

**W
I
L
D
E
R
N
E
S
S**

9/11/81

Wilderness

The rationale for recommendation W-1.3 is not clear in the wording in Part A:

"Acquiring the lands and making a special provision for their inclusion in the wilderness legislation ---"

May be interpreted that BLM wants those adjacent state lands to actually be placed within the wilderness boundary by Congress. This same intent does not show in the recommendation wording or in the multiple use recommendation.

If the intent is for Congress to provide a buffer area, outside of the wilderness boundary, within which specific management would occur, it should be more clearly stated.

George X.

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Big Desert
Activity
Wilderness
Objective Number
W-1

Objectives

Provide opportunities for high quality wilderness experiences in areas that Congress designates as wilderness. Work toward maintaining and improving the wilderness values in areas under study.

Rationale

FLPMA requires a wilderness inventory of all public lands managed by BLM. We must also follow interim management guidelines in managing potential wilderness study areas. We have determined that one inventory unit, the Great Rift, has wilderness characteristics and is suitable for designation. Specific recommendations for the Great Rift are outlined; any other ~~areas~~ will be added after further wilderness studies.

7.
No areas will
be added - ?
E

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wilderness
Overlay Reference	Step 1 W-1.1 Step 3W 1.1

Recommendation

Recommend that Congress designate only that part of the Great Rift WSA that BLM can reasonably manage as a wilderness. This would mean including 341,000 acres, and excluding 33,400 acres that studies have shown to be unsuitable for management.

Rationale

The unsuitable land is mostly grassland lying between roads and the edge of the lava flows. Much of it is open and driveable. Although no roads exist, livestock operators are able to drive cross-country in the areas to manage their animals. The Wood road and four kipukas along it are also unsuitable as wilderness and would remain open to vehicle use.

Support

BLM must analyze public comment on draft EIS alternatives before finalizing this decision.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wilderness
Overlay Reference	Step 1 W-1.1 - Step 3 W 1.1

Multiple Use Analysis:

There is a conflict with Minerals recommendations M-1.1, M-2.1 and M-3.1 which call for leaving the entire area open to locatable, leasable and saleable minerals.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept Step I Recommendation.

Reasons:

The 341,000 acres proposed have the characteristics necessary to recommend it as a wilderness.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert.
Activity	Wilderness
Overlay Reference	Step 1 W01.2 Step 3 W 1.2

Recommendation

Improve the quality of the wilderness resource in the Great Rift WSA by the following actions:

- A. Acquire four State Transportation Department material sites through exchanges. These are located in NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 8, T. 1 N., R. 24 E.; SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 20, T. 1 N., R. 24 E.; SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 24, T. 2 N., R. 24 E., and Lott 1 and 2, Sec. 19, T. 2 N., R. 25 E., and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 27, T. 3 N., R. 25 E.
- B. Acquire the 18,550 acres of State land within the Great Rift WSA. Come to an agreement on the use of State lands during the interim time.

CRATERS OF THE MOON FLOW

SURVEYED STATE SECTIONS

Township	Range	Section	Acres
2N	25E	16	640
2N	25E	36	640
2N	26E	16	640
1N	23E	36	640
1N	24E	16	640
1N	26E	36	640
1S	24E	16	640
1S	25E	36	640
1S	27E	16	380
2S	25E	16	640
2S	25E	36	640
3S	25E	36	640
3S	27E	16	640
4S	23E	36	640
4S	24E	16	640
4S	24E	36	640
4S	25E	16	250
4S	25E	36	640
5S	24E	16	640
5S	25E	16	640
TOTAL			12,150

CRATERS OF THE MOON FLOW

UNSURVEYED STATE SECTIONS

Township	Range	Section	Acres
1S	26E	36	640
2S	27E	16	640
2S	26E	36	640
3S	26E	36	640
4S	26E	36	640
TOTAL			3,200

Craters of the Moon Flow
Total State Acres in WSA - 15,350

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Big Desert Wilderness 5/80 Collins

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wilderness
Overlay Reference	Step 1 W-1.2 Step 3 W 1.2

continued

WAPI FLOW SURVEYED STATE SECTIONS

<u>Township</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Acres</u>
6S	27E	16	640
6S	28E	16	640
6S	27E	36	640
7S	28E	16	640
7S	27E	36	640
		TOTAL	3,200

Wapi Flow

Total State Acres in WSA - 3,200

Wilderness Study Area

Total State Acres - 18,550

- C. Grant the Geothermal lease applications pending on the north and west side of Craters of the Moon flow only with stipulations such as "no surface occupancy". Use the interim management guidelines to regulate any lease activity. The applications are located as follow:

- T. 3 N., R. 25 E., Sec. 27, Sec. 33
- T. 2 N., R. 25 E., Sec. 5, Sec. 7, Sec. 8, Sec. 18
- T. 2 N., R. 24 E., Sec. 24
- T. 1 N., R. 24 E., Sec. 30
- T. 1 N., R. 23 E., Sec. 25, Sec. 31-35
- T. 1 S., R. 23 E., Sec. 5-8

Rationale

- A. The material sites are all located along the east side of U. S. Highway 93-20-26, along the border of the WSA. The Transportation Department has a 200 foot R/W from the centerline, although they requested a 500 foot set back in a letter from Dean Tisdale, Administrator of Highways on June 8, 1979 to State Director William Mathews. The Transportation Department indicated they would be willing to exchange the site located in NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 8, T. 1 N., R. 24 E. The department wants to retain the site at SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 20, T. 1 N., R. 24 E., near Tom Cat Hill, for future Highway realignment. However, the realignment will all be to the north and west, outside the WSA, and BLM should be able to locate an equally convenient cinder source not inside the boundary. The other two sites are in the WSA but not in the proposed action of the DEIS. The Transportation Department may trade these two for equal quality parcels. Refer to the letter by J. R. Dick, District Engineer, April 4, 1980.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Big Desert Wilderness 5/80 Collins

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wilderness
Overlay Reference	Step 1 W1.2. Step 3W 1.2.

continued

- B. The State Department of Lands is interested in exchanging these sections. If BLM has not negotiated an exchange within 3 years of wilderness designation, the State policy is to auction the land off. In the interim time, the State has access rights to their lands. Potentially, BLM would have to allow road construction if the State desired. This could severely degrade wilderness values.
- C. Exploring for geothermal resources requires deep drilling, roads, and heavy equipment. Impacts to the lava surface would be severe, including changes in the vegetation cover and disruption of the integrity and continuity of the flow. DOE speculates that the best geothermal potential lies north of the WSA near existing hot springs.

Support

District Resources staff for input on EA's. Lands for withdrawals, material site and State lands exchanges, and Cooperation with State Transportation Department.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Big Desert Wilderness 5/80 Collins

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wilderness

Overlay Reference

Step 1 W-1.2 Step 3 W 1.2

Multiple Use Analysis:

Minerals recommendations M-1.1, 2.1 and 3.1 want to leave the entire area open for leasable, locatable and saleable mineral. Idaho Department of Lands has stated a willingness to exchange the lands within the proposed wilderness for lands outside.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept Step I recommendation with the following stipulation: Coordinate those actions which pertain to the Shoshone District with that office.

Reasons:

The area within the proposed wilderness boundary possess the necessary characteristics and present no major conflicts which cannot be solved.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wilderness
Overlay Reference	Step 1 W-1.3 Step 3 W 1.3

Recommendation

Improve the quality of the wilderness resource in the Great Rift WSA by the following actions on adjacent lands:

- A. Acquire 3,420 acres of State lands on the edge of the WSA. These are located as follows:

CRATERS OF THE MOON FLOW STATE SECTIONS BORDERING WSA				WAPI FLOW STATE SECTIONS BORDERING WSA			
Township	Range	Section	Acres	Township	Range	Section	Acres
3N	25E	36	640	5S	27E	36	640
2N	26E	36	200	6S	28E	36	400
1N	27E	16	100	7S	27E	16	640
1S	23E	16	400	8S	28E	16	400
		TOTAL	1,340			TOTAL	2,080

TOTAL - 3,420 acres

- B. AMP's for allotments bordering the WSA should minimize future developments close to the WSA border. The wilderness coordinator should review and have input on range management decisions. *WKM*
- C. Apply VRM guidelines to geothermal activity north and west of U. S. Highway 93-20-26. Minimize the visibility of developments from the highway and the WSA.
- D. Clean up unauthorized dumpsites on public lands near the WSA border. Known sites are located as follows:

- T. 3 N., R. 26 E., Section 31
- T. 3 N., R. 25 E., Section 27
- T. 1 S., R. 25 E., Section 18
- T. 1 S., R. 24 E., Section 13
- T. 2 N., R. 25 E., Section 19
- T. 1 N., R. 24 E., Section 4
- T. 7 S., R. 29 E., Section 20

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed
(Instructions on reverse)

Big Desert Wilderness 5/80 Collins

Form 1600-21 (April 19

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
Big Desert
Activity
Wilderness
Overlay Reference
Step 1 W-1.3 Step 3 W 1.3

continued

Rationale

- A. The State lands are all contiguous lava lands. They were excluded from the WSA only because BLM directives stated that if a State section was not entirely within the roadless area, it would be cut out. The sections all have small areas with roads or they lack wilderness characteristics and thus were disqualified from the WSA boundary. Acquiring the lands and making a special provision for their inclusion in the wilderness legislation would save BLM future management problems.
- B. Range developments could have a negative affect on the visual quality from inside the WSA. If a major well were close to the border, it would dramatically increase traffic, decrease air quality, and possibly cause poor range condition near or inside the boudary. Other range decisions could also affect use of the Great Rift.
- C. Geothermal developments could have the same affect as range developments. Damage to the visual quality of the flows would be permanent.
- D. Dumpsites are a visual and safety problem and should be eliminated. They detract from wilderness values.

Support

DO lands, range, and minerals and the Idaho Department of Lands.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wilderness

Overlay Reference

Step 1 W-1.3 Step 3 W 1.3

Multiple Use Analysis:

A conflict occurs between range allotments and improvements and wilderness values. Also mineral development adjacent to the boundary would have an impact.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept Step I Recommendation - coordinate with the Shoshone District.

Reasons:

Areas bordering the proposed wilderness could have a negative visual impact on the proposed wilderness if not properly managed.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed
(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)