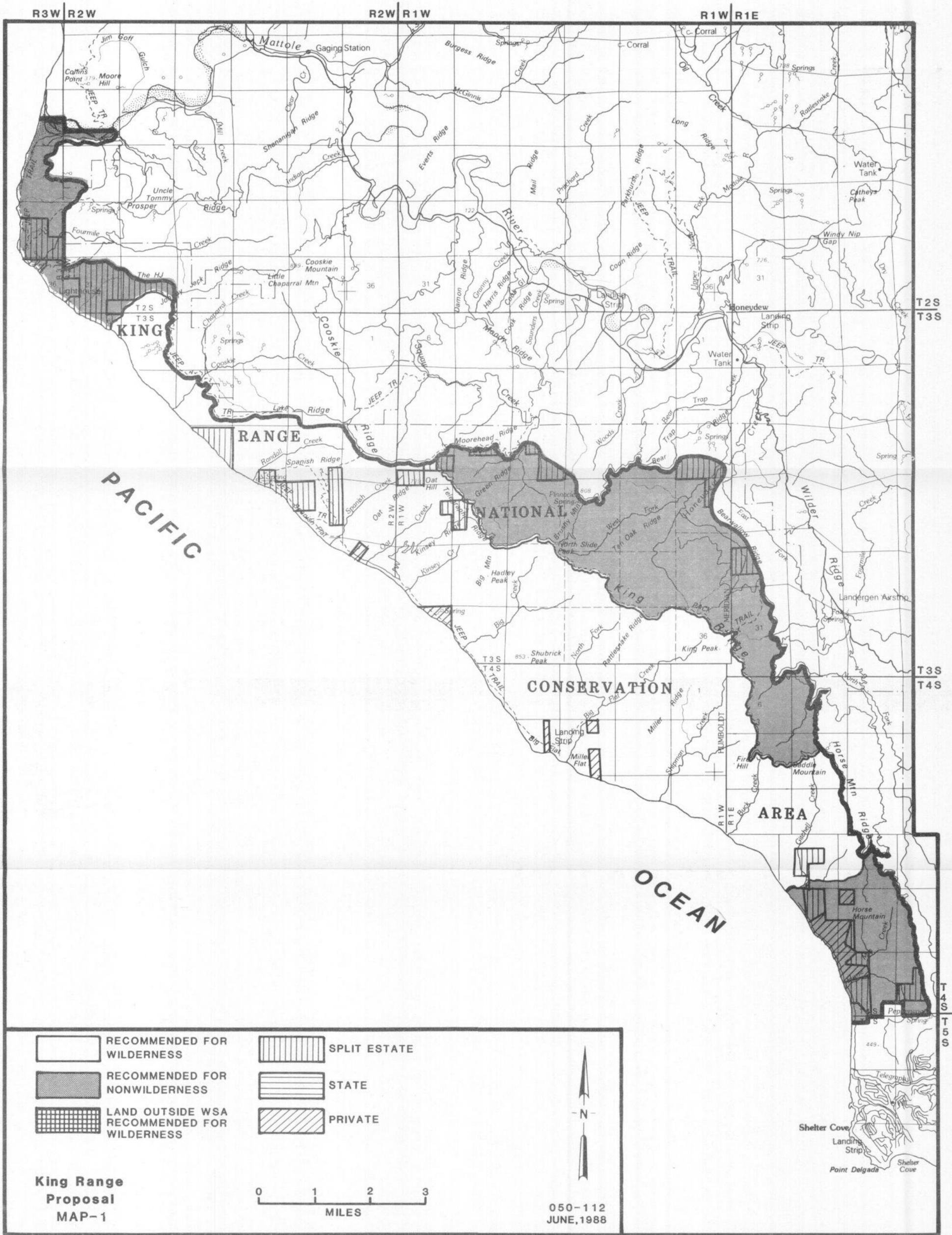
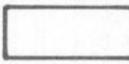
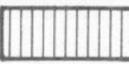
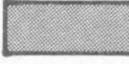
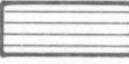
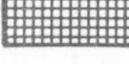


King Range

CA-050-112



- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--------------|
|  | RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS |  | SPLIT ESTATE |
|  | RECOMMENDED FOR NONWILDERNESS |  | STATE |
|  | LAND OUTSIDE WSA RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS |  | PRIVATE |

**King Range
Proposal
MAP-1**



050-112
JUNE, 1988

KING RANGE WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (WSA)

(CA-050-112)

1. THE STUDY AREA ---

34,033 acres

The King Range WSA is located on the southern coast of Humboldt County, California within the King Range National Conservation Area (see Map 1). The nearest cities are Ferndale, 25 miles to the north, Fort Bragg, 45 miles to the south, and Garberville, 10 miles to the east. The San Francisco Bay Area is approximately 175 miles to the south. The study area contains 33,485 acres of BLM land, and 548 acres of private inholdings (see Table 1).

The western boundary follows the mean high tide line of the Pacific Ocean. The southern boundary is formed by Kaluna Cliff Road, just north of the community of Shelter Cove. Heading north along the main ridgeline, the WSA boundary follows Horse Mountain Road for four miles and Saddle Mountain Road for three miles. It then drops downhill on the eastern slope along Horse Pasture Ridge Road and parallels the first seven miles of the King Range Road. The boundary is located on Bearwallow Ridge, paralleling the King Range Road a half-mile to the east. From Bearwallow Ridge, the boundary line extends downhill into Honeydew Creek and ties in with the Smith-Etter Road. Heading westerly along the Smith-Etter Road for three miles, the boundary then makes a northerly turn along Fiddle Prairie, Moorehead Ridge and Cooskie Ridge. It follows the Cooskie Creek Road for its full five-mile length, Johnny Jack Ridge Road for three miles and turns northerly along the Conservation Area boundary for two miles where it intersects with Prosper Ridge Road. The boundary extends down this road for nearly three miles and reaches its northernmost point at the Mattole River estuary and campground.

The WSA contains a unique and diverse landscape. The 22 miles of remote, unroaded and undeveloped coastline, and the King Range Mountains on the east are the two most prominent physiographic features of the area. King Range Peak towers 4,087 feet above the coastline. The WSA is very steep and rugged with many short, steep streams running to the ocean. The abundant rainfall often causes the soils to slump, resulting in natural but severe landslides. Streams branch in a dendritic pattern creating narrow, short ridges and steep canyons. The eastern slopes of the range, while also steep and rugged, are not as severe as the western side. Streams such as Honeydew Creek drain less abruptly into the northerly flowing Mattole River. West-facing slopes south of the Smith-Etter Road are densely covered with brush. Stands of timber are generally found on north-facing slopes near drainages. Grassy areas are found on the hillsides of the northern portion of the WSA and along the shoreline at Big Flat and Spanish Flat.

Numerous special designations overlay the King Range WSA. In 1970, Congress designated the King Range the U.S.'s first National Conservation Area (Public Law 91-476). Nearly 15 miles of hiking and horseback riding trails traverse the main ridgeline near King's Peak and are designated a part of

the National Recreation Trails System. Humboldt County has designated the WSA's 22-mile shoreline the Coastal Trail. The intertidal zone along the coastline of the WSA was designated by the California Water Resources Control Board as an Area of Special Biological Significance. The decommissioned Punta Gorda Lighthouse, located three miles south of the Mattole River Estuary, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Its designation, however, was precluded due to insufficient baseline data. The rocks and islands along the California Coast are managed under a Memorandum of Understanding between the BLM and the California Department of Fish and Game.

Five coastal tracts of private land totalling 196 acres have been acquired within the area recommended suitable since the completion of the Final Intensive Inventory in 1979. They were included for analysis in the Final EIS.

The WSA was studied under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). Five suitability recommendations were analyzed in the Draft EIS. Four suitability recommendations were analyzed in the Final EIS: no wilderness, all wilderness, a partial-wilderness recommendation in which 65% of the WSA would be designated wilderness, and a District Advisory Council recommendation of 40% wilderness.

2.	<u>RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE</u>	20,517	acres recommended for wilderness
		13,237	BLM acres recommended for non-wilderness

Sixty-five percent partial wilderness is the recommendation for this WSA. 13,237 acres in this WSA are released for uses other than wilderness. In addition to the Federal acreage recommended for wilderness, BLM recommends that 269 acres of private land be acquired through exchange, purchase or condemnation if private use will be incompatible with the King Range Management Plan. With acquisition of these inholdings, a total of 20,517 acres would ultimately become wilderness. Appendix 1 lists all inholdings and provides additional information on their acquisition.

The all-wilderness alternative is considered to be the environmentally-preferred alternative as it would result in the least change from the natural environment over the long-term. This alternative will be implemented in a manner which will use all practical means to avoid or minimize environmental impacts. The rationale for selecting this 63 percent partial-wilderness recommendation is: 1) the lands proposed for wilderness designation contain outstanding wilderness values; 2) the area's most significant wilderness values, including 16.5 miles of unroaded shoreline, would be preserved and protected; 3) wilderness designation of the recommended portion of the WSA would have minimal conflicts with other resource uses; 4) manageability problems would occur less frequently, with less magnitude and would be easier to solve because the recommended wilderness boundary follows major physiographic features; and, 5) the recommendation is consistent with management objectives outlined in the 1974 King Range National Conservation Area Management Program.

The lands recommended for wilderness designation possess an outstanding primitive character which exemplifies the qualities described in the definition of wilderness contained in Section 2(c) of the 1964 Wilderness Act. The western slope, both north and south of King's Peak is untrammelled by man and retains its primeval character and influence. The extensive trail system provides an outstanding challenge and unique experience for hikers, backpackers and horseback riders. Evidence of previous visitors, and indeed of one's own passage, may be obliterated within minutes by heavy winds, rainstorms and violent and unpredictable ocean waves. Low visitation and the screening effect of the deep canyons, high mountains and dense vegetation ensure continued exceptional opportunities for seclusion. Excellent scenic views of the unique and dynamic shoreline found at few other places in the Continental United States contribute to the area's attractiveness.

The suitability recommendation will preclude any further vehicular use of approximately 21 miles of primitive access routes of travel. Public use of the Smith-Etter travel route proposed in the Final EIS was to be kept open and maintained as a road to a point one-third mile from the beach. It will now remain closed to all public vehicle use from it's intersection with Telegraph Ridge Road to the Beach. Private inholders will be permitted vehicle access to their property by way of this travel route, consistent with historical use.

Nearly all of the boundary of the area recommended suitable for wilderness designation follows major physiographic features. This enhances the effectiveness of management actions designed to protect the wilderness resource. Sea Lion Gulch, the northern boundary of the recommended wilderness area, is the most effective natural barrier to vehicle access along the entire WSA shoreline. The large boulders prevent ORVs from travelling south into the suitable area. North of Sea Lion Gulch, which is called Parcel A and recommended nonsuitable as wilderness, man-made landscape changes and developments have detracted from the area's natural condition. These include four cabins, one barn, three corrals, five concrete stock tanks, four range utilization cages, four small exclosures, approximately seven miles of fence and nearly six miles of abandoned ranch road, all of which are associated with cattle grazing operations. The continual sights and sounds of vehicles that are necessary to maintain these range improvements, as well as to access a private inholding at the mouth of Four Mile Creek, have also resulted in a landscape that appears unnatural and noticeable throughout Parcel A.

The eastern slope of the WSA, called Parcel B, is recommended nonsuitable as wilderness. Although the area does contain special features such as the old-growth Douglas-fir forest which is habitat for several relatively uncommon birds such as the spotted owl, it is not as unique and spectacular as the WSA's western slope and shoreline influence. The imprints of man in Parcel B are more visible than those with the area recommended suitable. This is apparent if one hikes along the old, abandoned logging and ranch roads that extend south from the Smith-Etter Road.

The sights and sounds of man are obvious and continuous in Parcel B because of the human activities occurring just one mile east in the relatively populated area on Wilder Ridge. The noises from mechanical equipment used for road construction and maintenance, timber harvest, home construction and transportation make it difficult to find secluded places and detract from the primitive setting.

The southernmost portion of the WSA, called Parcel C, is also recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation. The rationale centers on the existence of five private inholdings totalling approximately 240 acres. Two of these parcels contain residential dwellings with nearby developments such as springs, water holding tanks, fences, landscaped gardens and a network of 4WD access routes. These land improvements negatively impact the area's natural condition and are visible from almost anywhere in Parcel C. The use of vehicles for reasonable access to these private lands is appropriate in this area and would conflict with wilderness management.

As prescribed in the 1974 King Range Management Program, the beach zone within Parcel C is designated "open" to OHVs. Primitive recreation activities are negatively impacted by the sights and sounds of the ATVs that are found here.

Within the unsuitable portions of the King Range WSA (Parcels A, B and C), there are approximately 16 miles of routes of travel including primitive ways, washes and other unmaintained routes of access which will remain available for vehicular use.

TABLE 1 - Land Status and Acreage Summary of the Study Area

<u>Within Wilderness Study Area</u>		<u>Acres</u>
BLM	(surface and subsurface)	33,485
Split Estate	(BLM surface only)	0
<u>Inholdings</u>		
State		0
Private		548
Total		<u>34,033</u>
<u>Within the Recommended Wilderness Boundary</u>		
		<u>Acres</u>
BLM	(within WSA)	20,248
BLM	(outside WSA)	0
Split Estate	(within WSA)	0
Split Estate	(outside WSA)	0
Total BLM Land Recommended for Wilderness		<u>20,248</u>
<u>Inholdings</u>		
State		
Private	¹	269
<u>Within the Area Not Recommended for Wilderness</u>		<u>Acres</u>
BLM	(surface and subsurface)	13,237
Split Estate	(BLM surface only)	0
Total BLM Land Not Recommended for Wilderness		<u>13,237</u>

¹ Appendix 1 is a detailed description of inholdings and split estate tracts included within the study. For purposes of this report, split estate lands are defined only as those lands with Federal surface and non-Federal subsurface (minerals). Lands that have Federal minerals but non-Federal surface should be classified in this report by the owner of the surface estate.

3. CRITERIA CONSIDERED IN DEVELOPING THE WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Naturalness: The portion of the WSA recommended for wilderness is essentially untrammled by man. Signs of man on the upper slopes and ridges in this area include an old timber harvest operation covering about 20 acres and approximately two miles of firebreaks just south of King's Peak. These intrusions are substantially unnoticeable.

The Federal lands from Spanish Flat to Sea Lion Gulch and up to Cooskie Ridge are grazed by cattle on a seasonal basis. Improvements related to this activity include approximately three miles of fence, three water troughs, 10 utilization cages and 10 small enclosures. These developments, along with the presence of cattle, have slightly reduced the quality of the suitable area's naturalness.

On private lands within the suitable area between Spanish Flat and Big Flat, man-made developments include three cabins, a small storage shed, an unimproved airstrip and approximately three miles of unmaintained routes of travel. This has resulted in slightly altering the coastline's natural appearance. All five of these private inholdings are recommended for acquisition and designated wilderness.

Within the portion of the WSA recommended for non-wilderness in Parcel A, naturalness is affected by vehicle tracks on the beach and hillsides, by many abandoned ranch roads that are now used occasionally as OHV access routes to the beach, and by extensive cattle grazing which has caused localized soil erosion, hillside terracing and unsafe drinking water supplies. The decommissioned Punta Gorda Lighthouse is of historical importance but nonetheless a distinct sign of man's past use of the area. Parcel B contains several abandoned logging roads that lead from the Smith-Etter Road into Honeydew Creek. Accelerated erosion is evident along these routes of travel. Approximately 10 miles of hiking trail and two primitive camps have been constructed by BLM just east of King's Peak, and are minor imprints on the landscape. Parcel C shows abundant signs of man's imprint on the beach, as this three mile long riding area is currently designated "open" to vehicle use, and tracks abound throughout the sand dunes and nearby hillsides. A recently acquired parcel just north of Horse Mountain Creek is the site of a relatively new cabin, which was used as a residence by the previous owner. A dirt road extends from the cabin, up the hillside, and ends at another cabin on private land. Cattle are currently being grazed in this area.

2. Solitude: The large size, rugged topography, and dense vegetation of the WSA recommended suitable for wilderness designation allows excellent visual screening, enhancing the opportunities for

visitors to find solitude throughout most of the WSA. In the southern and northeastern portions of the WSA recommended nonsuitable, the sights and sounds of residential development substantially diminish opportunities for solitude. Several private inholdings are located in both Parcels A and C, and the activities that occur on these lands such as habitation, summer recreation, and motorized access make it difficult to find a secluded place, particularly along the western slope north of Four Mile Creek, and in the Horse Mountain and Kaluna Cliff areas. Existing authorized use of motor vehicles on the beach from Gitchell Creek to the southern boundary of the WSA at Kaluna Cliff (by both private owners and the public) substantially reduces opportunities for solitude.

This WSA is periodically overflowed by military aircraft as part of the national defense mission taking place in approved military operating areas and flight corridors. The visual intrusions and associated noise create periodic temporary effects on solitude which are deemed necessary and acceptable as a part of the defense preparedness of the nation.

3. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: The portion of the WSA recommended suitable provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The 15 mile network of hiking trails along the ridges and western slope, plus the 16.5 miles of coastline, offer outstanding opportunities for diverse types of recreation over a large area. The King Range beach is one of the few publicly owned portions of California's coastline where visitors has the opportunity to hike, camp, stream and surf fish, sightsee, and pursue many other types of dispersed recreation activities in a wild setting.
4. Special Features: The King Range represents a landscape diversity rare and unique. Rising from a coastline of tide pools, beaches, massive rocks and cliffs, to rugged mountains exceeding 4,000 feet in elevation in less than three miles, gives credence to its claim as the "Lost Coast".

The area contains several unique series of animals. A herd of Roosevelt Elk (Cervus elaphus roosevelti) was introduced in 1983, and has become well established. A recent introduction of Texas turkey (Meliagris gallopavo intermedia) adds to the variety of wildlife. In addition, sea lion (Eumetopias jubata) and sea otter (Enhydra lutris) are regularly seen along the beach.

Within the King Range WSA are significant botanical resources. They include:

- The Mattole dune system is unique in that the aggressive introduced European dune grass, Ammophila arenaria, has not yet encroached on the Mattole dunes as it has on most coastal dunes north of San Francisco.

- The leafy reedgrass, Calamogrostis foliosa, found along the WSA's coastal strand, is a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service candidate for listing as threatened.
- Located on the east slope of the Honeydew Creek, drainage is an old-growth Douglas-fir forest. It provides an opportunity to observe rare ecosystems which support old-growth dependent animal species and regional biological diversity, conserve plant and animal genetic stock and provide opportunities for scientific research.

The WSA's shoreline is the focus of several cultural resource field investigations. Recent studies indicate this area contains at least 45 prehistoric archaeological sites which may be of national significance.

B. Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS)

1. Assessing the diversity of natural systems and features as represented by ecosystems: This WSA contains 29,742 acres of the Pacific Forest/Mixed Evergreen and 3,743 acres of the Pacific Forest/Fescue California Oatgrass ecosystems. Addition of the area recommended suitable for wilderness designation would expand the diversity within the NWPS because there is presently only one coastal wilderness area (Point Reyes National Seashore) composed of mixed evergreen forest combined with a coastal prairie-scrub mosaic. The WSA is one of the few remaining extensive stretches of unroaded coastline in the United States that offers outstanding opportunities for a superior backpacking experience.

TABLE 2 - Ecosystem Representation

Bailey-Kuchler Classification Domain/Province/PVN	<u>NWPS Areas</u>		<u>Other BIM Studies</u>	
	areas	acres	areas	acres
<u>NATIONWIDE</u>				
Pacific Forest/California Mixed Evergreen	5	433,107	2	10,387
Pacific Forest/Fescue Oatgrass	1	5,078	0	0
<u>CALIFORNIA</u>				
Pacific Forest/California Mixed Evergreen	4	45,074	2	10,387
Pacific Forest/Fescue Oatgrass	1	5,078	0	0

2. Expanding the opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation within a day's driving time (five hours) of major population centers: This WSA is within a five-hour drive of two major population centers. Table 3 summarizes the number and acreage of designated areas and other BLM study areas within a five-hour drive of the population centers.

TABLE 3 - Wilderness Opportunities for Residents of Major Population Centers

Population Center	NWPS Areas		Other BLM Studies	
	areas	acres	areas	acres
<u>California</u>				
Redding	14	1,236,503	11	344,633
Santa Rosa/Petaluma	10	888,579	12	134,167

3. Balancing the geographic distribution of wilderness areas: There are two designated wilderness areas within 50 air miles of this WSA. They include the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness and the North Fork Wilderness, both managed by the Forest Service. The Chemise Mountain WSA, two miles to the south, is recommended for all-wilderness.

C. Manageability

The entire WSA is manageable as wilderness. However, there is a significant difference in the manageability of the portion recommended for wilderness and Parcels A, B, and C recommended for non-wilderness. In the suitable portion of the WSA, 21 miles of travel routes would be closed to motorized vehicle use. This includes the Smith-Etter access route which will continue to be closed to public vehicle use west of Telegraph Ridge. This closure point could be managed very effectively as a parking area and trailhead. A large firegate was placed here several years ago which prevents nearly all unauthorized vehicles from travelling down the west slope to the beach. The site could also serve as a staging area where hikers and backpackers could travel south to the King Crest Trail or north to the Spanish Ridge Trail.

Maintaining and enhancing the wilderness experience of visitors who hike the beach would be more effective if the five private inholdings between Spanish Flat and Big Flat were acquired and designated wilderness. The continued use of motorized vehicles down the Smith-Etter access route and along the beach by these landowners is a difficult management situation. The sights and sounds of vehicles on this route cannot be screened from the backpackers because the area is too narrow and lacks adequate vegetation and terrain variation.

A factor affecting whether the unsuitable portion of the WSA (Parcels A and B) could be managed as wilderness is the substantial amount of grazing activity that occurs. There are currently four grazing allotments, covering approximately 75 percent of the public land within the WSA from the Mouth of the Mattole River south to Spanish Flat. Although grazing is allowed in wilderness areas, it would be difficult to manage this portion of the WSA as wilderness due to motorized vehicles used to support this grazing use. The Final EIS recommends the use of pack animals instead of motorized vehicles to reduce these impacts on wilderness values.

The major problem with managing the southern portion of the suitable area as wilderness is enforcing the vehicle closure along the beach north of Gitchell Creek. There are no physical barriers at Gitchell Creek to prevent motorized vehicles from travelling north into the suitable area and degrading opportunities for solitude.

Military overflights in this WSA must be considered to maintain the integrity of the existing and future national defense mission as well as the wilderness resource.

D. Energy and Mineral Resource Values

1. Summary of information known at time of preliminary suitability recommendation: The geology and mineralization of the King Range WSA is described in the Unit Resource Analysis (URA) and based on data in the Mineral Resource Inventory (MRI) files for the BLM King Range Planning Unit. The MRI data in the Affected Environment section of the King Range Wilderness Final EIS prepared in 1988 indicated that this WSA has a low potential for the occurrence of energy-related, metallic and nonmetallic mineral resources. There are no patented or unpatented mining claims in the WSA. The geothermal resource potential of the area is low. No mineral material sites exist in the WSA, nor are there any sodium or potassium leases. The low porosity and permeability of the Franciscan sandstones that underlie the WSA indicate a very low potential for the occurrence of oil and gas. A low potential exists for the occurrence of uranium and thorium. The potential for economic development of the energy and mineral resources of this WSA is very low.
2. Summary of significant new mineral resource data collected since the nonsuitability recommendation, which should be considered in the final recommendation: Portions of the King Range WSA became an Instant Study Area as mandated by section 603 of FLPMA and as such was the subject of a mineral survey by the U.S. Bureau of Mines and U.S. Geological Survey. The results of the mineral survey were published in 1980 (MF 1196 A-C and Open File Report 80-815) and included in BLM's preliminary analysis and recommendations.

E. Impacts on Resources

The following comparative impact table summarizes the effects on pertinent resources for all the alternatives considered including designation or nondesignation of the entire WSA as wilderness.

TABLE 4 - Comparative Summary of the Impacts by Alternative

ISSUE-RELATED RESOURCES	PROPOSED ACTION (PARTIAL-WILDERNESS)	ALL-WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE	NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	PARTIAL-WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE
Impact on Wilderness Values	Wilderness values will be moderately impacted as a result of continued & projected vehicle use (from 1800 visitor days annually to 2150 visitor days on the 13 miles of road which will remain open, and the surface disturbance/noise associated with logging 240 acres every 10 years for the next century. Naturalness characteristics will be lost on approximately 300 acres over the next 10 years & each succeeding decade until 2090. The perception of solitude will be impaired on 3250-3500 acres during the first decade & 750-1000 acres each succeeding decade until 2090.	Closure of the 20 miles of existing roads traversing the WSA to motorized vehicular use & 1800 visitor-days of motorized recreation use & elimination of timber harvests on 6985 acres would have a moderate benefit on the area's wilderness values.	Wilderness values would be moderately impacted as a result of continued & projected vehicle use (from 1800 visitor-days annually to 2150 visitor-days) on the 16 miles of road which would remain open, & the surface disturbance/noise associated with logging 700 acres every 10 years over the next century. Naturalness characteristics would be lost on approximately 900 acres over the next 10 years & each succeeding decade until 2090. The perception of solitude would be impaired on 4500-5000 acres during the first decade & 1500-2000 acres each succeeding decade until 2090.	Wilderness values would be moderately impacted as a result of continued & projected use (from 1800 visitor days annually to 2150 visitor days) on the 13 miles of road which would remain open, and the surface disturbance/noise associated with logging 700 acres every 10 years over the next century. Naturalness characteristics would be lost on approximately 900 acres over the next 10 years & each succeeding decade until 2090. The perception of solitude would be impaired on 4500-5000 acres during the first decade & 1500-2000 acres each succeeding decade until 2090.
Impact on Motorized Recreation Use Levels	Motorized recreational use will be slightly enhanced--13 miles of road within the WSA will remain open & continue to be maintained & motorized use levels will increase from 1800 visitor-days annually to 2150 visitor-days.	Motorized recreational use would be foregone on the roads within the WSA eliminating 1800 visitor-days annually. Impacts would be moderate due to the limited amount of opportunity on public lands surrounding the WSA.	Motorized recreational use would be slightly enhanced --16 miles of road within the WSA would remain open & continue to be maintained, & motorized recreational use levels would increase from 1800 visitor-days annually to 2150 visitor-days.	Impacts would be the same as for the Proposed Action.
Impact on Livestock Grazing Management	Road closure & vehicle use restrictions along the Smith-Etter Road & Spanish Ridge Road will have a minor negative impact on livestock grazing management.	The impacts would be the same as for the Proposed Action.	The impacts would be the same as for the Proposed Action.	Closure of Spanish Ridge Road would have a negligible adverse impact on livestock grazing.

Table 4 - Comparative Summary of the Impacts by Alternative (Cont'd)

ISSUE-RELATED RESOURCES	PROPOSED ACTION (PARTIAL-WILDERNESS)	ALL-WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE	NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	Partial-wilderness ALTERNATIVE
Impacts on Timber Management	35 MMB of merchantable timber will be foregone & 2125 acres of commercial forest land (CFL) will be eliminated from timber harvest which will have a negligible adverse impact on the region's economy.	54.7 MMB of merchantable timber would be foregone & 4555 acres of CFL would be eliminated from timber harvest which would have a negligible adverse impact on the region's economy.	54.7 MMB of merchantable timber would be harvested & 4555 acres of CFL would remain available for timber production which would moderately benefit the area's timber management program & negligibly benefit the region's economy.	The impacts would be the same as for the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative.
Impact on Roosevelt Elk	Reintroduction & management efforts will be slightly enhanced by the continued closure of the area to motorized vehicular use (except on the 13 miles of designated routes of travel) & the use of motorized vehicles for elk transplants & herd maintenance.	The impact would be the same as for the Proposed Action.	The impact would be the same as for the Proposed Action.	The impact would be the same as for the Proposed Action.
Impact on Salmon Steelhead Spawning & Nursery Streams	Salmon & steelhead habitat will receive moderate positive impacts from various habitat improvements constructed in or near the river.	Overall, the impacts would be the same as for the Proposed Action; vehicle closures & the elimination of timber harvests, however, would enhance the quality of spawning & nursery streams.	The impacts would be the same as for the Proposed Action.	The impacts would be the same as for the Proposed Action.
Impacts on Archaeological Resources	There will be a minor negative impact to the area's archaeological resources as a result of increased pedestrian use.	There would be a minor positive impact to the area's archaeological resources as a result of eliminating motorized access & increasing monitoring.	The impacts would be the same as for the Proposed Action.	The impacts would basically be the same as for the Proposed Action, except that there would be a minor increase in pressure on archaeological resources because the Smith-Etter Road would be open to the beach.

F. Local Social and Economic Considerations

No local social or economic considerations were identified in the Final EIS. Therefore, no further discussion of this topic will occur in this document.

G. Summary of WSA - Specific Public Comments

Public involvement has occurred throughout the wilderness review process. Certain comments received during the Inventory and Study Phases, and in the Draft EIS were used to develop significant issue topics, various alternatives and finally, to recommend 63 percent Partial-Wilderness for the King Range WSA.

A majority of the comments addressing the inventory factors agreed with the present status of the WSA's boundary or felt it should be expanded to include the entire King Range National Conservation Area. Other comments said the roads were not maintained regularly and should have been identified as ways. Nearly everyone commented on the unique and spectacular landscape of the west slope and shoreline.

During formal public review of the Draft EIS, a total of 515 oral and written comments and 2,340 signatures specifically addressing this WSA were received. Of the 515 comments, 475 remarked in favor of the All-Wilderness Alternative. Very few comments addressed the issue topics nor did they discuss the impacts of the alternatives.

Many commenters argued that the administrative protection of primitive values identified in the 1974 King Range Management Program should not be equated with the protection offered by wilderness designation. Some commenters demanded more detailed site-specific descriptions of impacts on various resources. The impacts of motorized vehicles on wilderness values was raised as an issue by a substantial number of respondents. Those favoring wilderness commented on the importance of the Honeydew Creek drainage because of its significant wildlife and fisheries values, and because it contains a rare, large, old-growth Douglas-fir forest and associated old-growth dependent species. They wanted this 4,000-acre watershed included in the partial-wilderness recommendation because they thought the only way to keep it from being logged was to designate the area wilderness. Of particular concern was the need to close the entire beach from the mouth of the Mattole River to Shelter Cove to motorized vehicles to prevent recent use conflicts and reduce the potential for damage to significant archaeological sites.

Those opposing wilderness designation were concerned that the roads inside the WSA, especially the Smith-Etter Road, would be closed to motorized vehicles and result in a substantial reduction in opportunities for scenic drives. A few landowners with private inholdings felt their land would be taken away. Others commented that wilderness designation would prevent effective firefighting efforts if an uncontrolled wildfire were to occur in the King Range.

The Ukiah District Advisory Council appointed a Technical Review Team (TRT) to study wilderness issues in detail because of the many concerns and controversies expressed by the general public, special interest

groups and government agencies. The Council, after reviewing the TRT's report, recommended to the District Manager a 40 percent Partial-Wilderness Alternative which included a portion of the west slope both north and south of Big Flat Creek.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency classified the Draft EIS as category 10, Lack of Objectives. Concern was expressed about potential adverse impacts on water quality from grazing activities, road construction and maintenance, potential timber harvest operations and stream-clearing work. Concern about mineral resources was expressed by the U.S. Bureau of Mines. They emphasized that mineral deposits of economic value may be found in areas of low potential. The U.S. Dept. of Air Force is generally supportive of wilderness designation provided that no restrictions are placed on essential military overflights. The major concern expressed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was the assurance that salmon and steelhead habitat both in the Honeydew Creek drainage and west slope coastal streams are protected.

California Assemblyman Dan Hauser expressed his concern that the Honeydew Creek watershed was not included in the area recommended for wilderness designation because he thinks the high quality salmon and steelhead spawning grounds and old-growth Douglas-fir forest should be protected. The California Coastal Commission said BLM should prepare and submit a consistency determination for those actions specified in the EIS which may have a direct effect on the coastal zone. The potential for developing wind energy under wilderness was a concern of the California Energy Commission. The California Department of Forestry was very concerned about its firefighting capabilities in areas recommended for wilderness designation, especially when houses on private inholdings and nearby residential communities could be threatened. The Honeydew Creek drainage was recommended for inclusion as wilderness by the California Department of Fish and Game because of the special wildlife resource values that require protection. The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors agreed with the District Advisory Council recommendation that 14,000 acres in the vicinity of Big Flat Creek be designated wilderness. They also identified the need to allow fire-fighting techniques which prevent the spread of fire into nearby communities such as Shelter Cove, Honeydew and Petrolia.

APPENDIX 1
 ESTIMATED COSTS OF ACQUISITION OF NON-FEDERAL HOLDINGS WITHIN
 AREAS RECOMMENDED FOR DESIGNATION
 KING RANGE WSA (CA-050-112)

PARCEL No.	LEGAL DESCRIPTION				TOTAL ACREAGE	NUMBER OF OWNERS	TYPE OF OWNERSHIP BY ESTATE		PRESENTLY PROPOSED FOR ACQUISITION	PREFERRED METHOD OF ACQUISITION	ESTIMATED COST OF ACQUISITION	
	TWNSHP	RNG	SEC	MERIDIAN			SURFACE ESTATE	SUBSURFACE ESTATE			LAND COSTS (\$1000)	PROCESSING COSTS (\$1000)
1	4S.	1W.	9	MDM	30	2	PRIVATE	PRIVATE	YES	PURCHASE	135.0	Unknown
2	4S.	1W.	10	MDM	40	1	PRIVATE	PRIVATE	YES	PURCHASE	250.0	Unknown
3	4S.	1W.	10	MDM	40	1	PRIVATE	PRIVATE	YES	PURCHASE	50.0	Unknown
4	3S.	2W.	24&25	MDM	10	1	PRIVATE	PRIVATE	YES	PURCHASE	50.0	Unknown
5	3S.	2W.	24&25	MDM	10	1	PRIVATE	PRIVATE	YES	PURCHASE	50.0	Unknown
6	3S.	1W.	31	MDM	30	1	PRIVATE	PRIVATE	YES	PURCHASE	250.0	Unknown

These figures were derived from Bureau Land Records and provide for more detail than GIS estimates and therefore may differ from acreage summaries in Table 1.