



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

October 5, 1983

Mr. Kenneth G. Walker
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 430
Salmon, ID 83467

Re: Big Lost/Pahsimeroi Draft
Wilderness Impact Statement

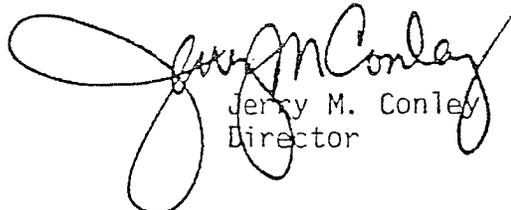
Dear Mr. Walker:

Department of Fish and Game personnel have reviewed the above-referenced document. We concur with the proposed action.

The 8,300 acre portion of WSA 45-12, Burnt Creek, has high wildlife value, particularly for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer and antelope. Wilderness designation of this area, because it is contiguous with the Rare II Area 4-210 Borah Peak, would provide protection from future development activities and maintain a high quality hunting recreation experience.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Sincerely,



Jerry M. Conley
Director

cc: Program Coordination
Bureau of Wildlife
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION X

1200 SIXTH AVENUE
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: M/S 443

OCT 25 1983

Kenneth G. Walker
Salmon District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 430
Salmon, ID 83467

Re: Draft EIS -- Big Lost/Pahsimeroi Wilderness

Dear Mr. Walker:

We have reviewed the Big Lost/Pahsimeroi Wilderness Draft EIS, and have no comments to offer at this time. We look forward to your sending us 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 [FTS 399-1728].

Sincerely,


Ernesta B. Barnes
Regional Administrator



Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208

in reply refer to SJ

October 25, 1983

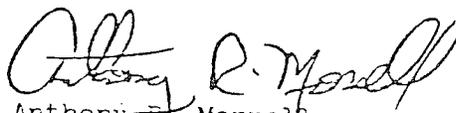
Mr. Kenneth G. Walker
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 430
Salmon, Idaho 83467

Dear Mr. Walker:

We have reviewed the draft environmental impact statement on the Big Lost/
Pahsimeroi Wilderness, and have no comment.

Thank you for the opportunity to study the draft document.

Sincerely,


Anthony R. Morrell
Environmental Manager



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Northwest Mountain Region
Colorado Idaho Montana
Oregon Utah Washington
Wyoming

17900 Pacific Highway South
C-68966
Seattle Washington 98166

MAY 16 1995

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

Dear Mr. Walker:

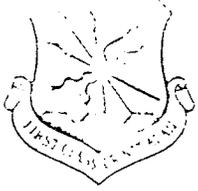
We have reviewed your draft Environmental Impact Statements on the Big Lost/Pahsimero Wilderness and the Challis Wilderness Plan Amendment and do not foresee any impact on aviation or its activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to review your proposed actions.

Sincerely,


Joseph W. Harrell
Policy & Planning Officer

18-1 There is no specific prohibition of overflight of wilderness by aircraft. Low-flying aircraft cause disturbance of the solitude of an area. Except in bona fide emergencies, search and rescue efforts and essential military missions such as training flights, low flight would be discouraged. Where low overflight is a problem, or expected to become a problem, wilderness management plans will provide for liaison with proper military authorities (including the Idaho Air National Guard), the Federal Aviation Administration, and pilots in the general area in an effort to reduce low flight, if at all possible.



IDAHO AIR NATIONAL GUARD
124TH TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE GROUP
BOISE AIR TERMINAL (GOWEN FIELD)
P. O. BOX 45, BOISE, IDAHO 83707

Bureau of Land Management
Big Lost/Pahsimuo/EIS

18 June 1985

District Manager

1. Of the three Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's), WSA 31-14 and 31-17 underlie a segment of our military training route (MTR) designated IR 302. This MTR has vertical limits of 100 foot above ground level (AGL) to approximately 6,500 feet AGL and aircraft are authorized ground speeds in excess of 540 knots. IR 302 is scheduled by the 124TRG/DO (124 Tactical Reconnaissance Group) Boise, ID. It is used by numerous Air Force, Navy, Marine, National Guard and Reserve units. Last year 1368 missions were flown in the vicinity of WSA 31-14 and 31-17. The usage of this MTR has continued to increase since it's establishment in 1979.
2. When MTR's are established, noise sensitive areas and low altitude civil aircraft activity are considered and avoided to the maximum possible extent. For these reasons many remote and sparsely populated areas administered by National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and or U.S. Forest Service become optimum low altitude flight training areas. Department of Defense (DOD) policy as stated in a circular from the Federal Aviation Administration (AC No 91-36A) specifically advises, "military aircraft may at times overfly areas managed by the Department of the Interior at lower than the recommended 2,000 foot minimum, but in compliance with the minimum safe altitudes prescribed in FAR 91-79. Such deviations will occur only when essential to the mission being conducted." Use of this airspace down to the minimum published altitude and at maximum ground speeds is essential in accomplishment of our tactical flight training mission and is in compliance with FAR 91-79 and DOD policy.
3. Therefore, the 124 TRG strongly objects to the proposed establishment of wilderness areas 31-14, 31-17 and 45-12 because of the direct conflict of the tactical flight training mission and the wilderness characteristic of solitude. We cannot subject our current airspace to possible reduction because of noise complaints generated by military aircraft performing their mission over conservationists and recreationalists located in the proposed wilderness areas. Although WSA 45-12 currently is not within an established 124 TRG MTR, we periodically restructure the MTR's to enhance aircrew training. If IR 302 were moved 12 nautical miles (NM) east or IR 301/307 south 5 NM the aforementioned conflict would exist.


ROBERT R. CORBELL III, Col., IDANG
Group Commander

1 atch

18-1

- 19-1 BLM's wilderness management policy allows maintenance or stabilization on a case-by-case basis.
- 19-2 Wilderness management plans are developed following designation. Management of historic and prehistoric sites would be one element of any such plan.

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
610 NORTH JULIA DAVIS DRIVE BOISE. 83702



September 16, 1985

Mr. Harold H. Ramsbacher
Deputy State Director for Renewable
Resources
Idaho State Office, BLM
3380 Americana Terrace
Boise, Idaho 83706

Dear Mr. Ramsbacher:

Below are our comments on the Wilderness Environmental Impact Statements for the Challis and Big Lost/Pahsimeroi Areas. Please excuse our delay in responding to your request for comments.

We agree the existing inventory is adequate to determine the effects of wilderness designation on archaeological and historical properties in the various Wilderness Study Areas under consideration. However, we do not believe the existing inventory is adequate to identify all the properties eligible for the National Register.

19-1

We are not sure whether wilderness designation will adversely affect the properties eligible for the National Register. This depends on the management of the wilderness. If the area is managed similarly to the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, then a "no effect" determination is appropriate. However, at one time the BLM wilderness management guidelines specified that historic properties (including prehistoric archaeological sites) in wilderness areas would be allowed to deteriorate without preventive maintenance or stabilization. If this is still true then wilderness designation would clearly be an adverse effect following the regulations (36 CFR800) of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

19-2

A wilderness management plan needs to be developed that clearly recognizes the importance of historic and prehistoric properties and recognizes the need to preserve, stabilize, and research these sites. If such a plan existed then we certainly would agree wilderness designation would not affect archaeological and historic properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Thomas J. Green in cursive script.

THOMAS J. GREEN

State Archaeologist

State Historic Preservation Office

TJG:rm