the recommendations for the Eastern Idaho Plan Amendment/Wilderness Final Environmental Impact Statement has included an on-going coordination and public participation effort. Federal Register notices, news releases and information letters have announced all steps of the process to date, including the study schedule, notices of intent for preparation and availability of the document, notice of public hearings, and public comment periods.

Throughout the study, consultation and coordination have occurred with other federal agencies, State, county, and local governments, and the public. At this time, recommendations as to suitability or nonsuitability of WSAs for wilderness designation are not inconsistent with officially approved and adopted resource-related plans of these agencies and governments.

Additional consultation and coordination took place with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the U.S. Geologic Service (USGS), and Bureau of Mines (BM).

LIST OF PREPARERS

| <u>Name</u> | <u>EIS Assignment</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Education</u> | <u>Experience</u> |
|-------------------|---|---|--|---------------------------------|
| John Butz | Team Leader | District Outdoor Recreation Planner | B.S. Forest Recreation Management, Oregon State University | 12 years BLM |
| Tim Carroll | Geology/Minerals | District Geologist | B.S. Geology, University of Missouri | 12 years BLM |
| Glenn DeVoe | Range Management | Area Range Conservationist | B.S. Soils and Range Management, University of California; B.S. Agriculture Economics, Oklahoma State University | 9 years BLM |
| Wallace Evans | Management Prescriptions | Area Manager | Ph.D. Zoology/Ecology, Brigham Young University; M.S. Zoology/Ecology, University of Arkansas; B.S. Biology, University of Central Arkansas | 5 years BLM 4 years USGS/MMS |
| Stanley Frazier | Economics | State Office Economist | B.S. Economics, Oregon State University | 9 years BLM |
| Dennis Hill | Range Management/ Management Prescriptions | Supervisory Natural Resources | B.S. Range Management, Washington State University | 22 years BLM |
| Dick Hill | Archaeology | District Archaeologist | B.A. Anthropology, Indiana University | 10 years BLM |
| Geoff Hogander | Range/Wildlife Management | Area Wildlife Biologist | B.S. Fish and Wildlife Management, University of Idaho | 10 years BLM |
| Chuck Horsburgh | Leasable Minerals | District Geologist | B.S. Geology, Brigham Young University | 11 years BLM |
| Brent Jensen | Management Prescriptions | Area Manager | B.S. Range Management, Utah State University | 25 years BLM |
| Robert McCarty | Wildlife Management | Area Wildlife Biologist | B.S. Range Management/ Wildlife Management, Washington State University | 11 years BLM |
| Kathy McCoy | Typist | Area Clerk | 3 years college, Idaho State University | 3 years BLM |
| George Nelson | Liaison | State Office Wilderness Coordinator | M.S. Outdoor Recreation, Utah State University; B.S. Range Management, Colorado State University | 18 years BLM |
| Clarence Oullette | Cartographics | State Office Cartographer | High school, Bucksport, Maine | 10 years BLM |

EIS REVIEW

Beginning on March 29, 1983, about 450 copies of the draft Plan Amendment/EIS were distributed for review by individuals, federal, State, and local governments and non-government organizations listed in Table 7. The draft was officially filed with the Environmental Protection Agency on April 1, 1983. News releases were issued that announced the availability of the document. The public review period extended to July 1, 1983. Two hearings were held to receive formal comments on the draft EIS. One hearing was conducted at the Little Tree Inn in Idaho Falls, Idaho on May 4, 1983, and a second hearing conducted at the Holiday Inn in Pocatello, Idaho on May 5, 1983. Both hearings were opened at 7:30 p.m.

Comment Response Procedures

A total of 70 letters and one petition with 119 signatures were received during the public comment period. The petition was against wilderness in the Black Canyon WSA, and is on file in the BLM, Idaho Falls District Office, Idaho. All letters have been reduced and reprinted in the section at the end of this chapter. All comments that presented new data, questioned facts of analyses, and/or raised issues having a direct bearing on the adequacy of the EIS/Plan Amendment were used in making changes to the draft and/or are given individual responses in this chapter. Responses are also provided for some other comments considered to be of general interest to the readers. All public comments will be considered when making the final wilderness suitability recommendations.

TABLE 7

REVIEWERS AND RESPONDENTS

The following list identifies agencies, organizations and individuals to whom copies of the draft EIS were sent. Those individuals, agencies and organizations who returned written comments and BLM responses prepared are indicated below by numbers assigned as letters were received.

| | <u>Letter Number</u> | <u>Response</u> |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Federal Agencies</u> | | |
| Forest Service | | |
| Soil Conservation Service | | |
| Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service | | |
| Department of Energy | | |
| Army Corps of Engineers | | |
| Environmental Protection Agency | 15 | |
| Advisory Council on Historic Preservation | | |
| Federal Energy Regulatory Commission | | |
| United States Air Force | | |
| U.S. Department of Interior | | |
| Bureau of Indian Affairs | 40 | X |
| Bureau of Mines | | |
| Bureau of Reclamation | | |
| Fish and Wildlife Service | | |
| Geological Survey | | |
| National Park Service | | |
| <u>Elected Federal Officials</u> | | |
| Senator James McClure | | |
| Senator Steve Symms | | |
| Representative George Hansen | | |
| <u>State of Idaho Agencies</u> | | |
| Department of Lands | | |
| Department of Fish and Game | | |
| Department of Parks and Recreation | | |
| Transportation Department, Division of Highways | | |
| Department of Water Resources | | |
| Idaho Historical Society | | |
| Department of Agriculture | | |
| Soil Conservation Commission | | |
| Bureau of Mines and Geology | | |
| Department of Health and Welfare | | |
| <u>Elected State Officials</u> | | |
| Governor John V. Evans | | |
| State Senators and Representatives | | |

| | <u>Letter Number</u> | <u>Response</u> |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Indian Tribes</u> | | |
| The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes | 63 | X |
| <u>Local Government</u> | | |
| Bannock County | | |
| Caribou County | | |
| Bingham County | | |
| Butte County | | |
| Bonneville County | | |
| <u>Cities</u> | | |
| Arco | | |
| Blackfoot | | |
| Idaho Falls | | |
| Pocatello | | |
| Lava Hot Springs | | |
| <u>Organizations</u> | | |
| AEC Sportsmen's Club | 22 | |
| American Mining Congress | | |
| American Wilderness Alliance | 41 | |
| Bonneville Sportsmen's Association | | |
| Citizen's Environmental Council | | |
| Committee for Idaho's High Desert | 1, 57 | X |
| Cottonwood Grazing Association | | |
| Earth First | 13 | X |
| Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs | | |
| Friends of the Earth | 27 | X |
| Gold Diggers Club | | |
| Greater Snake River Land Use Congress | | |
| Idaho Association of Counties | | |
| Idaho Cattlemen's Association | | |
| Idaho Environmental Council | 44 | X |
| Idaho Alpine Club | 39 | |
| Idaho Conservation League | 10 | X |
| Idaho Falls Gem and Minerals Society | | |
| Idaho Mining Association | | |
| Idaho Motorcycle Club | | |
| Idaho Nuclear Sportsmen's Club | | |
| Idaho Falls Trail Machine Association, Inc. | 12 | |
| Idaho State Historical Society | 70 | |
| Idaho Wildlife Federation | | |
| Independent Petroleum Association of America | | |
| Institute for High Desert Studies | | |
| Isaak Walton League | | |
| King Creek Grazing Association | | |

| | <u>Letter Number</u> | <u>Response</u> |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Lava Hot Springs Foundation | | |
| League of Women Voters | | |
| Magic Valley Gem Club | | |
| Natural Resources Defense Council | | |
| North Canyon Grazing Association | | |
| Northwest Mining Association | | |
| Outdoors Unlimited | | |
| Pocatello Trail Machine Association | | |
| Portneuf Valley Audubon Society | | |
| Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association | | |
| Sierra Club | 56 | X |
| Skyline Ridge Riders | | |
| Snake River Audubon Society | | |
| Snowmobile Club | | |
| Southeast Idaho Rod and Gun Club | | |
| Southeast Idaho Snowmobile Association | | |
| Tri-County Cattlemen's Association | | |
| The Wilderness Society | 18 | X |
| Wool Growers Association | | |
| | | |
| Idaho Falls District Advisory Council | | |
| Burley District Advisory Council | | |
| Idaho Falls District Grazing Advisory Board | | |
| Burley District Grazing Advisory Board | | |
| | | |
| <u>Industry</u> | | |
| Atlantic Richfield Co. | 61 | X |
| Chevron U.S.A., Inc. | 4 | X |
| Conoco, Inc. | 3 | X |
| Minerals Exploration Coalition | 36 | X |
| Utah Power and Light | 69 | X |
| | | |
| <u>Other Individuals and Organizations</u> | | |
| (Approximately 300 on mailing list) | | |
| | | |
| Steve Harrison | 2 | |
| Evan Tibbott | 5, 19, 32 | |
| Jeffrey Crook | 6 | X |
| Delores Hill | 7 | |
| Arline Rutledge | 8 | |
| Bruce A. Contor | 9 | |
| Robert Jones | 11 | X |
| Terry Shanahan | 16 | |
| Ruth B. Doe | 17 | |
| Mr. & Mrs. Loyal Hower | 20 | X |
| Mr. & Mrs. Aldrich E. Bowler | 21 | X |
| Mary Rosczyk | 23 | |

| | <u>Letter Number</u> | <u>Response</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Dennis Baird | | |
| Hulda Cox | 24 | X |
| Ed DiBello | 25 | X |
| Pat Woodie (Petition, 119 Signatures) | 26 | |
| Jack Meyer | 28 | |
| Sheldon Bluestein | 29 | |
| Charles H. Trost | 30 | X |
| Michael Schulte | 31 | X |
| Craig R. Groves | 33 | X |
| Dorian Duffin | 34 | X |
| Garney Hardy | 35 | X |
| Bob Secrist | 37 | |
| James M. Baker | 38 | |
| James Phelps | 42 | X |
| S.L. Vodea | 43 | X |
| Gail Z. Eckwright | 45 | X |
| Pete Cole | 46 | X |
| Jim Hale | 47 | |
| Clair Oursler | 48 | X |
| Lionel Millard Oberline | 49 | X |
| Julia Jose | 50 | |
| Donna Hallock | 51 | X |
| Larry Hallock | 52 | |
| Larry Starkovich | 53 | |
| Steve Kraemer | 54 | |
| Lori Milliken | 55 | X |
| Steve Jakubowies | 58 | X |
| Mary E. Kelly | 59 | X |
| Scott Ploger | 60 | |
| Chuck Roth | 62 | X |
| Teri Norell | 64 | X |
| Charles Stevenson | 65 | X |
| Victor Pacania | 66 | X |
| Ted Weigold | 67 | X |
| | 68 | X |

The following letters were assigned numbers in the order in which they were received. The letter number is found in the upper right corner of the first page of each letter. A number to the left side of the letter denotes first the letter number followed by the comment-response number. Such as, 34-1 means the first comment-response for letter #34. Responses to the comments are found after the printed letters.



COMMITTEE FOR IDAHO'S
HIGH DESERT
P.O. BOX 463 BOISE, IDAHO 83701

1

Clair Whitlock, Director
Bureau of Land Management-Idaho State Office
3380 Americana Terrace
Boise, Idaho 83706

Feb. 21, 1983

Dear Sir:

Enclosed as attachments are: (1) an Idaho Falls Post-Register article on the RLM-Idaho Falls District's eastern Idaho wilderness recommendation; (2) the Committee for Idaho's High Desert response and many personal remarks, also printed in the Post-Register; (3) an open letter from me to the Idaho Falls District, offering constructive suggestions on the Black Canyon Wilderness Study Area, (4) my Outdoors West article on Black Canyon, which was part of obtaining wilderness endorsement for Black Canyon from the prestigious Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs (already presented to the District staff); and (5) my amateur map of most of the Black Canyon archaeological sites, as presented to the district during the last public wilderness input.

As reported in Attachment 2, CIHD is apprehensive (to say the least) that the district's proposal for cultural resource management without wilderness protection at Black Canyon amounts to lip service to the antiquities laws. CIHD further feels that wilderness designation is merited independent of archaeology and that wilderness management is anything but impractical, though an enlarged budget would clearly be necessary. Consequently, as part of this press statement, CIHD asked you to disapprove the district-proposed draft environmental impact statement. Unfortunately, the press release was delayed until the DEIS had been signed and sent for printing. Nevertheless, you are entitled to an awareness of this controversy.

I understand the tight nature of federal budgets and the practical problems involved in providing effective protection to archaeological sites. However, the possibilities here for public involvement and assistance are enormous. Moreover, the concentration of pictographs and cave dwellings makes Black Canyon a viable candidate for a money-making concession like Crystal Ice Cave, with simultaneous economic benefit to the community of Howe and some real enforcement capabilities. Incidentally, Rich Harrison visited this area during the 1976 cultural resource inventory by Idaho State University and can probably confirm my opinion of the archaeological content, active desecrations, and potential for educational and tourist development.

I also take this opportunity to urge you to disapprove Earl Hardy's application to divert water from Box Canyon Creek to Blind Canyon across RLM land. The RLM-Shoshone District has already ruled against Hardy in an effort to save something of the Thousand Springs for public enjoyment, and district personnel are correct.

Scott Ploger

Scott Ploger, eastern Idaho spokesman,
Committee for Idaho's High Desert.
392 Moonlite Drive, Idaho Falls, ID
208-524-2397

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Idaho Falls District

2

IN REPLY REFER TO
8500

To : File (Draft Eastern Idaho Wilderness EIS) Date: 3/22/83
FROM : Recreation Planner
SUBJECT: Steve Harrison's Comment on Draft EIS

Mr. Harrison came to the office today to discuss and comment on the Eastern Idaho Wilderness EIS. He had received a copy of the draft and was concerned that if Hell's Half Acre was designated wilderness he would lose vehicle access to the area. He now drives to the edge of the lavas to trap coyotes and bobcats.

I showed Mr. Harrison where the Hell's Half Acre boundary is and what vehicle trails would be closed if the area is designated wilderness. After seeing where the boundary is on topographic maps and photographs, he said wilderness would not conflict with his trapping operation.

Mr. Harrison's address and phone number is as follows:

Steve Harrison
Hitt Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

523-4416

John H. Butz

F. Fred Birdsall
Public Lands Coordinator

Conoco Inc.
566 17th Street
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 576-6123



Chevron U.S.A. Inc.
700 South Colorado Blvd., P. O. Box 599, Denver, CO 80201

Richard T. Hughes
Staff Analyst
Legislative and Regulatory Affairs

April 1983

MFP - Wilderness Amendment

March 25, 1983

Don Watson, EIS Team Leader
Idaho Falls/Burley District
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Dear Mr. Watson:

I generally agree with your preferred Alternative D for the Eastern Idaho MEIS. I see your choice as based on difficult management problems, the lack of character variety amongst the five WSAs, strong local opposition to Wilderness designation, and an adequacy of nearby designated Wilderness, and I appreciate those as good reasons for your preferred choice.

I do not altogether agree with your oil and gas ratings. Since nearly all the WSAs have been leased or are under application, industry is expressing the sort of interest which always precedes drilling. As you know the lava flows and surface rubble confound geophysical exploration and make drilling tough and expensive. Nonetheless the underlying sedimentary section remains untested and industry, by their leasing, is expressing future interest in that underlying section. It is badly masked, but certainly prospectively valuable. The Shoshone District just west in the same geologic environment labels their WSAs as prospectively valuable for oil and gas. A more appropriate rating would be medium favorability but lacking certainty.

My general position on WSAs is that they should be recommended for designation only when an informed decision can be made. Any geologic decision on the Snake River Downwarp subsurface is so speculative now that an informed decision is not possible. I thus must opt for Alternative E, No Wilderness, but would be personally pleased to see Hell's Half Acre receive the highest legal protection possible outside of Wilderness designation.

Yours very truly,

F. Fred Birdsall
F. Fred Birdsall

jjj

Don Watson, EIS Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Mr. Don Watson:

While the preliminary wilderness recommendations for the five WSAs in the Idaho Falls District appear reasonable, we are not sure that energy and minerals potential has been appropriately considered. The geology of southeastern Idaho is particularly difficult and industry's lack of success in the area is not necessarily due to lack of potential or lack of interest. Rather it is more likely a result of an inability to unravel a complex geologic picture and the direction of funds to prospects which are better understood.

We would rate all of the subject WSAs as having at least medium potential, and for this reason believe they should remain in a multiple use classification.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Hughes

RTH/cgf

4-1

During the development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the U.S. Geological Survey had not completed a Geology Energy and Mineral Resource Assessment Report (GEM) for this area. The Bureau relied upon a system which rated the area on its potential for development using a scale of low, moderate, and high potential for development. However, the final EIS incorporated the findings of the recently completed GEM report which indicated that all the area is prospectively valuable for exploration.

3-1

During the development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the U.S. Geological Survey had not completed a Geology Energy and Mineral Resource Assessment Report (GEM) for this area. The Bureau relied upon a system which rated the area on its potential for development using a scale of low, moderate, and high potential for development. However, the final EIS incorporated the findings of the recently completed GEM report which indicated that all the area is prospectively valuable for exploration.

3-1

1003

5
575 Tiger Ave., #43
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401
April 14, 1983

U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
740 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Gentlemen:

This is written to thank you for sending me, earlier, a copy of the Eastern Idaho Plan Amendment/Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement Draft.

As one who has been interested in the progress of wilderness legislation for quite some time, I will be interested in following the current process in our area and contributing where I can.

I would like to comment briefly on my feelings in regard to the idea that has been conveyed that this Administration is considering selling off massive portions of the public lands. As one who has been intimately associated with them for enjoyment and recreation for many years, I would consider this a tragedy for our nation and, especially, the West.

My greatest interest is in the Hells Half Acre region and Black Canyon. As a matter of note, I plan to be going into the latter area Saturday, April 16, to have a first hand look at it. I feel that it deserves protection of some kind to preserve its archaeological values, having seen the film earlier; however, I will have a better first hand knowledge of it after this weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Evan Tibbott
Evan Tibbott

6

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----|--|--|--|
| Director | Mr. | | | |
| Asst. Dir.: | | | | |
| Adm. Serv. | | | | |
| Biological | | | | |
| Cultural | | | | |
| Education | | | | |
| Finance | | | | |
| General Inv. | | | | |
| Information | | | | |
| Inspection | | | | |
| Int. Affairs | | | | |
| Legal Coun. | | | | |
| Plan. & Insp. | | | | |
| Records Mgmt. | | | | |
| Tech. Serv. | | | | |
| Training | | | | |
| Wildl. & Fish. | | | | |
| Wilderness | | | | |
| W. Lands | | | | |
| W. Util. | | | | |

USDI APR 25 1983

4-20-83

Re: Eastern Idaho USA-EIS

EIS Team Leader
BLM-Idaho Falls

Dear Sirs:

I am an Oregon attorney, fisherman, ornithologist and backpacker who is concerned with the management of our public lands. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your DEIS. Please keep me advise of your decisions and any developmental plans.

Your main issues resolved through current analysis to date are very forthright for current federal plans I have studied. Unfortunately, your recommended Alt. D doesn't follow from the conclusions reached.

You state that (1) all areas have outstanding wilderness characteristics; (2) these lands do not make a significant contribution to the local economy; (3) no significant mineral values exist; Then why do you prefer Alt D, to Alt A or B or C which seem to better reflect the future best

6-1

use of these lands?

Under Alt D - there will be no habitat improvement for big horn sheep; this does not follow

6-2

DFG guidelines for improvement and reintroduction of these magnificent animals. Public support is clear for their reintroduction by hunters and non-hunters alike.

Why the bias against recreational (primitive, semi-developed, consumptive & non-consumptive) as well as wildlife and watershed values, in favor of future possible energy uses which you conclude aren't present or "good prospects"? sounds like a pressurized directive from the State office and Washington to skew studies against preservation and wildlife uses and in favor of development interests.

-85-

Also you lack any reasonable economic analysis of the benefits of wilderness designation for local communities, through users dollars spent on route to these areas. These benefits should be quantified

6-3

and measured against the cost/benefit to the public of development and its degradation of habitat and watershed.

These areas also would add diversity to the NW System, by expanding the represented ecosystems and landforms and balancing geographical distribution of WSAs.

The C.I.H.D. proposal to recommend

- (1) Hells Half Acre - 46,000
- (2) Black Canyon - 5400
- (3) Hawley Mtn. 15,500.

is the most balanced and should be the final preferred, and selected, alternative.

I believe the overall level of analysis in the DEIS is not sufficient to pass Court scrutiny, under FLPMA and NEPA as well as California v. Bergland Block.

I should point out to you that local preferences for management of federal lands are not legally controlling - see 7.22-23. Federal lands, and wilderness, is managed or designated for all Americans not just local residents or interested energy corporations.

Thank you for listening to my thoughts, and I look forward to a revamped final EIS.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Cook

27691 SE Haley
Boring Or 97009

6-1 The choice of a proposed action for each WSA was made after considering the criteria and standards contained in BLM's Wilderness Study Policy. BLM managers selected WSAs to be recommended suitable based on wilderness quality and whether an area could be managed over the long-term as wilderness. Public comment was also considered in the decision.

6-2 The draft EIS stated that reestablishment of bighorn sheep would be more likely if a WSA were designated wilderness. Designation would not allow vehicle access, thus removing a potential conflict with bighorn sheep. However, on-the-ground habitat improvement projects for bighorn sheep have not been proposed in any of the WSAs. (See also #4, Issues Dropped From Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1)

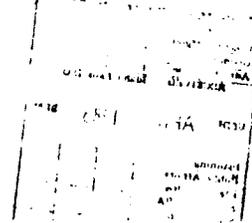
6-3 No detailed data exist on the number of general outdoor recreation visits in these WSAs. Most of the use occurs during the hunting season. Any increase in use of the areas as a result of designating them wilderness would very likely be small; less than one percent.

The trades and services sectors of the local and regional economies are usually large in comparison with others. The portion of the retail trade and services directly attributable to general outdoor recreation (gas, oil, food, and lodging) has been shown to be quite small where input/output studies have been conducted. An increase of one percent in general outdoor recreation would be virtually undetectable and clearly not a significant impact to the local economies. A cost/benefit analysis of wilderness designation does not appear appropriate. (See also #9 and #10, Issues Dropped From Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1)

2389 Malcolm Dr. 7
Idaho Falls, ID, 83401

April 21, 1983

Bureau of Land Management
940 Lincoln Rd
Idaho Falls, ID 83401



Dear Sir:

Since I am unable to attend the hearing on May 4, I am taking this opportunity to express my opinion. I believe that the Black Canyon Area should be classified as a wilderness. The numerous Indian cave dwellings and pictographs in the area should be preserved. Every possible step should be taken to prevent vandalism and looting. At some time in the future archeologists will find the time and money to study these valuable sites. Wilderness classification would prohibit access by motorized vehicles. I believe this is an essential step towards ensuring preservation of these sites.

Sincerely yours,

Dolores Hill

May 6, 1983

8

U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Att: Don Watson
EIS Team Leader

Dear Mr. Watson:

After studying the Eastern Idaho Plan Amendment/Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement Draft which I recently received, I urge the BLM to recommend each of the five Wilderness Study Areas being considered in this EIS as suitable for wilderness designation under Alternative A (with particular emphasis on Black Canyon, because of its unique prehistoric geological and archeological formations).

After considering each alternative listed in the EIS I have concluded that wilderness designation will have no significant impact on other resources (such as mining, gas/oil exploration, logging, extraction of building materials, and livestock grazing). Additionally, if in the future, Congress should deem it necessary to develop resources in a wilderness area, laws can be modified to allow such development. Wilderness designation will protect valuable wildlife habitat, some of which provides sanctuary for certain endangered species (i.e., peregrine falcons, whooping cranes and bald eagles). It will prevent further degradation of important unique archeological, geological and scenic areas from vandalism and off-road vehicles. Furthermore, Alternative A will provide diversity in Southern Idaho's Wilderness Preservation System, an important consideration, as this portion of the Gem State has very few wilderness areas.

I look forward to receiving the final plan amendment/EIS.

Sincerely,

B. Arline Rutledge

B. Arline Rutledge
Rt. 1, Box 76
Arco, ID 83213

Bureau of Land Management
940 Lincoln Rd
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

9

Countdown:

I'm very interested in your upcoming Wilderness Hearing but unable to attend.

Please consider the enclosed letter as though it were given at the hearing.

Thank you,

Bryce A. Contor

Rt 1

Howe, ID 83244

4 May 1983

Dear Editor:

Mr. Ploger did two things on his "Black Canyon Tour." He proved the BLM right, and he violated the "rules of the game" for wilderness areas.

The article (in Monday Post Register) said the group waded "perhaps half a mile." I've been up there, and if they only waded half a mile then they certainly used some vehicles and roads, too. Shame on them! (The BLM said there are too many roads there to make it a "wilderness.")

If Mr. Ploger has his way, the BLM will have to block the roads he used, and he and his friends won't be able to drive up there and enjoy it as they can now, and neither will anyone else - only the young and healthy, and the wealthy with their horses, will be able to enjoy Black Canyon. Besides, if there are no beer cans or candy wrappers, why does it need so much protection?

I'm not against real wilderness protection for real wilderness. That's why we have National Parks. But I am against the rich and the athletic trying up the whole outdoor world exclusively for themselves.

Bryce A. Contor
Howe, ID 83244

cc BLM



Idaho Conservation League

Box 844 Boise, Idaho 83701 (208) 345-6933



JIM SINLAIR
POCATELLO CHAPTER REP.
IDAHO CONSERVATION LEAGUE
144 TOPONCE
POCATELLO, IDAHO 83204

MAY 5, 1983

MR. OBELL RANDSEN
FIELD DISTRICT MANAGER
HELLS HALF DISTRICT
700 LINCOLN ROAD
HELLS HALF, ID 83401

DEAR MR. RANDSEN

THE IDAHO CONSERVATION LEAGUE SUPPORTS THE ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE A FOR THE FIVE WSAs. EACH LOCATION CONTAINS OUTSTANDING QUALITIES AND WITH BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS AT PETTICOAT PEAK AND HAWLEY MOUNTAIN, ALTERNATIVE A WOULD BE THE MOST IDEAL, ECONOMICAL, AND EASILY MANAGED APPROACH.

PETTICOAT PEAK SHOULD BE DESIGNATED AS WILDERNESS TO INCREASE THE PROTECTION OF THE BIGHORN SHEEP THAT ARE TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE AREA BY THE FISH AND GAME, AND TO PROTECT THE ENDANGERED SPECIES OF BALD EAGLES, PEREGRINE FALCONS, AND WHOOPING CRANES THAT ARE ALREADY THERE. BLM NEEDS TO CONSIDER TRIMMING FROM THE WSA, THE 3200 ACRES OF LAND USED FOR UNRESTRICTED GRAZING

10-1



Idaho Conservation League

Box 844 Boise, Idaho 83701 (208) 345-6933



AND TIMBERING BY THE FORT HALL INDIANS. THIS WOULD HONOR THEIR TREATY AND HELP CLARIFY THE BOUNDARIES OF THE WSA. THE 1000 ACRES IN THE EASTERN CORNER SHOULD ALSO BE REMOVED SINCE IT HAS BEEN SCARED AND RAPED BY OFF-ROAD VEHICLE USE. THIS WOULD TAKE PROPER ADVANTAGE OF THE NATURAL BARRIERS AND ELIMINATE ANY MANAGEABILITY PROBLEMS.

10-1

ICL COMMENDS THE BLM FOR RECOMMENDING HELLS HALF ACRE FOR WILDERNESS AND SUGGESTS THAT CEDAR BUTTE DESERVES THE SAME CONSIDERATION. THIS WOULD BE MORE CONSISTENT WITH THE 1964 WILDERNESS ACT.

AT BLACK CANYON, THE LOOTING AND VANDALISM OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES MUST BE STOPPED IMMEDIATELY. IMPACT WOULD BE GREATLY REDUCED BY PROHIBITING VEHICLES FROM USING THE AREA. THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY CONSTRUCTING ORV BARRIERS AT THE KEY CANYON ENTRANCES. IT WOULD ALSO REMOVE ONE OF THE CLAIMS THAT THERE IS NOT ENOUGH

10-2



3

10-2 OBJECTIVE TOPOGRAPHY TO CLASSIFY IT AS A WILDERNESS, THE AREA OFFERS A COMBINATION OF SCENIC, CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC, WILDLIFE, AND GEOLOGIC ATTRACTIONS THAT NEED PROTECTION UNDER A WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.

10-2 IN EASTERN IDAHO, ONLY THE CRATERS OF THE MOON WILDERNESS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. THE PARTIAL ALTERNATIVE OF JUST ADDING HELL'S HALF ACRE IS NOT ACCEPTABLE, SINCE HAWELY MOUNTAIN AND ESPECIALLY PETTICOAT PEAK ARE NOT REPRESENTED WITHIN ANY PARTIAL ALTERNATIVE. THE IDAHO CONSERVATION LEAGUE STRONGLY URGES THAT THE ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE BE CONSIDERED FOR PROTECTION OF THE OUTSTANDING WILDLIFE, CULTURAL, AND RECREATIONAL VALUES OF THESE AREAS. THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND.

SINCERELY,

Jim Smiley

10-1 The Fort Hall Agency and Tribe have said they see no conflict with their treaty rights and management of the northern 3,200 acres of Petticoat Peak as wilderness. Therefore, this partial alternative has been dropped. (See letters 40 and 63, and Alternatives Considered But Dropped From Analysis, Chapter 1.)

10-2 See #8, Issues Dropped From Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1.

Bureau of Land Management
 Idaho Falls District Office
 940 Lincoln Road
 Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Mr Frandsen and EIS Crew;

I am writing regarding your Eastern Idaho, Plan Amendment/Wilderness EIS Draft. This EIS addresses Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) 33-15, 32-3, 32-9, 33-4, and 28-1 in the Idaho Falls and Burley BLM Districts.

First, I urge you to recommend Alternative A, all wilderness, to the U.S. Congress. Alternative A would designate all five WSAs in the EIS as wilderness, a total of 134,108 acres.

In respect to the issues addressed in the EIS (or the adequacy of the document), I have the following comments: Roaded access: When on Big Southern Butte, it is truly incredible how numerous the roads and trails are to the viewer. Off road vehicles (ORVs) are among the most anti-American element in the West. It is my belief that specific noise parks be established in previously brutalized areas, allowing presently unroaded areas to remain unroaded (including all WSAs, regardless of their eventual designation) and previously roaded areas to revert to natural condition, with allowance made for maintenance of primary routes. Opportunity for land acquisition: All WSAs in the EIS present few problems in regards to acquisition of non-BLM lands. Cost of management: Certainly the cost of managing an area as wilderness are less than developing resources (as you can readily find in F.S. documents, which they (F.S.) are prone to disregard in their planning process as well - the cost of roading and responding to subsequent erosion and management problems far outweigh the value of the resources taken from an area in most cases). This issue fails to address the long-term benefits of preserving a few small pockets of wilderness, both economic and aesthetic (guiding, economic benefit to surrounding communities, et al.; wildlife, just plain enjoyment). The short-term cost of management as wilderness is warranted given the long-term benefits of continuing the wilderness character of the WSAs. Quantity of Idaho's public land that should be preserved: Surely this is not a serious issue, but more of an extremist over-reaction to unrelated economic conditions. We currently have more land under concrete and asphalt than as designated wilderness. Must we develop all our remaining wild lands, although they are becoming increasingly rare and representative of the "rocks and ice" variety, with little diversity. Wild lands are valuable as benchmarks with which to compare our other lands. From any vantage point, the severe impact of man's activities is astounding. We should continue to designate a large variety and diversity of our public lands as wilderness.

Regarding the BLM criteria for planning (p. 6-7): Certainly the quality of an area is as important as the quantity. Therefore, all WSAs qualify for designation as official wilderness lands. All contain special features (geologic, as in Hell's Half Acre, Black Canyon, and Cedar Butte; archaeological, as in Black Canyon (a favorite place of mine), Hawley Mountain, and Hell's Half Acre (an area I first visited on an extended trip while in scouts - an area which ate my first real pair of hiking boots); and wildlife value, as in Petticoat Peak, Hawley Mountain, Black Canyon, and I believe Hell's Half Acre. Actually, all the WSAs are special, the remaining bits of BLM not repleat with the obvious assaults of man (no, I haven't forgotten the Great Rift area).

Page 2, Jones

- 11-2 Multiple resource benefits: Why manage for the short-term? It was my belief that the BLM was considering the long-term in the EIS. If so, then factors such as grazing, lava building stone, and oil, gas, mineral leasing/exploration would receive next-to-no consideration on the EIS. As it is, the value of these factors is small under any scenario.
- Diversity of the National Wilderness Preservation System: (a) All WSAs in the current EIS would satisfy this criterion of expanding the diversity of natural systems and features represented by ecosystems and landform. As the surrounding lands near each WSA have been altered substantially, each area is truly unique. Another factor, that each area has largely avoided obvious impact at the hands of man due to its landform, topography, and natural barriers (in addition to its low economic worth) considerations, should be perceived as good reason to preserve the areas as they are. (b) The availability of an area should be given more weight in decision-planning. Proximity to a population area plus the quality of the area should instantly qualify Hell's Half Acre, Petticoat Peak, Black Canyon, and perhaps Hawley Mountain. Item 'c' related to proximity as well.
- 11-3 Consideration of nearby areas, such as F.S. lands, is not a relevant criterion for evaluating WSAs. Each area should be considered on its own merits, unless the contiguous areas will augment the continuance of the WSA's wild attributes.

The following randomly-anchored comments conclude my input to your EIS: No ORV use should be permitted on currently unroaded lands, regardless of their eventual official designation (existing routes and redundant routes in most areas can and should be allowed to revert to a natural state). Why is it necessary to

- 11-4 hurry through the evaluation of possible wilderness lands (p. 2)? Is there that amount of pressure from special interest groups such as Conoco, Inc. and James Watt Realtors? The combination of Black Canyon and adjacent F.S. land appears to be an appropriate course of action (the establishment of buffer zones around each WSA is recommended - no ORVs, no mineral leasing, no logging, no rock-gathering) (p. 11). Please drop the "or valid" segment of the "Existing mining claims would either be declared invalid or valid." statement (p. 14, et al.). Economic value should be attached to the opportunity for solitude, advantage to re-establishment of bighorn sheep, wildlife, historical, and scenic factors (among others) in this and subsequent EISs. It amazes me that little credibility is given to an area's value for what it is as opposed to what short-term monetary gain might be squeezed from an area (with concomitant disregard for the cost of reclamation).

As you grow weary of reading my comments, let me leave you with a thought: if we as Americans feel it necessary to develop the last remnants of our wild heritage, than what will this development buy? Perhaps a year, probably less, of continuance at our present outlandish standard of living (assuming we plunder all remaining wild lands, not just BLM's meager allotment). Again, please recommend Alternative A to the U.S. Congress.

Thanks for the opportunity to submit the above comments.

Robert Jones May 6, 1983

Robert Jones
 P.O. Box 357
 Arco, Idaho 83213



Idaho Falls Trail Machine Association, Inc.
Conservation, Courtesy, Safety
 P.O. Box 2345 Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

May 11, 1983

Bureau of Land Management
 Idaho Falls District Office
 Attn: FIS Team Leader
 940 Lincoln Road
 Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Dear Sirs,

The Idaho Trail Machine Association wishes to go on record as to recommend designation of Hell's Half Acre and Cedar Butte as wilderness areas. Based on our final analysis, we feel the other 3 areas (Hawley Mtn., Black Canyon and Petticoat Peak) don't contain sufficient characteristics to qualify or be manageable as such.

We do wish to thank the BLM FIS Team for achieving a difficult study unappreciated by many other user groups, and for basing their assessment as to what areas they feel are or are not manageable as wilderness.

Several user groups want all 5 areas to be designated wilderness, but they contend this is the only way to protect these areas. This is a self-serving falsehood and a very selfish proposal.

We do believe something does need to be done to help Black's Canyon, but a wilderness designation for that area will not guarantee any less problems than what has already been occurring. Our group feels quite upset about the vandalism that happened to the pictographs and other artifacts, but our families also enjoy riding our trail bikes into these areas to study and appreciate our ancient history as much as anyone.

Some users disregard the fact that our lands must be able to support a minimal amount of use by farmers, ranchers, graziers and recreationists, and all types of use will create some negative impact.

No land areas should become the exclusive privilage of one type of user, and any single group shouldn't have priority over any other type of user, in any management plan.

We acknowledge that many areas are quite manageable for many kinds of protection without being designated wilderness by congress, while still allowing many different uses to continue for all of us.

Thank you for consideration of our feelings and comments.

Sincerely,

Carl Atamanczyk

Carl Atamanczyk, president

Idaho Falls Trail
 Machine Association

- 11-1 Both the long-term and short-term benefits to other resources through wilderness management were considered. Refer to response 6-3.
- 11-2 Actions that are anticipated within the WSAs were projected over the long-term for the purpose of estimating environmental impacts. These actions include both those expected from private industry and planned BLM management actions.
- 11-3 The proximity of a WSA to population centers and balancing geographic distribution of wilderness areas was considered during the application of BLM's Wilderness Study Policy to each area. These are two of several factors used in determining qualitative evaluation of wilderness value. A particular weighting method was not used.
- 11-4 The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 instructed the Secretary of Interior to report recommendations on wilderness suitability to the President by October 21, 1991. BLM's study schedule is designed so the Secretary can meet this deadline.
- 11-5 Combining the Black Canyon WSA and adjacent Forest Service lands was considered as a possible alternative. This alternative was dropped because the Forest Service has allocated the adjacent roadless area to uses other than wilderness.
- The BLM's Wilderness Study Policy states that protective buffer zones will not be created around wilderness areas.
- 11-6 Text changes have been made to explain the use of validity as it applies to mining claims.
- 11-7 See response 6-3 and #9 and #10, Issues Dropped From Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1.



PO Box 235 Ely, NV 89301
702-289-8636



PO Box 235 Ely, NV 89301
702-289-8636

June 2, 1983

Bureau of Land Management
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Dear Sirs:

We find the draft EIS and its wilderness recommendations inadequate and with a definite anti-wilderness bias. Rationales used to justify non-wilderness recommendations are weak and inconsistent. Earth First! supports alternative A. Following are comments on particular areas;

1. Hell's Half Acre. We do agree with the BLM wilderness proposal for this area. It is clearly unsuited for any other use and possesses exceptional wilderness value.
2. Hawley Mtn. The analysis and recommendation by BLM is unsupportable. Earth First! supports joining the area with adjacent roadless land in the Lost River Range to form a single wilderness, but the area is certainly justifiable as wilderness in its own right. The BLM argument for nonwilderness seems to be based on several poorly justified arguments. The first is that the area possesses lesser quality than adjacent roadless lands and wilderness. There are, in fact, no neighboring wilderness areas, and this wilderness area differs from any other Central Idaho Wilderness by being fairly rugged, yet relatively dry and easy of access, with early spring melt-off. The adjacent Lost River Range and Lemhi Mtns. are higher and more rugged, without access until midsummer. The second argument for nonwilderness is based on the difficulty of excluding vehicles. Yet BLM admits that the 14 vehicle trails within the area total only 13 miles in length and carry very little traffic. These trails are generally only obscure tracks, extending no more than 1/2 mile into the region. It seems unlikely that banning vehicles from the area would actually amount to such an intolerable management burden. The timber on Hawley Mtn. is scattered and sparse and of very poor quality. Growing conditions are very poor on this high elevation, cold, dry mountain with its steep rocky slopes. It is exceedingly unlikely that the benefits from logging would ever outweigh the economic and environmental costs. Perhaps the highest value of Hawley Mtn. is as wildlife habitat. The area is important for deer, pronghorns, elk, and many other species. Yet, plans for logging, unrestricted vehicle access, and other disturbances would greatly reduce the wildlife values, whereas wilderness would improve them, as well as adding to the recreational values in Central Idaho, without causing any significant resource conflicts.
3. Cedar Butte. Earth First! supports wilderness for this area. Its pristine character, proximity to the population centers of Pocatello and Blackfoot, and total lack of significant conflicts would all point to this designation. The

softer topography and heavier vegetation provide a contrast with the harshness of many of the Snake River lava flows. Again, wilderness would add to wildlife and recreation values, whereas designation as non-wilderness would provide no advantage.

4. Petticoat Peak. The Lava Hot Springs area is primarily economically dependent on tourism, with the naturalness of the surroundings being an important attraction. Southeast Idaho also suffers from a complete lack of designated wilderness. Petticoat Peak in particular is an important wildlife area, with good habitat and lack of disturbance. For all of these reasons, wilderness seems to be the only appropriate designation. The BLM recommendation against wilderness is based on several shaky arguments. In the first place, logging on Petticoat Peak, as recommended by BLM, can never be justified. The forest in the area is primarily juniper and mountain mahogany; what little Douglas fir exists is of poor quality and far more important for wildlife than as timber. Logging these trees would necessitate environmental disturbances far out of proportion to any economic benefits.

Vehicular disturbances in the region are at present, only slight and closure of the few primitive jeep trails would not be difficult. There exists a multitude of other, more popular locations nearby for this type of recreation.

Likewise, there would be no difficulty in trimming the Indian lands from the WSA, and although the Indians may have unrestricted development rights on their lands, it seems highly unlikely that conditions would ever favor logging or intensive grazing in those areas. They are much more likely to remain undeveloped and and thus agument the wilderness value of Petticoat Peak.

13-2

5. Black Canyon. Earth First! supports the combining of this area with adjacent roadless land to the north to form a single larger wilderness, but wilderness designation is also appropriate for the area in its own right. The combination of archeological values with the scenic beauty and geological interest of the canyon clearly supports wilderness designation. The contention that it would be impossible to prevent ORV intrusions is patently false to anyone who has seen how easy it would be to barricade the few jeep trails. These closures are in any event necessary to protect cultural values. BLM's halfhearted efforts to protect the archeological sites have clearly not been working; wilderness designation clearly seems necessary.

13-3

Sincerely,

Wendy Warren
352 South 8th
Pocatello, Idaho 83201

WW/lkm



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
600 South Walnut • Box 25
Boise • Idaho • 83707

June 3, 1983

Bureau of Land Management
Idaho Falls District Office
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Attention EIS Team Leader

Dear Sirs:

We have reviewed the "Eastern Idaho Wilderness Draft EIS and Plan Amendment" for the five wilderness study areas in the Idaho Falls and Burley Districts of the BLM.

The preferred alternative of wilderness classification for Hell's Half Acre and nonwilderness for the other areas should have minimal impacts on wildlife management and is acceptable to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Sincerely,

Jerry M. Conley
Jerry M. Conley
Director

cc: Region 5
Region 6

• EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER •

13-1 The boundaries for the Hawley Mountain WSA adjacent to the Lost River Range are along existing roads. Joining the WSA with adjacent Forest Service roadless land was considered during the wilderness inventory. This idea was dropped because of the existing road that separates the areas.

The comparisons of WSAs and adjacent Forest Service lands has been dropped from the final EIS.

13-2 The Fort Hall Agency and Tribe have said they see no conflict with their treaty rights and management of the northern 3,200 acres of Petticoat Peak as wilderness. Therefore, this partial alternative has been dropped. (See letters 40 and 63, and Alternatives Considered But Dropped From Analysis, Chapter 1.)

13-3 Combining the Black Canyon WSA and adjacent Forest Service lands was considered as a possible alternative. This alternative was dropped because the Forest Service has allocated the adjacent roadless area to uses other than wilderness.

The BLM's Wilderness Study Policy states that protective buffer zones will not be created around wilderness areas.

15

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



REPLY TO: M/S 443
ATTN: G

JUN 11 1983

O'dell Frandsen
District Manager -- Idaho Falls District
Bureau of Land Management
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Re: Draft FIS -- Eastern Idaho Wilderness Plan Amendment

Dear Mr. Frandsen:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Idaho Falls District Draft EIS. We have no comments to offer at this time. We look forward to receiving a copy of the Final EIS.

EPA has rated this Draft EIS LO-1 [LO -- Lack of Objection; 1-- Adequate Information]. We appreciate the opportunity to review the report. Should you wish to discuss any aspect of EPA's review, please contact Richard Thiel, Environmental Evaluation Branch Chief, at 442-1728 or (FTS) 399-1728.

Sincerely,


L. Edwin Coate
Acting Regional Administrator

16

June 8, 1983

Dear Sir,
In response to your booklet on
Eastern Idaho Wilderness Draft
environmental impact statement
regarding studies on
Helix Half acre,
Hawley Mountain,
Black Canyon,
Cedar Butte,
Petticoat Peak

Because I'm a conservation-
ist all the way, I would like to
see as much of everything protected
at wilderness status, within reason -

thank you

teery Shonahan
Wildlife Photographer
Whitman Hotel
Pocatello, Idaho
83204

June 6, 1983

17

Bureau of Land Management
Idaho Falls District
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Attention: Personnel working with BLM public land Management,
Recommendations, EIS, etc.

I think natural land with it's native vegetation intact or nearly so has much value. I attended the recent Public Hearing held at the Idaho Falls Littletree Inn concerning the Draft Wilderness EIS for Eastern Idaho, and wish to express my opinions and make the following comments.

I would like to recommend that Black Canyon and Hawley Mt. be included along with Hell's Half Acre to be recommended for Wilderness designation, and Cedar Butte and Petticoat Peak be managed to protect their natural features without being so restrictive about motor-ized vehicles. It seems like a few trails and trail roads should be permissible in most roadless ~~or~~ and natural areas.

In my opinion the things which do the most damage to the natural vegetation of a natural area are over grazing and manipulating the rangeland vegetation with sagebrush spraying, chaining, planting crested wheat grass etc. It appears this destroys all the native vegetation and wildlife habitat and turns the natural rangeland into a domestic pasture. I do believe in balance, and I hope that much of the privately owned land which is already cultivated and lying idle or raising surplus grain crops can be used to provide pasture and forage for livestock in the future. There are fast becoming so many other needs and uses for the public lands especially the natural areas.

On the draft Big Lost-Mackay Environmental Impact Statement dealing with grazing management on public rangeland from Arco to the Willow Creek Summit, of the four alternatives offered by the BLM, I favor C. -- Less funding of range improvement facilities and a decrease in livestock use that would ultimately improve the range conditions. --I have traveled the Arco to Challis highway many times, and think it is very scenic and interesting. Most range improvements would surely detract from the wildness of the country, and I do not favor them (with the exception of an occasional water storage device) for the same reasons listed in the above paragraph.

I do not know if the many little islands in the South Fork of the Snake River were ever in a (WSA), but I hope they too will be managed to preserve their wild and natural character.

I appreciate this opportunity to make comments and express my ideas and opinions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ruth B. Hae



18

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1963

June 14, 1983

Mr. O'Dell Frandsen
District Manager
Idaho Falls District BLM
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Dear Mr. Frandsen:

The Wilderness Society appreciates the opportunity to comment on this Draft EIS.

We believe that all five WSA's, Hell's Half Acre, Cedar Butte, Hawley Mountain, Petticoat Peak and Black Canyon possess outstanding wilderness characteristics. However, we do recognize that certain boundary adjustments would have to be made in order to improve manageability. This is particularly true for Hawley Mountain and Petticoat Peak. We do not understand why the BLM has not considered an alternative which would protect all five WSA's as wilderness while making boundary adjustments which would allow these lands to be efficiently managed.

18-1

We applaud your recommendation of Hell's Half Acre for wilderness. We do not understand why Cedar Butte has not also been recommended since it contains similar characteristics and also lacks any discernable conflicts. "Geographical concentration of wilderness" is simply not a good excuse for non-recommendation. This is particularly true since there is no designated wilderness at the present time.

18-2

We believe that Hawley Mountain would make a magnificent addition to the wilderness system. This is true because of its ideal setting between two spectacular mountain ranges. Any conflicts with ORV's can certainly be mitigated through boundary adjustments.

18-3

NORTHERN ROCKIES REGIONAL OFFICE
413 WEST IDAHO STREET, SUITE #102, BOISE, IDAHO 83702

(208) 343-8153

-95-

Petticoat Peak is another area that would make a fine inclusion once certain boundary adjustments were made to eliminate conflicts. The wildlife values contained within this area are outstanding.

Perhaps the most deserving area for wilderness classification is Black Canyon. This area does possess scenic, cultural, scientific, wildlife and geologic attraction of a high caliber. The area's most outstanding attributes are its archeological resources. Only wilderness designation would prevent the wholesale looting of these resources that has taken place. We believe that this area should be recommended for wilderness and that a cultural resource management plan should be developed as soon as possible. This area should also be closed to any motorized intrusion immediately. This should be actively enforced consistent with BLM interim management policies.

In conclusion, we would like to once again reiterate our support for the all wilderness alternative with necessary boundary adjustments.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,


Thomas S. Robinson
Regional Director
The Wilderness Society

- 18-4
- 18-1 Alternatives that would remove manageability problems have been reconsidered in this final document. Refer to Proposed Action and Alternatives, Chapter 2; and Alternatives Considered but Dropped from Analysis, Chapter 1.
- 18-2 BLM managers decided not to recommend the Cedar Butte WSA because natural features that would attract primitive recreationists are not particularly numerous or interesting. Other lava flow landscapes offer better primitive recreation opportunities and include the Craters of the Moon Wilderness, Great Rift, and Hell's Half Acre WSAs.
- 18-3 A partial wilderness alternative has been added for the Hawley Mountain WSA in the final EIS. It includes the boundary suggested by the committee for Idaho's High Desert, and eliminates lands from the WSA where conflicts could occur from ORV use.
- 18-4 See #8, Issues Dropped from Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1. A specific Interim Wilderness Management Plan for the Black Canyon WSA is being implemented to insure that wilderness values are not degraded.

Mr. Odell Frandsen
District Manager
Idaho Falls District, BLM
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Dear Mr. Frandsen:

Earlier, in May of this year, during the BLM Wilderness hearing in Idaho Falls, I testified in support of wilderness designation for Black Canyon. I am writing to you to reaffirm my belief that wilderness designation would be the strongest way to give this unique area the protection it should have.

Earlier in the spring, I visited this site as part of a group lead by Scott Ploger, having first learned of its existence from having seen some of his excellent slides.

I am a person who enjoys the out of doors, winter and summer as a hiker, backpacker, canoeist and cross-country skier, and photographer. I have lived in Idaho nineteen years, having worked in a variety of fields from the logging industry of the north, as a fire lookout, to retail business in Idaho Falls. As a result of such a background, I feel that my outlook towards our natural resources is balanced by an appreciation of what they mean to us from a more material standpoint.

My impression of Black Canyon is that it is an area of unusual quality, in respect, particularly, to its rock formations and its obvious archaeological values. The massive character of these formations and their overall sculpturing impart an atmosphere of solitude, remoteness, and preclude all but foot travel beyond the main valley bottoms. One of the most interesting features was the ascent of one extremely narrow defile leading into the heart of the area, undoubtedly used as a hunting blind by earlier hunters, which required some risky scrambling over large rock plugs. I noticed that, beyond this, there was no sign of littering so often associated with well-used paths.

The physical character of the region is enhanced by the presence of several species of hawks, eagles, owls, falcons and other raptors. Deer, partridge, black bear, bobcat and occasional cougar also inhabit the area.

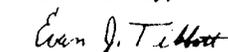
From the archaeological standpoint, more than 65 sites have been identified including campsites, rockshelters, hunting blinds, and petroglyph panels. I saw numerous examples of these during our hike.

In expressing my opinions of this area, I am most especially concerned that the study area be given the best form of protection that can be provided.

I would also like to see Hells Half Acre given similar wilderness protection, as originally recommended by your agency.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that I do not see why candidates for wilderness protection need to be confined to the high remote areas of national forests and alpine regions. Opportunities for wilderness protection exist, as well, on lands managed by the BLM, although, generally, of a different physical setting. I would like to see such areas given more thorough study.

Yours sincerely,


Evan J. Tibbott

Mr. Odell Frandsen
District Manager
Idaho Falls District BLM
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Dear Sir:

Last summer Mr. Hower and I had occasion to visit several areas near Idaho Falls and other parts of Southeast Idaho and have several things we would like to see preserved as Wilderness areas.

20-1

The Petticoat Peak and Hawley Mountain areas should have some boundary changes that have been recommended by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert be a part of the final wilderness proposal for the area and that the Petticoat Peak area be kept as a wilderness area. This is vital to the three endangered species in that area.

Hawley Mt. WSA as another area that with a minor boundary adjustment as suggested by the CIHB would remove a vehicle intrusion problem and would remain a wilderness area.

Hells Hal Acre and Cedar Butte areas should be preserved as outstanding wilderness areas. There is a great need to preserve this as such.

The Black Canyon area is of tremendous archaeological resource found here. It seems to us that to designate this area as a Wilderness area is the best way that Idaho has to protect the petroglyphs and other archaeological resources from looting and vandalism. If there is no roads for vehicles to enter, it would be so much easier to preserve this for future study and enjoyment. To lack Wilderness protection for this area would really be a loss for all of Idahoans. Idaho does have a scenic treasure here.

Thank you for your attention to these proposals.

Yours truly,

Mr. & Mrs. Loyal Hower

Mr. and Mrs. Loyal L. Hower
P.O. 3
Nampa, Idaho 83651

20-1

The Fort Hall Agency and Tribe have said they see no conflict with their treaty rights and management of the northern 3,200 acres of Petticoat Peak as wilderness. Therefore, this partial alternative has been dropped. (See letters 40 and 63, and Alternatives Considered But Dropped From Analysis, Chapter 1.)

A partial wilderness alternative has been added for the Hawley Mountain WSA in the final EIS. It includes the boundary suggested by the committee for Idaho's High Desert, and eliminates lands from the WSA where conflicts could occur from ORV use.



Mr. Odell Frandsen
Dist. Mgr.
Idaho Falls Dist. BLM
940 Lincoln Rd.
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

June 20, 1983

Dear Mr. Frandsen:

We would like to let you know, for your records, how we feel about the following matters:

(1) We support the Modified All-Wilderness Alternative (which incorporates the boundary adjustments submitted by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert) and hope that you will list all 5 WSAs and note that each contains outstanding wilderness values.

21-1

(2) We would emphasize the endangered species habitat of Petticoat Peak and the scenic values of Hawley Mt. The existing boundaries of these WSAs are predisposed to wilderness conflicts and the BLM would do well to recommend boundary adjustments which would eliminate these conflicts.

(3) We support wilderness designation for Cedar Butte.

21-2

(4) Motor vehicles should be restricted from Black Canyon and such restrictions should go into effect at once. A cultural resource management plan should be included in the final Wilderness EIS. Immediate construction of ORV barriers at the key canyon entrances would help protect the archeological resources of the WSA.

(5) We support Hell's Half Acre and understand that approval of the Sect'y of Interior is ultimately required. Since Sect'y Watt has denied Wilderness designation for another lava flow, The Great Rift, perhaps this site will be endorsed.

Thank you very much for your attention to our requests and consideration of our opinions and feelings.

Yours sincerely,
Aldrich E. Bowler
Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich E. Bowler
Di Bowler

21-1

The Fort Hall Agency and Tribe have said they see no conflict with their treaty rights and management of the northern 3,200 acres of Petticoat Peak as wilderness. Therefore, this partial alternative has been dropped. (See letters 40 and 63, and Alternatives Considered But Dropped From Analysis, Chapter 1.)

A partial wilderness alternative has been added for the Hawley Mountain WSA in the final EIS. It includes the boundary suggested by the committee for Idaho's High Desert, and eliminates lands from the WSA where conflicts could occur from ORV use.

21-2

Refer to #8, Issues Dropped from Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1.



22

18 May, 1983

U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Attention: O'Dell Fransden, District Manager

Gentlemen:

Subject: Eastern Idaho Wilderness Draft EIS and Plan Amendment

We have reviewed the document you sent to us and offer the following comments for your consideration:

1. We definitely concur with your recommendation that the Hell's Half Acre, WSA, be designated wilderness.
2. The Black Canyon, WSA, should also be designated wilderness. Its character is sufficient to justify such classification. Special problems with local attitudes regarding vehicle travel may be satisfied by education and the passage of time, along with enforcement of restrictions. The fact that the area does not contribute to diversity in the national wilderness system is immaterial to whether it should be preserved at this time as wilderness. It should be.
3. The Cedar Butte area should also be designated wilderness as it is a unique area, perhaps not as strikingly landscaped as Hell's Half Acre, but still distinct in its own right. The area could be designated wilderness with a minimum of impacts on existing users and rights and should be so designated.
4. We agree that the Hawley Mountain WSA should not be designated wilderness. It should be intensively managed for wildlife including early treatment of the mahogany to improve deer winter range.

5. We are not familiar with the Petticoat Peak WSA and offer no comment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Very truly yours,

E. Maestas
Eli Maestas
President

23

June 20, 1983

Dear Mr. Watson,

I write concerning the Eastern Idaho Plan Amendment/Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement Draft. I had initially favored a combination of Alternatives B and C which would have designated Hell's Half Acre, Cedar Butte and Black Canyon as wilderness.

In view of negative local sentiment (which I can understand as an off road biker) and inability to protect the area, despite its obvious value, I favor Alternative B.

I see no merit to Alternative D (the preferred) when Alternative B is just as easily implemented and lava building stone is easily available outside of Cedar Butte.

Sincerely,
Mary Rosczyk

MARY LOU ROSCZYK
14172 BALLANTINE LN
HUNTINGTON BCH CA 92647

P.O. Box 8787
Moscow, ID 83843
22 June 1983

Dist. Manager
Idaho Falls Dist., BLM
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Dear Mr. Frandsen:

24-1

I have looked over the recommendations for wilderness on BLM lands just released by your office. They are wholly inadequate in protecting either the cultural or wilderness resources of your district, and need to be greatly enlarged. In particular, the adjusted boundary, all-wilderness alternative should be considered, and probably adopted. So little of the land on your district is suitable for wilderness that virtually all that is left should be recommended to Congress.

24-2

Your boundary for Petticoat Peak is especially bad. With modifications, it would make a fine wilderness, especially in light of its elevation diversity. The Indian lands within the WSA could be deleted and this would make a fine, if small wilderness.

However, it is Hell's Half Acre that is the real treasure. Full wilderness protection of the amazing lava formations here within all 66,000 acres is justified. Cedar Butte has nearly equal wilderness and geologic values, and contiguity of other wilderness is hardly a legal or moral reason not to recommend it. Other resource values there are almost nil.

Black Canyon is badly in need of the fullest possible protection. Loss of the immense archeological treasures there would be a tragedy, and it needs statutory protection, which can be provided only by the Wilderness Act. This area should also be immediately closed to all ORV use, since this form of "recreation" has contributed markedly to the loss of archeological values in this small canyon. It is clear that you don't intend to wreck this area, but why not give it the best of all forms of protection--Wilderness.

Please keep me informed of all decisions for this area. Thanks .

Sincerely,

Dennis Baird
Dennis Baird

24-1 Partial Wilderness Alternatives were reconsidered for both Hawley Mountain and Petticoat Peak WSAs. One partial was selected and has been analyzed for the Hawley Mountain WSA (see response 18-3).

24-2 The Fort Hall Agency and Tribe have said they see no conflict with their treaty rights and management of the northern 3,200 acres of Petticoat Peak as wilderness. Therefore, this partial alternative has been dropped. (See letters 40 and 63, and Alternatives Considered But Dropped From Analysis, Chapter 1.)

Castello Idaho
June 22, 1983
25

Mr. Odell Frandsen,
District Manager,
Idaho Falls District BLM,
940 Lincoln Rd.
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Dear Sir, I am writing in regard to our precious High desert Country.

1- I support the Modified all Wilderness Alternative of Petticoat Peak - provided critical blue deer winter ranges - and good deer summer range, and supports forest game and other wild life species. Petticoat Peak provides habitat for no less than three endangered species: Bald Eagle, Whooping Crane, and Peregrine falcon. Bobcat, Lynx, + Merlin. All sensitive species, are also found in the WSA.

Petticoat Peak has low potential for Oil & Gas and geothermal resources. Please support Wilderness design studies for Petticoat Peak and consider the boundary modifications recommended by the Committee for Idaho High Desert be incorporated into the final wilderness proposal for this area.

3- Hells-half-acre just west of Idaho Falls. support Thule deer, Sage grouse, antelope, and Mourning doves. Sutherlind, Oil, Gas, prospects are slim. Mineral potential is negligible except for common building stones.

4 - Cedar Butte like Hells Half-acre is another Lava flow but due to erosion and wind blown silt, it has enough vegetation to support 100 bird species, mule deer, antelope - other wild life.

5 - support the Wilderness for Hells Half-acre and would like to see included also Cedar Butte.

6 - I also support Wilderness designations for Hawley Mountain, with boundary adjustments suggested by C.I.A.D.

7 - Please restrict Motor Vehicle access to Black Canyon to go into effect immediately. A Cultural Resource Management plan be included in final Wilderness EIS. There should be ORV barriers at any canyon entries in order to protect the archaeological resources of the area.

I hope you can read this and enter my name in your list of Wilderness supporters.

Thank you,

Hilda J. Cox
636 E Carter
17. Little Ida 83201

June 23, 1983

26

Mr. Odell Frandsen
District Manager
Idaho Falls District BLM
940 Lincoln Rd.
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Dear Mr. Frandsen:

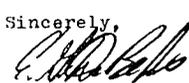
I am writing this letter to express support for the designation of wilderness areas in Eastern Idaho. Specifically I support wilderness designation for the following areas:

Hells Half Acre
Cedar Butte
Hawley Mountain
Petticoat Peak
Black Canyon

I have lived and worked in the intermountain west for the past twenty years. I have seen what the influx of population has done to once pristine areas. In Idaho we still have a chance to protect the wild areas from development and overuse. The archaeological area in the Black Canyon must be protected. With the increased availability of ORV's this area is ripe for destruction. Therefore, I urge the area be placed off limits to motorized vehicles.

I have two girls, ages 7 and 9. During a recent hiking trip into the lavas, we encountered, fortunately at a distance, a full grown mountain lion. The entire day was full of discovery for them and me. From hawks and cactus to antelope, and capped off by a lion padding up a pressure ridge, that day will be in our memories for a long while. You can not get these experiences in the confined area of a zoo...nor the fast food atmosphere of some of our national parks. You have to feel the sun, wind and freedom of the wilderness. It is a unique experience.

Sincerely,



Ed DiBello
960 Washburn Ave.
Idaho Falls, ID.



June 21, 1983

27

Attn: Odell Frandsen
Idaho Falls District BLM
940 Lincoln Road, Idaho Falls, Idaho

Dear Mr. Frandsen:

The recent release of the draft EIS for the five Wilderness Study Areas in eastern Idaho indicated that the BLM has inadequately evaluated the wilderness potential and value of many of these areas.

We feel that wilderness designation is the only viable alternative in the protection of the outstanding natural, aesthetic and cultural value of these lands. Yet, the BLM has recommended non-wilderness designation for the Cedar Butte, Hawley Mountain, Petticoat Peak and Black Canyon roadless areas.

We fully support the BLM decision to classify Hells Half Acres as wilderness and encourage you to reconsider these other outstanding areas for wilderness designation also.

27-1 Many of the areas recommended for non-wilderness designation were due to boundary conflicts. These conflicts can be resolved by a shift in the existing lines in the Petticoat Peak and Hawley Mountain areas. These alternatives were not even considered by the BLM in its evaluation.

27-2 Also, the BLM failed to recognize the exceptional geologic and cultural values presented by the Black Canyon area. Designation was not recommended because of minor ORV intrusions by looters into the archeologic site. We recommend that an ORV barrier be constructed to eliminate this problem.

27-3 We also noted an inconsistency in the failure to designate the Cedar Butte area which possesses nearly identical wilderness features as the designated Hells Half Acres.

In conclusion, we urge you to reevaluate these unique natural areas. We feel that wilderness designation is the only way to ensure the protection of these areas. We also encourage you to consider some of the alternatives suggested here to combat some of the conflicts arising in trying to designate these areas as wilderness.

Sincerely,

Diane M. Tainer

Diane M. Tainer
Research Assistant

27-1 The Fort Hall Agency and Tribe have said they see no conflict with their treaty rights and management of the northern 3,200 acres of Petticoat Peak as wilderness. Therefore, this partial alternative has been dropped. (See letters 40 and 63, and Alternatives Considered But Dropped From Analysis, Chapter 1.)

A partial wilderness alternative has been added for the Hawley Mountain WSA in the final EIS. It includes the boundary suggested by the committee for Idaho's High Desert, and eliminates lands from the WSA where conflicts could occur from ORV use.

27-2 See #8, Issues Dropped from Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1.

27-3 BLM managers decided not to recommend the Cedar Butte WSA because natural features that would attract primitive recreationists are not particularly numerous or interesting. Other lava flow landscapes offer better primitive recreation opportunities and include the Craters of the Moon Wilderness, Great Rift, and Hell's Half Acre WSAs.

June 22, 1983

28

Mr. Brent Jensen
Bureau of Land Management
940 Lincoln Rd.
Idaho Falls, Idaho

Dear Brent:

Enclosed you will find six signed sheets indicating opposition to wilderness designation for Black Canyon and Hawley Mountain.

I personally feel these areas are completely opposite of the concept of wilderness. They immediately border the farming areas and are completely accessible. I feel they could not be managed in a reasonable way. I also feel they could not be closed off to the public. Having seen the disgusting damage the Forest Service did to Uncle Ike Creek, I am vehemently opposed to disturbing the Black Canyon area in any way.

Sincerely,

Pat Woodie
Star Route Box 18
Howe, Idaho 83244

Enc

District Manager
Idaho Falls District BLM
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

29

Mr Odell Frandsen -

I would like to make you aware of my support of the Modified All-Wilderness Alternative concerning the following five Wilderness Study Areas.

Cedar Butte
Black Canyon
Hawley Mountain
Hells Half Acre
Petticoat Peak

As well as supporting the BLM recommendation of designating Hells Half Acre as a Wilderness Area, I ask that you consider Cedar Butte as well. It offers much the same wilderness potential as does Hells Half Acre.

I am concerned that the lack of boundary restrictions in the Petticoat Peak and Hawley Mountain areas may jeopardize the habitat of these regions. Petticoat Peak offers an endangered species habitat while Hawley Mountain provides the same along with magnificent viewing of Idaho's high country.

I would also ask that you make the necessary road closures in the Black Canyon and designate it a Wilderness Area. It seems only reasonable to protect it's historical value by prohibiting the needless vandalism and destruction.

I urge your support of the above recommendations.

Sincerely,



Jack Meyer
P.O. Box 1722
Idaho Falls, 83401

30

June 26, 1983
Caldwell ID

Odell Frandsen
Idaho Falls District Manager
BLM Idaho Falls

Dear Sir:

I write to comment on your Eastern Idaho Wilderness Draft E.I.S. I have many objections to your study and your conclusions. I will address these on an area-by-area basis.

Hells Half Acre: I support most of your decision to recommend a 66,200-acre wilderness here. I have hiked the area and find its pahoehoe lava interesting, its opportunities for solitude exceptional, and its proximity to an urban area terrific. I do think you are missing an important opportunity by designating all 66,200 acres as wilderness. I strongly think that, with an area like this very close to an urban area, with easy paved highway access, you should drop perhaps one section (640 acres) of high-quality pahoehoe lava, for later use as a paved trail for wheelchair and other handicapped persons who want to contrast this lava with the aa of Craters of the Moon National Monument, but who cannot otherwise enjoy the area. Please consider the need of the handicapped to enjoy this special area; and please preserve the rest for us hardy types, and for future research.

Black Canyon: I have been there and hiked it, and it is a lot better than your E.I.S. says. I have also hiked every BLM and Forest Service wilderness study area in the whole state of Idaho. I believe Black Canyon has exceptional wilderness values that mandate wilderness protection. The scenery is fabulous. Your statement that there are higher quality roadless areas in the adjacent National Forest lands indicates to me that you have not been in either area. While I personally find values in the southern Lemhis to be very high, I would rate Black Canyon higher than any other 5200-acre roadless segment in the Lemhi Range! The wildlife values are very high--and I hope wilderness study and designation force you to take a second look at the outrageous grazing going on in those canyons at present, so that those already high values can go higher. Your statement that the area has manageability problems because of the ways into the canyons, seems absurd to me. Those ways could be blocked very simply and easily. (This should be done right now, to halt the destruction of the archaeological resource!) I also object strongly to your repeated assertions that there is a dangerous concentration of wilderness in central Idaho. I think there is a dangerous concentration of trail bike use in the southern Lemhi canyons (consider the canyons to the west of the WSA). Black Canyon is a good place to reverse this trend. And about all that wilderness--if wilderness values are present and of sufficiently

30-1

deserving quality and local and national significance, how can there be a dangerous concentration? Black Canyon--all 5400 acres--must get a wilderness recommendation.

Cedar Butte: I am not in favor of wilderness for this area because I want one lava area to stay in a non-wilderness status to accommodate future changes in recreation or scientific needs.

30-2 Hawley Mountain: Your major objections to wilderness for this area seem to be its low quality environment and a few intrusions along its borders. I am told you are wrong about the environment, and that a few boundary corrections could solve the border problem. I urge you to take a second, careful look at this area.

30-3 Petticoat Peak: I am very unhappy that you did not include an alternative that dropped the northern part of the WSA, with its Indian land conflicts, but recommended wilderness for the southern half. This was my first impression on looking at this E.I.S.; it remains my main impression. How could professionals overlook this option? The Committee for Idaho's High Desert has made boundary recommendations which I endorse. Because the area has high wildlife values, because the region has an alarming lack of wilderness, and because it is possible to develop manageable boundaries for the area, I recommend wilderness for the southern portion of Petticoat Peak.

Please change my address on your mailing list from 405 Ponderosa Ct Moscow ID, to: Box 1852, Boise Idaho 83701.

Sincerely,



Sheldon Bluestein
Box 1852
Boise ID 83701

Mr. Odell Frandsen
District Manager
Idaho Falls District BLM
940 Idacola Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

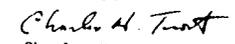
31

Dear Mr. Frandsen:

31-1 I am very upset with BLM's Eastern Idaho Draft Wilderness EIS. I feel that your decisions not to consider any of the WSAs but Hells Half Acre are biased and show poor planning. I strongly support the Modified All-Wilderness Alternative, with several boundary adjustments to alleviate conflicts with ORVs and Indian rights. I feel that BLM has failed specifically to even consider the economic value of wilderness designation, which could only be positive for local communities. A case in point is Lava Hot Springs, which is immediately adjacent to Petticoat Peak WSA. This town is a tourist community which depends heavily on outsiders for support. Wilderness designation of this isolated BLM track would increase aesthetic values and attractiveness of that location. The same holds for other WSAs. I have personally seen Bald Eagles and a Peregrine Falcon in this WSA, and I feel that BLM has failed to address the aspect of endangered species in its decision too. It is hard to believe that this is the only outstanding area in the Burley District, and then to see that BLM plans to drop it to boot. I feel that BLM is showing a lack of intent to fairly consider this and other WSAs, because only slight boundary adjustments of this area and others would reduce conflicts to zero.

31-2 I have hiked on Hawley Mountain, and have banded Prairie Falcons there for several years. I know well its isolation and outstanding scenic views. There are really no conflicts for this outstanding area, and again I find it hard to believe that BLM is not even considering it. The Lost River Milk Vetch was known from only a very few places (Pass Creek) until recently, and this alone is sufficient reason to designate this area as wilderness, where grazing conflicts could be controlled in at least one area of its known range. I also feel that BLM is derelict of duty in not protecting the archeological resources of Black Canyon. It would be very easy to simply construct ORV barriers at key access points to prevent further degradation by pot hunters, but BLM has failed to take any action on this. Cedar Butte is equally as outstanding as Hells Half Acre and wilderness designation would remove some of the human pressure on this area so close to Idaho Falls. We really don't have any BLM wilderness in eastern Idaho, as Secretary Watt has failed to endorse the Great Rift. I feel that BLM is taking advantage of the politically expedient route of doing nothing, and is thus acting irresponsibly in its management of our public lands. Sec. Watt will be a temporary phenomenon, but the loss of cultural values will not be. There are really very little conflicts for designation of any of these WSAs and your non-action assures their continued degradation. Wilderness designation would allow BLM to utilize these areas as ecological controls so as to measure the impacts of land uses such as grazing and ORV impact. Your non-action implies to me that BLM is not really concerned with long term management of any of its lands, but rather is taking the easiest way out. I strongly urge BLM to reconsider its choices and to designate all five areas as wilderness.

Sincerely,


Charles H. Trost, Ph.D.

30-1 See #8, Issues Dropped from Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1.

30-2 The Fort Hall Agency and Tribe have said they see no conflict with their treaty rights and management of the northern 3,200 acres of Petticoat Peak as wilderness. Therefore, this partial alternative has been dropped. (See letters 40 and 63, and Alternatives Considered But Dropped From Analysis, Chapter 1.)

30-3 See response 18-3 and partial alternative for Hawley Mountain Chapter.

31-1 No detailed data exist on the number of general outdoor recreation visits in these WSAs. Most of the use occurs during the hunting season. Any increase in use of the areas as a result of designating them wilderness would very likely be small; less than one percent.

The trades and services sectors of the local and regional economies are usually large in comparison with others. The portion of the retail trade and services directly attributable to general outdoor recreation (gas, oil, food, and lodging) has been shown to be quite small where input/output studies have been conducted. An increase of one percent in general outdoor recreation would be virtually undetectable and clearly not a significant impact to the local economies. A cost/benefit analysis of wilderness designation does not appear appropriate. (See also #9 and #10, Issues Dropped From Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1)

31-2 See #1, Issues Dropped from Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1.

31-3 The Lost River Milk Vetch has been removed from the Federal Watch List by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. At one time it was thought to be a threatened or endangered plant species. However, it has been found to be relatively common throughout the State of Idaho.

Mr. Oviell Frandsen
District Manager
Idaho Falls Office, BLM
700 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Dear Mr. Frandsen:

Recently I wrote to you regarding my feelings for the future management of Black Canyon and Hells Half Acre wilderness study areas.

I also believe that the Cedar Butte and Hawley Mountain study areas are worthy of wilderness protection. The Cedar Butte region, which is practically contiguous to Hells Half Acre to the east, is of the same general character and quality as this latter area. To my knowledge, it possesses no significant commercial value.

Yours sincerely,

Evan J. Tibbott
Evan J. Tibbott

Mr. Oviell Frandsen
District Manager
Idaho Falls District BLM
700 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Mr. Frandsen:

I'm writing in support of the Modified Alternative Wilderness Alternative incorporating the boundary adjustments submitted by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert for the Hells Half Acre, Cedar Butte, Hawley Mountain, Petticoat Peak, and Black Canyon Wilderness Study Areas.

Specifically, the BLM recommendation for Hells Half Acre is good. I'm surprised the BLM didn't recognize the similar wilderness characteristics

32

33

33-1 of the Cedar Butte study area. Both should be recommended as wilderness. With a little re-drawing of boundaries both the Petticoat Peak and Hawley Mountain areas would make very suitable wildernesses. I think the outstanding scenic qualities of Hawley Mtn. and bald eagles, whooping cranes, and peregrine falcons living on and around Petticoat Peak deserve wilderness protection. Now Black Canyon is a very special place that because of neglect by the responsible Federal Agencies has witnessed a disturbing amount of vandalism. Sadly some of the most spectacular petroglyphs have already been destroyed or looted. Please act quickly to protect this beautiful area from further desecration. Would not Wilderness Classification be the most effective measure the BLM could take to prevent further destruction of the areas unique cultural resources? At the very least please construct ORV barriers at the key canyon entrances as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time in considering my comments.

Michael Schutte

Sincerely,

Michael Schutte

P.O. Box 541

Challis, Idaho 83402

33-1 The Fort Hall Agency and Tribe have said they see no conflict with their treaty rights and management of the northern 3,200 acres of Petticoat Peak as wilderness. Therefore, this partial alternative has been dropped. (See letters 40 and 63, and Alternatives Considered But Dropped From Analysis, Chapter 1.)

A partial wilderness alternative has been added for the Hawley Mountain WSA in the final EIS. It includes the boundary suggested by the committee for Idaho's High Desert, and eliminates lands from the WSA where conflicts could occur from ORV use.

33-2 See #8, Issues Dropped from Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1.

Route 1, Box 159
Idaho Falls, ID 83401
June 14, 1983

34

Bureau of Land Management
Idaho Falls District Office
Attn: EIS Team Leader
940 Lincoln Rd.
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Dear Sir:

The following comments address my concerns with regard to the Eastern Idaho Wilderness Draft EIS. For the record, I am a biologist with training in plant and animal ecology. Additionally, I have hiked the Black Canyon, Cedar Butte, and Hell's Half Acre WSAs. Although I have seen Hawley Mt. WSA from the distance, I have not visited there nor have I visited the Petticoat Peak WSA.

The Idaho Falls District contains about 2½ million acres of public land. Some quick arithmetic demonstrates that all 5 WSAs combined (134,108 acres) comprise only 6% of the District and the preferred alternative (66,200 acres) would designate less than 3% of the District as wilderness. To my knowledge, the BLM is a multiple use agency with multiple resource programs in right-of-ways, energy, recreation, range management, forest management, watershed management, endangered species, and wilderness (42 CFR 5102). Though no regulation states that each program must be given equal treatment, it's easy to see that you are giving wilderness the short end of the stick. Based on this argument alone, I would endorse wilderness designation for all five WSAs.

So much for the profound and on to the specific. On p.6, you indicated 4 issues that the BLM addressed in the document. Issue 3 - what it would cost to manage the WSA as wilderness - seems important to me, yet I fail to find it explicitly addressed anywhere in the EIS. Have you attached a cost to wilderness management, and if so, how did you go about this process? As far as Issue 4 is concerned, I have noted on p.22 your comments with regard to this issue. I would like to remind you that wilderness areas are used by people from around the country,

not just Idaho. I find nothing in the BLM wilderness study policies which indicates that local (Idaho) concerns about wilderness should carry more weight than national concerns. I personally feel much more at ease with the national attitudes documented on p. 23. In addition, I know that public opinion at the public hearings held for this EIS definitely favored more wilderness than your preferred alternative.

I would take issue with your development of alternatives.

The regulations instruct you to recommend a reasonable range of alternative between "no" and "all" wilderness. The fact that Petticoat Peak and Hawley Mt. WSAs appear in no partial alternatives is indicative of a poor range of alternatives.

I liked the Wilderness Society's suggestion on p.11 of combining adjacent FS land with the Black Canyon WSA. The FS might be amenable to this idea now that they are undergoing a RARE III process.

For Black Canyon, Hawley Mt., and Cedar Butte WSAs, you argue (on p. 17-18) that these WSAs are exceeded in wilderness qualities by other nearby FS roadless lands or other wilderness areas. Except for Craters of the Moon, I know of no other designated wilderness areas nearby similar to the WSAs. The point is, recommended wilderness areas and RARE II further planning areas have not been designated as wilderness and in the current political climate they are not likely to be so designated. A rather pointed example of this debacle is the Great Rift "Wilderness." Thus, comparing your WSAs to wildernesses-to-be is hardly a fair comparison.

On p.18, the point is made that Black Canyon offers few opportunities for solitude due to its small size. On the contrary, I have hiked and hunted several times in Black Canyon and have never seen anyone else. The topographic screening (a BLM term) provided by the twisting canyons offers excellent opportunities for solitude.

On p.17, you argue that the major concern for managing the Hawley Mt. WSA as wilderness is the ability to exclude motor vehicles and local sentiment against vehicle restrictions. Yet on p.24 you state that recreation use in this WSA is low with only a few visitors on motorized vehicles. If this latter statement is true, then why do you think it will be difficult to exclude motorized recreation?

I could continue, but I think that I've made my point. Although the BLM is supposed to be a multiple use agency and wilderness is supposed to be one of these uses, this document gives me the distinct impression that the BLM is doing everything it can to avoid designating wilderness areas instead of creating them as Congress has so mandated. There is no better evidence for this than your meager "rocks and ice" preferred alternative which would designate only a large lava flow (Hell's Half Acre) as wilderness. Sooner or later, we will all pay the price for this anti-wilderness/pro-"develop-the-resource" attitude which the BLM and the Department of the Interior are now advocating.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Eastern Idaho Draft EIS.

Sincerely,

Craig R. Groves

Craig R. Groves

-105-

34-1

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34-6

34-7

- 34-1 Costs of managing a WSA would be addressed during the preparation of management plans for designated wilderness areas. A management plan would not be developed until Congress acts on the wilderness decision. Plans would include cost considerations. See #10, Issues Dropped from Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1.
- 34-2 Opinions and concerns about designating more or less wilderness were not weighted in any way to arrive at the BLM's wilderness recommendations. Wilderness recommendations are based on the analysis of the Wilderness Study Policy as applied to each WSA. From this analysis, BLM managers chose whether or not to recommend a WSA for designation.
- 34-3 See response 10-1 for Petticoat Peak and 18-3 for Hawley Mountain.
- 34-4 See response 11-5.
- 34-5 BLM agrees and has dropped this wording from the final EIS.
- 34-6 The Black Canyon WSA currently has excellent opportunities for solitude because visitation is low. The point made is that the WSA has a low carrying capacity for solitude because of its small size, and visitors would travel through the four short and narrow canyons. They would not disperse over the entire area and would encounter other visitors.
- 34-7 The BLM believes that unauthorized vehicle use at any level would be a management problem in designated wilderness. The BLM must be reasonably certain that the WSA can be managed as wilderness over the long-term. This decision is based on present knowledge of the area's resources, potential visitor uses, nonconforming activities, and the potential impact of these activities on the preservation of the area's wilderness character. Excluding vehicles from the WSA would be potentially difficult. This is because the area lacks physical barriers to motorized travel in the southern quarter of the area, and within the more open southern terrain of two of the four major canyons. Drawing a new WSA boundary that eliminates this conflict would decrease the area to less than 5,000 acres; the size required by the 1964 Wilderness Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

1525 Malad
Boise, ID 83705
24 June 1983

Mr. Odell Frandsen
District Manager
Idaho Falls District BLM
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Re: Eastern Idaho Draft EIS

Dear Mr. Frandsen;

I support your recommendation to designate Hells Half Acre as a wilderness area; however, I feel the following areas should also be given wilderness designation:

- o The Black Canyon area should be protected to preserve the archeological resources. Motor vehicle restrictions should be enacted as soon as possible. Off road vehicle barriers should be constructed immediately. Wilderness designation will preserve these 65+ sites for future research.
- o Hawley Mountain should be granted wilderness designation with the boundary adjustments suggested by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert. The area has little commercial value but great ecological value as it supports two sensitive plant species.
- o Petticoat Peak should be designated as a wilderness area. It provides habitat for the bald eagle, whooping crane, and peregrine falcon--all endangered species. Boundary modifications offered by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert take advantage of natural barriers and eliminate management problems while protecting an important wildlife habitat.
- o Cedar Butte should be protected to preserve the spectacular geology and wildlife habitat.

In summary, these five areas offer outstanding wilderness and wildlife habitats. Boundary adjustments suggested by CIHD ensure efficient BLM management while maintaining the integrity of the area. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,


Dorian Duffin

35-1

35-1

The Fort Hall Agency and Tribe have said they see no conflict with their treaty rights and management of the northern 3,200 acres of Petticoat Peak as wilderness. Therefore, this partial alternative has been dropped. (See letters 40 and 63, and Alternatives Considered But Dropped From Analysis, Chapter 1.)

A partial wilderness alternative has been added for the Hawley Mountain WSA in the final EIS. It includes the boundary suggested by the committee for Idaho's High Desert, and eliminates lands from the WSA where conflicts could occur from ORV use.



**MINERALS
EXPLORATION
COALITION**

*Minerals Advocate
in Public Policy*

12640 West Cedar Drive
P O Box 15638
Denver, Colorado 80215
303 989 5567

June 27, 1983

Don Watson
EIS Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Dear Mr. Watson:

These comments constitute the response of the Minerals Exploration Coalition (MEC) to the Eastern Idaho Plan Amendment/Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement. The MEC is a coalition of exploration companies and individuals conducting exploration on federal lands.

In view of the fact that wilderness areas designated after December 31, 1983, will be withdrawn from appropriation under the mining and leasing laws, we believe that all areas with mineral and energy potential should be excluded from wilderness designation, even though no economic deposit is now known. The withdrawal limitations will preclude the collection of new data, and new areas of mineral potential will not be found. With new discoveries effectively stopped, the policy of excluding all currently known mineral potential from wilderness should be followed, so that exploration of these areas will not be restricted and minerals might yet be produced. Explorationists tend to look at the long term because the lead time of discovery may be ten to fifteen years. The impact of wilderness on minerals should be assessed over the long term (a century or more). We believe that land use decisions should be in conformity with the policy statements made in the National Minerals Program Plan and Report to Congress released by the President in April, 1982.

The Idaho Falls district has a long history of tungsten, copper, lead, zinc, silver and gold mining. Despite the poor economic conditions, several major and junior mining companies are conducting mineral exploration and/or development programs within the district. The chances of finding a major mineral deposit in this area are rated excellent by the minerals industry.

The MEC supports the alternative that Hawley Mountain, Black Canyon, Cedar Butte and Petticoat Peak WSAs be recommended as unsuitable for wilderness designation. These areas have yet to be adequately explored for oil and gas, geothermal resources and metallic resources.

We believe the Hell's Half Acre WSA is unsuitable for wilderness for the following reasons:

1. Although the oil and gas potential is rated low and the geothermal potential is rated low to moderate, the area remains unexplored. The potential for hard-rock minerals is unknown; however, this particular WSA is within a highly mineralized region.

36

2. The overall wilderness values of the WSA are marginal. From the edges and higher points of Hell's Half Acre, cultivated land, traffic on farm roads and highways can be seen as well as the towns of Idaho Falls and Shelley. No endangered species would be affected either favorably or unfavorably, and no unique geologic features would be preserved.
3. Based on a 1979 statewide survey of Idaho households (p.22), 67 percent of 1,410 respondents feel Idaho has enough area legally designated as wilderness. To designate Hell's Half Acre as wilderness would seemingly contradict the wishes of the people most directly affected.

The Minerals Exploration Coalition thanks you for the opportunity to comment on this draft environmental impact statement and amendment.

Sincerely,

John Wells
John D. Wells
President
MINERALS EXPLORATION COALITION

JDW/th

- 36-1 The impacts on minerals over the long-term has been analyzed for each WSA in the final EIS. Refer to Chapter 4.

-107-

36-1

June 27, 1983

37

June 28, 1983

38

Mr. [unclear]

I am writing regarding the draft EIS for wilderness areas in Eastern Idaho. I support your recommendation for Hells Half Acre. However I would like to see the Cedar Butte area included.

My other concern is the Black Canyon area. I believe it is a unique area that deserves wilderness designation. Furthermore I urge the BLM to take steps now to close the area to OHV's. Recent publicity in this area has drawn so much attention that that irreparable damage may be done before wilderness protection takes effect.

In general I support the modified wilderness alternative as proposed by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert Areas as there in the proposal are only beginning to be appreciated by most people and time is short to protect them.

Journey Hardy
185 Auburn Ave
Idaho Falls 83402

Wilderness EIS Team Leader
Idaho Falls District, BLM

Dear Sir:

I have the following comments on your DEIS for Wilderness:

I support wilderness for Hells Half Acre. Since Cedar Butte could also be Wilderness without resource conflict it should also be wilderness.

Hawley Mountain presents an outstanding opportunity for outdoor recreation, solitude, and naturalness. It should be wilderness.

The archaeological values in Black Canyon must be protected. Restricting vehicle access is necessary to do this and Wilderness is the best mechanism.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Bob Secrist
Bob Secrist
2076 crystal way
Boise, Idaho 83706



39

IDAHO ALPINE CLUB
P.O. BOX 2885
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO 83401

June 23, 1983

Mr. Odell Frandsen, district manager
Bureau of Land Management
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Dear Sir:

After further consideration and upon receipt of additional information, the Idaho Alpine Club has decided to endorse Cedar Butte, Hawley Mountain, and Petticoat Peak for wilderness, along with Hell's Half Acre and Black Canyon. (Support for the last two areas was voiced at the Idaho Falls hearing.) According to other testimony and to the experiences of several IAC members, all five areas possess definite wilderness qualities and sustain numerous wildlife species. It is also significant that none of our approximately 150 members indicated opposition to wilderness preservation for these lands, despite coverage of the wilderness proceedings in our bulletin and in the newspapers.

It appears that wilderness management would conflict only with limited off-road vehicle use at Black Canyon, Hawley Mountain, and Petticoat Peak. ORVs must be banned from Black Canyon to help protect the archaeological sites, and boundary adjustments would reduce potential problems at Hawley Mountain and Petticoat Peak considerably. We have reviewed the boundary revisions for these two areas proposed by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert and approve of them as a sensible solution.

We are a little confused over BLM statements in the Post-Register concerning management of Black Canyon as an "Area of Critical Environmental Concern." It seems an ACEC declaration should be made immediately, independent of eventual wilderness legislation. It's clear that wilderness would only help the archaeological sites within the boundaries and that strict enforcement actions are required along the canyon entrances on the Hove side. Congressional action on Black Canyon will probably take years, anyway.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft EIS and to contribute to BLM decisions.

Paul Hanslee, Council President
Idaho Alpine Club



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
FORT HALL AGENCY
FORT HALL, IDAHO 83203

IN REPLY REFER TO

Admin.

40

June 28, 1983

Mr. Don Watson, E.I.S., Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Dear Mr. Watson:

I wish to thank you for the opportunity to review and comments on your DEIS/Eastern Idaho Wilderness. In evaluating the alternatives, I failed to find any of the five to be suitable to the desires of the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Shoshone Bannock Tribes completely. Alternative "C" does appear within reason of our wishes if Petticoat Peak (28-1) is included in the alternative.

40-1

Your reasoning for not including Petticoat Peak as a WSA based on "management difficulties" is unfounded. On Page #19 of the DEIS, I quote (a similar statement appears on Page #47):

"Major concerns for managing the area as wilderness include the physical ability to exclude motorized vehicles and the Fort Hall Indian Treaty of 1900. The Treaty guarantees the Indians the right to cut timber and graze livestock herds without management controls on 3,200 acres of the WSA.

Present management authority can preserve and protect the areas important special features except on the 3,200 acre Indian Treaty lands."

To make such a statement is absolutely inappropriate. I agree that the Shoshone Bannock Tribes do have treaty rights in the area that must be recognized and consideration given to those rights although your organization has not been in consultation with the Shoshone Bannock Tribes or Bureau of Indian Affairs relative to their concerns in the specific area. Your statement indicates the tribe will not manage their utilization of the area and alludes to the tribes potential unadulterated destruction of the resource. In fact, the tribe is substantially more natural resource conscious that your organization realizes. Had consultation taken place between the tribe and B.L.M., prior to the DEIS I'm sure you would have realized the tribe's interests in preservation of all natural resources, not exclusively the Petticoat Peak area, and been able to resolve the potential "management difficulties" you feel exist. Not only does the opportunity still exist for resolution of the "management difficulties" but the potential for improved wildlife habitat and species utilization also exist.

As you are aware the Petticoat Peak area provides excellent summer range and critical winter range for mule deer. Also, a number of birds identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as being on the endangered and sensitive species list have been observed in the area. The area has historically been a bighorn sheep range and currently the Idaho Department of Fish and Game is considering the re-establishment of this species in the WSA.

-109-

In addition to wildlife utilization of the area, Petticoat Peak provides excellent opportunities for natural beauty and solitude within the immediate vicinity of a major population center (Pocatello is the second largest city within the State of Idaho) and all of south-east Idaho.

Including Petticoat Peak within the national wilderness system does not appear to conflict with the tribe's treaty rights in the area since livestock grazing would probably be the most extensive use of the area by the tribe and according to the BLM Wilderness Management Policy all livestock operations would continue to operate in the same manner after designation as before including the use of motorized vehicles for livestock management (salting and surveillance, etc.).

The second major use by the tribe of the area is for subsistence hunting and fishing, again placing the land within the wilderness system should not have a major impact on the Shoshone Bannock Tribe's treaty rights.

Turning to the other two areas included within Alternative "C", Hell's Half Acre (33-15) and Black Canyon (33-09) we concur that both should be included in the wilderness system. Particularly, Black Canyon due to the archaeological values existing in the area, scenic sites and wildlife habitat available.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on your DEIS/ Eastern Idaho Wilderness. As a final suggestion, you should consider meeting with the Shoshone Bannock Tribes to discuss their concerns and interests for the protection of all natural resources and specifically the Petticoat Peak area.

Sincerely,

Susan T. Thompson
Superintendent

-110-

40-1

Based on your letter and the comment from the Shoshone Bannock Tribes, we have deleted this statement from the final EIS. See also Alternatives Considered but Dropped from Analysis, Chapter 1.



American Wilderness Alliance

4260 East Evans Avenue/Suite B/Denver, Colorado 80229/(303) 758-5018

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Wildlife Ecologist Author

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Working Together To
Conserve Wild America

Box 1772
Boise, Idaho 83701
June 28, 1983

Mr. O'Dell Frandsen
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
940 Lincoln Rd.
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Dear Sir:

As the Idaho representative of the American Wilderness Alliance I wish to comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement for Eastern Idaho Wilderness on B.L.M. lands.

The American Wilderness Alliance is a national, western-based non-profit organization whose members are dedicated to promoting the conservation and wise use of the nation's decreasing wilderness-like lands, wildlife habitat, and free flowing river resources. We believe that wilderness is part of your multiple-use principles, and besides recreation, wilderness also serves the scenic, scientific, geological, cultural, educational, and historical needs of the American public. Wilderness further protects and enhances undisturbed watersheds, wildlife habitat, and plant species. In the case of two of the Eastern Idaho wilderness proposals the geological phenomena with its isolated kipukas (and literally undisturbed grasslands and unique archaeological sites) deserve the utmost consideration in protection - wilderness !!

The American Wilderness Alliance supports wilderness for the following study areas:

28-1 Petticoat Peak - 11,290 acres
32-3 Hawley Mountain - 15,510 acres
32-9 Black Canyon - 5,400 acres
33-4 Cedar Butte - 35,700 acres
33-15 Hell's Half Acre - 66,200 acres

Petticoat Peak. This W.S.A. will be valuable for wilderness as it is located close to Pocatello's population center, and will serve as a "island retreat" of juniper, mountain mahogany, Douglas fir, and lodgepole pine at elevations over 8,000 feet. It provides habitat for at least three known endangered species, namely the bald eagle, whooping crane, and peregrine falcon. The lower aspen groves and grasslands provide the key critical mule deer winter range, beside supporting a variety of upland game species.

Hawley Mountain. This unique cluster of peaks entertains one a fantastic facade as one drives from Arco to Dubois - a refresh panorama of rugged scenery as contrasted to the flat and rolling sagebrush terrain of the I.N.E.L. site. The vertical rise of over 4,000 feet of the Hawley Mountain, and its accompanying diversity of flora and fauna, rising above the sagebrush flats introduces key link that is not represented in the wilderness system of southern or eastern Idaho. Big game winter range and antelope migration routes are main elements of this W.S.A.

It is my understanding that the major objection by B.L.M. wilderness classification here is the occasional sight of vehicles intruding along the periphery of the area. This "purity concept" hogwash when compared to Craters of the Moon wilderness area located only 150 yards from the busy paved loop road - and there been very little opposition or regrets concerning it.

Black Canyon. An area of major significance, with raptor habitat and key archaeological sites deserving wilderness classification with control measures to protect the pictographs and cave dwelling from vehicular intrusion and vandalism. The cultural heritage of its sites known deserve a systematic program of studies, site protection and public awareness. The Antiquities Act and National Historic Preservation Act serve as guidelines and regulations to protect the area. Or, if needed, expertise from the National Park Service can assist in providing a sound management plan for this unique wilderness and cultural resource.

Cedar Butte. This fine example of vulcanism possesses both scientific and wilderness attributes deserving protection under the Wilderness Act. Dr. Fred Bullard, the eminent geologist from the University of Texas (thus

remarked during early National Park Service field studies in 1968 and 1969 that Cedar Butte compares favorably with the Craters of the Moon lava flow and could serve as another scientific laboratory for public use. The Cedar Butte area can provide an introduction to the theories of vulcanism in an area of comparatively easy terrain. It can, thereby, be presented as "a window" into the geological workings of the earth. Through the understanding of an undisturbed segment of vulcanology one can assist in man's knowledge of the formation of the earth's crust for the betterment of his condition in the future.

Hell's Half Acre. A portion of this W.S.A. has been designated as a national natural landmark, thus deserving wilderness status in the near future. Its most rugged terrain and landscape, consisting of both aa and pahoehoe lava emanating from a large shield volcano, is reminiscent of Craters of the Moon National Monument. Its islands of kipukas and varied aged lava flows make this area truly an outstanding scientific laboratory, in addition to a variety of wildlife and lava caves.

In conclusion, the areas recommended for wilderness should include, besides the most spectacular or suitable acreage, other lands that may protect the complete ecosystem so as to enhance the prime resource values. These wilderness areas will serve to study the inter-relationship between man and the environment, and to provide the benefits of wildlife and flora through the protection and maintenance of our public lands.

C.C. Sen. McClure
Sen. Symms
Rep. Craig
Rep. Hansen

Sincerely,
Paul Fritz
Paul Fritz
Box 1772
Boise, Idaho 83701

852 South 1900 East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108
(801) 582-0219
June 28, 1983

42

Mr. Dell Frandsen
District Manager
Idaho Falls District
Bureau of Land Management
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Dear Sir:

This letter is written in order to comment on the recently released draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for five Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in eastern Idaho. These five WSAs all possess outstanding wilderness values, and should be recommended for congressional designation. Hell's Half Acre (66,200 acres) is a showcase of volcanic activity. Cedar Butte (35,700 acres) is an equally exciting unit, and should not be eliminated through a questionable application of the diversity criterion. Under BLM regulations, diversity should be used only as an argument for designation, and never as a reason to drop a WSA. Petticoat Peak (11,900 acres) and Hawley Mountain (15,500 acres) would preserve, if designated, important habitats for flora and fauna. Petticoat is the home of three endangered species, the bald eagle, the whooping crane, and the peregrine falcon. Hawley offers truly remarkable panoramic vistas. What few conflicts exist in these two WSAs could be easily eradicated by small, careful boundary modifications. Black Canyon, of course, contains within its 5,400 acres a treasure trove of archeological resources. Due to damage of petroglyph panels and other archeological sites by vandals and thieves, BLM should not only recommend this WSA for wilderness designation as the best way to preserve the area. BLM should immediately close Black Canyon for ORV use; simple, but effective barriers can, and should be erected without delay.

The draft EIS betrays in my opinion a disturbing bias against wilderness on the part of BLM. Wilderness values in all five units are consistently underestimated or simply ignored. Conflicts with other resources are exaggerated beyond credibility. For example, if ORV intrusions are as problematic as alleged at Hawley Mountain, Petticoat Peak, and Black Canyon, BLM should have long ago closed these units to ORVs, as required under executive order, regardless of the wilderness issue. Finally, the alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS appear to be constructed in order to justify agency recommendations against wilderness, rather than to explore all possible actions. Conspicuously missing is any discussion of boundary adjustments to eliminate conflicts. Instead, BLM summarily throws out entire WSAs which have conflicts on their peripheries.

Finally, I would like to mention that the Sierra Club has been very impressed by the work of the Committee for Idaho's High Desert (CIHD). I hope that you and the agency will listen to CIHD's ideas and proposals, and will work with CIHD in our quest to preserve the outstanding natural lands of Idaho.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to comment on the draft wilderness EIS. Would you please inform me of BLM's final action, including a copy of the final EIS?

Sincerely,

James M. Baker

James M. Baker
National BLM Wilderness Chair
Sierra Club

42-1 The discussion on diversity has been deleted in the final EIS and was possibly misinterpreted in the draft. See response 18-2.

42-2 See #8, Issues Dropped from Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1.

42-3 The Fort Hall Agency and Tribe have said they see no conflict with their treaty rights and management of the northern 3,200 acres of Petticoat Peak as wilderness. Therefore, this partial alternative has been dropped. (See letters 40 and 63, and Alternatives Considered But Dropped From Analysis, Chapter 1.)

A partial wilderness alternative has been added for the Hawley Mountain WSA in the final EIS. It includes the boundary suggested by the committee for Idaho's High Desert, and eliminates lands from the WSA where conflicts could occur from ORV use.

District Manager
Idaho Falls District
Bureau of Land Management
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Dear Sir:

Please consider this as comment upon your draft Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of wilderness study lands in eastern Idaho. My first experience with public lands in eastern Idaho dates back to 1937, and I lived in Idaho from 1946 to 1970. Before and after those dates I was still involved in using public lands for recreation. There are values other than economic and I believe your EIS has overlooked some of the important values we should consider.

I appreciate your recommendation for wilderness for Hells Half Acre, but cannot understand your lack of recommendation for Cedar Butte. It is almost as if the "boys in the office" flipped a coin for one, but not for the other. Both of these wilderness study areas (WSAs) have outstanding wilderness opportunities.

Hawley Mountain, out there in the Little Lost River valley, and the surrounding peaks form a natural wilderness if you will make some adjustments for the boundaries of the WSA and eliminate the once in a while vehicle use. With such minor boundary adjustments Hawley Mountain WSA should be wilderness.

43-1

I support Petticoat Mountain (or Petticoat Peak, if you prefer) to be designated as wilderness. It would seem to me to be feasible to adjust the boundary so as to eliminate that portion guaranteed open to logging and grazing by the Fort Hall treaty. Taking out another 1,000 acres that gets some off-road vehicle (ORV) use in the eastern corner would be another recommendation. This would take advantage of natural barriers and should reduce management problems. I cannot understand why you didn't consider such an alternative to begin with.

In addition, I support wilderness designation for the Black Canyon WSA (I don't know how many "Black Canyons" there are in Idaho). It is an outstanding wildlife area. I ask that vehicle restrictions go into effect immediately so as to protect the large number of archaeological sites threatened by looters and vandals. You ought to be able to restrict the access and thus reduce the damage.

43-2

Very truly yours,

Jim Phelps
JAMES PHELPS

43

42-1

42-2

112-

42-3

Note vehicle restrictions should be enacted as soon as possible. Off road vehicle barriers should be constructed immediately. Wilderness designation is the fastest and most logical means of protecting these resources. To allow destruction of some of the finest archeologic resources in the western hemisphere shows an incredible lack of insight. Please support a wilderness designation to preserve both the archeological and wilderness resources for future generations.

3) Please support wilderness designation for Hawley Mountain. Boundary adjustments suggested by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert will alleviate the conflicts. The area has little commercial value but great ecological value as it supports two sensitive plant species.

4) Please support wilderness designation for the Petticoat Peak area. This area provides habitat for the bald eagle, whooping crane, and prairie falcon -- all endangered species! Boundary modifications offered by CIHD take

45-1 advantage of natural barriers and eliminate management problems while protecting an important wild life habitat.

5) I also feel Cedar Butte should be protected as a wilderness area. The geology of this area is spectacular and it supports a wide variety of birds, mule deer & other wild life.

In summary, I feel these five areas are outstanding and deserve wilderness protection. Boundary adjustments suggested by CIHD ensure efficient BLM management while maintaining the integrity of the area. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
J. J. Waden

45-1 The Fort Hall Agency and Tribe have said they see no conflict with their treaty rights and management of the northern 3,200 acres of Petticoat Peak as wilderness. Therefore, this partial alternative has been dropped. (See letters 40 and 63, and Alternatives Considered But Dropped From Analysis, Chapter 1.)

A partial wilderness alternative has been added for the Hawley Mountain WSA in the final EIS. It includes the boundary suggested by the committee for Idaho's High Desert, and eliminates lands from the WSA where conflicts could occur from ORV use.

129 1/2 Brent Drive
Moscow, Idaho 83843
June 27, 1983

46

Mr. Odell Frandsen, District Manager
Idaho Falls District BLM
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Dear Mr. Frandsen:

I am writing in support of the Modified All-Wilderness Alternative for the Eastern Idaho Wilderness. This alternative would include the following areas to be designated as wilderness: Cedar Butte, Black Canyon, Hawley Mountain, Hells Half Acre, and Petticoat Peak.

Each of the above named areas has a special quality deserving of preservation through wilderness designation. Petticoat Peak and Hawley Mountain are critical big-game habitats. Petticoat Peak also provides vital habitat for the bald eagle, whooping crane, and peregrine falcon - all endangered species. Hells Half Acre has few prospects for mineral development and is best left in its natural state for both

the flora and fauna of the area to survive. Cedar Butte is a logical addition to the wilderness, too. The cultural resources alone of Black Canyon should be sufficient reason to give wilderness status to the area. Black Canyon additionally has natural resources which need protection. A cultural resource management plan must be included in the final Wilderness EIS. Motor vehicle use in Black Canyon must also be restricted now.

The Modified All-Wilderness Alternative is the only logical and economical way of managing the five areas to protect their wilderness characteristics. Please support the Modified All-Wilderness Alternative for Eastern Idaho.

Thank-you.

Sincerely,

Gail Z. Eckwright
GAIL Z. ECKWRIGHT

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
IDAHO FALLS DISTRICT OFFICE
940 LINCOLN ROAD
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO 83401

47

ATTN: EIS TEAM LEADER

RE: EASTERN IDAHO DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT: BLM WILDERNESS

AS A SINGULAR COMMENT: THE RECOMMENDATION
FOR WILDERNESS IS WORKFULLY INADEQUATE.
THE RECOMMENDATION FOR A NET ADDITION
OF 20,000 ACRES FROM THE TOTAL OF THE
IDAHO FALLS AND BURLEY DISTRICTS
REPRESENTS EITHER A GROSS DEGRADATION
OF PUBLIC LANDS OR A TOTAL DISREGARD
FOR THE BLM WILDERNESS SELECTION
PROCESS.

IT IS NOT MY DESIRE TO BE CRITICAL OF
THE BLM BUT THE FACTS PRESENTED IN
THE IMPACT STATEMENT INDICATE THAT THE
BLM IS NOT INTERESTED IN WILDERNESS
MANAGEMENT.

REGRETFULLY I PERCEIVE NO ALTERNATIVE
EXCEPT TO ADVOCATE FOR ALTERNATIVE A.
REHASHING THE VIRTUES OF EACH
AREA IS NOT WORTH THE EXERCISE IN VIEW
OF THE REASONS FOR THE 12. RESACTION.

RESPECTFULLY,
TETE COLE
520 SKYLINE
POCATELLO, ID 83204

1606 N. 5th St.
Boise, Idaho 83702
June 30, 1983

48

Mr. O'dell Frandsen
District Manager
Idaho Falls District
BLM
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Dear Mr. Frandsen,

I would like to go on record supporting the All-Wilderness Alternative for the Eastern Idaho Plan Amendment and draft Environmental Impact Statement. The WSAs being considered cover a wide range of landforms and offer excellent opportunities for wilderness hiking, camping, photography and sightseeing. There are very few such opportunities available in Eastern Idaho, as evidenced by the few Forest Service Wilderness recommendations and the small percentage of land in the Idaho Falls and Burley Districts which are in WSAs.

I would like to offer the following site-specific comments on the draft EIS:

48-1 Economics - the final EIS should contain a detailed benefit-cost study of wilderness vs. non-wilderness designation. This was reported as a major public issue, yet the DEIS does not even consider it.

48-2 Black Canyon - this WSA is a tremendously rich archaeological area, and has suffered substantial vandalism and degradation in recent years. Wilderness would provide BLM an effective management tool for closing off the vehicle ways and increasing surveillance of the area, and providing the national recognition that will lead to increased funding for protection of the cultural sites of Black Canyon. The FEIS should include a cultural resource management plan for the WSA, and the ways into the WSA should be blocked immediately.

Hawley Mountain - this WSA provides stunning vistas of Idaho's two highest mountain ranges, a unique recreation opportunity. It has excellent opportunities for solitude and, because of the vistas, photography, sightseeing, and other forms of recreation. Wilderness designation would protect not only these, but also the big game winter and fawning range and habitat for two rare plants. Please recommend wilderness for Hawley Mountain in the FEIS.

I support the All-Wilderness Alternative, with the boundary adjustments recommended by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert.

Sincerely,
Jim Hale
Jim Hale

48.1 See numbers 9, 10, and 13, Issues Dropped from Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1.

48.2 See #8, Issues Dropped from Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1.

Clair N. Oursler
P.O. Box 38
St. Charles, Idaho 83276

Bureau of Land Management
Idaho Falls District
640 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Dear Mr. Watson:

SUBJECT: Eastern Idaho Wilderness EIS Draft

I am writing to you to comment on some sections of the EIS which I feel are inadequate and unsuitable that you might more adequately address in the Final EIS.

I attended the hearing in Pocatello, May 5, 1983, and I have continued my interest and research regarding Eastern Idaho WSA's under Chapter 2 (Planning Issues and Criteria) and also Criteria No. 2 Standard No. 5 (Local and Regional Social Economic Effects). I feel this EIS is woefully inadequate.

49-1

All of the study areas received nothing but the cursory "No significant impacts" statement. This to me means one of two things. Absolutely no research or investigations were made, or if they were made they were ignored or not deemed worthy of mentioning in the EIS.

If impacts were judged to be insignificant, how was this decision arrived at? At BIM Headquarters. Was a "ball park guess" made? Were there any surveys conducted in nearby areas (Pocatello, Idaho), as to citizen use of these WSA's? Were local businessmen, Sporting Goods Stores, Campgrounds, or the Chamber of Commerce contacted? Were any hunting or fishing clubs, 4-WD Clubs, or bowhunters surveyed?

49-2

As an example, the Petticoat Peak area is quite near Lava Hot Springs, which is not far from Pocatello. As you know, the hot Springs are used by many people both for recreation and health purposes. Many elderly people go to soak in the springs and relieve the pain caused by various arthritic ailments. Others, recovering from traumatic injuries, such as torn ligaments, and broken limbs, also use the hot springs as a therapeutic aid to physical rehabilitation. How would these people, many on fixed incomes react if the Petticoat Peak area became a designated Wilderness area? What impact would this have on local businesses in Lava Hot Springs? Would Lava Hot Springs become a "Parking Lot" for wilderness hikers and campers? Would the ratio of young people to old people visiting the hot springs change? Would the opportunities for the handicapped or infirm to enjoy the Wilderness be incorporated into use of the Hot Springs? Would the wilderness types eventually "takeover" the use of the Hot Springs, due to increasing numbers of hikers or campers visiting Lava on the way to hike in the Petticoat Peak area. How might this also affect the crime rate, if the Parking Meter Attendant in Lava Hot Springs is suddenly inundated with vehicles parked for several days, while wilderness enthusiasts are off in the Petticoat Peak area?

All of these questions involve social impact, which in my opinion, you have woefully and inadequately addressed. In addition, the establishment of a Big Horn Sheep Herd would be commended by many wildlife enthusiasts; however, hunters with more restricted access might opt for Primitive status.

The issues of harvesting timber in the area, now completely implausible, gives a real indicator of the bias of the BIM on Eastern Idaho WSA's. The control of disease by logging would be minimal, as would any economic benefit to a timber company, unless it was seeking tax credits.

The building of roads to harvest this small amount of timber would: 1). deny WSA suitability as not being unspoiled; 2). degrade the ecosystem, including wildlife; 3) lessen chances for the area to be planted with Big Horn Sheep. All this for a little over 2,000 acres of harvested timber?

Over the years the recreational and tourist dollars that would come to Lava Hot Springs would far outweigh the value of the 2000+ acres of harvested timber.

Hell's Half Acre is another area that would likely feel social impact, due to its close proximity to Idaho Falls, Boise, Pocatello and Salt LAKE. If anyone really needs solitude to meditate and relax, the nuclear scientists at nearby ARCO & INEL certainly should be considered worthy.

-117-

Overall, I felt that when you addressed economic issues affecting energy or timber development in the WSA's, only their losses were perceived as worthy of mention. No mention is made of the possible economic gains to the tourist industry, or to guides, outfitters, and sporting goods dealers, or other local businessmen, whose economy might be improved if Petticoat Peak or Hell's Half Acre became wilderness areas. A fairly recent Forest Service pamphlet stated that over 19 million Americans camp or hike regularly as a form of recreation, with over 5 million trekking into remote wilderness areas every year. That is a lot of backpackin dollars!

To me, it would make sense for the BLM to begin to seriously consider SIA issues in its WSA's. It is time you discontinued your time honored bureaucratic fitting of the phrase "no significant impact" so glibly and also inaccurately. Even if funding is limited for social surveys, you could at least say so. In reviewing many EIS's, very seldom have I seen any decent work done on social impact. This does not make an EIS suitable, and will likely lead to more mismanagement of our Public Lands. You can continue to gloss SIA issues over, but you will pay for it down the road. I think is

time the BLM confront SIA issues (or lack of) in all their EIS's I believe you are capable of doing it, and actually that is what the criteria and standards require.

Sincerely, *Carl Dunsler*

50

June 22, '85

Ms. Adele Frankson
District Manager
BLM
Hells Falls, ID. 83401

429 N. 7th.
Twin Falls, Id.
83201

Dear Mrs. Frankson,

Concerning the recent wilderness study of 134,000+ acres of eastern Idaho Wilderness we support the following: wilderness designation for Petticoat Peak, Cedar Butte, Hells Half Acre, Howley Mountains, and Black Canyon. Petticoat Peak is the habitat of three endangered species, Hawley mt. oppo's wonderful rickia of the Hemlock and Red River herring, Black Canyon abounds in important archeological resources and motor vehicle restrictions are a must to protect that area. We do support your (BLM) recommendation for Hells Half Acre. But ask that Cedar Butte be included because of its outstanding wilderness opportunities.

The modified All- Wilderness Alternative seems to be the logical and economic way to manage these areas and at the same time protect their wilderness characteristics. Please support this alternative.

*The Shermans
Sam & Willard*

The only mystery about the cat is why it ever decided to become a domestic animal.

COMPTON MACKENZIE

- 49-1 See numbers 9 and 10, Issues Dropped from Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1.
- 49-2 If Petticoat Peak were designated wilderness, local attitudes would vary; some would welcome the designation while others would not. The Lava Hot Spring community is trying to encourage economic development and increase tourism. Wilderness would be consistent with that aim.
- Increased recreation use of the WSA is not anticipated if the area is designated (see Chapter 4 of the final EIS). Studies of several designated wilderness areas have shown that increased use does not occur simply because of designation. Significant recreation attractions, however, do lead to increased recreation use. The Petticoat Peak WSA contains interesting natural features, but none that would offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation as stated in the wilderness inventory. These factors conclude that designation would have an insignificant impact on the social situation surrounding Lava Hot Springs.
- 49-3 See numbers 9 and 10, Issues Dropped from Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1.

1870 Wymosa
Boise, ID 83705
28 June, 1983

51

Mr. Odell Frandsen
Idaho Falls District Manager
BLM
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Dear Mr. Frandsen:

I would like to submit the following comments on the draft EIS for Eastern Idaho Wilderness. Please include them in the official hearing record.

I support the Modified All-Wilderness Alternative which incorporates the boundary modifications submitted by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert. I believe that it best protects the wildlife, scenic, recreational, archeological values of the WSA's. I recommend that you choose this alternative as the preferred action.

I am pleased with the BLM's recommendation of Hells Half Acre for wilderness, and I urge you to also recommend Cedar Butte since its values are similar. There is little designated wilderness in that area at the present time so I do not consider "Geographical concentration of wilderness" a valid reason for not including it as wilderness.

I support wilderness classification for Petticoat Peak because of its diverse plant life and its habitat for endangered species.

The Hawley Mountain WSA qualifies as wilderness because of its outstanding scenic vistas. If the boundary modifications suggested by the Comm. for Idaho's High Desert are adopted, there should be little conflict with ORV's.

Black Canyon should also be classified wilderness because of its scenic, scientific, wildlife, geologic and cultural interest. I believe wilderness protection would be the best way to preserve the remaining undisturbed cultural artifacts and areas, since it would be permanent and would close the area to motorized intrusion.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Julia A. Jose
Julia A. Jose

1817 Annett Street
Boise, Idaho 83705
June 27, 1983

52

Mr. Odell Frandsen,
District Manager
Idaho Falls District BLM
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Dear Mr. Frandsen,

Please support the All-wilderness alternative for the Eastern Idaho Wilderness EIS, with the boundary changes recommended by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert. I particularly support wilderness for Black Canyon. This area has very high recreation and wildlife values, opportunities for solitude, and rare archaeological value. It is very vulnerable under present management. Wilderness designation would allow stricter management, and almost certainly provide funds for better management of the area.

I also support wilderness for Hawley Mountain, for its critical antelope range and fawning areas. The Lemhi and Lost River mountains are among the most impressive in the State, and Hawley Mountain offers sweeping vistas of both. I support your recommendation for Hells Half Acre, and fail to see how the nearly identical Cedar Butte was recommended unsuitable. I also support wilderness for Petticoat Peak, as one of the few potential wilderness areas near Pocatello and because of its wildlife value.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely yours,

Donna Hallock
Donna Hallock

Mr. Odell Frandsen,
District Manager
Idaho Falls District BLM
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

53

Dear Mr. Frandsen:

I would like to support the All-Wilderness Alternative for the Eastern Idaho Wilderness EIS, with the changes recommended by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert. I believe that these are all outstanding areas, and deserve wilderness protection. They will add significant diversity to the National Wilderness system, and substantially increase the opportunities for this type of recreation in Eastern Idaho.

Black Canyon is an archaeological treasure, and requires wilderness protection. I'm certain Congress will be much more willing to give management money to protect the area if it has Wilderness recognition than if it doesn't. Wilderness will also protect the wildlife, scenic, and other values of the area.

I also want to go on record supporting Hawley Mountain, a place of high wildlife and scenic value; Petticoat Peak, home of three endangered species; Hells Half Acre, a rugged lava field; and Cedar Butte, another rugged lava field. I don't see how you can call Hells Half Acre "rugged" and Cedar Butte "flat", when the total elevation change in both is almost identical.

Please include these comments in the final EIS.

Sincerely yours,

Harry Hallock
Harry Hallock

51-1 See response 18-3 and the Partial Wilderness Alternative for Hawley Mountain.

51-1

-119-

8673 Fairview #61
Boise, Idaho 83704
June 28, 1983

54

Mr. Odell Frandsen
Idaho Falls District BLM
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

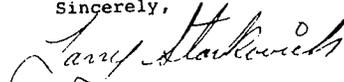
Dear Mr. Frandsen,

I would like to express my views on the Eastern Idaho Wilderness EIS. I support the All-wilderness option, with the changes recommended by the High Desert Committee. I think Wilderness is the only way to protect these areas. Black Canyon and Hawley Mountain are particularly in danger of being destroyed if they are not protected.

I agree with your recommendation to protect Hells Half Acre. I think Cedar Butte deserves similar protection, especially with almost no wilderness designated in eastern Idaho at present (and without even a BLM recommendation to protect the Great Rift). I think Petticoat Peak should be protected for its endangered species value. Both Box Canyon and Hawley Mountain also have great importance for wildlife.

Please recommend the all-wilderness alternative, with the boundary changes recommended by the High Desert group. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Larry Starkovich

117 1/2 W. State St.
Boise, ID 83702
28 June 1983

55

Mr. Odell Frandsen
Idaho Falls District Manager
BLM
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Dear Mr. Frandsen:

I would like to offer the following comments on the draft Eastern Idaho Wilderness EIS. Please include these comments in the final EIS and official record for these Wilderness Study Areas.

1. I support the Modified All-Wilderness Alternative which incorporates the boundary modifications submitted by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert. This is the only alternative which protects the outstanding archaeological, scenic, recreational, and wildlife values of these lands. I urge you to include this alternative in the final EIS, and recommend it as the preferred action.

2. I would like to offer the following comments on each WSA in the DEIS:

Black Canyon - I strongly support Wilderness protection for this unique area. The WSA has high value for archaeological study, a resource which I believe will be much better protected by Wilderness designation than Area of Critical Environmental Concern (a designation which can be changed administratively at any time). I urge you to designate Black Canyon as an ACEC now, but recommend Wilderness to ensure permanent protection. Please include a cultural resource management plan in the final EIS.

Petticoat Peak - I support Wilderness for this area because of the diversity of plant communities, and its endangered species value.

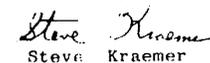
Hawley Mountain - this area should be protected for its outstanding wildlife and scenic vista values. The WSA offers outstanding views of Idaho's highest mountains, and the pristine Little Lost River Valley. Please include the boundary modifications recommended by CIHD.

55-2 **Hells Half Acre** - I support the BLM Wilderness recommendation for this area.

55-3 **Cedar Butte** - This WSA is very similar to Hells Half Acre in topography and other natural features. There is no consistency in the BLM decision to recommend Hells Half Acre but not Cedar Butte. There is also no justification to doing so on the basis of "geographic concentration of Wilderness" when only the small Craters of the Moon National Monument wilderness has been officially established, and the RARE II recommendations are no longer certain.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Steve Kraemer

55-1 See #8, Issues Dropped from Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1.

55-2 A partial wilderness alternative has been added for the Hawley Mountain WSA in the final EIS. It includes the boundary suggested by the committee for Idaho's High Desert, and eliminates lands from the WSA where conflicts could occur from ORV use.

55-3 BLM managers decided not to recommend the Cedar Butte WSA because natural features that would attract primitive recreationists are not particularly numerous or interesting. Other lava flow landscapes offer better primitive recreation opportunities and include the Craters of the Moon Wilderness, Great Rift, and Hell's Half Acre WSAs.



SIERRA CLUB
MIDDLE SNAKE GROUP
 Box 552 Boise, Idaho 83701

56

27 June 1983

Manager
 Idaho Falls District, BLM
 940 Lincoln Rd
 Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Dear Sir:

This letter comments on the DRAFT EASTERN IDAHO WILDERNESS EIS and plan amendment.

56-1 1) I do not think the range of alternatives is adequate. This deficiency is particularly disturbing in the light of the 9th circuit court decision.

56-2 a) Three units (Hawley Mountain, Ceder Butte, and Petty Coat Peak) are considered for Wilderness only in the All Wilderness Alternative. Ceder Butte could easily have been considered jointly with Hells Half Acre. Hawley Mountain and Pettycoat Peak should also receive consideration in a partial wilderness alternative since they represent different topography and values than the lava flow units.

-121-
 56-3 b) In addition I suggest you develop a partial wilderness alternative that includes all of the units with boundary adjustments designed to eliminate the resource conflicts and manageability problems you feel you have identified.

for example: PETTYCOAT PEAK: Amend the boundrys to exclude the lands with Indian Timber Rights and those areas vandalized by ORVs. Your EIS states this would be "difficult". I think this option deserves deeper analysis.

HAWLEY MOUNTAIN: The EIS contains similar unsupported statements concerning the "difficulty" of preventing ORV use. Again I urge you to develop an alternative that considers boundary adjustments to mitigate this problem.

56-4 BLACK CANYON: Again we find the specter of ORV abuse used as justification for a non wilderness recommendation. In this case ORV access would be channelized by canyons. Your EIS should consider the alternative of blocking these canyons.

There is a common thread in BLMs logic for these units. WSAs are recommended unsuitable because of present or possible future abuse by ORVs. This logic in effect grants a "heckler's veto" to those with the tools to vandalize the land. It would be possible to take a can of spray paint to the Mona Lisa but that hasn't deterred her owners from preserving her for our benefit and the benefit of our postarity. All of these units are substantially natural. If they were not they would have been dropped at the inventory stage. Naturalness is a fast disappearing commodity in

public lands and one which should be preserved. For our benefit and the benefit of our postarity.

56-5 BLACK CANYON represents a special case. The heavy use of this area by early native Americans has left an incredible archaeological legacy. One which must be protected. The EIS notes that vehicular access has led to vandalism and degradation of these sites. Wilderness would eliminate this access. No other management plan would do so as well. Any special management prescriptions (e.g. rangers) could be superimposed on Wilderness.

AS a final comment I would like to note that I don't think your proposed action (Wilderness only for Hells Half Acre) is supported by the data in the DEIS. Given the wilderness values documented in the DEIS and the lack of resource conflict inherent in Wilderness designation I feel the only logical proposed alternative is Wilderness for each of the WSAs with boundary adjustments to exclude obvious imparements to naturalness.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this DEIS.

Charles C. Yoder
 Charles C. Yoder, chair
 1238 Camelot DR.
 Boise, ID 83704

56-1 In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration for wilderness. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was analyzed for Hawley Mountain. Other partial alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis. This constitutes a reasonable range of alternatives for analysis.

56-2 Agregate alternatives as suggested have been dropped from analysis in the final EIS. See Alternatives Considered But Dropped From Analysis, Chapter 1.

56-3 The Fort Hall Agency and Tribe have said they see no conflict with their treaty rights and management of the northern 3,200 acres of Petticoat Peak as wilderness. Therefore, this partial alternative has been dropped. (See letters 40 and 63, and Alternatives Considered But Dropped From Analysis, Chapter 1.)

A partial wilderness alternative has been added for the Hawley Mountain WSA in the final EIS. It includes the boundary suggested by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert, and eliminates lands from the WSA where conflicts could occur from ORV use.

56-4 See response 34-7.

56-5 See #8, Issues Dropped from Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1.



COMMITTEE FOR IDAHO'S
HIGH DESERT
P.O. BOX 463 BOISE, IDAHO 83701

57

June 29, 1983

Mr. O'dell Frandsen,
District Manager
Idaho Falls District
Bureau of Land Management
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Dear Mr. Frandsen:

The Committee for Idaho's High Desert is a statewide, non-profit organization committed to protecting a quality environment in Idaho's desert lands. We have several hundred members throughout the State, including those of our East Idaho Chapter, centered in Idaho Falls. Our members use the Wilderness Study Areas being evaluated in the draft Eastern Idaho Plan Amendment/Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement for hiking, backpacking, photography, hunting, the study of archaeological, geological, and other natural features, and for other uses. On behalf of the Committee and its members, I would like to offer the following comments on the draft Plan Amendment/EIS. These are intended to complement, rather than substitute for, those comments made on behalf of the Committee at the Idaho Falls Public Hearing by our East Idaho Board Member, Scott Ploger.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Alternatives Considered

The DEIS speaks in several places about the difficulty in managing the WSAs as wilderness, and then mentions specific problems with ORV intrusion or Indian Treaty Rights. Examination of these management problems shows that in the both of the WSAs where this is used as a rationale for a non-Wilderness recommendation, simple boundary adjustments would remove the areas with manageability questions. The DEIS completely fails to consider such an alternative, however - a major fault in our estimation.

The Committee for Idaho's High Desert officially endorses the All-Wilderness Alternative, with boundary modifications for Petticoat Peak and Hawley Mountain. Attached is a map that shows our proposed boundaries for these areas; we request that the FEIS include this alternative and subject it to the same scrutiny it has given the others.

We are also concerned that no Partial Wilderness Alternative included either Petticoat Peak or Hawley Mountain. Given the outstanding wildlife and other values of these WSAs, we believe this is a major shortcoming.

Other

The acreage being studied for Wilderness designation is a very small fraction of the Idaho Falls and Burley Districts. Estimating the size of the two Districts at 3.5 million acres, the 5 Wilderness Study lands comprise only about 3% of the total area BLM manages, and the Preferred Alternative encompasses only 1.5% of this land. On this basis alone, given the multiple-use directives of the BLM, all five WSAs should be recommended as Wilderness.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Economics

On both page 11 and page 6 of the DEIS, BLM identified "What would it cost to manage the WSA as wilderness?" as a major public concern to be addressed in the EIS. However, there is no discussion of this anywhere else in the text.

We would like to see an economic analysis of the benefits and costs of wilderness, including not only what it would cost to manage the WSA as wilderness, but also what economic benefits would be expected to result from wilderness designation, especially to local communities such as Howe.

Development of Alternatives (page 10)

We strongly disagree with your statement (paragraph 2) that adjusting boundaries is not a reasonable method of establishing a partial alternative. While size adjustments would not have a significant impact on wilderness manageability or resource conflicts in Hell's Half Acre, Cedar Butte or Black Canyon, this is not the case for Hawley Mountain and Petticoat Peak. We would like to see the justification for this statement in the FEIS.

Wilderness Attitudes

It is important to remember that wilderness is a national resource, and that these are public lands belonging to all citizens of this country. The national perspective should be carefully considered. How would people from Ohio, for example, perceive the vistas and solitude of Hawley Mountain? We have an abundance of open land in the West (at least for the time being), but their relative commonness needs to be considered from the vantage point of the average American who is not as fortunate as we here in Idaho.

It is our understanding that a more recent National survey was done by American Oil Company (AMOCO) in the late 1970s or early 1980s. We have not yet obtained a copy of the report, although it is reported to be located at the University of Oregon library. This may be a more useful study than the Cambridge Report which you cited in your study.

The FEIS should report the public opinion expressed on the DEIS, from both the public hearings in Pocatello and Idaho Falls, and through letters received during the comment period.

Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System

1) Diversity of Ecosystems. On page 7 of the DEIS, you report that one of the planning criterion of the wilderness study was to increase the diversity of the National Wilderness Preservation System. In light of the recent Forest Service decision to abolish all RARE II Wilderness recommendations and to study all RARE II roadless areas again through the Forest Planning process and BLM's decision to drop all WSAs less than 5,000 acres in size, BLM needs to re-examine all its comments and Table 2.

We believe this is crucial because it appears that you have used diversity as an argument against wilderness designation for Petticoat Peak, Cedar Butte and Hawley Mountain. We believe this is a misapplication of these criteria; we also believe that the conclusions that these areas are not needed for diversity are incorrect, especially with the loss of substantial numbers of WSAs and Forest Service Recommended Wilderness areas. Once these areas are eliminated, it is apparent that the opportunities for rounding out the Wilderness System are substantially reduced. We also believe it is critical that more than one area within each ecosystem be recommended, both for needed biological diversity and stability and in recognition of the political reality that everything that is recommended will not be designated.

Map 3 needs to be revised to reflect the Interior Secretary's dropping of WSAs and the Forest Service's dropping their recommendations for Wilderness. (The latter is important due to Assistant Secretary of Agriculture John Crowell's statements that he didn't think the new study would provide any data to recommend wilderness for areas designated non-wilderness in RARE II, but he did believe many wilderness recommendations would be changed to non-wilderness once the studies were completed).

-122-

57-2

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57-1

Black Canyon

We strongly disagree with your contention (page 17) that Black Canyon has marginal wilderness quality. The area is an archaeological treasure, with numerous pictographs, hunting blinds, and other prehistoric sites. It has an unusually high population of raptors, and support s mule deer and numerous other wildlife species. It is also bighorn sheep habitat, and wilderness designation will protect this value. It also has excellent scenic qualities.

57-8 On page 18 you assert that Black Canyon offers few opportunities for solitude because of its small size. This is contrary to the experiences of many of our East Idaho members, who report that they have enjoyed complete solitude in the WSA, never coming into contact with another party. If you include such a statement in the final EIS, it must be accompanied by the appropriate documentation - visitor surveys, detailed assessment of recreational carrying capacity and user preferences, etc.

57-9 Page 18 of the DEIS also asserts that Black Canyon is of lesser quality than larger, adjacent nearby National Forest lands. This is comparing apples and oranges. If a recreationist wants jagged peaks and alpine meadows, he certainly will not want to visit Black Canyon. On the other hand, if he wants rugged limestone gorges, good-quality sagebrush steppe grasslands and a wealth of prehistoric sites, he will not go to the Sawtooths. People who recreate in the desert have a different set of expectations and goals than alpine recreationists - a point the DEIS fails to consider.

-123-
We also have concerns about the contention that since the adjacent Lemhi Mountains were not recommended for Wilderness in RARE II, that Black Canyon does not qualify. We find this inappropriate for two reasons: first, the Diamond Peak Roadless Area (which adjoins Black Canyon on the north) was recommended as a Further Planning Area during RARE II by the Forest Service - a recommendation that was later changed administratively to non-wilderness by President Carter. Even in the commodity-oriented RARE II process, Diamond Peak was recognized by the agency to have sufficiently high value to warrant further study. Second, since RARE II was found to be legally inadequate in California and the Forest Service is intending to re-study all RARE II roadless areas again, there is still a possibility that Diamond Peak could be recommended suitable. (We think the Wilderness Society suggestion, referenced on page 11, of combining Black Canyon with Diamond Peak is not so far-fetched given the new political situation).

57-10 We disagree with your statement (page 18) that since Black Canyon lacks natural barriers and local sentiment to closing ways is very negative, it cannot be managed as wilderness. ORV intrusion into the area could be readily stopped by blocking the narrow canyon entrances which can easily be blocked (by boulders, for instance - our volunteers have offered to provide the labor). We have serious concerns about BLM's legal responsibility to protect the archaeological values of the WSA completely separate of the wilderness issue, and believe that based on antiquities laws, BLM should block the canyons to ORV use to prevent desecration of the prehistoric sites. The recent publicity on Black Canyon will doom it if immediate action is not taken. Wilderness designation will not only provide recognition that will increase surveillance of the area (which should decrease destruction of sites), but also focus national attention on the area and make it much easier for BLM to acquire the necessary management funds to protect it - something that will not happen otherwise.

57-11 BLM should immediately close the ways into the WSA to ORV use. The FEIS also needs to include a cultural resource management plan for the Canyon, and a description of how BLM intends to enforce the Interim Management Policy to ensure that an important wilderness resource (archaeological value) is not degraded so that Congress' opportunity to decide whether or not this area should be designated wilderness is compromised.

57-12 Page 18 states that Black Canyon will not add needed diversity to the National Wilderness Preservation System, even though there is only one Wilderness - the tiny Craters of the Moon Wilderness- in eastern Idaho, and all other wilderness areas in the state (none in eastern Idaho) are Alpine. Please provide justification for this comment.

Hawley Mountain

Again, we take issue with your assertion that Hawley Mountain has marginal wilderness quality. It offers a spectacular panorama of the Lost River and Lemhi Mountain ranges, Idaho's highest; it also overlooks an unspoiled valley. Neither the Lemhi nor Lost River Ranges can offer such a vista, nor can it be seen so dramatically from the valley floor. For this reason alone, Hawley Mountain is unique, and ought to be protected as wilderness.

57-13 Page 17 compares Hawley Mountain unfavorably with adjacent Forest Service areas. Again, this is an inappropriate comparison; people who travel to Hawley Mountain will not be looking for the same thing as people climbing the Lemhis or Borah Peak. Hawley Mountain has outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, and offers a type of environment and experience not found in adjoining areas.

57-14 The statement that the WSA's ecosystem can be better represented by the 35 other high quality areas either proposed or under study for wilderness is misleading. This figure needs to be re-examined in light of the RARE III decision and the "watt-drop" of last December. We also urge you to examine the WSA in the context of the recent study of Wilderness Study Areas completed by Union Carbide Corp. for the Department of Energy (Oak Ridge, TN); this identifies WSAs with potential energy resource conflicts. Because of the lack of resource conflicts in Hawley Mountain and the presence of such conflicts in similar ecosystem WSDAs, Hawley Mountain is an area where these ecosystem values are more likely to be protected. A critical factor in all the WSAs being evaluated is the good condition of the native desert grasslands. Hawley Mountain should be compared to the other WSAs not only for the type of community it represents, but also the quality of the vegetation.

57-15 We are concerned that you are using potential management problems as an excuse for not protecting an excellent area. This is shown by the inconsistency between page 17, where you state "the major concern for managing the WSA as wilderness is the ability to exclude motor vehicles", and page 24 where you state that recreation use in the WSA is low, and that "A few visitors ride motorcycles or drive off-road vehicles to the WSA's canyons and slopes that are accessible to motorized vehicles," a small portion of the unit. The assessment of manageability should be based on actual, not potential, problems. We also want to ensure that your management of ORVs in the WSA is consistent with the IMP. Local sentiment to limited road closures should not override national resource concerns.

57-16 We recognize that there are potential management problems with ORVs along the periphery of the WSA; consequently, we are recommending that the boundaries of the wilderness proposal be modified from those of the WSA. Attached is a map which outlines our proposal. We believe this will allow BLM to effectively manage the area, while still protecting the wildlife, scenic, and other critical resources.

We believe Hawley Mountain has unusual and high-value wilderness resources, particularly for scenic recreation and wildlife. We urge you to recommend wilderness for Hawley Mountain in your final EIS.

Hells Half Acre

We concur with the wilderness recommendation for this rugged, challenging area. It offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, contains unusual geological features and other scientific values, and has very few resource conflicts.

Cedar Butte

After your excellent recommendation for Hells Half Acre, we were dismayed with your non-wilderness recommendation for Cedar Butte. This WSA is very similar to Hells Half Acre in topography, with the same pressure ridges, fissures, and lava tubes; it older age has subdued the landscape somewhat, but has allowed it to become more diverse and valuable as wildlife habitat (which increases its recreational value for hunting, photography, hiking, and other uses).

57-17 The DEIS describes the landscape of Hells Half Acre (page 16 as "very rugged", while that of Cedar Butte is described (page 27) as

57-17 "slightly undulating". However, the total variation in elevation in Hells Half Acre is 651 feet, while that of Cedar Butte (a much smaller flow) is 632 feet, a mere 19 foot difference. We fail to see how such a minor difference in topographic variation can make the difference between a "rugged" and a "generally flat" landscape.

57-18 There are no designated wilderness areas close to Cedar Butte, except the small Craters of the Moon wilderness. Your statements on page 18 indicate that Cedar Butte is of lesser quality than the Great Rift and Hells Half Acre; however these are not yet designated, and (as the lack of recommendation for the Great Rift has shown) there is no guarantee that they will be. For this reason, we believe your comparison of Cedar Butte to other possible wilderness areas is not appropriate.

Many of the grassland areas within Cedar Butte are of high quality. A comparison of these to other WSAs with similar vegetation should be undertaken, in order to better assess the values of this WSA.

Petticoat Peak

Petticoat Peak is an area with great diversity, both in vegetative communities and wildlife. It is an area with very high wildlife values, providing habitat for no less than three endangered species - whooping crane, bald eagle, and peregrine falcon. In addition, the WSA is habitat for three sensitive wildlife species, bobcat, lynx, and merlin, as well as mule deer and a host of other species. These add substantially to its recreation attraction, and to the need for protecting this area as wilderness.

Petticoat Peak offers one of the few opportunities in southeastern Idaho to provide a Wilderness area (which attests to the amount of development this region has experienced, and to the value of the few remaining wild lands). Designating Petticoat Peak as wilderness will help substantially in distributing wilderness more equitably; again, the removal of the Forest Service wilderness recommendation for Worm Creek should be considered in the assessment for Petticoat Peak.

The major objections to designating Petticoat Peak as wilderness are the Fort Hall Indian Treaty of 1900 and motorized vehicle intrusion into the unit. Attached is our recommendation for a proposed wilderness boundary which would eliminate these problems, and which we believe would allow effective management of this wilderness area.

Concluding Remarks

CIHD believes that wilderness designation is the best long-term means for assuring that the natural values of these lands will be maintained. Wilderness has a legal and administrative history which establishes clear parameters for management, unlike other protective designations (such as Outstanding Natural Area or Area of Critical Environmental Concern). Because it is a Congressional designation, wilderness protection cannot be removed as easily as ACEC or other administrative designation could. The effectiveness of wilderness as a tool has also been tested and verified, unlike administrative designations.

The WSAs considered in this DEIS are all outstanding areas, each having its own unique values. They represent a fraction of the wild country which once existed, and represent scattered remnants of the landscape variety which once made up eastern Idaho. Viewed from a historical and ecological perspective, the "rocks and ice" recommendation which you are proposing as your Preferred Alternative is clearly unacceptable. We urge you to reconsider your proposal, and recommend the Modified All-Wilderness Alternative which we are presenting as your Preferred Alternative.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to seeing your final Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement.

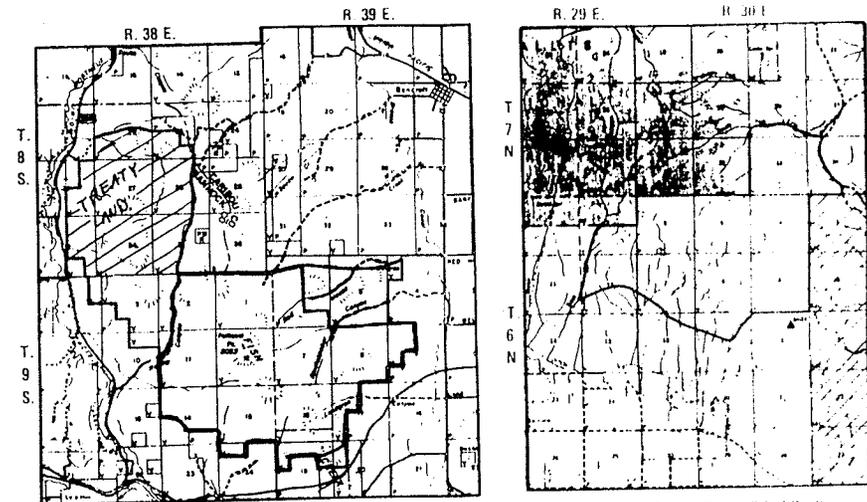
Sincerely,
COMMITTEE FOR IDAHO'S
HIGH DESERT

by Bruce R. Boccard
Bruce R. Boccard,
Chairman

cc: Idaho Congressional delegation
Governor Evans

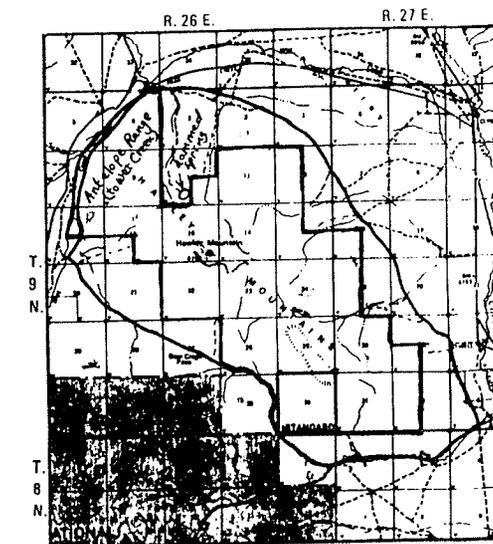
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57-19

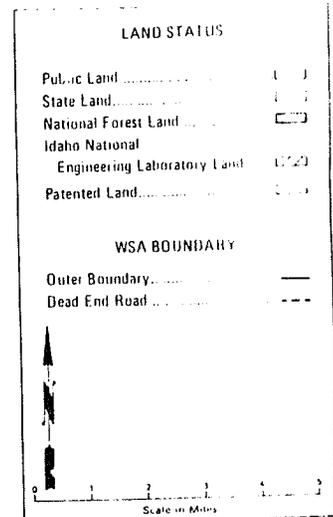


PETTICOAT PEAK WSA 28-1

BLACK CANYON WSA 32-9



HAWLEY MOUNTAIN WSA 32-3



- 57-1 See response 18-3 and Partial Wilderness Alternatives for Hawley Mountain.

See response 10-1 for Petticoat Peak and Alternatives Considered but Dropped from Analysis, Chapter 1.
- 57-2 Refer to numbers 9, 10, and 13, Issues Dropped from Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1.
- 57-3 The statement on partial alternatives has been deleted from the final EIS.
- 57-4 Public opinion used in the wilderness attitudes section did not influence the BLM's recommendation on any of the WSAs. The analysis has been removed from the document.
- 57-5 All letters received on the draft EIS and comments from the public hearings have been included in this final EIS. The opinions expressed and information provided will be included in the Wilderness Study Report that will accompany the Secretary's recommendation.
- 57-6 Table 2 has been deleted from the final EIS.
- 57-7 The discussion on diversity has been deleted in the final EIS and was possibly misinterpreted in the draft. The analysis of diversity was not the only factor affecting which WSAs would be recommended suitable by BLM managers. The diversity analysis has been dropped from the final EIS because it deals with planning considerations rather than environment. Map 3 has also been deleted because of the uncertainty as to which areas will be designated wilderness.
- 57-8 See response 34-6.
- 57-9 BLM agrees with the comment and has deleted the comparison of Black Canyon with other areas.
- 57-10 One canyon entrance (Box Canyon) could be blocked to vehicle use. The entrance is nearly half-way through the WSA and above most of the cultural sites the people assert could be protected with a vehicle closure. Jackknife Canyon is more open and would be difficult to close without fencing and extensive patrols by enforcement personnel. Access from the north through USFS land would also be difficult to close to vehicle use.
- 57-11 See response 57-10 and #8, Issues Dropped from Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1.

BLM's Interim Management Policy (IMP) is being followed to insure that the Black Canyon WSAs wilderness values are not impaired. A specific plan has been prepared and implemented to protect the values as specified in the IMP.
- 57-12 See response 57-7.
- 57-13 The comparison wording has been deleted from the final EIS.

- 57-14 The statement on ecosystems has been deleted from the final EIS. The ecosystem discussion was part of the diversity analysis which dealt with planning considerations rather than environmental. Diversity has been de-emphasized because the question of which areas will be designated wilderness has not been answered.
- 57-15 See response 34-7.
- 57-16 See response 57-11.
- 57-17 The Cedar Butte WSA is a smooth pahoehoe flow that has been subject to nearly 11,000 years to weathering and soil accumulation. Hell's Half Acre contains distinct and numerous flows, pressure ridges, deep cracks and crevices, and other volcanic features of interest. It is just over 4,000 years old and has not been subject to such an extensive weathering process as the Cedar Butte WSA. The total variation in elevation is not an appropriate factor in describing how rugged or attractive a lava landscape would be to recreationists.
- 57-18 Comparing the primitive recreation opportunities of the Cedar Butte WSA with other WSA lava flows is considered appropriate. Both the Great Rift and Hell's Half Acre WSAs are lava landscapes located in the same geographic region. Cedar Butte contains few natural features that would attract primitive recreationists and does not contain additional or unusual recreation attractions that cannot be found in Hell's Half Acre or the Great Rift WSAs.
- 57-19 See response 10-1 and Alternatives Dropped from Further Analysis, Chapter 1.

1806 N. 3th Street
Boise, Idaho 83702
June 30, 1983

58

Mr. O'dell Frandsen
District Manager
Idaho Falls District
BLM
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

58-1

Dear Mr. Frandsen,

I would like to support the Modified All-Wilderness Alternative, with the boundary changes recommended by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert. I particularly urge you to reverse your decision for Black Canyon and Hawley Mountain. Black Canyon has fragile wildlife and cultural resources which could easily be destroyed without wilderness protection; wilderness designation will increase the BLM odds of getting adequate funding and enforcement authority to preserve these values. The final EIS should include a cultural resource management plan, and BLM should immediately block the ways into the canyons within the WSA.

Hawley Mountain is an area which not only has significant wildlife values of its own, but also provides sweeping vistas of some of Idaho's most spectacular scenery. This is an opportunity that neither the Lemhi or Lost River Ranges offer, nor do the Little Lost and Pahsimeroi River valley floors. Wilderness will protect this unique resource, as well as the big game range, rare plants, and antelope fawning and migration grounds. I urge you to recommend Wilderness for Hawley Mountain in the final EIS.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Lori Milliken
Lori Milliken

Subject: Draft Wilderness Environmental
Impact Statement for Eastern Idaho.

908 N. 21st
Boise, IDAHO 83702
June 30, 1983

District Manager
Idaho Falls District BLM
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

59

59-1

Dear Mr. Frandsen,

I am writing in support of the "All Wilderness" alternative which incorporates the boundary adjustments recommended by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert. The five WSA's (Black Canyon, Hawley Mountain, Petticoat Peak, Cedar Butte, and Hells Half Acre) all contain outstanding wilderness characteristics worthy of protection under the Wilderness Act!! I support the BLM's recommendation to designate Hells Half Acre for wilderness but also feel that Cedar Butte should be recommended as well. By incorporating the boundary modifications recommended by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert, Cedar Butte and Petticoat Peak are viable wilderness areas posing little or no resource conflict.

I have visited the Black Canyon and Hawley Mountain WSA's and find them particularly exceptional. The wildlife and archeological values of the Black Canyon WSA are particularly dear to me. Wilderness designation is the only effective means of protecting the archeological resources which abound in this area. Hawley Mountain is a wonderful vantage point for viewing

Idaho's two highest ranges -- the Teton and Lost River Mountains. Hawley also has wildlife and flora values worthy of protection.

In summary, I feel BLM's existing recommendations for these areas are short-sighted. Your EIS does not even consider an alternative which would, through some minor boundary adjustments, afford the protection these WSA's so deserve. Again, I want to emphasize the need for protecting the archeological values of the Black Canyon WSA -- this link to the past deserves immediate attention and preservation. Wilderness designation of these WSA's will allow future generations of Idahoans and other Americans to ^{enjoy and} cherish the resource values these areas offer today and in the future!

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I hope the BLM will consider these comments in arriving at a final recommendation for these outstanding areas. Please send me a copy of the final environmental statement and add me to your mailing list. I look forward to participating in your WSA study process at a future date.

Sincerely,

Steve Jakubowicz

my address is:
STEVE JAKUBOWICZ
908 N. 21st
Boise, IDAHO
83702

59-1

The Fort Hall Agency and Tribe have said they see no conflict with their treaty rights and management of the northern 3,200 acres of Petticoat Peak as wilderness. Therefore, this partial alternative has been dropped. (See letters 40 and 63, and Alternatives Considered But Dropped From Analysis, Chapter 1.)

A partial wilderness alternative has been added for the Hawley Mountain WSA in the final EIS. It includes the boundary suggested by the committee for Idaho's High Desert, and eliminates lands from the WSA where conflicts could occur from ORV use.

809 Ada St.
Boise, ID 83702
30 June 1983

60

Mr. O'dell Frandsen
Idaho Falls District
Bureau of Land Management
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Dear Mr. Frandsen,

I support the All-Wilderness Alternative for the Eastern Idaho Wilderness EIS, with the boundary adjustments for Hawley Mountain and Petticoat Peak recommended by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert. This, I believe, is the only alternative which realistically protect the scenic, wildlife, and other resources of these areas.

I am particularly concerned that BLM support Wilderness for Black canyon and Hawley Mountain. Black Canyon has tremendous archaeological values, which would best be protected by Wilderness designation; the recent publicity given this area could easily destroy these sites if the area is not given wilderness protection. Wilderness will protect the raptor population of Black Canyon, and improve highhorn sheep habitat.

Hawley Mountain offers breathtaking views of the Lemhi and Lost River ranges, and the unspoiled Little Lost River valley. It provides excellent big game winter range, antelope fawning and migration areas, and habitat for two rare plant species. Hawley Mountain offers a completely different type of landscape and recreation than is found in the surrounding National Forest areas, and full recognition should be given to this unique experience.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important EIS.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Kelly

Mary E. Kelly

Atlantic Richfield Company 555 Seventeenth Street
Denver, Colorado 80217
Telephone 303 575 7577

J. R. Mitchell
Public Lands Coordinator

July 1, 1983

Mr. Don Watson
Bureau of Land Management
Idaho Falls District Office
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Re: Eastern Idaho Plan Amendment/Wilderness

Dear Mr. Watson:

Atlantic Richfield Company appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Bureau of Land Management's Draft EIS on the Eastern Idaho Plan Amendment for Wilderness.

Comments were previously sent to the Bureau on January 21, 1982, regarding the Little Lost-Birch Creek, Big Desert, Caribou-Bear Lake, and Pocatello MFP-Amendments. These comments provided specific energy and mineral information regarding the same WSA's covered in the Eastern Idaho DEIS; those comments are attached.

We support BLM's recommendations for nonwilderness designation of Hawley Mountain, Black Canyon, Cedar Butte, and Petticoat Peak. All of these areas have potential for oil and gas and are believed to be located in the Overthrust Belt Province. In addition, these areas, including Hell's Half Acre, fall within an area which has geothermal resource potential. Hawley Mountain and Black Canyon also have mineral potential.

In conclusion, we support BLM's recommendations for nonwilderness of the above mentioned WSA's. We believe it is important for BLM to take into consideration the mineral potential of Wilderness Study Areas when making final recommendations as to the suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness.

Sincerely,

Jay R. Mitchell

J.R. Mitchell

Attachment

61-1

61-1

Refer to Energy and Mineral Resources, Affected Environment, Chapter 3, for each WSA. Your suggestions helped us clarify the mineral potentials for the WSAs considered in the final EIS.

61



392 Moonlite Drive
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
June 30, 1993

62

Mr. O'dell Frandsen, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management - Idaho Falls District
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Dear Sir:

Here are some remarks with respect to the draft Eastern Idaho Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). I'll try to avoid duplicating my testimony at the May 4 hearing, but some overlap is inevitable. I also wish to make it clear that I am not writing as the representative of any organization.

First, I support All-Wilderness Alternative A. Hell's Half Acre, Cedar Butte, Black Canyon, Hawley Mountain, and Petticoat Peak sustain numerous wildlife species, have superb and varied backcountry characteristics, and have no competing uses of significance. However, boundary adjustments are required at Hawley Mountain and Petticoat Peak to minimize ORV conflicts and, at Petticoat Peak, to remove a potential wilderness management conflict with Indian treaty rights. I have enclosed copies of my field maps for these two WSAs with suggested alterations. Copies were also sent to the Committee for Idaho's High Desert, where I believe my proposed boundaries were endorsed by the Board without additional modifications. (You should have received an official CIND letter on the DEIS.)

The Hawley Mtn. adjustments would exclude excellent winter range and some number of archaeological sites from wilderness protection. This peripheral region should still be managed attentively for preservation of these characteristics, but closing ORV paths on those broad, open alluvial fans is nearly hopeless. You'll note that I extended the northwest boundary slightly to Wet Creek; the creek is an excellent natural boundary and protecting this riparian zone is certainly a worthwhile objective. I also feel that the ORV path up Hawley Canyon can be blocked with little effort at the entrance. I must add that I found the view from Hawley Mtn. summit to be most impressive, after a rather easy climb within the capabilities of most hikers. I spotted a great deal of mule deer sign, some mountain goat droppings near the summit, five antelope at the base, a horned lizard, and several eagles and hawks.

Having previously read the DEIS description of Petticoat Peak, I was quite surprised to see the lush, diverse plant growth. I counted more than fifty varieties of wildflower, approximately ten of which I haven't seen before. I hike a great deal of varied terrain, so I've got to believe some plants at Petticoat Peak are quite rare. (A professional species inventory, along with a serious wildlife study, is apparently long overdue.) I was also most impressed with the wildlife habitat, consisting of mixed conifers and aspens with dense bushes for browse and cover.

Logging 2500 acres would be a crime in this regard and would reduce the aesthetics of the summit view to a prohibitive degree. I spotted two pigeon hawks and a peregrine falcon on the way up, but was unable to locate nests in the cliffs just west of the summit. I also had a ten-minute visit by eight (!) golden eagles at the top, leisurely and silently swooping through the trees. They didn't associate the summit with people, I guess, and came within ten feet of me on many passes. I haven't seen eagles behave like this before, and I'll certainly cherish the memory.

The northwest portion of the Petticoat Peak WSA, which I suggest be truncated from the wilderness recommendation, should still be managed intensively for preservation. This section offers wildlife habitat and diverse plant growth every bit as spectacular as that surrounding Petticoat Peak. This is particularly true for the cliff bands near the Portnaut River, which contain likely nesting sites for rare raptors. Of course, the significant motive for deleting this land from the wilderness proposal would be potential conflicts with the Fort Hall Indian Treaty. However, per a conversation Ralph Maughan had with them, tribal members have no plans whatsoever for development there. Should a wildlife and plant inventory warrant it, management of this portion of the WSA as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) should be compatible with Shoshone-Bannock intentions.

A few words about the lava flow WSAs are in order. Hell's Half Acre was certainly well-described within the DEIS. It is a young flow with many rugged, scenic features, and the fern growth is definitely intriguing. By contrast, the Cerro Grande Flow is older, more subdued by erosion, and possesses a more diverse ecology. The two WSAs really complement each other, and would not be truly redundant additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System. I certainly

support Hell's Half Acre for wilderness designation, but, in the strict sense, Cedar Butte is higher quality wilderness. Road noise, scenic intrusions (power lines and farms), and trash above all are almost completely absent at Cedar Butte. This is only true of the interior of Hell's Half Acre.

Surprise, surprise! I have a few things to say on Black Canyon. However, as a prelude, the DEIS authors have an apparent difficulty in recognizing backcountry qualities beyond lakes and mountains. I believe this is a consequence of scanty budgets and inadequate field work inhibiting the staff from developing a comprehensive appreciation for each of the five WSAs. With the exception of Hell's Half Acre, the authors seem only to have driven the boundaries, getting an eyeful of jeep trails and little else. The main vent at Hell's Half Acre is certainly worthy of some mention, but it seems not to have been visited, either.

This general problem has definitely impacted the BLM decision on Black Canyon. The DEIS implication that the canyons, spires, arches, caves, raptors, fossils, thrust faults, and pictographs add up to a mediocre wilderness experience is horribly flawed. How can you pretend to do justice to the USA without discussing Blind (Serpent) Canyon, for example? It's simply necessary to get out of a jeep and walk a ways to evaluate a place like this. I certainly haven't seen another area like Black Canyon, and I feel completely vindicated by Mike Whittfield's agreement. (Mike, a Forest Service biologist from Driggs, has sampled an enormous number of areas.)

The BLM learns a lot on the RARE II decision for the Diamond Peak Roadless Area. However, if you researched the documentation, you would discover that the Forest Service recommendation was "further planning". Wilderness qualities were recognized, but the concern was oil and gas potential. Regrettably, this recommendation was denied by President Carter for no stated reason. I frankly feel the Forest Service was in a better position to judge, even though RARE II has been determined a sham by Federal courts. I also feel that Black Canyon is considerably prettier than the huge canyons in nearby Challis National Forest, because the erosion features of Black Canyon are much more easily viewed.

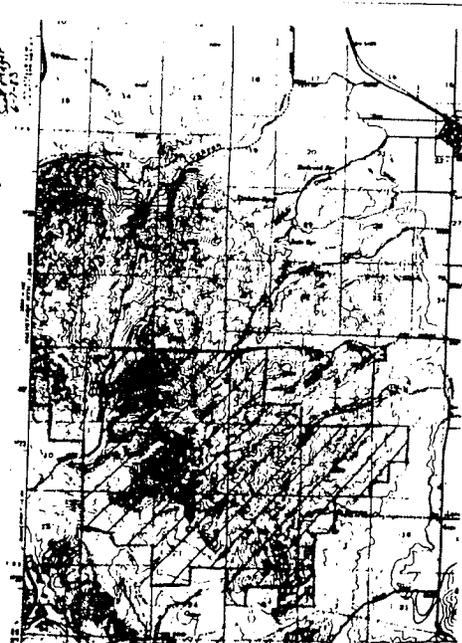
Lastly, I must repeat my argument that Black Canyon must be managed as a wilderness for all practical purposes, thanks to the antiquities laws. You must accept that desecration of archaeological sites is a major ongoing problem out there. The BLM has administrative obligations to preserve Black Canyon's cultural resources under the Historic Sites Act (Sec. 2F), the National Environmental Policy Act (Title I, Sec. 101.6.4), Executive Order 11593 (Sec. 1.11), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (Sec. 102 and Sec. 303). The desecrations are specifically illegal under the Antiquities Act of 1906 and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979. The 1979 law draws a clear line between casually removing surface artifacts and digging for them. Digging requires shovels and screens that are unwieldy to carry on foot or horseback. Therefore, allowing ORV traffic facilitates illegal acts in a setting like Black Canyon. This is particularly true for Box Canyon. ORVs also make it more convenient for vandals to deface pictographs.

There are also enforcement considerations. Placing Black Canyon under armed guard isn't practical. Patrols may help reduce desecrations along the southwest boundary, but the chances of actually arresting someone are minimal. It simply seems that blocking the canyon entrances is the most effective single tactic you could adopt. Anything less would amount to tacitly tolerating law violations. Sure, this would make professional excavations more difficult, but the alternative is having nothing left to investigate and appreciate. Research activities are dependant upon volunteer labor anyway, and moving equipment shouldn't pose that much of a problem.

These legal obligations and practical considerations are independent of wilderness reviews. These canyons should have been closed years ago and some reasonably effective actions should have been employed to protect sites near the southwest WSA boundary. IF ACEC is the best way to bring this about immediately, so be it. However, I can't see where this would interfere with later wilderness legislation, any more than I can understand how wilderness designation would prevent interpretive displays. Isn't such a display in the same category as a trail marker? I believe the public is demanding wilderness for Black Canyon; any funding complications associated with protecting archaeological sites within a wilderness are purely internal agency problems. Bear counting is not above the law.

Yours truly,
Scott P. Loger

Proposed wilderness boundaries
for Black Canyon
Prepared by the Committee for
Indian High Desert
Scott P. Loger
6-2-83



The SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES



FORT HALL INDIAN RESERVATION
PHONE (208) 238-3808
(208) 785-2080

TRIBAL FISH & GAME
P. O. BOX 306
FORT HALL, IDAHO 83203

63

June 27, 1983

Bureau of Land Management
Idaho Falls District Office
ATTENTION: Don Watson, EIS Team Leader
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Dear Mr. Watson:

Regarding the Eastern Idaho Wilderness Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Plan Amendment, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes would at this time like to express their preference for the all wilderness alternative (alternative A). Also, the tribes at this time do not have any plans to degradate the most scenic and natural appearing northern part of the Petticoat Peak WSA as was suggested on P. 47 of your EIS.

63-1

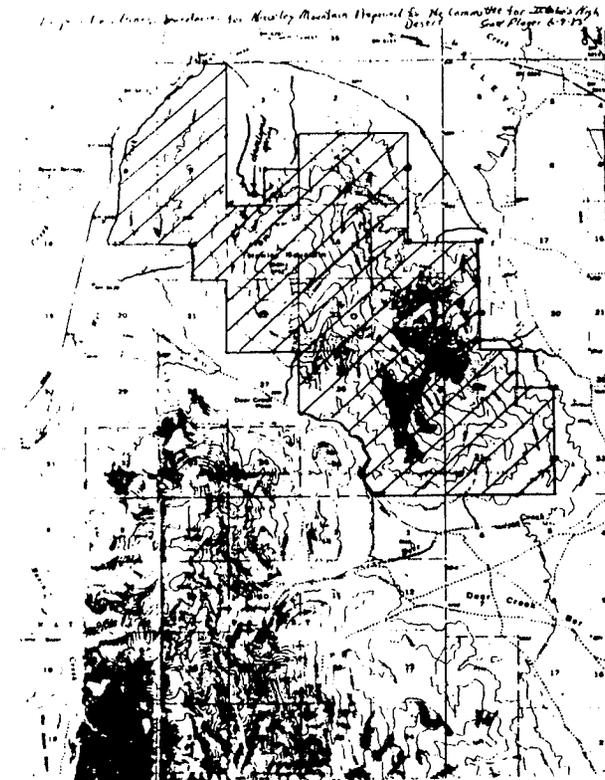
With regard to Black Canyon, if the wilderness alternative for this area is not adopted, then special management and protection of this area should be undertaken by your agency in consultation with the Shoshone-Bannock Land Use Commission at (208) 238-3824. This particular area is very important to the cultural heritage of the Shoshone-Bannock people. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and please contact me if you have any questions concerning our comments.

63-2

Sincerely,

Dan M. Christopherson
Dan M. Christopherson
Tribal Biologist

DMC/vsl



-130-

62-1 See response 18-3 and the Partial Wilderness Alternative for Hawley Mountain. See response 18-3 for Petticoat Peak and Alternatives Dropped from Further Consideration, Chapter 1.

63-1 This wording has been removed from the final EIS to reflect the tribe's position on wilderness preservation for the Petticoat Peak WSA. The tribal rights granted through the 1900 Treaty have been dropped as reasons for potential management difficulties. See Alternatives Dropped from Further Analysis, Chapter 1.

63-2 See #8, Issues Dropped from Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1. When the Cultural Resource Management Plan is formulated, BLM will seek the tribe's advice in designing actions that will accomplish the tribe's goals.

2305 Spaulding
Boise, Idaho 83705
June 29, 1983

June 29, 1983
2305 Spaulding
Boise, Idaho 83705

Mr. Odell Frandsen,
District Manager
Idaho Falls District
Bureau of Land Management
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

64

65

Mr. Odell Frandsen
Idaho Falls District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Dear Mr. Frandsen,

Dear Mr. Frandsen:

I support the All-Wilderness Alternative for the Eastern Idaho Wilderness EIS, with the boundary adjustments submitted by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert. I would like to have the following site-specific comments included in the final record of decision for the EIS.

1. Hawley Mountain: this area should be protected for its superb view of the Lemhi and Lost River Ranges, and its critical wildlife value. It also presents an example of Middle Rocky Mountains sagebrush steppe community, an ecosystem not protected already. With the dissolution of the RARE II Wilderness recommendations by the Forest Service, we can no longer count on them to fill this niche in the wilderness system.

2. Petticoat Peak: this area also represents a community type not protected in the wilderness system, which needs to be. Most important, it provides habitat for three endangered wildlife species, and several more sensitive species. Please recommend the southern portion of this unit as wilderness.

3. Hells Half Acre: I support your wilderness recommendation for this rugged area.

4. Cedar Butte: the same arguments you used to recommend Hells Half Acre should also convince you to recommend wilderness for Cedar Butte. The topography and resource values are very similar, and this area should be protected.

5. Black Canyon: this is a prize area, rich in archaeological, scenic, and wildlife values. The ways into the unit should be closed, and a cultural resource management plan implemented immediately. Wilderness would give the area protection through increased citizen monitoring. The adjoining Forest Service lands were recommended for Further Study in RARE II, but this recommendation was reversed by President Carter. I believe the original RARE II recommendation more closely reflects the high recreation and other values of the National Forest land, and adjoining BLM land, than the later political decision. Black Canyon is an integral part of this complex, with very high values of its own. It deserves wilderness protection.

Sincerely,
Chuck Roth
Chuck Roth

64-1 See response 57-17.

64-2 See response 57-11 and #8, Issues Dropped from Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1.

I would like to express my support for the Modified All-Wilderness Alternative for the Eastern Idaho Wilderness Draft EIS, with the boundary adjustments recommended by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert. I particularly feel that wilderness designation is crucial for Black Canyon, which has very high archaeological and wildlife value. With the recent notoriety this area has gotten, anything less than wilderness protection will probably not prevent it from being vandalized. Wilderness designation, or even recommendation, would increase the surveillance of the area and make vandalism less likely.

I would also like to support wilderness designation for Hawley Mountain because of its critical wildlife and scenic values, for Petticoat Peak for its recreation and endangered species values, and for Hells Half Acre and Cedar Butte. I fail to see your logic in recommending wilderness for Hells Half Acre but not Cedar Butte, given the similarity of the two areas and the small amount of designated Wilderness in eastern Idaho. With the RARE II areas in limbo, it is even more important that BLM make reasonable recommendations, and take the lead in ensuring ecological diversity in the wilderness system (this is particularly important for Hawley Mountain and Petticoat Peak).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely yours,

Teri Norell
Teri Norell

65-1 BLM managers decided not to recommend the Cedar Butte WSA because natural features that would attract primitive recreationists are not particularly numerous or interesting. Other lava flow landscapes offer better primitive recreation opportunities and include the Craters of the Moon Wilderness, Great Rift, and Hell's Half Acre WSAs.

-131-

64-1

64-2

65-1

65-1

CHARLES E. STEVENSON
1800 FALCON DRIVE
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO 83401

66

311 Pearl St.
Boise, Id 83705
June 29, 1983

June 30, 1983

Odell Frandsen, IF District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Dear Mr. Frandsen:

Wilderness Recommendations

I have fully appreciated the opportunity to review the Bureau's draft Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement for the five study areas in Eastern Idaho. I have also considered the comments upon the EIS which have been made by various individuals and groups in the area and have devoted some effort to locate and evaluate the areas. Upon this basis, I have the following comments to make:

(1). I fully endorse your recommendation that the Hells Half Acre area be given Wilderness status;

(2). I further recommend that substantially all the Cedar Butte area also be given Wilderness designation. It is certainly of equivalent value to Hells Half Acre and your failure to include it cannot be justified on the basis of "geographical concentration" of similar features in the broad Eastern Idaho lava plain. It should equally be protected on similar criteria.

(3). The archeological, scenic, geologic, and wildlife features of the 5400-acre Black Canyon area fully justify its protection as Wilderness also. In this case, immediate restriction of motor vehicle access is urgently needed prior to Wilderness designation because of the current threat to the cultural features. The argument that it lacks protective topography is specious. Entry blockage can readily be provided and, if necessary, I believe several local organizations are ready to assist in such an action. This area should be given high priority to assure its preservation.

Sincerely yours,

Charlie Stevenson

Mr. Odell Frandsen
Idaho Falls District Manager
BLM
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

67

Dear Mr. Frandsen:

I would like to support the All-Wilderness Alternative in the Eastern Idaho Wilderness draft EIS.

All the areas considered in the EIS are fully deserving of wilderness protection. Black Canyon has outstanding archaeological values, including pictographs and other artifacts that will continue to be destroyed unless some protection is given to the area. Wilderness will give it that protection, by increasing surveillance of the area and allowing BLM to get more funding to manage it. Wilderness will also protect the hawks, eagles, falcons and other raptors that nest there, as well as other wildlife. And it is the most economical way to manage the area.

I support wilderness for Hawley Mountain to protect the wild-life habitat, and provide a permanent viewpoint to appreciate Idaho's two highest mountain ranges. I support the boundary recommendations submitted by the high desert group for this unit.

I support wilderness for Petticoat Peak for the protection of endangered species, as well as the recreational values found here (I also support the proposed high desert boundary changes). I applaud your recommendation for Hells Half Acre, but fail to see how you could recommend against Cedar Butte, a very similar area.

Please include these comments in your final EIS. I appreciate the opportunity to make my views known.

Sincerely,

Victor Pacania

Victor Pacania

67-1

BLM managers decided not to recommend the Cedar Butte WSA because natural features that would attract primitive recreationists are not particularly numerous or interesting. Other lava flow landscapes offer better primitive recreation opportunities and include the Craters of the Moon Wilderness, Great Rift, and Hell's Half Acre WSAs.

-132-

66-1

66-1 See response 57-10 and #8, Issues Dropped from Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1.

Mr. Odell Frandsen
District Manager
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

68

Re: Wilderness Designations

Dear Mr. Frandsen,

I am writing you this letter to urge support for the modified All Wilderness Alternative incorporating boundary adjustments submitted by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert.

68-1 I want to see wilderness designation for Hells Half Acre, Cedar Point, Hawley Mountain, Petticoat Peak and Black Canyon. The failure of your assessment to include partial alternatives suggests a bias which throws the accuracy of your assessments into question. By working some boundary adjustments, you can adequately protect all these areas together. The CIHD proposal achieves that result and eliminates a number of resource conflicts.

Sincerely,


Ted Weigold

1005 FORT ST.
BOISE, IDAHO 83702

68-1 See response 18-3 and 10-1, and Alternatives Considered but Dropped from Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1.

UTAH POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

1407 WEST NORTH TEMPLE STREET
P. O. BOX 809

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84110

69

April 29, 1983

Bureau of Land Management
Idaho Falls District Office
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Attention: E.I.S. Team Leader

SUBJECT: EASTERN IDAHO PLAN AMENDMENT/WILDERNESS
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT DRAFT

Gentlemen:

I have reviewed the Draft E.I.S. and I concur with the B.L.M. preferred alternative (Alternative D) with an adjustment of the East Boundary line of "Hells Half Acre" (WSA 33-15).

69-1 It appears that a 138 kV electric transmission line is the East boundary to the area. I suggest that, as a minimum, the boundary be adjusted to the West at least a quarter mile from the power line. This would facilitate the corridor concept and leave room for a future line in the corridor, should the need ever arise. This would also aid in meeting the wilderness criteria necessary for designation.

Your review of these comments is appreciated.

Sincerely,


Glen B. Wells, Supervisor
Transmission Line Locations

GBW/ka

69-1 The BLM feels that a boundary adjustment to the west is not needed to accommodate future powerline needs in the Hell's Half Acre WSA. Sufficient space is available to the east of the WSA boundary.

-133-



70

September 19, 1983

Mr. O'Dell A. Frandsen
District Manager
Idaho Falls District, BLM
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Dear Mr. Frandsen:

Please excuse my delay in responding to your request for comments on Black Canyon. I wanted to visit the area and inspect the prehistoric sites personally before responding. Dick Hill and I did visit the area on September 8.

The area has two outstanding prehistoric properties. These are Jackknife Cave and Little Lost Cave No. 1. Jackknife cave was excavated by the Idaho State University in 1963. Little Lost Cave No. 1 was also investigated in 1954 or 1955 by the museum. Both of these sites contained important information about the area's past. Little Lost Cave No. 1 still contains deposits that could contribute information important to the prehistory of the region. Both Jackknife Cave and Little Lost Cave No. 1 appear to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

I do not think the Black Canyon area is any more significant than any other comparable area in the Little Lost - Birch Creek Planning Unit. I do not think its wilderness value should be dependent on the cultural resources present. Archaeological and historical sites can be important components in a wilderness area (cf River of No Return Wilderness), but the wilderness characteristics of a region should conform to Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act.

Dick Hill and I also inspected archaeological site 10 BT 248. This site is recorded in the Cultural Resource Inventory of the Little Lost River/ Birch Creek Planning Unit -- prepared in 1977. Forty-one tipi rings were recorded at the site in 1977. Unfortunately, the site has been damaged by mining activities. It appears that all the tipi rings in the eastern portion of the site are gone.

Mr. O'Dell A. Frandsen
Page 2
September 19, 1983

We have only three tipi-ring sites recorded in eastern Idaho. We are quite confident that all three are eligible for the National Register. While nothing can be done to restore the destroyed tipi rings, the BLM should take particular care to preserve and protect those that remain. If possible, the area should be withdrawn from further mining and the road into the area routed around the tipi rings. This site should also be monitored on a regular basis to insure that further destruction is avoided.

I recommend that instead of focusing on the archaeological sites in the Black Canyon area, it would be more appropriate to prepare a cultural resource management plan for the Little Lost/Birch Creek Planning Units. The cultural resource management plan prepared by the BLM for the Lower Salmon River is an excellent model to follow. If we can be of help in preparing such a plan, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Green
State Archaeologist
State Historic Preservation Office

cc: B. Robert Butler
ISU Museum of Natural History

Lou Wall, Advisory Council on
Historic Preservation

TG/kh

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS

There were 59 people at the hearing held in Idaho Falls May 4, 1983, and 17 of those individuals offered comments. At Pocatello, May 5, 1983, 28 people attended the hearing and 9 of those offered comments. Substantive comments requiring a response in this final EIS are indicated below.

| | <u>Substantive Comments With Responses</u> |
|-------------------|--|
| Evan Tibbot | ---- |
| Manya Strickling | IF-1 |
| George Woodie | ---- |
| Dan Pavlica | ---- |
| Scott Ploger | IF-2, IF-3, IF-4, IF-5 |
| Steve Otteson | ---- |
| Delores Cotterell | ---- |
| Glenn Wells | IF-6 |
| Paul Henslee | ---- |
| Brian Anderson | ---- |
| Jerry Jayne | IF-7, IF-8, IF-9, IF-10, IF-11, IF-12 |
| Marty Hubner | IF-13 |
| Joseph Feeley | ---- |
| William Grusch | ---- |
| John Rushin, Jr. | ---- |
| Charles McDonald | ---- |
| Dick Curtis | ---- |
| Jim Sinclair | Poc-1, Poc-2, Poc-3 |
| Jackie Maughan | ---- |
| George Wentzel | Poc-4 |
| Clair Dursler | ---- |
| Ralph Maughan | Poc-5 |
| Ron Watters | Poc-6 |
| Bruce Hays | Poc-7, Poc-8 |
| Paul Bienaws | Poc-9, Poc-10 |
| William Schunk | ---- |

Idaho Falls, May 4, 1983

Manya Strickling

IF-1. "We further urge that immediate steps be taken to protect the Black Canyon area from further desecration."

Response: See response 57-10 and #8, Issues Dropped from Detailed Analysis.

Scott Ploger

IF-2. "We feel strongly that wildlife habitat is underemphasized with respect to the four study areas disqualified within the Draft Environmental Impact Statement."

Response: See #2, Issues Dropped from Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1.

IF-3. "We feel that some boundary adjustments at Hawley Mountain and Petticoat Peak will remove the outstanding objections to wilderness. For these reasons, the Committee for Idaho's High Deserts endorses All Wilderness Alternative A. A detailed letter in support of the argument and suggestions for boundary adjustments will follow."

Response: See response 18-3 and Partial Wilderness Alternative for Hawley Mountain, and response 10-1 and Alternatives Considered but Dropped from Analysis for Petticoat Peak.

IF-4. "You say, Black Canyon lacks natural barriers to vehicle intrusions. It is true to some extent to the northeast, but grossly incorrect otherwise. The only vehicle intrusions of significance are from the southwest through the narrow, steep-walled canyon entrance where the pictographs and cave dwellings are concentrated. These vehicle paths could be easily blocked by just rolling a few boulders around...I think I can guarantee enough volunteer labor to do it at no taxpayer expense."

Response: See response 57-10.

IF-5. "I think the geographical concentration statement distorts current reality and should be removed from the Draft EIS. It's true also for Cedar Butte and Hawley Mountain."

Response: We agree, and the statement has been removed from the final EIS.

Glen Wells

IF-6. "We do have a little problem with the east boundary, and we'd like to see an adjustment of the east boundary. There is a power line, 138 KV power line that appears to be, according to the maps, the east boundary of the Hell's Half Acre. And as you are well aware in FLPMA, you are required to address corridors and a corridor is established since there is an existing line there. The corridor designation should be at least wide enough to accomodate any future need that may arise, and the only adjustment that we are commenting here is that we feel that the best way to accomplish the wilderness recommendation and the corridors designation will be to adjust that east boundary to the west approximately a quarter of a mile west of the power line."

Response: See response 69-1.

Jerry Jayne

IF-7. "It is said of both Hawley Mountain and Black Canyon in an attempt to justify the Preferred Alternative D, that wilderness characteristics--the wilderness study areas' wilderness characteristic is of lesser quality than several of the larger nearby Forest Service wilderness areas." I don't know what this means."

Response: This wording has been dropped from the final EIS because it was not an appropriate comparison. The final document evaluates the quality of wilderness values specific to each WSA, and the particular characteristics an area has to offer.

IF-8. "It is said of all four wilderness study areas except Hell's Half Acre area, this wilderness study area does not have the ability to contribute high quality wilderness values or needed diversity to the Wilderness Preservation System. The high quality compared to what?"

Response: This statement was ment to reflect a summary of the evaluation of wilderness quality in the draft EIS. Because it is misleading, it has been dropped from the final EIS. The final document evaluates the quality of wilderness values specific to each WSA and the particular characteristics an area has to offer.

IF-9. "They are marginal only if you compare them with those of the West Slope of the Tetons or Mount Borah or some other very outstanding place. It is not a reason for excluding them."

Response: See responses to IF-7 and IF-8.

IF-10. "There are very few resource reasons for excluding these areas. It's been admitted there aren't very many conflicts there. So, some of these other reasons were grasped at, and I would like you to reconsider those and drop some of those out of the final EIS."

Response: We agree. Several of the reasons stated in the draft EIS were related to planning issues and have been dropped in the final EIS.

IF-11. "The Environmental Council's recommendations therefore are the BLM adopt the All Wilderness Alternative with some boundary adjustments on Petticoat Peak to exclude the lands which are in conflict because of the Fort Hall Treaty and possibly boundary adjustments on Hawley Mountain to exclude some of the areas that are more heavily used by ORV's."

Response: Boundary adjustments were reconsidered. See the Partial Wilderness Alternative for Hawley Mountain. See Alternatives Considered but Dropped from Analysis, Chapter 1 for Petticoat Peak.

IF-12. "Our second recommendation is to do something about Black Canyon pretty quickly, that is put up some roadblocks in those canyons right away and prevent the vandalism of the archaeological resources which is occurring. I would also echo what Scott said about including in the final EIS details of what you plan to do to protect the cultural resource up there."

Response: See #8, Issues Dropped from Further Analysis, Chapter 1 and response 57-10.

Marty Hubner

IF-13. "I think Hawley Mountain is something that's worth preserving in the wilderness system. It's been suggested that some of the conflicts with surrounding people can be mitigated by some boundary adjustments and I think that should be investigated."

Response: See response 18-3 and Partial Wilderness Alternative for Hawley Mountain.

Pocatello, May 5, 1983

Jim Sinclair

Poc.-1. "BLM needs to consider trimming from the WSA the 3,200 acres of land used for the unrestricted grazing and timbering by the Fort Hall Indians. This would honor their Treaties and help clarify the boundaries of the WSA. The thousand acres in the eastern corner should also be removed since it has been scarred and raped by off-road vehicle use. This would take proper advantage of the natural barriers and eliminate any manageability problems."

Response: See response 10-1 and Alternatives Considered but Dropped from Analysis, Chapter 1.

Poc.-2. "At Black Canyon the looting and vandalism of the archaeological sites must be stopped immediately. Impact would be greatly reduced by prohibiting vehicles from using the area."

Response: See response 57-10 and #8, Issues Dropped from Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1.

Poc.-3. "The partial alternative of just adding Hell's Half Acre is not acceptable since Hawley Mountain and especially Petticoat Peak are not represented within any partial alternative."

Response: See response 18-3 and Partial Wilderness Alternative for Hawley Mountain, response 10-1 and Alternatives Considered but Dropped from Analysis, Chapter 1.

George Wentzel

Poc.-4. "I'd like to particularly address Petticoat Peak. I don't understand the shabby treatment it seems to be getting. It is not even mentioned in the other alternatives if I'm not mistaken."

Response: The Petticoat Peak WSA was evaluated under the All Wilderness and No Wilderness alternatives in the final EIS. Also, see response 10-1 and Alternatives Considered but Dropped from Analysis, Chapter 1.

Ralph Maughn

Poc.-5. "So, I suggest that what you do with Petticoat Peak is to cut off the northern end where the Indians have got some treaty rights maybe and designate the rest of it as wilderness."

Response: See response 10-1 and Alternatives Considered but Dropped from Analysis, Chapter 1 for Petticoat Peak.

Ron Watters

Poc.-6. "I think with just some boundary adjustments at Petticoat Peak and Hawley Mountain that we can solve those boundary problems there."

Response: See response 18-3 and Partial Wilderness Alternative for Hawley Mountain, and response 10-1 and Alternatives Considered but Dropped from Analysis, Chapter 1 for Petticoat Peak.

Bruce Hays

Poc.-7. "It says in the BLM report that it is surrounded by roadless and wilderness country. Well, there is no designated wilderness in there. There may be a fair amount of roadless area. There's no guarantee that it is going to remain that way. I personally would be in favor of joining them with the Forest Service Roadless Area in the Lost River Range as wilderness."

Response: Including USFS land in the Lost River Range with the Hawley Mountain WSA was considered during the Wilderness Inventory process. The idea was dropped because an established road separates the WSA from USFS land.

Poc.-8. "So, I'm really not worried about the Indian issue. I think that's a real false issue."

Response: See Alternatives Considered but Dropped from Detailed Analysis, Chapter 1.

Paul Bienaws

Poc.-9. "Equally--more importantly, I really disagree with and I'll argue against the Petticoat Peak that is scheduled as timber area in the study reported at 2,500 to 2,675 acres which they estimate in the study as a possible six million board feet productivity. I disagree with that for the same reasons everybody else has been given tonight. It's not a real timber area. I think it is pretty crazy to even be considering it."

Response: BLM staff foresters have evaluated the commercial timber base and determined that part of the forested area of Petticoat Peak has economic value. Interest has also been expressed by the timber industry in harvesting trees. See Chapter 3, Petticoat Peak, Timber Resources.

Poc.-10. "I think the argument of the extensive road usage and the road access to this area is not a good argument. Like I say, the roads that I've been on extensively are not heavily used. They can easily be blocked off and not have that big an impact on off-road vehicle travel."

Response: Motorized use in the WSA is small and limited to two miles of designated roads. Vehicle use was inaccurately described in the draft EIS and has been corrected in the final.

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GLOSSARY

- Allotment:** An area of land where one or more individuals graze livestock. An allotment may consist of several pastures.
- Allotment Management Plan:** A detailed plan for intensively managing and improving a specific grazing allotment.
- Animal Unit Month (AUM):** A standardized unit of measurement of the amount of forage necessary for the complete subsistence of one animal unit (one cow or one horse or five sheep, all over six months old) for one month.
- Basalt:** Any fine-grained, dark-colored, igneous rock of volcanic origin.
- Endangered Species:** An animal or plant whose prospects of survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy. Endangered species is further defined by the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA):** Public Law 94-579, October 21, 1976, referred to by the Bureau of Land Management as its "Organic Act," which provides most of the BLM's legislated authority, direction, policy and basic guidance.
- Kipuka:** An island of older lava that has vegetated and been surrounded by a newer lava flow.
- Leasable Minerals:** Those minerals or materials designated as leasable under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. They include coal, phosphate, asphalt, sulphur, potassium and sodium minerals, oil, and gas. Geothermal resources are also leasable under the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970.
- Lithic Scatters:** Stone, tool-making waste chips and flakes randomly distributed over an open land surface. Scatters are important for scientific studies of an area's prehistoric use, settlement patterns and population density.
- Locatable Minerals:** Minerals or materials subject to disposal and development through the Mining Law of 1872 (as amended). Generally includes metallic minerals such as gold and silver and other materials not subject to lease or sale (some bentonites, limestone, talc, some zeolites, etc.). Whether or not a particular mineral deposit is locatable depends on such factors as quality, quantity, mineability, demand and marketability.

Management Framework Plan (MFP): A planning decision document that establishes land use allocations, multiple use guidelines, and management objectives for a given planning area. It is the BLM's land use plan. An MFP is prepared in three steps: (1) resource recommendations, (2) impact analysis and alternative development, and (3) decision making.

Management Framework Plan Amendment: An official change to a management framework plan that is initiated by the need to consider monitoring, new data, new or revised policy, a change in circumstances, or an applicant's proposed action that could significantly affect a portion of the approved plan.

Mineral Patent: The title for the surface and mineral estate within a valid mining claim located under the 1872 mining law.

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).

Outstanding: Standing out among others of its kind; conspicuous; prominent; or, superior to others of its kind; distinguished; excellent.

Pictographs: Geometric human and animal figures painted on rock surfaces, such as caves, rockshelters, and on boulders. Pictographs were painted by people associated with prehistoric and historic non-literate cultures.

Planning Unit: A portion of a resource area for which inventories and land use plans are developed.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Nonmotorized and undeveloped types of outdoor recreational activities.

Public Land: Historically, the public domain administered by the BLM for the purpose of providing such things as forage, wood products and minerals for public users. Additional uses of these public lands have been developed and are now recognized including wildlife habitat, wilderness, watershed protection, open space, recreation opportunities, protection of cultural resources, and other purposes.

Salable Minerals: A group of mineral materials including, but not limited to, petrified wood and common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, pumice, cinders and clay on public lands. These minerals may be disposed of through a contract of sale or a free use permit authorized by the Materials Act of 1947 as amended by PL-167 and PL-87-713.

Sensitive Species: Species whose populations or ranges are so limited that any reductions in numbers, habitat availability, or habitat condition could result in their being placed on the endangered list.

Site (Archaeological): A physical location where primitive and historic human activities or events occurred and evidence remains that can be used to document human history.

Solitude: The state of being alone or remote from habitations; isolation. A lonely, unfrequented, or secluded place.

Suitability: As used in the Wilderness Act and in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, refers to a recommendation by the Secretary of 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.

Threatened Species: Any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. It is further defined by the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Wilderness Recommendation: A recommendation to Congress by the Bureau of Land Management, the Secretary of Interior, or the President, with respect to an area's suitability or nonsuitability for preservation as wilderness.

Wilderness Review: The entire process of wilderness inventory, study, and reporting phases of the wilderness program of the Bureau of Land Management.

Wilderness Study Area: A parcel of public land that through the BLM's wilderness inventory process has been found to possess the basic wilderness characteristics of being at least 5,000 acres in size, being primarily natural, and having outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Wilderness Values: The amenities and benefits connected with areas having large size, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

INDEX

cultural values 5, 6

economics 6, 7

grazing 13, 14, 17, 18, 20, 25, 26, 28, 30, 34, 35

inholdings 13, 18, 20, 30, 37

issues 2, 4

energy and mineral resources 38, 41, 42, 45, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63,
64, 67, 69, 62, 73

naturalness 37, 39, 42, 44, 46

planning process 9

primitive recreation 38, 40, 42, 44, 46

motorized recreation 39, 41, 43, 45, 57, 54, 55, 57, 59, 62, 65, 67,
69, 72, 74

scenic value 38, 40, 42, 44, 46

size 37, 41

solitude 37, 39, 42, 44, 46

special features 38, 40, 42, 44, 46

timber resources 41, 47, 57, 59, 62, 72, 74

threatened, endangered, sensitive species 4

wilderness values 37, 39, 42, 44, 46, 53, 56, 58, 60, 63, 64, 66,
68, 71, 73

wildlife 4, 41, 58, 60, 62