

P. O. Box 198
Marsing, Idaho 83639
Oct. 9, 1983

RECEIVED
DISTRICT OFFICE
SALMON, IDAHO

OCT 12 16 10 PM '83
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 430
Salmon, Idaho 83467

Dear District Manager:

I am writing in response to the Big Lost/Pahsimero Wilderness Study that the Bureau of Land Management is presently conducting. As I understand it, 8,300 acres of BLM land in the Burnt Creek area designated as WSA 45-12 has been recommended to be set aside as wilderness. I wish to go on record as supporting Alternative N - No wilderness for this area.

Although I am not against all wilderness recommendations, I would

not like to see any area in or near the Lost River Range designated as wilderness (I am also opposed to U.S. Forest Service Rare II Area 4-210 Borah Peak becoming wilderness). As a child I spent many years camping, fishing, and rock collecting with my parents in the Mt. Borah area. Some of my happiest moments as a child were spent while camping in that region. However, if this area had been designated wilderness when I was a child I would not have experienced those moments. Because of the physical stamina needed to hike into and camp within a wilderness area this requirement virtually prevents small children and most elderly adults from entering wilderness land and enjoying its solitude.

Today, I have two small daughters of my own and it is my desire that they enjoy the land within WSA 45-12 now and not when they become adults and are physically able to endure the hardships that backpacking requires. If you close most or all of the existing roads in this area, however, it will be years, if ever, before my children will be able to experience on that land the beauty and serenity that outdoor camping provided me when I was a child. I would not like to see this happen. Therefore, it is my desire that the area designated as WSA 45-12 and all other areas under the Big Lost/Pahsimero Wilderness Study be recommended as non wilderness.

Sincerely,
Howard L. Emery

10-1: See Response 1-9.

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

October 27, 1983

Mr. Kenneth G. Walker
Salmon District Manager
U. S. Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 430
Salmon, Idaho 83467

Dear Mr. Walker:

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Environmental Committee has reviewed the Big Lost/Pahsimeroi Wilderness Draft Environmental Impact Statement and requested that I submit the following comments.

10-1 [On page iv, a listing of a summary of major reasons why two WSA's were recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness is provided. The third reason listed states "Wilderness designation of both WSA's would increase primitive recreation and solitude acreage available to residents of Boise, Idaho by only 1%." This is a very misleading statement which suggests that only the residents of Boise need to be considered in Eastern and Central Idaho Land Management decisions and not the residents of Eastern and Central Idaho. Regarding acreage there are members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe who also require solitude acreage for cultural and religious reasons.

After a review of all alternatives and the proposed action, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes request that the bureau reconsider its preferred alternative and instead adopt the All Wilderness Alternative.

If I can be of further assistance in clarifying the Tribes position on this or any other issues, please don't hesitate to call me at (208) 238-3808.

Sincerely,

Dan M. Christopherson

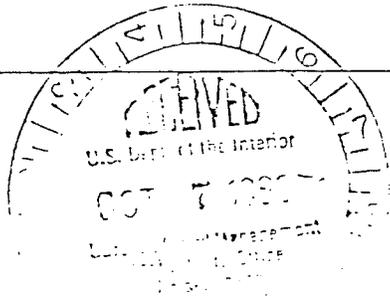
Dan M. Christopherson
Tribal Fish and Wildlife Biologist

DMC/vsl

11-1: The 8,300 acres of the Burnt Creek WSA recommended for wilderness under the Partial Wilderness Alternative could indeed stand on its own as wilderness. At the same time, it would be a logical extension of the Borah Peak RARE II area.

CONOCO

E. Fred Birdsall
Public Lands Coordinator



Conoco Inc.
555 17th Street
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 575-6123

October 4, 1983

Mr. George Weiskircher
Bureau of Land Management
3380 Americana Terrace
Boise, Idaho 83706

Dear Mr. Weiskircher:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the opportunity to review the Big Lost/Pahsimeroi Draft EIS. I do not believe this DEIS makes a persuasive statement for recommendation of any of the subject WSAs (31-14, 31-17, or 45-12) for wilderness. Certainly you make excellent validation for recommendation of non-wilderness for 31-14 (Appendicitis Hill) and 31-17 (White Knob Mountains), and without further discourse we approve of non-designation for those two units.

Burnt Creek (WSA 45-12) is partially recommended for wilderness-8,300 acres out of 24,980. While the 8,300 acres seems a modest amount this is, as you state, geologically interesting from an oil and gas point of view. And, as you indicate, heavily leased. The volcanic cover masks more exacting subsurface analysis. The main reason for recommendation of the 8,300 acres seems to be the possibility that nearby Borah Peak RARE II has been recommended for wilderness. This suggests that the 8,300 acres would not necessarily stand on their own, which is as we understand it a requirement.

11-1

Evidently the main impact of no-wilderness for Burnt Creek would be, per your DEIS, that from mining or dilling. If mining or drilling were to take place, that means this area has sufficiently attractive geologic potential to merit exploration investments in which case this should be the preferred land use. Yet if no mining or drilling takes place, then the absence of an impact does not require wilderness designation for protection.

The best of all worlds seems to be no-wilderness recommendation for Burnt Creek as well as Appendicitis Hill and White Knob Mountains.

Yours very truly,
E. Fred Birdsall

E. Fred Birdsall

jil
cc:
Alice Frell

RONAN, INC.
550 North 31st Street, Suite 500
P.O. Box 1354
Billings, Montana 59103
406 / 245-6248

October 21, 1983

District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 430
Salmon, Idaho 83467

Re: Wilderness Environmental
Impact Statement Draft
WSA 31-14 Appendicitis Hill
WSA 31-17 White Knob Mountain

Gentlemen:

Ronan Inc., an oil and gas company located in Billings, Montana, concurs with the Bureau of Land Management's Salmon District Office draft document recommending the captioned Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) as nonsuitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Please refer to our original letter to the BLM, dated March 9, 1982, which stated that we had completed an intensive preliminary evaluation for oil and gas potential in parts of Custer and Butte Counties. Due to the positive nature of our initial findings for possible accumulation of hydrocarbons, we recommended that the Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) located in and adjacent to these captioned areas be designated as non-wilderness.

Again, we concur with the BLM's draft recommendation for these captioned WSA's as nonsuitable for wilderness.

Sincerely yours,

RONAN, INC.



Fred D. Brinkman
Vice President - Land

FDB/jl



United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
RESTON, VA. 22092

In Reply Refer To:
EGS-Mail Stop 423

OCT 5 1983

Memorandum

To: District Manager, Bureau of Land Management
Salmon, Idaho

From: Assistant Director for Engineering Geology

Subject: Review of draft environmental statement for Big Lost/Pahsimeroi
Wilderness, Salmon and Idaho Falls Districts, Idaho

We have reviewed the draft statement as requested in your notice.

We have given only the most cursory review to the minerals data included in this report because the U.S. Geological Survey will prepare a comprehensive, detailed, joint report with the Bureau of Mines on the mineral resource potential of those areas recommended as suitable for wilderness, in accordance with Section 603 of FLPMA.

J. R. Rollo
James F. Devine

14-1

The Final EIS Proposed Action has changed the 8,300 acres suitable recommendation (Draft EIS) to nonsuitable. It was felt that the area needed extra size and diversity from the Forest Service lands to make a viable wilderness area. Even if Burnt Creek is not designated as wilderness by Congress, there is no projection of development in the 8,300 acre area. There will be no impact on wildlife species based on the detailed projection of activities for Burnt Creek as described in Chapter 2 of the EIS. Should the Forest Service recommend the contiguous Borah Peak area for wilderness, the recommendation could be altered.