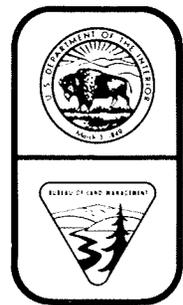




**SHOSHONE/
SUN VALLEY**

**PROPOSED
MFP AMENDMENT
&
FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT
WILDERNESS**



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SHOSHONE DISTRICT

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SHOSHONE/SUN VALLEY WILDERNESS STUDY

Prepared by

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SHOSHONE DISTRICT OFFICE

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Delmar D. Vail". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Delmar D. Vail
Idaho State Director

SUMMARY

The purpose of this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to determine the suitability or nonsuitability of seven Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in the Shoshone District for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). This EIS assesses the environmental consequences of managing seven WSAs as wilderness or nonwilderness, and of managing a portion of one WSA as wilderness.

The seven WSAs being studied are covered by three different Management Framework Plans (MFPs); Sun Valley, Timmerman Hills, and Bennett Hills. The study areas are listed in Table S-1 below.

TABLE S-1

LIST OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

WSA Name	Number	Acreage	County	Management Framework Plan
Friedman Creek	ID-53-5	9,773	Blaine, Butte, Custer	Sun Valley
Little City of Rocks	ID-54-5	5,875	Gooding	Bennett Hills
Black Canyon	ID-54-6	10,371	Gooding	Bennett Hills
Gooding City of Rocks East <u>1/</u>	ID-54-8a	14,743	Gooding	Bennett Hills
Gooding City of Rocks West <u>1/</u>	ID-54-8b	6,287	Gooding	Bennett Hills
Deer Creek	ID-54-10	7,487	Camas, Gooding	Bennett Hills
Lava	ID-56-2	23,680	Lincoln	Timmerman Hills

1/ The names of these WSAs have been changed. Gooding City of Rocks (ID-54-8a) is now Gooding City of Rocks East. Gooding City of Rocks (ID-54-8b) is now Gooding City of Rocks West. The WSAs' numbers did not change.

Areas Dropped From Further Consideration For Wilderness Designation

On December 30, 1982, Secretary of Interior James Watt published a Secretarial Order in the Federal Register deleting from wilderness study all areas identified through Section 603 of FLPMA that contain less than 5,000 acres of contiguous public lands (except islands and instant study areas). This decision affected two WSAs that were addressed in the Shoshone/Sun Valley Draft Plan Amendment/EIS. The Little Wood River WSA (ID-53-4), 4,385 acres; and the Black Butte WSA (ID-54-2), 4,002 acres; were dropped from further consideration for wilderness designation. On April 18, 1985, a U.S. District Court Decision was issued vacating the Secretarial Order. Wilderness study of the Little Wood River and Black Butte WSAs is currently deferred pending interpretation of the court decision.

Issues

The scoping process for the Shoshone/Sun Valley Plan Amendment/EIS encompassed issues identified by the BLM staff, by the public during formal scoping comment periods (in April 1981 and April 1982), at a public meeting held in Gooding (in May 1982), and from comments on the draft EIS by the public and by Federal, State and local agencies. The environmental issues identified for analysis in this EIS follow.

1. Impacts on Wilderness Values. The wilderness values of naturalness, opportunities for solitude, opportunities for primitive recreation, and various special features of the WSA could benefit from wilderness designation. The same values may be adversely affected by uses and actions that would occur should the WSAs not be designated wilderness. The significance of these beneficial or adverse impacts is an issue for analysis in the EIS.
2. Impacts on Recreational Off Road Vehicle Use. Wilderness designation would eliminate the use of recreational off-road vehicles (ORVs) in the WSAs. Eliminating this use could affect the availability of opportunities for ORV recreation and shift ORV uses currently occurring in the WSAs to adjacent lands. The impact of wilderness designation on recreational ORV use in the vicinity of the WSAs is an issue for analysis in the EIS.
3. Impacts on Development of Mineral Resources. Wilderness designation could affect the development of potential and known mineral resources by withdrawing designated lands from mineral entry. Development of existing mineral resources within designated wilderness areas could be affected by wilderness management restrictions. The impact of wilderness designation on the development of potential and known mineral resources is an issue for analysis in the EIS.
4. Impacts on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction. Wilderness designation could affect livestock operations by precluding some planned range development projects necessary for utilization of forage at planned levels. The impact of wilderness designation on the maintenance and construction of grazing and range management projects in the WSAs is an issue for analysis in the EIS.

The following issues were identified in scoping but were not selected for detailed analysis in this EIS. The reasons for setting each of the issues aside are discussed below.

1. Impact of wilderness designation on predator control. Wilderness designation could inhibit efforts to control predator populations. Unchecked, predator populations could cause loss of livestock making livestock operations less profitable. This issue was not analyzed in detail because the BLM's wilderness management policy provides for predator control within designated wilderness areas.
2. Impact of wilderness designation on reintroduction of bighorn sheep. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has noted that bighorn sheep could be reintroduced in some of the WSAs. The reintroduction of

bighorn sheep, if it occurs, would be independent of the designation of any of the WSAs as wilderness. Since the wilderness management policy provides guidelines for reintroduction of native wildlife species and potential reintroduction efforts are speculative, this issue was not selected for analysis in the EIS.

3. Impact of wilderness designation on visitor safety. Wilderness designation could encourage recreationists to use areas they otherwise wouldn't use because the areas are labeled as wilderness. This could result in inexperienced recreationists being exposed to hazards (ie. rattlesnakes) they are not experienced in handling. This issue was not analyzed because increase in recreation use due to wilderness designation would be negligible. In addition, hazards associated with recreation use on the WSAs would not be affected by wilderness designation. The hazards would be the same regardless of the area's status.
4. Economic impact on livestock operations. Concerns were raised that livestock operators could be required to modify their operations within designated wilderness areas in a manner that would have significant adverse economic impacts on their business. This issue was considered but dropped from detailed analysis 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 the seven WSAs would be more closely regulated, they would continue as they did prior to wilderness designation subject to reasonable controls. The impact of wilderness designation on livestock operations as a result of curtailment of planned range developments is considered in issue 4 above.

5. Impact on Air Quality Classification. Concerns were raised regarding the interaction between wilderness designation and air quality classification. The wilderness management policy states that BLM will manage all wilderness areas to comply with the existing air quality classification for that specific area, so wilderness designation or nondesignation would not cause the air quality classification to change. Therefore, this issue was dropped from further analysis in the EIS.
6. Impact on Cultural Resources. Inventories and consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer during scoping determined that no cultural sites that would be eligible for nomination for listing on the National Register of Historic Places are known to exist within any of the WSAs. The cultural sites that do exist in the areas are lithic scatters and petroglyphs which would be protected with or without wilderness designation. Since the significance of the cultural sites within the WSAs is low, the issue of impact to cultural resources from wilderness designation was dropped from further analysis.
7. Impact on Water Quality. The issue of how water quality would be affected by wilderness designation or nondesignation in each of the WSAs was identified by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. This issue was not considered in the EIS because the primary influence

on water quality in these WSAs, livestock use, would not vary sufficiently with or without wilderness designation to affect water quality in any of the WSAs. Other existing or potential activities, such as logging and mineral development, are absent or affect such a small area that their influence on water quality would be negligible.

8. Impacts on Endangered Species. Wildlife and vegetation inventories and consultation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife service did not identify any threatened or endangered species in the WSAs. Therefore, this issue was dropped from further consideration.
9. Impacts on State and Private Inholdings. The impact of wilderness designation or nondesignation on State or private land inholdings in WSAs was identified as an issue in comments on the Draft EIS. This issue was dropped from further consideration because the uses on these lands would not change as a result of designation or nondesignation. An additional consideration in dropping this issue is the intention of the BLM, at the request of the State of Idaho, to exchange for State land inholdings in designated BLM wilderness areas. Similar voluntary exchanges would be attempted for private land inholdings in the Friedman Creek WSA if the area is designated as wilderness.
10. Impacts on Wildlife. Many comments on the draft EIS expressed a general concern for wildlife without identifying specific issues associated with wildlife (other than those identified above in 1, 2, and 8). An issue dealing with wildlife in general was considered but not included in this EIS because no specific impacts on populations or the habitat of any specific species were identified. Based on the projections of development in the seven WSAs, little or no change in wildlife populations or habitat is anticipated with wilderness designation or nondesignation.
11. Impact of Wilderness Designation on Development of Diatomite. Wilderness designation would withdraw designated lands from mineral entry. Development of diatomite deposits within Gooding City of Rocks East and Gooding City of Rocks West WSAs could be impacted by wilderness management restrictions. This issue was not analyzed as a separate issue because the possibilities for diatomite development are low. The impact on development of mineral resources, including diatomite where appropriate, is issue number 3.
12. Impact on Diversity Within the National Wilderness Preservation System. The issue of how wilderness designation would impact ecologic diversity within the NWPS was not analyzed as an issue. Since all potential natural vegetation types within the WSAs are currently represented in the NWPS, designation of these WSAs as wilderness would not expand ecologic diversity of the system.

The following issue is not an environmental issue, but is a program concern that was frequently identified as an issue during scoping.

The WSAs being studied are not what Congress intended to be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Some or all of the areas being studied for wilderness designation may not be the kind of area

Congress intended to have considered for wilderness. This issue was dropped since it was determined in the inventory stage of the BLM's wilderness review process that all the WSAs being studied meet the minimum standards for wilderness identified by the Congress in the Wilderness Act of 1964 and FLPMA of 1976.

Alternatives and Conclusions

The alternatives assessed in this EIS include: (1) a No Wilderness Alternative for each WSA, (2) an All Wilderness Alternative for each WSA, and (3) a Partial Wilderness Alternative for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA.

Friedman Creek WSA (ID-53-5)

Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative). All 9,773 acres of public land in the Friedman Creek WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the development of mineral resources and the resulting impacts on wilderness values in the long term.

Conclusions. The Friedman Creek WSA's wilderness values of size, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude would be lost. Mine access roads would most likely protrude into the WSA from the western boundary and, because of the area's size and boundary configuration, the area would be divided into three parcels of approximately 3,200 acres each. Sights and sounds from traffic and construction related to mineral development would cause the WSA to appear unnatural to the average visitor and lower the quality of solitude in the WSA's major drainages.

Although the area would be more accessible, recreational ORV use would remain below 1000 visitor days annually. There would be no significant impact on recreational ORV use.

Potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes high favorability for metallic minerals and moderate favorability for oil and gas and barite. There would be no impact on development of mineral resources in the Friedman Creek WSA.

There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance or construction in the Friedman Creek WSA.

All Wilderness Alternative. All 9,773 acres of public land in the Friedman Creek WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the mineral withdrawal and ORV closure in designated wilderness, the resulting effects on mineral development and recreational ORV use, and the protection of wilderness values.

Conclusions. All wilderness values would receive long-term Congressional protection. Wilderness values would be slightly enhanced on all 9,773 acres of the Friedman Creek WSA because of the elimination of ORV use.

Recreational ORV use of 100 visitor days would be forgone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes high favorability for metallic minerals and moderate favorability for oil and gas and barite.

There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance or construction.

Little City of Rocks WSA (ID-54-5)

Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative). All 5,875 acres of public land in the Little City of Rocks WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the effects of recreational ORV use on wilderness values.

Conclusions. The WSA's naturalness would be lost in areas of concentrated ORV use. Recreational ORV use would also reduce opportunities for solitude. Recreational ORV use levels are approximately 1,500 visitor days annually. Over the next ten years, ORV use would reach 2,500 annually.

There would be no impact to recreational ORV use.

Potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources. There would be no impact on development of mineral resources.

There would be no impacts on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

All Wilderness Alternative. All 5,875 acres of public land in the Little City of Rocks WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the protection of wilderness values through wilderness designation.

Conclusions. All wilderness values would receive long-term Congressional protection. All wilderness value would be maintained on all 5,875 acres of the WSA. Since ORV use would be eliminated, naturalness and opportunities for solitude would improve slightly.

Recreational ORV use of 1,500 visitor days would be forgone annually. Impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources.

There would be no impacts on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

Black Canyon WSA (ID-54-6)

Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative). All 10,371 acres of public land in the Black Canyon WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

There are no significant impacts associated with this alternative.

Conclusions. In the long term, additional range developments (one reservoir less than one-third acre) would reduce naturalness slightly in the western portion of the WSA. The naturalness of the remainder of the WSA would be retained.

There would be no impact on recreational ORV use.

Potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources. There would be no impact on development of mineral resources.

There would be no impacts on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

All Wilderness Alternative. All 10,371 acres of public land in the Black Canyon WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

This alternative would result in a slight improvement in the WSA's apparent naturalness and opportunities for solitude.

Conclusions. All wilderness values would receive long-term Congressional protection. All wilderness values would be maintained on all 10,371 acres of the WSA. Naturalness would be reduced slightly by an additional reservoir. Since ORV use would be eliminated and two cherrystem roads would be closed to recreational ORV use, there would be a slight improvement in the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude.

Recreational ORV use of 200 visitor days would be forgone annually. Impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources.

There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

Gooding City of Rocks East WSA (ID-54-8a)

Proposed Action (Partial Wilderness Alternative). A portion of the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA, with 13,063 acres, would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. The remaining 1,680 acres, located along the northern boundary of the WSA, would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the protection of wilderness values through wilderness designation and the resulting increases

in naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Conclusions. The 13,063 acres designated as wilderness would receive long-term Congressional protection. On the 13,063 acres designated wilderness, all wilderness values would be maintained. The area's naturalness and opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and solitude would improve slightly because of the elimination of approximately 150 visitor days of recreational ORV use. The area's most spectacular scenery, naturalness, and opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude would be retained. On the 1,680 acres not designated wilderness, there would be a slight reduction of naturalness and opportunities for solitude because of continued recreational ORV use.

Recreational ORV use would be forgone on the 13,063 acres designated wilderness and 150 visitor days would be forgone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible. On the 1,680 acres of the WSA not designated wilderness, recreational ORV use would continue to increase, but would not exceed 100 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future.

Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone on 13,063 acres. This includes an estimated six million tons of diatomite (1.5 percent of the total reserve within five miles of the WSA). Moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources also exists in the area. Potential mineral resources on 1,680 acres would be available for mineral development.

There would be no impact to grazing facility maintenance and construction.

All Wilderness Alternative. All 14,743 acres of public land in the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the protection of wilderness values through wilderness designation and the resulting increases in naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation and the withdrawal of mineral resources.

Conclusions. All wilderness values would receive long-term Congressional protection. On 13,063 acres of the WSA, there would be a slight improvement of the area's naturalness and opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and solitude because of the elimination of approximately 150 visitor days of recreational ORV use. There would be a slight decrease in the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude on 1,680 acres of the WSA because of maintenance of the concentration of grazing facilities in the area.

Recreational ORV use would be forgone on the 14,743 acres designated wilderness and 150 visitor days would be forgone annually.

Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes an estimated six million tons of diatomite (1.5 percent of the total

reserve within five miles of the WSA), moderate to low potential for low temperature geothermal resources, and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources.

There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

No Wilderness Alternative. All 14,743 acres of the public land in the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to ORV use and the resulting reduction in naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Conclusions. On the 14,743 acres of the WSA there would be a slight reduction of the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude because of the continued and increasing recreational ORV use. On 1,680 acres of the WSA (approximately 11 percent in the northern portion), there would be a moderate reduction of the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude because of the concentration of maintenance activity in the area.

There would be no impact to recreational ORV use.

Potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources, low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources, and an estimated six million tons of diatomite (1.5 percent of the total reserve within five miles of the WSA). There would be no impact on development of mineral resources.

There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

Gooding City of Rocks West WSA (ID-54-8b)

Proposed Action (All Wilderness Alternative). All 6,287 acres of public land in the Gooding City of Rocks West WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the protection of wilderness values through wilderness designation and the resulting effects on naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation and the withdrawal of mineral resources.

Conclusions. All wilderness values would receive long-term Congressional protection. Wilderness values would be maintained on all 6,287 acres of the Gooding City of Rocks West WSA. The area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation would improve because of the elimination of ORV use and the acquisition of the State land inholding.

Recreational ORV use of 50 visitor days would be forgone on the 6,287 acres designated wilderness. Impacts resulting from this use shifting to other public lands would be negligible.

Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes an estimated 34 million tons of diatomite (8.5 percent of the total reserve within five miles of the WSA) and moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources.

There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

No Wilderness Alternative. All 6,287 acres of public land in the Gooding City of Rocks West WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to non-wilderness uses and the resulting reduction in naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Conclusions. On the 6,287 acres of the WSA there would be a reduction of naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation because of the continued and increasing recreational ORV use.

There would be no impact on recreational ORV use.

Potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes an estimated 34 million tons of diatomite (8.5 percent of the total deposit within five miles of the WSA) and moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources. There would be no impact on development of mineral resources.

There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

Deer Creek WSA (ID-54-10)

Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative). All 7,487 acres of the public land in the Deer Creek WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

There are no significant impacts associated with this alternative.

Conclusions. Deer Creek's naturalness and opportunities for solitude would be reduced slightly because of range developments and continued ORV use. Range developments include one reservoir less than one-third acre, two miles of gap fencing, and 750 acres of brush control through the use of spraying or prescribed burning.

There would be no impact on recreational ORV use.

Potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes moderate potential for low temperature geothermal resources and diatomite. There would be no impact on development of mineral resources.

There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

All Wilderness Alternative. All 7,487 acres of public land in the Deer Creek WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

There are no significant impacts associated with this alternative.

Conclusions. All wilderness values would receive long-term Congressional protection. Naturalness and opportunities for solitude would improve slightly because of the elimination of ORV use and acquisition of the State land inholding. Naturalness and opportunities for solitude would be reduced slightly by range management actions.

Recreational ORV use of 100 visitor days would be forgone annually. The impact of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes moderate potential for low temperature geothermal resources and diatomite.

There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

Lava WSA (ID-56-2)

Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative). All 23,680 acres of public land in the Lava WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the range developments and ORV use and the resulting impacts on wilderness values in the long term.

Conclusions. The area's naturalness would be reduced by new range developments and brush control. Naturalness and opportunities for solitude would be reduced slightly by continued ORV use. New range developments include one mile of pipeline reconstruction, one mile of new pipeline and a trough and 2,200 acres of brush control and seeding along dry washes.

There would be no impact on recreational ORV use.

Potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes low to moderate favorability for low temperature geothermal resources. There would be no impact on development of mineral resources.

There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

All Wilderness Alternative. All 23,680 acres of public land in the Lava WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the restrictions on reseeding and the resulting reduction in AUMs.

Conclusions. All wilderness values would receive long-term Congressional protection. Range developments and maintenance would reduce the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude slightly. Elimination of ORV use and acquisition of the State land inholding would improve the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude.

Recreational ORV use of 100 visitor days would be forgone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes low to moderate potential for low temperature geothermal resources.

There would be no seeding on 2,200 acres of brush control. Because there would be no seeding, a reduction of 569 animal unit months (AUMs) would occur.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND PLANNING PROCESS

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to determine the suitability or nonsuitability of seven Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in the Shoshone District for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). This EIS assesses the environmental consequences of managing seven WSAs as wilderness or nonwilderness, and of managing a portion of one WSA as wilderness.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) directs the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to manage the public lands and their resources under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. 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 WSAs which have the mandatory wilderness characteristics of size, naturalness, and opportunities for solitude and/or primitive recreation. 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 Congress. If designated as wilderness, an area would be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964.

The seven WSAs being studied are covered by three different Management Framework Plans (MFPs); Sun Valley, Timmerman Hills, and Bennett Hills. The study areas are listed in Table 1-1 below.

TABLE 1-1

LIST OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

WSA Name	Number	Acreage	County	Management Framework Plan
Friedman Creek	ID-53-5	9,773	Blaine, Butte, Custer	Sun Valley
Little City of Rocks	ID-54-5	5,875	Gooding	Bennett Hills
Black Canyon	ID-54-6	10,371	Gooding	Bennett Hills
Gooding City of Rocks East <u>1/</u>	ID-54-8a	14,743	Gooding	Bennett Hills
Gooding City of Rocks West <u>1/</u>	ID-54-8b	6,287	Gooding	Bennett Hills
Deer Creek	ID-54-10	7,487	Camas, Gooding	Bennett Hills
Lava	ID-56-2	23,680	Lincoln	Timmerman Hills

1/ The names of these WSAs have been changed. Gooding City of Rocks (ID-54-8a) is now Gooding City of Rocks East. Gooding City of Rocks (ID-54-8b) is now Gooding City of Rocks West. The WSAs' numbers did not change.

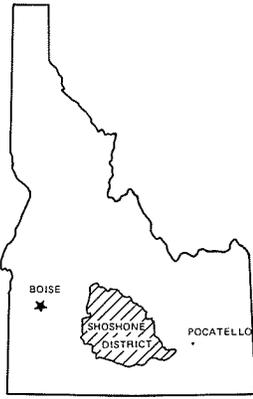
MAP 1

SHOSHONE / SUN VALLEY

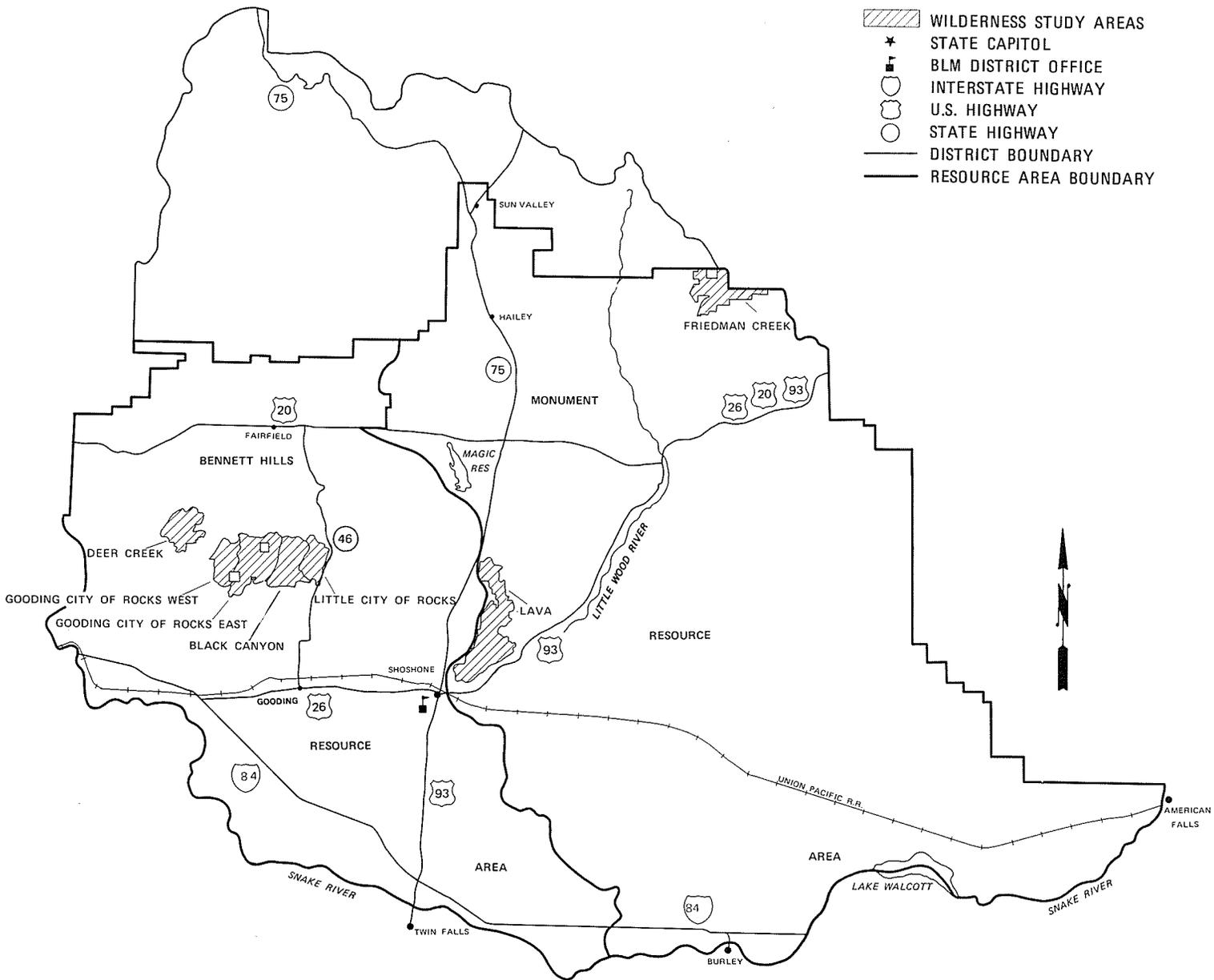
GENERAL LOCATION MAP

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS (WSA's)

WSA NAME & NUMBER	ACRES
Friedman Creek (ID-53-5)	9,773
Little City Of Rocks (ID-54-5)	5,875
Black Canyon (ID-54-6)	10,371
Gooding City Of Rocks East (ID-54-8a)	14,743
Gooding City Of Rocks West (ID-54-8b)	6,287
Deer Creek (ID-54-10)	7,487
Lava (ID-56-2)	23,680



IDAHO KEY



LOCATION

The WSAs are located in southcentral Idaho in the BLM's Shoshone District. Map 1 (page 2) shows the relative location of the areas. Map 2 (page 4) details the cluster of five WSAs concentrated within the Mount Bennett Hills.

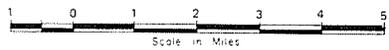
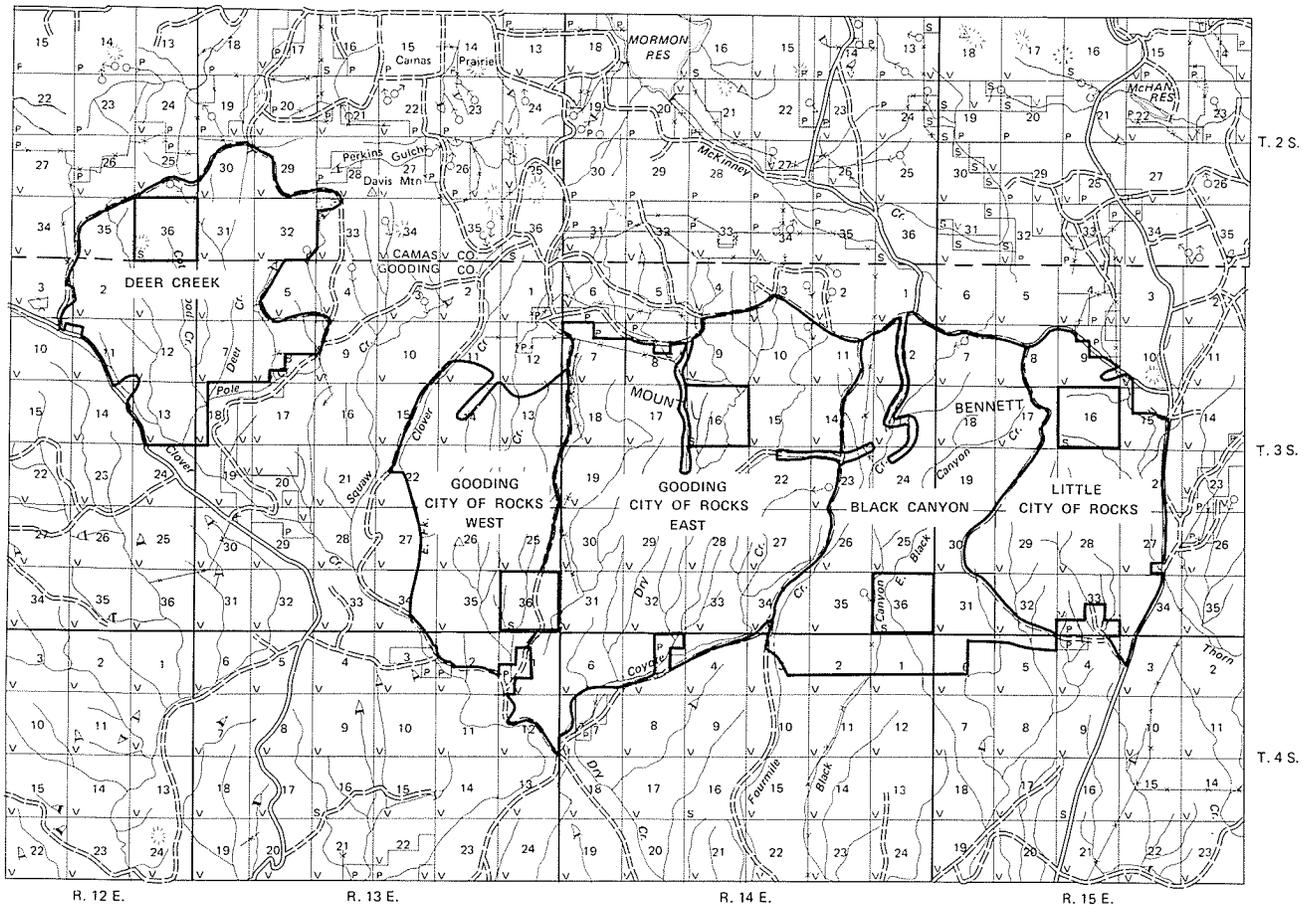
AREAS DROPPED FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION FOR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION

On December 30, 1982, Secretary of Interior James Watt published a Secretarial Order in the Federal Register deleting from wilderness study all areas identified through Section 603 of FLPMA that contain less than 5,000 acres of contiguous public lands (except islands and instant study areas). This decision affected two WSAs that were addressed in the Shoshone/Sun Valley Draft Plan Amendment/EIS. The Little Wood River WSA (ID-53-4), 4,385 acres; and the Black Butte WSA (ID-54-2), 4,002 acres; were dropped from further consideration for wilderness designation. On April 18, 1985, a U.S. District Court Decision was issued vacating the Secretarial Order. Wilderness study of the Little Wood River and Black Butte WSAs is currently deferred pending interpretation of the court decision.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE IDENTIFICATION/SCOPING

The scoping process for the Shoshone/Sun Valley Plan Amendment/EIS encompassed issues identified by the BLM staff, by the public during formal scoping comment periods (in April 1981 and April 1982), at a public meeting held in Gooding (in May 1982), and from comments on the draft EIS by the public and by Federal, State and local agencies. During the scoping period there was consultation with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer concerning the presence or absence of cultural resources in the WSAs that would be eligible for nomination for listing on the "National Register of Historic Places." The United States Fish and Wildlife Service was consulted concerning the potential effects of wilderness designation on threatened or endangered species. The environmental issues identified for analysis in this EIS follow.

1. Impacts on Wilderness Values. The wilderness values of naturalness, opportunities for solitude, opportunities for primitive recreation, and various special features of the WSA could benefit from wilderness designation. The same values may be adversely affected by uses and actions that would occur should the WSAs not be designated wilderness. The significance of these beneficial or adverse impacts is an issue for analysis in the EIS.
2. Impacts on Recreational Off Road Vehicle Use. Wilderness designation would eliminate the use of recreational off-road vehicles (ORVs) in the WSAs. Eliminating this use could affect the availability of opportunities for ORV recreation and shift ORV uses currently occurring in the WSAs to adjacent lands. The impact of wilderness designation on recreational ORV use in the vicinity of the WSAs is an issue for analysis in the EIS.



MAP 2

LOCATION OF CONTIGUOUS WSA s

- WSA BOUNDARY —————
- LAND STATUS — V — PUBLIC LAND
- S — STATE LAND
- P — PRIVATE LAND

3. Impacts on Development of Mineral Resources. Wilderness designation could affect the development of potential and known mineral resources by withdrawing designated lands from mineral entry. Development of existing mineral resources within designated wilderness areas could be affected by wilderness management restrictions. The impact of wilderness designation on the development of potential and known mineral resources is an issue for analysis in the EIS.
4. Impacts on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction. Wilderness designation could affect livestock operations by precluding some planned range development projects necessary for utilization of forage at planned levels. The impact of wilderness designation on the maintenance and construction of grazing and range management projects in the WSAs is an issue for analysis in the EIS.

The following issues were identified in scoping but were not selected for detailed analysis in this EIS. The reasons for setting each of the issues aside are discussed below.

1. Impact of wilderness designation on predator control. Wilderness designation could inhibit efforts to control predator populations. Unchecked, predator populations could cause loss of livestock making livestock operations less profitable. This issue was not analyzed in detail because the BLM's wilderness management policy provides for predator control within designated wilderness areas.
2. Impact of wilderness designation on reintroduction of bighorn sheep. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has noted that bighorn sheep could be reintroduced in some of the WSAs. The reintroduction of Bighorn Sheep, if it occurs, would be independent of the designation of any of the WSAs as wilderness. Since the wilderness management policy provides guidelines for reintroduction of native wildlife species and potential reintroduction efforts are speculative, this issue was not selected for analysis in the EIS.
3. Impact of wilderness designation on visitor safety. Wilderness designation could encourage recreationists to use areas they otherwise wouldn't use because the areas are labeled as wilderness. This could result in inexperienced recreationists being exposed to hazards (ie. rattlesnakes) they are not experienced in handling. This issue was not analyzed because increase in recreation use due to wilderness designation would be negligible. In addition, hazards associated with recreation use on the WSAs would not be affected by wilderness designation. The hazards would be the same regardless of the area's status.
4. Economic impact on livestock operations. Concerns were raised that livestock operators could be required to modify their operations within designated wilderness areas in a manner that would have significant adverse economic impacts on their business. This issue was considered but dropped from detailed analysis 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 the seven WSAs would be more closely regulated, they would continue as they did prior to wilderness

designation subject to reasonable controls. The impact of wilderness designation on livestock operations as a result of curtailment of planned range developments is considered in issue 4 above.

5. Impact on Air Quality Classification. Concerns were raised regarding the interaction between wilderness designation and air quality classification. The wilderness management policy states that BLM will manage all wilderness areas to comply with the existing air quality classification for that specific area, so wilderness designation or non-designation would not cause the air quality classification to change. Therefore, this issue was dropped from further analysis in the EIS.
6. Impact on Cultural Resources. Inventories and consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer during scoping determined that no cultural sites that would be eligible for nomination for listing on the National Register of Historic Places are known to exist within any of the WSAs. The cultural sites that do exist in the areas are lithic scatters and petroglyphs which would be protected with or without wilderness designation. Since the significance of the cultural sites within the WSAs is low, the issue of impact to cultural resources from wilderness designation was dropped from further analysis.
7. Impact on Water Quality. The issue of how water quality would be affected by wilderness designation or nondesignation in each of the WSAs was identified by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. This issue was not considered in the EIS because the primary influence on water quality in these WSAs, livestock use, would not vary sufficiently with or without wilderness designation to affect water quality in any of the WSAs. Other existing or potential activities, such as logging and mineral development, are absent or affect such a small area that their influence on water quality would be negligible.
8. Impacts on Endangered Species. Wildlife and vegetation inventories and consultation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service did not identify any threatened or endangered species in the WSAs. Therefore, this issue was dropped from further consideration.
9. Impacts on State and Private Inholdings. The impact of wilderness designation or nondesignation on State or private land inholdings in WSAs was identified as an issue in comments on the Draft EIS. This issue was dropped from further consideration because the uses on these lands would not change as a result of designation or nondesignation. An additional consideration in dropping this issue is the intention of the BLM, at the request of the State of Idaho, to exchange for State land inholdings in designated BLM wilderness areas. Similar voluntary exchanges would be attempted for private land inholdings in the Friedman Creek WSA if the area is designated as wilderness.
10. Impacts on Wildlife. Many comments on the draft EIS expressed a general concern for wildlife without identifying specific issues associated with wildlife (other than those identified above in 1, 2, and 8). An issue dealing with wildlife in general was considered but not included in this EIS because no specific impacts on populations or the habitat of any specific species were identified. Based on the

projections of development in the seven WSAs, little or no change in wildlife populations or habitat is anticipated with wilderness designation or nondesignation.

11. Impact of Wilderness Designation on Development of Diatomite. Wilderness designation would withdraw designated lands from mineral entry. Development of diatomite deposits within Gooding City of Rocks East and Gooding City of Rocks West WSAs could be impacted by wilderness management restrictions. This issue was not analyzed as a separate issue because the possibilities for diatomite development are low. The impact on development of mineral resources, including diatomite where appropriate, is issue number 3.
12. Impact on Diversity Within the National Wilderness Preservation System. The issue of how wilderness designation would impact ecologic diversity within the NWPS was not analyzed as an issue. Since all potential natural vegetation types within the WSAs are currently represented in the NWPS, designation of these WSAs as wilderness would not expand ecologic diversity of the system.

The following issue is not an environmental issue, but is a program concern that was frequently identified as an issue during scoping.

The WSAs being studied are not what Congress intended to be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Some or all of the areas being studied for wilderness designation may not be the kind of area Congress intended to have considered for wilderness. This issue was dropped since it was determined in the inventory stage of the BLM's wilderness review process that all the WSAs being studied meet the minimum standards for wilderness identified by the Congress in the Wilderness Act of 1964 and FLPMA of 1976.

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 Code of Federal Regulations (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 in developing suitability recommendations during the planning sequence.

The Proposed Action recommends as suitable for wilderness designation those WSAs, or portions of WSAs, with high quality wilderness values. In addition, the Proposed Action would limit conflicts between the wilderness resource and livestock use, recreational ORV use, and development of known or potential lead-silver or barite mineral resources. Under the Proposed Action, 19,350 acres would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation including the entire Gooding City of Rocks West WSA and a 13,063-acre portion of the Gooding

City of Rocks East WSA. The Little City of Rocks WSA, Black Canyon WSA, Deer Creek WSA, Lava WSA, Friedman Creek WSA, and a 1,680-acre portion of the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

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. The alternatives assessed in this EIS include: (1) a No Wilderness Alternative for each WSA, (2) an All Wilderness Alternative for each WSA, and (3) a Partial Wilderness Alternative for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA.

In this document, the No Action Alternative, as required by the National Environmental Protection Act, and the No Wilderness Alternative are equivalent. Both advocate continuation of management as outlined in existing MFPs and recommendation of the WSAs 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 can make suitable or nonsuitable recommendations ranging between the All Wilderness and No Action alternatives. A partial wilderness alternative can recommend as suitable for wilderness designation something less than the entire acreage of one WSA.

Alternatives Considered But Dropped From Further Analysis

A Partial Wilderness Alternative was considered but dropped from further analysis for each of the WSAs, with the exception of the Partial Wilderness Alternative analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. The reasons for setting aside these Partial Wilderness Alternatives are discussed below.

Friedman Creek WSA (ID-53-5)

A Partial Wilderness Alternative that would recommend as suitable something less than the entire acreage of this WSA was considered as means to accomplish any of the following three goals:

1. Remove nine 40-acre private and State land inholdings from the portion recommended suitable
2. Remove those public lands with high potential for mineral discovery from the portion recommended suitable
3. Improve the manageability of the portion recommended suitable through adjustments to exclude narrow fingers of public land less than a mile wide, the long finger of private land that juts into the WSA from the western boundary, and the block of State land that penetrates into the WSA from the northern boundary.

No reasonable boundary adjustments were identified that would accomplish any of the three goals and leave essential wilderness values intact. Therefore, this alternative was dropped from further consideration.

Little City of Rocks WSA (ID-54-5)

A Partial Wilderness Alternative that would recommend as suitable something less than the entire acreage of this WSA was considered but dropped because no boundary was found that would significantly reduce resource conflicts, improve the quality of the wilderness values, or improve the WSA's manageability while maintaining essential wilderness values.

Black Canyon WSA (ID-54-6)

A Partial Wilderness Alternative that would recommend as suitable something less than the entire acreage of this WSA was considered but dropped because no boundary was found that would significantly reduce resource conflicts, improve the quality of the wilderness values, or improve the WSA's manageability while maintaining essential wilderness values.

Gooding City of Rocks East WSA (ID-54-8a)

Comments on the draft EIS suggested inclusion of a Partial Wilderness Alternative that would reduce the size of the portion recommended suitable to the "natural wilderness boundary". This alternative was considered, but dropped because there are no clear physiographic or natural boundaries within the WSA that delineate where the Gooding City of Rocks formation stops, and because no suitable boundary could be found that would not result in essential wilderness values being removed from the area recommended suitable. The Partial Wilderness Alternative that is the Proposed Action for this WSA does adjust the northern boundary to exclude flatter lands and concentrations of range developments along that boundary.

Gooding City of Rocks West WSA (ID-54-8b)

A Partial Wilderness Alternative that would recommend as suitable something less than the entire acreage of this WSA was considered as a means to eliminate all mining claims from within the area recommended suitable. The alternative was dropped from further consideration because no suitable boundary could be found that would not result in essential wilderness values being removed from the area recommended suitable.

Deer Creek WSA (ID-54-10)

A Partial Wilderness Alternative that would recommend as suitable something less than the entire acreage of this WSA was considered but dropped because no boundary was found that would significantly reduce resource conflicts, improve the quality of the wilderness values, or improve the WSA's manageability while maintaining essential wilderness values.

Lava WSA (ID-56-2)

A Partial Wilderness Alternative that would recommend as suitable something less than the entire acreage of this WSA was considered but dropped because no boundary was found that would significantly reduce resource conflicts, improve the quality of the wilderness values, or improve the WSA's manageability while maintaining essential wilderness values.

Other Partial Wilderness Alternatives

Another type of alternative that has been considered for analysis and dropped are aggregate alternatives that combine different clusters of WSA specific All Wilderness, No Wilderness, and Partial Wilderness alternatives. Since this approach does not change the WSA specific analysis of All Wilderness, No Wilderness or Partial Wilderness alternatives for each WSA, it provides no additional analysis of these alternatives. The lack of statewide and regional issues or resource conflicts make an aggregate alternative unnecessary and this approach has been dropped from the final EIS.

In addition, two aggregate alternatives suggested by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert, the Compromise Wilderness Alternative and the Bennett Hills Compromise Alternative, and numerous variations identified in comments on the draft EIS are already incorporated into the WSA specific All Wilderness, No Wilderness and Partial Wilderness alternatives that have been selected for analysis. Therefore, these alternatives have been dropped from further consideration.

CHAPTER 2

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Since the pattern of future actions within the WSAs can not be predicted with certainty, assumptions were made to allow the analysis of impacts under the Proposed Action and alternatives. These assumptions are the basis of the impacts identified in this EIS. They are not management plans or proposals, but represent feasible patterns of activities which could occur under the alternatives analyzed.

FRIEDMAN CREEK WSA (ID-53-5)

Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative)

All 9,773 acres of public land in the Friedman Creek WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation (See Map 3).

Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The entire Friedman Creek WSA would continue to be allotted for livestock grazing. Projection beyond planning estimates indicate that livestock use would be maintained at the existing level of 1,700 animal unit months (AUMs) for sheep and cattle for the next ten years and beyond. Two miles of existing fence within the WSA (See Map 10) would be maintained for livestock management purposes. No additional range developments would be constructed in the WSA, and maintenance activities would not change.

Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

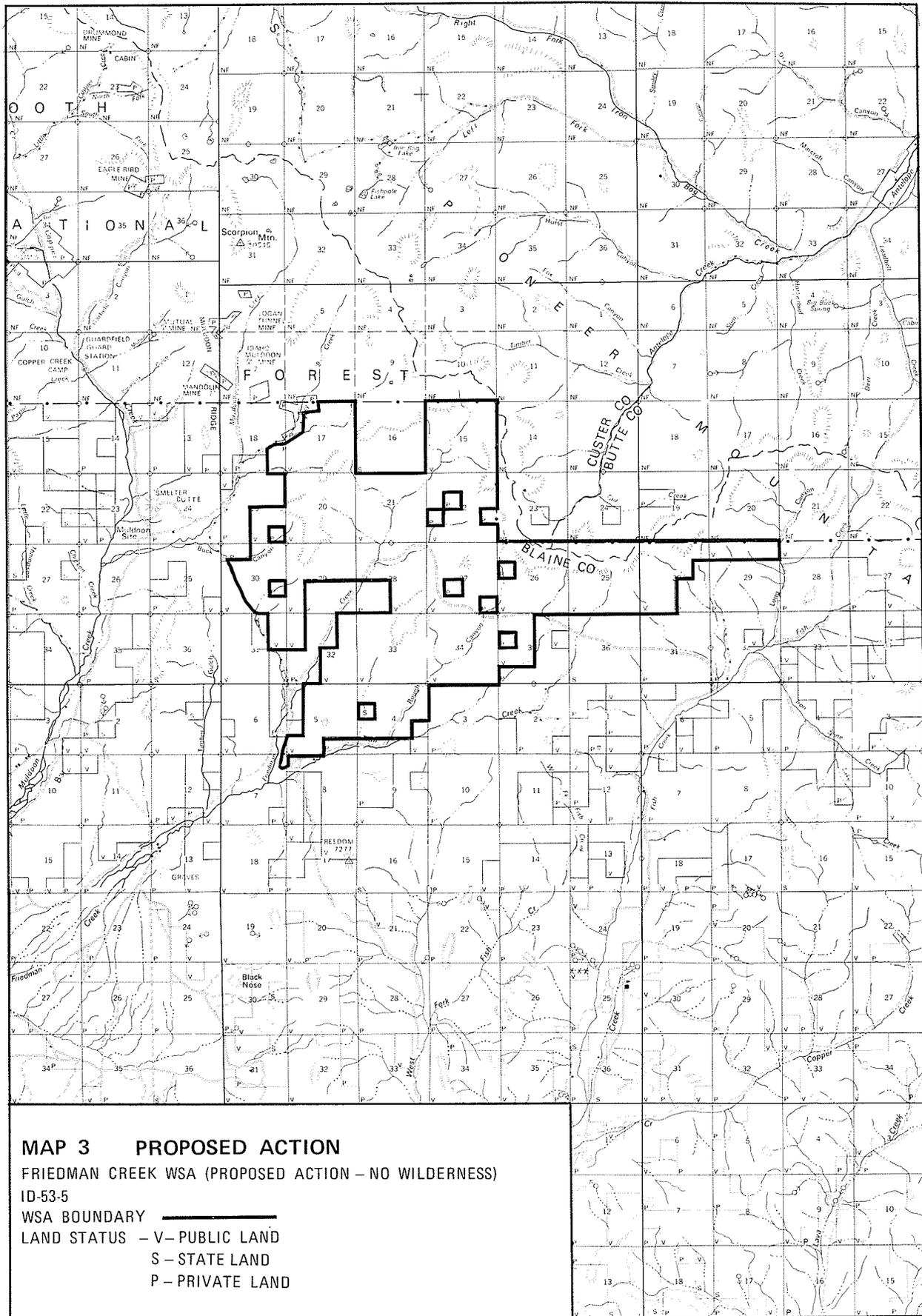
The lands within the WSA would remain open to recreational ORV use. Approximately 100 visitor days of ORV use is currently occurring in the WSA. Projections indicate that recreational ORV use would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 1,000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future.

No vehicle ways exist in the WSA. Six miles of road associated with locatable mineral development would be constructed into the center of the WSA at some time in the future. No other development of ways or roads is anticipated because of the low use the area receives.

Other Recreation

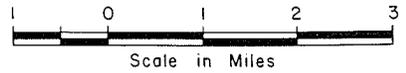
The Friedman Creek WSA would be open for other recreation activities in addition to recreational ORV use. These activities would include hunting, fishing, hunting-associated horseback riding and camping, photography and sightseeing. Recreational use for these activities would remain below 1,000

FRIEDMAN CREEK WSA ID-53-5



T. 4 N.
 T. 3 N.
 T. 2 N.

R. 21 E. R. 22 E. R. 23 E.



visitor days annually for the next ten years. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA and none are planned, however, the six miles of road constructed in association with mineral development would be used by hunters to gain access to the central portion of the WSA. Development of recreation facilities is not anticipated because of the low use the area receives.

Mineral Resources Actions

No development of the two existing mining claims located along the north-west boundary of the the WSA is anticipated due to the absence of a known discovery (see Map 10). However, geochemical analyses in the Friedman Creek and the Rough Creek drainages in the central portion of the WSA indicate high favorability for metallic mineral ores within the WSA. It is assumed that there would be discovery and location of a lode claim for metallic mineral resources in each drainage. Based on similar developments in areas within five miles of the WSA, an estimated 25 acres of surface disturbance would be associated with developing each claim, including 5 acres of disturbance caused by construction of three miles of primitive road from the WSA's western boundary, and 20 acres of disturbance associated with tailings piles, adits, loading areas and buildings in the vicinity of the lode claim.

Although the potential for occurrence of barite within the WSA is moderate, no development of this mineral is anticipated because of better potential in more accessible areas outside the WSA. Potential for development of other locatable minerals is low because of low favorability for occurrence. Potential for development of saleable minerals is low because of the distance to markets.

The WSA is classified as having moderate favorability for oil and gas occurrence. However, development is not anticipated because of the lack of leases, exploration, or industry interest; the high costs associated with test wells; the area's inaccessibility and location outside of a known oil and gas province; and better potential for reserves in other areas.

All Wilderness Alternative

All 9,773 acres of public land in the Friedman Creek WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation (See Map 3).

Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The entire Friedman Creek WSA would continue to be allotted for livestock grazing. Projection beyond planning estimates indicate that livestock use would be maintained at the existing level of 1,700 AUMs for both sheep and cattle for the next ten years and beyond. Two miles of existing fence within the WSA (See Map 10) would be maintained for livestock management purposes. No additional range developments would be constructed in the WSA, and maintenance activities would not change.

Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The Friedman Creek WSA would be closed to recreational ORV use. This action would eliminate approximately 100 visitor days of recreational ORV use that are estimated to occur in the area annually.

Other Recreation

The Friedman Creek WSA would be open for non-motorized recreation activities including hunting, fishing, hunting-associated horseback riding and camping, photography, and sightseeing. Recreational use for these activities would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 1000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA and none are planned. Development of recreation facilities is not anticipated because of the low use the area receives.

Mineral Resources Actions

Subject to valid existing rights, the Friedman Creek WSA would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. Validity examinations would be conducted on the two mining claims that are presently located within the WSA and any other mineral claims that exist at the time of designation. No mineral development of two mineral claims that currently exist in the WSA is anticipated due to a lack of known mineral discovery.

Management Actions to Exchange for State and Private Inholdings

Action would be initiated to acquire eight 40-acre private land inholdings and one 40-acre State land inholding through voluntary exchange (see Map 3).

Summary of Impacts

Table 2-1 summarizes the impacts of the All Wilderness and No Wilderness alternatives.

TABLE 2-1

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS
FRIEDMAN CREEK WSA

Environmental Issues	Proposed Action	
	No Wilderness Alternative	All Wilderness Alternative
Impact on Wilderness Values	The area's wilderness values of size, naturalness, and opportunities for solitude would be lost.	All wilderness values would receive long term Congressional protection. Wilderness values would be slightly enhanced on all 9,773 acres of the Friedman Creek WSA.
Impact on Recreational ORV Use	Although the area would be more accessible, recreational ORV use would remain below 1,000 visitor days annually. There would be no significant impact on recreational ORV use.	Recreational ORV use of 100 visitor days would be forgone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.
Impact on Development of Mineral Resources	Potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes high favorability for metallic minerals and moderate favorability for oil and gas and barite. There would be no impact on development of mineral resources.	Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes high favorability for metallic minerals and moderate favorability for oil and gas and barite.
Impact on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction	There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.	There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance or construction.

LITTLE CITY OF ROCKS WSA (ID-54-5)

Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative)

All 5,875 acres of public land in the Little City of Rocks WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation (See Map 4).

Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The entire Little City of Rocks WSA would continue to be allotted for livestock grazing. Projection beyond planning estimates indicate that livestock use would be maintained at the existing level of 640 AUMs for sheep for the next ten years and beyond. No livestock or range management facilities that would require maintenance are located within the WSA and no additional construction of livestock and range management facilities would occur within the WSA.

Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The lands within the Little City of Rocks WSA would remain open for ORV use. The existing ORV use levels of approximately 1,500 visitor days annually would increase to approximately 2,500 visitor days annually over the next 10 years. Projection beyond existing planning estimates indicate that recreational ORV use in the WSA would continue to increase, but would not exceed 5,000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. Although no ORV trails are maintained or planned in the WSA, 1.4 miles of vehicle ways and 5 miles of faint trailbike tracks that extend along the main drainage into the WSA would be maintained by existing use. Increased use in the future would result in development of the present faint trailbike tracks into well-defined trails. Five more miles of poorly defined trailbike tracks would be established by increased use along the main drainage in the central part of the WSA.

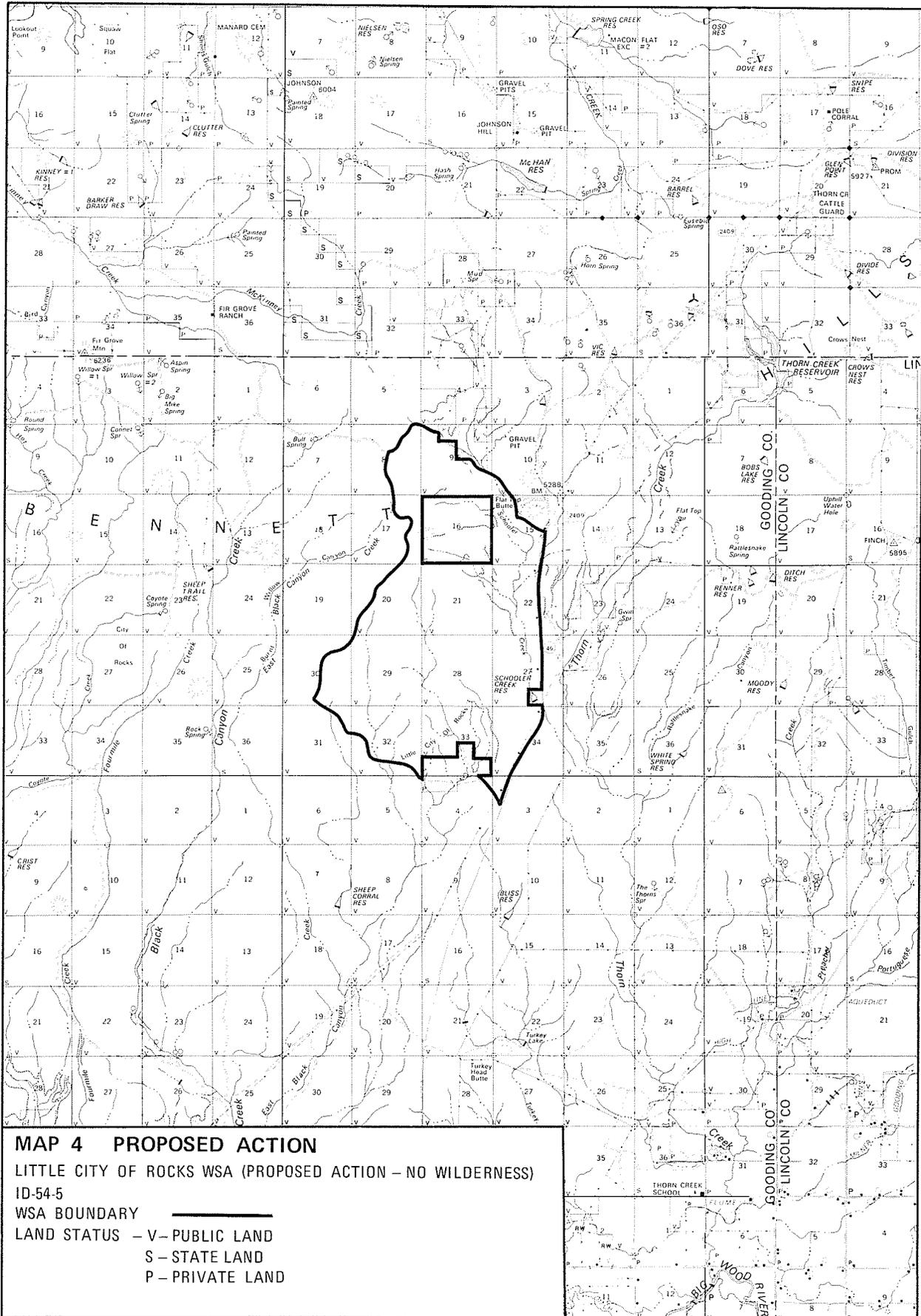
Other Recreation

The Little City of Rocks WSA would be open for other recreation activities in addition to recreational ORV use. These activities include hiking, hunting, horseback riding, camping, photography, nature study, and sightseeing. Recreational use for these activities would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 1,000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA and none are planned. Development of recreation facilities is not anticipated because of the low use the area receives.

Mineral Resources Actions

The WSA is classified as having low potential for locatable and saleable mineral resources. Therefore, locatable or saleable mineral development is not anticipated. Although the area is classified as being prospectively valuable for oil and gas and has moderate to high potential for low temperature

LITTLE CITY OF ROCKS WSA ID-54-5



MAP 4 PROPOSED ACTION

LITTLE CITY OF ROCKS WSA (PROPOSED ACTION - NO WILDERNESS)
ID-54-5

WSA BOUNDARY

LAND STATUS - V - PUBLIC LAND
S - STATE LAND
P - PRIVATE LAND



R.14E.

R.15E.

R.16E.



Scale in Miles

T. 2 S.

T. 3 S.

T. 4 S.

geothermal resources and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources, mineral development or exploration is not anticipated because higher potential exists in more accessible locations outside the WSA.

All Wilderness Alternative

All 5,875 acres of public land in the Little City of Rocks WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation (See Map 4).

Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The entire Little City of Rocks WSA would continue to be allotted for livestock grazing. Projection beyond existing planning estimates indicate that livestock use would be maintained at 640 AUMs for sheep for the next ten years and into the future. No livestock or range management facilities that would require maintenance are located within the WSA and no construction of livestock and range management facilities would occur within the WSA.

Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The area would be closed to recreational ORV use. This action would eliminate approximately 1,500 visitor days of recreational ORV use that are estimated to occur annually in the area at present. The 1.4 miles of existing vehicle ways and 5 miles of bike trails would be closed to vehicle use and allowed to revegetate.

Other Recreation

The Little City of Rocks WSA would be open for non-motorized recreation activities. These include hiking, hunting, horseback riding, camping, photography, nature study, and sightseeing. Recreational use for these activities would increase slightly, but would remain below 1,000 visitor days annually for the next ten years and beyond. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA and none are planned. Development of recreation facilities is not anticipated because of the low use the area receives.

Mineral Resource Actions

The WSA is classified as having low potential for locatable and saleable mineral resources. Therefore, locatable and saleable mineral development is not anticipated. Although the area is classified as being prospectively valuable for oil and gas and has moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources, mineral development or exploration is not anticipated because higher potential exists in more accessible locations outside the WSA.

Management Actions to Exchange for State Inholdings

Actions would be initiated to acquire, through voluntary exchange, a 640-acre inholding of State land.

Summary of Impacts

Table 2-2 summarizes the impacts of the All Wilderness and No Wilderness alternatives.

TABLE 2-2
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS
LITTLE CITY OF ROCKS WSA

Environmental Issues	Proposed Action No Wilderness Alternative	All Wilderness Alternative
Impact on Wilderness Values	The WSA's naturalness would be lost in areas of concentrated ORV use. Recreational ORV use would reduce opportunities for solitude.	All wilderness values would receive long term Congressional protection. All wilderness values would be maintained. Naturalness and opportunities for solitude would improve slightly.
Impact on Recreational ORV Use	There would be no impact on recreational ORV use.	Recreational ORV use of 1,500 visitor days would be forgone annually. Impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.
Impact on Development of Mineral Resources	Potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources. There would be no impact to development of mineral resources.	Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources.
Impact on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction	There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.	There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

BLACK CANYON WSA (ID-54-6)

Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative)

All 10,371 acres of public land in the Black Canyon WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation (See Map 5).

Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The entire Black Canyon WSA would continue to be allotted for livestock grazing. Projection beyond existing planning estimates indicate livestock use would be maintained at 560 AUMs for sheep and cattle for the next ten years and beyond. Existing range and livestock management facilities, 7.5 miles of three-strand barbed wire fence and a spring development at Rock Spring, would be maintained. The planned reservoir (less than 1/3 acre) would be constructed in the western part of the WSA (see Map 12). Projection beyond existing planning estimates indicate that maintenance activities would not change.

Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

Lands within the Black Canyon WSA would remain open for ORV use. Projection beyond existing planning estimates indicate that recreational ORV use would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 1,000 visitor days annually for the next ten years and beyond. Two cherrystem roads that extend into the WSA from the northern and western boundaries for a total length of 2 miles would be maintained by vehicle use at existing and projected levels. Based on present and projected use levels, creation of new trails or ways by recreational ORV use is not anticipated.

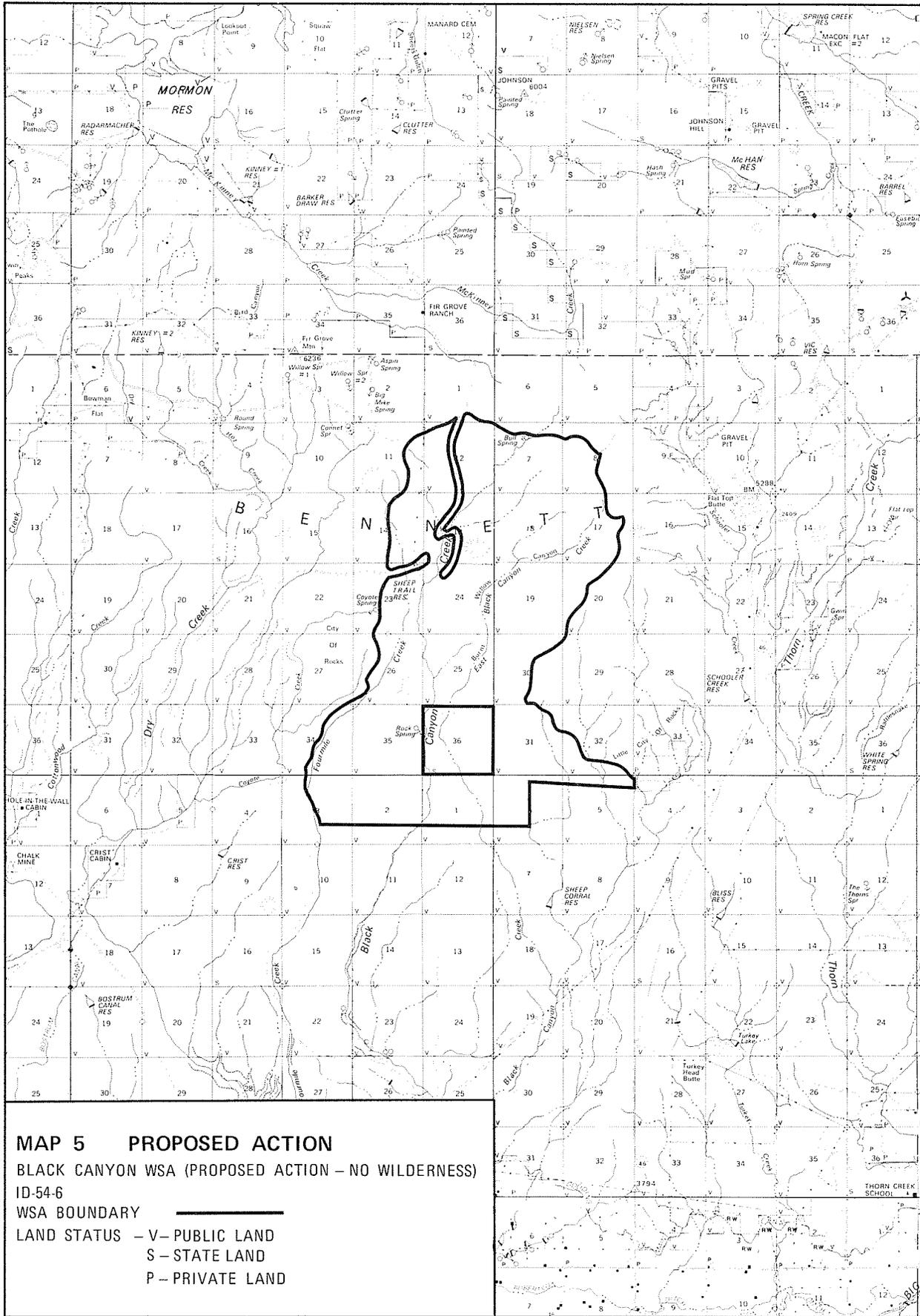
Other Recreation

The Black Canyon WSA would be open for other recreation activities in addition to recreational ORV use including hunting, hunting-associated horse-back riding and camping, photography, and nature study. Projections beyond existing planning estimates indicate that recreational use for these activities would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 1,000 visitor days annually for the next 10 years. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA and none are planned.

Mineral Resource Actions

The WSA is classified as having low potential for locatable and saleable mineral resources. Therefore, locatable and saleable mineral exploration and development is not anticipated. Although the area is classified as being prospectively valuable for oil and gas and has moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources, mineral development is not anticipated because higher potential exists in more accessible locations outside the WSA.

BLACK CANYON WSA ID-54-6



T. 2 S.

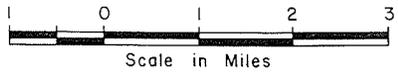
T. 3 S.

T. 4 S.

MAP 5 PROPOSED ACTION
 BLACK CANYON WSA (PROPOSED ACTION – NO WILDERNESS)
 ID-54-6
 WSA BOUNDARY —————
 LAND STATUS – V – PUBLIC LAND
 S – STATE LAND
 P – PRIVATE LAND

R.14E.

R.15E.



All Wilderness Alternative

All 10,371 acres of public land in the Black Canyon WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation (See Map 5).

Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The entire Black Canyon WSA would continue to be allotted for livestock grazing. Projection beyond existing planning estimates indicate that livestock use would be maintained at the existing level of 560 AUMs for sheep and cattle for the next ten years and beyond. Existing range and livestock management facilities, 7.5 miles of three-strand barbed wire fence and a spring development at Rock Spring, would be maintained. Two cherrystem roads would receive vehicular use approximately ten times annually to provide required access for maintenance. The planned reservoir (less than 1/3 acre) would be constructed in the western part of the WSA (see Map 12). Projection beyond existing planning estimates indicate that maintenance activities would not change.

Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The entire Black Canyon WSA would be closed to recreational ORV use. This action would eliminate approximately 200 visitor days of recreational ORV use that are estimated to occur in the area annually. Two cherrystem roads (totaling two miles in length) would be closed to recreational vehicle use.

Other Recreation

The Black Canyon WSA would be open for non-motorized recreation activities including hunting, hunting-associated horseback riding and camping, photography, and nature study. Recreational use for these activities would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 1,000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA and none are planned. Development of recreation facilities in the future is not anticipated because of the low use the area receives.

Mineral Resource Actions

The WSA is classified as having low potential for locatable and saleable mineral resources. Therefore, locatable and saleable mineral exploration and development is not anticipated. Although the area is classified as being prospectively valuable for oil and gas and has moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources, mineral development is not anticipated because higher potential exists in more accessible locations outside the WSA.

Management Actions to Exchange for State Inholdings

Action would be initiated to acquire a 640-acre inholding of State land through voluntary exchange.

Summary of Impacts

Table 2-3 summarizes the impacts of the All Wilderness and No Wilderness alternatives.

TABLE 2-3

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS
BLACK CANYON WSA

Environmental Issues	Proposed Action No Wilderness Alternative	All Wilderness Alternative
Impact on Wilderness Values	In the long term, the additional range development would reduce naturalness slightly in the western portion of the WSA. The naturalness of the remainder of the WSA would be retained.	All wilderness values would receive long term Congressional protection. All wilderness values would be maintained. There would be a slight improvement in the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude. The additional range development would reduce naturalness slightly in the western portion of the WSA.
Impact on Recreational ORV Use	There would be no impact on recreational ORV use.	Recreational ORV use of 200 visitor days would be forgone annually. Impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.
Impact on Development of Mineral Resources	Potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources. There would be no impact on development of mineral resources.	Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources.
Impact on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction	There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.	There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

Proposed Action (Partial Wilderness Alternative)

A portion of the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA, with 13,063 acres, would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. The remaining 1,680 acres, located along the northern boundary of the WSA, would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation (see Map 6).

Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The entire Gooding City of Rocks East WSA would continue to be allotted for livestock grazing. Projection beyond existing planning estimates indicate that livestock use would be maintained at the existing levels of 800 AUMs for sheep and cattle for the next ten years and beyond. The Connet Erosion Control Dam and associated fencing, the Connet Spring, and Round Spring located in the parcel recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation would be maintained. Two spring developments and seven miles of barbed wire fence would be maintained in the parcel recommended suitable for wilderness designation. Although two cherrystem roads and the western boundary road would be closed to most vehicle use, they would remain available for vehicle use approximately ten times annually to maintain fences and spring developments and for livestock management. All range developments planned in the WSA would be completed. This includes approximately 320 acres of prescriptive burning to reintroduce fire into a fire dependent ecosystem and to maintain livestock forage at current levels. One spring development would be completed to enhance distribution of livestock use and maintain the condition of vegetative communities (see Map 13).

Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

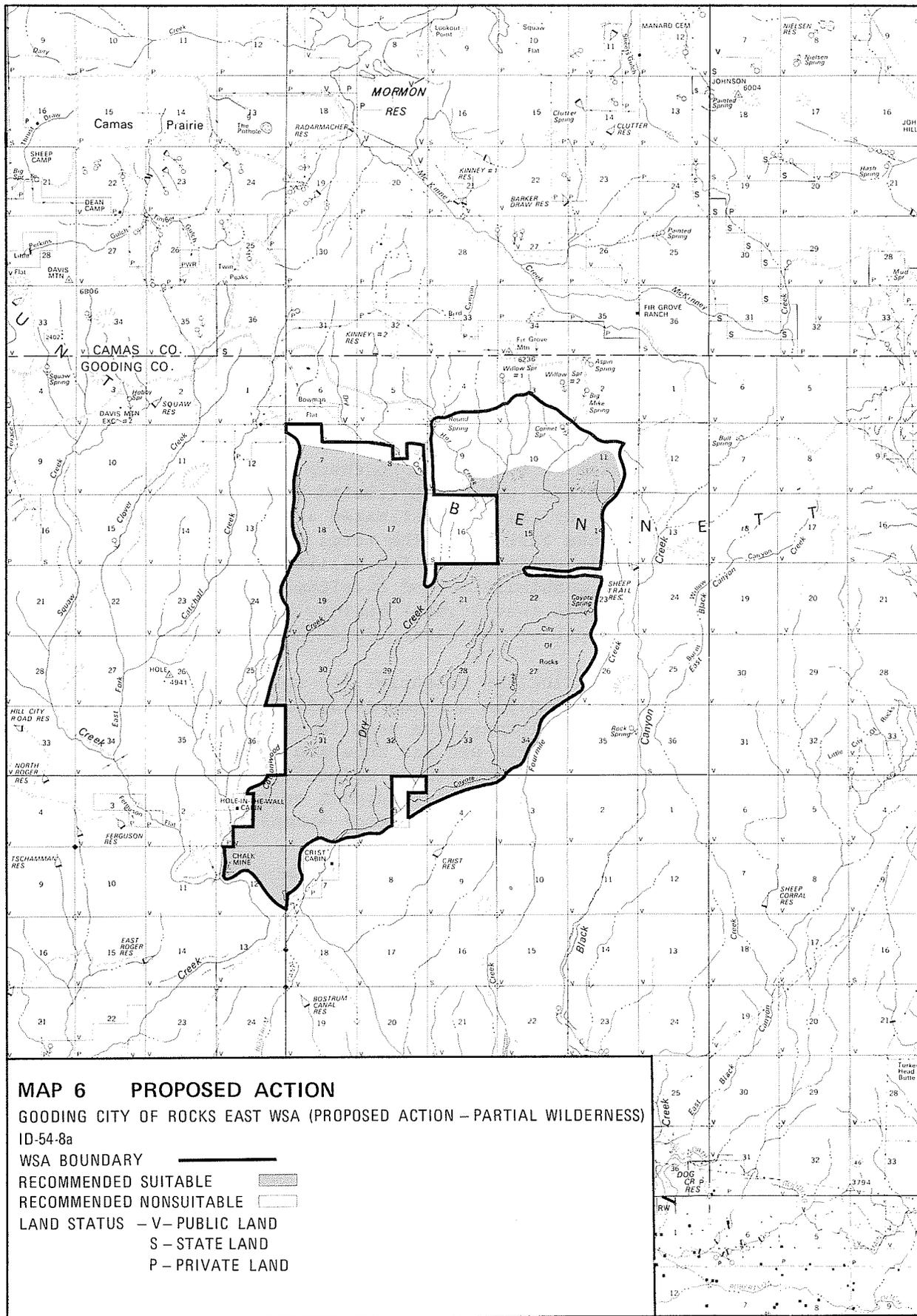
The 13,063 acre parcel recommended as suitable for wilderness designation would be closed to recreational ORV use. Cherrystem roads extending into the WSA from the northern and eastern boundaries for a total of 3 miles and 3 miles of ways would be closed to recreational ORV use. The 3.5 miles of road that separates this WSA from Gooding City of Rocks West WSA would be closed except for maintenance of livestock facilities as described previously. This action would eliminate approximately 140 visitor days of recreational ORV use that are estimated to occur annually in the area.

The 1,680 acre parcel recommended nonsuitable would remain open for ORV use. A way .4 miles long would be open for vehicle use. Projection beyond existing planning estimates indicate that recreational ORV use would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 100 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future.

Other Recreation

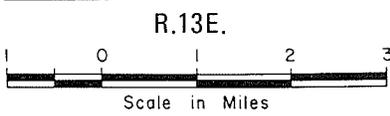
The Gooding City of Rocks East WSA would be open for non-motorized recreation activities. These include hunting, fishing, hunting-associated horseback

GOODING CITY OF ROCKS EAST WSA ID-54-8a



MAP 6 PROPOSED ACTION
 GOODING CITY OF ROCKS EAST WSA (PROPOSED ACTION – PARTIAL WILDERNESS)
 ID-54-8a

WSA BOUNDARY ———
 RECOMMENDED SUITABLE [shaded box]
 RECOMMENDED NONSUITABLE [white box]
 LAND STATUS – V – PUBLIC LAND
 S – STATE LAND
 P – PRIVATE LAND



T. 2 S.
 T. 3 S.
 T. 4 S.

R. 13 E.

R. 14 E.

R. 15 E.

riding and camping, photography, nature study, and sightseeing. Recreational use for these activities would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 1,000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA and none are planned. Development of recreation facilities is not anticipated because of the low use the area receives.

Mineral Resource Actions

Subject to valid existing rights, the 13,063 acres of the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA recommended suitable would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mineral leasing and mining laws. Approximately 440 acres of the portion recommended suitable are covered by mining claims for diatomaceous earth. These claims would be examined to determine validity. Plans of operations for development of these claims and any others that exist at the time of designation would be processed in accordance with existing regulations.

The total deposit of diatomite within the southern boundaries of the Gooding City of Rocks East and West WSAs is estimated to contain 40 million tons of non-marine diatomite. Of this, an estimated 6 million tons occurs within the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. The total deposit of diatomite within five miles of the WSA is estimated at 400 million tons (U.S. Bureau of Mines preliminary data). The possibilities of development of the diatomite within the WSA is low because the inconsistent quality of the deposit, the distance to market, and the depth of overburden renders development uneconomic.

The WSA is classified as having low potential for metallic and non-metallic mineral resources. Therefore, metallic and non-metallic mineral resource development is not anticipated. Although the area is classified as being prospectively valuable for oil and gas and has moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources, mineral development or exploration is not anticipated because higher potential exists in more accessible locations outside the WSA.

Management Actions to Exchange for State Land

Action would be initiated to acquire a State land parcel of 640 acres through voluntary exchange. The cherrystem road providing access from the northern boundary road would be closed to vehicle use, except as provided for above.

All Wilderness Alternative

All 14,743 acres of public land in the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation (see Map 6).

Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The entire Gooding City of Rocks East WSA would continue to be allotted for livestock grazing. Projection beyond existing planning estimates indicate that livestock use would be maintained at the existing level of 800 AUMs for sheep and cattle for the next ten years and beyond. The Connet Erosion Control Dam and associated fencing, the Connet Spring, Round Spring, Coyote Spring and Bowman Spring developments and seven miles of barbed wire fence would be maintained. Although two cherrystem roads and the western boundary road would be closed to most vehicle use, they would continue to be available for vehicle use approximately ten times annually to maintain fences and spring developments and for livestock management. All range developments planned in the WSA would be completed. This includes approximately 320 acres of prescriptive burning to reintroduce fire into a fire dependent ecosystem and maintain livestock forage at current levels. One spring development would be completed to enhance distribution of livestock use and maintain the condition of vegetative communities.

Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The entire WSA would be closed to recreational ORV use. Cherrystem roads extending into the WSA from the northern and eastern boundaries, totaling 3 miles, and four ways, totaling 3.4 miles, would be closed to recreational ORV use. The 3.5 miles of road that separates the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA from Gooding City of Rocks West WSA would be closed to recreational ORV use. This action would eliminate approximately 150 visitor days of recreational ORV use that are estimated to occur annually in the area at present.

Other Recreation

The Gooding City of Rocks East WSA would be open for non-motorized recreation activities. These include hunting, fishing, hunting-associated horseback riding and camping, photography, nature study and sightseeing. Recreational use for these activities would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 1,000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA and none are planned because of the low use the area receives.

Mineral Resource Actions

Subject to valid existing rights, the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws.

Approximately 440 acres of the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA are covered by mining claims for diatomaceous earth. These claims would be examined to determine validity. Plans of operations for these claims and any others existing at the time of designation would be processed in accordance with existing regulations.

The total deposit of diatomite within the southern boundaries of the Gooding City of Rocks East and West WSAs is estimated to contain 40 million tons of non-marine diatomite. Of this, an estimated 6 million tons occurs within the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. The total deposit of diatomite within five miles of the WSA is estimated at 400 million tons (U.S. Bureau of Mines preliminary data). The possibilities of development of the diatomite within the WSA is low because the inconsistent quality of the deposit, the distance to market, and the depth of overburden renders development uneconomic.

The WSA is classified as having low potential for metallic and non-metallic mineral resources. Therefore, metallic and non-metallic mineral resource development is not anticipated. Although the area is classified as being prospectively valuable for oil and gas and has moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources, mineral development is not anticipated because higher potential exists in more accessible locations outside the WSA.

Management Actions to Exchange for State Land

Action would be initiated to acquire a State land parcel of 640 acres through voluntary exchange. The cherrystem road providing access from the northern boundary road would be closed to vehicle use, except as provided above.

No Wilderness Alternative

All 14,743 acres of the public land in the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation (see Map 6).

Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The entire Gooding City of Rocks East WSA would continue to be allotted for livestock grazing. Projection beyond existing planning estimates indicate that livestock use would be maintained at the existing level of 800 AUMs for sheep and cattle in the entire WSA for the next ten years and beyond. The Connet Erosion Control Dam and associated fencing, the Connet Spring, Round Spring, Coyote Spring and Bowman Spring developments and seven miles of barbed wire fence would be maintained. All range developments planned in the WSA would be completed. This includes approximately 320 acres of prescriptive burning to reintroduce fire into a fire dependent ecosystem and to maintain livestock forage at current levels. One spring development would be completed to enhance distribution of livestock use and maintain the condition of vegetative communities.

Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The entire WSA would remain open to ORV use. It is reasonable to expect that recreational ORV use would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 1,000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. Cherrystem roads extending from the northern and eastern boundary for a total of 3 miles would

be available for recreational and other vehicular use. The 3.5 miles of road that separates this WSA from Gooding City of Rocks West WSA would be open for use. Further development of ways or roads is not anticipated because of the low use the area receives.

Other Recreation

The Gooding City of Rocks East WSA would be open for recreation activities in addition to recreational ORV use including hunting, fishing, hunting-associated horseback riding and camping, photography, nature study, and sightseeing. Projections beyond existing planning estimates indicate that recreational use for these activities would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 1,000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA and none are planned because of the low use the area receives.

Mineral Resource Actions

Approximately 440 acres of the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA are covered by mining claims for diatomaceous earth (see Map 13). Plans of operations for development of these claims would be processed in accordance with existing regulations. Because preliminary studies indicate that minerals located on these claims are not of commercial quality or quantity, no development of these claims is anticipated.

The total deposit of diatomite within the southern boundaries of the Gooding City of Rocks East and West WSAs is estimated to contain 40 million tons of non-marine diatomite. Of this, an estimated 6 million tons occurs within the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. The total deposit of diatomite within five miles of the WSA is estimated at 400 million tons (U.S. Bureau of Mines preliminary data). The possibilities of development of the diatomite within the WSA is low because the inconsistent quality of the deposit, the distance to market, and the depth of overburden renders development uneconomic.

The WSA is classified as having low potential for metallic and non-metallic mineral resources. Therefore, metallic and non-metallic mineral resource development is not anticipated. Although the area is classified as being prospectively valuable for oil and gas and has moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources, mineral development is not anticipated because higher potential exists in more accessible locations outside the WSA.

Summary of Impacts

Table 2-4 summarizes the impacts of the Partial Wilderness, All Wilderness and No Wilderness alternatives.

TABLE 2-4

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS
GOODING CITY OF ROCKS EAST WSA

Environmental Issue	Proposed Action Partial Wilderness Alternative	All Wilderness Alternative	No Wilderness Alternative
Impact on Wilderness Values	The 13,063 acres designated as wilderness would receive long term Congressional protection. All wilderness values in this area would be maintained. The area's naturalness and opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and solitude would improve slightly. The area's most spectacular scenery, naturalness, and opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude would be retained. On the 1,680 acres not designated as wilderness, there would be a slight reduction of naturalness and opportunities for solitude.	All wilderness values would receive long term Congressional protection. There would be a slight improvement in the area's naturalness and opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and solitude on 13,063 acres. On 1,680 acres, there would be a slight decrease in naturalness and opportunities for solitude.	There would be a slight reduction in naturalness and opportunities for solitude on 13,063 acres. On 1,680 acres, there would be a moderate reduction of the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude.
Impact on Recreational ORV Use	Recreational ORV use of 140 visitor days would be forgone on 13,063 acres annually. Impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible. On the 1,680 acres of the WSA not designated as wilderness, recreational ORV use would continue to increase, but would not exceed 100 visitor days annually.	Recreational ORV use of 150 visitor days would be forgone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.	There would be no impact on recreational ORV use.
Impact on Development of Mineral Resources	Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone on 13,063 acres. This includes an estimated 6 million tons of diatomite (1.5 percent of the total reserve within 5 miles of the WSA). Moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources also exists in the area. Potential mineral resources on 1,680 acres would be available for development.	Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes an estimated 6 million tons of diatomite (1.5 percent of the total reserve within 5 miles of the WSA) and moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources.	Potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources, low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources, and an estimated 6 million tons of diatomite (1.5 percent of the total reserve within 5 miles of the WSA). There would be no impact on development of mineral resources.
Impact on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction	There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.	There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.	There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

Proposed Action (All Wilderness Alternative)

All 6,287 acres of public land in the Gooding City of Rocks West WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation (see Map 7).

Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The entire Gooding City of Rocks WSA would continue to be allotted for livestock grazing. Projection beyond existing planning estimates indicate that livestock use would be maintained at the existing level of 600 AUMs for sheep and cattle for the next ten years and beyond. All range developments planned in the WSA would be completed and maintained. This includes approximately 1,320 acres of prescriptive burning to reintroduce fire into a fire dependent ecosystem and maintain livestock forage at current levels. One spring development and two reservoirs (less than 1/3 acre each) would be completed to enhance distribution of livestock use and to maintain the condition of vegetative communities (see Map 14). The cherrystem road to a reservoir in the northern part of the WSA would be available for vehicle use approximately ten times a year to maintain the reservoir and for livestock management.

Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The entire WSA would be designated closed to recreational ORV use. The cherrystem road extending .8 miles into the WSA from the northern boundary would be closed to recreational ORV use. The 3.5 miles of road that separates the Gooding City of Rocks West WSA from the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA would be closed to vehicles except for maintenance of livestock facilities. This action would eliminate approximately 50 visitor days of recreational ORV use that are estimated to occur in the area annually.

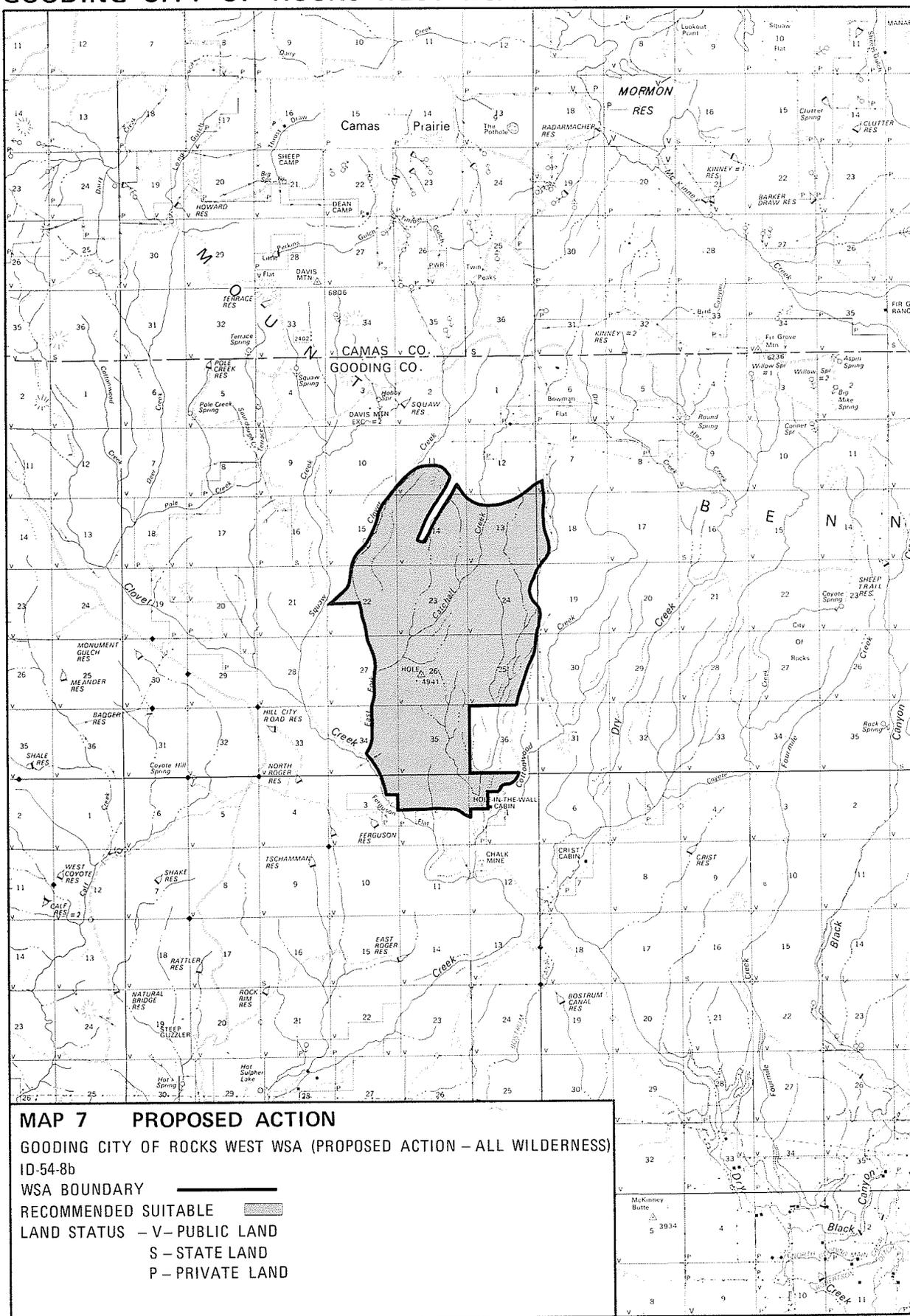
Other Recreation

The Gooding City of Rocks West WSA would be open for non-motorized recreation activities. These include hunting, hunting-related horseback riding and camping, photography, nature study, and sightseeing. Recreational use for these activities would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 1,000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA and none are planned because of the low use the area receives.

Mineral Resource Actions

Subject to valid existing rights, the WSA would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. Approximately 2,260 acres of the Gooding City of Rocks West WSA are covered by mining claims for diatomaceous earth (see Map 14). These claims would be examined to

GOODING CITY OF ROCKS WEST WSA ID-54-8b



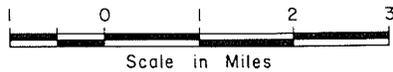
T. 2 S.

T. 3 S.

T. 4 S.

R.13E.

R.14E.



determine validity. Plans of operations for these claims and any others existing at the time of designation would be processed in accordance with existing regulations.

The total deposit of diatomite within the southern boundaries of the Gooding City of Rocks East and West WSAs is estimated to contain 40 million tons of non-marine diatomite. Of this, an estimated 34 million tons occurs within the Gooding City of Rocks West WSA. The total deposit of diatomite within five miles of the WSA is estimated at 400 million tons (U.S. Bureau of Mines preliminary data). The possibilities of development of the diatomite within the WSA is low because the inconsistent quality of the deposit, the distance to market, and the depth of overburden renders development uneconomic.

The WSA is classified as having low potential for metallic and non-metallic mineral resources. Therefore, metallic and non-metallic mineral resource development is not anticipated. Although the area is classified as being prospectively valuable for oil and gas and has moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources, mineral development is not anticipated because higher potential exists in more accessible locations outside the WSA.

No other locatable minerals are reported or known to occur within the WSA and no mineral leases exist in the WSA. Potential for building stone sales is low. Therefore, no mineral exploration or development is anticipated in the WSA.

Management Actions to Exchange for State Land

Action would be initiated to acquire a 640-acre State land parcel through voluntary exchange. The boundary road providing access from the southern boundary would be closed to vehicle use, except as provided for above.

No Wilderness Alternative

All 6,287 acres of public land in the Gooding City of Rocks West WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation (see Map 7).

Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The entire Gooding City of Rocks West WSA would continue to be allotted for livestock grazing. Projection beyond existing planning estimates indicate that livestock use would be maintained at the existing level of 600 AUMs for sheep and cattle for the next ten years and beyond. All range developments planned in the WSA would be completed and maintained. This includes approximately 1,320 acres of prescriptive burning to reintroduce fire into a fire dependent ecosystem and maintain livestock forage at current levels. One spring development and two reservoirs (less than 1/3 acre each) would be completed to enhance distribution of livestock use and to maintain the condition of vegetative communities.

Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The entire WSA would remain open to ORV use. A cherry stem road, .8 miles in length, would remain open for vehicular use. Recreational ORV use would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 500 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. Further development of ways or roads is not anticipated because of the low use the area receives.

Other Recreation

The Gooding City of Rocks West WSA would be open for recreation activities in addition to recreational ORV use. These include hunting, hunting-related horseback riding and camping, photography, nature study, and sightseeing. Recreational use for these activities would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 1000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA and none are planned because of the low use the area receives.

Mineral Resource Actions

Approximately 2,260 acres of the Gooding City of Rocks West WSA are covered by mining claims for diatomaceous earth. Plans of operations for development of these claims would be processed in accordance with existing regulations.

The total deposit of diatomite within the southern boundaries of the Gooding City of Rocks East and West WSAs is estimated to contain 40 million tons of non-marine diatomite. Of this, an estimated 34 million tons occurs within the Gooding City of Rocks West WSA. The total deposit of diatomite within five miles of the WSA is estimated at 400 million tons (U.S. Bureau of Mines preliminary data). The possibilities of development of the diatomite within the WSA is low because the inconsistent quality of the deposit, the distance to market, and depth of overburden renders development uneconomic.

The WSA is classified as having low potential for metallic and non-metallic mineral resources. Therefore, metallic and non-metallic mineral resource development is not anticipated. Although the area is classified as being prospectively valuable for oil and gas and has moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources, mineral development is not anticipated because better potential exists in more accessible locations outside the WSA. Therefore, no mineral resource exploration or development is anticipated in the WSA.

Summary of Impacts

Table 2-5 summarizes the impacts of the All Wilderness and No Wilderness alternatives.

TABLE 2-5

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS
GOODING CITY OF ROCKS WEST WSA

Environmental Issues	Proposed Action All Wildereness Alternative	No Wilderness Alternative
Impact on Wilderness Values	All wilderness values would receive long term Congressional protection. All wilderness values would be maintained. The area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation would improve.	There would be a reduction of the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
Impact on Recreational ORV Use	Recreational ORV use of 50 visitor days would be forgone annually. The impacts resulting from this use shifting to other public lands would be negligible.	There would be no impact on recreational ORV use.
Impact on Development of Mineral Resources	Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes an estimated 34 million tons of diatomite (8.5 percent of the total reserve within 5 miles of the WSA) and moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources.	Potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes an estimated 34 million tons of diatomite (8.5 percent of the total reserve within 5 miles of the WSA) and moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources.
Impact on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction	There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.	There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

DEER CREEK WSA (ID-54-10)

Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative)

All 7,487 acres of the public land in the Deer Creek WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation (see Map 8).

Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The entire Deer Creek WSA would continue to be allotted for livestock grazing. Projection beyond existing planning estimates indicate that livestock use would be maintained at the existing level of 1,193 AUMs for sheep and cattle for the next ten years and beyond. The existing 4.5 miles of barbed wire fence would be maintained. Range developments planned for the WSA would be completed and maintained. These include a reservoir (less than 1/3 acre), 2 miles of gap fencing, and 750 acres of brush control through the use of chemical spraying or prescribed burning (see Map 15). Projection beyond existing planning estimates indicate that maintenance activities would not change.

Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The lands within the WSA would remain open to ORV use. Recreational ORV use would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 1000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. Due to low use levels, creation of new trails or ways by recreational ORV use is not anticipated.

Other Recreation

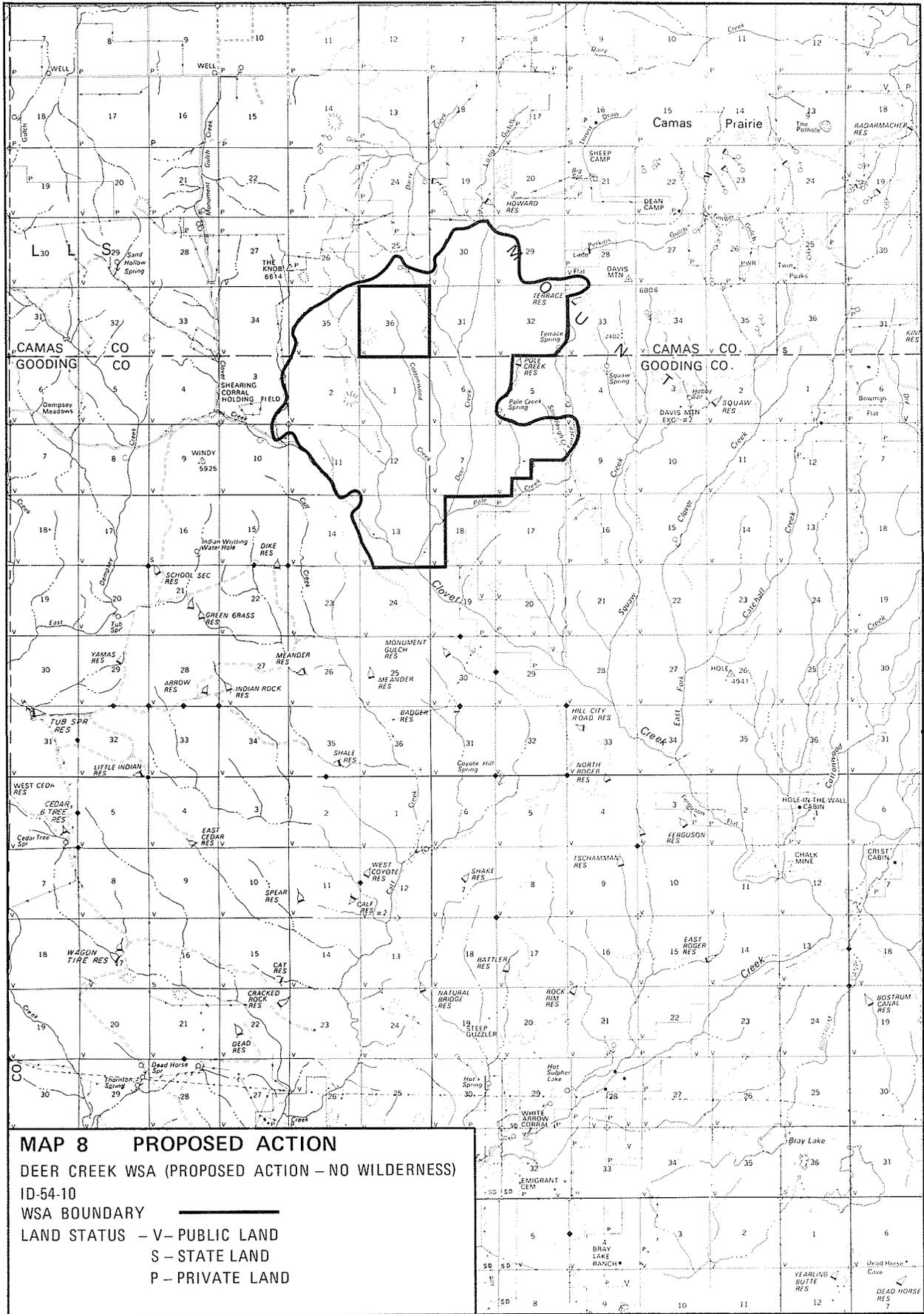
The Deer Creek WSA would be open for recreation activities in addition to recreational ORV use. These include hunting, hunting-associated horseback riding and camping, photography, and sightseeing. Recreational use for these activities would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 1,000 visitor use days annually for the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA and none are planned because of the low use the area receives.

Mineral Resource Actions

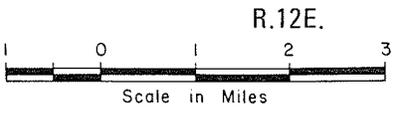
Deer Creek WSA is classified as prospectively valuable for oil and gas and as having moderate potential for low temperature geothermal resources. The WSA has low potential for metallic and saleable mineral resources and moderate potential for diatomite deposits.

No mineral development is anticipated of these potential resources because higher potential exists in more accessible areas outside the WSA.

DEER CREEK WSA ID-54-10



MAP 8 PROPOSED ACTION
 DEER CREEK WSA (PROPOSED ACTION - NO WILDERNESS)
 ID-54-10
 WSA BOUNDARY ———
 LAND STATUS - V - PUBLIC LAND
 S - STATE LAND
 P - PRIVATE LAND



R.12E.

R.13E.

T. 2 S.

T. 3 S.

T. 4 S.

All Wilderness Alternative

All 7,487 acres of public land in the Deer Creek WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation (see Map 8).

Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The entire WSA would continue to be allotted for livestock grazing. Projections beyond planning estimates indicate that livestock use would be maintained at the existing level of 1,193 AUMs for sheep and cattle for the next ten years and beyond. The existing 4.5 miles of barbed wire fence would be maintained. Range developments planned for the WSA would be completed and maintained. These include a reservoir (less than 1/3 acre), 2 miles of gap fencing, and 750 acres of brush control through the use prescribed burning. Projections beyond existing planning estimates indicate that maintenance activities would not change.

Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The area would be closed to recreational ORV use. This action would eliminate approximately 100 visitor days of recreational ORV use that are estimated to occur in the area annually.

Other Recreation

The Deer Creek WSA would be open for non-motorized recreation activities. These include hunting, hunting-associated horseback riding and camping, photography, and sightseeing. Recreational use for these activities would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 1,000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA and none are planned because of the low use the area receives.

Mineral Resource Actions

Deer Creek WSA is classified as prospectively valuable for oil and gas and as having moderate potential for low temperature geothermal resources. The WSA has low potential for metallic and saleable mineral resources and moderate potential for diatomite deposits.

No mineral development is anticipated of these potential resources because higher potential exists in more accessible areas outside the WSA.

Management Actions to Exchange for State Inholdings

Actions would be initiated to acquire, through voluntary exchange, a 640-acre inholding of State land.

Summary of Impacts

Table 2-6 summarizes the impacts of the All Wilderness and No Wilderness alternatives.

TABLE 2-6

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS
DEER CREEK WSA

Environmental Issues	Proposed Action No Wilderness Alternative	All Wilderness Alternative
Impacts on Wilderness Values	The area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude would be reduced slightly.	All wilderness values would receive long term Congressional protection. Naturalness and opportunities for solitude would improve slightly because of the elimination of ORV use and the acquisition of the State land inholding. Naturalness and opportunities for solitude would be reduced slightly by range management actions.
Impact on Recreational ORV Use	There would be no impact on recreational ORV use.	Recreational ORV use of 100 visitor days would be forgone annually. The impact of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.
Impact on Development Mineral Resources	Potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes moderate potential for low temperature geothermal resources and diatomite. There would be no impact on development of mineral resources.	Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes moderate potential for low temperature geothermal resources and diatomite.
Impact on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction	There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.	There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative)

All 23,680 acres of public land in the Lava WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation (see Map 9).

Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The entire Lava WSA would continue to be allotted for livestock grazing. Projection beyond existing planning estimates indicate that livestock use would be maintained at the existing level of 1,828 AUMs for cattle for the next 10 years and beyond. Range developments planned for the WSA would be implemented and maintained. These include one mile of pipeline reconstruction, one mile of new pipeline and a trough, two miles of gap fencing, and 2,200 acres of brush control and seeding along dry washes (see Map 16). Brush control would be accomplished through prescribed burning or plowing, and seeding would be accomplished using rangeland drills.

Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The lands within the WSA would remain open to ORV use. Recreational ORV use would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 1000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. Seven ways, totaling 10.8 miles in length, traverse the central portion of the Lava WSA and would remain open for use. Vehicular use presently occurring in the WSA is sufficient to maintain the ways. Creation of new trails or ways by recreational ORV use is not anticipated due to current and projected low use levels and the WSA's rugged terrain.

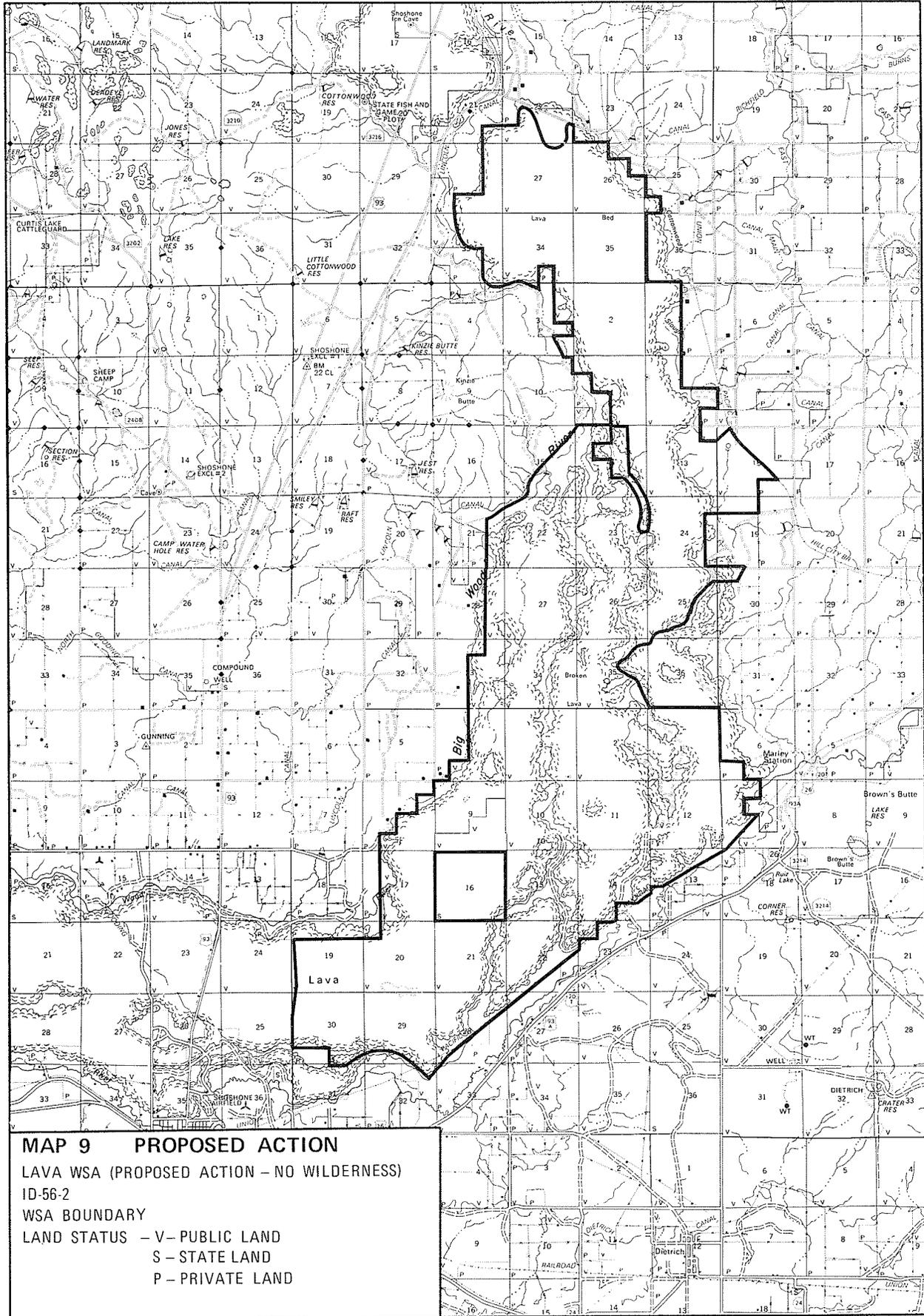
Other Recreation

The Lava WSA would be open for recreation activities in addition to recreational ORV use. These include hunting, hunting-associated horseback riding and camping, photography, and sightseeing. Recreational use for these activities would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 1,000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA and none are planned because of the low use the area receives.

Mineral Resource Actions

The Lava WSA is considered prospectively valuable for oil and gas and geothermal resources. The WSA is classified as unfavorable for locatable mineral resources. No mineral exploration or development is anticipated in the WSA because higher potential exists in more accessible areas outside the WSA.

LAVA WSA ID-56-2



T.
3
S.

T.
4
S.

T.
5
S.

MAP 9 PROPOSED ACTION
 LAVA WSA (PROPOSED ACTION - NO WILDERNESS)
 ID-56-2
 WSA BOUNDARY
 LAND STATUS - V - PUBLIC LAND
 S - STATE LAND
 P - PRIVATE LAND

R.17E.

R.18E.

R.19E.



All Wilderness Alternative

All 23,680 acres of public land in the Lava WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation (see Map 9).

Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The entire WSA would continue to be allotted for livestock grazing. Projections indicate that livestock use would be reduced to 1,259 AUMs for cattle. No future increases in livestock use are planned. Some range developments planned for the WSA would be implemented and maintained. These include 1 mile of pipeline reconstruction and 2 miles of gap fencing to control livestock. Approximately 10.8 miles of vehicle ways within the WSA would be used up to 10 times annually to maintain existing range developments.

Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The area would be designated closed to recreational ORV use. This action would eliminate approximately 100 visitor days annually of recreational ORV use that are estimated to occur in the area at present. Ways within the WSA, totaling 10.8 miles in length would be closed to recreational ORV use.

Other Recreation

The WSA would be open for non-motorized recreation activities. These include hunting, hunting-associated horseback riding and camping, photography, and sightseeing. Recreational use for these activities would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 1,000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA and none are planned because of the low use the area receives.

Mineral Resource Actions

The Lava WSA is considered prospectively valuable for oil and gas and geothermal resources. The WSA is classified as unfavorable for locatable and saleable mineral resources. No mineral exploration or development is anticipated in the WSA because higher potential exists in more accessible areas outside the WSA.

Management Actions to Exchange for State Inholdings

Action would be initiated to acquire a 640-acre inholding of State land through voluntary exchange.

Summary of Impacts

Table 2-7 summarizes the impacts of the All Wilderness and No Wilderness alternatives.

TABLE 2-7

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS
LAVA WSA

Environmental Issues	Proposed Action	
	No Wilderness Alternative	All Wilderness Alternative
Impact on Wilderness Values	The area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude would be reduced by new range developments, brush control, and continued ORV use.	All wilderness values would receive long term Congressional protection. Maintenance and construction of range developments would reduce the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude slightly. Elimination of ORV use and acquisition of a State land inholding would improve the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude.
Impact on Recreational ORV Use	There would be no impact on recreational ORV use.	Recreational ORV use of 100 visitor days would be forgone annually. The impact of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.
Impact on Development of Mineral Resources	Potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes low to moderate favorability for low temperature geothermal resources. There would be no impact on development of mineral resources.	Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes low to moderate potential for low temperature geothermal resources.
Impact on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction	There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.	There would be no seeding on 2,200 acres of brush control and a reduction in AUMs of 569.

SUMMARY OF MANAGEABILITY

Based on the wilderness values of each WSA described in Chapter 3, and the impacts on these wilderness values analyzed in Chapter 4, each WSA, if designated wilderness, could be managed as wilderness.

CHAPTER 3

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

FRIEDMAN CREEK WSA (ID-53-5)

General Characteristics

The Friedman Creek WSA is characterized by steep mountainous terrain cut by numerous steep drainages. Drainages include Friedman Creek, Argosy Creek, Rough Creek, and Trail Creek. At lower elevations, vegetation is dominated by big sage brush interspersed with grasses. As elevations increase, Douglas-fir stands and quaking aspen groves become common.

Numerous wildlife species, including elk, deer, black bear, upland game, and trout, are found within the WSA.

Land Status

The Friedman Creek WSA contains 9,773 acres of public land. There is a 40-acre State inholding and eight private inholdings with a total of 320 acres within the WSA. The WSA is contiguous with the U.S. Forest Service roadless area, the Pioneer Mountains.

Wilderness Values

Naturalness

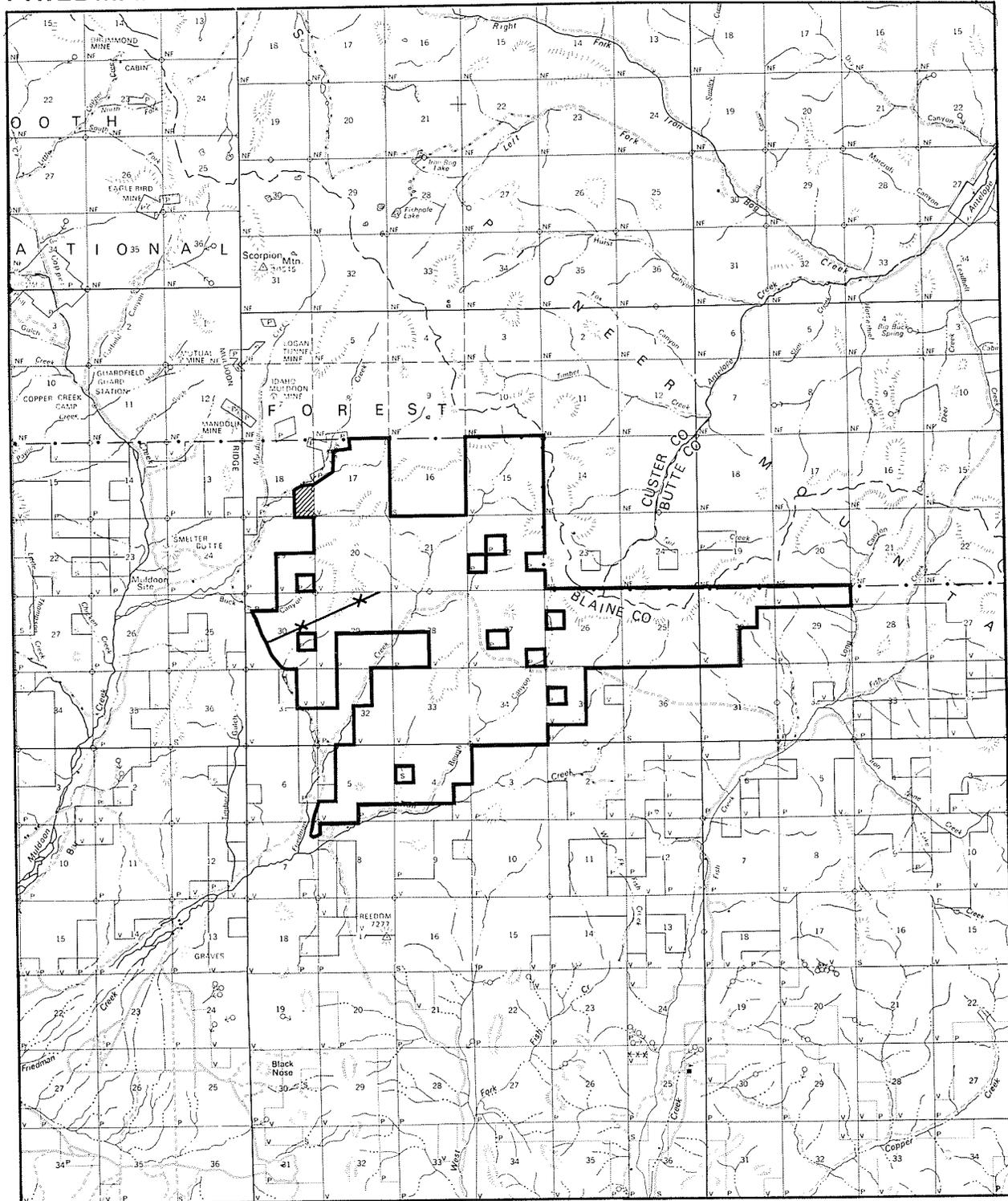
Two abandoned log cabins, at least 50 years old, are located within the Friedman Creek drainage. The cabins are not inhabitable and brush has partially obscured them. Associated with the cabins and in other widely scattered areas, abandoned mine adits and tailings piles can be found. The impact of the adits on naturalness is localized due to vegetative screening.

Although evidence of human activity is present at several locations within the WSA, these intrusions are of low impact and do not significantly detract from the area's natural character. All of these imprints reflect the historical use and habitation of the area for mining activities. There are no heavy concentrations of imprints which impair the feeling of being in a natural environment.

Solitude

The WSA provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. Steep slopes and the large number of drainages within the WSA provide good visual screening. However, the steep slopes also tend to concentrate use along the creek bottoms in the drainages. With low to moderate use, the area provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area currently receives a low amount of recreational use.

FRIEDMAN CREEK WSA ID-53-5



T. 4 N.

T. 3 N.

T. 2 N.

MAP 10 DEVELOPMENTS

FRIEDMAN CREEK WSA (PROPOSED ACTION - NO WILDERNESS)

ID-53-5

WSA BOUNDARY

LAND STATUS - V - PUBLIC LAND
 S - STATE LAND
 P - PRIVATE LAND

EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS

FENCE — x — x —

MINING CLAIMS 

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS

NONE

R.21E.

R.22E.

R.23E.



Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The Friedman Creek WSA offers a diversity of primitive recreation opportunities. Friedman Creek supports a small trout fishery. The diverse terrain within the WSA enhances opportunities for camping and hiking.

Special Features

The two abandoned cabins within the WSA provide evidence of the mining history of the region. The cabins are at least 50 years old. They are of log construction and are in close proximity to tailing piles.

Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Resources

Recreational ORV use is estimated to be 100 visitor days annually. Steep terrain and heavy brush limit ORV access and use in approximately 80 percent of the WSA. Most recreational ORV use occurs along drainage bottoms, primarily in Friedman Creek and Rough Creek.

Mineral Resources

Except for State and private land inholdings, all surface and mineral estates in the WSA are in federal ownership and are open to mineral entry.

The Friedman Creek WSA has been classified as having moderate favorability for oil and gas (Fernette and Stratman 1983). The basis of this classification is the structural setting of the WSA including potential for development of structural traps, indications of subsurface structures, and the presence of hydrocarbon source and reservoir beds in the stratigraphic section. Potential for geothermal energy development is unfavorable based on analogy with similar areas in the Idaho Basin and Range Province as well as a lack of surface indications such as hot springs.

The WSA is considered to have low favorability for other leasable minerals because of its unfavorable geologic environment and lack of known occurrences (Fernette and Stratman 1983). No mineral leases are currently held on lands within the WSA.

Portions of 2 lode mining claims are present in the WSA (see Map 10) and at least 50 claims exist adjacent to the WSA on the north and west. The Idaho Muldoon Mine lies about a mile northwest of the northern boundary of the WSA. The Lucky Boy Group lies outside the WSA on its edge. A mine site is present within the WSA in T. 3 N., R. 22 E., sections 21 and 22, consisting of an adit and prospect pit. The Idaho Muldoon Mines and others in the district were moderate producers of lead/zinc/silver as well as barite as late as the 1970s.

The Friedman Creek WSA is classified as having high favorability for the metallic minerals lead, zinc, silver, and copper (Fernette and Stratman 1983). This classification is based on direct evidence including mineralized outcrops, prospects, and the results of geochemical analyses. The WSA is geologically similar to the adjacent Muldoon Mining District and shows a pronounced trend of mineralized structures throughout the western portion.

The WSA is classified as having a moderate favorability for barite based on the proximity to the Muldoon barite-producing district, similar geology, and barium geochemical anomalies adjacent to the WSA. The WSA has low favorability for occurrence of other locatable mineral resources.

Gravels are abundant in the WSA and local limestone and quartzite have potential both as building stone and in aggregate production. The distance to market precludes these minerals from having commercial value.

Livestock Grazing

The entire WSA is currently allotted for livestock grazing. Ninety-five percent (9,298 acres) of the WSA has been classified as suitable for livestock grazing. The Friedman Creek WSA includes portions of five grazing allotments: Upper Fish Creek, Iron Mine, Trail Creek, Friedman Creek, and Muldoon. Nine cattle and sheep operators are permitted in these allotments. Approximately 1,700 AUMs have been allocated from the portions of the allotments that lie within the WSA boundaries. The established season of use is May 1 through November 1.

The only range development in the WSA is approximately two miles of fencing. The WSA supports an estimated 1,700 AUMs of forage that is used by sheep and cattle throughout the grazing season. No additional range developments are planned within the WSA.

Table 3-1 shows the WSA's ecological condition.

TABLE 3-1

FRIEDMAN CREEK WSA
ECOLOGICAL CONDITION CLASS

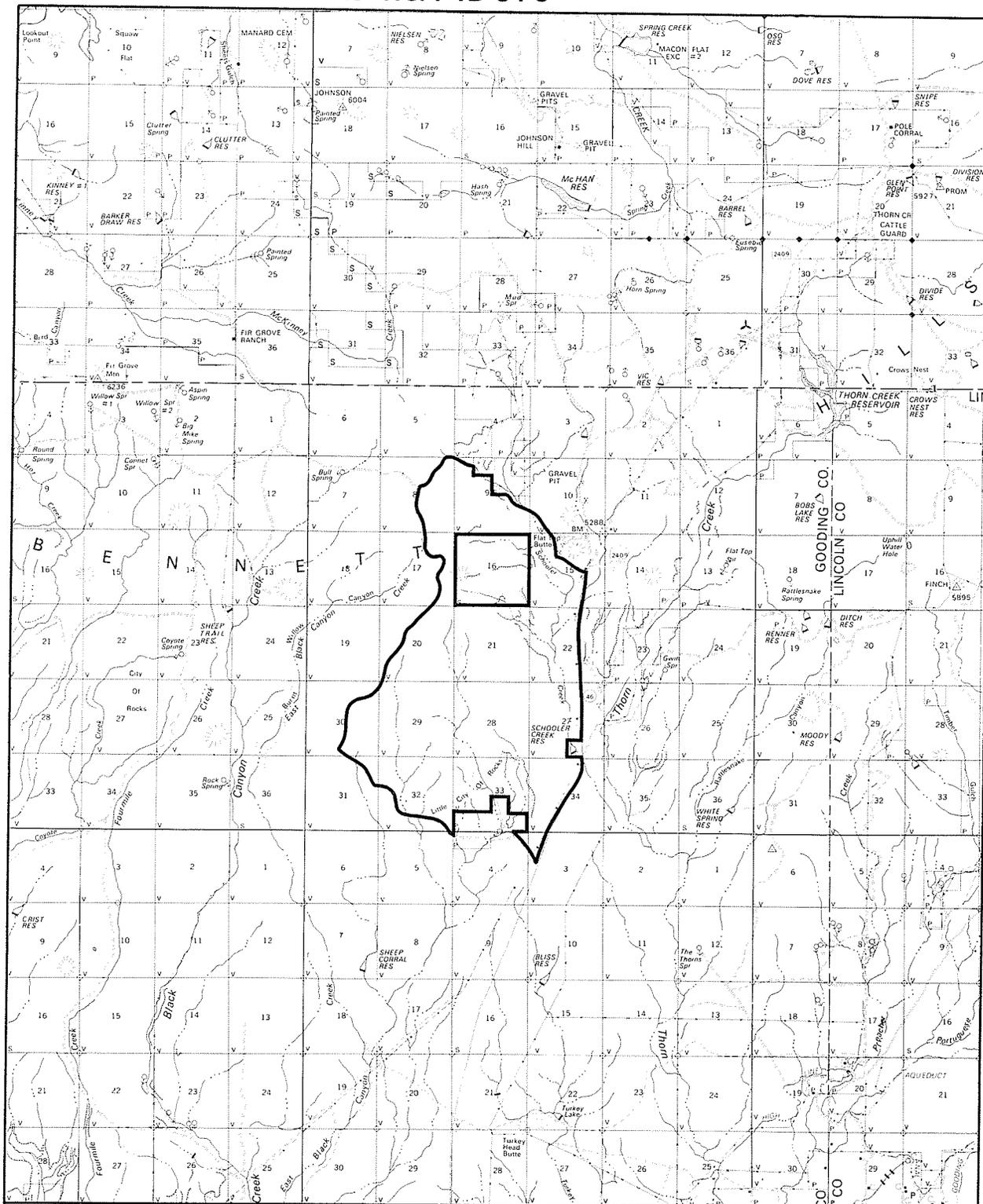
Acres					
Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Seeded	Total
0	6,493	3,280	0	0	9,773

LITTLE CITY OF ROCKS WSA (ID-54-5)

General Characteristics

The Little City of Rocks WSA is bound on the west by Black Canyon WSA (see Map 2). The Little City of Rocks WSA lies within the Mount Bennett Hills, a belt of rolling foothills between the Sawtooth Mountains to the north and the Snake River Plains to the south. The major portion of the WSA is a gently sloping plain with several rhyolite bluffs. The WSA's southcentral portion contains an aggregation of wind and water-eroded rhyolite columns, collectively known as Little City of Rocks.

LITTLE CITY OF ROCKS WSA ID-54-5



T. 2 S.
T. 3 S.
T. 4 S.

MAP 11 DEVELOPMENTS

LITTLE CITY OF ROCKS WSA (PROPOSED ACTION - NO WILDERNESS)

ID-54-5

WSA BOUNDARY

LAND STATUS - V - PUBLIC LAND

S - STATE LAND

P - PRIVATE LAND

EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS

NONE

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS

NONE



R.14E.

R.15E.

R.16E.



Scale in Miles

The dominant vegetation of the WSA is sagebrush and grasses. Chokecherry and willows are found in the shaded canyons of the Little City of Rocks. There is a small grove of aspen on the north-facing slope on the WSA's northern edge. Elevations range from 4,458 feet to 5,758 feet.

Several species of wildlife, including elk, deer, coyote, birds of prey, and upland game, are found in the WSA.

Land Status

The Little City of Rocks WSA contains 5,875 acres of public land. There is a 640-acre State inholding within the WSA.

Wilderness Values

Naturalness

The Little City of Rocks appears essentially natural. Two ways extend into the WSA for a total of 1.4 miles; both receive light use. Several tracks from trailbike use can be seen within the WSA. These ways and tracks would revegetate if vehicle use was curtailed. These imprints are widely scattered and do not detract appreciably from the naturalness of the WSA.

The Schooler Creek Reservoir, outside the WSA's eastern boundary, is a small earthen-dam reservoir constructed in the late 1930s or early 1940s. The reservoir retention dam is covered with brush and is almost unnoticeable.

Two developments adjacent to the WSA have a slight effect on perceptions of naturalness within the area. State Highway 46 parallels the eastern boundary of the WSA. Although a high bluff along the eastern edge of the area screens the sights and sounds of the highway from most of the WSA, the portion of the area between the bluffs and the eastern boundary (approximately 15 percent of the total WSA) is slightly affected by the presence of the highway. Outside the WSA's northeast corner, a circular gravel pit has been developed. At present, the gravel pit is not being used. Topography screens the pit from most of the WSA.

Solitude

Throughout portions of the WSA, opportunities for solitude are outstanding. Topography, the WSA's boundary configuration, and some vegetative screening combine to provide an opportunity for a limited number of visitors to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors within the WSA. Topography includes two major types: (1) rolling sagebrush plain surrounded by basalt bluffs, and (2) canyons rimmed with aggregations of tall, eroded columns of volcanic tuff. The rock formations and basalt bluffs allow visitors to disperse and enjoy seclusion in the canyons. The sagebrush plain provides a lower quality of solitude since visitors can see each other for a greater distance.

A sliver of land between the basalt bluffs and the eastern boundary of the WSA (approximately 15 percent of the WSA) is part of a flat plain with little topographic or vegetative screening. Visitors to this portion of the WSA would find little opportunity for solitude.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The Little City of Rocks WSA offers a diversity of primitive recreation opportunities. Among the most prominent of these are photography, camping, and nature study. Although the size of the WSA limits extensive hiking, the WSA offers high-quality opportunities for day or overnight hikes. The area's unusual geologic features are a common destination point for recreationists.

Special Features

Cultural sites with associated petroglyphs are located within the WSA.

Several raptors, including the golden eagle, prairie falcon, great horned owl and red-tailed hawk, nest within the WSA.

Spectacular landforms occur within the drainages and include columns, hoodoos, arches, and monoliths. These landforms display weathering processes and structural anomalies that are picturesque and unusual.

Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Resources

Moderate ORV use, approximately 1,500 visitor days annually, occurs throughout the WSA, including motorcycles, snowmobiles, and four-wheel drive vehicles. Most activity, except for winter snowmobile use, takes place in the spring and fall when higher elevation areas outside the WSA are unsuitable.

Mineral Resources

Except for the State land inholding, all surface and mineral estates in the WSA are in Federal ownership and are open to mineral entry.

The Little City of Rocks WSA is classified as being prospectively valuable for oil and gas resources. The area has moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources. These classifications are based on favorable geology and other factors (Fernetto 1983).

Based on the unfavorable geologic environment, the WSA is classified as having low potential for other leasable minerals. There are no mineral leases in the WSA.

The WSA is classified as having low potential for locatable mineral resources. This classification is based on the geology and absence of mining claims and historic activity. There are no mining claims in the WSA.

Building stone occurs in limited quantities within the Little City of Rocks WSA. This material has produced little interest and no known sales. It is limited in quantity, is relatively inaccessible, and adequate sources of similar building stone are available in other locations. There are no other known saleable minerals within Little City of Rocks WSA.

Livestock Grazing

The entire WSA is currently allotted for livestock grazing and is classified as suitable for livestock grazing. The Little City of Rocks WSA is located within the Flat Top Pasture of the North Gooding Allotment. The North Gooding Allotment provides 3,750 animal unit months (AUMs) of forage for seven sheep operations. Approximately 640 of the total AUMs have been allocated from the portion of the allotment that lies within the boundaries of the WSA.

Sheep grazing is allowed in the WSA on an annual basis during the spring and fall. The established season of use for sheep grazing in the allotment is April 16 through June 15 and October 16 through December 15. The limited access for movement of the horse-drawn camp wagons used by sheep herders limits sheep grazing. As a result, sheep grazing within the WSA occurs along the same traditional access routes each year.

Table 3-2 shows the WSA's ecological condition.

TABLE 3-2

LITTLE CITY OF ROCKS WSA
ECOLOGICAL CONDITION CLASS

Acres					
Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Seeded	Total
0	3,644	2,231	0	0	5,875

The major perennial water sources located within the WSA are the springs and seeps located along Schooler Creek and in a few steep canyons in the northern portion of the WSA.

Schooler Creek Reservoir was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the late 1930s or early 1940s. It is a small earthen-dam reservoir outside the WSA's eastern boundary. The dam is breached and no longer holds water.

Although no additional range developments are planned within the WSA, a rotation grazing system is to be implemented when funding becomes available to install the water developments outside the WSA necessary to implement the system.

BLACK CANYON WSA (ID-54-6)

General Characteristics

The WSA is bounded on the east by the Little City of Rocks WSA and on the west by the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA (see Map 2). This WSA exhibits geologic and landform characteristics similar to Little City of Rocks, although they are not as spectacular. It lies within the Mount Bennett Hills, a rolling belt of foothills between the Sawtooth Mountains to the north and the Snake River Plains to the south. Most of the WSA is a flat prairie which rises gently to the north. In the central portion of the WSA, Black Canyon and East Black Canyon come to within one-third mile of each other, leaving a narrow strip of prairie table top between them. The WSA's northern half is composed of rolling hills broken by large and small canyons. The west edge of the WSA has unusual rock formations of weathered rhyolite. Elevations range from 4,360 to 5,484 feet.

The dominant vegetation is sagebrush and grasses. There are some pockets of willow and shrubs along some of the intermittent drainages.

Several species of wildlife including elk, deer, antelope, coyotes, birds of prey, upland game birds, and some black bear are found in the WSA.

Land Status

Black Canyon WSA contains 10,371 acres of public land and a 640-acre State inholding.

Wilderness Values

Naturalness

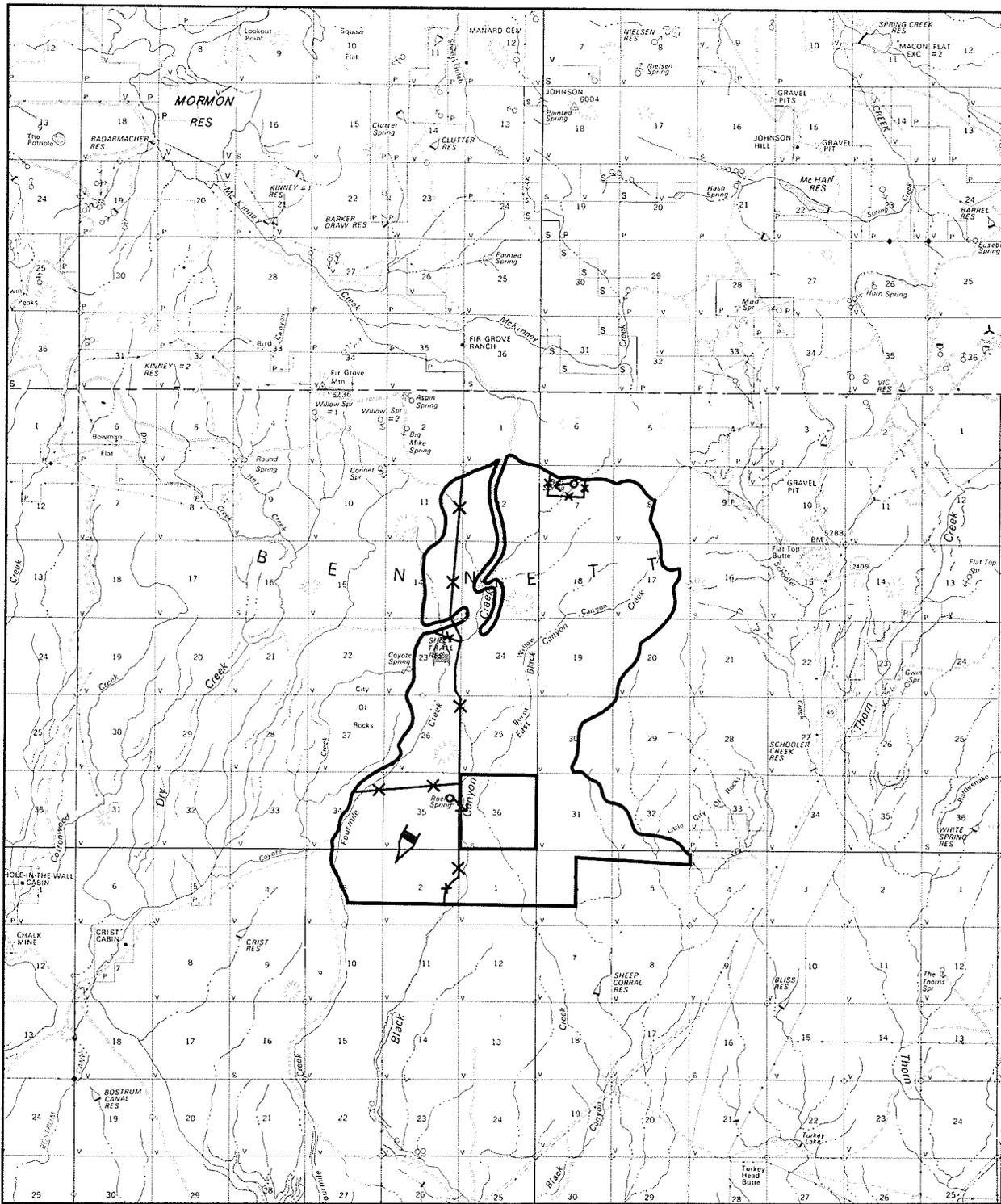
Approximately 7.5 miles of three-strand barbed-wire fence is located in the WSA. The impact from this fencing is very localized and does not have a significant effect on naturalness. Chemical brush control treatments in the northern part of the WSA are only slightly noticeable from ground level because of the re-establishment of brush and other vegetation on the sprayed areas. Rock Spring, in the southern part of the WSA along Black Canyon, was developed in the late 1940s. It is screened from most of the WSA and has no significant impact on the area's natural character.

Although evidence of human activity is present at several locations within the WSA, it has little impact on the overall naturalness of the WSA.

Solitude

Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist within the two main canyons in the WSA. The rock towers and numerous side canyons provide screening between visitors and allow several visitors to be in the area without

BLACK CANYON WSA ID-54-6



T.
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T.
3
S.

T.
4
S.

MAP 12 DEVELOPMENTS

BLACK CANYON WSA (PROPOSED ACTION - NO WILDERNESS)

ID-54-6

WSA BOUNDARY

LAND STATUS - V - PUBLIC LAND

S - STATE LAND

P - PRIVATE LAND

EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS

FENCE — x — x — x

SPRING DEVELOPMENT — o —>

RESERVOIR — I

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS

RESERVOIR — I



R.14E.

R.15E.



Scale in Miles

encountering one another. The broad sloping plain that occupies the majority of the WSA also provides opportunities for solitude, but the quality of solitude would be less if many visitors were in that portion of the WSA because of the scarcity of topographic or vegetative screening.

Outside sights of agricultural and community land patterns are visible from many portions of the WSA. These developments are located at a distance and do not detract significantly from a feeling of solitude.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The Black Canyon WSA offers a diversity of primitive recreation opportunities. Among the most prominent of these are hiking, camping, and nature study. The WSA also offers opportunities for hunting big game.

Special Features

Eight cultural sites have been recorded in the WSA. Rock structures and petroglyphs are found in the central part of the WSA.

Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

ORV use is estimated at approximately 200 visitor days annually and generally occurs during the spring and fall. Snowmobilers use the area during winter. Use of this area in the early spring and late fall is important to motorcyclists and four-wheel drive operators when higher elevation areas in the national forests are generally not suited for travel.

Mineral Resources

Except for the State land inholding, all surface and mineral estates in the WSA are in Federal ownership and are open to mineral entry.

The Black Canyon WSA is classified as being prospectively valuable for oil and gas resources. The area has moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources. These classifications are based on favorable geology and other factors (Fernetto 1983).

The WSA is classified as having low potential for other leasable minerals based on the unfavorable geologic environment. There are no mineral leases in the WSA.

The WSA is classified as having low potential for locatable mineral resources. This classification is based on the geology and absence of mining claims and historic activity. There are no mining claims in the WSA.

Building stone occurs in limited quantities within the Black Canyon WSA. This material has produced little interest and no known sales. It is limited

in quantity, is relatively inaccessible, and adequate sources of similar building stone are available in other locations. There are no other known saleable minerals within the Black Canyon WSA.

Livestock Grazing

The entire WSA is currently allotted for livestock grazing. Ninety-nine percent (10,275 acres) of the WSA has been classified as suitable for livestock grazing. Black Canyon WSA is situated within the northern portion of the North Gooding and Black Canyon grazing allotments.

The North Gooding Allotment provides 3,750 AUMs of forage for seven sheep operations. Approximately 425 AUMs have been allocated to permittees from that portion of the WSA which lies within the North Gooding Allotment. Sheep grazing in the North Gooding Allotment is allowed during the spring and fall on an annual basis. The established season of use for sheep grazing in the allotment is April 16 through June 15 and October 16 through December 15. A rotation grazing system is planned but cannot be implemented until necessary range developments planned outside the WSA are completed.

The public lands in the Black Canyon Allotment provide approximately 3,966 AUMs of livestock forage for fourteen cow/calf operations. Approximately 135 AUMs have been allocated to permittees from that part of the WSA which is situated within the boundaries of the Black Canyon Allotment. Cattle grazing in the Black Canyon Allotment occurs from April 16 through August 31.

At the present time there are approximately 7.5 miles of three-strand barbed wire fencing located within the WSA. The majority of this fencing was installed in 1958 to divide the Black Canyon Cattle Allotment from the North Gooding Sheep Allotment. Rock Spring was developed in 1949 to provide water for livestock grazing. In 1966 the extreme northern portion of the WSA was strip sprayed in alternate 100 foot swaths to control big sagebrush. Listed below are all recorded range developments within the WSA (see Map 12).

Gooding Unit Protective Fence	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Sections 34 and 35
City of Rocks Division Fence	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Section 23
Gooding Allotment Fence	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Sections 11, 14, 23, 26, and 35 T. 4 S., R. 14 E., Section 2
Rock Spring	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Section 35
Gooding Sheep Brush Spray	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Section 12 T. 3 S., R. 15 E., Sections 7 and 8
Gooding Cattle Brush Spray	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Section 11
Upper Bench Reservoir	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Section 35
Bull Spring	T. 3 S., R. 15 E., Section 7

Table 3-3 shows the WSA's ecological condition.

TABLE 3-3

BLACK CANYON WSA
ECOLOGICAL CONDITION CLASS

Acres					
Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Seeded	Total
3,357	6,165	849	0	0	10,371

The major perennial water sources within the WSA are provided by numerous small springs and seeps found along the deeper canyons within the WSA. Some of the larger drainages, especially East Fork Black Canyon Creek, contain natural ponds which hold water through most of the summer.

Along some stretches of the deeper canyons livestock access may be limited but livestock distribution is relatively uniform throughout the WSA, especially in that part within the North Gooding Allotment.

Additional range developments planned for the WSA include one reservoir (less than 1/3 acre) in the western portion of the WSA (see Map 12).

GOODING CITY OF ROCKS EAST WSA (ID-54-8a)

General Characteristics

The WSA is bounded on the west by Gooding City of Rocks West WSA and on the east by Black Canyon WSA (see Map 2). It lies within the Mount Bennett Hills, a rolling belt of foothills between the Sawtooth Mountains to the north and the Snake River Plains to the south. The southeastern portion of the WSA is composed of a series of deep canyons carved into rhyolite. Throughout these canyons are rhyolite columns which rise over 100 feet into the air. This area is known as the City of Rocks. Dry Creek Canyon, on the western side of the City of Rocks, has a perennial stream within it. The northern portion of the WSA is a rolling prairie dissected by several intermittent stream drainages. Several basalt bluffs dominate portions of the prairie landscape.

The WSA's dominant vegetation is sagebrush and annual and perennial grasses. More shaded sections of the canyons support pockets of willows, aspen, cottonwood, service berry, and chokecherry.

Wildlife species within the WSA include elk, deer, coyotes, bear, birds of prey, and upland game birds. A population of cutthroat trout live in Dry Creek.

GOODING CITY OF ROCKS EAST WSA ID-54-8a



T. 2 S.
T. 3 S.
T. 4 S.

MAP 13 DEVELOPMENTS

GOODING CITY OF ROCKS EAST WSA (PROPOSED ACTION - PARTIAL WILDERNESS)
ID-54-8a

WSA BOUNDARY

RECOMMENDED SUITABLE

RECOMMENDED UNSUITABLE

LAND STATUS - V - PUBLIC LAND
S - STATE LAND
P - PRIVATE LAND

EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS
FENCE

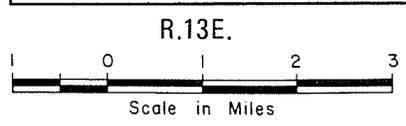
RESERVOIR

SPRING DEVELOPMENT

MINING CLAIMS

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS
SPRING DEVELOPMENT

PRESCRIBED BURN



R.13E.

R.14E.

R.15E.

Land Status

Gooding City of Rocks East WSA contains 14,743 acres of public land. There are no State or private inholdings within the WSA.

Wilderness Values

Naturalness

Four ways, totaling 3.4 miles, are found within the WSA. If vehicle use was eliminated or restricted, they would return to a natural condition. Other imprints within the WSA are all range developments. These developments include fences, spring developments, and the Connet Erosion Control Dam. These developments are substantially unnoticeable in the WSA as a whole.

Three brush treatment areas are located in an 1,800-acre part of the WSA. They do not constitute a noticeable imprint at present, and as time passes the impacts will be completely rehabilitated to an apparently natural condition.

There is potential for separating Round Spring, Connet Spring, Connet Erosion Control Dam, Connet Protective Fence, and portions of Strike Burn Fence from the area recommended suitable by excluding the 1,680 acres affected. A portion of the area of brush treatment could also be excluded. The Coyote Spring and Holding Field can be separated from the area recommended suitable by excluding the 10-acre portion that is affected. The northern portion of Strike Burn Fence could be removed from the area recommended suitable by moving the boundary 100 to 200 yards east from the WSA western boundary road. The remaining imprints in the WSA cannot feasibly be excluded because of their location.

Solitude

The WSA's topography, boundary configuration, and some vegetative screening combine to provide an outstanding opportunity for visitors to avoid the sights and sounds of others in the area. The numerous canyons and rhyolite rock formations in the southern part of the WSA provide excellent topographic screening. The pillars and hoodoos of various heights and shapes allow visitors a high degree of seclusion and opportunity for solitude. The number of drainages encourages dispersion of visitor groups. The northern part of the WSA has rolling hills and buttes which also provide opportunity for solitude though not as outstanding as the southern part.

In many canyon bottoms, the trees in scattered riparian zones offer vegetative screening. Elsewhere, vegetation in the form of grasses and low shrubs provides little screening, however, combined with the topography it adds to the sense of seclusion.

Human activities outside the WSA are visible near the boundary and from the high points in the WSA. Agricultural and community land patterns can be seen in the distance from ridges and buttes within the WSA. However, the sight

of indistinct fields and communities does not detract significantly from the solitude of the WSA due to the distances involved.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The WSA offers exceptional scenery and a diversity of landforms. Natural features within the WSA provide outstanding opportunities for photography, hiking, camping, wildlife observation, and nature study. Opportunities for horseback riding, fishing, and hunting, as well as many other activities, are also present within the unit. Excellent subjects for photography include the myriad brilliantly-colored lichen-encrusted rhyolite pillars, hoodoos, and arches. The diverse vegetation ranges from sagebrush and grasses on the plateaus to ferns, mosses, and wildflowers in shaded, rocky canyons. This diversity offers exceptional opportunities for nature study.

Opportunities are abundant for viewing such species as elk, deer, sage grouse, raptors, and coyotes. Black bear, bobcat, and mountain quail are occasionally seen.

Several factors contribute to the WSA's outstanding opportunities for hiking. The diversity of terrain, the varying degrees of difficulty in maneuvering through the pillars and along rock-filled drainages, and the scarcity of water during much of the year combine to provide the recreationist a high degree of challenge. The northern part of the WSA provides a sense of wide open space, and also contains archaeological sites of interest to hikers. The aggregations of rhyolite pillars in the southern portion of the WSA provide an intimate sense of seclusion along with countless rock-climbing opportunities.

Primitive camping opportunities are enhanced by the rugged terrain, the availability of many camping spots among the rock pillars in the southern part of the WSA, and by open space in the northern part of the WSA. The extreme high summer temperatures and lack of available drinking and cooking water adds to the primitiveness of the recreation experience.

Special Features

Cultural sites, some of which have associated petroglyphs, are located in the WSA. Vitrophyre, an important raw material for flaked stone tools, is found near some cultural sites.

The nesting sites of several predatory birds are located in the WSA, providing both photographic and wildlife observation opportunities to recreationists.

Spectacular landforms occur within the drainages of the WSA. These include columns, hoodoos, arches, and monoliths. These landforms display weathering processes and structural anomalies that are picturesque and unusual.

Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Resources

ORV use is estimated at 150 visitor days annually. Motorcycles and four-wheel drive vehicles use the area primarily in the spring and fall. Some snowmobile use occurs in the winter. Because of the area's unique opportunities for outdoor recreation and outstanding scenic resources, the WSA is a popular destination point for ORVs. Generally, these vehicles are used to provide access to the area rather than for off-road recreation.

Mineral Resources

All mineral estates in Gooding City of Rocks East WSA are in Federal ownership and open to mineral entry.

The Gooding City of Rocks East WSA is classified as being prospectively valuable for oil and gas resources. The area has moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources. These classifications are based on favorable geology and other factors (Fernette 1983).

The WSA is classified as having low potential for other leasable minerals based on an unfavorable geologic environment. There are no mineral leases in the WSA. The WSA contains a large deposit of the industrial mineral diatomite. This deposit is the subject of a report which amends the Phase I GEM Resource Assessment of the Mount Bennett Hills. The deposits were examined, sampled, and mapped in August 1984. The results of this examination, as well as examinations by the U.S. Bureau of Mines, indicate a deposit of diatomite along the southern margin of the WSA. The total deposit within the boundaries of the Gooding City of Rocks East and West WSAs is estimated to contain 40 million tons of non-marine diatomite. Of this, an estimated 6 million tons occurs within the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. The total deposit of diatomite within five miles of the WSA is estimated at 400 million tons (U.S. Bureau of Mines preliminary data). Analysis of the material indicates a wide variation of quality within the deposit.

Association placer claims for diatomaceous earth are held by two groups of claimants and cover approximately 440 acres. The claims are in the southwest corner of the WSA (see Map 13).

The potential for other locatable minerals is low in the WSA. Welded tuff of the Idavada volcanics suitable for facing stone is present in the WSA. This platy rock occurs in various locations in the southern half of the area. However, this material has produced little interest and there have been no sales.

Livestock Grazing

The entire WSA is currently allotted for livestock grazing. Fifty-nine percent of the WSA has been classified as suitable for livestock grazing. This WSA occupies the north-central portion of the Black Canyon Allotment. About two-thirds of the WSA lies within the Connet Spring and City of Rocks pastures of the Black Canyon Allotment.

The public lands within the Black Canyon Allotment provide about 3,966 AUMs of livestock forage. Of this total, approximately 800 AUMs are allocated to lands in the WSA. The season of use for cattle grazing in the Black Canyon Allotment begins on April 16 and continues through August 31.

The WSA has numerous canyons running from north to south. These canyons restrict lateral movement of livestock so animal distribution is generally confined to the canyon bottoms and the wider ridges between canyons. Much of the vegetation in the deeper canyons is unavailable for livestock grazing due to the steepness of the slopes.

Table 3-4 shows the WSA's ecological condition.

TABLE 3-4
GOODING CITY OF ROCKS EAST WSA
ECOLOGICAL CONDITION CLASS

Acres					
Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Seeded	Total
9,911	3,786	1,046	0	0	14,743

Within the WSA water is generally abundant and available for livestock use during the early part of the grazing season with many of the creeks and drainages carrying spring runoff down from higher elevations. As the season progresses, many of these creeks and drainages dry up and the livestock are forced to move to areas with permanent water developments where water is available throughout the entire grazing season.

Numerous range developments have been installed within the WSA, including fencing, spring developments, and a livestock holding field. Several areas have been chemically treated for brush control. These range developments and brush treatments are listed below (see Map 13).

Strike Burn Fence	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Sections 7, 18, 19, 30, and 31
City of Rocks Division Fence	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Sections 7, 8, 9, 15, 22, and 23
Coyote Springs Holding Field	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Section 23
Connet Protective Fence	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Section 10
Barker Cattle Brush Spray	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Sections 4 and 9
Gooding Cattle Brush Spray	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Sections 3, 10, and 11
Gooding Cattle Brush Spray #2	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Sections 10, 11, 14, and 15
Coyote Spring	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Section 23

Davis Mountain Fence	T. 4 S., R. 14 E., Section 6 and T. 4 S., R. 13 E., Section 1
Connet Spring	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Section 10
Round Spring	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Section 4
Bowman Spring	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Section 18
Connet Erosion Control Dam	T. 3 S., R. 14 E., Section 10

Additional range developments planned within the WSA include 320 acres of prescribed burning and one spring development (see Map 13).

GOODING CITY OF ROCKS WEST WSA (ID-54-8b)

General Characteristics

The Gooding City of Rocks West WSA is bordered on the east by Gooding City of Rocks East WSA (see Map 2). It lies within the Mount Bennett Hills, a rolling belt of foothills between the Sawtooth Mountains to the north and the Snake River Plains to the south.

The WSA is generally a gently sloping prairie cut by the East Fork of Clover Creek, Catchall Creek, and other unnamed drainages. Several basalt bluffs dominate this area. Elevations range from 4,080 to 5,616 feet.

The dominant vegetation is sagebrush and grasses. Shaded canyons support pockets of willows, aspen, cottonwood, serviceberry, and chokecherry.

Several species of wildlife including elk, deer, coyotes, bear, birds of prey, and upland game are found within the WSA.

Land Status

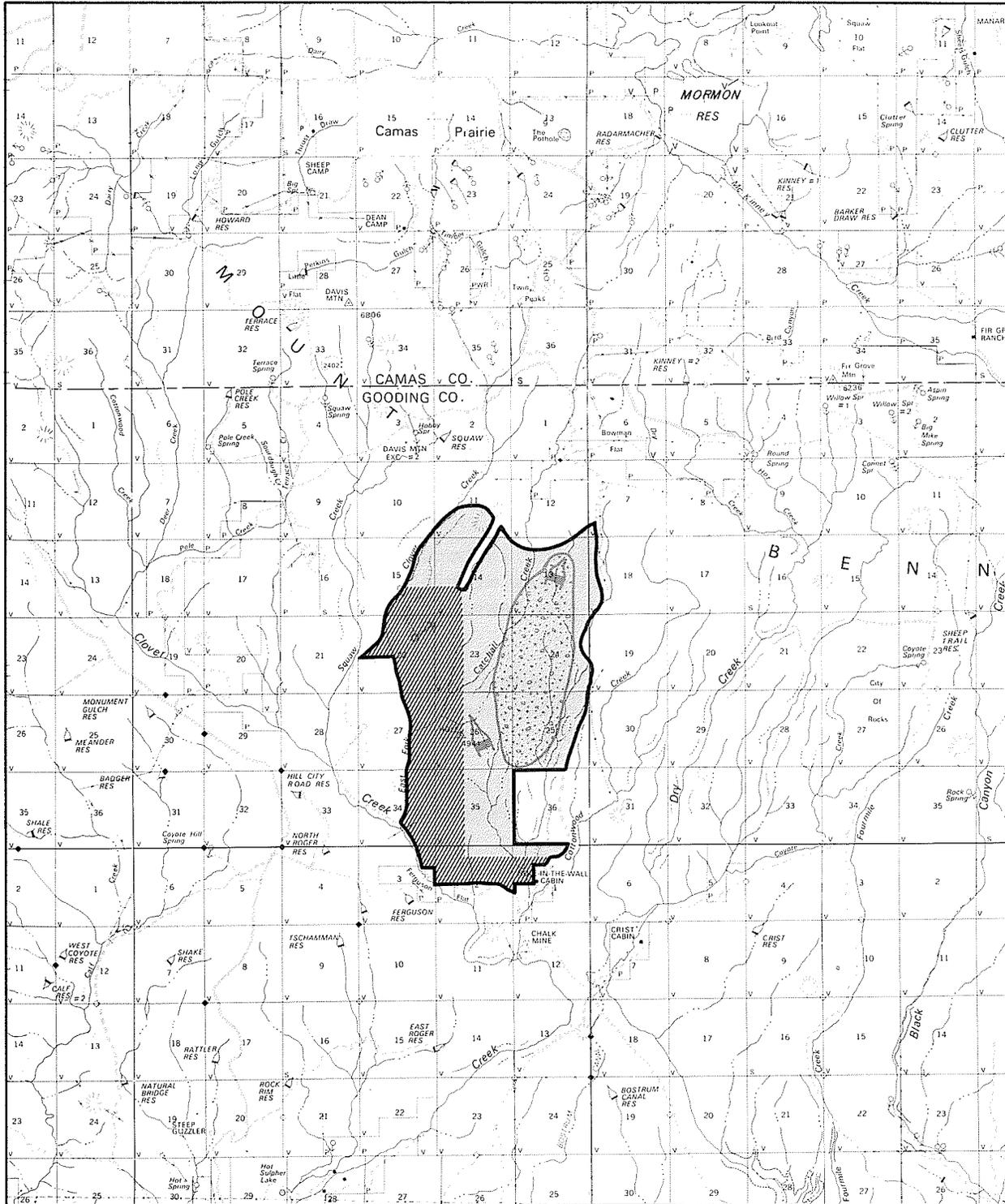
Gooding City of Rocks West contains 6,287 acres of public land. There are no State or private inholdings within the WSA.

Wilderness Values

Naturalness

The only imprints on naturalness in this WSA are a portion of the Strike Burn Fire Seeding, mining claim markers, and old vehicle ways. The seeding was an aerial seeding that has had virtually no impact on the naturalness of the unit. The few mining claim markers do not affect the naturalness of the WSA. The ways are not noticeable outside of the immediate area because of vegetation screening.

GOODING CITY OF ROCKS WEST WSA ID-54-8b



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MAP 14 DEVELOPMENTS

GOODING CITY OF ROCKS WEST WSA (PROPOSED ACTION - ALL WILDERNESS)
ID-54-8b

WSA BOUNDARY

RECOMMENDED SUITABLE

LAND STATUS - V - PUBLIC LAND

S - STATE LAND

P - PRIVATE LAND

EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS

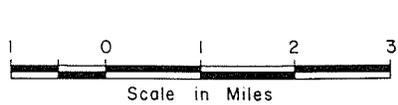
MINING CLAIMS

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS

RESERVOIR

SPRING DEVELOPMENT

PRESCRIBED FIRE



R.13E.

R.14E.

Solitude

The WSA's topography, boundary configuration, and some vegetative screening combine to provide ample opportunity for visitors to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors within the WSA. The numerous canyons and rhyolite rock formations in the southern part of the WSA provide excellent topographic screening. The pillars and hoodoos of various heights and shapes allow visitors a high degree of seclusion and opportunity for solitude. The number of drainages encourages dispersion of visitor groups. The northern part of the WSA has rolling hills and buttes which also provide solitude though opportunities are not as outstanding as in the southern part.

In many canyon bottoms, scattered riparian zones offer vegetative screening. Elsewhere, vegetation in the form of grasses and low shrubs provides little screening; however, combined with the area's topography it adds to the sense of seclusion.

Recreationists' solitude is generally not encroached upon by livestock operations in the steep, boulder-strewn, twisting drainages in the southern part of the WSA, since these areas are usually dry by early summer and are not favored by operators. Livestock do frequent the flatter northern and north-eastern parts of the WSAs, especially near the springs. The animals and operators are present only periodically during the year and in relatively few numbers.

Human activities outside the WSA are visible near the WSA's boundary and from high points within the area. A patchwork of fields, farms, and the community of Gooding can be seen in the distance from ridges and buttes within the WSA. However, these outside sights and sounds do not significantly affect the WSA due to the distances involved.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The WSA offers exceptional scenery and a diversity of landforms. Natural features within the WSA provide outstanding opportunities for photography, hiking, camping, wildlife observation, and nature study. Opportunities for horseback riding, fishing, and hunting, as well as many other activities, are also present within the area. Subjects for photography include the myriad brilliantly-colored lichen-encrusted rhyolite pillars, hoodoos, and arches. The diverse vegetation ranges from sagebrush and grasses on the plateaus to ferns, mosses, and wildflowers in shaded, rocky canyons. This diversity offers exceptional opportunities for nature study.

Opportunities are abundant for viewing such species as elk, deer, sage grouse, raptors, and coyotes. Black bear, bobcat, and mountain quail are occasionally seen.

Several factors contribute to the WSAs' outstanding opportunities for hiking. The diversity of terrain, the varying degrees of difficulty in maneuvering through the pillars and along rock-filled drainages, and the scarcity of water during much of the year combine to provide the recreationist a high degree of challenge. The northern part of the WSA provides a sense of wide open space and also contains cultural sites of interest to hikers. The

aggregations of rhyolite pillars in the southern part of the WSA provide an intimate sense of seclusion along with countless rock-climbing opportunities.

Primitive camping opportunities are enhanced by the rugged terrain of the WSA, the availability of many camping spots among the rock pillars in the southern part and by open space in the northern part of the WSA. The extreme high summer temperatures and lack of available drinking and cooking water adds to the primitiveness of the recreation experience.

Special Features

Cultural sites with associated petroglyphs are located in the WSA. Vitrophyre, an important raw material for flaked stone tools, is found near some cultural sites.

The nesting sites of several birds of prey are located in the WSA, providing both photographic and wildlife observation opportunities to recreationists.

Spectacular landforms occur within the drainages of the WSA. These include columns, hoodoos, arches, and monoliths. These landforms display weathering processes and structural anomalies that are picturesque and unusual.

Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Resources

ORV use is estimated at 50 visitor days annually. Motorcycles and four-wheel drive vehicles use the area primarily in the spring and fall. Some snowmobile use occurs in the winter.

Mineral Resources

All mineral estates in Gooding City of Rocks West WSA are in federal ownership and open to mineral entry.

The Gooding City of Rocks West WSA is classified as being prospectively valuable for oil and gas resources. The area has moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources. These classifications are based on favorable geology and other factors (Fernette 1983).

The WSA is classified as having low potential for other leasable minerals based on an unfavorable geologic environment. There are no mineral leases in the WSA.

The WSA contains a deposit of the industrial mineral, diatomite. This deposit is the subject of a report which amends the Phase I GEM Resource Assessment of the Mount Bennett Hills. The deposits were examined, sampled, and mapped in August 1984. The results of this examination, as well as examinations by the U.S. Bureau of Mines, indicate a deposit of diatomite which lies along the western margin of the WSA. The total deposit within the boundaries of the Gooding City of Rocks East and West WSAs is estimated to contain

40 million tons of non-marine diatomite. Of this, an estimated 34 million tons occurs within the Gooding City of Rocks West WSA. The total deposit of diatomite within five miles of the WSA is estimated at 400 million tons (U.S. Bureau of Mines preliminary data). Analysis of the material indicates a wide variation of quality within the deposit.

Association placer claims for diatomaceous earth are held by two group of claimants and cover approximately 2,260 acres. The claims are in the western one-third of the WSA (see Map 14).

The potential for other locatable minerals is low in the WSA. Welded tuff of the Idavada volcanics suitable for facing stone is present in the WSA. This platy rock occurs in various locations in the southern half of the area. However, this material has produced little interest and there have been no sales.

Livestock Grazing

The entire WSA is currently allotted for livestock grazing. Ninety-three percent (5,816 acres) of the WSA has been classified as suitable for livestock grazing. This WSA includes part of the Davis Mountain Cattle Allotment and provides 600 AUMs of livestock grazing. Cattle grazing occurs from April 20 through July 20 and from September 25 through November 25. Sheep grazing usually occurs from May 1 through June 10 and from November 1 through December 15.

The WSA has numerous canyons running from north to south. These canyons restrict lateral movement of livestock so animal distribution is generally confined to the canyon bottoms and the wider ridges between canyons. Some of the vegetation in the deeper canyons is unavailable for livestock grazing due to the steepness of the slopes.

Table 3-5 shows the WSA's ecological condition.

TABLE 3-5

GOODING CITY OF ROCKS WEST WSA
ECOLOGICAL CONDITION CLASS

Acres					
Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Seeded	Total
4,163	1,469	655	0	0	6,287

Within the WSA, water is generally abundant and available for livestock use during the early part of the grazing season with many of the creeks and drainages carrying spring runoff down from higher elevations. As the season progresses, many of these creeks and drainages dry up and the livestock are forced to move to areas with permanent water developments where water is available throughout the entire grazing season.

The only range project of record in the WSA is the Strike Burn Fire Seeding which occurred in 1959. The project was initiated to replace vegetative cover which was destroyed by wildfire. Remnant stands of crested wheatgrass are still scattered throughout the seeded area. Numerous native species have re-established on the burn area.

Additional range developments planned within the WSA include 1,320 acres of prescribed burning, one spring development, and two reservoirs less than 1/3 of an acre each (see Map 14).

DEER CREEK WSA (ID-54-10)

General Characteristics

Deer Creek WSA is located approximately two miles west of the Gooding City of Rocks West WSA (see Map 2). The WSA is located in the Mount Bennett Hills, a rolling belt of foothills between the Sawtooth Mountains to the north and the Snake River Plains to the south. The WSA is southwest of Davis Mountain, one of the highest points in the Bennett Hills.

The WSA is dominated by a series of steep hills with Cottonwood Creek, Deer Creek, and unnamed drainages cutting between them. Rhyolite and basalt outcrops dominate the tops of many of the hills. Elevations range from 4,920 to 6,560 feet.

The dominant vegetation of the WSA is sagebrush and grasses. The higher elevations have scattered stands of aspens, tobacco brush, Indian paintbrush, and lupine.

Several species of wildlife including elk, deer, bear, coyotes, birds of prey, and upland game birds are found in the WSA.

Land Status

The Deer Creek WSA contains 7,487 acres of public land. There is one 640-acre State inholding in the WSA.

Wilderness Values

Naturalness

This WSA appears natural. Short sections of drift fences, a spring development, and two short ways, with a total length of 1/2 mile, are the only imprints of man in the WSA. The drift fences and spring development are very localized imprints and have no significant affect on the WSA's naturalness. The ways would eventually return to a natural condition if use was eliminated.

Solitude

The WSA offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. The quality of solitude in the WSA would depend largely on the number of users in the WSA at one time. If use increased from present levels, it would be hard to avoid the sights and sounds of other users. Although the canyons within the WSA provide topographic screening, a large number of visitors could exceed the capability of these canyons to screen visitors from one another. Aspen groves in the WSA's northern portion provide screening, but most of the WSA is brush covered and has little vegetative screening.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities in this WSA are based on the diversity of activities available, including hiking, nature study, photography, and hunting. The variety of environments provide visual interest for both the hiker and those involved in nature study.

Special Features

Nesting sites for raptors are found in the WSA.

Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Resources

ORV use is estimated at under 100 visitor days annually. Motorcycles and four-wheel drive vehicles account for most of the use, which occurs primarily in the late spring and fall. Some snowmobile use also occurs.

Mineral Resources

Except for the State land inholding, all surface and mineral estates in the WSA are in Federal ownership and are open to mineral entry.

The Deer Creek WSA is classified as prospectively valuable for oil and gas (Fernette 1983). It is classified as having moderate potential for low temperature geothermal resources.

The WSA is classified as having low potential for other leasable minerals based on an unfavorable geologic environment (Fernette 1983). There are no mineral leases within the WSA.

The entire area is classified as having low potential for metallic mineral resources based on an unfavorable geologic environment. It is classified as having moderate potential for diatomite deposits based on the presence of the Banbury sediments underlying the WSA (Fernette 1983). There are no mining claims in the WSA.

Based on field observations, the area is classified as having low potential for saleable materials.

Livestock Grazing

The entire WSA is currently allotted for livestock grazing. Sixty-five percent (4,892 acres) of the WSA has been classified as suitable for livestock grazing. The WSA provides 1,193 AUMs of livestock grazing for sheep and cattle. The season of use for cattle grazing is April 20 through July 20 and from September 25 through November 25. Sheep grazing normally occurs from May 1 through June 10 and from November 1 through December 15.

Table 3-6 shows the WSA's ecological condition.

TABLE 3-6

DEER CREEK WSA
ECOLOGICAL CONDITION CLASS

Acres					
Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Seeded	Total
336	7,151	0	0	0	7,487

Range developments within the WSA include about 4.5 miles of fencing, which was installed to control or confine livestock movements, and Deer Creek Spring, which was developed in 1941 to provide additional water for livestock grazing (see Map 15).

Water sources within the WSA are numerous with developed and undeveloped springs and seeps. Clover Creek, which borders the WSA along the south and west, is a dependable source of water for livestock use through the entire grazing season. Because water is relatively abundant within the WSA, livestock are uniformly distributed.

Additional range developments planned within the WSA include one reservoir (less than 1/3 acre), two miles of gap fencing, and 750 acres of brush control through spraying or controlled burning.

LAVA WSA (ID-56-2)

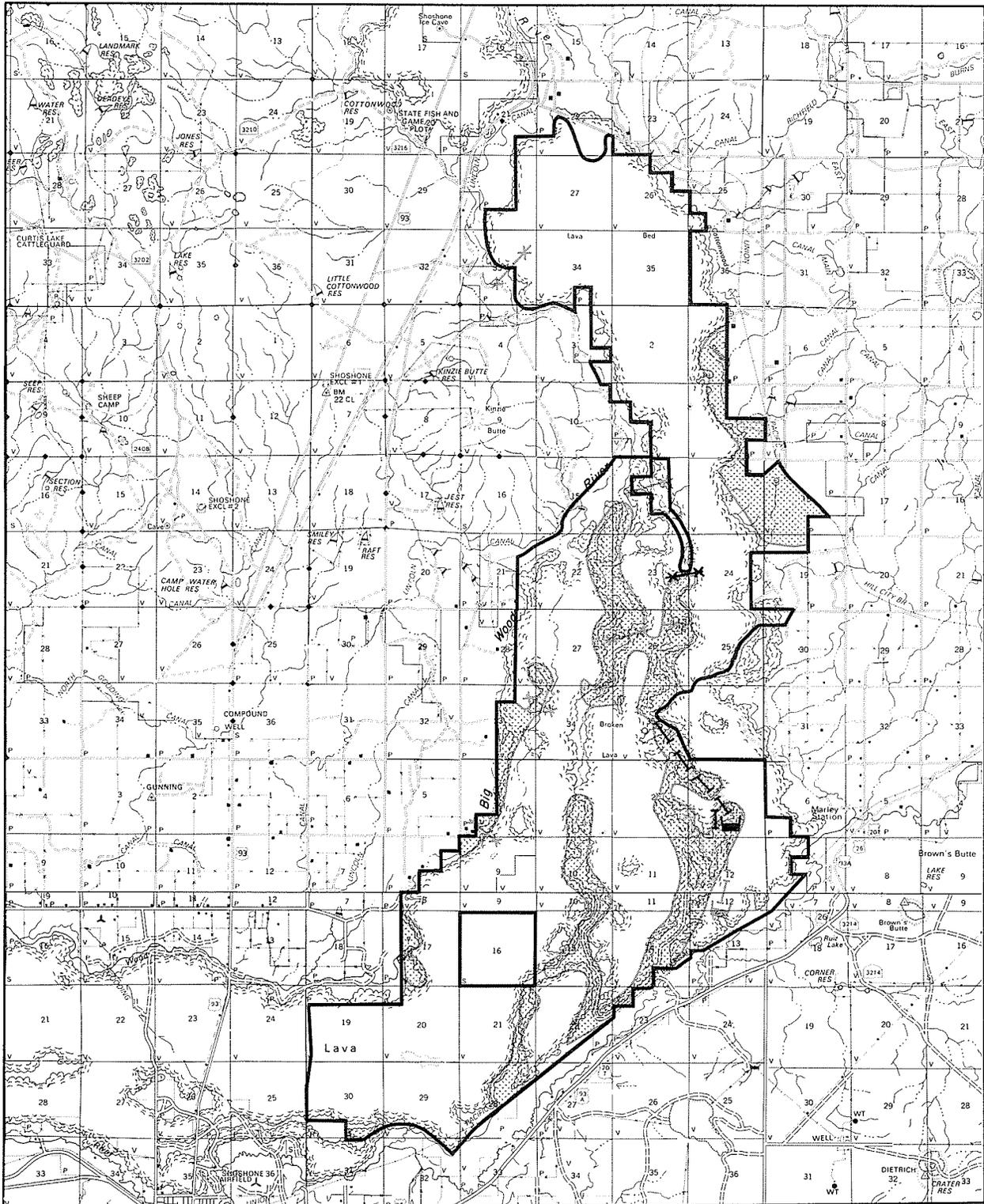
General Characteristics

The Lava WSA is located on a flat plain just northwest of Shoshone, Idaho. The majority of the WSA is a lava flow that contains many examples of pressure ridges and ropey lava.

The dominant vegetation is sagebrush and grasses. There are small shrubs which resemble ferns in shaded portions of the WSA and many lichens of different colors on the exposed surfaces of the lava.

Several species of wildlife including deer, coyotes, and sage grouse are found within the WSA.

LAVA WSA ID-56-2



T. 3 S.

T. 4 S.

T. 5 S.

MAP 16 DEVELOPMENTS

LAVA WSA (PROPOSED ACTION - NO WILDERNESS)
ID-56-2

WSA BOUNDARY

LAND STATUS - V - PUBLIC LAND
S - STATE LAND
P - PRIVATE LAND

EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS

PIPELINE — — —

TROUGH —

FENCE * * *

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS

PIPELINE — — —

TROUGH —

FENCE * * *

BRUSH CONTROL [stippled pattern]

R.17E.

R.18E.

R.19E.

Land Status

The Lava WSA contains 23,680 acres of public land. There is a 640-acre State land inholding.

Wilderness Values

Naturalness

Seven ways covering a total of 10.8 miles are present in the WSA. Many of these are extremely faint and receive little vehicle use from year to year. One way is used regularly to place livestock salt in the WSA. If vehicular use were restricted or eliminated, the ways would eventually revegetate and disappear. The ways are well screened by brush and most are not visible when viewed from a few feet away. They do not noticeably affect the naturalness of the WSA. The pipelines and corrals within the WSA do detract from the local area's naturalness.

Natural stream channels along the east and west boundaries of the WSA have been used as part of a canal system. No manmade structures have been built in these streambeds, but the water level is controlled and fluctuates greatly.

Solitude

The WSA offers outstanding opportunities for solitude, primarily because of its relatively large size. Although the topography is basically flat, some topographic relief is provided by the lava flows in the WSA. However, the lack of good screening lessens opportunities for solitude if several users are in the same part of the WSA.

Agricultural land is adjacent to the WSA along large sections of the western and southeastern boundary. Activities on this land can be seen and heard from several places within the WSA. The sites and sounds of agricultural activity adjacent to the WSA are not overwhelming, but they do detract from a feeling of solitude. A railroad track runs along the southeastern boundary. This railroad track is currently being removed and the right-of-way will be abandoned in the future.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The WSA provides a diversity of primitive recreation opportunities. Prominent among these are photography, hiking, camping, and nature study. Some lava tubes within the WSA are available for exploring and study. The rugged terrain and harsh conditions enhance the challenge of hiking and camping activities. However, the lack of destinations may diminish the quality of these opportunities for some users.

Special Features

The lava flows that dominate the WSA offer opportunities to study the geology of volcanic formations. The primary succession of plants on lava flows can also be observed.

A nesting site for the burrowing owl, a sensitive species in Idaho, is located in the WSA.

Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Resources

Motorcycles and four-wheel drive vehicles occasionally use several ways within the WSA. Approximately 100 visitor days of recreational ORV use occurs annually in the WSA.

Mineral Resources

Except for the State land inholding, all surface and mineral estates in the WSA are in Federal ownership and are open to mineral entry.

The Lava WSA is considered prospectively valuable for both oil and gas and geothermal resources. The entire WSA has a low to moderate favorability for low to intermediate temperature geothermal resources based on limited well data and by analogy with surrounding areas.

The WSA is classified as having low potential for other leasable minerals based on an unfavorable geologic environment (Frederickson and Fernette 1983). There are no mineral leases within the WSA.

The WSA is classified as unfavorable for locatable mineral resources based on unfavorable geologic environment. There are no mining claims within the WSA.

Veneer basalt of building stone quality occurs on the northern edge of the WSA and probably occurs elsewhere in the area. It has been exploited by trespass. There have been no sales of building stone within the WSA.

Livestock Grazing

The entire WSA is currently allotted for livestock grazing. Fifty-five percent (13,103 acres) of the WSA has been classified as suitable for livestock grazing. The public lands within the WSA provide approximately 1,828 AUMs of livestock forage for 12 cattle operations. The entire allotment is grazed as a single unit on an annual basis. The season of use begins on April 16 and continues through September 30.

The only range developments within the WSA are one-half mile of fence, the Freeman Corrals installed in 1956, and a pipeline constructed in 1972.

The majority of the allotment contains a rough, broken lava flow which forms a natural barrier that excludes livestock grazing. As a result, the

grazing use is concentrated on those small areas of productive soil which are accessible to livestock.

Table 3-7 shows the WSA's ecological condition.

TABLE 3-7

LAVA WSA
ECOLOGICAL CONDITION CLASS

Acres					
Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Seeded	Total
16,667	5,622	0	0	1,391	23,680

Additional range developments planned within the WSA include reconstruction of one mile of pipeline, one mile of new pipeline, a drinking trough, two miles of gap fencing, and 2,200 acres of brush control through prescribed burning or plowing and reseeding.

CHAPTER 4

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

FRIEDMAN CREEK WSA (ID-53-5)

Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative)

Under the proposed action, the entire 9,773 acres of the Friedman Creek WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the development of mineral resources and the resulting impacts on wilderness values in the long term.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The entire WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation and none of the wilderness values on 9,773 acres would receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. The short-term impact of this action would be negligible, since little development activity is anticipated in the short term whether or not the area is designated wilderness.

No development of two existing mining claims in the WSA is anticipated due to the absence of a known discovery. In the long term however, wilderness values would be lost as a result of mineral development in the Friedman Creek and Rough Creek drainages. Analysis of geochemical samples from side drainages in the Friedman Creek and Rough Creek drainages in the central portion of the WSA indicate high potential for the discovery of silver and lead-barite ores within the WSA. For the purpose of this analysis it is assumed that in the long term there would be one discovery and lode claim located for these mineral resources in each drainage. Based on similar resources and developments in areas within five miles of the WSA an estimated 25 acres of surface disturbance would be associated with developing each claim. The mineral development activities would include five acres of disturbance caused by the construction of 3 miles of mine access road and 20 acres of disturbance associated with tailings piles, adits, loading areas and buildings in the vicinity of the lode claim.

The mine access roads would most likely protrude into the WSA from the western boundary and, because of the area's size and boundary configuration, the area would be divided into three parcels of approximately 3,200 acres each.

The mineral development activities would be obvious in the WSA's two major canyons. This is the portion of the WSA that is most likely to be used by the public. Therefore, the WSA would no longer appear natural to the average visitor.

Mineral development activities would adversely impact the wilderness value of solitude. Sights and sounds from traffic and construction related to

mineral development would lower the quality of solitude in the WSA's major drainages. Outstanding opportunities for solitude would be lost.

Sights and sounds from recreational off-road-vehicle use would have an adverse impact on solitude. However, this impact is expected to be slight since ORV use is estimated to be less than 100 visitor days annually and is expected to remain below 1,000 visitor days annually for the next ten years and the foreseeable future.

Other recreation uses would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 1000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. This increase would not significantly impact opportunities for solitude.

No new range developments are planned in the WSA and maintenance activities would not change. Livestock use would be maintained at the existing level of 1,700 AUMs for the next ten years and beyond. Therefore, grazing facility maintenance and construction actions would not affect wilderness values in the WSA.

Conclusion. The Friedman Creek WSA's wilderness values of size, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude would be lost.

Impacts on Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The WSA would be open to ORV use. Over the long term six miles of mine access road would be constructed within the WSA making the central portion of the WSA more accessible to ORV use. Recreational ORV use would remain below 1,000 visitor days annually over the next ten years and the foreseeable future.

Conclusion. Although the area would be more accessible, recreational ORV use would remain below 1000 visitor days annually. There would be no significant impact on recreational ORV use.

Impacts on Development of Mineral Resources

All lands within the WSA would remain open for mineral entry and mineral leasing. All potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes high favorability for occurrence of metallic minerals (Lead, zinc, silver, and copper) and moderate favorability for oil and gas and barite. Development of the metallic minerals is likely because of high quality deposits. Development of oil and gas is unlikely because of the lack of leases, exploration, industry interest, the high costs associated with test wells, the area's inaccessibility and location outside of a known oil and gas province, and better potential for reserves in other areas.

Because all potential minerals would remain available for development, there would be no impact to development of potential mineral resources.

Conclusion. Potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes high favorability for metallic minerals and moderate favorability for oil and gas and barite. There would be no impact on development of mineral resources in the Friedman Creek WSA.

Impacts on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction

Maintenance of the existing fence would not change and no new range developments are planned within the WSA. Therefore, there would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance or construction.

Conclusion. There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance or construction in the Friedman Creek WSA.

All Wilderness Alternative

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, the entire 9,773 acres of public land in the Friedman Creek WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the mineral withdrawal and ORV closure in designated wilderness, the resulting effects on mineral development and recreational ORV use, and the protection of wilderness values.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, all 9,773 acres of the Friedman Creek WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and all wilderness values would be protected by legislative mandate. Wilderness values of size, naturalness, opportunities for solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreation, and the supplemental features of diversity of wildlife, vegetation, and topography would be retained in the WSA. Wilderness designation would withdraw the WSA from mineral entry and development of two mines would not occur.

Wilderness designation would close the entire 9,773-acre Friedman Creek WSA to all forms of recreational ORV use. Although encounters between ORV users and others are infrequent at the current use levels, the elimination of ORV use would enhance opportunities for solitude. The improvement in the area's naturalness as a result of ORV closure would be marginal since the existing level of use is quite low.

Livestock grazing and range management actions would not affect wilderness values in the WSA because no new range developments are planned in the WSA and maintenance activities would not change.

Acquisition of eight 40-acre private land inholdings and one 40-acre State land inholding would affect the wilderness values of naturalness and solitude by eliminating the possibility of non-wilderness uses.

Conclusion. All wilderness values would receive long-term Congressional protection. Wilderness values would be slightly enhanced on all 9,773 acres of the Friedman Creek WSA.

Impacts on Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

Wilderness designation would close the entire 9,773-acre Friedman Creek WSA to all forms of recreational ORV use. Recreational ORV use of approximately

100 visitor days would be eliminated annually from the WSA. Public land that offers similar or superior opportunities for recreational ORV use is located throughout the region. Therefore, recreational ORV use forgone in the WSA would be absorbed on surrounding public lands.

Conclusion. Recreational ORV use of 100 visitor days would be forgone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

Impacts on Development of Mineral Resources

All lands within the Friedman Creek WSA would be withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry and mineral leasing. Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes high favorability for metallic minerals (lead, zinc, silver, and copper) and moderate favorability for oil and gas and barite. It is assumed that production sufficient to support commercial development of the metallic mineral resources would be forgone. This commercial development forgone would be insignificant in the local economy.

Conclusion. Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes high favorability for metallic minerals and moderate favorability for oil and gas and barite.

Impacts on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction

Maintenance of the existing fence would not change and no new range developments are planned within the WSA. Therefore, there would be no impacts on grazing facility maintenance or construction.

Conclusion. There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance or construction.

LITTLE CITY OF ROCKS WSA (ID-54-5)

Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative)

Under the proposed action, the entire 5,875 acres of public land in the Little City of Rocks WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the effects of recreational ORV use on wilderness values.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The entire WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation and none of the wilderness values on 5,875 acres would receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. The short-term

impact of this action would be negligible, since little development activity of any kind is anticipated in the near future whether or not the area is designated wilderness.

However, the lands within the WSA would be open for ORV use and increasing ORV use would effect wilderness values in the long term. Recreational ORV use levels are approximately 1,500 visitor days annually. Over the next ten years, ORV use would reach 2,500 annually. The trend would continue to increase, but use would not exceed 5,000 visitor days annually. The existing 1.4 miles of vehicle ways and five miles of trailbike tracks that extend into the WSA along the main drainage from the southern boundary would be maintained by existing use. Increased use in the future would result in a conversion of the trailbike tracks to well marked trails and five more miles of poorly defined trailbike tracks would be established by increased use along the main drainage in the central part of the WSA. The area's naturalness would be degraded in these areas as a result of surface disturbance. The perception of naturalness would be adversely affected and essentially lost in areas of concentrated use. Recreational ORV use would degrade the area's naturalness and reduce opportunities for solitude in areas of concentrated use. This degradation would be significant locally, but would be insignificant statewide.

Livestock and range actions and mineral resources actions would not affect wilderness values in the WSA.

Conclusion. The WSA's naturalness would be lost in areas of concentrated ORV use. Recreational ORV use would also reduce opportunities for solitude.

Impacts on Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

Over the next ten years, ORV use would reach 2,500 annually. The trend would continue to increase, but use would not exceed 5,000 visitor days annually. Because recreational ORV use would continue to increase, there would be no impact on recreational ORV use.

Conclusion. There would be no impact to recreational ORV use.

Impacts on Development of Mineral Resources

All lands within the Little City of Rocks WSA would remain open for mineral entry and leasing. All potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and low potential for other mineral resources. Development of these resources is unlikely because higher potential exists in more accessible locations outside the WSA.

Because all potential mineral resources would remain available for development, there would be no impact to development of potential mineral resources.

Conclusion. Potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources. There would be no impact on development of mineral resources.

Impacts on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction

No livestock or range management facilities are located within the WSA and none are planned. Therefore, there would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

Conclusion. There would be no impacts on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

All Wilderness Alternative

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, the entire 5,875 acres of the Little City of Rocks WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the protection of wilderness values through wilderness designation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, all 5,875 acres of the Little City of Rocks WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and all wilderness values would receive Congressional protection. Wilderness designation would eliminate 1,500 visitor days of ORV visitor use annually.

Wilderness values of naturalness and opportunities for solitude would improve slightly. The supplemental features of outstanding scenery would be retained in the WSA.

Conclusion. All wilderness values would receive long-term Congressional protection. All wilderness value would be maintained on all 5,875 acres of the WSA. Since ORV use would be eliminated, naturalness and opportunities for solitude would improve slightly.

Impacts on Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

Wilderness designation would close the entire 5,875-acre Little City of Rocks WSA to all forms of recreational ORV use. Recreational ORV use of approximately 1500 visitor days would be eliminated from the WSA annually.

Because of the area's unusual geologic and recreational resources, Little City of Rocks WSA is a destination for some ORV recreationists. ORVs are used by this group to provide access to the area's arches, monoliths, hoodoos, and columns. These recreationists, who use ORVs for access, would have to walk into the area of geologic interest from the WSA boundary, a distance of one-half to one mile. Superior resources are available in the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA.

The remaining ORV recreationists who visit Little City of Rocks WSA for reasons other than the area's unusual geologic setting will be displaced, but they will find numerous areas of public land that are open to ORV use and have equal or superior opportunities for ORV recreation. Therefore, recreational ORV use forgone in the WSA would be absorbed on surrounding public lands.

Conclusion. Recreational ORV use of 1,500 visitor days would be forgone annually. Impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

Impacts on Development of Mineral Resources

All lands within the Little City of Rocks WSA would be withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry and mineral leasing. Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and low potential for other mineral resources.

Conclusion. Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources.

Impacts on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction

No livestock or range management facilities that require maintenance are located within the WSA and no additional construction of livestock and range management facilities are planned within the WSA. Therefore, there would be no impacts on grazing facility maintenance or construction.

Conclusion. There would be no impacts on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

BLACK CANYON WSA (ID-54-6)

Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative)

Under the Proposed Action, the entire 10,371 acres of the Black Canyon WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

There are no significant impacts associated with this alternative.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The entire WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation and none of the wilderness values on 10,371 acres would receive the special Congressional protection provided by wilderness designation. The short-term impact of this action would be negligible, since little development activity is anticipated in the near future whether or not the area is designated wilderness.

Two cherrystem roads would receive vehicular use to provide required maintenance for 7.5 miles of three-strand barbed wire fence. This vehicle use and maintenance would have a negligible effect on the wilderness values of naturalness and solitude since the amount of vehicle use would be low and the facilities already exist. A reservoir (less than one-third acre) would be constructed in the western portion of the WSA. In the short term, this would

reduce naturalness in the vicinity of the reservoir because of vegetation disturbance and slightly modified land form. Within three years of construction, vegetation would become re-established and the reservoir would be substantially unnoticeable. The modified land form would be slightly noticeable but would have a negligible effect on naturalness.

Recreational ORV use would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 1000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. Two cherrystem roads, with a total length of three miles, extend into the WSA from the northern and western boundaries and would be maintained by vehicle use. Due to low use, creation of new trails or ways by recreational ORV use is not anticipated. The quality of naturalness would not change from the existing situation.

Mineral resources actions and other recreational uses would not affect wilderness values in the WSA.

Conclusion. The additional range development would reduce naturalness slightly in the western portion of the WSA. The naturalness of the remainder of the WSA would be retained.

Impacts on Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The proposed action would have no impacts on recreational ORV use in the WSA. The WSA would remain open to ORVs. Recreational ORV use would increase but would remain under 1,000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future.

Conclusion. There would be no impact on recreational ORV use.

Impacts on Development of Mineral Resources

All lands within the Black Canyon WSA would remain open for mineral entry and leasing. All potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources, low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources, and low potential for other mineral resources. Development of these resources is unlikely because higher potential exists in more accessible locations outside the WSA.

Because all potential mineral resources would remain available for development, there would be no impact to development of potential mineral resources.

Conclusion. Potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources. There would be no impact on development of mineral resources.

Impacts on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction

A spring development at Rock Spring and 7.5 miles of fence could be maintained as they are now. One reservoir (less than one-third acre) would be constructed in the western portion of the WSA. Therefore, there would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

Conclusion. There would be no impacts on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

All Wilderness Alternative

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, the entire 10,371 acres of the Black Canyon WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation.

This alternative would result in a slight improvement in the WSA's apparent naturalness and opportunities for solitude.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, all 10,371 acres of the Black Canyon WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and all wilderness values would be protected by legislative mandate. The area's wilderness values of naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, and the supplemental values of a diversity of wildlife, vegetation, and topography would be retained in the WSA.

Two cherrystem roads would receive vehicular use approximately ten times annually to provide required maintenance for 7.5 miles of three-strand barbed wire fence. This vehicle use and maintenance would have a negligible effect on the wilderness values of naturalness and solitude since the amount of vehicle use would be so low and the facilities already exist. A reservoir (less than one-third acre) would be constructed in the western portion of the WSA. In the short term, this would reduce naturalness in the immediate vicinity of the reservoir because of vegetation disturbance and slightly modified land form. Within three years of construction, vegetation would become re-established so that the reservoir would be substantially unnoticeable. The modified land form would be slightly noticeable, but would have a negligible effect on naturalness.

Two cherrystem roads would be closed to recreational ORV use and would remain in a substantially unnoticeable condition. An estimated 200 visitor days of recreational ORV use would be eliminated annually from the WSA. This would improve naturalness slightly because of elimination of surface disturbance on existing ways and trailbike trails. Elimination of ORV use would also improve opportunities for solitude slightly because visitors would not encounter or hear ORV users in the area.

Conclusion. All wilderness values would receive long-term Congressional protection. All wilderness values would be maintained on all 10,371 acres of the WSA. Since ORV use would be eliminated and two cherrystem roads

would be closed to recreational ORV use, there would be a slight improvement in the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude. The additional range development would reduce naturalness slightly in the western portion of the WSA.

Impacts on Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

Wilderness designation would close the entire 10,371-acre Black Canyon WSA to all forms of recreational ORV use. Recreational ORV use of approximately 200 visitor days would be eliminated from the WSA annually. Public land that offers similar or superior opportunities for recreational ORV use is located throughout the region. Therefore, recreational ORV use forgone in the WSA would be absorbed on surrounding public lands.

Conclusion. Recreational ORV use of 200 visitor days would be forgone annually. Impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

Impacts on Development of Mineral Resources

All lands within the Black Canyon WSA would be withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry and mineral leasing. Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources, low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources, and low potential for other mineral resources.

Conclusion. Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources.

Impacts on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction

Planned range developments would be constructed. A spring development at Rock Spring and 7.5 miles of fence could be maintained as they are now. Two reservoirs less than one-third acre each would be constructed in the western portion of the WSA. Therefore, there would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

Conclusion. There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

GOODING CITY OF ROCKS EAST WSA (ID-54-8a)

Proposed Action (Partial Wilderness Alternative)

Under the Proposed Action, 13,063 acres of the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and 1,680 acres would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the protection of wilderness values through wilderness designation and the resulting increases in naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

In this alternative 13,063 acres of the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and 1,680 acres would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. All wilderness values on the 13,063 acres recommended suitable for wilderness designation would receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. The areas of the most spectacular scenery and outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and naturalness would be retained.

Two cherrystem roads and the western boundary road would receive vehicular use approximately ten times annually to provide required maintenance for two spring developments and seven miles of barbed wire fence and for livestock grazing management. This vehicle use and maintenance would have a negligible effect on the wilderness values of naturalness and solitude in the 13,063 acres designated wilderness since the amount of vehicle use would be so low and the facilities already exist. Approximately 320 acres of prescribed burning would be accomplished. This would have a negligible effect on the WSA's naturalness since fire would be reintroduced into a fire dependent ecosystem. Three spring developments would be completed in the WSA. This would have a negligible short-term effect on the wilderness value of naturalness in the immediate vicinity of the spring developments because of vegetation disturbance. Within three years of construction vegetation would become reestablished so that the disturbance would be substantially unnoticeable.

The entire WSA and cherrystem roads extending three miles into the WSA, three miles of ways, and 3.5 miles of road that separates this WSA from the Gooding City of Rocks West WSA would be closed to recreational ORV use. This action would eliminate approximately 140 visitor days of recreational ORV use that are estimated to occur in the area at present. This would improve the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation slightly because of the near elimination of surface disturbance and because visitors would not encounter or hear ORV users in the area.

The 1,680 acres not designated wilderness would be open for recreational ORV use. A way 0.4 miles long would be open for vehicle use. Recreational ORV use on this parcel would remain below 100 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. This would reduce slightly the naturalness and opportunities for solitude on the 1,680 acres.

Development of mineral resources would not affect wilderness values, since no mineral development is expected.

Acquisition of the 640-acre parcel of State land within the WSA would affect the wilderness values of naturalness and solitude. The cherrystem road providing access to the parcel from the northern boundary road would be closed to vehicle use, except for livestock facility maintenance.

All wilderness values would be maintained on all 13,063 acres of the WSA. This includes the area of spectacular scenery, outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation, and naturalness.

Conclusion. The 13,063 acres designated as wilderness would receive long-term Congressional protection. On the 13,063 acres designated wilderness, all wilderness values would be maintained. The area's naturalness and opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and solitude would improve slightly because of the elimination of approximately 150 visitor days of recreational ORV use. The areas most spectacular scenery, naturalness, and opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude would be retained. On the 1,680 acres not designated wilderness, there would be a slight reduction of naturalness and opportunities for solitude because of continued recreational ORV use.

Impacts on Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

Wilderness designation would close 13,063 acres of the WSA to recreational ORV use. Recreational vehicle use of approximately 140 visitor days would be eliminated annually from the WSA. Public land that offers similar opportunities for recreational ORV use is located throughout the region. Therefore, recreational use forgone would be absorbed on surrounding public lands.

The 1,680 acres of the WSA not designated wilderness would remain open to ORVs. Recreational ORV use levels would increase but remain under 100 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future.

Conclusion. Recreational ORV use would be forgone on the 13,063 acres designated wilderness and 140 visitor days would be forgone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

On the 1,680 acres of the WSA not designated wilderness, recreational ORV use would continue to increase, but would not exceed 100 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future.

Impacts on Development of Mineral Resources

All lands within the 13,063 acres recommended as suitable for wilderness designation would be withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry and mineral leasing. Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources, low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources, and an estimated six million tons of diatomite. The possibilities of development of this diatomite, with or without wilderness designation, is low because the inconsistent quality of the deposit, the distance to market, and the depth of overburden renders development uneconomic.

All lands within the 1,680 acres recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation would remain open for mineral entry and leasing. All potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources. Development of these

resources is unlikely because higher potential exists in more accessible locations outside the WSA.

Conclusion. Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone on 13,063 acres. This includes an estimated six million tons of diatomite (1.5 percent of the total reserve within five miles of the WSA). Moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources also exists in the area. Potential mineral resources on 1,680 acres would be available for mineral development.

Impacts on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction

All grazing facilities could be maintained as they are now. Three spring developments would be completed. Approximately 320 acres of prescribed burning would occur.

There would be no impact to grazing facility maintenance and construction.

Conclusion. There would be no impact to grazing facility maintenance and construction.

All Wilderness Alternative

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, the entire 14,743 acres of the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the protection of wilderness values through wilderness designation and the resulting increases in naturalness, opportunities for solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, all 14,743 acres of the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and all wilderness values would be protected by legislative mandate.

Two cherrystem roads and the western boundary road would receive vehicular use approximately ten times annually to provide required maintenance for two spring developments and seven miles of barbed wire fence and for livestock grazing management. This vehicle use and maintenance would have a negligible effect on the wilderness values of naturalness and solitude on 13,063 acres (89 per cent) of the WSA since the amount of vehicle use would be so low and the facilities already exist. In the northern portion of the WSA where most of the facilities are concentrated, there would be a slight reduction of naturalness and opportunities for solitude because the maintenance would be concentrated in a relatively small area of 1,680 acres. Approximately 320 acres of prescribed burning would be accomplished. This would have a negligible effect on the area's naturalness since fire would be reintroduced into a

fire dependent ecosystem. Three spring developments would be completed in the WSA. This would have a negligible short-term effect on the area's naturalness in the immediate vicinity of the spring developments because of vegetation disturbance. Within three years of construction vegetation would become re-established so that the disturbance would be substantially unnoticeable.

Cherrystem roads extending 3 miles into the WSA, 3.4 miles of ways, and 3.5 miles of road that separates this WSA from the Gooding City of Rocks West WSA would be closed to recreational ORV use. This action would eliminate approximately 150 visitor days of recreational ORV use that are estimated to occur in the area at present. This would improve the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation slightly because of near elimination of surface disturbance and because visitors would not encounter or hear ORV users in the area.

Acquisition of the 640-acre State land parcel within the WSA would affect the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude. The cherrystem road providing access to the parcel from the northern boundary road would be closed to vehicle use, except for maintenance of range developments. This would improve the area's naturalness.

The wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreation, and the supplemental features of outstanding sightseeing in a diverse geologic area would be maintained on 14,743 acres of the WSA.

Conclusion. All wilderness values would receive long-term Congressional protection. On 13,063 acres of the WSA, there would be a slight improvement of the area's naturalness and opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and solitude because of the elimination of approximately 150 visitor days of recreational ORV use. There would be a slight decrease in the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude on 1,680 acres of the WSA because of maintenance of the concentration of grazing facilities in the area.

Impacts on Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

Wilderness designation would close the 14,743-acre WSA to recreation ORV use. Recreational ORV use of approximately 150 visitor days annually would be forgone from the WSA. Public land that offers similar opportunities for recreational ORV use is located throughout the region. Therefore, recreational use forgone would be absorbed on surrounding public lands.

Conclusion. Recreational ORV use would be forgone on the 14,743 acres designated wilderness and 150 visitor days would be forgone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

Impacts on Development of Mineral Resources

All lands within the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA would be withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry and mineral leasing. Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources, low to moderate potential for high

temperature geothermal resources, and an estimated six million tons of diatomite. The possibility of development of this diatomite, with or without wilderness designation, is low because the inconsistent quality of the deposit, the distance to market, and the depth of overburden renders development uneconomic.

Conclusion. Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes an estimated six million tons of diatomite (1.5 percent of the total reserve within five miles of the WSA), moderate to low potential for low temperature geothermal resources, and low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources.

Impacts on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction

All grazing facilities could be maintained as they are now. Three spring developments would be completed. Approximately 320 acres of prescribed burning would be accomplished. There would be no impact to grazing facility maintenance and construction.

Conclusion. There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

No Wilderness Alternative

Under the No Wilderness Alternative, the 14,743-acre Gooding City of Rocks East WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to ORV use and the resulting reduction in naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The proposed action would recommend the entire 14,743-acre WSA nonsuitable for wilderness designation and none of the wilderness values would receive special legislative protection. The short-term impact of this action would be negligible, since little development activity is anticipated in the short term whether or not the area is designated wilderness.

Two cherrystem roads and the western boundary road would receive vehicular use to provide required maintenance for two spring developments and seven miles of barbed wire fence and for livestock grazing management. The vehicle use would slightly reduce the area's naturalness and opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and solitude on 13,063 acres (89 per cent) of the WSA. In the northern portion of the WSA where most of the facilities are concentrated, there would be a moderate reduction in the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude because most of the maintenance would be in a relatively small area of 1,680 acres. Approximately 320 acres of prescribed burning would be accomplished. This would have a negligible effect on the area's naturalness since fire would be reintroduced into a fire dependent ecosystem. Three spring developments would be completed in the WSA. This

would have a negligible short-term impact on the area's naturalness in the immediate vicinity of the spring developments because of vegetation disturbance. Within three years of construction vegetation would become reestablished so that the disturbance would be substantially unnoticeable.

In the long term, increasing recreational ORV use is expected to have a slight adverse effect on wilderness values. Recreational ORV use would increase slightly but would remain below 1000 visitor days annually for the next ten years. Two cherrystem roads, with a total length of three miles, extending into the WSA from the northern and eastern boundaries and four ways, totalling 3.4 miles, would be maintained by vehicle use. Due to low use, creation of new trails or ways by recreational ORV use is not anticipated. In addition to the cherrystem roads and ways, 3.5 miles of road that separates this WSA from Gooding City of Rocks West would also be open for use. The perception of naturalness would be reduced slightly near these areas of vehicle use because of continued surface disturbance. Recreational ORV use would also lower the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and solitude slightly because visitors would see and hear ORVs in the area.

Development of mineral resources would not affect wilderness values, since no mineral development is expected.

Conclusion. On 14,743 acres of the WSA there would be a slight reduction of the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude because of the continued and increasing recreational ORV use. On 1,680 acres of the WSA (approximately 11 percent in the northern portion) there would be a moderate reduction of the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude because of the concentration of maintenance activity in the area.

Impacts on Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The WSA would be open to ORVs. Recreational ORV use levels would increase but remain under 1000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future.

There would be no impact on recreational ORV use.

Conclusion. There would be no impact on recreational ORV use.

Impacts on Development of Mineral Resources

All lands within the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA would remain open for mineral entry and leasing. All potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources, low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources, and an estimated six million tons of diatomite. The possibility of development of this diatomite, with or without wilderness designation, is low because the inconsistent quality of the deposit, the distance to market, and the depth of overburden renders development unlikely. Development of the other mineral resources is unlikely because areas of higher potential exist in more accessible areas outside the WSA.

Because all potential mineral resources would remain available for development, there would be no impact to development of potential mineral resources.

Conclusion. Potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources, low to moderate potential for high temperature geothermal resources, and an estimated six million tons of diatomite (1.5 percent of the total reserve within five miles of the WSA). There would be no impact on development of mineral resources.

Impacts on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction

Maintenance of existing grazing developments would not change. Planned range developments would be completed. Three spring developments would be completed. Approximately 320 acres of prescribed burning would be accomplished.

There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

Conclusion. There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

GOODING CITY OF ROCKS WEST WSA (ID-54-8b)

Proposed Action (All Wilderness Alternative)

Under the Proposed Action, the entire 6,287 acres of the Gooding City of Rocks West WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the protection of wilderness values through wilderness designation, the resulting effects on naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation, and the withdrawal of mineral resources.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

All 6,287 acres of the Gooding City of Rocks West WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation and all wilderness values would receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. Wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreation, and supplemental features of diverse topography and scenery would be retained in the WSA.

One cherrystem road and the eastern boundary road would receive vehicular use approximately ten times annually to provide required maintenance for one reservoir and for livestock maintenance. This vehicle use and maintenance would have a negligible effect on the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude in the WSA since the amount of vehicle use would be low and the facility already exists. Approximately 1,320 acres of prescribed burning would be accomplished. This would have a negligible effect on the wilderness value of naturalness since fire would be introduced into a fire dependent ecosystem. One spring development and two reservoirs (less than a third of an acre each)

would be completed in the WSA. This would reduce slightly the area's naturalness in the short term in the immediate vicinity of the spring development and reservoirs because of vegetation disturbance and slightly modified land form. Within three years of construction vegetation would become reestablished and the disturbance would be substantially unnoticeable. The modified land form would slightly reduce the naturalness of the immediate area.

The cherrystem road extending into the WSA 0.8 miles from the northern boundary and the 3.5 miles of road that separates this WSA from Gooding City of Rocks East WSA would be closed to recreational ORV use. This action would eliminate approximately 50 visitor days of recreational ORV use annually. This would improve the WSA's naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation by eliminating surface disturbance and encounters between ORV users and other recreationists.

Development of mineral resources would not affect wilderness values, since no mineral development is expected.

The acquisition of a 640-acre State land section surrounded by this WSA and Gooding City of Rocks East WSA would affect the wilderness values of naturalness and solitude. The cherrystem road providing access to the parcel from the southern boundary would be closed to recreational ORV use. This would improve the area's naturalness.

Conclusion. All wilderness values would receive long-term Congressional protection. Wilderness values would be maintained on all 6,287 acres of the Gooding City of Rocks West WSA. The area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation would improve because of the elimination of ORV use and the acquisition of the State land inholding.

Impacts on Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

Wilderness designation would close the entire 6,287-acre WSA to all forms of recreational ORV use. Recreational ORV use of approximately 50 visitor days annually would be eliminated from the WSA. Public land that offers similar or superior opportunities for recreational ORV use is located throughout the region. Therefore, recreational ORV use forgone in the WSA would be absorbed on surrounding public lands.

Conclusion. Recreational ORV use of 50 visitor days would be forgone on the 6,287 acres designated wilderness. Impacts resulting from this use shifting to other public lands would be negligible.

Impacts on Development of Mineral Resources

All lands within the Gooding City of Rocks West WSA would be withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry and mineral leasing. Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and an estimated 34 million tons of diatomite. The possibility of development of this diatomite, with or without

wilderness designation, is low because the inconsistent quality of the deposit, the distance to market, and the depth of overburden renders development uneconomic.

Conclusion. Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes an estimated 34 million tons of diatomite (8.5 percent of the total reserve within five miles of the WSA) and moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources.

Impacts on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction

No facilities exist within the WSA that require maintenance.

One spring development and two reservoirs would be completed. Approximately 1,320 acres of prescribed burning would be accomplished by allowing natural fires to burn. There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

Conclusion. There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

No Wilderness Alternative

Under the No Wilderness Alternative, the entire 6,287 acres of public land within the Gooding City of Rocks West WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to non-wilderness uses and the resulting reduction in naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The entire WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation and none of the wilderness values on 6,287 acres would receive special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. The short-term impact of this action would be negligible, since little development activity is anticipated in the near future whether or not the area is designated wilderness.

One cherrystem road and the eastern boundary road would receive vehicular use for livestock grazing management. This vehicle use would have a negligible effect on the wilderness values of naturalness and solitude in the WSA since the amount of vehicle use would be low. Approximately 1,320 acres of prescribed burning would be accomplished. This would have a negligible effect on the wilderness value of naturalness since fire would be reintroduced into a fire dependent ecosystem. One spring development and two reservoirs (less than a third of an acre each) would be completed in the WSA. This would reduce the area's naturalness in the short term in the immediate vicinity of the spring development and reservoirs because of vegetation disturbance and slightly modified land form. Within three years of construction vegetation would become reestablished so that the disturbance would be substantially

unnoticeable. The modified land form would be slightly noticeable, but would have a negligible effect on the wilderness value of naturalness.

In the long term, increasing recreational ORV use is expected to have an adverse effect on wilderness values. Recreational ORV use would increase slightly, but would remain below 500 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. Due to low amounts of use, creation of new trails or ways by recreational ORVs is not anticipated. The cherrystem road extending into the WSA 0.8 miles from the northern boundary and the 3.5 miles of road that separates this WSA from Gooding City of Rocks East WSA would be maintained by vehicle use. The perception of naturalness would be slightly reduced in the immediate area of this road. Recreational ORV use would also lower the quality of opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Development of mineral resources would not affect wilderness values, since no mineral development is expected.

Conclusion. On the 6,287 acres of the WSA there would be a reduction of naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation because of the continued and increasing recreational ORV use.

Impacts on Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The WSA would remain open to ORVs. Recreational ORV use levels would increase but would not exceed 500 visitor days annually.

There would be no impact on recreational ORV use.

Conclusion. There would be no impact on recreational ORV use.

Impacts on Development of Mineral Resources

All lands within the Gooding City of Rocks West WSA would remain open for mineral entry and leasing. All potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources and an estimated 34 million tons of diatomite. The possibility of development of this diatomite, with or without wilderness designation, is low because the inconsistent quality of the deposit, the distance to market, and the depth of overburden renders development uneconomic. Development of other mineral resources is unlikely because areas of higher potential exist in more accessible areas outside the WSA.

Because all potential mineral resources would remain available for development, there would be no impact to development of potential mineral resources.

Conclusion. Potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes an estimated 34 million tons of diatomite (8.5 percent of the total deposit within five miles of the WSA) and moderate to high potential for low temperature geothermal resources. There would be no impact on development of mineral resources.

Impacts on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction

Approximately 1,320 acres of prescribed burning would be accomplished. One spring development and two reservoirs would be completed in the WSA.

Because planned developments could occur, there would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

Conclusion. There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

DEER CREEK WSA (ID-54-10)

Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative)

Under the Proposed Action, the entire 7,487 acres of the Deer Creek WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

There are no significant impacts associated with this alternative.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The entire WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation and none of the wilderness values on 7,487 acres would receive special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation.

Four and one-half miles of barbed wire fence would be maintained. This would have a negligible effect on the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude. Range developments planned for the WSA would be completed and maintained. One reservoir (less than one-third acre) would be constructed in the western portion of the WSA. This would slightly reduce the area's naturalness in the short term in the immediate vicinity of the reservoir because of vegetation disturbance and slightly modified land form. Within three years of construction, vegetation would become reestablished so that the disturbance would be substantially unnoticeable. Construction of two miles of gap fencing would slightly reduce the area's naturalness. Completion of 750 acres of brush control through the use of spraying or prescribed burning would reduce the area's naturalness in the short term because of vegetation disturbance. Within ten years of control, vegetation would become reestablished so that the disturbance would be substantially unnoticeable.

Recreational ORV use would increase slightly, but would remain at levels below 1000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. Due to low use, creation of new trails or ways by recreational ORV use is not anticipated. Recreational ORV use would reduce the opportunities for solitude slightly.

Development of mineral resources would not affect wilderness values, since no mineral development is expected.

Conclusion. Deer Creek's naturalness and opportunities for solitude would be reduced slightly because of range developments and continued ORV use.

Impacts on Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The WSA would remain open to ORVs. Recreational ORV use levels would increase but remain under 1000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future.

There would be no impact on recreational ORV use.

Conclusion. There would be no impact on recreational ORV use.

Impacts on Development of Mineral Resources

All lands within the Deer Creek WSA would remain open for mineral entry and leasing. All potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes moderate potential for low temperature geothermal resources and diatomite. Development of these resources is unlikely because areas of higher potential exist in more accessible areas outside the WSA.

Because all potential mineral resources would remain available for development, there would be no impact on development of potential mineral resources.

Conclusion. Potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes moderate potential for low temperature geothermal resources and diatomite. There would be no impact on development of mineral resources.

Impacts on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction

Maintenance of existing range developments would not change. Range developments planned for the WSA would be completed and maintained. One reservoir (less than one-third acre) would be constructed. Two miles of gap fencing would be constructed. Brush control on 750 acres would be accomplished through the use of spraying or prescribed burning.

Conclusion. There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

All Wilderness Alternative

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, the entire 7,487 acres of the Deer Creek WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

There are no significant impacts associated with this alternative.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, all 7,487 acres of the WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation and all wilderness values would be protected by legislative mandate. Wilderness values of naturalness, opportunities for solitude, and primitive recreation, and supplemental values of scenery and nesting sites for raptors would be retained.

Four and one-half miles of barbed wire fence would be maintained. This would have a negligible effect on the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude. One reservoir (less than one-third acre) would be constructed in the western portion of the WSA. This would adversely affect the wilderness value of naturalness in the short term in the immediate vicinity of the reservoir because of vegetation disturbance and slightly modified land form. Within three years of construction, vegetation would become reestablished so that the disturbance would be substantially unnoticeable. Range developments planned for the WSA would be completed and maintained. Construction of two miles of gap fencing would slightly reduce the areas naturalness, since a new structure would be introduced into the area. Completion of 750 acres of brush control through prescribed burning would reduce the area's naturalness in the short term because of vegetation disturbance. Within three years of burning, vegetation would become reestablished so that the burn would be substantially unnoticeable.

An estimated 100 visitor days annually of recreational ORV use would be eliminated from the WSA by wilderness designation. This action would improve slightly the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude.

Development of mineral resources would not affect wilderness values, since no mineral development is expected.

Acquisition of the 640-acre State land inholding would affect the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude. Management of the parcel as wilderness would ensure protection of existing wilderness values.

Conclusion. All wilderness values would receive long-term Congressional protection. Naturalness and opportunities for solitude would improve slightly because of the elimination of ORV use and acquisition of the State land inholding. Naturalness and opportunities for solitude would be reduced slightly by range management actions.

Impacts on Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

Wilderness designation would close the entire 7,487-acre Deer Creek WSA to all forms of recreational ORV use. Recreational ORV use of approximately 100 visitor days annually would be eliminated from the WSA. Public land that offers similar or superior opportunities for recreational ORV use is located throughout the region. Therefore, recreational ORV use forgone in the WSA would be absorbed on surrounding public lands.

Conclusion. Recreational ORV use of 100 visitor days would be forgone annually. The impact of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

Impacts on Development of Mineral Resources

All lands within the Deer Creek WSA would be withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry and mineral leasing. Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes moderate potential for low temperature geothermal resources and moderate potential for diatomite.

Conclusion. Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes moderate potential for low temperature geothermal resources and diatomite.

Impacts on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction

Four and one-half miles of existing barbed wire fence would be maintained. Range developments planned for the WSA would be completed and maintained. One reservoir (less than one-third acre) would be constructed. Two miles of gap fencing would be constructed. Brush control on 750 acres would be accomplished through the use of spraying or prescribed burning.

There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

Conclusion. There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

LAVA WSA (ID-56-2)

Proposed Action (No Wilderness Alternative)

Under the Proposed Action, the entire 23,680 acres of the Lava WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the range developments and ORV use and the resulting impacts on wilderness values in the long term.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The entire WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation and none of the wilderness values on 23,680 acres would receive special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation.

Planned range developments would be constructed and maintained. One mile of pipeline would be reconstructed. One mile of new pipeline and a trough would be built and 2,200 acres of brush control and seeding would take place along dry washes. This would reduce the area's naturalness because of new surface disturbance. Completion of 2,200 acres of brush control through the use of chemical spraying or prescribed burning and seeding using range drills would adversely affect the area's naturalness because of vegetation disturbance. The effect from vegetation disturbance would last 15 to 20 years since the rows of the rangeland drills will be visible for most of the life of the seeding.

In the long term, increasing recreational off-road vehicle (ORV) use is expected to slightly reduce wilderness values. Recreational ORV use would increase slightly, but would remain below 1,000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future. Seven ways totalling 10.8 miles in length would be maintained by vehicle use. Due to low use, creation of new trails or ways by

recreational ORV use is not anticipated. The perception of naturalness and opportunities for solitude would be slightly reduced by continued ORV use.

Development of mineral resources would not affect wilderness values, since no mineral development is expected.

Conclusion. The area's naturalness would be reduced by new range developments and brush control. Naturalness and opportunities for solitude would be reduced slightly by continued ORV use.

Impacts on Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The WSA would remain open to ORVs. Recreational ORV use would increase but remain under 1,000 visitor days annually for the foreseeable future.

There would be no impact on recreational ORV use.

Conclusion. There would be no impact on recreational ORV use.

Impacts on Development of Mineral Resources

All lands within the Lava WSA would remain open for mineral entry and leasing. All potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes low to moderate favorability for low temperature geothermal resources. Development of this resource is unlikely because higher potential exists in more accessible areas outside the WSA.

Because all potential mineral resources would remain available for development, there would be no impact to development of potential mineral resources.

Conclusion. Potential mineral resources would be available for development. This includes low to moderate favorability for low temperature geothermal resources. There would be no impact on development of mineral resources.

Impacts on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction

This alternative would not affect maintenance of existing grazing facilities or construction of planned grazing facilities. One mile of pipeline would be reconstructed and one mile of new pipeline and a trough would be constructed. Brush control and seeding would be accomplished on 2,200 acres through the use of spraying or prescribed burning and seeding using range drills.

There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

Conclusion. There would be no impact on grazing facility maintenance and construction.

All Wilderness Alternative

Under the All Wilderness Alternative, the entire 23,680 acres of the Lava WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the restrictions on reseeding and the resulting reduction in AUMs.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

All 23,680 acres of the WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and all wilderness values would be protected by legislative mandate. Wilderness values of naturalness and opportunities for solitude would be retained.

Ways within the WSA would receive vehicular use approximately ten times annually to provide required maintenance for grazing facilities. This vehicle use and maintenance would have a negligible effect on the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude since the amount of vehicle use would be low. One mile of pipeline would be reconstructed and one new mile of pipeline and a trough would be constructed. This would adversely affect the area's naturalness because of new ground disturbance. Completion of 2,200 acres of brush control through the use of prescribed burning would benefit the wilderness value of naturalness because of reintroduction of fire into a fire dependent ecosystem.

Seven ways totalling 10.8 miles in length would be closed to recreational ORV use. An estimated 100 visitor days annually of recreational ORV use would be eliminated from the WSA. These actions would benefit slightly the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude because of the elimination of surface disturbance and because visitors would not encounter or hear ORV users in the area.

Development of mineral resources would not affect wilderness values, since no mineral development is expected.

Acquisition of 640-acre State land inholding would affect the wilderness values of naturalness and solitude. Ways providing access to the parcel would be closed to recreational ORV use. This would improve the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude.

Conclusion. All wilderness values would receive long-term Congressional protection. Range developments and maintenance would reduce the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude slightly. Elimination of ORV use and acquisition of the State land inholding would improve the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude.

Impacts on Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

Wilderness designation would close the entire 23,680-acre Lava WSA to all forms of recreational ORV use. Recreational ORV use of approximately 100 visitor days annually would be eliminated from the WSA. Public land that

offers similar or superior opportunities for recreational ORV use is located throughout the region. Therefore, recreational ORV use forgone in the WSA would be absorbed on surrounding public lands without noticeable impacts to those lands or inconvenience to recreational ORV enthusiasts.

Conclusion. Recreational ORV use of 100 visitor days would be forgone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

Impacts on Development of Mineral Resources

All lands within the Lava WSA would be withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry and mineral leasing. Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes low to moderate potential for low temperature geothermal resources.

Conclusion. Development of potential mineral resources would be forgone. This includes low to moderate potential for low temperature geothermal resources.

Impacts on Grazing Facility Maintenance and Construction

Brush control on 2,200 acres would be accomplished by prescribed burning under this alternative, and no seeding would be done. This contrasts with 2,200 acres of brush control accomplished through chemical spraying or burning and 2,200 acres of seeding with rangeland drills if the WSA were not designated wilderness. Because there would be no seeding, AUMs would be reduced from 1,828 to 1,259 in the long term. This 569-AUM reduction would be spread through the twelve cattle operators. Each operator would be reduced approximately 47 AUMs. This alternative would not affect maintenance of existing grazing facilities or new construction of planned grazing facilities. One mile of pipeline would be reconstructed and one mile of new pipeline and a trough would be constructed.

Conclusion. There would be no seeding on 2,200 acres of brush control. Because there would be no seeding, a reduction of 569 AUMs would occur.

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 could reduce the wilderness values over the long term.

If an area is designated wilderness, it would ensure the long-term productivity of ecosystems and would maintain or enhance present wilderness values. Motorized vehicles could no longer be used except where prescribed by an area's wilderness management plan. Mineral resources would not be available for location and development.

IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

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

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION, COORDINATION, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Throughout the study, consultation and coordination has 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, the State Historic Preservation Officer, the U.S. Geologic Service, and Bureau of Mines.

Wildlife and vegetation inventories and consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Division, did not identify any threatened or endangered species in the WSAs. Because there were no threatened or endangered species, the Ecological Services Division responded to the draft EIS with a letter of no comment on January 11, 1983 (see Comment Letter 13).

Inventories and consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer during scoping determined that no cultural sites that would be eligible for nomination for listing on the National Register of Historic Places are known to exist within any of the WSAs.

The U.S. Geologic Service and Bureau of Mines are inventorying each WSA to determine its leasable, locatable, and saleable mineral potential. The BLM has supplied both agencies with maps and information of each WSA. The reports of the agency's findings should be available in 1986.

LIST OF PREPARERS

A list of the persons involved in the preparation of this EIS is provided in Table 5-1.

TABLE 5-1
LIST OF PREPARERS

Name	Responsibility	Education	Experience
Jeff Jarvis	Team Leader	BS Natural Resources	BLM-7 years Outdoor Recreation Planner/Wilderness Coordinator NPS-2 years Park Ranger
John Husband	Technical Coordinator	BS Forestry	BLM-5 years Forester; 2 years Planner
Derinda D. Rapp	Editorial Assistant	1 1/2 years college	BLM-12 years as Grazing Clerk, Resource Data Assistant, Range Technician, Mail and File Clerk, and Editorial Assistant
Rob Hellie	Format Development Scoping	BS Political Science BS Outdoor Recreation/ Forestry	BLM-7 years Outdoor Recreation Planner; Peace Corps-4 years Park Management Specialist
Lawrence L. Dee	Minerals	BS Geology	BLM-4 years Geologist US Navy-15 years Oceanographer
Floyd P. DeWitt	Range Management	BS Agriculture with Conservation Option MS Range Management	BLM-6 years Supervisory Range Conservationist, 3 years District Staff Range Specialist, 1 year District Staff Watershed Specialist, 1 year District Planning Coordinator, 5 years Range Conservationist
Bob Moline	Range Management	High School	BLM-3 years Supervisory Range Technician, 12 years Range Technician, 10 years Natural Resource Specialist
Clarence Ouellette	Maps	High School	BLM-7 years Visual Information Specialist; USAF-23 years Imagery Interpretation Specialist

EIS REVIEW

Beginning on October 26, 1982, approximately 400 copies of the draft EIS/Plan Amendment were sent to the agencies, organizations, and individuals listed in Table 5-2. The draft was officially filed with the Environmental Protection Agency on October 29, 1982. A news release was issued statewide announcing the draft's availability. The public review period extended to January 11, 1983. On December 6, 1982, an open house was held at the Shoshone District Office in Shoshone, Idaho to answer questions and receive written comments. Public hearings were held on December 7 and December 8, 1982, in Hailey and Gooding, Idaho, respectively.

Comments and related responses are printed at the end of this chapter.

Comment Response Procedures

A total of 79 letters concerning the EIS/Plan Amendment were received. All of these 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, regardless of whether they are printed or receive responses in this EIS.

Index of Letters

Comment letters were assigned consecutive numbers corresponding to the order in which they were received. The letter numbers and the names of commenters are listed in Table 5-3. The numbers are used to identify the reprinted letters and corresponding responses in this chapter.

TABLE 5-2

AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PERSONS
TO WHOM THE DRAFT EIS WAS SENT

Elected Federal Officials

Senator James McClure
Senator Steve Symms
Congressman George Hansen

Elected State Officials

Governor John Evans
State Senators and Representatives for Districts 21, 22, and 23
Speaker of the House - Idaho House of Representatives
President Pro Tem - Idaho State Senate

Federal Agencies

U.S. Forest Service
Sawtooth National Forest
Ketchum Ranger District
Sawtooth National Recreation Area
Fairfield Ranger District
Challis National Forest
Intermountain Regional Office
Soil Conservation Service
Hailey, Idaho
Shoshone, Idaho
Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Park Service
Craters of the Moon National Monument
Pacific Northwest Region
U.S. Geological Survey
Boise, Idaho
Menlo Park, California
Army Corps of Engineers
Environmental Protection Agency
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Wood River Resource Conservation and Development
Minerals Management Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Pacific Northwest Region
Boise, Idaho
Burley, Idaho
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Portland Area Office
Fort Hall Agency
Bureau of Land Management, Boise Field Solicitor's Office
USDA Coordinator, Environmental Quality Activities
Bureau of Mines, Western Field Operations Center
U.S. Air Force

TABLE 5-2 (Cont.)

AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PERSONS
TO WHOM THE DRAFT EIS WAS SENT

State of Idaho Agencies

Department of Lands
Department of Fish and Game
 Director
 General Supervisor
Department of Parks and Recreation
Transportation Department, Division of Highways
Southcentral District Health Department
Department of Water Resources
State Clearinghouse
Idaho Historical Society
Department of Agriculture
Region IV Development Association
Soil Conservation Commission
Bureau of Mines and Geology
Department of Health and Welfare
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of the Attorney General

Soil Conservation Districts

Blaine County
Camas County

County Commissioners

Blaine County
Butte County
Camas County
Custer County
Gooding County
Lincoln County

County Agents

Blaine County
Butte County
Camas County
Custer County
Gooding County
Lincoln County

Planning and Zoning Commissions

Blaine County
Butte County
Camas County
Custer County
Gooding County
Lincoln County

TABLE 5-2 (Cont.)

AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PERSONS
TO WHOM THE DRAFT EIS WAS SENT

City Mayors

Hailey
Ketchum
Bellevue
Sun Valley
Fairfield
Shoshone
Gooding
Dietrich
Richfield
Wendell

Organizations

Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.
San Francisco, California
Washington, D.C.
Committee for Idaho's High Desert
Idaho Conservation League
The Nature Conservancy
Public Lands Council
Environment West
Idaho Trail Machine Association
Magic Valley Trail Machine Association
Wood River Recreation Association
Sawtooth Snowmobile Club
North Side Snow Riders
Twin Falls Fish and Wildlife Conservation Corp.
Idaho Wildlife Federation
Big Wood Canal Company
Idaho Cattlemen's Association
Idaho Woolgrower's Association
Blaine County Cattlemen's Association
Idaho Rangeland Committee
Pocatello Trail Machine Association, Inc.
Prairie Falcon Audubon Chapter
Defenders of Wildlife
Wood River Gem and Mineral Society
American Motorcycle Association
Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund
Muldoon Grazing Association
Boise State University
Black Canyon Cattle Association
Sierra Club
Middle Snake Chapter
Sawtooth Chapter
Northern Rockies Chapter
Colorado State University
Sawtooth Graziers
University of Idaho

TABLE 5-2 (Cont.)

AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PERSONS
TO WHOM THE DRAFT EIS WAS SENT

Organizations (Cont.)

Idaho State University
Wildlife Management Institute
National Audubon Society, Golden Eagle Chapter
Blaine County Resource Council
The Wilderness Society
American Fisheries Society
The Wildlife Society
Greater Snake River Land Use Congress
League of Women Voters
Ada County Fish and Game League
Trout Unlimited, Inc., Treasure Valley Chapter
The Izaak Walton League of America
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation
Idaho Cattle Feeder's Association, Inc.
Defenders of Wildlife
Utah State University, College of Natural Resources
Gem State Grotto
College of Southern Idaho
United 4-Wheel Drive Association
Burmah Grazing Association
Center of Urban Affairs and Policy Research
Thorn Creek Cattle Association

Shoshone District Advisory Council
(Ten members)

Shoshone District Grazing Advisory Board
(Five members)

Businesses

Amoco Production Company (USA)
Chevron Resources Company
Coastal Mining Company
Utah Power and Light
First Security Bank of Idaho
Rocky Mountain Energy Company
Energy Resource Company
Atlantic Richfield
Outdoor Adventure Program
Idaho Power Company
Urban Research and Development Corporation
Federal Land Bank Association of Gooding
Southern Idaho Production Credit Association
Minerals Exploration Coalition
Environmental Impact Services
Freeport Exploration Company
Distinctive Lava Stone
Homestake Mining Company

TABLE 5-3

INDEX OF COMMENT LETTERS

Letter Number	Agency, Organization, or Individual
1	E. Fred Birdsall, Conoco, Inc.
2	State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Environment
3	Allen Bauscher
4	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
5	R. B. Anderson
6	Camas County Board of County Commissioners
7	Jeff Coupe
8	State of Idaho, Office of the Attorney General
9	Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association, Inc.
10	State of Idaho, Department of Water Resources
11	Amoco Production Company (USA)
12	Patrick Carnahan
13	USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service
14	Charles C. Kast
15	Eugene Shuter
16	C. Jay Dorr
17	Black Canyon Cattle Association, James E. Varin
18	Nelle Tobias
19	Myna Brunton Hughes
20	Margaret J. Pratt
21	Ted S. Weigold
22	Hildegard Raeber
23	Pete Colb
24	Scott Ploger, Idaho Alpine Club
25	Joe T. and Willomae Green
26	Roy H. and Doris F. Couch
27	Alan Reynolds
28	T. A. Phillips
29	Vickie Traxler
30	J. F. Trotter, Jr. MD
31	Irma M. Petrick
32	Steve Kraemer
33	Renee Quick
34	Marge Hayes
35	Larry Hallock
36	Donna Hallock
37	Roy Foote
38	Paula A. Shuff
39	Susan M. Graham
40	John F. Varin
41	Paul Fritz, American Wilderness Alliance
42	E. E. Strout
43	Ronald W. Bubb, Idaho Power Company
44	S. L. Vader

TABLE 5-3 (Cont.)

INDEX OF COMMENT LETTERS

Letter Number	Agency, Organization, or Individual
45	Judy Cook
46	Jeffrey Crook
47	L. E. Drexler, Magic Valley Trail Machine Assn., Inc.
48	Charles C. Yoder, Sierra Club, Northern Rockies Chapter
49	Dennis Reese
50	Joe Ultican
51	Sheldon Bluestein
52	Dorian Duffin
53	Tom Vanderburg
54	Tim Evans
55	Charlotte Evans
56	Michael W. Baldwin
57	Devan R. Varin
58	Sally Goodell, Idaho Conservation League
59	Dennis Baird
60	USDI, National Park Service, Pacific Northwest Region
61	Randall E. Morris
62	Philip R. Miller
63	Daniel L. Green
64	Michael R. Jones
65	Aldrich Bowler
66	Di Bowler
67	Jerry Jayne
68	Robert Jones
69	Verna Hall
70	Bob J. Muffley
71	Bruce Hayte
72	Donna Pasker
73	Committee for Idaho's High Desert
74	John R. Swanson
75	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
76	Scott Ploger
77	John R. Swanson
78	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
79	USDI, Bureau of Reclamation

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

The 79 comment letters received are reprinted in this section in the order they were received. The identifying number in the upper-right-hand corner of each letter corresponds to the list in Table 5-3. The comments for which responses have been printed are identified by vertical lines and consecutive numbers in the left margins of the letters. The corresponding responses follow each letter and are numbered to match the comments.



Letter Number 1

E. Fred Birdsall
Director Administration and Personnel

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

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 1

November 2, 1982

Mr. Rob Hellie
EIS Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
Shoshone District Office
P. O. Box 2B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Re: Shoshone/Sun Valley Plan
Amendment Wilderness DEIS

Dear Mr. Hellie:

The work leading to the BLM's preferred alternative for partial wilderness (23,735 acres out of a possible 86,603) shows substantial diligence and reflects a clear attempt to even-handed treatment of conflicts. You correctly observe that each of the WSAs is prospectively valuable for oil and gas, although the lack of leasing or lease applications is evidence that these lands are still regarded as high-risk frontier areas for oil.

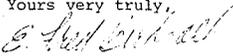
We appreciate the fact that you have endeavored, albeit with scant data, to take into account the effect of wilderness designation on mineral resource development in the WSAs. Even though leasing interest is currently low, surprises are routine in the oil business and we hesitate, therefore, to endorse any withdrawal unless the case for wilderness designation is overwhelmingly the obvious choice and the sacrificial tradeoff is worth the price.

In the case of the 23,735 acres recommended as suitable, no determination of the subsurface resource potential has been made, no wells having been drilled. The tradeoff for wilderness foreclosure is thus undefined, a classic "pig-in-a-poke". Neither suitability nor non-suitability can be gauged.

Lacking the criteria to make an informed decision, we must favor the no wilderness/no action alternative.

With regard to your Table 4-5 Wilderness Quality Standard Summary we do take exception with your comment under "Impact of Nondesignation on Wilderness Values: Discovered mineral resources could be developed in a manner that would impair wilderness characteristics." We believe that an abundantly documented case can be made for the fact that the impacts of oil and gas exploration are temporary, minimal, and repairable. We can and do operate in harmony with sensitive environmental values and with no lasting detrimental impact. A public who vote against nondesignation on the basis of your comment will have been ill-informed.

Yours very truly,


E. Fred Birdsall

Response Number 1

Geologic and Energy Minerals (GEM) inventories were completed for each WSA to provide information on each area's mineral potential. In addition to the GEM reports, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines is inventorying the WSAs recommended as suitable for wilderness to further refine these WSA's mineral potential. The results of these mineral surveys will be submitted with this final EIS through the Secretary of the Interior and the President to Congress.

Response Number 2

Table 4-5 has been removed.

Letter Number 2



STATE OF IDAHO

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND WELFARE

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENT
Statehouse
Boise, Idaho 83720

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 2

November 16, 1982

Rob Hellie, Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
Shoshone District Office
P.O. Box 2B
Shoshone, ID 83352

Dear Mr. Hellie:

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Environment has received the Shoshone/Sun Valley Plan Amendment - Wilderness EIS and wishes to submit the following comments:

Air quality is discussed briefly in Chapter 3 - Affected Environment and Chapter 5 - Environmental Consequences. However, other than fishery values, neither Chapter addresses present water quality or possible water quality impacts which relate to the proposed actions. In particular, the influence of mineral development, forestry and livestock grazing activities on water quality should be discussed briefly in the final EIS.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this draft EIS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lee W. Stokes".

Lee W. Stokes, Ph.D.
Administrator

LWS/kks

Response Number 1

The issue of the impact of mineral development, forestry, and livestock grazing on water quality was not analyzed in this EIS. This issue was not analyzed because the primary influence on water quality in these WSAs, livestock use, would not vary sufficiently with or without wilderness designation to affect water quality in any of the WSAs. Other disturbing activities are absent or affect such a small area that their influence on water quality would be negligible (see page 6).

Letter Number 3

Mr. and Mrs. Al Bauscher

Box 333

Fairfield, Idaho 83327

November 1982

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 3

Bureau of Land Management
Attn: EIS Team Leader
P.O. Box 213
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

After review of the draft of Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement for Shoshone, Sun Valley Area I offer the following thoughts and recommendations of the areas with which I am familiar. (areas 54-5, 54-6 54-8a, 54-8b, 54-10, and 56-2: I think the BLM should make available to the public and news media the total dollars spent and the total man hours spent on these areas with respect to wilderness.

I wish to commend the BLM for recommendations as nonsuitable area 54-5, 54-6, 54-10, and 56-2 which should never have been studied in the first place.

Area 54-8a and 54-8b are the only areas of this group which might be worthy of study. I do not feel either area has or will have solitude as one can see the city of Gooding, farming machinery and, or off road vehicles from nearly any and every rock. I do not think the ORV's can be kept off this area without an extensive police force seven days a week 24 hours of the day.

Reviewing the map 2a I think several roads now existing are not shown on the map. In area WSA 54-8a sections 7,8,9,10,14,15, 17, 18 and part of the northern portion of 19,20,21,22, and 23 has absolutely no wilderness characteristics. This land is just rolling sagebrush grazing land. The above lands are about the same as the rest of the Shoshone BLM district. I would also think that sections 13,14,15,22,27,34,36, and 2 should be eliminated from WSA 54-8b. Sections 16 and 36 are state of Idaho land and their wilderness designation should be made by the Idaho State Land Dept. and not the BLM. I remember first visiting the City of Rocks in about 1924 or 1925. I can not see any change in the area since that time nor has the use changed much since that time.

I recommended the area be declared non suitable for wilderness and left in multiple use.

Respectfully,


Allen Bauscher

Response Number 1

Our inventories show no additional roads within the WSAs.

Response Number 2

The BLM wilderness recommendations do not include State lands. The BLM will, at the request of the State of Idaho, exchange for State land inholdings in designated BLM wilderness areas (see page 6).

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
333 MARKET STREET, 6th FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94105

November 23, 1982

Mr. Charles J. Haszler
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Shoshone District Office
P.O. Box 2B
Shoshone, Idaho 833352

Dear Mr. Haszler:

This is in response to your letter of October 26, 1982, requesting our review and comment on the Draft Plan Amendment/Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement for the Shoshone and Sun Valley planning areas in the Shoshone District of the Bureau of Land Management, Idaho.

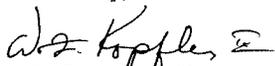
According to the material furnished, nine Wilderness Study Areas in the Shoshone District were evaluated as to their suitability or nonsuitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was the Bureau's preferred alternative.

We have reviewed the proposal to determine any effects on matters concerning the Commission's jurisdictional responsibilities under the Federal Power Act and Natural Gas Act. Such responsibilities relate to the licensing of non-Federal hydroelectric projects, participation in the planning of Federal water and power projects, and the regulation of construction and operation of natural gas pipeline facilities.

Our staff review indicates that there are no existing hydroelectric or stream-electric power plants, or natural gas pipelines within the area proposed for wilderness designation. We know of no potential hydroelectric development sites within the area.

Apparently, the proposed action would not have any significant effect on matters of concern to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The opportunity to review this draft environmental statement is appreciated.

Sincerely,



W. F. Koppley, II
Regional Engineer

	ACTION WILDERNESS	INFO	NOTED
DIST. MANAGER			
PUBLIC AFFAIRS			
ADMINISTRATION			
REGISTRATION			
P. & E. CONVOY			
AM. MGMT.			
NOV 26 1982			
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SHOSHONE DISTRICT OFFICE			
AM. DIST.			
MAIL ROOM			
MAIL ROOM			
FILE			

Letter Number 5

BLM
Shoshone, Id.

I read in a wood county, Idaho newspaper that the BLM is considering wilderness status for lands adjacent to the Sawtooth M.F. on the Little Wood River. I would like to add my comments opposing this classification.

Other than being isolated this area is not wilderness. The vegetation shows much heavy use by livestock for almost 100 years. Livestock ranchers depend upon it.

The area is mineralized and with further sophisticated exploration may develop mineral reserves. Working mines are found on three sides: upper Little Wood River, Copper Creek-Muldon, and in the Big Wood River.

Another point I consider important is the Big Game Range. I do not agree with the state game biologists that the best way to manage big game in wilderness. We need to be able to use enlightened management of our ranges. A hands off wilderness classification is saying nature can do a better job of management without help. Boom and bust wildlife cycles, rapid erosion, exotic weeds, etc show that nature needs to be guided by wise management using the latest scientific knowledge.

This area under multiple use management still allows a hiker to get away from it all and further classification as wilderness is like putting our heads in the sand.

Sincerely,

R. F. Anderson
305 E. Center, Kelly, Idaho

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 5

CAMAS COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners
Fairfield, Idaho 83327

Reply 1792

Phone 764-2242
11 Dec 1982

Response Number 1

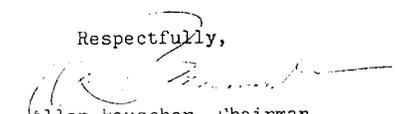
Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

bureau of Land Management
Shoshone Dist Office
Attn: EIS Team Leader
PO BOX 2*B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Dear Sirs:

The Board of Camas County Commissioners have gone on record opposing any more Wilderness in Idaho. As the Shoshone/Sun Valley Draft EIS for Wilderness is in adjoining Counties we more than oppose Wilderness designations for these areas. It is our opinion none of the areas referred to in the EIS meet or ever closely resemble wilderness. Further the maps do not show all of the roads, fences, and other man made improvements which should dis-qualify the area for wilderness. In area 54-8 A and B many sections of land are included that look no different than the rest of Idaho. I believe the same to be true for area 54-5, 54-6, and 54-10, which has already been declared or recommended as non-suitable by the BLM. During these times of tight money we urge the BLM and Congress to see that Federal funds are spent in more constructive ways.

Respectfully,


Allen Bauscher, Chairman
Camas County Commissioners

MAJOR INDUSTRY
1. Agriculture
2. Lumbering
3. Recreation

LAND USES	
Forest	184,000 acres
Range	356,000 acres
Cropland	122,000 acres
Other	13,000 acres
Water	3,000 acres
Total	628,000 acres

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 6

Response Number 1

Our inventories show no additional roads, fences, or other man-made improvements within the WSAs.

Dec. 14, 1982

Letter Number	7/82	820	2/84
DATE			
RECEIVED			
BY			
DEC 18 1982			
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR			
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT			
1416			

Dear Sirs,

AND RECOMMENDATION

I am writing to support your wilderness study area in the Little Wood and City of Racks area north of Gooding. In particular I support the Little Wood planning area. Wilderness classification here would mesh with the Forest Service's proposed wilderness and would insure habitat protection for the area's respectable elk herd. This is an excellent chance to save a unique mountain/desert transition zone and protect the south corridor to the Pioneer Mountains.

Sincerely,

Jeff Coupe
Box 3518, Hetchum, Id. 83240

788-3444 (work)

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 7

Response Number 1

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).



STATE OF IDAHO
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
BOISE 83720

DAVID H. LEROY
ATTORNEY GENERAL

TELEPHONE
(208) 384-2400

EIS Team Leader
December 14, 1982
Page 2

It would appear appropriate under both FLPMA and NEPA to give the public the opportunity to have input on the suitability or nonsuitability of each of the individual areas rather than giving them only the drastic choices of all wilderness, no wilderness, or the BLM's preferred compromise.

A similar issue arose in California v. Block, 690 F.2d 753 (9th Cir. 1982) concerning the RARE II study by the Forest Service in California. The Court there held that the Forest Service had not considered a permissible range of alternatives:

[N]EPA requires the Forest Service to consider an alternative that allocates more than a third of the RARE II acreage to Wilderness. Whether the RARE II decision is viewed as a decision to develop or merely as the first step in a protracted planning process, it is puzzling why the Forest Service did not seriously consider an alternative that allocated more than a third of the RARE II acreage to Wilderness. All of the RARE II acreage, by definition, met the minimum criteria for inclusion in the NWPS. Nonetheless, without any explanation the Final EIS seriously considered only those alternatives that allocate more acreage to Nonwilderness than to Wilderness. Moreover, with the sole exception of Alternative I, Nonwilderness acreage allocations exceed Wilderness allocations by a substantial margin, ranging from five-to-two for Alternative D to nineteen-to-one for Alternative E. See Table #1, supra. While nothing in NEPA prohibits the Forest Service from ultimately implementing a proposal that allocates more acreage to Nonwilderness than to Wilderness, it is troubling that the Forest Service saw fit to consider from the outset only those alternatives leading to that end result.

December 14, 1982

EIS Team Leader
The Bureau of Land Management
Shoshone District Office
P.O. Box 2B
Shoshone, ID 83352

Re: Draft Plan Amendment/Wilderness Environmental
Impact Statement

Dear Sir or Madam:

We do not feel that the range of alternatives presented in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is in accordance with either the Federal Lands Policy Management Act or the National Environmental Policy Act. FLPMA dictates that each wilderness study area be given individual consideration. You consider nine wilderness study areas. None of your alternatives appear to give adequate consideration to each of these areas.

The statute provides at 43 U.S.C. 1782:

[T]he secretary shall review those roadless areas of 5000 acres or more and roadless islands of the Public Lands identified during the inventory required by § 1711(a) of this title as having wilderness characteristics . . . and shall from time to time report to the president his recommendation as to the suitability or the nonsuitability of each area or island for preservation as wilderness. . . . (Emphasis added.)

EIS Team Leader
December 14, 1982
Page 3

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 8

While we realize the time, effort, and expense that goes into the preparation of an EIS, we feel that it is a false savings to complete one that is open to attack by disaffected parties.

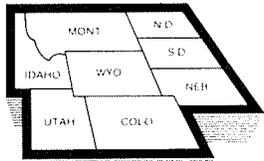
Sincerely,



Don A. Olowinski
Deputy Attorney General
Chief, Natural Resources Division

Response Number 1

In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration as to its suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was also analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Other partial wilderness alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis (see pages 8-10).



**Rocky Mountain
Oil & Gas Association, Inc.**

Letter Number 9



345 PETROLEUM BUILDING • DENVER, COLORADO 80202
303/534-8261

Mr. Charles Haszler
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 2B
Shoshone, ID 83352

Lacking the criteria to make an informed decision, we must favor the no wilderness/no action alternative.

2 With regard to your Table 4-5 Wilderness Quality Standard Summary we do take exception with your comment under "Impact of Nondesignation on Wilderness Values: Discovered mineral resources could be developed in a manner that would impair wilderness characteristics". We believe that an abundantly documented case can be made for the fact that the impacts of oil and gas exploration are temporary, minimal, and repairable. We can and do operate in harmony with sensitive environmental values and with no lasting detrimental impact. A public who vote non-designation on the basis of your comment will have been ill-informed.

December 14, 1982

Mr. Charles Haszler
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 2B
Shoshone, ID 83352

Dear Mr. Haszler:

I am writing on behalf of the Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association (RMOGA), a trade association of approximately 800 large and small oil and gas companies which are active in all phases of exploration, production, and transportation activities throughout the Rocky Mountain West. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Shoshone/Sun Valley Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The work leading to the BLM's preferred alternative for partial wilderness (23,735 acres out of a possible 86,603) shows substantial diligence and reflects a clear attempt to even-handed treatment of conflicts. You correctly observe that each of the WSAs is prospectively valuable for oil and gas, although the lack of leasing or lease applications is evidence that these lands are still regarded as high-risk frontier areas for oil.

We appreciate the fact that you have endeavored, albeit with scant data, to take into account the effect of wilderness designation on mineral resource development in the WSAs. Even though leasing interest is currently low, surprises are routine in the oil business and we hesitate, therefore, to endorse any withdrawal unless the case for wilderness designation is overwhelmingly the obvious choice and the sacrificial tradeoff is worth the price.

1 In the case of the 23,735 acres recommended as suitable, no determination of the subsurface resource potential has been made, no wells have been drilled. The tradeoff for wilderness foreclosure is thus undefined, a classic "pig-in-a-poke". Neither suitability nor non-suitability can be gauged.

Sincerely,

Alice Frell
Alice Frell
Lands Director

AIF/dar

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 9



State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
 STATE OFFICE, 450 W. State Street, Boise, Idaho

JOHN V. EVANS
 Governor

A. KENNETH DUNN
 Director

Mailing address:
 Statehouse
 Boise, Idaho 83720
 (208) 334-4440

Response Number 1

See Response to Letter Number 1, Response 1.

Response Number 2

See Response to Letter Number 1, Response 2.

December 17, 1982

Bureau of Land Management
 Shoshone District Office
 Attn: Robert B. Hellie -
 EIS Team Leader
 P.O. Box 2B
 Shoshone, ID 83352

Dear Mr. Hellie:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the WSA's in the Shoshone District.

Our files show the following four water right permits within the area recommended for Wilderness designation. All are located within the Gooding City of Rocks (54-8a) WSA.

<u>T3S - R14E</u>			
Sec. 21:	37-2808	D permit	BLM
Sec. 23:	37-2941	D permit	BLM

<u>T4S - R14E</u>			
Sec. 6:	37-2778	Storage Right	1210 acre-feet
	37-2780	Storage Right	905 acre-feet

I assume the Wilderness designation will not adversely affect the water rights of the BLM.

The storage water rights may present a different problem. If the Wilderness designation will cut-off access to the reservoir, periodic required maintenance at the dam would be difficult or non-existent. I assume you have taken this into account and have planned in some manner to provide access. If not, then consideration should be given to maintain or eliminate the facility.

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

Bureau of Land Management
Page 2
December 17, 1982

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 10

If the Department can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact us.

Response Number 1

None of the facilities are located within the WSA.

Sincerely,


L. GLEN SAXTON, Chief
Operations Bureau

LGS:idt

Letter Number 11



Roberta Andersen
Public Lands Coordinator

Amoco Production Company (USA)

Denver Region
Amoco Building
17th & Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80202
303-830-4274

December 17, 1982

Mr. Charles Haszler
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 2E
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Dear Mr. Haszler:

Re: Shoshone/Sun Valley Resource Management Plan

Amoco Production Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Standard Oil Company (Indiana). Our primary job is exploring for and developing oil and gas resources throughout the United States. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Resource Management Plan Amendment and Wilderness Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Shoshone/Sun Valley Area.

We understand that it is tremendously difficult to plan adequately for the invisible energy resources which may exist in the subsurface of any of your planning areas. It takes a great deal of exploration using high technology equipment and experience to even have a rough idea as to where hydrocarbons may exist. It is imperative, however, that the undiscovered energy and mineral resources must be considered in the planning for the planning to be complete. The wilderness DEIS reflects your obvious attempt to handle this difficult situation. We appreciate the fact that you have tried to evaluate the effect of possible wilderness designation on mineral resource development in the wilderness study areas.

We know you understand that, although leasing interest is currently low in the area, that is no accurate indication of the existence of energy and mineral resources. We must hesitate to endorse any withdrawal unless the case for wilderness designation is overwhelmingly the obvious choice. With the great number of acres of wilderness that we presently have preserved in the National Wilderness Preservation System, it seems to us that uniqueness should be the principal criterion for evaluating potential new wilderness in Idaho. Because of the quality and the amount of wilderness already existing in Idaho, we favor the "no wilderness/no action" alternative.

Mr. Charles Haszler
December 17, 1982
Page 2

It has been our experience that the oil industry has made the commitment to environmental protection and has a healthy respect for environmental values. We believe that a good case can be made for the fact that impacts of oil and gas exploration are temporary, minimal and repairable. We can and do operate in harmony with sensitive environmental values and with no lasting detrimental impact. We hope this will be taken into account as you proceed with the final planning for this particular area.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to comment. We look forward to further opportunities as the planning progresses.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roberta Andersen".

Roberta Andersen

RA:ww

From: PATRICK CHERNIAK
97 LAWRENCE DR
LONGMEADOW MA
01106

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

This letter is in reply to the DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE SHOSHONE/SUN VALLEY PLAN AMENDMENT/WILDERNESS.

I would like to see the entire proposed area, with the exception of Black Butte (ID-54-5), designated as wilderness. But, I realize that this may be an unrealistic stance to take so I am willing to support your proposed changes with some modifications. These modifications are:

1) Little City of Rocks (ID-54-6) should be designated a wilderness site because of the large potential of prehistoric cultural resource sites and/or site complexes that this WSA has to offer. I feel that the location and investigation of prehistoric American Peoples is of great importance both culturally and scientifically.

2) Black Canyon (ID-54-6) should be designated a wilderness area because of the large potential of prehistoric cultural resource sites (see mentioned above), also, the geologic landforms in the area are of great interest and warrant preservation so that others can witness their grandeur in an unspoiled setting. Their high sensitivity level makes the wilderness proposal the only logical alternative for their future existence.

Both these areas (54-5 & 54-6) have bobcat and mountain quail within their boundaries. Bobcat and mountain quail are sensitive species, this is another reason why these areas should be included as wilderness.

Black Canyon (54-6) also has elk populations, not to mention deer, which frequent the area in both summer and winter. The wintering populations use this area (Black Canyon) for feeding purposes. Without a wilderness designation the survival of these populations could be jeopardized.

I would also like to see no off-road vehicle (ORV) use in wilderness areas and no predator control programs in wilderness areas. A wilderness area is a haven for life not a shooting gallery for irate ranchers. Also, I would like to see less grazing by rancher's stock in wilderness areas. This does not mean "no grazing", it simply means a decrease in grazing of present levels.

The proposals I have made would be in conjunction with the partial wilderness alternative, that is, the WSA's 53-4, 54-8b, 54-8a, 54-6, 54-5 would all be wilderness areas. This alternative I have mentioned is secondary to a total wilderness alternative, which if implemented I would support totally.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,



RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 12



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES
4620 Overland Road, Room 209
Boise, Idaho 83705

January 5, 1983

Response Number 1

Wilderness study for the Black Butte is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

TO: District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Shoshone, Idaho
FROM: Acting Field Supervisor, FWS, Ecological Services, Boise, Idaho
SUBJECT: Shoshone/Sun Valley Plan Amendment/Wilderness DEIS

We have no comments on the subject DEIS. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game may have some concerns for resident fish and wildlife species.


For James F. Gore

cc: FWS/DEC, Washington, D.C.
IDFG, Hdqtrs, Boise, Idaho
IDFG, Region 4, Jerome, Idaho

Letter Number 14

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 14

King Hill, Idaho
January 4, 1983

Response Number 1

The Gooding City of Rocks East and Gooding City of Rocks West WSAs meet the minimum size criteria of 5,000 acres (see pages 59 and 63).

Mr. Rob Hellie
U. S. Dept. of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 2 B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Dear Mr. Hellie:

I don't believe Gooding City of Rocks (548A) and Gooding City of Rocks (548B) should be recommended as Wilderness for the following reasons:

The area, with existing roads taken into consideration, is not large enough to come under the classification. You can stand almost anywhere in the area and see most of Magic Valley.

Nothing will ever change this area as it is mostly rocks and it doesn't need management. It will be essentially the same thousands of years from now.

Our government doesn't have the money to provide personnel to supervise the Wilderness area, especially when it isn't needed.

This type of scenic area should not be closed to 99% of the people by designating it a Wilderness area. Only backpackers and young people would be able to enjoy it. Roads should be opened up to the public so more people can see the rock formation.

This land is best used for wildlife and livestock grazing so lets not put this in a Wilderness area. Congress, when they passed the Wilderness Study Program did not plan on this type area.

Yours truly,
A Concerned Citizen

Charles C. Kast
Charles C. Kast
Route 1,
King Hill, Idaho 83633

Letter Number 15

January 3, 1983

U. S. Dept. of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 2 B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352
Attn: Mr. Rob Hellie

Dear Mr. Hellie:

The following are comments in relationship to
SHOSHONE - SUN VALLEY EIS DRAFT:

I believe that it would be very wrong to recommend such areas as WSA 54-5, WSA 54-6, WSA 54-8 A&B or WSA 54-10, as Wilderness areas. I am certain that Congress certainly did not have these types of areas in mind when they passed the Wilderness Act. If we include any small or large area in the country that is publically owned and be of same scenic or solitudal interest to certain groups of people, then we could probably include most of the western United States.

I have ridden or driven through these areas many times over the past few years and I have yet to see anyone back-packing or hiking through the area in order to enjoy the scenery or solitude. On the other hand; I have encountered several people (usually too elderly to hike through the area comfortably) driving through the area with 4-wheel drive vehicles so that they could enjoy the geology and other general scenery of the area. If these areas are ever designated as "Wilderness" then you close them to all but a few. It may come as a shock to some but the older and less physically able people of this country have a right to visit and see natures wonders too.

I believe it is far to much to ask, particularly in these times, of the taxpayer to finance these types of things when, at the best only a very few people can enjoy them. If the area were truly unique (one and only of a kind) then I, as would many others, fervently support them for Wilderness status. This, however, is not the case as they are not unique nor do they offer true solitude. The areas should be left alone except for the possibility of improving some roads so that people could drive through easier so that more could enjoy the areas. The most suitable use of the areas is probably wildlife and livestock grazing and habitat.

In conclusion I would argue that the recommendation of these types of areas do a disservice to the true wilderness and environmental programs of this country. If special interest groups or agencies of government push this type of thing they will ultimately so alienate the general public that they will have difficulty getting anything designated as "Wilderness".

Yours truly,
Eugene Shuter
Eugene Shuter
Route 1, Box 140
King Hill, Id. 83633

Letter Number 16

JANUARY 5, 1983

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SHOSHONE DISTRICT OFFICE
ATTN: EIS TEAM LEADER
P.O. BOX 2B
SHOSHONE, IDAHO 83352

ACTION	DATE	INITIALS
FILE		
MAIL		
POSTAL		
PROCESSED		
RECORDED		
INDEXED		
SEARCHED		
SERIALIZED		
FILED		
JAN 10 1983		
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SHOSHONE, IDAHO 83352		

THESE ARE MY COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT
PLAN AMENDMENT / WILDERNESS ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE SHOSHONE AND SUN
VALLEY PLANNING AREAS IN THE SHOSHONE
DISTRICT.

I AGREE WITH THE PROPOSED ACTION / PARTIAL
WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE IN WHICH A TOTAL OF
23,735 ACRES IN W.S.A.s 53-4, 54-8, AND
54-8a ARE RECOMMENDED AS SUITABLE FOR
INCLUSION IN THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS
PRESERVATION SYSTEM.

I BELIEVE AREAS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS
SHOULD BE MANAGED TO PRESERVE THEIR
WILDERNESS VALUES. CONSIDERING OTHER RESOURCE
VALUES AND USES IT WOULD BE UNREASONABLE
TO GIVE WILDERNESS DESIGNATION TO ALL AREAS
WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS; HOWEVER,
AS MANY UNITS AS POSSIBLE IN AS MANY
DIFFERENT ECOSYSTEMS AND AREAS OF THE
COUNTRY AS POSSIBLE SHOULD BE INCLUDED
IN THE N.W.P.S. THE INCLUSION OF THE

2.

TWO GOODING CITY OF ROCKS WSAs AND THE LITTLE WOOD RIVER WSA WOULD PROVIDE SOME REPRESENTATION OF THE GREAT BASIN PROVINCE - SAGEBRUSH STEPPE ECOSYSTEM. THE GOODING CITY OF ROCKS WSAs ALSO PROVIDE AN AREA WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS WHICH IS ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC IN THE SPRING AND THE FALL WHEN WILDERNESS UNITS ON THE NATIONAL FORESTS ARE NOT.

I FAVOR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION OF THE PIONEER MOUNTAIN RARE II UNIT. THE ADDITION OF THE LITTLE WOOD RIVER WSA WOULD ROUND OUT THIS PROPOSED WILDERNESS.

IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO THE WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS OF BLACK BUTTE HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE. THIS AREA DID HAVE MANY UNIQUE WILDERNESS QUALITIES. WHAT HAPPENED THERE SHOULD GIVE FURTHER IMPETUS TO WILDERNESS DESIGNATION OF THE TWO GOODING CITY OF ROCKS AND THE LITTLE WOOD RIVER WSAs.

I BELIEVE THE LITTLE CITY OF ROCKS AND THE BLACK CANYON WSAs SHOULD BE MANAGED TO PRESERVE THEIR WILDERNESS QUALITIES. UNFORTUNATELY I AGREE WITH YOUR CONCLUSIONS THAT THEIR WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS WILL

3.

WILL BE DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN IN THE FUTURE WITH OR WITHOUT WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.

I HAVE NOT HIKED IN THE FRIEDMAN CREEK, DEER CREEK, OR LAVA WSAs; HOWEVER, I CAN AGREE WITH YOUR REASONS FOR RECOMMENDING THESE UNITS AS UNSUITABLE FOR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT.

E. Jay Don

Box 331

HAILEY, IDAHO 83333

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 16

January 7, 1983

Response Number 1

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA (ID-53-4) is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Mr. Charles Haszier, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 2 B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Dear Mr. Haszier:

On behalf of the Black Canyon Cattle Association, I would wish to make the following statements in regard to the proposed wilderness areas in the Black Canyon Allotment.

First, I understand that under the BLM Wilderness Policies range improvements are allowed. This past year, the Black Canyon Cattle Association asked for the construction of a catch basin for stock water. The basin was funded and an engineer okayed the sight. In fact, the engineer indicated it was a very good sight. Equipment was hired and a date set. However, since the sight was on the edge of the Wilderness Area, it had to be studied and okayed. The red tape of such a study took so long that winter was here before the project was completed, and I understand we have now lost our funds, therefore, we will ultimately lose the water hole. This points out two problems that we see with the Wilderness Designation.

1 | First, the requirements of the Bureau are so difficult that it is virtually impossible apparently to meet. Therefore, it would appear that the Wilderness Designation will have a very detrimental affect upon the cooperative rangeland agreement which the Permittees have entered into with the BLM in the Black Canyon Allotment. I will have more to say about this particular point later.

2 | The second point is the stockmen of the Black Canyon Cattlemen's Association voted no because of the history of lack of cooperation they feel exists between the BLM and the stockmen. The stockmen feel they have had little input in this matter. Admittedly, there has been opportunities for comment after the document has been completed. We feel there should have been stockmen's input during the development stage.

Mr. Charles Haszier
Page 2
January 7, 1982

Thirdly, I attended the meeting in Gooding. It appeared that the speakers who were in favor of the unit all had been prompted by the same person. Many of the statements were in error. Specifically statements they made concerning the inclusion of the Little City of Rocks. As you are aware, much of that area is private land.

3 Fourthly, we feel the panel at the meeting was very opposed to any of the speakers against the Wilderness Study Area. It appeared the panel supported those who were in favor of the Wilderness Area. Also many of the speakers indicated they were representing various environmental groups. Although none of them were asked to indicate what authority they had to speak for those environmental groups.

4 I understand the Black Canyon Cattle Association filed a protest initially during the Wilderness inventory process. Many of the statements made in that protest we feel are still valid. One of the elements we were most concerned about is the effect of the Wilderness Designation upon the Black Canyon Allotment Cooperative Rangeland Management Agreement. Under that agreement, as we understand the policy, the BLM and the users are to cooperate in the development of the range. It appears that some of the proposed improvements as mentioned above may not be done but re-envisioned in that agreement. This will have a detrimental affect upon the range carrying capacity and thus the cooperative approach the cattlemen and the BLM have taken is being removed by the Wilderness Designation. We feel that the Black Canyon Allotment Cooperative Rangeland Management Agreement is, in essence, being modified without the consent of the Black Canyon Cattle Association. As we have indicated initially, we were not aware at the time we signed that agreement of the Wilderness proposals and the affect the Wilderness would have upon the Black Canyon Allotment. We are very concerned about the impact the Wilderness will have on the future of the Black Canyon Allotment.

Please understand that we are not all against the impact the Wilderness will have on the future of the Black Canyon Allotment.

Please understand that we are not all against the Wilderness Designation and certainly there are areas in the City of Rocks which due to their location should never be, and can never be, altered except by nature.

5 One of the main concerns we have are boundaries of the proposed City of Rocks Wilderness. We feel the boundaries are much too large. Especially the north and the south boundaries. The north boundary goes at least a mile or two further north than required. The southern boundary also goes a mile or two more than is required. We understand that perhaps one reason the boundaries were selected is that it would increase the size of the Wilderness sufficiently to make it fall within the BLM policies. We feel there should be an alteration in the boundaries to properly reflect the actual on-the-ground conditions. The south boundary certainly takes in a large chunk of ground which cannot be by anyone's imagination considered remote.

Mr. Charles Haszier
Page 3
January 7, 1983

As at virtually any point in the mile or so from the actual rocks to the southern boundary to the proposed Wilderness Area, you can see the farming communities to the South.

6 Some of the same facts are true of the north boundary to the actual rocks. We feel these areas do not meet the criteria for inclusion in the Wilderness Areas. We base this primarily upon their lack of remoteness, existing improvements within those areas and the general lack of Wilderness qualities.

7 Some of the users are extremely concerned about the State lands within the proposed Wilderness boundaries. The State lands are, as you know, leased by some of the permittees. Including my family. They have had these leases for a great many years and they are an important part of our grazing program. We feel the BLM failed to take that into consideration when they considered the Wilderness Designation. We feel we should have had some involvement initially in the study of the Wilderness Areas. It appears from past experience that once a document is issued by the BLM it is virtually set in concrete and even though there are opportunities, such as I am taking advantage of here, to comment, comments often cannot change the outcome.

Again, I would emphasize that I personally am not opposed to the Wilderness concept, but I am opposed to the large designation that has been made in the Gooding City of Rocks Wilderness Study Area. I feel the area could be reduced down in size to include the actual on-the-ground areas that all of us could consider as Wilderness and still accomplish the objectives the Wilderness laws envision.

Truly yours,

James E. Durin

Response Number 1

The EIS analyzed the impacts of wilderness designation on livestock grazing for those WSAs in the Black Canyon Allotment. The BLM's Wilderness Management Policy was used to evaluate the impact of designation on existing and proposed rangeland management facilities. The policy states that the construction of new developments is permissible if they are necessary for the purpose of resource protection and effective management of these resources, rather than to accommodate increased numbers of livestock. The Shoshone Grazing EIS and the subsequent Black Canyon Allotment Cooperative Rangeland Management Agreement have identified new structural rangeland management facilities that are necessary to protect and effectively manage the rangeland resource (see Maps 12 and 13). Those facilities that are located within the WSAs in the Black Canyon Allotment would be permissible if the WSAs are designated as wilderness by Congress.

Response Number 2

Input has been solicited from all interested parties during the wilderness study process. Our records show that you, and several other permittees, were notified of our intent to begin wilderness studies in these WSAs in April of 1981. You were notified of a scoping meeting held in Gooding on May 15, 1981, to identify issues. The issue of the cooperative agreement and the effect of wilderness designation on it surfaced at this meeting and the effect of wilderness designation on livestock grazing was one of four major issues identified by the scoping process. In August of 1981 a field trip to the WSAs was organized for permittees and other interested individuals to identify areas of concern on the ground. No livestock users participated in the field trip.

In addition to these formal opportunities for public involvement, the Shoshone District invited written or oral communication on the wilderness study throughout the study process (see Chapter 5).

Response Number 3

A record of the Gooding Public Hearing was made by a licensed court reporter and is available for the public to examine at the Shoshone District Office. This record does not indicate that favoritism was shown to any group at the hearing. This record does not support your contention that speakers against the wilderness study areas were opposed by those conducting the hearing.

Response Number 4

The issues raised by this comment were addressed in Response Number 1 to this letter.

Response Number 5

Alternative boundaries were considered but dropped from analysis because there was no clear boundary within the WSA to delineate where the Gooding City of Rocks formation stops and because no suitable boundary could be found that would not result in essential wilderness values being removed from the area recommended suitable (see pages 8-10).

Response Number 6

The Partial Wilderness Alternative for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA does adjust the northern boundary to exclude the flatter lands and concentrations of range developments (see pages 8, 24, 26, 86-89, and Maps 6 and 13).

Response Number 7

The BLM wilderness recommendations do not include State or private lands (see page 6).

Letter Number 18

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 18

McCall, Idaho
January 7, 1988

Mr. Charles Haszler, Manager
Shoshone District
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 28
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Dear Mr. Haszler:

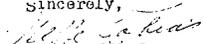
I am writing to comment upon the draft Wilderness EIS for the Shoshone District.

The time for recognizing and evaluating the many values of our desert land is far over-due. Through the BLM studies we have the opportunity to collect desert diversity into cultural and ecological reservations. It appears from the EIS selection of Alternatives that this opportunity is being lost.

I second the recommendation of the Gooding City of Rocks (including the entire study area) and Little Wood River for Wilderness designation, but find the deletion of Little City of Rocks, Deer Creek and Black Canyon indicative of a failure to understand the interdependence of ecological values. The areas recommended in the EIS for Wilderness are not islands. They do not stand alone. Without protecting the outlying areas their geological, cultural, floral, faunal and other values will be cheapened very rapidly, as uses in and out of the designated areas are increased. The value of Wilderness designation lies not in pinpointing the obviously spectacular, but rather by including within a resource reservation all or most of the contributing factors which make the area permanently viable. With this as a guide I hope that the areas studied qualify for the recommendation of the All Wilderness Alternative. That Alternative involves a small enough sample of what the Shoshone District desert offers.

Every year we learn more about what is out there on our land. It is most unwise to consign these lands to indifferent uses without knowing what values await us. Under Wilderness classification they are a laboratory illustrating the power of the forces which have made this country. How we survive depends largely upon how well we adapt to those forces. We must keep them for reference.

I thank you for this opportunity to comment, and ask for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nellie Roblas
Rt. #1
McCall, Idaho 83638

Response Number 1

In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration as to its suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was also analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Other partial wilderness alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis (see pages 8-10).

Response Number 2

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Letter Number 19

January 5, 1983

Mr. Charles Haszler
District Manager
Shoshone District BLM
P.O.Box 28
Shoshone, Idaho 33352

RESPONSE TO LETTER 19

Dear Mr. Haszler,

I write to you as an American citizen interested in the preservation, as wilderness, of unique natural areas and rare wildlife habitat.

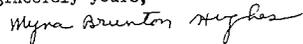
1 / You are to be commended for recommending for wilderness status the Little Wood River and the Mount Bennett Hills area, including the spectacular Gooding City of Rocks, but I feel you do not go far enough. It is essential for ecological safety that a wider area be designated.

2 / The committee for Idaho's High Desert has made a compromise alternative which should be given very careful consideration. Certainly the Little City of Rocks, less than six thousand acres, merits protection. It contains some most unusual formations as well as supporting valued wildlife. It has special appeal for the student interested in pre-historic sites for it contains eight such rare sites. The relative smallness of the area should increase rather than decrease its suitability for wilderness classification.

Black Canyon, between the two cities of rocks, as well as the seven thousand acres of Deer Creek, should also be preserved for their value not only to present generations but as a legacy for future generations as a preserved habitat for a number of endangered species of bird and animal life.

It is not enough to protect limited canyon areas of particular uniqueness without extending protection to surrounding plateaus and hills. A whole ecosystem needs protection if we are to pass on to our children and grandchildren a viable natural world for their exploration, and, we must hope, protection.

Sincerely yours,



Myra Brunton Hughes
700 - 15th Avenue
San Francisco, California 94118

P.S. Allow me to repeat:
Please re-examine more carefully the compromise alternative presented by the committee for Idaho's High Desert.

Response Number 1

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Response Number 2

In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration as to its suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was also analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Other partial wilderness alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis (see pages 8-10).

January 8, 1983

Mr. Charles Haskin, Dist. Mgr.
Shoshone District BLM
P.O. Box 213
Shoshone, ID 83352

Dear Mr. Haskin:

Please do what you can
to designate as wilderness:

1. Little City of Rocks
2. Black Canyon
3. Deer Creek
4. Hordley City of Rocks A+B

These areas should be pro-
served forever for my children &
everyone's. - there is precious
little we can leave them, but surely
we can take care that they in their
places where they can go to
be quiet, enjoy, unspoiled vistas,
& see something better government,

traffic, crowds of people.

Secretary Pratt will do his
best to eliminate what is left
of natural beauty in Idaho, &
the rest of the West. Do not
let him do this!! He is a cancer
in the well-being of man's
spirit ---

I have been in these areas ---
wild beauty is uplifting and
fragile. It is up to us to
save it. Once lost, it is
gone forever. My voice is not
strong - but if a letter will
help, I am sending it in that
hope.

Let's protect these unique
areas --- they belong to us, &
deserve to be conserved for
what they represent & are good
for: wild life habitat, recreation,

a source of quiet solitude
& renewal of life's goodness.
I suggest the All-
Wilderness alternative. Let's pro-
tect the entire ecosystem.

Sincerely ---

Margaret J. Pratt
472 Jefferson
Twin Falls, ID
83301

weigold-1
Letter Number 21
1/7/83
1005 Fort St.
P.O. Box 83702

weigold 2

Mr Charles Haszler
District Manager
Shoshone District BLM
PO Box 2B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Re: Wilderness EIS for Mt. Bennett Hills, including
City of Rocks, Black Canyon, Deer Creek,
Little City of Rocks.

Dear Mr. Haszler:

I am writing this letter as a followup to
the testimony I gave at your Gooding
Public Hearing regarding the above referenced
WSA's.

You will recall I questioned the criteria you
used in determining which areas to
recommend and which to drop.

Specifically I am critical of the
apparent bias you have employed
in selecting only "most scenic" or
"most spectacular" areas. That is not
the only, dominant planning criteria
required by the planning process.

The fact that other criteria can carry
as much weight as spectacular
scenery is evidenced by my
comment to you during the hearing.
I told you I have experienced
a sense of profound and meaningful

solitude in the open silence of the
Deer Creek area. To me, that experience
is as meaningful as the element
of spectacular scenery you rely on
so heavily.

Additionally I told you I have often
taken friends and guests staying at
our farm in Comas County to these
areas. The comments of these
citizens from other parts of the
U.S.A. range from being quietly
pleased to being overwhelmed
by the way in which these areas
typify what is nationally regarded
as the "romantic, old" west.

Unfortunately, the planning process and
hearing locations do not allow persons
from across the nation who know
these areas, no matter how briefly, to
comment. These lands are public
and the interests of more americans
should be considered when planning
the fate of these areas.

Your recommendation that less than
1/3 of the areas under consideration
be recommended is unfortunate
and the negative impact of
your alternative designations is
compounded by the lack of
an intermediate alternative.

The Committee For Idaho's High Desert has provided a rational 4th alternative which would undo the bias built into the choices provided in your EIS. I believe you should carefully examine this alternative — especially in view of recent court cases suggesting the absence of an intermediate alternative in natural resources planning constitutes a violation of planning policy.

4 | Please include the little city of Rocks, Blast Canyon, Deer Creek, Gooding City of Rocks A&B and the Little Wood River in your final recommendation. By designating all or some of these in addition to the USFS proposed alternative, the ecosystems making these areas unique will be protected. Without a guarded ecosystem this area could lose much of its uniqueness through the kinds of manipulation proposed by exploitive interest. It is time to consider the needs of more than just the traditional public land users. By making a modified decision you can begin to undo the damage decades of exploitation has done to the public land.

Sincerely,
T.S. Weigold

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 21

Response Number 1

The factors considered in determining wilderness recommendations included size, naturalness, opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, supplemental values, diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System, multiple resource benefits, manageability, energy and mineral resource values, impacts on other resources, impact of nondesignation on wilderness values, public comment, local and regional socioeconomic effects, and consistency with other plans.

Response Number 2

Provision for written comment allows for nationwide participation. Hearing numbers and locations are based upon an assessment of interest by the public to attend a hearing.

Response Number 3

In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration as to its suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was also analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Other partial wilderness alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis (see pages 8-10).

Response Number 4

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Letter Number 22

P. O. BOX 1587
KETCHUM, IDAHO 83340

January 8, 1983

Mr. Charles Haszier
District Manager
Shoshone District BLM
PO Box 2B
Shoshone, ID. 83352

Dear Mr. Haszier:

This refers to your draft Wilderness EIS recently released. It is my feeling that it does not adequately cover areas which deserve Wilderness Status even though some of them are relatively small acreages.

I would like to recommend Wilderness designation for Little City of Rocks, Deer Creek and Little Wood River, the latter being most valuable to Wood River Valley residents. I have expressed to you my views in the past and I thank you for your attention and consideration.

Very truly yours,

Hildegard Raeber

Hildegard Raeber

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 22

Response Number 1

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Letter Number 23

Mr Charles Haszier,
District Manager
Shoshone District BLM
PO Box 2B
Shoshone, ID. 83352

RE DRAFT WILDERNESS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT

Mr. Haszier:

IT APPEARS THAT THE DRAFT WILDERNESS EIS PROVIDES INSUFFICIENT RANGE TO THE WILDERNESS OPTION (TWO) SINCE THE NO WILDERNESS OPTION IS IDENTICAL TO THE NULL OPTION REQUIRED ON ALL EIS. AN ADDITIONAL ALTERNATIVE IS NEEDED TO GIVE A BALANCED RANGE OF OPTIONS SINCE THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE OTHER THAN ALL OR NONE, IS FOR A MINIMAL ADDITION.

SPECIFICALLY, THE ALTERNATIVE SHOULD INCLUDE THE LITTLE CITY OF ROCKS AS WELL AS THE GOODING CITY OF ROCKS. (THE GOODING CITY OF ROCKS SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE THE SURROUNDING PLATEAUS TO ENHANCE THE "EDGE EFFECT" OF THIS AREA. DEER CREEK & BLACK CANYON SHOULD BE INCLUDED BECAUSE OF THE DIVERSITY OF LAND FORMS & HABITATS. (THE PURPOSE OF WILDERNESS IS NOT JUST FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES. -)

- 2 | Finally Little Wood River WSA should be
 DOED because ~~it is an~~ ^{IT IS AN} EXTENSION OF THE POWER
 MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS Study Area. TOO LITTLE
- 3 | ATTENTION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE PRESERVATION
 OF DIVERSITY IN WILDERNESS EVALUATION. WHEN IN FACT
 IT IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT REASONS FOR WILDERNESS
 PRESERVATION.

Sincerely,

PETE COLE

520 SKYLARK

POWERS DA 63204

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 23

Response Number 1

In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration as to its suitability or unsuitability for wilderness designation. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was also analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Other partial wilderness alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis (see pages 8-10).

Response Number 2

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Response Number 3

Although diversity was one of the factors considered in determining wilderness recommendations, it was not analyzed as an issue. Since all potential natural vegetation types within the WSAs are currently represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System, designation of these WSAs as wilderness would not expand ecologic diversity of the system (see page 7).

Letter Number 24

392 Moonlite Drive
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

January 9, 1983

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 24

Mr. Charles Haszier, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management--Shoshone District
P.O.Box 2B
Shoshone, ID 83352

Dear Sir:

I'm writing on the draft Wilderness EIS for the Shoshone District to indicate the concerns of the Idaho Alpine Club. Though we're located some distance away, it's been traditional for the IAC to stage a 1-2 day climbing clinic at the Gooding City of Rocks. By virtue of this annual event and some side hikes, many of our members have quite an appreciation for the scenic splendor of the surrounding area. We'd essentially like to see the Gooding City of Rocks (A&B), Black Canyon, and the Little City of Rocks preserved in their present pristine state for unspoiled recreation purposes. However, I'm frankly forced to correspond as an unaffiliated citizen; I got the background information with insufficient lead time for the official IAC approval chain, but still wished to meet the 11th deadline.

The wishes of my organization aren't expressed very well by any of your present alternatives. We have a vested interest in the greater City of Rocks, but can't plead familiarity with many of the other WSAs. Consequently, we support the so-called Conservationists' Compromise. Asking for 56% recommended wilderness hardly seems greedy, and the draft EIS sadly offers a very restricted range of options as is. I simply can't imagine how a single 28% partial wilderness alternative does justice to nine separate regions.

Again, please treat this as private correspondence, since I have no wish to violate IAC rules. I'll follow this with an official letter after our next IAC Council meeting. I realize this amounts to begging an extension, but we do care and we would like to participate in the decision-making process. I personally apologize for being caught unprepared and for any inconvenience to your organization.

Thanks for your time and consideration.



Scott Ploger
Conservation Coordinator
Idaho Alpine Club

Response Number 1

In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration as to its suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was also analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Other partial wilderness alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis (see pages 8-10).

Letter Number 25

Twin Falls, Id., Jan. 10th, 1983.

Mr. Charles Haszler, District Manager,
Shoshone District B.L.M.,
P. O. Box 2B,
Shoshone, Id. 83352.

Dear Sir:

This is to request that this letter be included in the hearings relating to Wilderness Areas considerations in your District.

We especially favor for consideration the following areas:

Black Canyon, in the Gooding City of Rocks area. 10371 acres.

Gooding City of Rocks A and B Units. 21030 acres.

Based on the information available to us we think the above areas are fully suitable to be considered as "wilderness" and should be so considered.

Many thanks for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Joe T. Green
Joe T. and Willomae Green,
Ridgeplace Rd., RFD 3,
Twin Falls, Id. 83301.

Willomae Green

Letter Number 26

Melon Valley Ranch
Route 3 Box 257
Buhl, Idaho 83316
Jan. 10, 1983

Mr. Charles Haszler
District Manager
Shoshone Dist. B.L.M.
P.O. Box 2 B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Dear Mr. Haszler.

In regard to the wilderness study, we support the proposal to include the following units in the National Wilderness Preservation

System: Little Wood River (5-3-4)
Black Canyon (5-4-6)
Gooding City of Rocks (5-4-8A)
Gooding City of Rocks (5-4-8B)

We believe these units are best suited for permanent wilderness designation.

As cattle ranchers we believe grazing of livestock should be allowed under controlled conditions but further development should not be allowed. In our opinion this would retain the wilderness quality, protect wildlife and still be multiple use of the land.
(over)

We would like to thank you for the copy of the wilderness E.I.S. Draft.

Sincerely yours,
Ray F. Couch
Davis F. Couch

Bureau of Land Management
 Box 2 B
 Shoshone Idaho 83252

January 10, 1983

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 26

Response Number 1

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Dear Mr. Hellie,

Please enter this statement in the record for the draft EIS wilderness hearing for the Bennett Hills and Sun Valley Planning units.

After reviewing the draft statements and scouting some of the areas by car and small plane I would like to submit the following recommendations:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Little Wood River (53-4) | - Wilderness |
| | Friedman Creek 53-5 | - no recommendation |
| 1 | Black Butte 54-2 | - roadless non-wilderness |
| | Little City of Rocks 54-5 | Wilderness |
| | Black Canyon 54-6 | Wilderness |
| | Gooding City of Rocks 54-8a | Wilderness |
| | " " " " 54-8b | Wilderness |
| | Deer Creek 54-10 | roadless non-wilderness |
| | Lava 56-2 | non-wilderness |

Reasons are as follows:

Little Wood - adjacent to Pioneer mt. potential wilderness, critical winter elk range, no resource conflicts.

Friedman - not familiar with this area.

Black Butte - small, isolated from other roadless area, flat, close to highway. Rough as a cob.

Little City of Rocks, Black Canyon, both Gooding City of Rocks - These areas should be considered as one unit for the purpose of evaluating wilderness potential as they are adjacent to each other and have similar physical characteristics. I believe the value of a wilderness unit increases almost geometrically with

its increase in size. The natural processes have room to allow for their ups + downs and experiments. I feel that these areas provide a much needed dimension in our national system as a representative of this ecotype. There seems to be very little user conflict here with the exception of ORV use which is the single most damaging use and therefore undesirable. It's not the use so much as the misuse and increase in use that is harmful. There are hundreds of thousands of acres of public land for them to express themselves in in the local area. Peripheral areas with livestock improvement needs might be carefully excluded for management purposes. So we have ① definite wilderness values, ② lack of significant resource conflict, ③ addition to the diversity of the national wilderness system, and a very manageable area. Please recommend all these areas for wilderness.

Deer Creek. - This sounds like a beautiful area and should be managed to retain its recreational qualities.

Lava - Wilderness values do not sound unique. Extensive roading appears to lower its potential.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours,
Alan Reynolds
B. 1479
Ketchum Idaho 83340

Response Number 1

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River and Black Butte WSAs is deferred and the WSAs are not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Jan 8, 1983

Twin Falls, Idaho
January 9, 1983

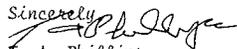
Mr. Charles Haszler
District Manager
Shoshone District BLM

Dear Sir:

I am glad to see the BLM nominating desert lands for inclusion in the Nations wilderness system. Desert ecosystems should certainly be included.

Of the units discussed in your report, I am familiar only with the Gooding City of Rocks A & B units. Because of the extremely rough topography, there are apt to be small areas that have received little or no grazing use by domestic livestock. Any such pristine or near-pristine areas should be protected. Also, this is a highly scenic area which will undoubtedly receive increased recreation use in the future.

Please record me as a "yes" vote for inclusion of these units in the wilderness system.

Sincerely,

T. A. Phillips
256 Pierce
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

Mr. Charles Haszler
District Manager
Shoshone Dist BLM
P.O. Box 28
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

RE: Draft EIS for South-Central Idaho Wilderness Study Areas.

I have the following comments to make with regard to the consideration and selection of the wilderness study areas.

1. The number of alternatives considered is too limiting. (All, None or 25%) What happened to 50% and 75%? Please consider other compromise alternatives.
2. Please consider the inclusion of the following areas: Little City of Rocks, Black Canyon and the Gooding City of Rocks (A&B) & its surrounding plateaus. I feel it is important to consider these adjacent areas as one unit. They would provide excellent opportunities for wildlife and hiking in a different (but equally as valuable) setting than the standard high mountain wilderness areas. Another ~~major~~ advantage of protecting this area is that you would provide protection for an entire ecosystem: the high desert.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,
Vickie Traxler

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 29

1/5/83
Letter Number 30

PEDIATRIC CENTER

Telephone (208) 733-4343
284 Martin Street * Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

Diplomates American Board Of Pediatrics
HAROLD R. GEIST, M.D.
BEN E. KATZ, M.D., P.A.
PAUL V. MILES, M.D.
J.F. TROTTER, JR., M.D.

Response Number 1

In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration as to its suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was also analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Other partial wilderness alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis (see pages 8-10).

Dear Mr. Haszler

I Am writing concerning the Wilderness Ewire.
Impact Statement.

One of my fears is that the "James Watt mentality" will influence Idaho adversely - I am against the philosophy that "only the most spectacular" areas should be protected.

Please support Wilderness designation for

Little City of Rocks

Black Canyon

Deer Creek

Gooding, City of Rocks

Little Wood River

1 |

2 |

Please examine the compromise Alternative presented by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert.

J. Trotter, Jr. M.D.
Twin Falls

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 30

Response Number 1

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Response Number 2

In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration as to its suitability or unsuitability for wilderness designation. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was also analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Other partial wilderness alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis (see pages 8-10).

Jan 8, 1983

B.L.M. District Office
P.O. Box 213
Shoshone, Id 83352

Gentlemen:

Our public lands including those managed by the Bureau of Land Management are really all the people's "savings account." They should be scrupulously cared for and kept intact for the use of future generations.

The designation of "Wilderness" seems like the best option that we have to carry out this most necessary requirement. Therefore, I most urgently request that all the areas you are now considering for Wilderness designation be included.

I am more than disturbed that some of these areas have

now been withdrawn from
consideration due to Interior
Secretary Watt's outrageous
action. I hope that before
final decisions are made
"on these areas", Congress may
be able to rescind the order.

Respectfully,
Simon M. Petrick
Steve K
~~James Watt~~ SD
Bliss 83314

Mr. Charles Haszler,
District Manager
Shoshone District BLM
P.O. Box 2B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Dear Mr. Haszler:

I would like to support Wilderness designation for the
entire Mt. Bennett Hills WSA area, not just the Gooding City
of Rocks. I believe that the area needs to be looked at as
an ecosystem, consisting not only of the City of Rocks forma-
tion but also the adjoining plateaus and benches. I would
like to see the following areas recommended for Wilderness:

1. Gooding City of Rocks A and B. Not only the City of
Rocks should be designated Wilderness. The plateaus and
plains adjacent to the City of Rocks are also important,
supporting most of the wildlife of the area and providing
a more diverse recreational experience. I support your
current recommendation for these WSAs.
2. Black Canyon. This area also offers good recreational
values, and would help relieve recreational pressure on the
City of Rocks. Please recommend this for Wilderness in the
final EIS.
3. Little City of Rocks. This WSA has outstanding recrea-
tional values, particularly because of the spectacular
scenery found in it. BLM should acquire the State section
and trim off the eastern border to make it a manageable unit.
It would be an excellent addition to the Wilderness system,
and would again take pressure off the City of Rocks proper.

1 | The draft EIS fails to recognize the unique nature of the
| entire Gooding City of Rocks formation, and the interconnection
| between the canyons and the plateaus. Please recommend Wilder-
| ness for the entire block, not just the most scenic portion of
| it. Looking at it from a national perspective (which you should
| be doing, since these are public lands belonging to all Americans)
| the entire area is very unique, and deserves Wilderness protection.

2 | I also support Wilderness designation for the Little Wood
| River, even though James Watt wants to take it out of Wilderness
| study. It has outstanding wildlife values, and should be pro-
| tected.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Steve Kramer
Steve Kramer

Letter Number 33

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 32

1819 Danmor Dr.
Boise, ID 83702
January 10, 1983

Response Number 1

Aggregate alternatives which include more than one WSA are already incorporated into the WSA-specific alternatives (see page 10).

Response Number 2

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Mr. Charles Haszier,
Shoshone District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 2 B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Dear Mr. Haszier:

I would like to support the Conservationist's Alternative for Wilderness in the Shoshone District. Specifically, I would like to support wilderness designation for the following areas:
Gooding City of Rocks A and B, Little Wood River, Black Canyon, Little City of Rocks, and Deer Creek.

The Bennett Hills are an easily accessible area to Boise, and offer exceptional scenery and a good diversity of recreation, wildlife, and other values. Please recommend wilderness for all the Bennett Hills WSAs and the Little Wood River in your final EIS.

Sincerely,

Renee Quick

Renee Quick

Letter Number 34

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 33

7440 Manorwood Drive
Boise, Idaho 83704
January 10, 1983

Response Number 1

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Mr. Charles Haszier,
District Manager
Shoshone District BLM
P.O. Box 2B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Dear Mr. Haszier:

I am writing you in regard to the Wilderness Study Areas now being studied by the Shoshone District. I would like to support wilderness designation for the entire Mt. Bennett Hills area, including the following WSAs: Gooding City of Rocks A and B, Black Canyon, and Little City of Rocks.

There is no question that the City of Rocks formation is spectacular, and deserves protection. However, the canyons and spires of the City of Rocks are only a part of the Bennett Hills ecosystem, a system which includes not only the canyons but the plateaus and hills adjoining them. These plateaus support deer, elk, and many other wildlife species; they provide unspoiled vistas and a sense of vastness and solitude very different from the closed canyon lands. Both are valuable, and both deserve Wilderness protection.

I would also like to support wilderness designation for the Little Wood River WSA. Please consider this area for wilderness in the future, when the Sawtooth Forest seriously considers designation of the Pioneer Mountains Wilderness.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,


Marge Hayes

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 34

1817 Annett St.
Boise, ID 83705
10 January 1983

Response Number 1

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Mr. Charles Haszler,
District Manager
Shoshone District BLM
PO Box 2B
Shoshone, ID 83352

Dear Mr. Haszler:

I would like to make the following comments on the Shoshone Draft Wilderness Study:

1. The number of alternatives is insufficient, and should be increased. Please examine the Compromise alternative presented by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert.
2. I would like to see the Shoshone District recommend wilderness for Deer Creek, Black Canyon, and Little City of Rocks in addition to the recommendations in the draft EIS. I particularly would like to express my support for Black Canyon. This WSA offers a variety of recreational experiences, and a feeling of openness and solitude enhanced by the wide vistas and gently rolling terrain. Like Deer Creek and the plateaus of the City of Rocks and Little City of Rocks, Black Canyon offers a landscape that brings to mind the real "old West", a landscape that is rapidly vanishing. Please protect some of this open country, as well as the spectacular canyons and rock formations. This is becoming a rare commodity, and will be even more precious to future generations.
3. Please recognize the diversity of recreation experiences possible in the Bennett Hills, and make wilderness recommendations that protect a diversity of recreation types. Again, the open spaces should be protected as well as the canyons.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely yours,

Larry Hallock
Larry Hallock

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 35

1817 Annett St.
Boise, Idaho 83705
January 10, 1983

Response Number 1

In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration as to its suitability or nonsuitability for Wilderness designation. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was also analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Other partial wilderness alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis (see pages 8-10).

Mr. Charles Haszier,
District Manager
Shoshone District BLM
PO Box 2B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

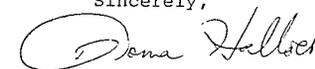
Dear Mr. Haszier:

I would like to support the all-wilderness alternative for the Shoshone Wilderness EIS. There are relatively few and minor conflicts between wilderness and other uses in the Shoshone WSAs, and these areas represent only a small portion of the District. The WSAs all offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation; these opportunities will become increasingly important as time goes on, and Idaho's population continues to grow.

The figures in the draft EIS regarding acreage of existing wilderness in Idaho are misleading, in that the National Forest wilderness offers a very different kind of experience. It does not have the vastness, the openness, that makes the Bennett Hills and other areas under consideration so special. Please take into consideration this difference of experience, of feeling, in your final study.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Donna Hallock

Letter Number 37

3204 Edgemoor
Boise, ID 83703
January 10, 1983

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 36

Response Number 1

These figures have been removed from this final EIS.

Mr. Charles Haszler
Shoshone District BLM
PO Box 2B
Shoshone, ID 83352

Dear Mr. Haszler:

Please recommend wilderness designation for the entire Mt. Bennett Hills area, including the following units: Jording City of Rocks I and B, Black Canyon, Little City of Rocks, and Deer Creek. These areas make up a viable wilderness package, an area large enough to offer a wide variety of recreational experiences and able to absorb a high number of users.

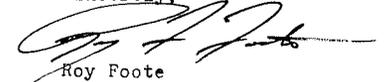
One of the dangers of the wilderness study as it has been conducted to date is that it may be completely eliminating an entire landscape type - the open, sagebrush plain - from the wilderness recreation base. Because such areas by nature cannot absorb a large number of visitors, they are excluded from wilderness recommendations in favor of canyons and broken terrain which can hold more people - but which simply doesn't offer the same type of recreational experience. The Mt. Bennett Hills complex listed above retains this recreational opportunity, while providing the necessary size and variety of attractions which would allow a good number of visitors.

There is no doubt that as the Boise and Salt Lake City areas grow, the Mt. Bennett Hills will feel increasing recreational pressure.

They are attractive, readily accessible, and offer a type of recreation and landscape not found in existing wilderness areas. It would make sense to anticipate this increased demand, and make a wilderness area which can meet the needs of the future without permits, and other limitations which will probably result if the current proposal is all that is designated.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,



Roy Foote

Letter Number 38

1912 N. Phillippi
Boise, ID 83706
January 10, 1983

Mr. Charles Haszler,
District Manager
Shoshone District BLM
P.O. Box 2B
Shoshone, ID 83352

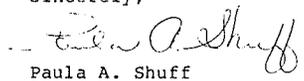
Dear Mr Haszler:

I would like to support the all-wilderness alternative for the Shoshone Wilderness EIS. This is the only alternative which will protect the Mt. Bennett Hills, and the wildlife and recreation opportunities found there.

The present recommendation is too small to meet the needs of wildlife and recreation in the future. More of the ecosystem needs to be protected - at a minimum, the Black Canyon, Gooding City of Rocks A and B, and Little City of Rocks WSAs. Please reconsider the unique nature of the Gooding City of Rocks formation, and the unusual recreational experiences it offers; more than just the core of this area should be protected. More of the surrounding uplands should be included in wilderness, as well.

I would also like to urge you to close the road between Gooding City of Rocks A and B. This is little more than an way, and closing it will enhance the wilderness experience.

Sincerely,


Paula A. Shuff

Letter Number 39

SUSAN M. GRAHAM
Attorney at Law
J. D., M. B. A.

512 WEST BANNOCK
BOISE, IDAHO 83702
(208) 344-0375

January 10, 1983

Mr. Charles Haszler
District Manager
Shoshone District BLM
P.O. Box 2B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

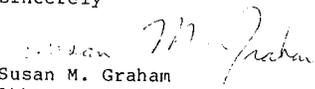
Dear Mr. Haszler

I own a farm in Camas County and am familiar with many of the areas you are studying for wilderness.

1 | I am writing to ask that you increase the number of alternatives used in evaluating the recent Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement. I request that you consider and apply the Compromise Alternative presented by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert.

2 | I support the position taken by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert. I recommend that you designate as a minimum wilderness the Little City of Rocks, Black Canyon, Deer Creek and Little Wood River.

Sincerely


Susan M. Graham
Attorney at Law

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 39

LAW OFFICES
HOBDEY & VARIN
P. O. BOX 176
GOODING, IDAHO 83330
(208) 934-4429
January 10, 1983

FAIRFIELD OFFICE
P. O. BOX 185
FAIRFIELD, IDAHO 83327
(208) 764-2251

Response Number 1

In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration as to its suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was also analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Other partial wilderness alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis (see pages 8-10).

Bureau of Land Management
Shoshone District Office
P. O. Box 2 B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

ATTENTION: EIS Team Leader

Response Number 2

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Thank you for the opportunity you have given me to comment on the Shoshone/Sun Valley Plan/ Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement. It appears that the valuation team has done a commendable job in evaluating the various proposed wilderness study areas. I do, however, have some comments on a couple of the conclusions. First let me state that I agree with recommended actions on the Little City of Rocks and Black Canyon study areas. In my view of these areas are not unique enough in their wilderness characteristics to warrant wilderness designation and in fact may if they were selected, actually demean the wilderness concept.

While I do not disagree with the designation of the Gooding City of Rock area (54-A and 54-AB), I feel the area that has been included in the Gooding City of Rock area is too large and may be unmanageable. I feel the area should take in only that portion of the topography which actually includes the City of Rocks. From examining the maps, it appears to me much more land is included than actually is necessary to insure wilderness experience. In my view, the only areas that should be included are the deep cuts and rough areas which form the heart of the City of Rocks area. Inclusions in the north and the south of relatively rolling and less rough terrain I feel presents management problems due to interference with livestock operators. I am pleased that in your final recommendation you have deleted a portion of the northern proposed study area from inclusion.

If an area that is not obviously wilderness is included in the wilderness area, then it will present management problems. The general public will not respect the political boundaries drawn by man but will respect the natural boundaries. I feel any wilderness area designated by man will lack creditability unless it conforms to substantially to what most people would consider a wilderness by nature standard. I feel boundaries of the Gooding City of Rocks are too broad in that respect.

2 | I feel most people would find wilderness by reference to some definition of solitude. I disagree with the author of the study on his characterization of solitude. In my opinion the quality of solitude is severely hampered by the viewing of farming communities to the south. Perhaps this is a subjective approach but then solitude must always be based upon some subjective standard. I feel a wilderness feeling of solitude cannot be obtained by standing on one of the northern or southern reaches of the proposed Gooding City of Rock boundaries and viewing the farming communities to the south.

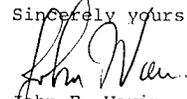
This certainly is not true of the inner valleys and other rough areas of the proposed wilderness area.

I have camped within the proposed boundaries of the Gooding City of Rock wilderness area in the springtime and have found the experience to be very satisfying. Wild flower blaze and the ruggedness of the area certainly left a feeling of wilderness and solitude. However, this feeling immediately was dispelled upon hitting the main road into the City of Rocks and viewing the farming communities to the south.

In conclusions I feel it is not inappropriate to include the Gooding City of Rocks in the wilderness designation but feel the boundaries should be reduced to the natural wilderness boundary that I feel exists.

I have not commented on the other wilderness areas as I have no specific feelings or information of those areas.

Sincerely yours


John F. Varin

JFV/gp

Response Number 1

Alternative boundaries were considered but dropped from analysis because there was no clear boundary within the WSA to delineate where the Gooding City of Rocks formation stops and because no suitable boundary could be found that would not result in essential wilderness values being removed from the area recommended suitable (see page 9).

Response Number 2

The outside sights of farming activity south of the WSA have been discussed in Chapter 3. These sights do not significantly affect the WSA due to the distances involved.



AMERICAN WILDERNESS ALLIANCE
4260 East Evans Avenue • Suite 8 • Denver, Colorado 80222
(303) 758-5018

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324 Fuller

Helena, Montana 59601

Box 1772
Boise, Idaho 83701
January 9, 1983

District Manager
Shoshone District
Bureau of Land Management
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Dear Sir:

As an Idaho representative of the American Wilderness Alliance I wish to comment on the draft wilderness environmental impact statement (E.I.S.) for wilderness study lands in south central Idaho, roughly north, northeast and east of Gooding. The study includes lands located in the foothills of the Pioneer Mountains, lava flows on the Snake River Plain, and the Mount Bennett Hills.

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 scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical needs and purposes of the American people. Wilderness further protects and enhances undisturbed watersheds, wildlife habitat, and plant species. The American Wilderness Alliance supports the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's laws and regulations.

The draft E.I.S. does not include adequate

"We Don't Inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, We Borrow It from our Children."

acreage to protect an integral ecological unit that will provide a sound recreation experience. Instead of including only three alternatives for review, we suggest a fourth alternative, the Compromise Alternative, which proposes designating over 55 percent of the study areas as wilderness, including Little City of Rocks, Little Wood River, Deer Creek, Black Canyon, and Gooding City of Rocks, A and B.

Little City of Rocks (5,800 acres). This area contains part of the highly eroded City of Rocks formations, and includes sagebrush lands that serve as winter range for elk and deer, upland gamebird habitat, and hosts raptors of all kinds. It will provide opportunities for the novice photographer, hiker, hunter, camper and horseback rider. It can easily ease the strain and pressure from the presently over-used Gooding City of Rocks area.

Little Wood River (4,380 acres). This W.S.A. is composed of rolling hills and mountains flanking the Sawtooth National Forest's wilderness proposal for the Pioneer Mountains. The area supports elk, deer, bear, antelope and numerous upland game birds, with opportunities for a high quality experience in sight-seeing, hunting, hiking, camping and fishing.

Deer Creek (7,480 acres). Besides being mostly sagebrush and grasslands, this area contains high deer habitat values with its dense stands of aspen and choke cherry groves. It supports big game and upland game birds, and will provide numerous opportunities for hunting, hiking, horseback riding, sight seeing and photographing.

Black Canyon (10,370 acres) One of the largest W.S.A.'s, this area is unique with its varied combination of a rolling plateau land, lava bench country, and sagebrush grass-

Page 3
Shoshone E.I.S.

land. It supports both summer and winter range for big game as well as choice sage grouse habitat, nesting raptors, and predators (cougar and bobcat). The unique combination of several landscape features and geological phenomena found in this W.S.A. make it worthy for protection as wilderness.

Gooding City of Rocks, A and B (two units with 21,000 acres total). This area should include the additional 1,600 acres needed to protect the outlying fringes of the plateau-hilly area that surrounds the deep canyons and unique rock formations. Both summer and winter range for big game is included here, with a possibility of providing future transplants of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. There are fine opportunities for outdoor recreation, including horseback riding, hunting, camping, hiking, birding, and unusual photographic potential.

In conclusion, we wish to repeat that 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 areas will serve to study the inter-relationship between man and wilderness, and to provide the beneficial effects of wildlife through the protection and maintenance of our public lands.

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

Sincerely,
Paul Fritz
Paul Fritz

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 41

Response Number 1

In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration as to its suitability or unsuitability for wilderness designation. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was also analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Other partial wilderness alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis (see pages 8-10).

Response Number 2

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Jan. 11 - 1983

D. L. M. - Shoshone, Idaho

In regards to wilderness area in vicinity of Bennett Mountains, I protest all or any portion of location claims and mine grant, Black Canyon, Deer Creek & others that is included in wilderness proposal areas also, any wilderness area that would prevent ingress and egress of property.



E. E. Strout

Box 224
Gooding, Idaho 83330

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN To before me this 11th day of
January, 1983.


Notary Public for the State of Idaho;
Residing at Gooding, Idaho.



IDAHO POWER COMPANY

BOX 70 BOISE, IDAHO 83707

January 10, 1983

Bureau of Land Management
Shoshone District Office
P O Box 2B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Dear Sir:

The Bureau of Land Management has completed a wilderness study in the area of Mount Bennett Hills, of which public comment was heard on December 8, 1982.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement, which supports this study, has been reviewed by this office, only to find a very important part of its service area will be greatly hampered if we ever have any maintenance problems with the only 138KV transmission line that supplies electrical service to the Wood River - Ketchum area.

The Study Units "Little City of Rocks" 1-54-5 entire Easterly boundary encompasses this transmission line as it travels in a Northerly direction from the Snake River area to Hailey, Idaho. If access of any nature were restricted by such wilderness boundary's to said transmission line during any outage time, Idaho Power Company customers would pay the price.

Therefore, we wish to extend our concern that the Easterly boundary of Study Area I-54-5 be set back 50-100 feet to the West of said transmission line, removing it from any encumbrances. But, if said boundary is not moved, the Bureau at least recognize our need to maintain such a facility. A small portion of the total acreage will be lost from the Study Area, and you will still have an existing physical feature marking the boundary.

Very truly yours,


Ronald W Bubbs
Right-of-Way Supervisor
Land & Right-of-Way Dept

RWB/cc

cc: Allan Ansell

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 43

Response Number 1

The portion of the Little City of Rocks WSA boundary in question is formed by the edge of the right-of-way for the transmission line. The transmission line is outside the WSA.

1525 Malad
Boise ID 83705
January 7 1983

Mr. Charles Haszler
District Manager
Shoshone District BLM
PO Box 28
Shoshone, ID 83352

Dear Mr. Haszler

1 | I feel the number of alternatives in the Shoshone Wilderness EIS needs to be increased. Given the choices I am forced to recommend 'all wilderness.' I would support a compromise if one designated the following areas as wilderness.

Gooding City of Rocks A and B This is one of the most geologically unique areas in Idaho and also provides habitat for deer, elk, many upland game birds, raptors, and sensitive species such as bobcat and mountain quail. The area has nine known archeological sites and provides excellent recreational opportunities. Please keep the current recommendation, including the plateaus.

Little city of Rocks: This area also provides excellent habitat for wildlife and contains unique rock formations. Containing eight prehistoric sites, it provides some of the best sightseeing opportunities in the area. It should be protected.

Black Canyon: This area supports a wide range of wildlife and provides outstanding recreation. Wilderness designation will help take the recreation pressure off the City of Rocks, also.

Deer Creek: This area provides good opportunities for hiking, camping, sightseeing, photography, hunting, and horseback riding. It also provides habitat for a wide variety of species. The area needs wilderness protection.

2 | Little Wood River: This area contains winter range for 300 to 400 mule deer and year-long elk range. As part of the Elk Mountain Crucial Elk Range, an Area of Critical Environmental Concern, it deserves protection.

I feel the philosophy of recommending 'only the most spectacular' areas for wilderness does not provide adequate recreation, nor does it protect the entire ecosystem. I hope you consider this in the final recommendation. Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

S. L. Vader
S. L. Vader

Letter Number 45

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 44

2033 Jackson St.
Boise, ID 83705
January 10, 1983

Response Number 1

In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration as to its suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was also analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Other partial wilderness alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis (see pages 8-10).

Response Number 2

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Mr. Charles Haszier
Shoshone District BLM
P.O. Box 2 B
Shoshone, ID 83352

Dear Mr. Haszier:

I would like to express my support for the Compromise Wilderness alternative described in the High Desert alert. I am most concerned about protection of the Mt. Bennett Hills, particularly Little City of Rocks, Black Canyon, and the Gooding City of Rocks.

The City of Rocks formation is a relatively small part of the Mt. Bennett Hills ecosystem, an ecosystem which depends on protection of the plateaus and benches as well as the canyons. Please expand your wilderness recommendation to include more of this ecosystem. This will ultimately make a more diverse, manageable wilderness able to accept more visitors from the region's expanding urban centers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Judy Cook
Judy Cook

Charles Haszler
Dist. Manager BLM
Shoshone Dist.
PO Box 2B
Shoshone, Id. 83352

Jan 8, 1983

Re: District Draft WSA-EIS

Dear Mr. Haszler:

I am an Oregonian who has spent time in your district WSAs, and would like to comment on what I believe is an inadequate draft EIS. I am a lifelong ornithologist, fisherman, backpacker, and attorney who is deeply concerned with the BLM decision-making process - particularly because of the extreme anti-conservation attitude being fostered by your director, Mr. Bump, and Mr. Watt.

1 | The initial flaw of the EIS is that it does not examine a legally sufficient number of alternatives. The lesson of California v. Berglund, should not be denied or ignored by the BLM. The 3 alternatives as insufficient - the standard "all" or "no" wilderness options with 1, 27, or 22% partial wilderness option. The plan should have at least 3 partial wilderness options, and must legally display some alternatives between 30 - 99% (see RARE-II court decision)

2 | This EIS also fails to consider an enhancement alt. that would draw WSAs that are most practical & beneficial for

management and resource protection.

3 | The best (or worst) example of this is the plan to only protect part of the Gooding City of Rocks & excluding the adjacent uplands and plateaus which all to the overall geographical integrity of the WSA.

I support the "Committee for High Desert" Compromise Alt. which would protect 56% WSAs as designated wilderness. This should include areas:

- 4 |
- (1) Gooding City of Rocks A & B
 - (2) Beadi Canyon
 - (3) Little City of Rocks
 - (4) Deer Creek
 - (5) Little Wood River

I believe the wild life habitat, variety of rock formations, & tremendous scenery make Little City of Rocks a must designation.

Black Canyon should be designated also - because of the great wild life habitat (winter & summer range for deer, elk) numerous sage grouse strutting grounds, nesting areas for golden eagles & other raptors, and mountain quail (sensitive species) habitat.

The area provides excellent recreational opportunities, a wide variety of landscapes, and good opportunity for solitude. All suggested range improvements, a fire suppression policy, and minor habitat improvements could still be done inside this area as a designated wilderness.

I also support Deer Creek WSA - its wilderness & recreational values are higher than your analysis shows. Also with a thoughtful WSA plan, prescribed burns or other range improvements could be met while still protecting wilderness values.

Gooding City of Rocks A&B - This contrasting band of plateaus & eroded canyons is outstanding in visual and wildlife values. The WSA has a possible R.M. bighorn sheep habitat, which is not incompatible with designation even if manipulation of habitat is contemplated. A large number of raptor nests, bobcat & mountain quail habitat, an endangered plant (milketch species), and 9 archaeological sites all are supplemental values that throw the balance toward wilderness status for the entire area - including the surrounding plateaus and hills. This inclusion will protect the solitude feeling, and the geographical & topographic integrity of the whole unit. Finally protest Mr. Watt's decision to eliminate Little Wood River - This area should be retained in consideration - at the least because of its adjacent position to the Pioneer Mtns. proposed F.S. Wilderness Area. I was in this area late last summer and it has outstanding opportunities for fishing, wildlife observation, hunting, and dispersed recreation. The extensive cottonwood forest along the River is important habitat -

The area has supplemental attributes, including Elk Mtn. Crucial Elk Range, an area of (ACEC), antelope, cougar, bear, and raptor habitat. There are no mineral claims conflicting, and only moderate sheep grazing.

I strongly support this area for designation and cooperative supervision with the adjacent F.S. wild lands.

Please provide me with all future decision making and supporting documents.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Cook, Esq.

27691 SE Heley Rd.
Boring, Or. 97009

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 46



Magic Valley Trail Machine Assn., Inc.

Conservation • Courtesy • Safety

January 10, 1983

Response Number 1

In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration as to its suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was also analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Other partial wilderness alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis (see pages 8-10).

Response Number 2

Road closures and actions to exchange State and private lands within designated wilderness areas are discussed throughout this final EIS.

Response Number 3

The boundaries of the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA are located along roads or State and private land boundaries. There is no logical boundary location that increases the size of the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Portions of the uplands and plateaus adjacent to the City of Rocks formations have been included in the All Wilderness and Partial Wilderness alternatives.

Response Number 4

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Bob Hellie, Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 2 B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Reference: Shoshone/Sun Valley Plan Amendment/Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement, (Draft)

Dear Sir:

The Magic Valley Trail Machine Association would like to have the following entered as comment regarding the above referenced document.

We heartily agree that Friedmen Cr., 53-5; Black Butte, 54-2; Little City of Rocks, 54-5; Black Canyon, 54-6; Deer Cr., 54-10; and Lava, 56-2 should not be included in your recommendation for Wilderness inclusion.

These areas, for many obvious reasons, failed to meet Wilderness criteria. The other areas, Little Wood River and Gooding City of Rocks, 2 units, now become the issue of your recommendation.

We fail to agree that these 3 areas, Little Wood River, 53-4 and Gooding City of Rocks, 54-8a and 54-8b differ substantially from the rejected units and we feel they do not in the reality of rational judgment, meet the criteria as included in the Wilderness Act.

We realize full well that Wilderness advocates will clamor for Wilderness on any basis, fair or foul, rational or emotional, just to get a maximum of acreage set aside. This historical reality is not an acceptable method of operation nor are the subjective conclusions included in the DEIS which proclaim the 3 areas as suitable for recommendation. If the full Wilderness criteria is lacking within an area and rationalization must be used to gain the conclusion of suitability, the system has failed as intended by Congress, and the areas obviously should not be recommended for Wilderness. (Example - DEIS, pr. 69, "The high quality of Wilderness values and special features offsets conflicts with low levels of ORV use and low mineral potential.") How should a District B.L.M. use a quota of acres as a criterion to reach a 'suitable' conclusion.

Little Wood River area: 1) Too small, (less than 5000 acres) and must use its adjacent location to the Forest WSA for even basic consideration. 2) It lacks in every Wilderness criteria and has ample present land management authority available to deal with real or imagined wildlife considerations. 3) Wilderness designation would in no way enhance its use by the general public.

Gooding City of Rocks: Areas 54-8a and 54-8b, other than not being less than 5,000 acres, fall into the same categories as Little Wood River with some

2 additional negatives. The quality of the Wilderness potential is minimal on the first 5 points of your Wilderness Quality Standards. Even so, you failed in your analysis, throughout, to adequately recognize the impact on the restriction of ORV use in the recommended areas. The lack of recognition of many aspects in this regard we attribute to the lack of ORV oriented staff on the study team. This inadequacy is recognizable on most federal 'evaluations' involving ORV usage and is not ment to single out the Shoshone District but rather represents a serious flaw in the overall system and may deserve political action.

Due to the changes that would have to be made to come up to minimal Wilderness standards, such as eliminating brush spray areas and letting roads and ways go back to nature due to non use, the existence of man made structures and improvements, the availability through sight and sound of adjacent human activity, poor management options under Wilderness designation, and the negative impact on present uses, recreational and other, we recommend against inclusion for these areas.

Summary:

The Magic Valley Trail Machine Association heartily agrees with the 67% majority opinion and recommends that Alternative #2, No Action/No Wilderness be implemented.

Yours for better land management,



L. E. Drexler
 MAGIC VALLEY TRAIL MACHINE ASSOCIATION
 Box 1023
 Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

Response Number 1

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River and Black Butte WSAs is deferred and the WSAs are not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Response Number 2

The impact of wilderness designation on recreational ORV use is analyzed in this final EIS in Chapter 4. No significant impact to ORV use was found because existing and future use could be absorbed on surrounding non-wilderness public lands.

Letter Number 48
January 11, 1983



SIERRA CLUB
NORTHERN ROCKIES CHAPTER
MIDDLE SNAKE GROUP
Box 552 Boise, ID 83701

Charles Haszler, Manager
Shoshone District, BLM
Box 2B
Shoshone, ID 83352

SUBJ: Draft Wilderness EIS

Dear Mr. Haszler:

We support the Draft EIS recommendation of wilderness suitability for the Gooding City of Rocks A & B. It is important that the natural values of the entire ecosystem be protected, not just the canyons. For this reason wilderness protection cannot be limited to just the canyon lands - it is also important to retain in wilderness the surrounding plateaus.

The wilderness values represented by the City of Rocks are also found in the Little City of Rocks and Black Canyon. These values deserve protection no less than the City of Rocks. The wilderness values are well documented in the Inventory and EIS and there is no need to repeat them here. We suggest these units be considered and managed as a unit with the internal roads closed and the State sections acquired.

We agree with the Committee for Idaho's High Desert that the Deer Creek unit should be wilderness. We feel your EIS shows that other uses can be accommodated while protecting the wilderness values of the land. Wilderness management would be multiple use management.

We feel Secretary Watt's action in removing units such as Little Wood River from wilderness consideration because of size to be incorrect. We urge you to manage the area so as to protect its natural values until the Secretary's action is overturned.

2 | The Draft EIS suffers from a major flaw. The range of alternatives studied is too limited. We feel this EIS does not meet the requirements of NEPA as discussed in the 9th circuit court of appeals decision for California v. Block (690F2nd 753). This group supports the CIHD proposed for a



SIERRA CLUB
NORTHERN ROCKIES CHAPTER
MIDDLE SNAKE GROUP
Box 552 Boise, ID 83701

fourth alternative consisting of Gooding City of Rocks A & B, Black Canyon, Little City of Rocks, Deer Creek, and Little Wood River.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this EIS.

Charles C. Yoder
Chairperson

CCY/ljk

Letter Number 49

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 48

5174 Choctaw
Boise, Idaho 83706
January 9, 1983

Response Number 1

The Little Wood River WSA is being managed under the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (BLM 1979, revised 1983).

Response Number 2

In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration as to its suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was also analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Other partial wilderness alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis (see pages 8-10).

Mr. Charles Haszler,
District Manager
Shoshone District BLM
P.O. Box 2B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Dear Mr. Haszler:

I would like to support the Citizen's Alternative for Wilderness in the Shoshone District. Please recommend the following areas for wilderness in your final EIS:

Gooding City of Rocks A and B - please keep the present recommendation, including the plateaus.

Black Canyon - this area should be designated as wilderness to provide a more diverse recreational experience, and take recreation pressure off the City of Rocks.

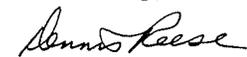
Little City of Rocks - this WSA has spectacular scenery, and is easily accessible. It should be given wilderness protection.

Deer Creek - this WSA offers good scenic and recreational diversity, and is easily reached from Boise.

Little Wood River - even though you have recently been directed not to consider this area because it is less than 5,000 acres, it still should be part of the Pioneer Mountains wilderness when it is designated.

Thank you for the chance to comment.

Sincerely,


Dennis Reese

Letter Number 50

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 49

1218 Michigan
Boise, Idaho 83706
January 9, 1983

Response Number 1

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Mr. Charles Haszier,
District Manager
Shoshone District BLM
P.O. Box 2B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

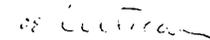
Dear Mr. Haszier:

I would like to support the all-wilderness alternative for the Shoshone District. I am particularly concerned about the Mt. Bennett Hills, an area which has far too little wilderness recommended in your draft EIS. The Gooding City of Rocks formation is unique, not found elsewhere in the U.S. You should look at this area from the perspective of how rare it is on a nationwide scale, and protect the entire area - not just a part of it.

The plateaus and hill country surrounding the rock formations are an interesting and vital part of the whole complex, and are a critical part of the ecology of the City of Rocks formation, supporting most of the wildlife of the area. Please recommend for wilderness all of the following WSAs: Gooding City of Rocks (A and B), Black Canyon, Little City of Rocks, and Deer Creek. This should be considered a minimum wilderness recommendation, particularly since there are few resource conflicts in these WSAs.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Joe Ultican

1/11/83

Thank you for considering my comments.

District Manager
BLM - Shoshone
Shoshone, Idaho

Sincerely
Sheldon Bluestein

Sheldon Bluestein
Box 1852
Boise ID
83701

Dear Sir:

I write to comment on your Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement Draft.

I have 3 main comments:

(1) You have done well to recommend W. S. Areas 53-4, 54-8b, and 54-8a for Wilderness.

I have hiked in all three areas, and I regard them as outstanding.

(2) You need to provide a broader range of Alternatives. The present "All Wilderness," "No Wilderness," and "Proposed Partial Wilderness" alternatives are too few. You need another "Partial Wilderness" Alternative to include the areas mentioned in (3).

(3) You need to protect as Wilderness:

(a) Black Canyon, ID-54-6 - This unit and (b) are contiguous with City of Rocks. All three share outstanding scenery, and high wildlif values. When Gooding City of

(b) Little City of Rocks 54-5 Rocks becomes wilderness, these areas will relieve recreational pressures there.

(c) Deer Creek 54-10 This area has high recreation value which would be enhanced by Wilderness designation. Enhancing these values might then outweigh impacts from spraying.

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 51

1525 Malad St
Boise, Idaho 83705
January 9, 1983

Response Number 1

In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration as to its suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was also analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Other partial wilderness alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis (see pages 8-10).

Mr. Charles Haszier,
District Manager
Shoshone District BLM
P.O. Box 2B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

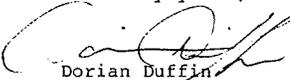
Dear Mr. Haszier:

Please adopt the all-wilderness alternative in your final EIS for the Shoshone Wilderness study. This is the only alternative in the DEIS which adequately protects the outstanding resource values of several of your WSAs, notably Black Canyon, Gooding City of Rocks, and Little City of Rocks. Because the resource conflicts between wilderness and other uses are minimal, I cannot see why you are recommending so little wilderness.

The Mt. Bennett hills are very unusual, beautiful and wild. Please recommend all of the Mt. Bennett Hills WSAs as wilderness - not just the canyons and rock formations. This is the only way to protect the diversity of scenery, wildlife and recreation that the hills offer.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely yours,



Dorian Duffin

Letter Number 53

Letter Number 54

2106 Harrison
Boise, Idaho 83702
January 9, 1983

8951 Wichita Dr.
Boise, Idaho 83706
January 9, 1983

Mr. Charles Haszler,
District Manager
Shoshone District BLM
P.O. Box 2B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Mr. Charles Haszler,
District Manager
Shoshone District BLM
P.O. Box 2B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

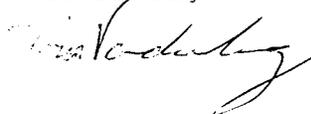
Dear Mr. Haszler:

I would like to support the all-wilderness alternative for the Shoshone District. Wilderness is an increasingly scarce resource, and will continue to become even more precious as the population of Idaho and the Rocky Mountain states continues to grow. All the WSAs studied in this EIS are within easy driving distance of Boise, and will become invaluable desert refuges in coming years. Although there is a good amount of designated wilderness in Idaho, none of it is like the Gooding City of Rocks area or the rolling hills of the Bennett Mountains. Even the lava flats have a beauty and mystery of their own.

There are virtually no conflicts between development and other resource uses and wilderness in these WSAs. Please adopt the all-wilderness alternative in your final EIS.

Sincerely yours,

Tom Vanderburg



Dear Mr. Haszler:

I would like to support the all-wilderness alternative for the Shoshone District. At a bare minimum, the following areas should be recommended for wilderness in your final EIS:

Gooding City of Rocks A and B - please keep the present recommendation, including the plateaus.

Black Canyon - this area should be designated as wilderness to provide a more diverse recreational experience, and take recreation pressure off the City of Rocks.

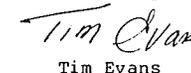
Little City of Rocks - this WSA has spectacular scenery, and is easily accessible. It should be given wilderness protection.

Deer Creek - this WSA offers good scenic and recreational diversity, and is easily reached from Boise.

1 | Little Wood River - even though you have recently been directed not to consider this area because it is less than 5,000 acres, it still should be part of the Pioneer Mountains wilderness when it is designated.

Thank you for the chance to comment.

Sincerely,



Tim Evans

Letter Number 55

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 54

8951 Wichita Dr.
Boise, Idaho 83706
January 9, 1983

Response Number 1

See Response to Letter Number 49, Response 1.

Mr. Charles Haszier,
District Manager
Shoshone District BLM
P.O. Box 2B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Dear Mr. Haszier:

I would like to support the all-wilderness alternative for the Shoshone District. At a bare minimum, the following areas should be recommended for wilderness in your final EIS:

Gooding City of Rocks A and B;
Black Canyon;
Little City of Rocks;
Deer Creek;
Little Wood River; and
Friedman Creek.

Thank you for the chance to comment.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Evans

Charlotte Evans

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 55

Response Number 1

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

1912 North Phillippi
Boise, Idaho 83706
January 10, 1983

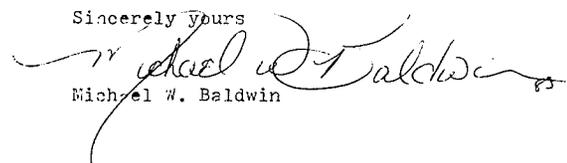
Mr. Charles Haszier
Shoshone District BLM
P.O. Box 2 B
Shoshone, Idaho 833 2

Dear Mr. Haszier

I for one am in favor of the all-wilderness alternative for the final EIS of the Shoshone Wilderness. I feel that the entire area of the Bennett Hills offers outstanding opportunities for recreation and solitude (both of which are mandated in the Wilderness Act). Places of this nature are becoming harder & harder to find. The wildernesses of the state are mostly forests, these are indeed impressive, but, they make some people feel confined. The Bennett Hills however, give one a feeling of vastness and open-space which some people would rather sense. I would think that these areas; The Coding City of Rocks, The Little City of Rocks, Black Canyon and Deer Creek along with all of the plateaus and rolling hills need your protection. The high desert needs to remain just as the forests do. So please recommend wilderness for the entire area it is a unique part of the country and a one-of-a-kind part of my state

Thank you sir, for the opportunity to make my comments on this issue.

Sincerely yours


Michael W. Baldwin

Rt. #2, Box 123
Gooding, Idaho 83330



January 10, 1983

January 11, 1983

Mr. Charles Haszler,
District Manager
Shoshone District BLM
P.O. Box 2 B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Dear Mr. Haszler:

The Idaho Conservation League is a state-wide, grassroots organization with over 1200 members throughout Idaho. More than 250 of these are members of the Ada Chapter, which covers the metro Boise area. These members make extensive use of the public lands, including those in your wilderness study, for hiking, hunting, fishing, camping, photography, and a variety of other uses. On behalf of the Ada Chapter of the Idaho Conservation League, I would like to offer the following comments on the Shoshone Draft Wilderness EIS:

1. The DEIS does not offer an adequate range of alternatives. As was shown in the recent Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision, there needs to be a range of wilderness acreages represented in the alternatives considered; we do not believe that the Shoshone DEIS offers such a range.

2. We do not believe that the draft EIS recommends wilderness for several outstanding areas which should be so designated. We would like to see wilderness designation for, at a minimum, the following areas:

Gooding City of Rocks A and B. This area offers outstanding recreational opportunities, as well as significant wildlife and ecological values. We are particularly concerned that the plateaus and hill country adjacent to the City of Rocks formation be retained in your final recommendation.

Black Canyon. This unit offers a wide variety of recreational experiences, and includes part of the City of Rocks formation. It also has significant wildlife values. Designation of Black Canyon as wilderness would broaden the range of recreational experiences available in the Mt. Bennett Hills wilderness, and provide opportunities less easily available in the City of Rocks proper. Wilderness designation would protect the resource values of the area, and would also relieve recreational pressure on the City of Rocks units.

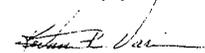
Mr. Rob Hellie
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 2B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Dear Mr. Hellie:

It is amazing to me that it is even being considered to place the Gooding City of Rocks (Units 548A and 548B) into the classification of a Wilderness Area. It is my understanding that land is placed in this classification for the purpose of managing it so that it will remain in its' natural state. How can anyone manage these rock formations? How can they change? I feel they will be of the same nature hundreds of years from now, even if left in their present classification.

I am opposed to this change in classification and feel this area is best utilized by wildlife, grazing, and its' scenic value for all the people as it is now. The change in classification will definitely limit the number of people being able to view this beauty of nature due to the limitation of motorized vehicles. Also, during the funding cutbacks, I feel the government can better utilize its' money in many other areas and existing programs.

Sincerely yours,


Kevan R. Varin

Little City of Rocks. This area has outstanding scenery and excellent access. It also contains critical winter range for deer and elk, and provides habitat for other wildlife species. Again, wilderness designation for the Little City of Rocks would take some of the recreational use pressure off the City of Rocks units.

Deer Creek. This area offers good recreational opportunities for hiking, hunting, horesback riding, and other activities. It is easily accessible from Boise, and should be included in your wilderness recommendations.

2 | Little Wood River. We support wilderness designation for the Little Wood River WSA, despite its recent declassification by Secretary Watt. We urge you to designate it a WSA under Section 202 of FLPMA, and recommend it for wilderness to protect its outstanding wildlife and recreation values.

The Ada Chapter supports the all-wilderness alternative. At a minimum, we urge you to adopt the Compromise Alternative presented by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert during the wilderness review process.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Sally Goodell
Ada Chapter Representative
ICL Board of Directors

Response Number 1

In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration as to its suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was also analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Other partial wilderness alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis (see pages 8-10).

Response Number 2

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Letter Number 59

P.O. Box 8787
Moscow, ID 83843
11 January 1983

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 59

Dist. Manager
Shoshone Dist., BLM
P.O. Box 2B
Shoshone, ID 83352

Dear Mr. Haszler:

I have read over the Shoshone District wilderness recommendations and am dismayed by them. They seem in general to be based on the assumption that there is plenty of wild land in the area (which is not true) and also on the assumption that if one small amount of each uncommon or unique feature is recommended for protection, then that is enough. This latter approach is also wrong, especially on the Shoshone District, where undisturbed land is very uncommon.

As far as it goes, your recommendation is sound, but it is based on a document that includes too few alternatives. It also fails to consider fully some of the unique characteristics of the areas not recommended for Wilderness. I am particularly concerned that you change your recommendation to Wilderness for the following places:

Black Canyon

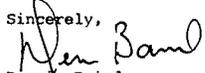
The greatest attraction of this roadless area is its great diversity, which would be uncommon within one such Wilderness in the Shoshone area. The grazing improvements being proposed would do no harm to the Wilderness.

Deer Creek

Contrary to your assumptions, this area does have high recreational values, and is especially crucial to a very wide range of wildlife.

I also understand that the Little Wood River recommended wilderness has been or may soon be deleted because it is under 5000 acres. This would be unwise and contrary to law. FLMA nowhere says that places under 5000 acres cannot be recommended for wilderness, plus this area is right next to the proposed Pioneer Mountains Wilderness of the USFS. It would make an ecologically sound addition and is deserving full of the protection that you have recommended for it. Keep up this kind of good work and don't let the nitwits in Washington make you change your recommendation here, or at City of Rocks for that matter.

Sincerely,


Dennis Baird

Response Number 1

In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration as to its suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was also analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Other partial wilderness alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis (see pages 8-10).

Response Number 2

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

-177-



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pacific Northwest Region
Westin Building, Room 1920
2001 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98121

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1202-03(PNR-RE)
DES 82/69
xL7619

January 7, 1983

JAN 12 1983

STATE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
BLM - IDAHO

JAN 12 1983

910	SD
911	AD
912	FEED
913	PAID
914	TRAC
915	GPS
916	ADM
Additional Routing	
Copy Sent	

Memorandum

To: State Director, Idaho, Bureau of Land Management
From: Acting Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region
Subject: Review of Shoshone/Sun Valley Plan Amendment/Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement Draft, Blaine, Camas, Custer, Gooding, and Lincoln Counties, Idaho (DES 82/69)

We have reviewed the subject statement and have the following comments to offer:

Impacts on Units of the National Park System

The proposed action would not impact lands administered by the National Park Service.

Recreational Resources

We feel that the document adequately addresses the potential impacts to recreation resources that may occur as a result of the proposed action.

Cultural Resources

1 | Since the "Affected Environment" section of the document states that many of the wilderness study areas have prehistoric cultural resource sites, the "Environmental Consequences" section should state whether these resources would be impacted by the proposal and alternatives.

2 | In addition, the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) should be consulted to see if these sites are eligible for nomination for listing on the "National Register of Historic Places." The SHPO should also be included on the distribution list in table 6-2 on page 86.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the document.

W. G. Quick
W. G. Quick

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 60

Response Number 1

Inventories and consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) determined that no cultural sites that would be eligible for nomination for listing on the National Register of Historic Places are known to exist within any of the WSAs. The archaeological sites that do exist in the WSAs would be protected with or without wilderness designation (see page 6).

Response Number 2

See Comment Response 1. The SHPO has been added to Table 5-2 Agencies, Organizations, and Persons to Whom the Draft EIS was Sent.

The Bengochea Hotel
SUITE ONE

RANDALL E. MORRIS

195 North Second West • Post Office Box 732 • Mountain Home, Idaho 83647
Telephone: (208) 587-4328



January 10, 1983

Mr. Charles Haszler, District Manager
Shoshone District Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 2B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Dear Mr. Haszler:

Here follow my comments on the Shoshone/ Sun Valley Draft Plan Amendment/ Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement:

The draft does not examine a wide enough range of alternatives. The Partial Wilderness Alternative recommends only 27.7 per cent of the study areas for Wilderness. Given an All Wilderness, a No Wilderness, and this Partial Wilderness Alternative, I must urge the Shoshone office to adopt the All Wilderness Alternative.

In view of the recent court decisions on the inadequacy of certain RARE II alternatives, I am concerned that the proposed Shoshone Partial Wilderness Alternative might not stand a court test based on the Forest Service precedent and the whole review process for this EIS might go back to square one. As a concerned citizen, and tax payer, I would prefer this be avoided. I would like to see an alternative embracing a larger Wilderness recommendation. The Compromise Alternative presented by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert seems very reasonable to me.

I support the Draft recommendation for Units 54-8a and 54-8b (Gooding City of Rocks). The adjustment of the boundary on the 1,680 excluded acres seems reasonable if the excluded area (and, hopefully, all of the adjacent non-Wilderness lands) are managed with some sensitivity to adjacent Wilderness values.

If livestock impacts prove deleterious to range conditions, then I could support prescribed burns within well defined time windows if no other grazing adjustment is possible.

It is critical that the surrounding plateaus and hills be retained as they represent essential wildlife range. They are a part of the total area ecosystem along with the canyons. They also provide additional, alternative recreational opportunities.

I support the Wilderness recommendation for Unit 53-4 (Little Wood River) in spite of its small size. It is a logical extension of the proposed Pioneer Mountains Wilderness that by historical accident falls within BLM jurisdiction. It represents critical winter range for 300-400 elk and is a critical migration route for mule deer. Should a directive be made to eliminate this area due to its size, then I would strongly urge boundary adjustment to increase its size (if at all possible at this time), or a strong case be presented for Wilderness designation in spite of its size. Once again, as a tax payer I am concerned about legal challenges from wildlife groups if this area is denied Wilderness protection.

In addition to these recommended Wilderness areas, I strongly urge the additional recommendation of Unit 54-5 (Little City of Rocks) and Unit 54-6 (Black Canyon). Both of these units are extensions of the land forms and local ecosystems of the Gooding City of Rocks. Economic conflicts are minimal or non-existent. These Units are important wildlife areas and provide alternative recreational opportunities. They can help to reduce the recreational pressure on the Gooding City of Rocks. The same considerations apply to nearby Unit 54-10 (Deer Creek) which I also urge for reconsideration as Wilderness.

I am in total disagreement with the apparent BLM philosophy of recommending Wilderness for only the most spectacular areas. The ecosystems in these units include the plateaus and rolling hills as well as the canyons and rock formations. The flat lands are as essential to the wildlife as the canyons.

Recreational and wilderness experiences should include the plateaus. As a frequent user of de facto desert wilderness, I can accurately report that as much (and often more) time is spent on the plateaus as in the canyons. Wildlife encounters are often more frequent on the plateaus. Much recreational hiking occurs across plateaus between canyons. Equestrian travel is often impossible through the canyons, and must follow the plateaus.

Hunting is often not practical within the canyons due to difficult egress. Certain game and non-game species are frequently found on the plateaus. These include sage grouse, chukar, mule deer, and coyotes.

The BLM should begin to recognize that wilderness values are subtle as well as spectacular. I am gravely concerned for the genetic resources, as yet unidentified, which may exist on the plateaus and rolling hills, and which may be lost without Wilderness protection. As these islands of unaltered ecosystems shrink due to development on adjacent lands, the genetic resources become increasingly more precious.

Respectfully submitted,

Randall E. Morris

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 61

Response Number 1

In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration as to its suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was also analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Other partial wilderness alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis (see pages 8-10).

Response Number 2

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Letter Number 62

PHILIP R MILLER
1704 ROBERT ST.
BOISE ID 83705

Mr. Charles Haszler,
District Manager
Shoshone District BLM
P.O. Box 2B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

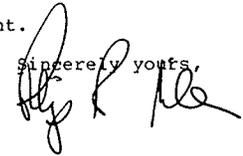
Dear Mr. Haszler:

Please adopt the all-wilderness alternative in your final EIS for the Shoshone Wilderness study. This is the only alternative in the DEIS which adequately protects the outstanding resource values of the wilderness areas being studied.

Of particular concern to me are the Mount Bennett Hills. This is a beautiful, wild area easily accessible from Boise. The Gooding City of Rocks formation is unique, a one-of-a-kind area. The entire formation needs protection, not just a small part of it. It is also critical that the plateaus and hills surrounding the formation be protected, in order to preserve the wildlife and recreational variety found in the Mt. Bennett Hills.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely yours,



Letter Number 63

Dan Green
1403 N 7th
Boise ID 83702

Letter Number 64

2608 Stewart

Boise ID 83702

January 10, 1982

Mr. Charles Haszler,
District Manager
Shoshone District BLM
P.O. Box 2B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Mr. Charles Haszler,
District Manager
Shoshone District BLM
P.O. Box 2B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Dear Mr. Haszler:

Please adopt the all-wilderness alternative in your final EIS for the Shoshone Wilderness study. This is the only alternative in the DEIS which adequately protects the outstanding resource values of the wilderness areas being studied.

Of particular concern to me are the Mount Bennett Hills. This is a beautiful, wild area easily accessible from Boise. The Gooding City of Rocks formation is unique, a one-of-a-kind area. The entire formation needs protection, not just a small part of it. It is also critical that the plateaus and hills surrounding the formation be protected, in order to preserve the wildlife and recreational variety found in the Mt. Bennett Hills.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel Green

Dear Mr. Haszler:

Please adopt the all-wilderness alternative in your final EIS for the Shoshone Wilderness study. This is the only alternative in the DEIS which adequately protects the outstanding resource values of the wilderness areas being studied.

Of particular concern to me are the Mount Bennett Hills. This is a beautiful, wild area easily accessible from Boise. The Gooding City of Rocks formation is unique, a one-of-a-kind area. The entire formation needs protection, not just a small part of it. It is also critical that the plateaus and hills surrounding the formation be protected, in order to preserve the wildlife and recreational variety found in the Mt. Bennett Hills.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely yours,

Michael R. Jones

Letter Number 65

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 65

Response Number 1

In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration as to its suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was also analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Other partial wilderness alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis (see pages 8-10).

Star Rt., Box 15
Bliss, Idaho 83314
January 11, 1983

Mr. Charles Haszler
District Manager
Shoshone District BLM
PO Box 28
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Dear Chuck:

On the matter of Wilderness designation and studies, I think the number of alternatives should be increased. I would like to request, specifically, that you consider the Compromise Alternative presented by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert.

In my opinion, the philosophy of "only the most spectacular" areas being recommended for wilderness is a mistake. Often the boundaries of those spectacular areas, as well as other kinds of areas provide wilderness experiences of another sort.

Do you have any theories about that old dam on the pathway into the Indian writings near the Gooding City of Rocks? We've puzzled over that peculiar structure for many years, wondering who could have so misengineered it, and when.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Aldrich Bowler
Aldrich Bowler

Letter Number 66



January 11, 1983

BLM Shoshone Office
Shoshone, Idaho

Dear Sirs:

Regarding the Wilderness Proposals:

1 | Please take a good look at the Compromise Alternative presented
| by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert, and consider other al-
| ternatives as well.

2 | Please support Wilderness Designation for the Gooding City of
| Rocks, A and B, total 21,030 acres and the 4,385 acres of Little
| Wood River country.

Designating only the "most spectacular" areas for wilderness con-
sideration does not provide a good variety of wilderness experi-
ences, nor does it protect an entire ecosystem.

I support the All-Wilderness alternative, but as a very minimum
feel that the BLM should recommend the WSAs included in the
Compromise Proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Di Bowler
Di Bowler

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 66

Response Number 1

In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration as to its suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was also analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Other partial wilderness alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis (see pages 8-10).

Response Number 2

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Letter Number 67

Jan. 11, 1983

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 67

Charles Hasszler, Manager
Shoshone District BLM
P. O. Box 22
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Most One Draft Wilderness EIS

Dear Mr. Hasszler;

I have a few comments on the draft Wilderness EIS.

1 | The range of alternatives is inadequate; they include only all wilderness, no wilderness, and a partial wilderness alternative representing less than 30% of the total 67,000 acres as suitable for wilderness.

2 | I support your proposal to recommend Gooding City of Rocks A and B, and Little Wood River Wilderness study areas as suitable, but this is not enough. I urge you to also recommend the following WSA's for wilderness:

Black Canyon WSA - This sagebrush grassland supports bear, cougar, bobcat, nesting golden eagle, mountain quail, sage grouse, deer, and elk. It includes winter range for both elk and deer. The WSA offers outstanding primitive-type recreational activities.

Little City of Rocks WSA - This WSA is composed of high plateaus and deeply eroded channels. It has unusual rock formations, including arches, columns, and other features. It provides habitat for deer and elk, including winter range, and sage grouse, prairie falcon, golden eagle, red-tailed hawk, and chukars. It also provides for high quality recreational opportunities, including camping, hiking, hunting, and photography.

Deer Creek WSA - This WSA also is made up of high plateaus and deeply eroded channels. It is mostly sagebrush grassland, but also has aspen groves and dense stands of chokecherry, making it important habitat to deer, elk, bear, bobcat, golden eagle, sage grouse, and mountain quail. It has high recreational values.

The above 6 WSA's should be a minimum for your wilderness suitability proposal; it would be better to recommend the all wilderness alternative. The BLM has already dropped, in the intensive inventory phase, too many roadless areas with wilderness qualities. The Forest Service used RARE II to screen out wilderness, contrary to its initial purpose. I see the BLM making the same type of mistake. I hope that you will avoid this mistake on your District.

Sincerely,

Jerry Jayne
Jerry Jayne
1568 Lola St.
Idaho Falls, Id. 83402

Response Number 1

In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration as to its suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was also analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Other partial wilderness alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis (see pages 8-10).

Response Number 2

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Letter Number 68

January 7, 1983

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 68

Mr. Charles Haszler, District Manager
Shoshone District BLM
Shoshone, Id.

Mr. Haszler;

I am writing regarding the Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement covering 86,603 acres of wilderness study land north and east of Gooding, Idaho.

I urge you to expand the number of alternatives under consideration, with a specific request that the Compromise Alternative presented by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert be included.

I am writing in support of the All-Wilderness alternative. At a minimum, the BLM should recommend for wilderness the WSAs delineated in the Compromise proposal.

Included in the list of areas recommended for official designation as wilderness, please include: The A and B units of the Gooding City of Rocks (range for wildlife and unique geology, as well as recreational opportunities are prime reasons for inclusion of these units), Little City of Rocks (despite its relatively small size, this area contains rock formations and wilderness opportunities worthy of official protection), Black Canyon, Little Wood River, and Deer Creek.

In order to maintain the integrity of the area, I believe that plateaus adjacent to the above areas should also receive protective status to allow for habitat and to protect the entire ecosystem which makes these wild areas so unique.

Thanks,



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

Response Number 1

In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration as to its suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was also analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Other partial wilderness alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis (see pages 8-10).

Response Number 2

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

VERNA HALL

Letter Number 69

It has come to my attention that we have an opportunity to preserve in wilderness status a few acres of Idaho's highest land.

Most certainly the whole Gooding City of Rocks area, including the so called Little City and the wildlife rich Black Canyon, warrant full recognition as a preserve and recreation treasure. Deer Creek and Little Wood River, while not spectacular, are wild animal domain that need protection.

We have lost much of nature in southern Idaho. I pray we can hold a reasonable line on further encroachment.

Sincerely,
Verna Hall

Route 1
Hagerman, ID 83332



Muffley Realty & Insurance, Inc.

124 - 5th Avenue West
Gooding, Idaho 83330

Insurance (208) 934-4781
Real Estate (208) 934-4484

January 12, 1983

IRRIGATED LANDS — STOCK FARMS
CITY PROPERTY — APPRAISALS

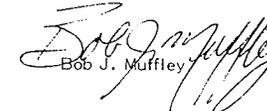
Mr. Rob Hellie
U. S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 2 B
Shoshone, ID 83352

Dear Mr. Hellie:

I don't believe the Gooding County City of Rocks (548A or 548B) should be included for a recommended wilderness area, as it would be a waste of tax payers money. I don't feel the area needs to be managed, as the rocks have been there for millions of years and will be there for millions more, with or without expensive management. I also disagree with closing the area to 99% of the people who go there every year to enjoy it, as it is my understanding that only backpackers would be able to enter the area as roads would be closed.

I believe it is in the best interest of the public to leave the land for livestock, wildlife and all the people. I don't believe that little City of Rocks is what the Congress had in mind when it adopted the wilderness program.

Sincerely,


Bob J. Muffley

BJM/Im

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 69

Response Number 1

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Letter Number 71

1-10-83

Dear Siri -

Having just received info on your WSA evaluations, I wish to say that I strongly disagree with certain of your recommendations. I am glad that you recommend wilderness for the Gooding City of Rocks, but also would like to see Little City of Rocks obtained as wilderness. While fairly small, the area does provide an alternative, less used option to the Gooding City of Rocks, and wilderness classification would prevent exploitation. Likewise, I support wilderness for the Black Canyon and Deer Creek areas. These brushy areas should be kept undeveloped for the sake of wildlife; they also offer good primitive recreation opportunities. In neither case is a convincing case made for non-wilderness for the sake of range improvements - All such money for improvements could be used better elsewhere, and most of the range improvements could be carried out with wilderness anyway. I feel that preserving all these areas in their present undisturbed state would form a natural primitive unit of great attractiveness around The Gooding City of Rocks.

Thank you
Bruce Haysce
Star Rt Box 268
McLammon ID
83250

Letter Number 72

HELP!!

Please examine the Committee for Idaho's High Desert Compromise Alternative!! We need protection of these fine lands. In particular: Little City of Rocks and Gooding City of Rocks A & B (total 26,905 acres). The wide range of wildlife...deer, elk, bighorn, bobcat (!) and milkvetch! Please insure that the plateaus and hills surrounding the canyons are protected & retained!

THANK YOU.

Sincerely,

Donna Pasker

Donna Pasker



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

January 10, 1983

Mr. Charles Haszier,
District Manager
Shoshone District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 2 B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Dear Mr. Haszier,

The Committee for Idaho's High Desert is a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the quality of Idaho's desert environment. On behalf of the Committee and its members, I would like to make the following comments on the Draft Shoshone/Sun Valley Plan Amendment / Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement.

GENERAL COMMENTS

We are very disappointed with the BLM decision not to recommend additional wilderness in the DEIS, notably in the Bennett Hills. Although we strongly support your decision to recommend Wilderness status for the Gooding City of Rocks a and b and the Little Wood River, we are particularly disappointed with your non-wilderness recommendation for Black Canyon, Little City of Rocks, and Deer Creek. These WSAs have high recreational, wildlife, and other wilderness resource values, and the wilderness recommendation for the Gooding City of Rocks would be enhanced by addition of these units. This would increase both the diversity of recreational experience and disperse the visitor use pressure so that the wilderness experience is enhanced for all users.

There are two general trends we find within the DEIS that are particularly disturbing to us: 1) the tendency to support wilderness designation for only the most visually spectacular areas, and 2) the bias against plateaus and open terrain. We would like to briefly discuss each of these.

1) The DEIS takes too narrow a view of the unique Gooding City of Rocks formation. This unusual geological formation is extremely limited, and there are no similar formations that we know of (the Canyonlands of Utah, the most similar formation, being sedimentary rather than basalt). The entire formation is striking in its arches, stacks, pillars, hoodoos, and other formations.

The DEIS need to reexamine the national significance of this area, and not just its local reputation. Looked at from a national or regional perspective, the entire formation is unique - not just the great concentration of rock formations in the Gooding City of Rocks proper. Because these are National Resource lands you are examining for possible inclusion in the National Wildernes Preservation System, we urge you to re-examine the significance of the entire Benett Hills area, and specifically the City of Rocks formation.

Shoshone Draft Wilderness Comments - page 2

2) The DEIS favors rugged, canyon country at the expense of plateaus and open topography. We are concerned at this continuation of the BLM bias toward "canyons and lava flows". Our fear, and one that seems increasingly valid in light of the preliminary Wilderness decisions being made by the Idaho BLM, is that it may be eliminating an entire landscape type - the open sage-brush grasslands - from the wlderness base. These areas have a limited capacity to absorb visitors, and are being excluded from the wilderness recommendations in favor of canyons and other terrain with a greater visitor absorption capacity; however, these areas simply cannot offer the same type of recreation and solitude experience.

A number of our members have expressed serious concern about this (as a matter of fact, much of the paragraph above was plagiarized from the comments sent in by one of our members). As was pointed out at the Gooding hearing, these open landscapes represent the "real" West, the land of Louis l'Amour novels and the great Westerns. We believe that BLM needs to protect some of this type of country as wilderness, to preserve this part of the real American West. This landscape, because of its openness, is also more vulnerable than many others, because of its very vastness and lack of screening.

The Wilderness Study Areas being considered by the BLM in this study represent a small proportion of the Shoshone District, and a small remnant of what was once wilderness. These areas offer a re-creational experience very different from that offered in existing designated Wilderness areas in Idaho, and different from the other WSAs in the State. There are very few, and no serious, resource conflicts between Wilderness and other uses. The Committee for Idaho's High Desert officially endorses the All-Wilderness Alternative in this study, and urges you to adopt it in your final EIS.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Adequacy of the Range of Alternatives

We do not believe that the range of alternatives presented in the DEIS meets the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The DEIS offers only extremes: all-wilderness, no-wilderness, or an inadequate partial wilderness alternative which would designate only 27.7% of the study area as wilderness. We do not believe this meets the requirements of the law as provided by NEPA and interpreted by the Courts.

The adequacy of the range of alternatives presented in the RARE II EIS was an important issue in a recent court case decided in California. In this case, *California vs. Block* (690 F. 2d 753, 9th Cir. 1982) the Court held that the RARE II EIS did not offer an adequate range of alternatives, even though ten were examined. The major reason was that the Forest Service did not examine a partial alternative which allocated more than a third of the study acreage to Wilderness. This point can be readily seen in the ruling of the court, which held (page 22 of the verdict) "As for the third alternative, we also agree and affirm the district court's ruling that NEPA requires the Forest Service to consider an alternative that allocates more than a third of the RARE II acreage to Wilderness." A copy of the relevant pages of this court

Shoshone Draft Wilderness Comments - page 3
decision is appended to our comments.

We believe the situation is virtually identical in the Draft Shoshone Wilderness EIS. BLM has not adequately justified offering only one realistic alternative, particularly when the site descriptions of each of the WSAs are considered. We believe that BLM is required by law to examine a broader range of alternatives in this EIS.

Additional Alternatives We Propose Be Examined

Because of the lack of sufficient alternatives which meet the requirements of NEPA, we propose that all or some of the following alternatives be examined:

- 3 1. Enhanced Wilderness Alternative. We would like to see BLM examine an alternative which would modify the all-wilderness alternative by examining ways in which the Wilderness management of each area could be enhanced. This would include land trade with the State of Idaho to remove State lands from within the Wilderness area, closure or severe restrictions on the use of ways within the WSAs, and closure of certain roads between units in the Mt. Bennett Hills (specifically the road between Gooding City of Rocks a and b and the road between Little City of Rocks and Black Canyon).
Enhanced Wilderness alternatives have been or will be considered by the Boise District (Owyhee Canyonlands EIS), Vale District Oregon (Northern and Southern Malheur MFP) and Oregon State BLM (Statewide Wilderness EIS). We believe a similar alternative should be considered in the Shoshone study.
- 4 2. Compromise Wilderness Alternative. This alternative would include Wilderness designation for the following units: Gooding City of Rocks a and b (excluding the northern 1680 acres), Black Canyon, Little City of Rocks, Deer Creek, and Little Wood River. Exchange of State sections, closure or restrictions of use of ways, closure of the boundary road between Gooding City of Rocks a and b, and deletion of the northern boundary of Gooding City of Rocks and the eastern boundary of the Little City of Rocks are included in this recommendation.
- 5 3. Bennett Hills Compromise Alternative. This alternative is identical to alternative 2 above, except that it would delete Deer Creek from the final wilderness recommendation.

We consider it critical that a unified Bennett Hills Wilderness be recommended by BLM. This is the only way that the entire Gooding City of Rocks formation and the ecosystem that it is an integral part of can be protected, and the outstanding quality and diversity of recreational experiences now possible there protected for future generations. We have serious concerns that the present recommendations are far too small to accommodate the use that will take place in this area in 50 or more years, given their easy accessibility and strong scenic attraction. If you do not adopt the All-Wilderness alternative, we urge you to adopt one of the Compromise Alternatives outlined above.

Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System

- 6 On pages 46-47 of the DEIS there is a discussion of the representation of various ecosystem types in the National Wilderness Preservation System. We would like to emphasize that there are no Sagebrush Steppe areas included in the wilderness system in Idaho, and that

Shoshone Draft Wilderness Comments - page 4

6 although there are over 700,000 acres of Sagebrush Steppe being studied for possible wilderness designation, none have been recommended for wilderness. We consider this a critical point, because it means that there are currently no opportunities for a Sagebrush Steppe Wilderness recreational experience in the State, nor are any guaranteed in the future. We have serious concerns about all the study areas having independent Wilderness (or, more accurately, non-wilderness) recommendations made for them without seeing what is happening on adjacent Districts, resulting in a very small final Wilderness representation for this ecosystem type.

Again, the Gooding City of Rocks formation is geologically unique; the discussion of diversity should incorporate the increase in recreational diversity that would result from designating this formation as Wilderness.

Economic Setting

7 The economic discussion in the DEIS is difficult to draw any conclusions from. The DEIS states that the public lands provide 1% of the total income of the area and 6 percent of the services and retail trade industries. What is the total dollar amount of the local economy that these figures are part of? What has been the trend in recent years regarding recreational use, and hence economic value, of the public lands? How might Wilderness designation affect this?

8 We do not believe that there are necessarily any economic tradeoffs between Wilderness recreation and livestock grazing, since grazing is an allowable use in Wilderness areas. The text of the FEIS should reflect this compatibility, noting tradeoffs or conflicts only where range improvements would be prevented by Wilderness designation (and these would need to be compared with expected economic gain resulting from the same Wilderness designation).

Social Conditions

9 Because the EIS is concerned with National Resource lands belonging to all Americans, we believe that the survey on page 20 of the DEIS is inappropriate and ought to be either replaced by or supplemented with a national poll regarding whether or not additional Wilderness ought to be designated. Such a study was completed by AMOCO several years ago, and showed nationally that there was considerable support for additional wilderness. (We are trying to locate a copy of this study, and believe we will have one in the next few weeks. We will send you a copy once we get it). We are also attaching a copy of a newsbrief from the January 1983 Journal of Forestry which we believe shows current public attitudes towards Wilderness and the environment.

WSA SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Little Wood River

We support Wilderness designation for the Little Wood River, despite the recent decision of Secretary Watt to remove it from wilderness consideration. This action will be challenged in court by the end of this week, and several members of Congress have expressed their concerns about the legality of the declassification; until the legal questions are decided, we would like to see the benefit of the doubt given to the resource, and Little Wood River still considered a WSA.

A critical part of the Watt decision was the determination that

areas dropped from Wilderness study under Section 603 of FLPMA could be studied for Wilderness under Section 202 of FLPMA. Specifically, the FACT SHEET WILDERNESS REVIEW CHANGES states (page 1, paragraph 1) that "It is important to note that the exclusion of certain specific areas or lands from wilderness study will not automatically return them to multiple-use management nor prevent their consideration as wilderness under other authority, specifically Section 202 of FLPMA (emphasis added)." It is our understanding that the Utah State BLM Director reclassified those WSAs in Utah that were under 5,000 acres through this authority last summer; we strongly urge you to do the same for the Little Wood River WSA.

The Little Wood River is very significant from a wildlife and recreational perspective, as was documented very well in the DEIS. It has a very significant riparian area, which should also be recognized; cottonwood riparian habitat covers only 0.03% of Idaho, and is the single most productive wildlife habitat in the State. This adds even more to the importance of giving Wilderness protection to the Little Wood River WSA.

Gooding City of Rocks a and b

We fully concur with your Wilderness recommendation for the two Gooding City of Rocks units. This is an outstanding area, with very high recreational, wildlife and ecological values.

We urge you to keep your present boundaries, including the plateaus and benches to the north of the main City of Rocks formation. These are critical components of the ecology of the area, providing the bulk of the wildlife habitat and populations. These areas also increase the recreational diversity of the Wilderness.

Little City of Rocks

We do not feel that the non-wilderness recommendation in the DEIS is justified within the EIS, particularly when terms such as "spectacular" are used to describe the natural features present in the unit. We do not agree with your assessment that the area is too small to maintain Wilderness characteristics; Wilderness management will ultimately determine whether or not Wilderness quality is maintained.

Designating the Little City of Rocks will increase the flexibility of BLM to manage the Gooding City of Rocks Wilderness. The Little City of Rocks has superb scenery and a variety of recreational opportunities. This is a very high-quality unit, and we urge you to recommend it for wilderness in the FEIS.

Black Canyon

Black Canyon is also a high-quality unit, particularly when the value of the unit for solitude is considered. Black Canyon offers a sense of vastness and quality of solitude which is outstanding. It also contains part of the unique Gooding City of Rocks formation. As with the Little City of Rocks, designation of Black Canyon as Wilderness would enhance management flexibility for the Gooding City of Rocks and Little City of Rocks Wilderness areas. We urge you to recommend this area as wilderness in the FEIS.

Deer Creek

Deer Creek also offers an outstanding sense of solitude and vast-

ness. The aspen groves and playas enhance the diversity of this unit. We ask you to recommend this area for wilderness in your final recommendation.

Lava

With this unit and others, there is a lack of recognition that wilderness itself is a resource, and that the fact that we are dealing with so few, small areas means that each of what is left has intrinsic value. Although Lava may lack outstanding or unusual natural features, it does have one attribute few other areas in the Shoshone District have - wilderness quality. We urge you to reconsider your decision on Lava, particularly in light of the low conflicts associated with Wilderness designation.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have any questions or need clarification of any of the points given above, please let me know.

Sincerely,
COMMITTEE FOR IDAHO'S
HIGH DESERT

by Bruce R. Boccard
Bruce R. Boccard,
Chairman

cc: Governor Evans
Idaho Congressional delegation
Hon. Cecil Andrus

Response Number 1

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

Response Number 2

In this final EIS, each WSA received individual consideration as to its suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designation. An All Wilderness and No Wilderness/No Action Alternative was analyzed for each WSA. A Partial Wilderness Alternative was also analyzed for the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA. Other partial wilderness alternatives were considered for all WSAs, but were dropped from further analysis (see pages 8-10).

Response Number 3

Road closures and actions to exchange State and private lands within designated wilderness areas were discussed throughout this final EIS.

Response Number 4

With the exception of the Little Wood River WSA, this composite alternative is included in the alternatives selected for analysis.

Response Number 5

This composite alternative is included in the alternatives selected for detailed analysis.

Response Number 6

There are 2 areas, with a total of 34,545 acres, of Sagebrush Steppe in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Three additional areas of Sagebrush

Response Number 6 (Cont.)

Steppe have been endorsed for wilderness designation, and an additional 144 areas of Sagebrush Steppe have the potential for wilderness designation.

The Gooding City of Rocks West WSA and the portion of the Gooding City of Rocks East WSA which are recommended as suitable for wilderness designation in the Proposed Action also represent the Sagebrush Steppe ecosystem.

Response Number 7

Recreation use of the WSAs accounts for an insignificant portion of the local economy. Trends of increasing recreational use of the WSAs would not make a significant difference on the local economy in the future.

Response Number 8

This comment has been incorporated in this final EIS.

Response Number 9

The survey has been deleted from this final EIS.

JOHN R. SWANSON
P. O. Box 922
Berkeley, Calif. 94701

Letter Number 74

January 10, 1983.

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 74

Mr. Charles Hargis
Shoshone District - 724
P.O. # 28
Blackfoot, Idaho 83202.

Dear Mr. Hargis:

I have read the comments on February 1, concerning the Draft Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement for the Shoshone District. I am a land manager with

experience and am extremely acquainted with this area when engaged in a field life study during the summer of 1982. And from such experience did become aware that the Shoshone District contains wilderness suitable land, both historic cultural and scenic resources of extreme national importance. A portion of our nation's natural heritage lands. Lands vital for the survival of man, and for all life, in this endemically diverse area.

I hope that the following survey - with acreage - located in this district be added to our National Wilderness Preservation System.

+ Little Lost River	5,000
+ Blackfoot Creek	12,000
+ Black Butte	6,000
+ Little City of Rocks	7,800
+ Black Canyon	12,000
+ Snakeing City - 19 miles - B	17,000
+ Snakeing City - 20 miles - B	8,000
+ Deer Creek	9,000
+ Sawtooth	24,000
+ Snake Butte	18,000
+ Snake Butte	13,000
+ Roundtop	69,000
+ Little Deer	37,000
+ Big Deer Butte	12,000
+ Shoshone	8,000
+ other sites up the Little Lost River - + Snake River Plain area	100,000 (est.)

+ District staff 400,000 (also in Shoshone District)

So total land the following -

2 in the Little Lost River - Snake River Plain area; the Snake River Plain National Monument of some 275,000 acres and the Snake River Plain National Monument of some 1425,000 acres.

Some outstanding natural areas of extreme national importance.

And to add at least some 175,000 acres of additional Wilderness from this Shoshone District in addition to above total acreage.

And to keep in mind that within our own Wilderness we have America!

Sincerely,

John R. Swanson.

Response Number 1

Wilderness study of the Little City of Rocks and Black Butte WSAs is deferred and these WSAs are not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION X

1200 SIXTH AVENUE
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

M/S 443

JAN 13 1983

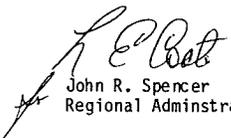
District Manager
Shoshone District
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 2-B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352RE: Shoshone/Sun Valley Plan Amendment & Wilderness Draft Environmental
Impact Statement

Dear Sir:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Shoshone/Sun Valley Plan Amendment & Wilderness Study. We have no comments on this plan and the DEIS.

EPA has rated this DEIS LO-1 [LO -- Lack of Objection; 1-- Adequate Information]. We appreciate the opportunity to review this plan and DEIS. Should you want to discuss EPA's comments or review, please contact Richard Thiel, Environmental Evaluation Branch Chief, at (FTS) 399-1728.

Sincerely,


John R. Spencer
Regional Administrator
392 Moonlite Drive
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
Jan. 30, 1983Mr. Charles Haszler, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management--Shoshone District
P.O. Box 2B
Shoshone, ID 83352

Dear Sir:

I promised an official Idaho Alpine Club letter in support of the Conservationists' Compromise Alternative (36% wilderness recommendation), following my letter of Jan. 9, 1983. I regret that I have been unable to assemble the Council, for a long list of reasons. So much time has passed that extending the deadline would be ridiculous. No official correspondence will be forthcoming.

So, as stated in my letter, please regard the comments made as my own and not as those of the Idaho Alpine Club. I personally feel that, at a minimum, the "greater City of Rocks" (USAs 54-5, 54-6, and 54-8A & B) should be recommended for wilderness. The logic used in the DEIS for the Gooding City of Rocks applies equally to Black Canyon and the Little City of Rocks, which could help reduce recreational pressures on the Gooding City of Rocks. Furthermore, effective wildlife protection would seem to require preservation of the general area-- not just the most scenic features. Please send me the final EIS. Thanks.

Yours truly,
Scott Ployer
Scott Ployer

JOHN R. SWANSON
P. O. Box 822
Berkeley, Calif. 94701

Letter Number 77

January 9, 1973.

Water Grant Management

Shoshone District
P. O. Box 20
Shoshone, Idaho 83452

Dear Sir,

Please accept my comments as follows, concerning the Shoshone Water Grant Management Report Statement - Shoshone/Bernalilly Plan.

3. A more strictly specific have been imposed with the water use, as well as water life - fish, bottom, cultural and river resources found on this District. Resources of the Shoshone water rights that are a certain portion of our nation's natural heritage lands.

With the clear understanding that such lands - water provides a most necessary refuge for them - and for all life on this and nearby biological present.

I strongly urge that the following water - cost, acreage - included in this Plan be added to our National Shoshone Preservation System.

/	• Little Lost River	5,000
/	• Dickman Creek	12,000
/	• Black Butte	6,000
/	• Little City of Rocks	9,500
	• Black Canyon	12,000
	• Drinking City of Rocks - B	12,000
	• Drinking City of Rocks - B	8,000
	• Deer Creek	9,000
	• Snow	24,000

• Please also additional Shoshone acreage of some 40,000, located on the lands owned by Shoshone, not to be added to above list acreage. Representing several units.

With the understanding that when we have Districts we have America!

Sincerely,

John R. Swanson

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 77

Response Number 1

See Response to Letter Number 74, Response 1.



Letter Number 78

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

NOV 09 1982



Letter Number 79

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION
FEDERAL BUILDING & U.S. COURTHOUSE
BOX 918-559 WEST FORT STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83724

IN REPLY
REFER TO
120.1 PN 150

JUN 21 1985

Dear Mr. Hellie:

I am writing to verify the official filing of your EIS entitled:

Draft: Shoshone and Sun Valley Wilderness Study Areas, Designation, Blaine, Camas, Custer, Gooding and Lincoln Counties, Idaho (DES-82-69) (#820709D).

This EIS was received by the Office of Federal Activities on October 29, 1982. It has been determined the above document meets the requirements for filing an EIS as set forth under Section 1506.9 of the CEQ Regulations. Accordingly, EPA has scheduled publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register dated November 5, 1982 and the public review period is scheduled to terminate on *January 11, 1983.

If you have any questions or concerns relating to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Ms. Jan Lott Shaw of my staff on (202) 382-5073.

Sincerely,

Kathi L. Wilson
Management Analyst
Office of Federal Activities (A-104)

Mr. Rob Hellie
Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
US Department of Interior
PO Box 2B
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

** As stated in the EIS, EPA
published January 11, 1983
as the end of the review
period*

Memorandum

To: District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Shoshone, Idaho
From: ^{Assistant} Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, Boise, Idaho
Subject: Review of Bureau of Land Management Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)--Shoshone/Sun Valley Plan Amendment/Wilderness Draft EIS

The subject Draft EIS has been reviewed by appropriate members of our staff. The only concern we have is that the Bureau of Reclamation be able to maintain access to hydromet data collection and transmitting sites for maintenance and/or modification. Bureau of Land Management area WSA 53-4 appears to be near some snow measuring sites. Please feel free to contact Charles D. Lute (FTS 554-1970, mailing code 773) in this office to obtain the exact location of all existing sites.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this document.

RESPONSE TO LETTER NUMBER 79

Response Number 1

Wilderness study of the Little Wood River WSA (ID-53-4) is deferred and the WSA is not included in this final EIS (see page 3).

-195-

GLOSSARY

Adit: A horizontal entrance to an underground mine, as opposed to a shaft, which is vertical.

Air Quality Classes: Classes established by the Environmental Protection Agency that define the amount of pollution considered significant within an area. Class I applies to areas where almost any change in air quality would be considered significant; Class II applies to areas where the deterioration normally accompanying moderate well-controlled growth would be considered insignificant; and Class III applies to areas where deterioration up to the national standards would be considered insignificant.

Allotment: An area of land where one or more individuals graze their livestock. It generally consists of public land, but may include parcels of private or State-owned lands. An allotment may consist of several pastures.

Allotment Management Plan (AMP): A documented program which applies to rangeland operations on public land, which is prepared in consultation with the permittee(s) or lessee(s) involved, and which (1) prescribes the manner in and extent to which livestock operations will be conducted in order to meet the multiple use, sustained yield, economic, and other needs and objectives as determined for public land through land use planning; (2) describes the type, location, ownership, and general specifications for the rangeland developments to be installed and maintained on public land to meet the livestock grazing and other objectives of land management; and (3) contains such other provisions relating to livestock grazing and other objectives as may be prescribed by the authorized officer consistent with applicable law.

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.

Cherrystemed: An unofficial term used to describe the way a wilderness inventory unit boundary is drawn to exclude a road that enters the unit; the resulting boundary resembles a cherrystem.

Contiguous Lands: As it pertains to wilderness, lands or legal subdivisions having a common boundary. Lands having only a common corner are not contiguous.

Cultural Resources: Those fragile and nonrenewable remains of human activity occupation, or endeavor, reflected in districts, sites, structures, buildings, objects, artifacts, ruins, works of art, architecture, and natural features, that were of importance in human events. These resources consist of (1) physical remains, (2) areas where significant human events occurred--even though evidence of the event no longer remains, and (3) the environment immediately surrounding the actual resource. Cultural resources, including both prehistoric and historic remains, represent a part of the continuum of events from the earliest evidences of man to the present day.

Ecological Condition: The present state of vegetation in an area in relation to the climax (natural potential) plant community the area is capable of supporting. The term is often used interchangeably with "condition" or "range condition."

Ecosystem: A system formed by the interaction of a community of organisms with their environment; an ecological system.

Endangered Species: Any species of animal or plant in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): A written analysis of the impacts on the environment of a proposed project or action.

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 BLM's legislated authority, direction, policy, and basic guidance.

Geology, Energy, and Minerals (GEM) Program: BLM initiated program intended to provide minerals information to be utilized in the wilderness studies.

Hoodoos: Pillars developed by erosion of horizontal layers of rock of varying hardness in a region where most rainfall occurs during a short period of the year.

Inholdings: Private or State owned land inside the boundary of a WSA, but excluded from the WSA.

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 Stream Act of 1970.

Lithic: A stone or rock exhibiting modification by humans. It generally applies to projectile points, scrapers, and chips rather than ground stone.

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, 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, coordination guidelines for multiple use, and management objectives for a given planning area.

National Register of Historic Places (National Register): A listing of architectural, historical, archaeological, and cultural sites of local, state, or national significance, established by the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and maintained by the National Park Service. Sites are nominated to the Register by state or federal agencies. Copies of the National Register are available from the Superintendent of Documents, USGPO, Washington, D.C. 20402.

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)

Off-Road Vehicle (ORV): Any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, snow, sand, ice, marsh, swampland, or other terrain.

Outstanding: Standing out among others of its kind; conspicuous; prominent; or, superior to others of its kind; distinguished; excellent.

Permittees: Livestock operators who have grazing preference on public lands.

Petroglyph: A form of rock art manufactured by incising, scratching, or pecking designs into rock surfaces.

Prescribed Burning: Application of fire to natural fuels under conditions of weather, fuel moisture, and soil moisture intended to produce the intensity of heat and rate of spread required to accomplish certain objectives of grazing management, wildlife management and/or hazard reduction.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Nonmotorized and nondeveloped types of outdoor recreational activities.

Public Land: Any land owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, except: (1) lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf, (2) lands held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos, and (3) lands in which the United States retains the minerals, but the surface is private.

Range Development: Any facility or structure relating to rangelands which is designed to control patterns of use, provide water, and/or stabilize soil and water conditions.

Road: For the purpose of BLM's wilderness inventory, the following definition has been adopted from the legislative history of FLPMA:

"The word 'roadless' refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use. A trail maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road."

To clarify this definition, the following subdefinitions also apply.

Improved and Maintained - Actions taken physically by man to keep a road open to vehicular traffic. A trail maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

Mechanical Means - Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

Relatively Regular and Continuous Use - Vehicular use which has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

Saleable 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.

Scoping Process: An early and open public participation process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action.

Solitude: The state of being alone or remote from habitations; isolation. A lonely, unfrequented, or secluded place. Factors contributing to opportunities for solitude are vegetative screening, topographic relief, vistas, and physiographic variety.

State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO): The official who is authorized by the State, at the request of the Secretary of the Interior, to act as a liaison for purposes of implementing the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Supplemental Values: Features of ecological, geological, or other scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value that may be present in an inventory unit. These are not necessary criteria for wilderness suitability, as is stated in the Wilderness Act of 1964, but must be assessed during the intensive wilderness inventory.

Threatened Species: Any species that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant part of its range.

Vehicle Trail: A two-wheel track created only by the passage of vehicles. A trail is not a road.

Way: A vehicle route established and maintained solely by the passage of motor vehicles.

Wilderness: The definition contained in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 is as follows: "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." Wilderness is an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least 5,000 acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Wilderness Area: An area formally designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics: Those characteristics of wilderness as described in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. These include size, naturalness, solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Wilderness Inventory: An evaluation of the public land in the form of a written description and a map showing those lands that meet the wilderness criteria as established under Section 603(a) of FLPMA and Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. The lands meeting the criteria will be referred to as WSAs.

Wilderness Review: The term used to cover the entire wilderness inventory, study, and reporting phases of the wilderness program of BLM.

Wilderness Study: The process of analyzing and planning wilderness preservation opportunities along with other resource opportunities within the BLM's planning system.

Wilderness Study Area (WSA): A parcel of public land that through 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.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR. As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.