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# **APPENDIX IV**

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## **China Cup Butte Research Natural Area Final Wilderness Study Report**

**CHINA CUP BUTTE**  
**RESEARCH NATURAL AREA**  
**FINAL WILDERNESS STUDY REPORT**



Prepared by  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Idaho

May 1980

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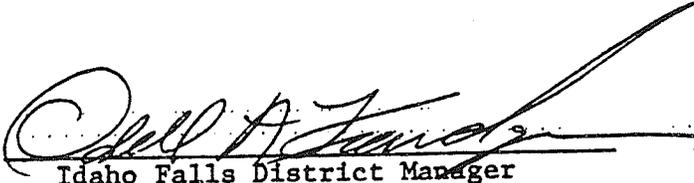
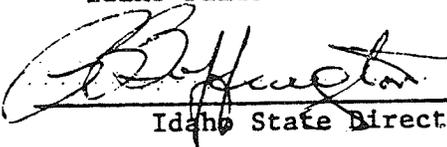
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Wilderness Suitability Recommendation

The Bureau of Land Management recommends that Congress take no action regarding wilderness designation for China Cup Butte Research Natural Area and contiguous roadless lands. The area does not possess the wilderness characteristics described in the Wilderness Act of 1964.

A road divides the Research Natural Area into two inventory units; both were disqualified from further study. The smaller unit, which contains the China Cup feature, does not meet the size requirement for wilderness and the larger unit does not appear to be natural.

The Bureau of Land Management recommends that China Cup Butte continue to be managed as a Research Natural Area without further consideration for wilderness designation. No public comments were received on the Idaho State Director's decision to drop the two units from the wilderness inventory.

Recommendation	 _____ Idaho Falls District Manager	5/21/80 _____ Date
Approved	 _____ Idaho State Director	5/27/80 _____ Date
Approved	/s/Frank Gregg _____ Director	6/27/80 _____ Date





### Previous Designation

China Cup Butte is a small tephra or scoria cone that is about nine miles southwest of Big Southern Butte in the south-central Snake River Plain of Idaho. The almost perfectly circular cone is 1,260 feet in diameter and has a crater that is 100 feet deep. Basalt lava flows have encroached the flanks of China Cup, creating a moat-like depression.

In recognition of the geologic importance of this feature, China Cup Butte became a Research Natural Area on January 29, 1965. The Secretary of Interior withdrew 160 acres of public land in Blaine County, Idaho, from mineral and agricultural entry, public sale, State exchange, or State selection.

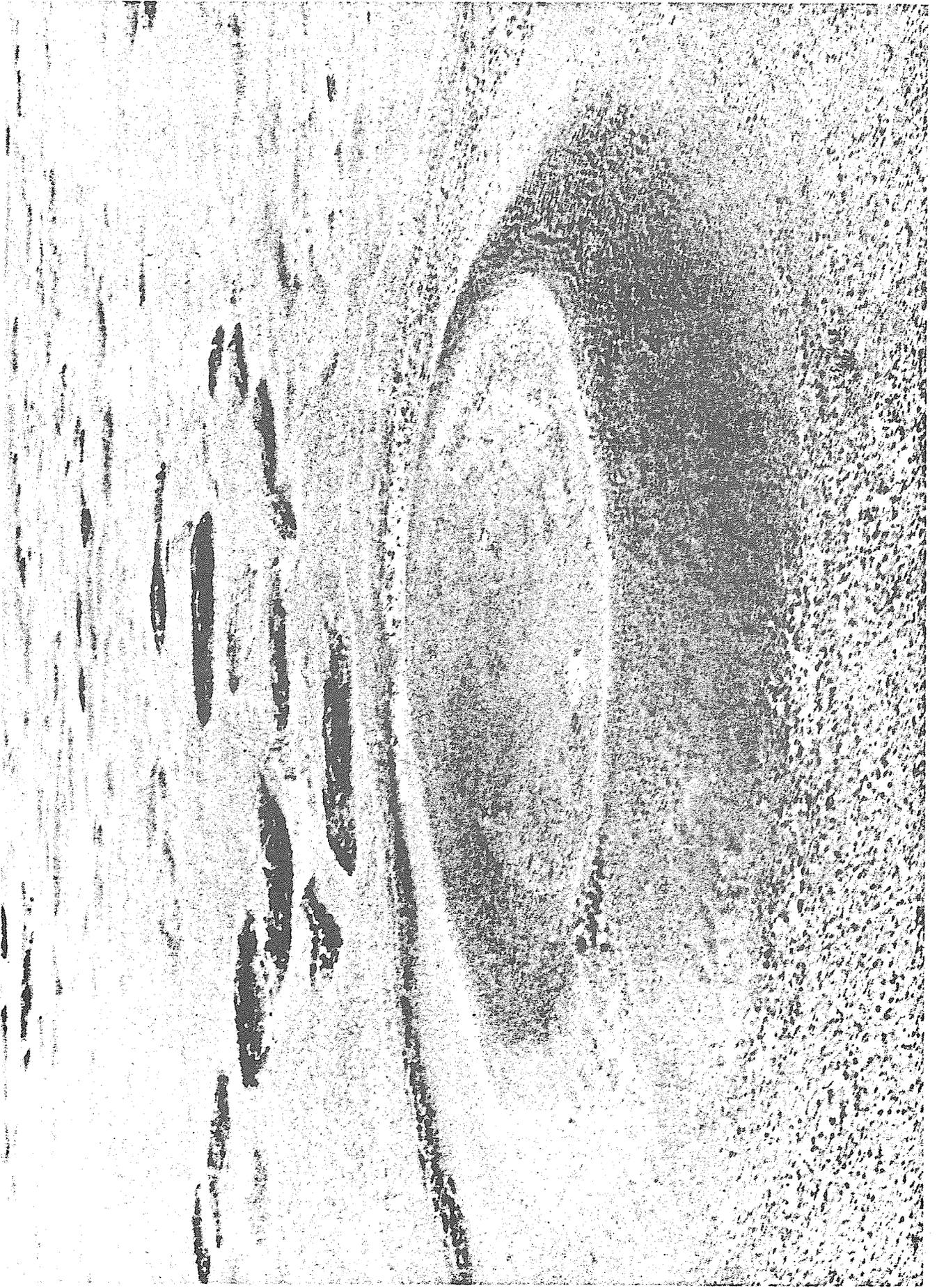
### Summary of Inventory

The Bureau of Land Management has completed a wilderness inventory of China Cup Butte Research Natural Area along with its contiguous roadless lands as directed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. Procedures for this inventory are contained in the BLM's Wilderness Inventory Handbook.

A road through the southeast corner of the 160-acre Research Natural Area is the boundary between two wilderness inventory units. The unit containing the geologic feature and its contiguous roadless lands is only 1,940 acres. This unit was disqualified from further study because it did not meet the size criteria of the Wilderness Act.

The unit containing the southeast corner of the Research Natural Area and the contiguous roadless lands is 14,170 acres of public lands and 1,280 acres of State lands. Numerous livestock improvements including fences, reservoirs, and many ways and trails prevented the unit from meeting the naturalness criteria of the Wilderness Act.

The public comment period on the inventory was from March 15 to June 15, 1979. The BLM held nine public meetings and openhouses during that time, but received no oral or written comments on China Cup Butte.



China Cup Butte with adjacent road

**APPENDIX A**

**INVENTORY FORMS**

WILDERNESS INVENTORY SITUATION EVALUATION

I. WILDERNESS UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name	<u>China Cup ISA-I</u>
Inventory Unit Number	<u>33-2</u>
State	<u>Idaho</u>
District	<u>Idaho Falls</u>
Planning Unit	<u>Big Desert</u>

## II. UNIT ANALYSIS

- A. Ownership  
The entire unit is public land.
- B. Size - The unit contains 1,940 acres.
- C. Easements
- D. Leases
- E. Mining Claims
- F. Permanent Improvements
- G. Existing Uses
- H. Human Activity
- I. Land Treatment/Manipulations
- J. General vegetation and topographic features
- K. Contiguous Lands

## III. UNIT EVALUATION

A. Select one of the following:

1. The area appears to have potential for further wilderness consideration.
2. The area obviously and clearly does not have potential for wilderness.

Explain your rationale for selection.

The unit is less than 5,000 acres and is not considered of sufficient size to be managed as a wilderness.

B. Is the area or island of sufficient size?  
NO

C. Is there enough public support for intensive wilderness inventory of the area or island or any part?

## IV. UNIT RECOMMENDATION (Check appropriate block)

A. Area or island (or groupings) is recommended for intensive wilderness inventory.

B. Area is recommended as not qualifying for further inventory and should be dropped from the wilderness review process.

John A. Breh  
STAFF SIGNATURE

3/15/79  
DATE

## V. AREA MANAGER REVIEW

Brent D. Jensen  
AREA MANAGER

4/17/79  
DATE

## VI. APPROVAL

Bill A. Fawcett  
DISTRICT MANAGER

4/17/79  
DATE

WILDERNESS INVENTORY SITUATION EVALUATION

I. WILDERNESS UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name	<u>China Cup ISA-II</u>
Inventory Unit Number	<u>33-3</u>
State	<u>Idaho</u>
District	<u>Idaho Falls</u>
Planning Unit	<u>Big Desert</u>

## II. UNIT ANALYSIS

- A. Ownership  
Public land and 1,280 acres of State land.
- B. Size - The unit contains 14,170 acres of public land.
- C. Easements
- D. Leases
- E. Mining Claims
- F. Permanent Improvements  
12 miles of livestock fence  
2 livestock reservoirs  
11 miles of jeep trails and vehicle access routes. One access route was constructed in the early 40's and runs east from China Cup Butte along a fence line and bisects the unit.
- G. Existing Uses  
Livestock grazing, upland game bird and big game hunting. ORV travel associated with hunting and sightseeing.
- H. Human Activity
- I. Land Treatment/Manipulations
- J. General vegetation and topographic features  
The unit is generally flat open desert land. Some ancient lava features are present. The principle vegetative species are sagebrush and grasses typical of this high desert ecosystem.
- K. Contiguous Lands  
Public land, State and private lands. The boundaries of the unit are formed by private lands, BLM roads 9718 and an improved and maintained road. Approximately 10 acres of the China Cup ISA are within the unit.

## III. UNIT EVALUATION

A. Select one of the following:

1. The area appears to have potential for further wilderness consideration.
- ②. The area obviously and clearly does not have potential for wilderness.

Explain your rationale for selection.

The unit is relatively small and irregularly shaped - being only 3 miles wide and nearly 8 miles long. Vehicle access routes criss-cross the area. Livestock grazing activities and improvements are noticeably present. These factors have a combined adverse affect on naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

B. Is the area or island of sufficient size?  
YES

C. Is there enough public support for intensive wilderness inventory of the area or island or any part?

## IV. UNIT RECOMMENDATION (Check appropriate block)

- A. Area or island (or groupings) is recommended for intensive wilderness inventory.
- X B. Area is recommended as not qualifying for further inventory and should be dropped from the wilderness review process.

John A. Bits  
STAFF SIGNATURE

3/15/79  
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